

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 91

Timor-Leste

Data as reported by 17 March 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) reported **67** new cases of COVID-19 since the last time of reporting (10.03.2021) – bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste to **216**. The cases are restricted to clusters. All patients are now admitted to the designated isolation and treatment facility at Vera Cruz and Tasi Tolu.
- Currently, there are 2 cluster of cases in Baucau and Viqueque municipality which are linked with the 24 cluster of cases in Dili. Following these cases, the epidemiology surveillance team is carrying out contact tracing as per the national surveillance and contact tracing guideline for COVID-19.

As on 17.03.2021 – the National Health Laboratory (NHL) performed **33,746** COVID-19 tests including tests on samples collected through mass screenings in the affected municipalities.

- As the number of cases increasing in the country, the Government through the Council of Ministers extraordinary meeting extended a sanitary health fence and confinement to contain any further transmission of COVID-19 in Dili until 2nd of April and in Baucau and Viqueque municipality until 29th March. Through the Integrated Center for Crises Management, the government and the MoH request everyone not to panic and indulge in spreading unverified information and rumours. The authorities appealed to follow the COVID-19 preventive measures for everyone's safety.
- The surveillance team, as per the national guideline is working on further investigation and contact tracing. More details about the new cases can be found at the Ministry of Health's (MoH) Facebook page, [Palacio das Cinzas](#).
- The Ministry of Health with the technical support from WHO Country Office Timor-Leste and in collaboration with UNICEF Timor-Leste conducting a three-day training of trainers (ToT) ahead of vaccine roll out in the country. As many as 65 health workers are trained on several topics including pre-campaign activities such as volunteer orientation, listing of target population, and micro planning and hands-on demonstration for injection safety, waste disposal, and reporting AEFI during the campaign.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

216 confirmed (**67** new)
109 recovered (**5** new)
107 active cases
0 deaths

(As per data released by the [Ministry of Health](#))

Follow WHO Timor-Leste on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

More information and guidance by WHO regarding the current COVID-19 outbreak can be found [here](#).

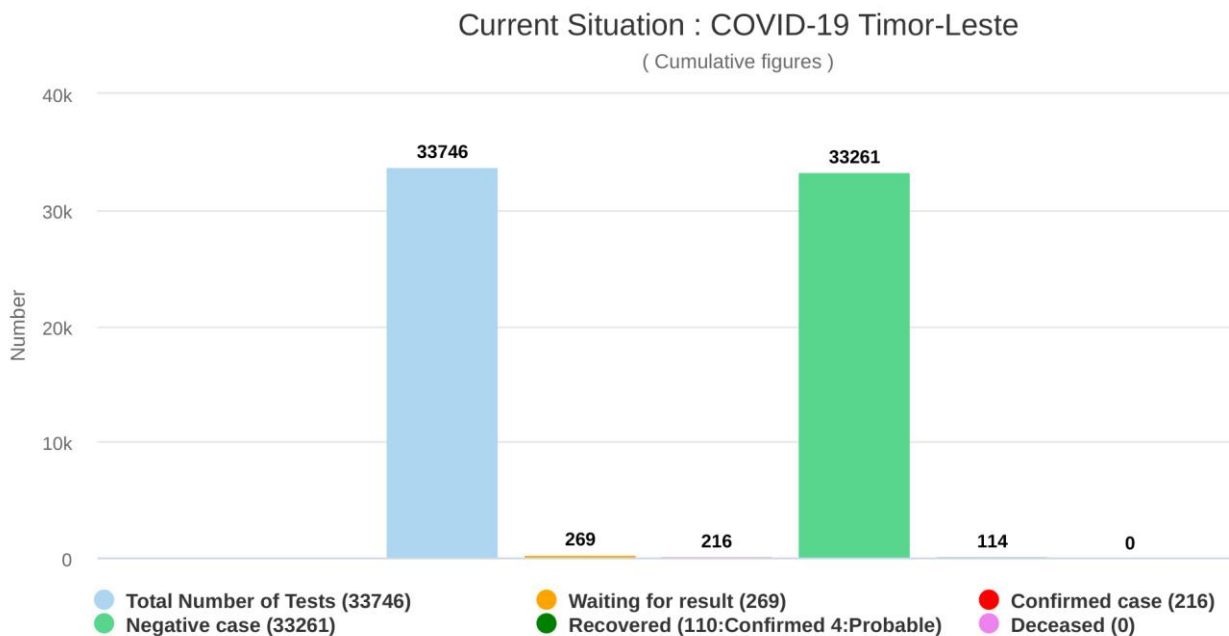
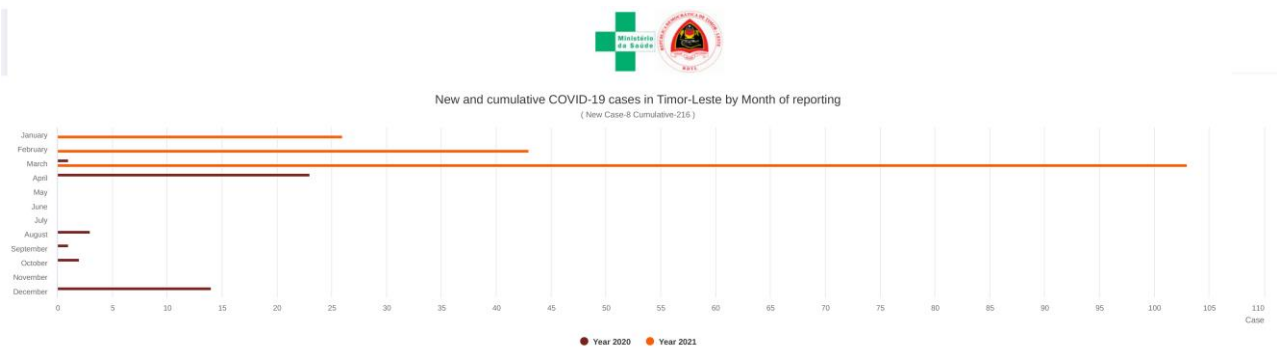
GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

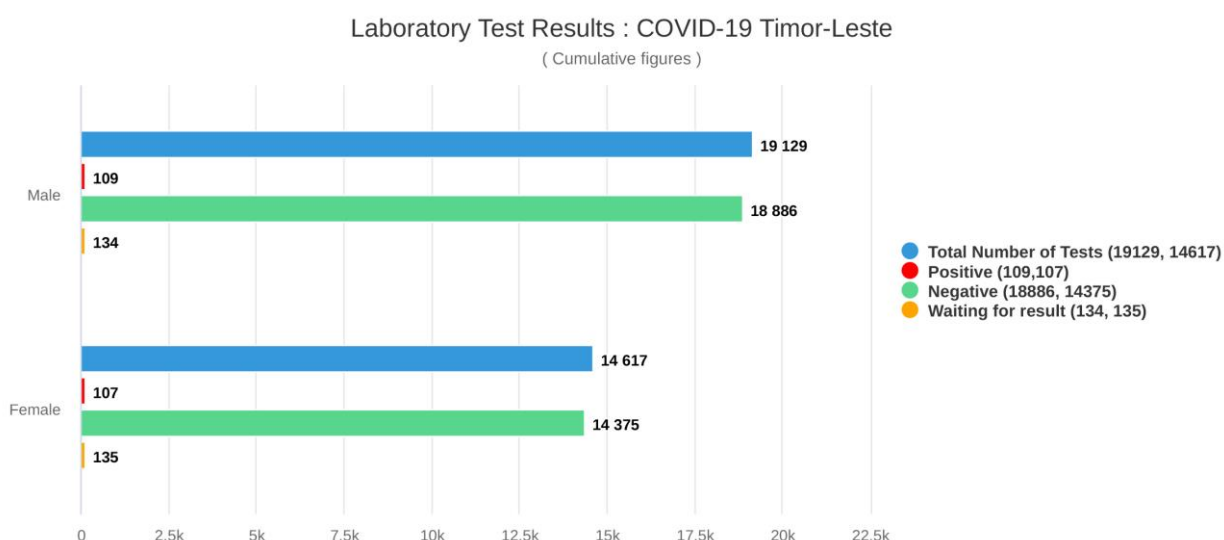
Total (new) cases in last seven days

Globally

119 212 530 confirmed (**3 033 213**)
2 642 612 deaths (**58 698**)

- WHO Representative and team met with the Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health to discuss the current operational status of COVID-19 isolation centres in Dili. While the Tasi Tolu and Vera Cruz centres are in use already, plans are afoot to increase the number of beds to 300+ at these centres.
- As part of COVID-19 vaccine introduction in the country, the MoH with the technical and financial support from WHO and other partners is conducting social mobilization and advocacy sessions at the municipality level. So far, six municipalities have been covered.





WHO TIMOR-LESTE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Interrupt human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events;
- Strengthening of surveillance systems and increasing laboratory capacity to detect COVID-19 cases;
- Ensuring adherence to the strictest standards of infection prevention and control (IPC) and increase capacity for IPC;
- Identify, isolate and care for patients early, including providing optimized care for infected patients;
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation;
- Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

Wash your hands frequently

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

Maintain physical distancing

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and others.

Why? When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing is infected.

Use face mask when physical distancing is not possible

Why? If when you're in a setting where maintaining the physical distance of 1 meter or more is not possible due to the space constraint, then it is imperative that you use a face mask as it can help in stopping the transmission of COVID-19

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and make you sick.

Practice respiratory hygiene

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue safely immediately.

Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of health authorities.

Why? Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider

Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

Protect ourselves and our loved ones against #COVID19:

- **Wash your hands frequently**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
- **Avoid touching your face**
- **Avoid crowded places and limit time in enclosed spaces**
- **Keep a distance of at least 1 metre from others**
- **Use of mask is imperative when physical-distancing is not possible.**
- **Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces**
- **Isolate yourself from others if feeling unwell and seek care, if needed**

More guidance on preventive measures is available [here](#).

COVID-19 Information and media queries:

- The MoH has established a hotline number – 119 – for COVID-19 on which people can call to get any COVID-19 related information.
 - Additionally, [MoH Facebook page](#) provides timely updates on COVID-19 developments in the country.
 - WHO Timor-Leste through its [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter handle](#) also disseminates information on preventive measures, questions and answers, myth-busters and latest updates on COVID-19 globally and nationally. For media queries and interviews requests can be sent to singhsho@who.int and hasane@who.int
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