

**MoHS Statement on COVID-19**  
**(4.1.2020 – 12.3.2020) (12 March 2020, 8:15PM) ([Link](#))**  
*(Unofficial translation by OCHA)*

- It is learned from the WHO statements that there are increasing reports of imported cases and local transmission.
- 66 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, Cambodia
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, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Poland, North Macedonia, Serbia, Armenia
3	The South East Asia	Thailand, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Bangladesh
4	The Middle East	Iran, Bahrain, Iraq, Egypt, UAE, Lebanon, Pakistan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia
5	America	USA, Canada, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, Paraguay
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.
- 70.74% of global cases and 87.4% of global deaths outside China are found in Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy.
- According to WHO, although the cases in China have dropped, the cases of infected people globally outside China have increased 13 times, and the cases of countries to three times within last two weeks.
- Currently, the COVID-19 has not been detected in 88 UN member states including Myanmar.
- According to the WHO, more than 70% laboratory-confirmed patients in China have recovered and were discharged from hospitals.

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

	Laboratory Test				Total Patients
	Positive	Negative	Testing	Sending	
<b>Monitored Patient</b>	-	86	8	4	102
<b>Suspected Patient</b>	-	2	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>	-	88	8	4	104

- There were a total of 102 patients – 42 in Yangon Region, 19 in Shan State, 15 in Mandalay Region and 26 in other states/regions, between 31 January 2020 and 12 March 2020.
- 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](http://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, by using megaphones.
5. Despite no confirmed COVID-19 cases have been found in Myanmar:
- It is known that the virus has been spreading and the death rate has been increasing in Republic of Korea, Italy, Iran, France and Germany 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 MoHS is cooperation 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 affected with the virus.
  - Everyone should be aware that high transmission of COVID-19 can occur in certain places such as closed-rooms or airplanes, ships and highway buses as an asymptomatic carrier can transmit to others in mass gatherings.
6. 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) 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;
  - (d) Raise awareness or educate about COVID-19 for five minutes before holding an event;
  - (e) 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 disease;
  - (f) As COVID-19 can cause severe to the elderly people and the people with chronic disease/cancer, they should avoid mass gathering and follow preventive measures.
7. As the public cooperation with health staff plays a critical role in response to the pandemic COVID-19, everyone is urged to strictly follow the health guidelines to prevent the disease, released by the MoHS.

[THE END]