

Cases

51



Cured

25



Death

5



Isolation

359



Quarantine

60,052



## Highlights

- On 31 March 2020, the Prime Minister held a video-conference with top government officials where she announced that the government might extend the ongoing nation-wide holidays (announced on 23 March for the period March 26-April 4) till April 9, 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. The Prime Minister mentioned that relaxation for some sectors might be considered on the limited basis. The Prime Minister requested to suspend Bangla New Year celebrations on April 14.
- As of 31 March 2020, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), there are fifty-one (51) confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh, including nineteen (25) patients who have recovered and five (5) related deaths; Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 9.8%.**
- Contact tracing is conducted by the IEDCR teams; in total, by 31 March 2020, 364 people were placed and monitored in isolation at designated health facilities and 60,052 under home quarantine. Currently, thirteen (13) individuals are in isolation and seventy-one (71) are under quarantine.
- In the 31 March video-conference, the Prime Minister also warned that stern action would be taken against those responsible for spreading rumors related to coronavirus.
- The DGHS reported the shortage of PPE stocks. As of 30 March 2020, according to the DGHS 317,500 PPEs were supplied to different health institutions at different levels and locations. WHO is supporting the DGHS and Development Partners in quantification of requirements for PPE, and disseminated WHO specifications and technical guidance on PPE and other commodities for use in COVID-19 management. There are currently attempts to start local production of PPEs in Bangladesh.

## 1. Coordination

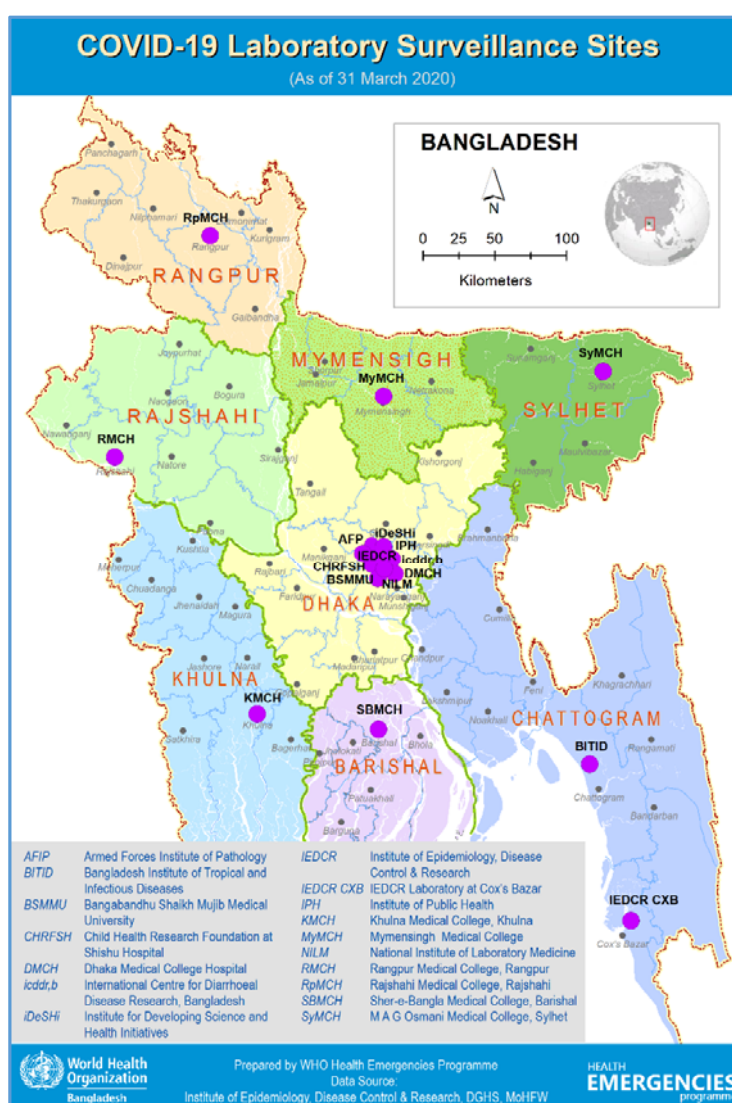
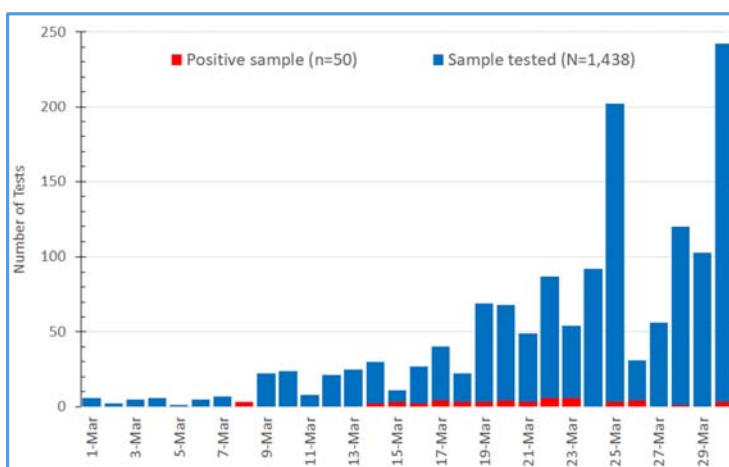
- The UN Resident Coordinator and WHO Representative to Bangladesh circulated the draft Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) to the Embassies, Development Partners and Donors. The CPRP covers the following areas: surveillance and laboratory; contact tracing and POE; case management and infection prevention control; risk communication and community engagement; logistics and procurement. The requested amount for immediate response needs under the CPRP is USD 297 million.
- The MOHFW will be the implementing agency for Bangladesh COVID-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project financed by the International Development Association (IDA); the corresponding Environmental and Social Commitment Plan for the project was published on 31 March 2020 <https://dghs.gov.bd/images/docs/Publications/ESCP.pdf>
- As of 30 March 2020, WHO received USD 1million for the COVID-19 response in Bangladesh from global appeal (USAID and BMGF). Additionally, through local resource mobilization, WHO Bangladesh raised USD 250,000 from DFID. DFID has agreed to support USD 3 million and USD 1 million for COVID-19 response at the central level in Dhaka and in Cox's Bazar, respectively. WHO Bangladesh also receives remote support from experts in the UK, to address the ongoing response.
- Since 27 March 2020, COVID-19 testing capacity has been expanded to include additional five laboratories: Institute of Public Health (IPH), Mohakhali, Dhaka, Child Health Research Foundation at Shishu Hospital, Sher e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, and icddr, b and Dhaka Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, Chattogram.
- WHO is working with the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) the MOHFW to develop regulatory interventions for effective market control of COVID-19 products to address potential risks for falsified medical products entering the market in light of the acute shortages in medicines and other products for management of COVID-19.

## 2. Case Management and Infection Control

- The DGHS released the new COVID-19 Case Management guidelines, aligned with the latest WHO technical guidance, and distributed it to all health facilities; trainings for health staff on case management is scheduled next week.
- The DGHS provided training in infection prevention and control (IPC) at hospitals for COVID-19 cases to 710 doctors and 43 nurses; among them two doctors from each district (one residential medical officer and one medical officer from Civil Surgeon office) got trained.
- WHO specification for personal protective equipment (PPE) were circulated to government and partners to ensure that correct PPEs are procured. Partners procuring commodities locally are alerted to the increased risks of substandard and falsified products given the global and local shortages, and reliance on local suppliers in some urgent cases.
- On 30 March 2020, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) of the MOHFW issued a letter to all importers and potential manufacturers of PPE instructing them to adhere to the WHO specifications and sharing the technical requirements for the main PPE items.
- With WHO's support, the DGDA is working to develop minimum requirements for quality assurance and regulatory interventions for effective market control of COVID-19 products.
- Possibilities are being explored to establish the local production capacity for PPE and other items for COVID-19 management.

### 3. Surveillance and Laboratory

- As of 31 March 2020, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), there are fifty-one (51) confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh, including nineteen (19) patients who have recovered and five (5) related deaths; Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is **9.8%**.
- As of 31 March, the IEDCR tested 1,438 samples in total. **The figure is showing the number of samples tested between 01–31 March 2020.**
- WHO provided one Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction System (QIAcube) with kits and reagent with total cost of USD 5,645.
- Currently, 6 laboratories are performing COVID-19 testing, 5 of them are in Dhaka (IEDCR, Institute of Public Health (IPH), Icdcr, b, Arm Forces Institute of Pathology and Dhaka Shishu Hospital (Aids of Child Health Research Foundation) and 1 in Chattogram division Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Disease (BITID).
- On 31 March, the DGHS adopted the plan to further extend COVID19 testing to include additional laboratories across the country: Bangabandhu Shaikh Mujib Medical University, Cox'sbazar Medical College, Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka, Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiatives, Khulna Medical College, Mymensingh Medical College, National Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Rajshahi Medical College, Shere Bangla Medical College, Barishal and M A G Osmani Medical College, Sylhet.
- The MOHFW is in process of procuring additional PCR machines and other necessary supplies. WHO will provide necessary guidance and support for the rollout of COVID-19 labs expansion and will cover the cost of specimen transportation from collection point to designated testing facilities.
- At the same time, needs for and possibility of further expansion of the COVID-19 laboratory network to 28 labs are being examined.



- The map is showing the geographical distribution of the additional COVID-19 laboratories.**



#### 4. Contact Tracing and Points of Entry (PoEs)

- In addition to the IEDCR contract tracing teams, ten (10) doctors from each district have been designated for contact tracing.

- On 27 March 2020, the DGHS requested WHO to provide technical support through involvement of its Surveillance Medical Officers (SMOs) to facilitate suspected case detection, sample collection, transportation of "Throat/Nasal swab" sample to NPML laboratory following "Polio & MR sample collection and transportation channel/system" of WHO-EPI facilities. WHO SMO network will provide technical support for the contact tracing teams in contact tracing and guiding on sample collection.

- WHO is preparing to install the GoData software in DGHS to facilitate contact tracing for COVID-19 cases. GoData software is a tool for case investigation, contact tracing, and visualization of chains of transmission.

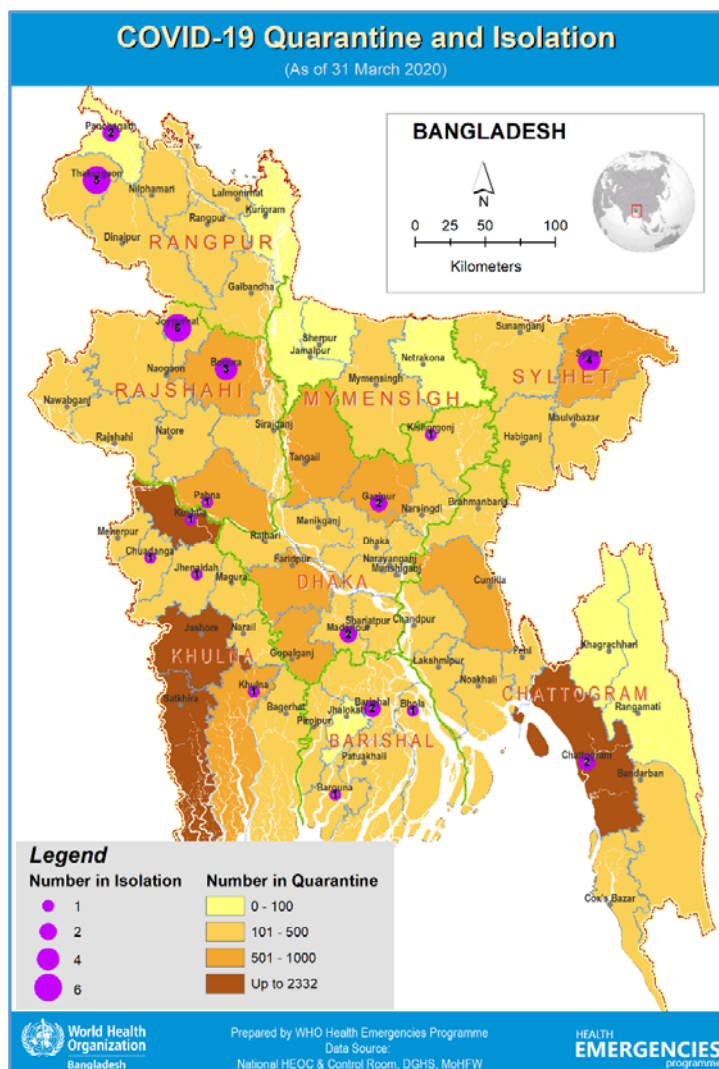
- The map is showing geographical distribution of cases under quarantine and isolation across the country.**

- Expansion of the nationwide case identification through establishment of mobile phone case tracking system has been initiated. The IT company chosen by the Government, A2i, has developed a mobile application for tracking individuals who have returned from abroad; the features include self-reporting by individuals through hotline. The generated data on suspected cases along with GPS coordinates of the contacts will be integrated with GoData.

- On 29 March 2020, IOM completed the training of ten staff (to be deployed from the emergency operations cell in Dhaka to eight POEs). Staff were trained using WHO-developed training tools concerning the management of infected travellers at POEs, the operational considerations for managing COVID-19, basic protective measures against COVID-19, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures.

- International passenger screening at POEs to date is shown in the table.** Source: Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC)/DGHS, 31 March 2020.

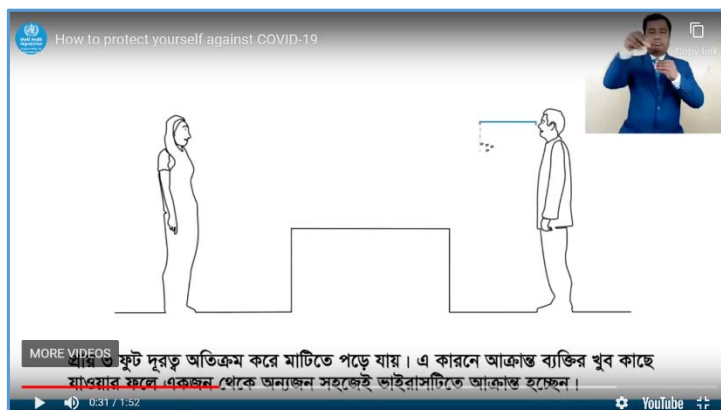
- Activities have started to strengthen eight (8) PoEs including the designated three (3) PoEs with the support from IOM. The activities include: renovation of infrastructures for passenger screening, screening equipment and training of the relevant personnel assigned in the PoEs.



Airport/Seaport/Land port and rail station	Last 24 hours	Total till date
International Airport	80	322,423
Seaport	250	11,143
Land ports	133	325,622
Cantonment Rail Station	00	7,029
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>666,217</b>

## 5. Risk Communications and Public Awareness

- The Risk Communication working group, led by UNICEF, actively works with various stakeholders to produce risk communication materials and their adaptation for different groups and audiences.
- Keeping in line with recommendations for physical distancing and protecting field volunteers and communities, the emphasis is put on employing online tools and other digital mass communication channels.
- WHO produced awareness video material with a special focus on providing information to people with hearing and visual impairments - the video is accompanied by detailed narration in Bangla and interpretation in sign language: <https://youtu.be/gcfaqvNDDwU>



### Useful links:

The latest global WHO Situation Report # 71 as of 30 March 2020:

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200331-sitrep-71-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=4360e92b\\_4](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200331-sitrep-71-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=4360e92b_4)

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

For timely, accurate, and easy-to-understand advice and information on COVID-19 for different types of audiences (e.g. individuals and communities, health sector, employers and workers, faith-based organizations and faith leaders, etc): <https://www.who.int/teams/risk-communication>

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, Government of The People's Republic 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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