

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 66

Timor-Leste

Data as reported by 23 September 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- The last active case of COVID-19 was discharged on 20 September 2020. Currently, there are no active COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste; making the country COVID-19-free once again.
- To strengthen COVID-19 response WHO in collaboration with Maluk Timor conducted “COVID-19 case management training” in Bobonaro Municipality. In all 30 health care professional comprising doctors, nurses, and midwives among other ancillary staff participated in the training.
- The Ministry of Health with technical support from WHO and financial assistance from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has finally commenced the Transmission Assessment Survey (TAS) for lymphatic filariasis (LF), soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH), yaws, and scabies. The survey which was originally scheduled to take place in the fourth week of March was put on hold due to the pandemic and imposition of State of Emergency in March. The data gathered from this survey will help the MoH to ascertain the prevalence of these Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in the country, which eventually will further strengthen the implementation of National Integrated NTD control and elimination strategy.
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) with support from WHO organized a 2-day virtual dissemination workshop on Twinning Partnership for Improvement (TPI) with Macau SAR Health Bureau. The dissemination workshop focused on improving the quality of health service delivery by building infection prevention and control programs and reflecting on lesson learnt from COVID-19. Over 40 health workers from HNGV, Baucau Referral Hospital, 8 Baucau CHCs including Riamara CHC and multiple health partners participated in the workshop.
- To maintain essential health services in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, the MoH in collaboration with WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and other development partners conducted national workshop on quarterly review on Maternal and Child Health. The objective of the workshop was to update on the work progress during first six months in 2019 and in 2020, to identify challenges faced over the past one year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to disseminate national guideline on RMNCH routine service during COVID-19.
- The MoH, Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (HNGV) with support from RACS-East Timor Eye Programme and WHO conducted the third outreach in Manatuto, after Baucau and Ainaro. The weeklong outreach catered to about 180 patients and performed 43 surgeries for cataract and pterygium.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

27 confirmed (0 new)
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
30 675 675 confirmed (1 998 897)
954 417 deaths (36 764)

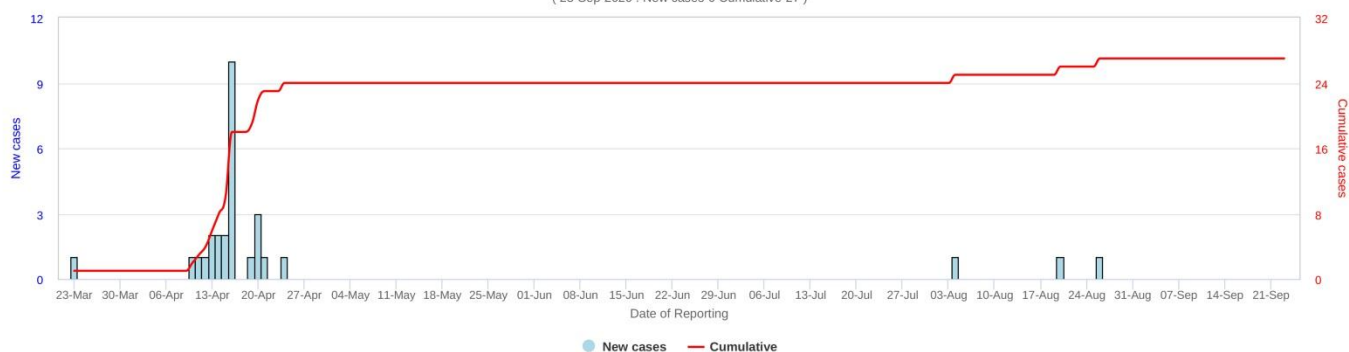
WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

- MoH in collaboration with Instituto Nacional da Saude, Marie Stopes Timor-Leste, Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares, UNFPA and WHO is conducting 13 days orientation on family planning for health workers in Baucau municipality. As many as 15 participants comprising of midwives and doctors are participating in this orientation.
- In cooperation with the Secretary of State for Social Communication's Community Radio Centre, UNICEF continued to broadcast three radio dramas in six local languages, including Tetum. The 17 community radio stations in 13 municipalities are airing messages on parenting in the context of COVID-19.
- UNICEF, with support from USAID, handed over equipment to establish health promotion corners in all seven community health centers (CHCs) across Covalima Municipality. The equipment included projectors and projector screens, TV screens and stands, sound systems, computers and printers, book shelves and cooking demonstration utensils. The health promotion corner initiative aims to support the CHCs' regular and intensive health promotion activities and to disseminate information around health and nutrition, as well as information on measures to prevent the spread COVID-19.
- UNICEF and MoH published a brochure on COVID-19 prevention that includes information on immunization, maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), infant and young child feeding (IYCF), COVID-19 prevention in schools and child protection.
- UNICEF installed 15 public handwashing tanks in Oecusse and conducted WASH assessments of 33 Community Health Centers in five other municipalities.
- To make up for the drop in the immunization coverage due to the pandemic, MoH with support from UNICEF and WHO is continuing with the catch-up immunization campaign in schools to ensure children's vaccination records are being kept up to date to ascertain the recovery and record the coverage.
- UNICEF provided six batteries to SAMES to conduct remote temperature monitoring at the central warehouse.
- UNICEF provided 6,540 portable handwashing buckets to improve handwashing at classrooms in support of school reopening.
- UNICEF brought in the shipments of 12,000 vials of MR vaccine.



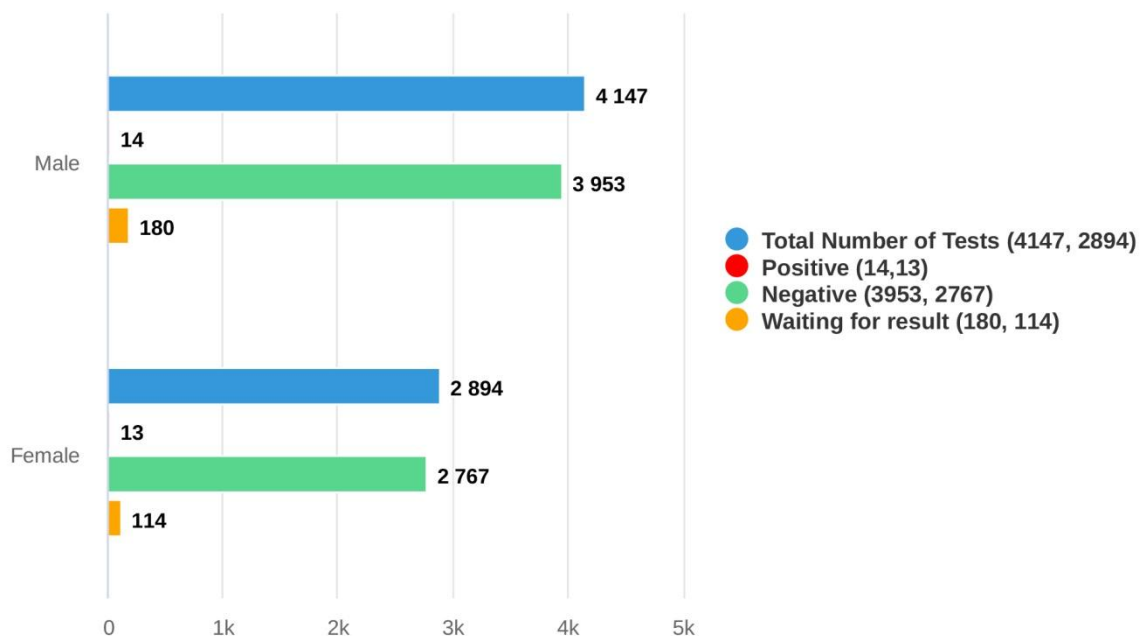
New and cumulative COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste by date of reporting
(23-Sep-2020 : New cases-0 Cumulative-27)



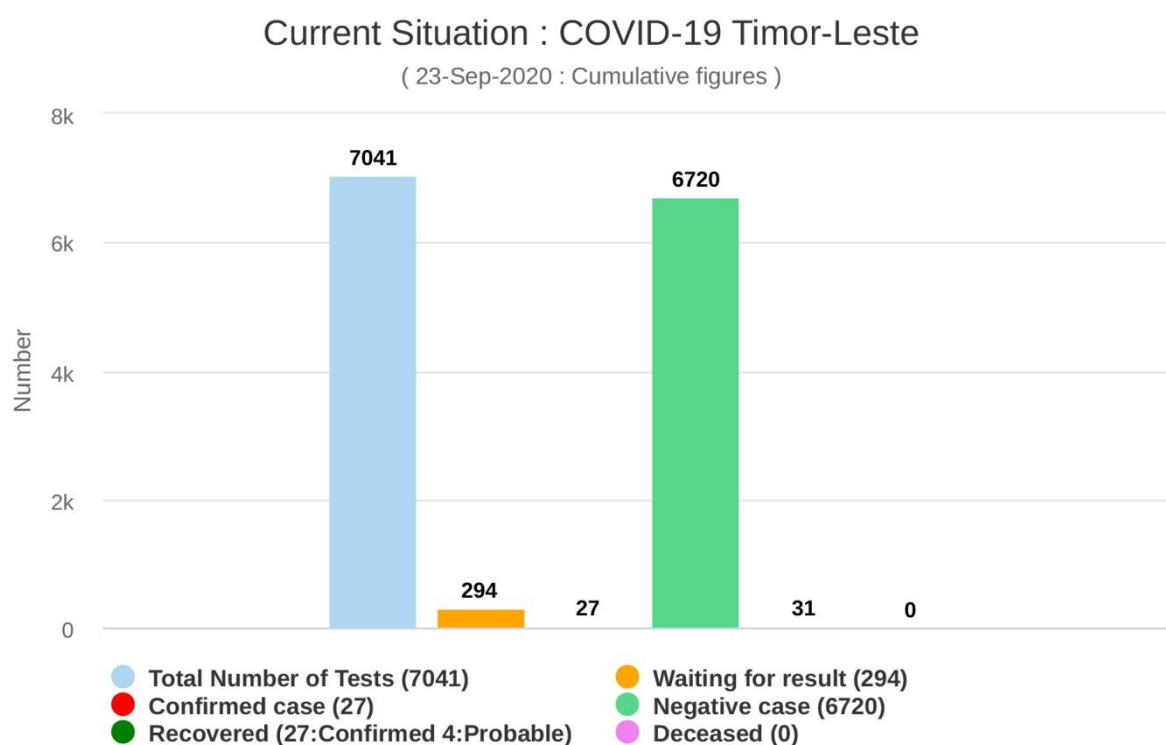
Source : National Directorate of Disease Control - Department of Epidemic Surveillance

Laboratory Test Results : COVID-19 Timor-Leste

(23-Sep-2020 : Cumulative figures)



Source : National Directorate of Disease Control - Department of Epidemic Surveillance



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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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