



From the IIMHL and IIDL Update List

Update on Coronavirus/Covid-19

Issue 5 - 19th March 2020

“We need an all of Government approach across and within all countries”

“We need strong united Governments that deliver for citizens”

WHO live today: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wucieL5YxCs>

This e-bulletin focuses on IIMHL countries’ national covid-19 plans:

- **Policies**
- **Activities**
- **Public awareness resources.**

It also updates information from International health agencies; for example WHO, European Commission etc.

We thank the people from international and national agencies who have sent information to us and hope this document is helpful for our IIMHL and IIDL members.

Australia

Prime Minister Scott Morrison:

This morning, 18 March 2020, the Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, announced new measures to protect Australians from coronavirus (COVID-19). These include:

- [a limit of no more than 100 people for non-essential indoor gatherings](#)
- [a limit of no more than 500 people for outdoor gatherings](#)
- cancellation of ANZAC day ceremonies
- [restrictions on visitors to aged care facilities](#)
- [restrictions on Australians travelling overseas](#)

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-from-the-prime-minister>

As at 6.30am on 18 March 2020, there have been 454 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia. There have been 40 new cases since 3.00pm yesterday.

- Of the 454 confirmed cases in Australia, 43 have recovered and 5 have died from COVID-19.
- 228 cases were considered to be overseas acquired. Most of the overseas cases were acquired in the USA, Iran, Italy and the UK.
- 62 cases are contacts of previously confirmed cases.
- The likely place of exposure for 138 reported cases is under investigation.
- The source of infection for 26 cases is currently unknown.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-current-situation-and-case-numbers>

Australian Government: Department of Health

Find out how we are monitoring and responding to the outbreak, how you can help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Australia, and what to do if you have symptoms. We also report the latest official medical advice and case numbers.

Current status in Australia

For daily reports of reported COVID-19 cases, go to [current situation and case numbers](#).

For what we're doing to slow the spread, go to [Government response to COVID-19](#).

National Public Awareness Campaign

A national campaign has launched to inform all Australians about the coronavirus (COVID-19). The campaign aims to reduce the risk to individuals and families by enabling them to make informed decisions and to take up health recommendations.

The communication material provides more information and tips to help you be prepared: videos, print and radio.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/launch-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-campaign>

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

This is the key decision making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer.

18/3/20

"The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to spread globally. Our actions to date, including border measures and extensive case finding and contact management, based on best evidence strategies to contain transmission, have provided time for

our health system and society to prepare. These strategies will remain essential throughout the control phase that we are entering, but now need to be augmented by additional social distancing measures that will reduce the spread of all respiratory infections.”

“Given the significant increase of cases and experiences of Europe and the United States, the AHPPC feels very strongly that social isolation and distancing measures be enhanced.”

Figure 3. ‘Flattening the curve’ - health capacity and epidemic curve of an outbreak by introduction of first case, number of infection and interventions.

Figure 3 demonstrates the impact of effective social distancing and other interventions on the timing and size of the peak burden of disease. As demonstrated in the figure below, the intent is to ensure the burden of disease does not exceed the capacity of the health system to manage.

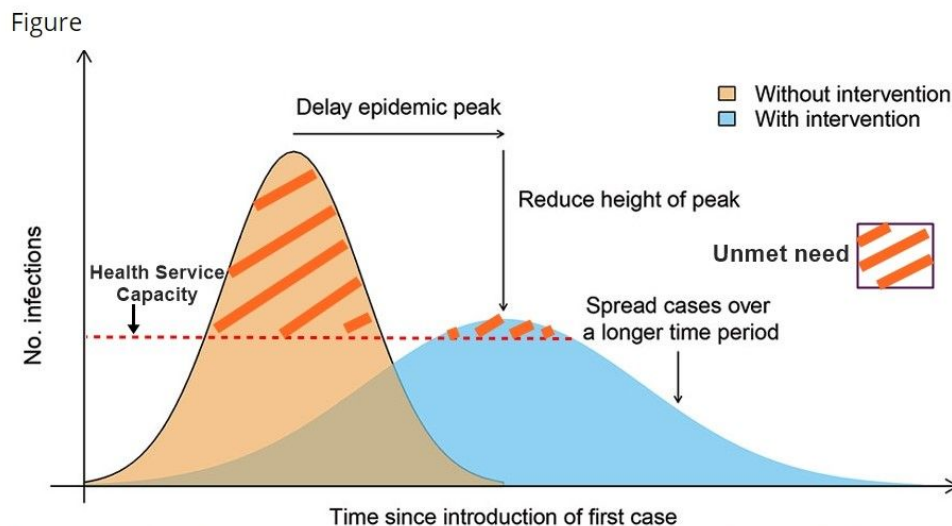


Figure. Intended impact of social distancing measures as nonpharmaceutical interventions for an influenza pandemic. Adapted from similar diagrams in the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Technical Report (3) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance Report (4).

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/advice-for-aged-care-facilities-and-visitors-to-residents>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources

For health professionals, including aged care providers, pathology providers and healthcare managers

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-resources-for-health-professionals-including-aged-care-providers-pathology-providers-and-healthcare-managers>

Canada

“My top priority is the health and safety of all Canadians. Our government is doing what it must to protect all Canadians, and to support workers and businesses. We will get through this together by following the directions from our public health and

medical experts, and doing what we can to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities.”

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Prime Minister announces new actions under Canada’s COVID-19 response

March 16, 2020, Ottawa, Ontario

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/16/prime-minister-announces-new-actions-under-canadas-covid-19-response>

Border response March 18, 2020

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced that the Canada- U.S. border will close to all non-essential travel, and that the federal government is prepared to spend a combined \$82 billion on direct financial help and economic stimulus.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/canada-u-s-border-closing-82b-in-direct-aid-and-stimulus-coming-trudeau-1.4857881>

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Outbreak update 18th March 2020

Government of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Awareness resources

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources.html>

Complete Mental Health Guide During Covid-19 Pandemic

This document was developed using crowd sourcing material in Vancouver, Canada.

<https://peak-resilience.com/blog/2020/3/15/covid-19-amp-your-mental-health-a-comprehensive-resource-guide>

England

Prime Minister Boris Johnson on 18th March 2020:

- All UK schools will close immediately to staff and most pupils from Friday afternoon until further notice. Wales was first to announce the measure, followed closely by Scotland and Northern Ireland, before the Prime Minister confirmed the move would be nationwide. Johnson said nurseries and private schools would also be asked to close, and exams would not take place in May and June.
- The death toll in the UK rose to 104, after NHS England confirmed a further 32 people had lost their lives after testing positive for Covid-19. The patients were aged between 59 and 94 years old and had underlying health conditions. Their deaths raised the total number in England to 99.
- The number of people to test positive for coronavirus in the UK as of 9am on Wednesday was 2,626, up from 1,950 - a rise of 676.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2020/mar/18/uk-coronavirus-live-boris-johnson-pmqs-cbi-urges-government-pay-businesses-directly-saying-350bn-loan-grant-package-not-enough>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK government response

From the Department of Health and Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Public Health England

Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Department of Health & Social Care

Detailed guide 17th March

[Number of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) cases and risk in the UK](#)

New government structures

[New government structures to coordinate response to coronavirus](#)

NHS

Advice for public

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for local government

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>

Ireland

Government of Ireland

Ireland is well positioned to detect and respond to cases of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The latest information, advice and guidelines will be published here and updated daily.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Update

There are now 292 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ireland as at 17/3/20.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/news/7e0924-latest-updates-on-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Video: Covid-19 emergency to continue beyond March - Varadkar

<https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0317/1123774-taoiseach-to-broadcast-to-country-on-covid-19-at-9pm/>

Ireland's National Action Plan in response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 16th March 2020

The Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 has approved a National Action Plan. The plan has been prepared following involvements from all departments and key agencies. Its main aims are to:

- minimise the risk of people becoming unwell

- minimise the health, wellbeing and social impact for people who may be at greater risk
- reduce the economic and social disruption associated with the COVID-19 outbreak

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/47b727-government-publishes-national-action-plan-on-covid-19/>

Health Service Executive (HSE)

The HSE provides all of Ireland's public health services in hospitals and communities across the country.

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html>

COVID-19 Coronavirus Posters and Resources

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/>

New Zealand

As at 19th March 2020 New Zealand has 20 confirmed cases. All are travel related. There is no community transmission yet.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12317829

Prime Minister Jacinda Adern:

“Finally, we are a tough resilient people. We have been here before. But our journey will depend on how we work together. We are taking every measure we need as a government, and we ask that you do to.

We all have a role to play. Look out for your neighbour, look out for your family. Look out for your friends”.

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/major-steps-taken-protect-new-zealanders-covid-19>

On 17th March, Finance Minister Grant Robertson announced a \$12.1 billion economic response package to protect the health of New Zealanders and the health of our economy against the worst impacts of COVID-19. This is not a one-off package, it is just the beginning of this Government's response to protect Kiwis and Kiwi businesses.

Measures include:

The \$12.1 billion package includes:

- Initial \$500 million boost for health
- \$5.1 billion in wage subsidies for affected businesses in all sectors and regions, available from today
- \$126 million in COVID-19 leave and self-isolation support

- \$2.8 billion income support package for our most vulnerable, including a permanent \$25 per week benefit increase and a doubling of the Winter Energy Payment for 2020
- \$100 million redeployment package
- \$2.8 billion in business tax changes to free up cashflow, including a provisional tax threshold lift, the reinstatement of building depreciation and writing off interest on the late payment of tax
- \$600 million initial aviation support package

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/121-billion-support-new-zealanders-and-business>

New Government website “Unite against Covid-19”

https://covid19.govt.nz/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwjcFzBRCHARIsAO-1_OpMOBb7iRz38HQTsUqXc6a8eEWz4KCZAvh5nwzPjyeAT7QeUo34LcsaAuQGEALw_wcB

Examples of information include:

- Advice for Tikanga Maori (indigenous people) and gatherings
- Suspending our customs of hongi and harirū, alongside stopping kissing, hugging and other forms of close physical contact. Alternatives include, waving, smiling or other non-physical contact greetings.

<https://covid19.govt.nz/help-and-advice/for-maori/tikanga-maori-and-gatherings/>

Ministry of Health

General advice

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public>

Mass gatherings

On 16 March 2020, the Government advised public events or mass gatherings where 500 or more people are together in one place, at one time should be cancelled. Examples include concerts, festivals and sports matches.

<https://covid19.govt.nz/latest-updates/covid-19-advice-for-public-events-and-mass-gatherings/>

Pharmac

Paracetamol: Supply issue

PHARMAC has been advised that the paracetamol active ingredient manufacturing plants in China have temporarily closed due to the coronavirus outbreak. This closure is impacting on the global supply of paracetamol. PHARMAC's response: We have temporarily changed the rules for dispensing funded 500 mg paracetamol tablets. Pharmacists can only dispense one month's funded supply at a time.

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/information-for/coronavirus-covid19>

Scotland

Nicola Sturgeon announces 18/3/20

All schools in Scotland and Wales are set to close on Friday in response to the coronavirus pandemic. There is speculation that similar measures could be announced in England over [COVID-19](#), the disease caused by the [coronavirus](#).

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-all-schools-in-scotland-and-wales-set-to-close-on-friday-11959688>

Coronavirus has been confirmed in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/>

Scottish Government on Twitter

As of 2pm today (17th) 5246 Scottish tests have concluded 5051 confirmed negative 195 positive 2 patients who tested positive have sadly died.

https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1239915706629722112?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet

Coronavirus by numbers

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Recognising the respective roles and responsibilities of the UK Government and Devolved Administrations, this document sets out what the UK as a whole has already done - and plans to do further - to tackle the current coronavirus outbreak, based on our wealth of experience dealing with other infectious diseases and our influenza pandemic preparedness work.

Action Plan: A guide to what you can expect across the UK

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2020/03/coronavirus-action-plan/documents/coronavirus-four-nations-action-plan/coronavirus-four-nations-action-plan/govscot%3Adocument/Coronavirus%2B-%2BFour%2Bnations%2BAction%2BPlan.pdf>

Scotland-specific groups and mechanisms by which we will deliver and coordinate our response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-summary-of-response-arrangements-in-scotland/>

NHS Inform Coronavirus (Covid-19) information

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Video

<https://youtu.be/Puutha0scq8>

Sweden

Government of Sweden

The Government's work in response to the virus responsible for COVID-19

<https://www.government.se/government-policy/the-governments-work-in-response-to-the-virus-responsible-for-covid-19/>

The Public Health Agency of Sweden

FAQ about COVID-19 18/3/20

Please note: These FAQ:s are not completely updated due to the rapid change in the pandemic situation and the continuous change of preventive measures recommended in Sweden.

- About the disease
- Prevention
- Modes of transmission
- Travel to and from Sweden
- Public gatherings

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/the-public-health-agency-of-sweden/communicable-disease-control/covid-19/>

Preparedness

The Public Health Agency of Sweden is on constant standby through a Duty Officer (TiB) on call 24/7. We also are able to perform diagnostics with the ability to analyse samples of suspected severe infections every day around the clock. Methods, equipment and knowledge must be of the highest international quality to ensure that diagnostics and advice are always of the highest quality. The Agency has the only high-containment laboratory at biosafety level 4 (BSL-4) in the Nordic countries, which is an important part of national preparedness.

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/the-public-health-agency-of-sweden/communicable-disease-control/preparedness/>

Krisinformation.se

This is a website that disseminates information from authorities and other responsible persons in connection with a crisis or serious event.

The risk of spreading the corona virus in Sweden is considered very high. The Public Health Authority urges people with symptoms to avoid social contacts so as not to infect others. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against all unnecessary trips to all countries. Here you will find information about the virus, the spread of infection and the management of the outbreak.

<https://www.krisinformation.se/corona>

The WHO has explained the outbreak of covid-19 as a pandemic. The Public Health Authority urges people with symptoms to avoid social contacts so as not to infect others. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against unnecessary trips to all countries and in Sweden prohibits public gatherings and events with more than 500 participants. Here you will find information from responsible authorities.

<https://www.krisinformation.se/>

The Netherlands

Prime Ministers address to the people of the Netherlands 16/3/20

<https://www.government.nl/documents/speeches/2020/03/16/television-address-by-prime-minister-mark-rutte-of-the-netherlands>

Government of the Netherlands

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/tackling-new-coronavirus-in-the-netherlands>

COVID-19: Additional measures in schools, the hospitality sector and sport

On Sunday 15 March, the government took additional measures in its strategy to fight coronavirus. Schools and childcare centres will close their doors until Monday 6 April (inclusive). The same applies to bars, cafés and restaurants (not hotels), sports clubs and gyms.

<https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2020/03/15/additional-measures-in-schools-the-hospitality-sector-and-sport>

Covid-19

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19>

Communications – posters etc.

<https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/documents/publications/2020/03/05/means-of-communication-concerning-prevention-and-public-questions>

Coronavirus map of the Netherlands by municipality

Total number of tests positive in the Netherlands: 1705, 9 deceased
As at March 17, 2020 at 2 p.m.

<https://www.rivm.nl/coronavirus-kaart-van-nederland-per-gemeente#!.node-coronavirus-covid-19-meldingen>

US

The Presidents Coronavirus Guidelines for America

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf

Border close

The U.S. border with Canada will be temporarily closed to 'non-essential traffic,' Trump said on Wednesday, as the deadly coronavirus outbreak continues to spread

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/03/18/coronavirus-latest-news/>

CDC

Covid-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Communication resources

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>

NASMHPD

Mental Health Considerations During the COVID-19 Outbreak Pages 4 &5

https://nasmhpd.org/sites/default/files/March_13_2020_NASMHPD_Weekly_Update.pdf

Mental Health America

Mental Health America Reports Severe Anxiety Screening Results Related To COVID-19 Now Top 1,000

<https://mhanational.org/mental-health-america-reports-severe-anxiety-screening-results-related-covid-19-now-top-1000>

National Council for Behavioural health

Resources for the public and organisations

https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/covid19/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWW1VM016aGlaV1ExTIRNNSIsInQiOiJ5Y2kwaFJUTG1mOUhqRG5kcjN2SWdsZjNvM0hHR21Fd1hWTTZyMGlnTENxWWEwMkw5RWxTZXg5eEIDU2RQS1Y1XC9oQTJDeE9kMk56bENCckhcL3ZacUhUR0tYYzFkdnZCNEExNUTNobEVzM2RmMmUzR1YzRFwveFczVGdkeUxEMmN0NiJ9

International agencies

WHO

Daily update as of 17/3/20

<https://www.who.int/>

Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations During COVID-19 Outbreak

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/mental-health-considerations.pdf>

Live updates on countries' situation from CDC and WHO

<https://ncov2019.live/>

WHO video

This is a good video explaining the history and current status of Covid-19

<https://youtu.be/mOV1aBVYKGA>

WHO Situation dashboard

Situation dashboard as at 17th March 2020

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beeeee1b9125cd>

Johns Hopkins University

This website is a great resource to help advance the understanding of the virus, inform the public, and brief policymakers in order to guide a response, improve care, and save lives.

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

Interactive map of world-wide Covid-19 statistics

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

World Economic Forum

Managing mental health during coronavirus - people around the world share insights from the World Economic Forum

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/covid19-coronavirus-mental-health-expert-insights/>

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Guidance for health system contingency planning during widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2 with high impact on healthcare services

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/guidance-health-system-contingency-planning-during-widespread-transmission-sars>

Information on COVID-19 for specific groups: the elderly, patients with chronic diseases, people with immunocompromising condition and pregnant women

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/information-covid-19-specific-groups-elderly-patients-chronic-diseases-people>

Previous Covid-19 e-bulletins:

No. 1 <https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/IIMHL-Updates/20200210.pdf> (10.2.20)

No. 2 <https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/IIMHL-Updates/20200313.pdf> (13.3.20)

No. 3 <https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/IIMHL-Updates/20200317.pdf> (16.3.20)

No. 4 <https://www.iimhl.com/files/docs/IIMHL-Updates/20200318.pdf> (18.3.20)