

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Daily Update: 19 March 2020



Situational analysis

Source: WHO data 18 March 2020

(WHO, 18 March 2020)

Region*	Confirmed cases***		Deaths***	
	New	Total	New	Total
Globally**	15 123	191 127	786	7 807
Western Pacific	312	91 845	23	3 357
European Region	10 911	74 760	604	3 352
South East Asia	63	538	1	9
Eastern Med	1 552	18 060	140	1 010
Americas	2 243	4 979	18	68
Africa	42	233	0	4

*Region: As per WHO classification

**Only one new country reported - Montenegro

***Data reporting times have shifted for all to 00:00 CET resulting in an overlap of yesterday and today's reporting



Spread

Wuhan has confirmed no new cases for the first time since the outbreak was reported. All new cases are from overseas arrivals.

The big question on spread is still around how many tests are actually being conducted. The USA and South Korea both confirmed their first cases on January 20. As of yesterday, South Korea had tested 274 000 and the USA had only tested 25 000. South Korea has 8 320 cases and 81 deaths. The USA has reported 3 536 cases and 58 deaths. South Korea reported 84 new cases in the last 24 hours whilst the USA reported 1 822 new cases in the same period.



South Africa:

There are 116 new cases confirmed in South Africa. 3 070 tests have conducted with 2 954 testing negative. Please visit www.sacoronavirus.co.za for the latest statistics and information issued by the South African Government on the country's response to the coronavirus. It has useful toolkits to assist individuals and companies to manage the situation.

South Africa news

- The National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) convened a special Exco to discuss a common programme to slow down the spread of the Covid-19 virus and their commitment to save lives and save the economy. “The Covid 19 crisis will require the best traditions of social partnership to ensure that we contain the spread of the virus and make every effort to protect employment, earnings and industrial output”, said the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ebrahim Patel. The meeting agreed to work on the following areas of support: enhancing the public health response, containing the virus, security of health supplies and medical equipment, workplace adaption, support to workers and companies who are negatively impacted by the virus as well as its macro-economic impact and potential interventions.
- Daily Maverick reports “Health Department: Covid-19 infections are here to stay until June or July” <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-03-18-health-department-covid-19-infections-are-here-to-stay-until-june-or-july/> and explains the difference between a state of disaster as opposed to a state of emergency <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-03-19-covid-19-state-of-disaster-vs-state-of-emergency-whats-the-difference>
- The hotel industry in South Africa is recovering from their initial shock and are coming up with alternatives to deal with the current situation such as full meal deliveries to homes from hotels and restaurants. The Double Tree by Hilton is offering quarantine accommodation for people returning home from international travel (<http://www.capetalk.co.za/articles/378163/cape-town-hotel-offers-self-quarantine-units-for-travelers-returning-from-abroad>)
- Cities across the country are implementing disaster management plans

General news

- One of the billionaires proactively stepping in to assist during the pandemic is Jack Ma. The updates have contained his donations of masks and testing kits to countries around the world. Clinical practitioners in China have put together a handbook of treatment and care protocols for healthcare providers. The Jack Ma Foundation is doing a huge campaign to get this handbook to as many people as possible that need it - it is available to download for free: <https://covid-19.alibabacloud.com>.
- The European Commission has published an application for research funding if you have a ground-breaking idea to help fight the outbreak (https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/startups-and-smes-innovative-solutions-welcome-2020-mar-13_en)
- Around the world, governments are battling on how to give assistance:
 - Canada suspended federal student loan payments <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covid-19-coronavirus-pandemic-student-loans-1.5502179>)
 - The French suspended payments for basic services such as water, electricity and rent
 - Australia's Reserve Bank has cut interest rates to support the economy
 - The US is working on a specific bailout package for airlines and cruise liners
 - And Japan's Olympic committee is still planning a summer event
 - Qantas Airways scraps all international flights until the end of May and stands down two thirds of its workforce (https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-18/qantas-stands-down-most-employees-and-halts-all-overseas-flights?utm_content=business&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&cmpid=socialflow-twitter-business&utm_campaign=socialflow-organic)

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