

Coronavirus Country Guide

Covid-19

March 2020

A. Aim

This guidance is aimed to support Country Offices use flexibly to suit local environments and manage the coronavirus outbreak.

B. Background

Novel coronavirus (Covid-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, China, but cases have been reported in other countries. The virus can be transmitted between people and symptoms may not be apparent for up to 14 days.

Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. Currently, no vaccination is available. At [this dashboard](#) you can monitor number of cases, deaths and people recovered, also per country. Up to date (2nd March), countries most affected are China, South Korea, Italy, Iran, Japan, France, Germany and Singapore, which are so far the only countries with more than 100 cases registered.

C. Monitoring

From Head Office we have been monitoring the situation and as it only appeared to be a localised issue (mainly in China), we decided to wait for the situation to evolve. We continue monitoring the situation, but the Country Office should monitor local sources for news, information and instructions about the virus in each country.

WHO (*World Health Organisation*) advice is available at: [Advice for public](#). The key recommendations relate to hand and respiratory hygiene, and safe food practices.

D. Communication

At EDUCO we are following WHO recommendations, which continue reminding that travel restrictions have proven ineffective when controlling virus spread. Their main recommendations relate to hand and respiratory hygiene, and safe food practices. Country Offices should consider holding a regular meeting with staff to inform them about how we are responding to the virus and to understand staff concerns.

This outbreak has major coverage in all forms of media, false information has been spread and has generated a concern worldwide. We invite country offices to use reliable sources of information such as the WHO.

E. Current status

As of March 6, 2020, 11:23 am, 98,370 cases have been declared worldwide and, until now, there have been 3,383 fatalities:

Town/Country	Number of fatalities
Hubei, China	2,931
Italy	141
Iran	107
South Korea	40
Henan China	22
Heilongjiang, China	13
King County WA US	10
Beijing, China	8
France	7
Guangdong China	7
Japan	6
Anhui, China	6
Chongqing, China	6
Hainan, China	6
Hebei, China	6
Shandong, China	6
Diamond Princess Cruise Ship	6
Hunan, China	4
Shanghai, China	3
Sichuan, China	3
Tianjin, China	3
Xinjiang, China	3
Spain	3
Hong Kong	2

Town/Country	Number of fatalities
Iraq	2
Ganzu China	2
Guangxi China	2
Guizhou China	2
Yunan China	2
New South Wales Australia	1
Western Australia	1
Fujian China	1
Inner Mongolia China	1
Jiangxi, China	1
Jilin, China	1
Liaoning, China	1
Shaanxi, China	1
Zhejiang, China	1
Philippines	1
San Marino	1
Thailand	1
Taiwan	1
UK	1
Placer County CA US	1
Snohomish County WA US)	1

So far, there are only 3 cases have been reported in the Philippines. Check this [monitoring dashboard](#) for more details.

With the information currently available on the virus, the World Health Organisation (WHO) [advises](#) that measures to limit the risk of exportation or importation of the disease should be implemented but [advises](#) against the application of any restrictions of international traffic.

F. Travel Advice for Country Offices

As we are following WHO recommendations, no travel restrictions have been imposed internally at EDUCO (apart from China and South Korea, where we do not have a Country Office). However, follow these instructions if there are events or country visits considered in the following weeks. Consider postponing travelling if:

- the country has reported more than 200 cases and/or
- 20 to 50 human-to-human in-country contaminations and/or
- the World Health Organisation (WHO) or International SOS recommend avoiding non-essential travel to the country.

All travel restrictions should be discussed with the Global Security Manager. Contact him in case you are considering postponing or canceling any travel, he has access to several sources of information that will help with decision making.

As we do not know how this outbreak will evolve in the next few weeks/months, all international flights must be purchased with an option to change dates in case we need to issue any travel restrictions for the country you are traveling to. If the price difference is considerably higher, we will assess case by case depending on the destination.

G. General recommendations – travel & health

Travel-related recommendations:

- Cancel your travel if you are sick. Travellers who are sick face the risk of being quarantined and subjected to testing;
- Maintain flexible itineraries accounting for additional time required for possible health and temperature screening at airports;
- Follow all official directives related to screening procedures;
- Choose an itinerary that minimises stop-over time;
- Minimise time spent in transport facilities or crowded areas.

Health-related recommendations:

- Maintain good personal hygiene;
- Closely monitor your health (high temperature, cough, runny nose);
- Keep distance from people with cold or flu-like symptoms;
- Wash your hands frequently; carry hand sanitiser when soap and water are not readily available;
- If you develop symptoms, especially fever or shortness of breath, contact your doctor ASAP.

Country offices should act depending on the local situation, some possible actions include:

- Identify sources of alcohol based cleaners.
- Purchase of alcohol based cleaners.

- Make alcohol based cleaners available to staff in the office.
- Compulsory hand washing for staff and visitors on arrival in offices.
- Should the local situation require it, find posters on hygiene on the [WHO website](#).

The [WHO has also recommended against online scams and phishing](#) cases related to the virus.

H. External resources

World Health Organisation:

- [Myth busters](#)
- [Updated WHO recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- [Video. What is the Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)? \(4'48\)](#)
- [Video. What can people do to protect themselves and others from getting the new coronavirus? \(1'33\)](#)
- [Video. Q&A How to protect yourself when travelling during the coronavirus \(COVID-2019\) outbreak \(22'44\)](#)
- [Basic protective measures against the new Coronavirus](#)

International SOS:

- [COVID- 19 FAQs](#)
- [COVID general information and reports](#)

I. EDUCO emergency contact details

If urgently looking for EDUCO - specific support, call or text the Global Security Manager. At country offices, contact the Security Focal Point or Country Director.

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