



Source: World Health Organization

## FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of March 23, 354,677 cases have been confirmed and 15,436 deaths have been reported in 167 countries and territories.
- Europe is now the epicenter of the pandemic, with more cases being reported every day than were recorded in China during the peak of its epidemic.

## SITUATION UPDATE

Globally, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases has more than doubled in less than two weeks, with 354,677 confirmed cases recorded as of March 23. A total of 15,436 deaths have been attributed to the virus. As the number of new cases has slowed in China, Europe has become the hotspot for the pandemic, with Italy reporting almost 8,000 new cases in one day.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, on March 19, the number of total deaths in Italy surpassed those reported in China. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that more cases are now being reported in Europe every day than were reported in China at the peak of its epidemic. Last week, the US State Department issued a Level 4 advisory—the highest possible—indicating that US citizens should avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19.

In the US, as more state and private labs have started running tests, the number of coronavirus cases has risen to 33,018, with 428 deaths<sup>2</sup>. Cases have been reported from all 50 states, as well as Washington, DC, and three US territories. Case numbers are expected to continue rising through the coming weeks, as more cases are identified through testing. In response, many states have closed schools and businesses; banned gatherings, meetings and sporting events; and, in some places, residents have been ordered to stay inside. Currently, the majority of cases have been recorded in New York, Washington, New Jersey and California.

## INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

In response to the pandemic, International Medical Corps has implemented an agency-wide approach to support our missions globally, including providing our more than 7,000 staff members with clinical guidance and planning documents to assist with screening patients, enhancing infection prevention and control (IPC), protecting health providers and formalizing continuity of operations plans. Additionally, our country missions are taking decisive action to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 by supporting health authorities through the procurement and provision of supplies and equipment; by enhancing our current health activities in-country to address COVID-19 specific screening and triage needs; and by developing and implementing IPC training programs.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/italy-coronavirus-death-toll/2020/03/21/e6426d82-6b85-11ea-abef-020f086a3fab\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/italy-coronavirus-death-toll/2020/03/21/e6426d82-6b85-11ea-abef-020f086a3fab_story.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

- In the United States, International Medical Corps has deployed medical shelters and equipment to Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH), which serves an area of high medical need in South Los Angeles, encompassing 1.3 million people. Like other hospitals across the city, state and nation, MLKCH is preparing for a potential increase in patients due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. The additional shelters, provided through the support of FedEx and in partnership with AbbVie and Medtronic, will assist frontline providers in the management of patient flow and treatment. The shelters were assembled on March 19 and were fully operational within 24 hours. International Medical Corps will continue to work with MLKCH to ensure the shelters provide the necessary surge capacity support needed to respond to COVID-19. In addition, we are working with local authorities to support additional health facilities in LA County.
- In the Philippines, International Medical Corps facilitated a two-day training of trainers in collaboration with the Manila Health Department, instructing physicians, nurses and local non-governmental partners on IPC; guidance on the epidemiology of COVID-19; related isolation and quarantine procedures; disease surveillance methods; medical surge capacity requirements; and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE). In addition, International Medical Corps is supporting surge operations in two hospitals, helping to set up triage units and establish a patient flow system.
- In Pakistan, International Medical Corps has provided the National Disaster Management Authority and National Institute of Health with screening supplies and PPE—including scrubs, hand sanitizers, masks, goggles and gowns—to support the national Emergency Operations Center in rapid response to COVID-19. We also are providing support to the Department of Health in the northwest area of the country, with items necessary for screening, case management and risk communication.
- In Libya and Nigeria, as travel becomes more restricted in both countries, International Medical Corps has dedicated additional resources to support efforts to prepare for and respond to COVID-19. Measures include intervention in the areas of training, case management, IPC, and health facility water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs.
- In South Sudan, International Medical Corps is the lead health partner in the two Protection of Civilian Camps (POCs) in country's capital, Juba. To help the country prepare for the threat of Ebola coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, International Medical Corps already has provided training on IPC measures, active case finding, seclusion protocols for suspected cases and risk communication. We are using this same infrastructure to scale-up activities supporting case management and risk communication related to COVID-19. Additionally, we are procuring additional PPE, medical supplies and essential medicines, as part of a readiness and response strategy.



*International Medical Corps staff members set up emergency shelters at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital in South Los Angeles.*

- In Burundi, International Medical Corps has mobilized resources to support point-of-entry screening at health facilities and other buildings, and is enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Health to deal with case management of suspected and confirmed cases.
- On March 30, International Medical Corps will launch the COVID-19 Learning Series, five webinars that will address the pandemic's impact on the US healthcare system; mental health considerations for healthcare workers; PPE; monitoring, isolation and quarantine; and medical surge. Speakers include frontline emergency medical physicians and nurses, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) practitioners, and a medical anthropologist. Sessions will be recorded and made available for wider viewing on the International Medical Corps website. The learning series will be followed by a virtual training program to support federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and other healthcare providers along the US/Mexico border that are responding to COVID-19.

### **Technical Guidance**

WHO, Technical Guidance: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

WHO, Training on Novel Coronavirus: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/training>

WHO, Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19 Training : <https://openwho.org/courses/COVID-19-IPC-EN>

CDC, COVID-19 guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>