

Map showing distribution of COVID-19 as of March 15. Source: World Health Organization

FAST FACTS

- As of March 16, Johns Hopkins University reports 179,165 confirmed cases in 155 countries, with 7,081 deaths reported.
- While the number of new cases in the PRC has slowed, cases are rapidly increasing globally – with the majority reported in Europe.

SITUATION UPDATE

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise, with more than 15,000 new cases confirmed on March 16. Almost 180,000 cases have been confirmed globally, with more than 7,000 deaths recorded. In the past 48 hours, nine new countries and territories have reported cases of COVID-19, including seven countries in Africa, one in Europe region and one in the Americas. All of the cases in these new areas are a result of importation—that is, the case was acquired outside of the location of reporting.

As cases continue to rise globally, the majority have occurred outside of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The number of newly confirmed cases in the PRC has dropped to double digits, with only 27 new cases reported as of March 15. During the same time period, 10,955 new cases were reported worldwide.

On March 13, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Europe is now the epicenter of the pandemic, with more reported cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from the PRC. Italy, the country hardest-hit outside of the PRC, has confirmed a total of 27,980 cases. European countries with the highest number of confirmed cases after Italy—Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom—recorded more than 4,000 cases in the last 24 hours.

In the United States, 4,200 cases have been confirmed in 49 states, plus the District of Columbia and three US territories. Experts warn that the number of cases will continue to increase rapidly, as containment measures and contact tracing have failed to prevent community spread of the virus. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the majority of cases are still under investigation, the initial cases were patients who had traveled in China or were passengers on two cruise ships where outbreaks emerged. However, as the pandemic continues, more cases appear to be the result of community spread. Hotspots in the United States are New York (964 cases), Washington (769 cases) and California (486 cases). Of those reported cases, 74 patients have died.

As the number of cases in the United States is expected to increase, authorities are focused on “flattening the curve” by implementing strategies that reduce the number of people sickened with the disease and avoid overburdening the healthcare system. More than a dozen states have closed schools and have banned large-scale events and public gatherings, and are encouraging people to avoid close contact with others, in an effort to slow the spread. Additionally,

on March 13 President Donald Trump declared a national emergency, releasing \$50 billion in federal resources to support efforts to curb the pandemic nationwide.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

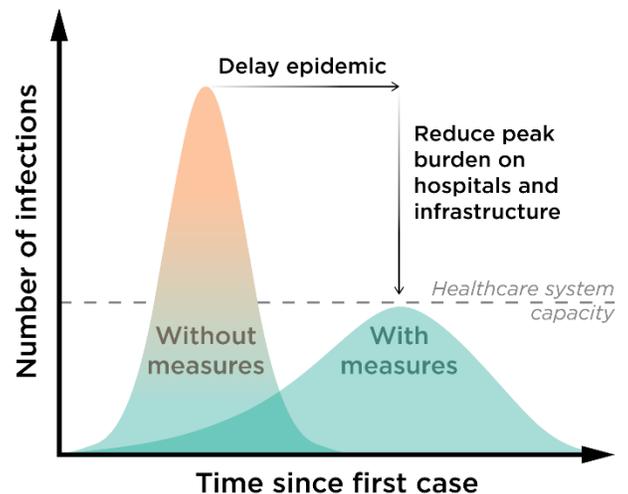
In response to the pandemic, International Medical Corps' country missions are taking decisive action to prepare for and respond to coronavirus cases. For example:

- In Jordan, International Medical Corps is implementing case management protocols for potential outbreaks in Azraq Refugee Camp, where we provide essential health services for the nearly 40,000 people living in the camp. Active case management includes the development of isolation and quarantine sites where patients with COVID-19 may seek treatment.
- In Lebanon, International Medical Corps is part of the national COVID-19 taskforce led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). As a key member of the taskforce, International Medical Corps is procuring personal protective equipment—including hand sanitizer, gloves, surgical face masks, gowns and goggles—to support 58 community health centers. These supplies will ensure that health staff are protected and can conduct screening and infection prevention and control protocols safely.
- On March 10 and 11, coinciding with the WHO's announcement of COVID-19 as a pandemic, International Medical Corps facilitated a two-day training of trainers in the Philippines, focusing on "Healthcare Facility Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases." In collaboration with the Manila Health Department, instructors led 44 agency physicians, nurses and local non-governmental partners through a series of discussions on infection prevention and control (IPC) strategies related to COVID-19. International and domestic infectious disease experts first provided guidance on the epidemiology of COVID-19, related isolation and quarantine procedures, disease surveillance methods, medical surge capacity requirements and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Participants then applied their new skills by instructing the same modules in smaller groups—gathering peer and instructor feedback as they presented. The training also included an operational component—including a PPE demonstration—so all participants had the opportunity to practice donning and doffing the equipment needed to prevent transmission. Later this month, participants will provide training to other healthcare workers throughout public hospitals and community health centers in Manila.

Globally, International Medical Corps is focused on ensuring continuity of operations throughout its programs and operations, so patients and other beneficiaries continue to receive essential healthcare services without disruption. To support this effort, International Medical Corps has established a 24-hour emergency operations center to support country missions and provide the latest updates to staff and medical personnel. International Medical Corps is focused on the health and safety of its staff, and ensuring that medical supplies, equipment and medicines are fully stocked.

International Medical Corps also is implementing a training series on IPC, to support frontline responders as they prepare for and respond to the pandemic. In the US, International Medical Corps is launching a series of webinars over the next couple of weeks for infectious disease experts, to discuss isolation and quarantine, IPC, and mental health and

Impact of protective measures



Adapted from CDC

psychosocial considerations during the pandemic. This will be followed by a virtual training program to support federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and other healthcare providers along the US/Mexico border that are responding to COVID-19.

Technical Guidance

WHO, Technical Guidance: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

WHO, Training on Novel Coronavirus: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/training>

WHO, Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19 Training : <https://openwho.org/courses/COVID-19-IPC-EN>

CDC, COVID-19 guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>