



During a COVID-19 training session at Eastland Subacute and Rehabilitation Center, USA Country Director Dr. Solomon Kuah examines Ray Jason Ragasa's hands for GloGerm, to see if he was able to don and doff PPE without cross-contamination.

Globally, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has grown to more than 16.7 million cases, along with more than 660,000 deaths. Continuing a trend seen since May, this week had the highest number of cases yet observed, with an average of approximately 255,000 cases per day. On a day-to-day basis, the United States, Brazil and India have regularly accounted for more than 60% of the new cases worldwide. Of the countries with the highest caseloads, Mexico stands out for its below-average level of testing. The country has conducted fewer than 1 million tests, and 43% of those have returned positive. This positivity rate is more than twice as high as any of the other countries with a significant ongoing outbreak. The low level of testing, paired with the high positivity rate, makes it highly likely that the outbreak in Mexico is considerably worse than the official numbers show.

Over the weekend in the US, where roughly one-quarter of the world's confirmed COVID-19 cases have occurred, the death toll now exceeds 150,000. Since July 5, the seven-day moving average for daily deaths has grown by 180%—from 520 to 964. After a month of sharp growth, the last 10 days have seen a stabilization in the number of new cases, at approximately 68,000 per day. Though most new cases come from Florida, Texas and California, many other states are seeing more than 1,000 new cases per day.

On the vaccine front, two more vaccines entered Phase Three trials this week in the US. Drugmakers Moderna and Pfizer are enrolling up to 30,000 Americans to study whether their vaccines are safe and effective in preventing COVID-19 in humans¹. These trials join four other vaccine candidates worldwide to make it to Phase Three trials². Meanwhile, Adrian Hill of the University of Oxford said that Oxford/AstraZeneca would manufacture 1 million doses of their vaccine by September, and if the trials go well, the vaccine could become available by the end of the year³.

FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of July 29 there have been 16,776,680 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in 188 countries and regions.
- In the US, we are supporting 75 hospitals and long-term care facilities in Los Angeles, New York City, Puerto Rico, Chicago, Boston and Detroit with emergency medical field units, equipment, supplies and volunteer staff.
- We have screened more than 841,800 individuals for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 11.4 million pieces of personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 11,900 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/modernas-coronavirus-vaccine-begins-final-stage-testing-11595854440>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/science/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker.html>

³ <https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-oxford-vaccine-res/over-a-million-doses-of-oxford-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-possible-by-september-researcher-idUKKCN24L1TW>

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is continuing to provide essential medical assistance and training in the 30 countries where we operate. Highlights from our global response include the following.

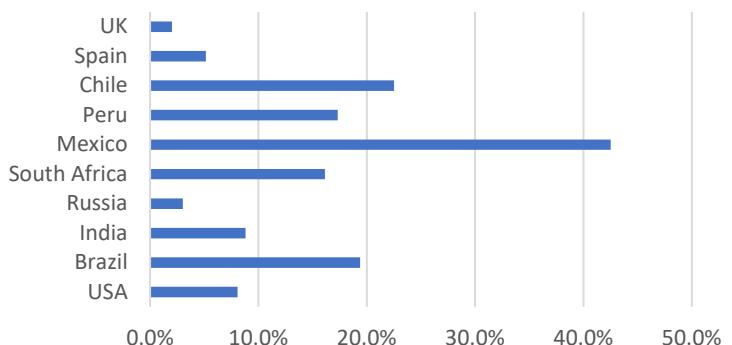
United States Response

In the US, International Medical Corps has partnered with hospitals and nursing homes in the urban areas around Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and New York, and in Puerto Rico, to respond to COVID-19.

International Medical Corps is working with hospital partners to procure critical-care equipment—including ventilators, portable ultrasounds, pulse oximeters and defibrillators—to help hospitals rapidly expand their capacity to support COVID-19 patients. We have distributed more than 1.3 million KN95 masks, 700,000 surgical masks, 108,000 face shields and 280,000 gowns to hospitals and long-term care facilities. We have provided a total of more than 50 emergency medical field units to hospital partners to support their ability to alter patient flow and expand bed-capacity in response to the pandemic. The field units, which are configured based on the hospital's requirements with technical assistance from our team of logisticians and clinical experts, have generally been used to support triage and patient screening activities, enabling the hospital to have additional capacity for critical-care patients. Along with the medical equipment and supplies, International Medical Corps also has secured and deployed more than 70 clinical volunteers to overwhelmed hospitals across the country.

As case numbers continue to rise throughout the US, International Medical Corps is coordinating with partners in a number of hotspots, including California, Florida and Texas. In Los Angeles, where COVID-19 cases account for nearly 37% of the state's total patient load, International Medical Corps continues to work with hospital partners to ensure that they have the surge capacity needed to effectively respond. The team also is working with long-term care facilities to provide healthcare workers and residents with personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as training on the epidemiology of COVID-19, infection prevention and control (IPC) procedures, and the proper usage and management of PPE. The team has so far provided training to more than 200 healthcare professionals and residents within long-term care facilities. Additionally, because the Central Valley of California has emerged as a hotspot, showing some of the highest lab positivity levels in the state, we already have partnered with eight hospitals in the central valley to provide them with emergency medical field units, medical equipment and supplies.

Percentage of Positive Tests



United States Response

 Locations	States/Territories: 7	Hospitals: 27	Nursing homes: 51
 Volunteers	MDs: 16	Nurses: 44	EMTs: 3 Paramedics: 8
 Infrastructure	Field Units: 56	HVACs: 42	Generators: 4 Trailers: 4 Containers: 2
 Equipment	Beds: 150	Ventilators: 7	Portable ultrasounds: 12 Defibrillators: 2
	Pulse oximeters: 14	Suctions: 9	Patient monitors: 60
	Medical consumables	Anesthesia pumps: 1	
 PPE	KN95 masks: 1,322,680	Surgical masks: 700,000	Surgical gowns: 281,000
	Face shields: 108,000		Nitrile gloves: 2,100

In Texas, statewide hospitalizations remain high, with more than 9,700 reported as of July 27. Of those requiring hospitalization, 3,343 patients are in intensive care. Though there are some signs that the number of hospitalizations may have reached a plateau, many hospitals have reached capacity—for example, patients in overflowing hospitals in south Texas are waiting for hours in ambulances or recliner beds set up in hallways. To support prevention efforts, International Medical Corps is working with Texas A&M University's Coastal Bend Health Education Center to deliver virtual training sessions on IPC and medical surge capacity. The training is aimed at healthcare professionals in Nueces County, which is currently reporting a 25% positive testing rate⁴. Before June 16, an average of 20 to 25 healthcare professionals participated in each session; however, as the case numbers have continued to climb in the state, the number of participants in recent sessions has increased to more than 50 per session, with the state continuing its work to control spread of the disease.

Similarly, hospitalizations in Florida remain high, with 9,098 recorded as of July 28⁵. Statewide, only about 14% of hospital beds and 23% of intensive-care beds are available. Over the weekend, Florida surpassed New York to become the state with the country's second-highest caseload. As the number of cases continues to rise, International Medical Corps is working with health partners to determine the need for training and support in highly affected areas.

Global Response

International Medical Corps is focused on ensuring continuity of operations in its existing programming in nearly 30 countries while taking decisive action to respond to COVID-19 cases. We are continuing to distribute PPE and IPC items to our supported healthcare facilities, while providing training and support to frontline healthcare workers on the proper use of such equipment and the epidemiology of COVID-19. Additionally, our facilities are continuing to screen patients for COVID-19 and raise awareness—through traditional and remote activities—throughout communities. International Medical Corps also is participating with global, regional and local coordination bodies to support their COVID-19 response and ensure that our staff can respond to the outbreak while continuing to deliver critical healthcare services. Highlights from our response this week include activities in the following countries.



International Medical Corps is responding to COVID-19 around the world, including in Afghanistan, the Bahamas and Jordan, shown on the map above.

- In **Afghanistan**, International Medical Corps continues to implement programs in 12 of the country's 34 provinces, with a focus on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response. To mitigate the dangers of COVID-19 infection, we continue to distribute soap free of charge in communities that we serve, and stress the importance of handwashing in preventing the spread of the virus. We continue to offer a program aimed at discouraging attitudes and behaviors that contribute to GBV, available to an estimated 228,800 residents of remote Nangahar Province. The program includes targeted social and behavior-change activities such as community dialogues and awareness sessions on GBV that we conduct within the limits of COVID-related guidelines. Our GBV mobile services remain operational in all field sites, as we collaborate and coordinate with external groups specializing in GBV issues during the pandemic—including the GBV sub-cluster of the UN's Afghanistan Protection Cluster and the UN's Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Working Group on COVID-19-related issues—to update mapping of GBV services. We also are participating in discussions to ensure that the interests of all vulnerable female groups (including elderly and disabled women) are included in the wider response to GBV amid the challenges presented by COVID-19. We continue to provide phone-based case management and counseling to GBV survivors when appropriate and safe, and are using IPC measures at all service centers. Arrangements to minimize the risk of infection include schooling far-smaller groups, maintaining social distancing during sessions and ensuring access to handwashing for all participants at all meeting points arranged by our mobile teams. In early July, the team launched a new hygiene promotion program in Balkh and Faryab provinces, educating people about the symptoms of COVID-19, how the virus is spread, who is most at risk and how its transmission can be slowed or prevented altogether. Messaging also stresses the importance of simple public health measures such as handwashing, staying home when ill, and the need to cover one's mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

⁴ <https://corpus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/fe742480193d4fff98f7af38c5104cfcc>

⁵ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7572b118dc3c48d885d1c643c195314e>

- In the **Bahamas**, International Medical Corps has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and IPC measures, and by providing supplies. On the island of Grand Bahama, we have provided five health facilities with bucket handwashing stations and distributed 14,436 PPE items, including masks, gloves, gowns, sharps containers, aprons and first-aid kits. To date, International Medical Corps has reached more than 15,000 people in the Bahamas with COVID-19 awareness messaging. In addition, the Bahamas team provides mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services through webinars and TV and radio show discussions on how to cope with stress from COVID-19, as well as a psychosocial support hotline that provides peer support group activities by telephone. As social distancing measures relaxed in June, the team restarted a community-outreach program, providing health and hygiene promotion. In coordination with Grand Bahama Health Services, we also started new rounds of IPC and disinfection training sessions adapted for COVID-19, reaching 80 health housekeeping staff and more than 100 people from small businesses. In July, we are providing mental health training for 20 health professionals, and psychological first-aid training for an additional 50 health workers.
- In **Jordan**, International Medical Corps' team continues to operate vital lifesaving health services across the country. All health services in Azraq and Zaatari Refugee Camps, as well as in Irbid, remain ongoing, with non-lifesaving services—such as outpatient sexual and reproductive health—resumed at full capacity. International Medical Corps provides a range of services related to COVID-19 to an estimated 40,000 people living inside Azraq Refugee Camp. Working with camp management, International Medical Corps has deployed a medical team to the camp's entry and exit points to conduct screening for the disease. In addition, we have established a 10-patient isolation area—and are in the process of increasing its capacity to 50 beds—inside the camp, where immediate treatment can be provided to suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases. In addition, the health team in the camp continues to provide awareness sessions on COVID-19 to residents, as well as to NGO and security staff. Working with the Ministry of Health and the Jordanian Psychiatrist Society, we have established a 24/7 psychosocial support hotline, staffed by our mental health team, to respond to the growing mental health needs in the face of COVID-19. As curfew restrictions now have been lifted in the country, the team has resumed face-to-face mental health consultations, as well as child protection and nutrition services, for refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

International Medical Corps' Impact at a Glance				
Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities	411 Primary Health Facilities	60 Hospitals	8 COVID-19 Treatment Centers	34 Mobile Medical Clinics
Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness-Raising Activities	 891k Traditional		 326k Remote	
PPE and IPC Items Distributed	 11.2M PPE		 363k IPC	