

Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Situation Update Report – 5

February 28, 2020

Global updates

As of 27 February 2020 (new cases in last 24 hours):

- **Global:** 82 294 confirmed cases (1 185 new)
- **China:** 78 630 confirmed (439 new), 2 747 deaths (29 new)
- **Outside China:** 3 664 confirmed (746 new), 46 countries (9 new), 57 deaths (13 new)
- **Nine new countries** are Brazil, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, and North Macedonia

WHO Risk Assessment: China – Very High, Regional Level – High, Global level – High

India Situation

The three cases of COVID-19 reported from Kerala have fully recovered and been discharged from the hospital on 20 February 2020. Since then, no new cases have been reported.

The Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Cabinet Secretary are closely monitoring the situation of COVID-19 in India. Government of India (GoI) previously issued travel advisories requesting the public to refrain from travelling to China, and from 26 February this advisory applies also to Iran, Italy and Republic of Korea. People coming from these countries or having travel history, since 10th February 2020, may be quarantined for 14 days on their arrival to India.

On 22 February, GoI informed that universal screening at airports will also apply for flights arriving from Indonesia, Kathmandu, Malaysia and Vietnam (in addition to China, Hongkong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand as being done previously). As on date, a total of 4 82 927 passengers have been screened from 4 787 flights. Screening is ongoing at 21 airports, 12 major seaports, and 65 minor seaports and land crossings particularly bordering Nepal. A total of 23 531 passengers are being monitored under community surveillance through Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network on a daily basis.

Between 26-27 February, GoI evacuated 124 people from Japan including 119 Indian citizens and five nationals from Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa and Peru. They were quarantined on the Diamond

Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Situation Update Report – 5

February 28, 2020

Princess Cruise ship at Yokohama due to COVID-19. In addition, 112 persons had been evacuated from Wuhan, China. These included 76 Indian citizens and 36 nationals from countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Maldives, China, South Africa, USA and Madagascar. These evacuees have been quarantined for 14 days at camps managed by the Army and ITBP

The National Institute of Virology, Pune under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that a total of 2 880 samples have been tested as on 27 February 2020. 1 572 samples were referred from suspected cases throughout the country except those from the quarantine centres. Till date, three out of the 1 572 have been tested positive for COVID-19.

Situation in Kerala

In Kerala, the situation has stabilized with no new case being detected. Contact tracing, isolation and response activities have been scaled down. State has closed control room activities and handed over surveillance and response to IDSP as a mark of normalcy.

Extensive awareness and communication activities continue as before to build awareness and sensitize the public. In last two days, Kerala has released more people from isolation reducing the total people in isolation to just 127 out of which 5 are in hospital. Of the total 444 samples sent for testing 3 were positive, 436 were negative and results for 5 are pending.

WHO Response

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) support at national level

WCO is closely working with National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC) on disease surveillance, with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on laboratory testing capacity, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on risk communications.

As member of the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) on emerging diseases, WCO has been regularly attending these meetings (25 and 27 February). JMG brings together line ministries and agencies to provide updates as well technical guidance on preparedness and response activities including planning for the next phase and securing essential supplies (PPE).

Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Situation Update Report – 5

February 28, 2020

WCO continues to provide support to ICMR on laboratory and research protocols and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) for repurposing of Antiviral drugs for COVID-19. WCO has also initiated exchange of information with ICMR on areas of research and development related to COVID-19.

WHO coordination with UN partners

WCO India and UNICEF are supporting MoHFW for preparedness, response planning including interventions for risk communication and community engagement, development of IEC materials and their dissemination among public through various communication channels. The field offices of UNICEF have been coordinating with State governments to plan their support in case COVID-19 situation escalates.

WCO India has been updating the UN country team and health partners on COVID-19 situation with daily information package and frequent meetings.

WCO support at state level

WCO field teams continue to support the states across India in various preparedness and response activities. These include screening of travelers at points of entry, supporting contact tracing and follow up of travelers, developing and adapting technical guidance and IEC materials, facilitating mock drills, orienting and advocating to state officials, training rapid response teams and medical officers, sharing technical materials and daily situation update.

For more information contact:

Dr Tran Minh Nhu Nguyen
Team Lead
WHO India
Email: tranminhn@who.int

Dr Ritu Chauhan
National Programme Officer
WHO India
Email: chauhanr@who.int