

# Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

## Situation Update Report – 9

March 28, 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in exercise of the powers under section 6(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, issued [an order](#) for State/UTs prescribing lockdown for containment of COVID-19 epidemic in the country for a period of 21 days with effect from 25 March, 2020.
- India's response to COVID-19 has been pre-emptive, pro-active and graded with high-level political commitment and a '[whole government](#)' approach to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- WHO Country office for India is working closely with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to strengthen surveillance, build capacity of health system and optimize '[window of opportunity](#)' created by mandatory physical distancing in India.
- All incoming international flights have been suspended and as of 25 March (through [an order](#)) extension of suspension has been made till 14 April 2020.
- Indian Railways issued [an order](#) that the period from 22 March to 14 April will be treated under "Force Majeure". Passenger movement has been restricted including inter-state travel, all efforts to ensure availability of essential commodities through its uninterrupted freight services in place.

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### India

909 Confirmed  
19 Deaths  
27 States/UTs

#### South-East Asia

2536 Confirmed  
79 Deaths

#### Globally

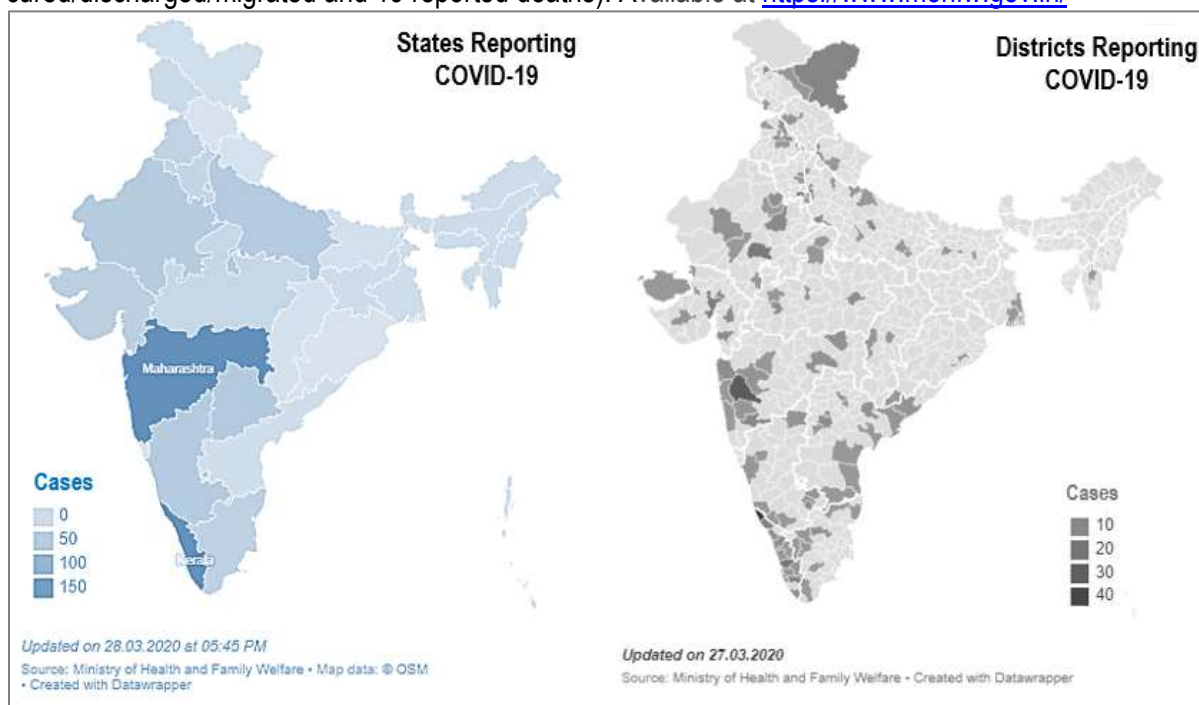
462 684 Confirmed  
20 834 Deaths

#### WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Globally - Very High

### INDIA SITUATION

- As of 28 March, 05:45 PM according to the MoHFW, a total of 909 COVID-19 cases (862 Indians and 47 foreign nationals) have been reported in 27 states/union territories (80 who have been cured/discharged/migrated and 19 reported deaths). Available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>



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### WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- United Nations launched a US\$2 billion COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan to support the world's most vulnerable countries. More information can be found [here](#).
- WHO Director-General mentioned many key issues and action steps to effectively combat COVID-19, as well as maintaining physical distance. More information can be found [here](#).

### WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) has been working closely with MoHFW, on preparedness and response measures for COVID-19, including surveillance and contact tracing, laboratory diagnosis, risk communications and community engagement, hospital preparedness, infection prevention and control (IPC) and implementation of containment strategies.

#### Co-ordination and Partnership

- WHO has brought key international partners together under a COVID-19 Joint Response Plan (JRP) of UN agencies and partners. The draft JRP was reviewed during the health partners meeting on 27 March.

#### Testing

- ICMR has issued [guidelines](#) for use of commercial kits for nasal/throat swab based diagnosis of COVID-19
- 104 out of 119 proposed labs in [public sector](#) are functional for SARS-CoV2 test. Additionally, a total of 15 [private labs](#) in 7 states are functional. Geolocation of labs available [here](#).

#### Capacity Building in states/UTs and districts

- MoHFW with support of WHO conducted orientation on COVID-19 preparedness, response and containment for officials in all states and UTs. The same has been conducted in 723 out of 755 (96%) districts across India.
- A nationwide training of frontline health workers on COVID-19 was launched by MoHFW and partners through a virtually conducted training of trainers for 546 participants of 37 states and union territories on 27 March.

#### New guidelines Issued

- **MoHFW:** Role of Frontline Workers in Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in [English](#) and [Hindi](#)
- **WHO:** COVID-19: [Operational guidance](#) for maintaining essential health services during an outbreak and the [Handbook](#) for public health capacity-building at ground crossings and cross-border collaboration

### ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

For any queries related to health, people may contact Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) 24\*7 helpline number (+91-11-23978046) or email at ([ncov2019@gmail.com](mailto:ncov2019@gmail.com)).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

WHO Country Office for India

Telephone number: +91-11- 66564800

Email: [wrintia@who.int](mailto:wrintia@who.int)

# Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

## Situation Update Report – 8

March 22, 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 23 states/UTs including New Delhi have issued orders allowing only essential services to operate in 75 districts with confirmed COVID-19 cases until 31 March 2020. The focus is on closure of all activities except essential services such as hospitals, telecom, pharmacy, provision stores.
- PM Modi called for 'Janata curfew' on 22 March from 7 AM-9 PM, urging people to stay home except those in essential services, enforcing public-led social distancing interventions.
- In consultation with medical professionals, detailed advisory has been issued for all health establishments to avoid non-urgent hospitalization and minimize elective surgeries.
- Allaying concern of the logistics for COVID-19 management particularly masks and hand sanitizers, Government has notified an Order under the Essential Commodities (ECs) Act, 1955 to declare these items as Essential Commodities up to 30 June.
- No scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall take off from any foreign airport for any airport in India, after 0001 hrs GMT of 22 March 2020 till 0001 hrs GMT of 29 March 2020.
- All train services suspended till 31st March 2020 including sub urban rail services, metro rail services and interstate passenger transport. Good trains may continue to operate for facilitating availability of essential commodities.
- These restrictions are temporary but considered critical to break the chain of transmission. States have been requested to ensure that while such measures are being taken, necessary steps must be ensured to minimize discomfort to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### India

360 Confirmed  
7 Deaths  
23 States/UTs

#### South-East Asia

979 confirmed  
38 deaths

#### Globally

266 073 confirmed  
11 184 deaths

### WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Globally - Very High

### INDIA SITUATION

As on 22 March 2020 06.30 PM, a total of 360 COVID-19 cases (319 Indian Nationals and 41 Foreign Nationals) have been reported from 23 States/UTs across India.

#### Cases:

Maharashtra (67) Kerala (52) Delhi (29) Uttar Pradesh (27) Karnataka (26) Rajasthan (24) Telangana (22) Haryana (21) Punjab (21) Gujarat (18) Ladakh (13) Andhra Pradesh (5) Chandigarh (5) Jammu & Kashmir (4) Madhya Pradesh (4) Tamil Nadu (7) West Bengal (4) Uttarakhand (3) Bihar (2) Himachal Pradesh (2) Odisha (2) Chhattisgarh (1) Puducherry (1)

#### Deaths:

Maharashtra (2) Delhi (1) Bihar (1), Gujarat (1), Karnataka (1) Punjab (1)

# Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

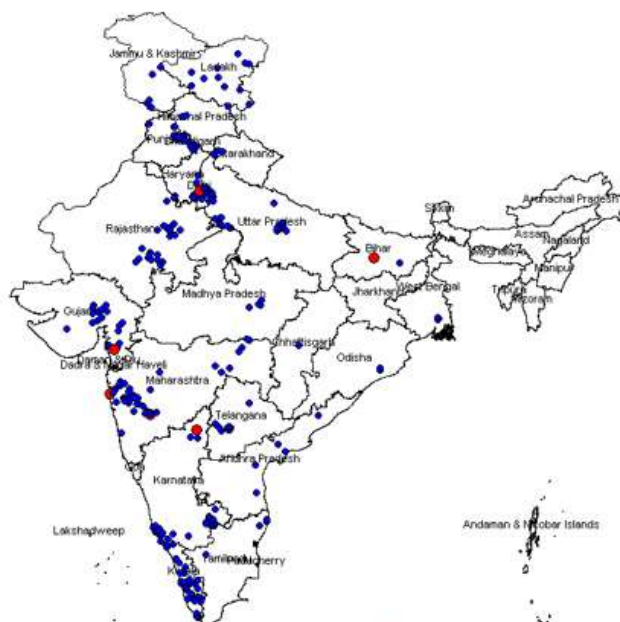
## Situation Update Report – 8

March 22, 2020

### COVID-19 cases – India

(as on 22/03/2020, 06:30 PM)

| State            | Total Cases | Death    |
|------------------|-------------|----------|
| Maharashtra      | 67          | 2        |
| Kerala           | 52          |          |
| Delhi            | 29          | 1        |
| Uttar Pradesh    | 27          |          |
| Karnataka        | 26          | 1        |
| Rajasthan        | 24          |          |
| Telangana        | 22          |          |
| Haryana          | 21          |          |
| Punjab           | 21          | 1        |
| Gujarat          | 18          | 1        |
| Ladakh           | 13          |          |
| Andhra Pradesh   | 5           |          |
| Chandigarh       | 5           |          |
| Jammu & Kashmir  | 4           |          |
| Madhya Pradesh   | 4           |          |
| Tamil Nadu       | 7           |          |
| West Bengal      | 4           |          |
| Uttarakhand      | 3           |          |
| Bihar            | 2           | 1        |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2           |          |
| Odisha           | 2           |          |
| Chhattisgarh     | 1           |          |
| Puduchery        | 1           |          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>360</b>  | <b>7</b> |



Source: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>

Location of cases within states is shown as per district information available

1 dot represent one case or death

● 7 - Death  
● 353 cases

### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi made a public appeal to encourage public participation in the response towards COVID-19 by observing a 'Janata curfew' on 22 March from 7 AM-9 PM. At 5 PM, all citizens have been asked to participate in showing solidarity and appreciation for health workers by clapping. All states have issued appropriate instructions for all children below 10 years of age and all citizens above 65 years (except for public representatives/government servants/medical professionals) to remain at home and avoid mass gatherings, unless there is a medical reason and essential services requirement.

States have activated necessary provision for infectious disease management as provided under Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. Furthermore, under the Disaster Management Act, the States/UTs can now draw funds from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), in addition to the funds from the state government and the NHM. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued detailed guidelines to States/UTs in this regard. To ensure effective and seamless coordination between the Centre and the States, 30 nodal officers of the level of Joint Secretary and above have been drawn from various Ministries to liaison, coordinate and help the States with respect to anything that is required from the Government of India.

High level Group of Ministers (GoM) is constantly reviewing the status of cases in India and implementing steps taken by the Government of India across states. A detailed advisory on social distancing measures has been issued to stop or slow down the rate and extent of disease transmission. In consultation with professional associations, detailed advisory has been issued for all health



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institutions to avoid non-urgent hospitalization and minimize elective surgeries. This is to avoid hospital related infections to the vulnerable and prepare hospitals effectively for meeting current and future challenges posed by COVID-19.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is regularly evaluating quarantine facilities and preparedness regarding hospital management such as OPD blocks, availability of testing kits, personal protective equipment (PPEs), medicines, and adequate isolation wards. All public hospitals have been directed to ensure adequate availability of protective gear for all healthcare workers.

Ministry of Pharma and Consumer Affairs has issued advisory to take necessary action to regulate price for masks, sanitizers, and other health related logistic material and to facilitate their availability in all hospitals and to people at large. Youth and citizens are urged to become volunteers to support the government's ongoing efforts in management of COVID-19. Advisory has also been issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) citing preventive measures to be taken by all employees of Ministries/ Departments to control the spread of COVID-19.

It is obligatory for all hospitals (Government and Private), Medical officers in Government health institutions and registered Private Medical Practitioners including AYUSH Practitioners, to now notify COVID-19 affected person (as defined by MoHFW) to concerned district surveillance unit. All practitioners have been advised get the self-declaration forms (from MoHFW) who, within their knowledge, have patients with travel history of COVID-19 affected countries as per the guidelines and/or fall under the case definition of COVID-19 (suspect/case).

### WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- The United Nations Foundation and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation have created the solidarity fund to support WHO and partners in a massive effort to help countries prevent, detect, and manage the novel coronavirus – particularly those where the needs are the greatest.
- The first vaccine trial has begun just 60 days after the genetic sequence of the virus was shared by China. WHO and its partners are organizing a large international study, called the Solidarity Trial, in many countries to compare different treatments.
- WHO and Global Citizen launched #TogetherAtHome, a virtual, no-contact concert series to promote physical distancing and action for global health.

### WHO COUNTRY SUPPORT

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) has been working closely with MoHFW, on preparedness and response measures for COVID-19, including disease surveillance, laboratory and research protocols, risk communications, training on infection prevention and control (IPC) and cluster containment plan, surveillance and tracking of travelers.

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### Co-ordination and Partnership

WHO has initiated dialogue with FICCI regarding aspects for engagement of the private sector for COVID-19 response as representatives of India's business and industry. WHO together with UNICEF is supporting MoHFW in crafting evidence-based multi-media communication campaigns that would focus on different aspects such as preventive measures, busting myths, equipping the masses with information on guidelines, advisories, testing labs, etc.

### State Level Response

- Trainings on COVID-19 conducted in more than 564 districts and ongoing in remaining districts.
- State Rapid Response team activated in 33 states and Epidemic act enforced in 31 states.
- Closure of educational institutes/ cinema halls initiated in 35 states.
- Designated hospitals identified in 35 states.
- Restrictions for mass gatherings enforced in 33 states.
- Mock drill conducted in 10 states (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand)
- Mass quarantine facilities identified in 25 states.
- In Uttar Pradesh, 2463 suspects are under surveillance– 2410 at home quarantine and 53 in institutional isolation
- No cases have been reported from any of the 7 North Easter states. In Assam Health Minister reviewed the preparedness at Guwahati Airport. Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland have enforced the Epidemic Act in their states.
- Odisha Government is ready with 540 bed isolation bed across the state. The state has released an advisory to all religious institutions to manage religious congregations
- In response to the first case, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister reviewed the district preparedness with all District collectors and Superintendent of Police and Health minister chaired the core group meeting with concerned departments.
- Helpline number for COVID-19 activated in all states

### Risk Communication

To increase access to reliable information, WHO has partnered with WhatsApp and Facebook to launch a WHO Health Alert messaging service. This service will provide the latest news and information on COVID-19, including details on symptoms and how people can protect themselves.

### ICMR COVID-19 testing strategy

WHO is working with ICMR to ensure country-appropriate testing strategy is in place without burdening the health system. As per the latest ICMR guidance laboratory testing will be offered when prescribed by a qualified physician (*when advised as per the guidance issued*). The strategy is reviewed by a National Task Force and updated periodically. The latest revised strategy was issued on 20 March 2020. In addition, the network of labs equipped to test COVID-19 have been expanded to over 100, in total.

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States are assessing the availability of medical services including testing, quarantine and measures needed scale them up to meet all possible contingencies. States have been advised to earmark facilities fully dedicated to managing the COVID-19 cases only. Currently, there is no evidence of community transmission of COVID-19 and the disease is primarily reported in individuals with travel history to the affected countries or close contacts of positive cases. Hence the ICMR strategy recommends the following testing protocols: -

1. Caution:
  - All asymptomatic individuals who have undertaken international travel in the last 14 days: - They should stay in home quarantine for 14 days and tested only if they become symptomatic (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing).
  - All family members living with a confirmed case should be home quarantined
2. Whom to test:
  - All symptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases
  - All symptomatic health care workers.
  - All hospitalized patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (fever AND cough and/or shortness of breath).
  - Asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts of a confirmed case should be tested once between day 5 and day 14 of coming in his/her contact.
  - Direct and high-risk contact include those who live in the same household with a confirmed case and healthcare workers who examined a confirmed case without adequate protection as per WHO recommendations.
3. What samples to collect: oropharyngeal and/or nasopharyngeal swabs

### Guidelines Issued

1. Guidelines on Clinical Management of COVID-19 triage (early recognition of patients), implementation of IPC measures has been revised and updated.
2. Guidelines for Dead Body Management towards standard precautions, infection prevention and control measures, handling of the body and environmental disinfection.
3. India has revised IPC Guidelines for COVID-19 dated 9 March 2020.
4. Guidelines have also been issued for Private Sector Laboratories Intending to Initiate COVID-19 Testing including Sample Collection, Packaging and Transportation for Novel Coronavirus
5. COVID-19 resources online training course are now available in the official WHO languages on OpenWHO - an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering free online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. Resources under development include courses in Hindi as well.

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### TRAVEL ADVISORY

As per GoM aligned with steps taken by the Government of India, so far including travel restrictions and advisories already in place, new restrictions in place include: -

- No scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall take off from any foreign airport for any airport in India, after 0001 hrs GMT of March 22, 2020 till 0001 hrs GMT of March 29, 2020. Only maximum travel time of 20 hours is permissible for commercial passenger aircraft to land in India.
- As such, no incoming scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall be allowed to disembark its passengers \*on Indian soil\* (Foreigner or Indian) after 2001 hrs GMT of March 22, 2020 (\*i.e. 0131 hrs IST of March 23, 2020).
- It is to be highlighted that these are temporary measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19 and will be reviewed by the Government.

All international passengers entering India are required to furnish duly filled self-declaration form to Health Officials and Immigration officials and undergo Universal Health Screening at the designated health counters at all Points of Entry.

Instructions have been issued to all major and minor shipping ports for dealing with novel coronavirus. The format of the Maritime Declaration of Health is as per the International Health Regulations 2005, issued by World Health Organization which has also been adopted by International Maritime Organization.

All train services suspended till 31st March 2020 including sub urban rail services and metro rail services. Good trains may continue to operate for facilitating availability of essential commodities. Interstate passenger transport also to be suspended till 31st Mar 2020. All travel restrictions are temporary but considered critical to break the chain of transmission.

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

For any queries related to health, people may contact Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 24\*7 helpline number (+91-11-23978046) or email at (ncov2019@gmail.com).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr Tran Minh Nhu Nguyen  
Team Lead  
WHO India Email: tranminhn@who.int

Dr Ritu Chauhan  
National Programme Officer  
WHO India Email: chauhanr@who.int



# Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

## Situation Update Report – 7

March 14, 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 11 March, WHO declared the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak as a pandemic (*an epidemic that has spread worldwide affecting a large number of people*).
- On the same day, per the direction of the Prime Minister of India, a high-level Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted to review, monitor and evaluate the preparedness and measures taken regarding management of COVID-19 in the country.
- Government of India has invoked powers under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to enhance preparedness and containment of the virus and declared COVID-19 a 'notified disaster' under the Disaster Management Act 2005.
- Community surveillance, quarantine, isolation wards, adequate PPEs, trained manpower, rapid response teams for COVID-19 are being strengthened further in all States and UTs.
- All incoming travelers, including Indian nationals, arriving from or having visited China, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, France, Spain and Germany after 15 February 2020 will be quarantined for a minimum period of 14 days, in effect from 13 March 2020 at the port of departure.

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### India

84 Confirmed

2 Deaths

13 States/UTs

#### Globally

132 758 confirmed

4955 deaths

122 countries/territories

#### China

80 991 confirmed

3180 deaths

#### Outside of China

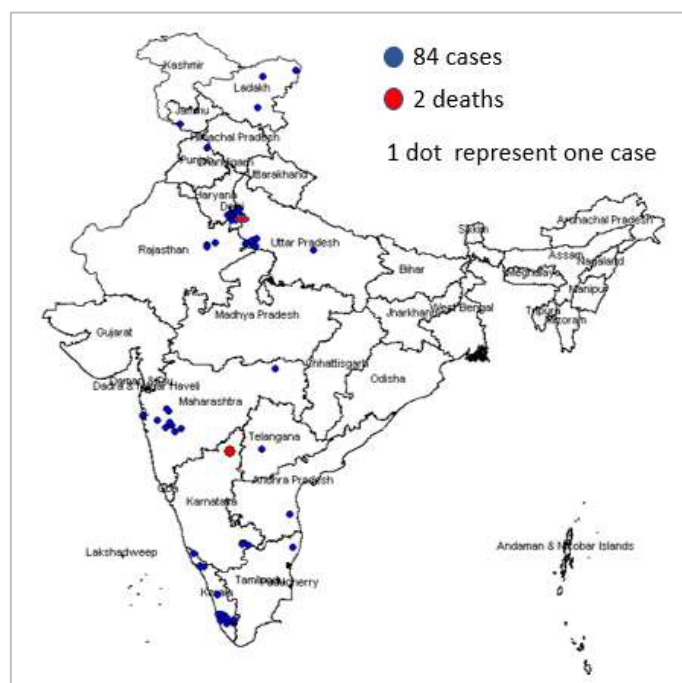
51 767 confirmed

1775 deaths

### INDIA SITUATION

As on 14 March (05:00 PM), a total of 84 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in India (67 Indian nationals and 17 foreign nationals\*; and of the total 10 were cured and 2 deaths reported).

So far, cases of COVID-19 have been reported from 13 States/UTs - Andhra Pradesh (1 case), Delhi (7 cases), Haryana (14 cases), Jammu & Kashmir (2 cases), Karnataka (6 cases), Kerala (19 cases), Ladakh (3 cases), Maharashtra (14 cases), Punjab (1 case), Rajasthan (3 cases), Telangana (1 case), Tamil Nadu (1 case) and Uttar Pradesh (12 cases)



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March 14, 2020

Death was reported in a 76-year-old male from Karnataka and 68-year-old female from Delhi, both with co-morbidities. Hospital isolation of all confirmed cases, tracing and home quarantine of the contacts are ongoing.

The Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Cabinet Secretary are closely monitoring the situation. All the states and UTs of India have been advised to invoke the provisions under Section 2 of the Epidemic Disease Act 1897, which includes special measures to be taken by the Centre to “prescribe regulations as to dangerous epidemic disease.”

The government has declared the COVID-19 outbreak in the country a "notified disaster", in a move called "a special one-time dispensation", to provide compensation and aid to infected people and the families of those who died due to the virus. Funds for this and other measures will be drawn from the Disaster Response Funds of each state (SDRF).

Travel Advisories had been issued by MoHFW from time to time. The following consolidated advisory is presently issued.

- Starting from 13 March 2020, all existing visas, except diplomatic, official, UN/International Organizations, employment, project visas, stand suspended until 15 April 2020.
- All incoming travelers, including Indian nationals, arriving from or having visited China, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, France, Spain and Germany after 15 February 2020 will be quarantined for a minimum period of 14 days, with effect from 1200 GMT on 13 March 2020 at the port of departure.
- All passenger movement for foreigners through all Immigration Land Check Posts at Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar border will be suspended from March 15, 2020 with few exceptions (Nepalese and Bhutanese nationals)
- All international passengers entering India are now required to furnish duly filled self-declaration form and undergo universal health screening at the designated counters at all points of entry.
- To date, total 11,71,061 passengers have been screened from 10,876 flights at 30 designated airports. 3,062 passengers and 583 contacts were identified and referred to IDSP/ designated hospitals. 42,296 passengers have been brought under community surveillance, out of which 2,559 were symptomatic and 522 hospitalized.

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March 14, 2020

Through integrated disease surveillance system, a total of 28,529 persons are being monitored under community surveillance. Laboratory capacities are being strengthened for timely detection and potential isolation of cases. All states are on high alert, for early detection and management of any further cases. As of 14 March, there are 52 laboratories identified by the Indian Council of Medical Research, for testing of COVID-19. A total of 57 laboratories have been identified to support sample collection and referral.

### STATE UPDATES

As per a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Rs 4 lakh will be given to the families of those whose deaths have been linked to the COVID-19. In addition, the cost of hospitalization for those being treated for the virus has been fixed by state governments, from the Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) of each state.

- Local transmission of COVID-19 (infection among those with no travel history to affected countries) have been reported in five states: Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh
- Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have only imported cases
- Kerala released the Time-Location chart of the positive cases so that contacts can reach out to the health service. While, in other states, tracking of contacts, home quarantine and isolation of cases is ongoing along with other containment measures
- Places of mass gatherings like cinema theatres, malls, marriage halls, pubs, music fests, marathons, night-clubs have been closed

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March 14, 2020

### WHO RESPONSE

Globally WHO, UN Foundation and partners launched a first-of-its-kind COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund on 14 March. The fund will raise money from a wide range of donors to support the work of WHO and partners to help countries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 12 March, a high-level meeting on COVID-19 was convened by WHO South-East Asia Regional Office with participation of over 80 representatives of UN agencies and diplomatic missions in New Delhi.

### WHO Country Office for India support at national level

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) has been working closely with MoHFW, on preparedness and response measures for COVID-19. WCO is closely working with National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC) on disease surveillance and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on risk communications. As member of the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) on emerging diseases, WCO has been regularly attending these meetings. JMG brings together line ministries and agencies to provide updates as well technical guidance on preparedness and response activities including planning for the next phase. WCO continues to provide support to ICMR on laboratory and research protocols.

### WHO Country Office for India support at state/district level

- WCO is supporting training on IPC & Cluster containment plan, surveillance and tracking of travelers along with IDSP teams.
- Feedback and update on COVID-19 is being shared regularly by SRTLs with divisional officers, AD health and Commissioners across affected and non-affected states. SMOs are updating DMs & district health officials in DTFs and DWRs on a regular basis.
- State Training of Trainers (ToTs) are being held in consultation with State Ministries, Senior leadership from National Health Missions.

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

For any queries related to health, people may contact Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 24\*7 helpline number (+91-11-23978046) or email at (ncov2019@gmail.com).

For more information contact:

Dr Tran Minh Nhu Nguyen

Team Lead

WHO India Email: tranminhn@who.int

Dr Ritu Chauhan

National Programme Officer

WHO India Email: chauhanr@who.int

# Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

## Situation Update Report – 6

March 9, 2020

### Global updates

As of 09 March 2020 (new cases in last 24 hours):

- **Global: 109 577** confirmed cases (3993 new)
- **China: 80 904** (45 new), 3123 deaths (23 new)
- **Outside China: 28 673** confirmed (3948 new), 686 deaths (202 new); 104 Countries/territories/ areas (3 new)
- **WHO Risk assessment:** China – Very High, Regional Level – Very high, Global Level- Very High

### India Situation

As of 09 March, a total of 44 confirmed cases have been reported from India. This includes: Delhi (4), Haryana (14), Jammu (1), Kerala (9), Ladakh (2), Punjab (1), Rajasthan (2), Tamil Nadu (1), Telangana (1), Uttar Pradesh (9). Of these, 16 are foreign nationals. The 6 new cases from Kerala, are in addition to the 3 cases, that have already recovered. Hospital isolation of the cases, tracing and home quarantine of their contacts is ongoing, in the states from where cases have been reported.

All states are on high alert, for early detection and management of any further cases. As of 08 March, there are [52 laboratories](#) identified by the Indian Council of Medical Research, for testing of COVID-19. A total of [57 laboratories](#) have been identified to support sample collection and referral.

The Prime Minister is personally monitoring the preparedness and response. The Union Health and Family Welfare Minister (HFM) is reviewing the situation daily. A Group of Ministers chaired by HFM has been constituted to review the progress and measures taken for containment. In a suo-moto speech on 05 March, HFM provided an update on the global situation of COVID-19, number of cases in India and the actions taken by the Government to contain further spread. He updated the house regarding screening of passengers in airport, seaports and minor ports. Through integrated disease surveillance system, a total of 28,529 persons were monitored under community surveillance. He updated on another successful evacuation in bringing back 124 people including 5 foreign nationals from the COVID-19 infected cruise ship. He informed of the strengthened laboratory capacity in the country.

As per the latest India travel advisory, all international passengers irrespective of nationality are mandated to undergo universal medical screening. Adequate screening measures have been setup and nine more airports have been added to the existing 21, bringing the total to 30 airports. As on 9 March, a total of 9,41,717 international passengers from 8,827 flights have been screened at airports. 1,921 passengers were identified as symptomatic and 177 of them have been hospitalized. 33,599 are under observation while 21,867 have completed observation period (*press release 9 March*). Screening of passengers is also being done in 12 major seaports and 65 minor ports in the country.



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March 9, 2020

In addition to Visa restrictions already in place, passengers traveling from /having visited Italy or Republic of Korea and desirous of entering India will need certificate of having tested negative for COVID-19 from the designated laboratories authorized by the health authorities of these countries. This will be enforced from 0000 Hrs of 10th March 2020.

A buffer stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) and N95 masks is maintained by the states as well as Union Government. On 06 March, HFM chaired a high-level meeting with private hospitals in Delhi-NCR for engaging them for COVID-19 management. Discussions focused on preparing for surge in terms of bed capacity of hospitals for infected cases, isolation wards, etc. through private sector alliance. Protocols for sample collection and testing were shared with the private sector.

Risk communication has been intensified. General public is reached through diverse social media and community platforms; and material is being widely disseminated including in regional languages through states. In order to spread awareness, special COVID-19 mobile phone caller tune was launched by all telecom operators with basic infection prevention messages played when a caller dials-out.

## WHO Response

### WHO Country Office for India (WCO) support at national level

WCO has been working closely with the Ministry of Health, on preparedness and response measures for COVID-19.



On 06 March, a National Training of Trainers (ToT) was organized by MoHFW with WHO to support on COVID-19 with a focus on strengthening Infection Prevention Control, Surveillance and Risk Communication and Community Engagement. The support included development of the training materials and facilitation for the training. This was attended by 280 officials from states/UT. The training was also virtually attended by 1000 officials across the country.

On 07 March, WCO organized the same training for partners including UNICEF, CDC, USAID, NDMA, AIIMS, IDEA. The training was attended by 80 participants, facilitated by 20 resource persons from MoHFW, WHO, UNICEF, and, close to 300 field staff joined by video link.

WCO is closely working with National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC) on disease surveillance, with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on laboratory testing capacity, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on risk communications. As member of the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) on emerging diseases, WCO has been regularly attending these meetings. JMG brings together line ministries and agencies to provide updates as well technical guidance on preparedness and response activities including planning for the next phase. WCO continues to provide support to ICMR on laboratory and research protocols. WCO has also initiated exchange of information with ICMR on areas of research and development related to COVID-19.

# Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

## Situation Update Report – 6

March 9, 2020

### WHO coordination with UN partners

WCO India and UNICEF are supporting MoHFW for preparedness, response planning including interventions for risk communication and community engagement, development of IEC materials and their dissemination among public through various communication channels. The field offices of UNICEF have been coordinating with State governments to plan their support in case COVID-19 situation escalates. Toolkits for Health Service Providers for Designated and General Health facilities have been prepared and will be rolled out.

WCO India has been updating the UN country team and health partners on COVID-19 situation with daily information package and frequent meetings.

### WCO support at state level

WHO medical officers in the field are supporting states and UTs in capacity building of rapid response teams and medical officers, knowledge sharing, contact tracing and containment. On the request of MoHFW, WCO has deployed four teams to support response in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Rajasthan. Nine teams will be deployed to other states shortly.

### For more information contact:

Dr Tran Minh Nhu Nguyen

Team Lead

WHO India

Email: [tranminhn@who.int](mailto:tranminhn@who.int)

Dr Ritu Chauhan

National Programme Officer

WHO India

Email: [chauhanr@who.int](mailto:chauhanr@who.int)