

Cases

39



Cured

5



Death

4



Isolation

267



Quarantine

31,351

Highlights:

- As of 24 March 2020, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), there are thirty-nine (39) confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh, including four (4) deaths; Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 10.3%. All patients are nationals of Bangladesh and have been placed for isolation and treatment in the designated isolation facilities. Five (5) patients recovered.
- Tracing of contacts of the confirmed cases is conducted by the IEDCR; as of 24 March 2020, 31,351 individuals have been placed under quarantine. In addition, 267 individuals (direct contacts of the confirmed cases) are under home isolation and are being daily followed upon by the IEDCR for signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
- On 16 March, the Government closed all educational institutes (schools, colleges and Universities) to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.
- On 18 March 2020, the Government of Bangladesh adopted the National Preparedness and Response Plan (NPRP) for COVID-19 with a total cost of USD 29,550,000 million.
- As of 18 March, following the government directive, public hospitals, such as Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College (SSMC) Hospital, Dhaka Medical College (DMC) Hospital, Chittagong 250-Bed General Hospital, Chittagong Medical College Hospital and most Sadar District hospitals of the country, set up separate isolation wards as a preparedness measure for treatment of suspected COVID-19 patients.
- To avoid mass gatherings in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the country, on 19 March the government instructed the local administrations to stop political and religious rallies, social and cultural gatherings; and on 21 March, cancelled all state public programs and events, including celebration of the Independence Day.
- On 22 March, the Government of Bangladesh joined the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) initiative to fight the spread of the virus under a common strategy and committed to contribute USD 1.5 million to the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund.
- On 23 March, the government announced the closure of all public and private offices from March 26 to April 4 except for hospitals, kitchen markets, drug stores, and other emergency services, which are to remain open; during this period everyone is advised to stay at home and not to go out except for urgent needs; there will be limited

circulation of public transports, limited banking services; Bangladesh Armed Forces will be available to support district administration dealing with the COVID-19 situation.

Preparedness and Response:

- On 19 March, Emergency Health Cluster held its 2nd meeting dedicated to the COVID-19 with fifty-one (51) participant representing WHO, Directorate General of Health Services, the national Department of Disaster Management, UN agencies, donor agencies, national and international NGOs. Held at the WHO Office in Dhaka, the meeting focused on the presentation of the National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, developed by the national health authorities with technical support of the WHO Country Office in Bangladesh.
- On 21 March, WHO Representative met with Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor to discuss the current situation of COVID-19 in the city, preparedness and response measures, and international examples in fighting the spread of COVID-19.
- The Director General, Directorate General of Health Services, requested the UN Country Team to develop a multi-sectoral Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) for COVID-10 to support the National Preparedness and Response Plan (NPRP). On 22 March 2020, CPR workshop took place at the Canadian High Commission with the participation of the UN Agencies, Government of Bangladesh technical experts, development partners, and implementing partners. Basing on the WHO global operational planning guidelines for COVID-19 response, the CPRP is intended to identify gaps and focus the support of the international community to the government's NPRP. There are six pillars under CPRP for Bangladesh i.e. surveillance and laboratory support; contact tracing and POE; case management and IPC; risk communication/awareness and community engagement; logistics and procurement; and preserving stability and addressing social tensions. Going forward the GOB pillar leads, with the support of the assigned coordinating UN Agency, will coordinate the activities to each pillar under the overall coordination of the GOB National Technical Committee and National Committee Chairs.
- The UN Country Team in Bangladesh finalized its COVID-19 Operational Continuity and Inter-Agency Operational Continuity Plan (OCP) Plans.
- On 24 March, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) issued a letter to all diplomatic missions and offices of the UN agencies and International Organization in Bangladesh to inform that Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford hospital, Regent Hospital Limited (Uttara) and Apollo Hospital (Dhaka) have been designated as COVID-19 health facilities for diplomats.
- Information of screening passengers from abroad through airport/seaport/land port and rail station (source: Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC), DGHS) as of 24 March 2020:

Airport/Seaport/Land port and rail station	Last 24 hours	Total till date
International Airport	283	3,21,989
Seaport	246	9,663
Land ports	2,779	3,23,608
Cantonment Rail Station	3,308	6,62,289

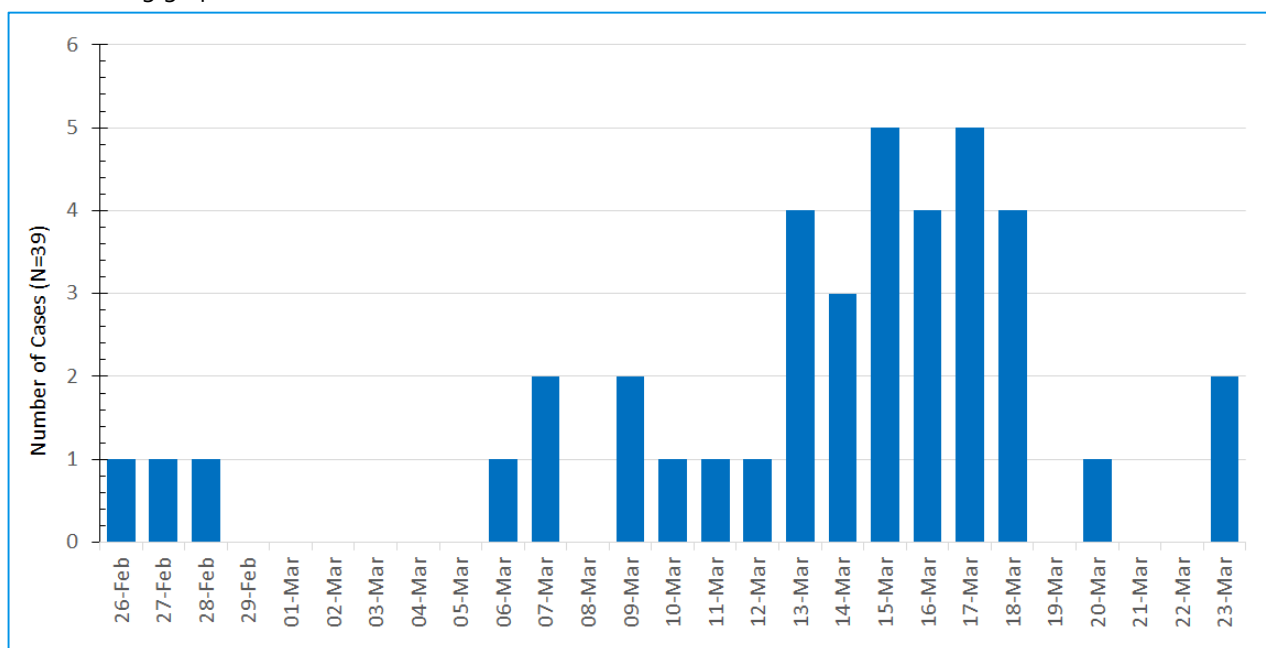
- Distribution of individuals currently on home quarantine and individuals, who have completed their 14-day home quarantine, as of 24 March 2020 (source: IEDCR)

Division	Home Quarantine	Quarantine completed	Total
Rangpur	1,669	151	1,820
Rajshahi	3,781	422	4,203
Mymensingh	813	244	1,057
Sylhet	2,025	235	2,260
Dhaka	5,466	1,586	7,052
Khulna	6,981	1,065	8,046
Barishal	1,152	251	1,403
Chattogram	4,909	601	5,510
Total	26,796	4,555	31,351

- As of 24 March, the IEDCR lab tested total of 675 samples, of which 39 were positive for COVID-19** (i.e. 565 new tests were run since the last update shared by WHO on 13 March).
- Among the 39 confirmed cases reported since 26 FEB 2020 till 24 MAR 2020, 38% are imported cases and the remaining are local transmission. Male-female ratio of the cases are 56:44. Average age of the cases is 40.7 (M: 41.4,

F: 39.9) ranging 02-80 years (SD: 19.52). Three (3) male and one (1) female reported dead (CFR: 10.26), average age of the dead - 66.75 years with a range of 43-76 years.

- The following graph shows the onset dates of the confirmed COVID-19 cases:



- WHO shared with IEDCR the revised 22 March 2020 laboratory testing for COVID-19 Interim Guidance One (1) new fully automated RNA extraction machine was delivered by the WHO to the IDCR lab.
- COVID-19 PCR probes and controls are available at the IEDCR lab (provided by WHO and received from China and Singapore), however, additional amounts are highly needed;
- In accordance with the MOFA 24 March Note Verbale, the IEDCR can be contacted for testing of diplomats (+8801770064906) and that samples will be collected from the residences of the concerned diplomates, and
- To expand the testing capacity for COVID-19 in Bangladesh, the IEDCR submitted a request to WHO Country Office Bangladesh with a total cost of USD **3,768, 278** for the procurement of additional equipment, reagents and supplies.

Useful links:

The latest global Situation Report # 64 as of 24 March 2020:

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200324-sitrep-64-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=703b2c40_2

For all information and guidance from WHO regarding the current outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) please visit: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

For the information from the IEDCR please visit: <https://www.iedcr.gov.bd/index.php/component/content/article/73-ncov-2019>;

Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh:
<https://dghs.gov.bd/index.php/en/home/5343-covid-19-update>

Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka, Bangladesh:
<https://www.iedcr.gov.bd/index.php/component/content/article/73-ncov-2019>;

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