

MoHS Statement on COVID-19
(4.1.2020 – 8.3.2020) (8 March 2020, 8:15PM) ([Link](#))
(Unofficial translation by OCHA)

1. Global Situation Update on COVID-19

WHO updated as below (as of 15:30 AM Myanmar Standard Time on 7 March 2020.

- Countries with confirmed cases - 94
- Laboratory-confirmed cases globally - 101,927
- Deaths globally - 3,486
- Death rate globally - 3.4%
- **Countries with high cases/deaths**

No	Country	Since the outbreak	
		Laboratory-confirmed	Death
1	Republic of Korea	6,767	44
2	Italy	4,636	197
3	Iran	4,747	124
4	Japan	408	6
5	Germany	639	0
5 countries in total		17,197	371

- It is learned from the WHO statements that there are increasing reports of imported cases and local transmission.
- 45 countries outside China where local transmission of COVID-19 found are:

No	Regions regarded by WHO	Countries
1	The West Pacific	Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, New Zealand
2	Europe	Italy, Germany, France, Spain, England, Croatia, San Marino, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Israel, Romania, Belgium, Portugal, Belarus, Bosnia, Ireland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Iceland, Slovakia
3	The South East Asia	Thailand, Indonesia, India
4	The Middle East	Iran, UAE, Lebanon
5	America	USA, Canada, Ecuador
6	Africa	Algeria, Cameroon
7	Territories	Occupied Palestinian Territory

- Hence, China, Regional Level and Global Level were regarded as very high as per COVID-19 Risk Assessment issued by the WHO on 28 February 2020.

- 2. According to the Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19, based on the assessments on the 55,924 laboratory-confirmed cases between 16 February and 24 February, the major signs and symptoms and the rate of outbreaks are as below.**

No.	Signs and Symptoms	Rate
1	Fever	87.9
2	Dry Cough	67.7
3	Fatigue	38.1
4	Sputum production	33.4
5	Shortness of breath	18.6
6	Sore throat	13.9
7	Headache	13.6
8	Myalgia or Arthralgia	14.8
9	Chills	11.4
10	Nausea and Vomiting	5
11	Nasal congestion	4.8
12	Diarrhea	3.7
13	Hemoptysis	0.9
14	Conjunctiva Congestion	0.8

The signs, symptoms, disease progression and severity

- Mild to Moderate - 80%
- Severe - 13.8%
- Critically Ill - 6.1%
- 83% of laboratory-confirmed cases outside China are found in Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy.
- Currently, the COVID-19 has not been detected in 99 UN member states including Myanmar.

3. **According to current studies, the difference between COVID-19 and season influenza are;**

- The COVID-19 causes more severe disease than seasonal influenza. While there are already vaccines and therapeutics for seasonal influenza, no vaccine and no specific treatment for COVID-19 have been developed yet.

4. **Situation of COVID-19 in Myanmar (as of 8 March 2020, 12:00 noon)**

	Laboratory Test				Total Patients
	Positive	Negative	Testing	Sending	
Monitored Patient	-	60	6	6	72
Suspected Patient	-	2	-	-	2
Total	-	62	6	6	74

5. There were a total of 72 patients – 27 in Yangon Region, 14 in Shan State, 13 in Mandalay Region and 18 in other states/regions, between 31 January 2020 and 8 March 2020.
6. The MoHS has been speeding up on monitoring and preventive measures on COVID-19, by
- A) putting those who have in close contact with suspects (including families and medical staff) under surveillance;
 - B) identifying, quarantining and offering effective medical treatments to the suspects and patients being monitored;
 - C) distributing instructives for proper and effective preventions to medical staff;
 - D) uploading up-to-date situations in Myanmar and other countries on state-run media and the MOHS's website (www.mohs.gov.mm) and Facebook pages

(<https://www.facebook.com/MinistryOfHealthAndSportsMyanmar>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarCDC>) and react to the misinformed media;

- E) collaborating with respective departments to mitigate potential adverse impacts on the public; and
- F) collaborating with Myanmar Red Cross Society, Civil Society Organizations and Community Based Organizations to raise awareness of COVID-19 at crowded and public places such as market places and bus stops/terminals in respective regions and states.

7. As of 5 March 2020, Myanmar has received local and international supports as below.

No	Organization	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	N-95 Mask	Surgical Mask	Surgical Gown	Hand Gel	Protective Goggles	Non-Contact Thermometer	Ventilator	Glove
1	WHO	600	525	30,000	1,000	499	500	-		20,000
2	Myanmar Red Cross Society	2,500	-	5,100		1,857		-		6,000
3	Sea Lion Company	2,000	-	-		-		-		
4	Okkar Thiri Company	1,000	-	-		225		-		
5	Zizawa Company	-	-	-		-		45		
6	Gold Lite Co., Ltd	-	2,000	-		-		-		
7	Eclion Global Group and other donors	3,300	-	-		-		-		
8	Yee Shin Company								5	
9	Valves Co., Ltd			2,000						
10	USAID	1,000	3,500	60,000		500				20,000
11	China							100		
12	INGOs			5,700		1,195	500			320
13	NGO	2,000	1,600	10,350		1,900	20			500
	Total	12,400	7,625	113,150	1,000	6,176	1,020	145	5	46,820

The MoHS is very grateful to all the donors for their donation. The MoHS has also been procuring ventilators and necessary medicines and medical equipment for hospitals as needed.

- 8. Despite no confirmed COVID-19 cases were found in Myanmar, it is known that the virus has been spreading in Singapore, Republic of Korea, Italy and Iran, in addition to China, at an alarming speed. It is possible that passengers from the infected countries will likely to enter Myanmar via different travel routes. The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) is working hand in hand with respective ministries to reinforce the monitoring and preventive measures. Likewise, MoHS is controlling the entrance of suspects from international gates, monitoring the hotels and houses. Local transmission cases are found in those who

have no direct contacts with COVID-19 patients (or) those who have not recently visited countries where there is a spread of virus. The COVID-19 can be spread from an asymptomatic carrier to others in mass gatherings.

9. Myanmar is at risk of an outbreak at some points. Hence, citizens and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are advised as below:
- (a) Avoid mass social gatherings;
 - (b) Hold only inevitable events;
 - (c) Especially, elderly people and people having non-communicable disease should take a great care of their health;
 - (d) As the droplets from people with disease can spread, when they sneeze or cough, prepare or make available of water and soaps or hand sanitizers so that hands can be washed frequently;
 - (e) Raise awareness or educate about COVID-19 for five minutes before holding an event;
 - (f) Follow the MoHS's health guidelines exactly, when holding inevitably, and to take care of preventive measures, including reducing the number of participants and filtering the sick people who have respiratory diseases.

[THE END]