

Let's work together to help reduce panic and make sure that people have access to the correct information they need to ensure the health and wellbeing of themselves, their families and friends.

Highlight

The Director-General said yesterday that Europe has now become the epicenter of the pandemic, with more reported cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from China. Many countries are now acting on the eight pillars of WHO's COVID 19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. For more details, please see [here](#).

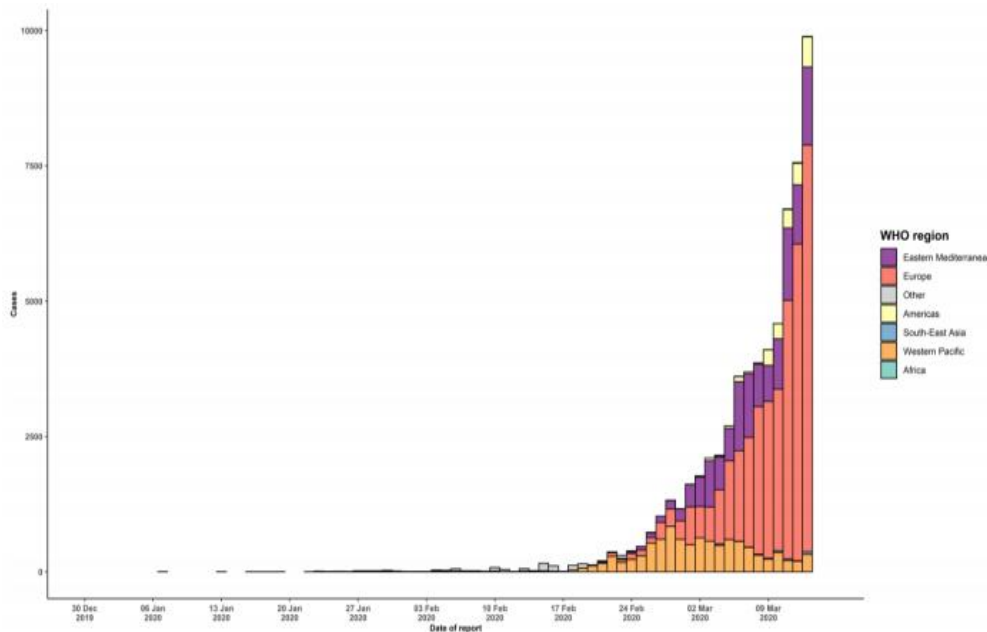


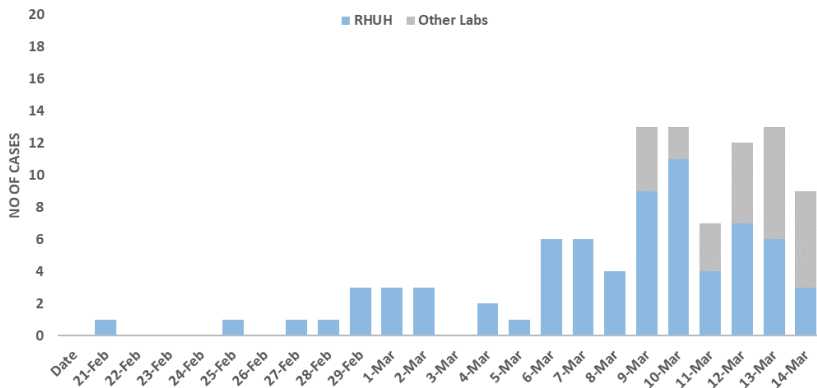
Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported outside of China (n=61 518), by date of report and WHO region through 14 March 2020

LEBANON COVID-19 statistics as of 15 March 2020 (3:00 pm Beirut time)	
99	(6 New) Positive cases
1	Total recovery
3	Total Death
1985	Call Centre
165	Referrals to RHUH

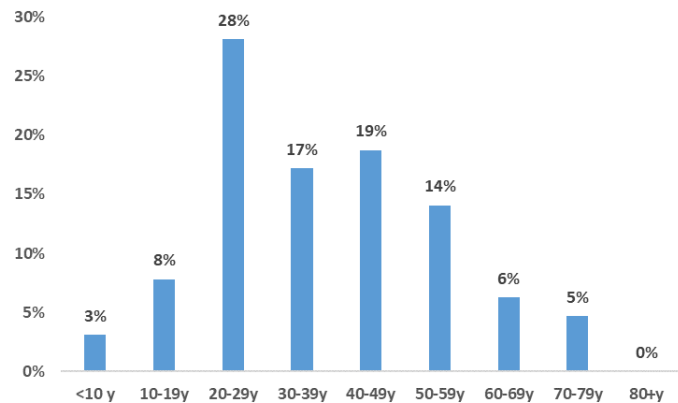
Regional updates		Global update	
Total access	15,269 (1,253 new)	Globally cases	152,428 (10,108 new)
Total Deaths	740 (113 new)	Cases reported from	141 countries (12 new)
Countries infected	17 countries	Total deaths	5,720 (332 new) (CFR: 3.4%)
Cases by country today <i>Iran 1,209, Jordan 5, Morocco 11, Afghanistan 6, Bahrain 3, Kuwait 8, Lebanon 6, Oman 2, Pakistan 3.</i>	1,253	Confirmed cases in China	81,048 (27 new)
Deaths by country today	113 (Iran)	Cases outside China	61,518 (9,751)
		Death outside China	2,199 (424 new)



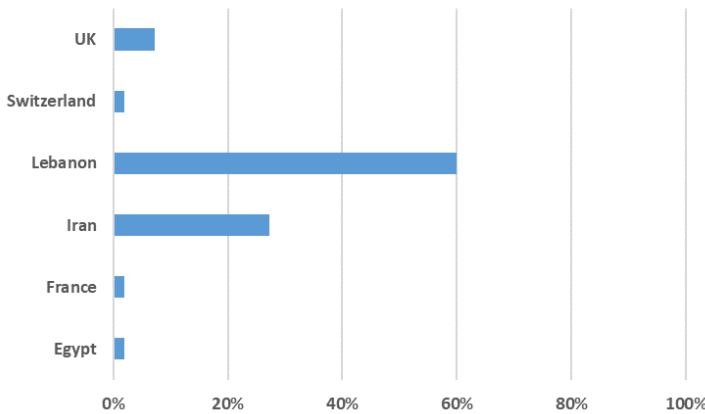
Distribution of COVID-19 cases as reported by the epidemiological surveillance unit at MoPH



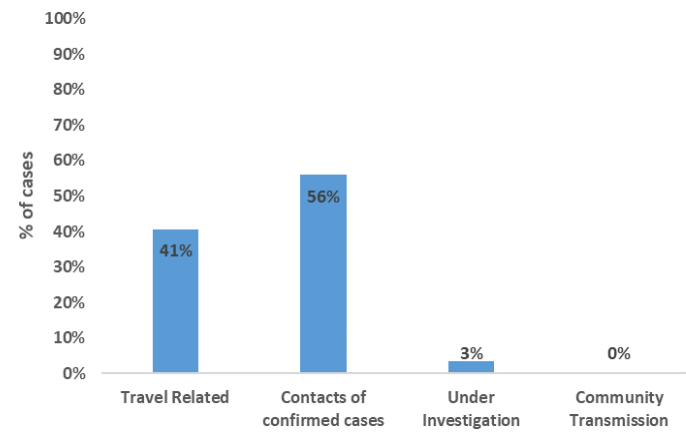
Graph 1: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by date of confirmation



Graph 2: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age



Graph 3: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by country of infection



Graph 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by source of infection

A look at the China experience in tackling the coronavirus outbreak

- ❖ “Covid-19 was first reported in Wuhan last December, not long before the lead up to the Lunar New Year when China undertakes the world’s largest mass migration. “On January 27, there were 1,771 new infections in mainland China – the first biggest one-day jump since the outbreak started in December.” For additional Information about the Chinese experience including hospital spaces, the triage process, medical workers, local transmission and other Covid-19 related data in China, you can access the following [link](#)

Your question answered

How can use of waterpipe (arguileh) contribute to the spread of COVID19?

- Waterpipes (arguileh) are tobacco products and their use has both acute and long-term harmful effects on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems, likely increasing the risk of diseases including coronary artery disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- The communal nature of waterpipe smoking means that a single mouthpiece and hose are often shared between people, especially in social and communal settings. In addition, the waterpipe apparatus (including the



hose and chamber) itself may contribute to this risk by providing an environment that promotes the survival of microorganisms outside the body. Most cafés tend not to clean the waterpipes after each smoking session because washing and cleaning waterpipe parts is labour intensive and time consuming. These factors increase the potential for the transmission of infectious diseases between users

Use of corticosteroids in context of COVID-19

- Current interim guidance from WHO on clinical management of COVID-19 suspected cases advises against the use of corticosteroids unless indicated for another reason. (Source: Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection when novel coronavirus infection is suspected: [www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](http://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected))
- This guidance is based on analysis of several systematic reviews that cite lack of effectiveness and possible harm from routine treatment with corticosteroids for viral pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome.

New Guidelines recently released

- Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection when novel coronavirus (COVID 19) infection is suspected follow this [link](#)
- Considerations in the investigation of cases and clusters of COVID-19 follow this [link](#)

- WHO real time [dashboard](#)
- WHO [COVID-19 page](#)
- Protect yourself ([English/Arabic](#))
- Q&A ([English/Arabic](#))
- WHO Lebanon [website](#)
- WHO Lebanon [Facebook Twitter Instagram](#)
- WHO [online course](#) on emerging respiratory viruses, including COVID-19
- What is the correct way to wear and dispose of masks? [VIDEO](#)
- Beware of criminals pretending to be WHO [for more](#)

Important numbers

- MOPH Hotline 1214
- Airport quarantine section 01-629352
- Preventive medicine center 01-843769 | 01830300
- Call Centre 76-592699
- Preventive medicine center 01-843769 | 01830300
- Call Centre 76-592699
- Epidemiological Surveillance Unit 01-614194 | 01-614196