



Ministry of Health

General Directorate of Primary Health Care

COVID-19 - The Palestinian health status

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The Palestinian MOH strategy to deal with the Pandemic Covid 19

- ❖ The strategic plan to address the spread of the Corona virus pandemic (Covid-19) has been divided into three phases:
 - Plan A (short-term) stage of monitoring, prevention and control of infection spread.
 - Plan B (medium term plan) stage of onset of the disease.
 - Plan C (long-term plan) stage of the spread of the disease .

Plan A :

- Efforts focused at this stage on prevention through awareness and health education, educational materials were produced and distributed with the cooperation with all partners, the local community and the media.
- Monitoring of suspected cases at the crossing borders (Jericho and Rafah) with the cooperation with Ministry of Interior and Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Tourism.
- An outpatient sorting field clinic was established to check the arrivals.
- A national surveillance ,monitoring and quarantine guideline and procedures were distributed to all districts.
- Establishing specialized canters and facilities for the treatment of infected patients fro example : Jericho Field Hospital and the specialized Jericho Academy with intensive care units .
- Training health workers how to accommodate any possible infected cases:

Plan B

- Establishing treatment facilities to accommodate patients:
 - ✓ Hugo Chavez Hospital in Ramallah, with a capacity of 44 treatment beds and 6 intensive care beds.
- Controlling the spread of the epidemic, increase awareness and communicate information to the public, setting up a centralized call information centre
- Coordinate with all national health service providers
- Coordinate with WHO.
- Ensuring the provision of all health equipment, medicines and supplies.

Plan C

- Establishing more treatment facilities to accommodate patients:
 - ✓ Preparing the military hospital in Bethlehem governorate
 - ✓ In addition to Hugo Chavez Hospital and the therapeutic department in Jericho.
 - ✓ Providing all necessary equipment and trained staff
- Continuing disseminating information to the public through different pathways including the information calling center
- National decision to close the affected areas
- Intensify the sanitation teams' work in the affected areas.

Ministry of Health Preparedness against COVID-19

Preventing SARS-CoV-2 spread in Palestine

- In compliance with the National Emergency Response Strategic Plan and guidelines

- 1- Activating the national strategy for emergency response in the case of infectious diseases
- 2- Coordination with national partners (PRCS, UNRWA, and all institutions and ministries)
- 3- Mobilize the health staff by providing rapid response training
- 4- Cooperation with WHO to provide training sessions for emergency physicians' crews in all hospitals, preventive medicine doctors in health directorates, and infection control and control crews to keep them updated regarding COVID-19.
- 5- Cooperation with WHO to provide brochures to raise awareness of public.
- 6- confirmation of test results by external double check.
- 7- Notify the WHO by the National IHR focal point.

8- WHO provided laboratory diagnostic materials for testing and detecting the virus. Thus, the Central Public Health Laboratory has been able to conduct tests and diagnose and establish the presence of the virus since February 6, 2020.

9- Provision and distribution of PPE. –WHO & MOH collaboration

10- The Palestinian government had procured medical supplies and PPEs from other countries.

11- Updating the reports and information issued by WHO to update the latest statistics regarding the nature of the disease, the severity and its extent of spreading.

12- Providing a specialized clinic at the Karama cross border to follow-up all passengers coming from high risk areas since January 27, 2020.

13- Preparing and equipping quarantine centers for these passengers upon arrival.

Rapid Response at the level of the State of Palestine

- A state of emergency was declared by the President Mahmoud Abbas on March 5, 2020, correspondingly with the confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 in Bethlehem.
- As a response, Dr Mohammad Shtayyah, the Palestinian Prime Minister, allotted series of measures for implementation. The movement restrictions started in Bethlehem governorate, then restrictions extended to forbid movements between West Bank governorates by March 22, 2020.

By March 22, 2020, the following guidelines were in place:

- Closure of all schools, universities and public parks for 30 days (from 5 March - 5 April);
- Closure of all borders (movement of goods is allowed);
- Government quarantine (14 days) and testing for all incoming travellers (from Ben Gurion airport)
- No movement between West Bank governorates
- Palestinian laborers who travel to Israel for work are asked not to move between State of Palestine and Israel: this means that they should return to their homes (and remain in home quarantine for two weeks) or remain in Israel until the situation changes
- No movement within all urban areas (except for exceptional circumstances), with all citizens requested to remain with their homes for 14 days (from March 22)
- Closure of all stores, public institutions and government offices, except for essential providers (pharmacies and food) and the Ministries of Health, Finance and Interior (for 14 days from 22 March)
- All citizens are asked to stay at home, except for essential activities and emergencies (for 14 days from 22 March).

Circulars and instructions issued by MoH

A series of circulars and instructions were issued from the beginning of the preparation phase, and then successive circulars were issued according to the development of the situation and according to the requirements of each stage:

- Approach regarding the people coming from high risk areas of COVID-19.
- Mechanism for dealing with a person suspected of having Covid-19 virus.
- Instructions on protective measures and hygiene.
- Instructions for proper and rationale use of PPEs.
- Guidance for medical teams in health directorates.
- Isolation and Quarantine related circulars.
- Mechanism for the disposal of medical waste.
- Protective requirements for food establishments.
- Providing isolation rooms in hospitals .
- Instructions regarding continuation of provision of essential health services by MoH such as vaccinations and NCDs medications.

Medical laboratories preparedness & measures

- WHO has provided laboratory diagnostic materials for testing and detecting the virus.
- Thus, the Central Public Health Laboratory has been able to conduct tests and diagnose cases of COVID-19 since February 6, 2020.
- Efforts to increase the capacity of the MoH laboratories to conduct a PCR examination, as laboratories in:
 - Bethlehem (Caritas)
 - Jenin,
 - Hebron,
 - Nablus,→ the ability to examine more than 3000 tests/day.
- Tracing the returning workers coming from Israel and settlements
- Random samples for several categories

Isolation and quarantine centers and institutions

- Several isolation and quarantine centers and institutions equipped with medical staff and equipment.
- Daily reports and data entry by PHC professionals on the DHIS2 system.

Districts	Isolation Center	Screening Center	Treatment Center
Jerusalem	3	4	0
Ramallah & Albirah	3	2	3
Bethlehem	2	0	1
Hebron	5	3	4
Qalqilia	2	1	1
Nablus	1	1	3
Tulkarm	4	2	1
Jenin	1	1	1
Jericho	1	2	1
Salfit	1	1	1
Tubas	1	1	0
Gaza	26	1	0
Total	50	19	16

Barriers and challenges

- **Palestinian workers in Israel.**
- **Palestinian inhabitants in East Jerusalem.**
- **Unauthorized workers smuggling or sneaking through openings in the Wall of Separation**
- **Gaza Strip is a challenge. Therefore, epidemiological committee in Gaza which is in direct and continuous contact with MoH in Ramallah.**
- **MoH provides Gaza Strip with medical supplies, swabs, and PPEs. Long period and persistence of positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR of many isolated cases.**
- **Lack of resources and equipment on the long run.**

Total cases Registered in Palestine

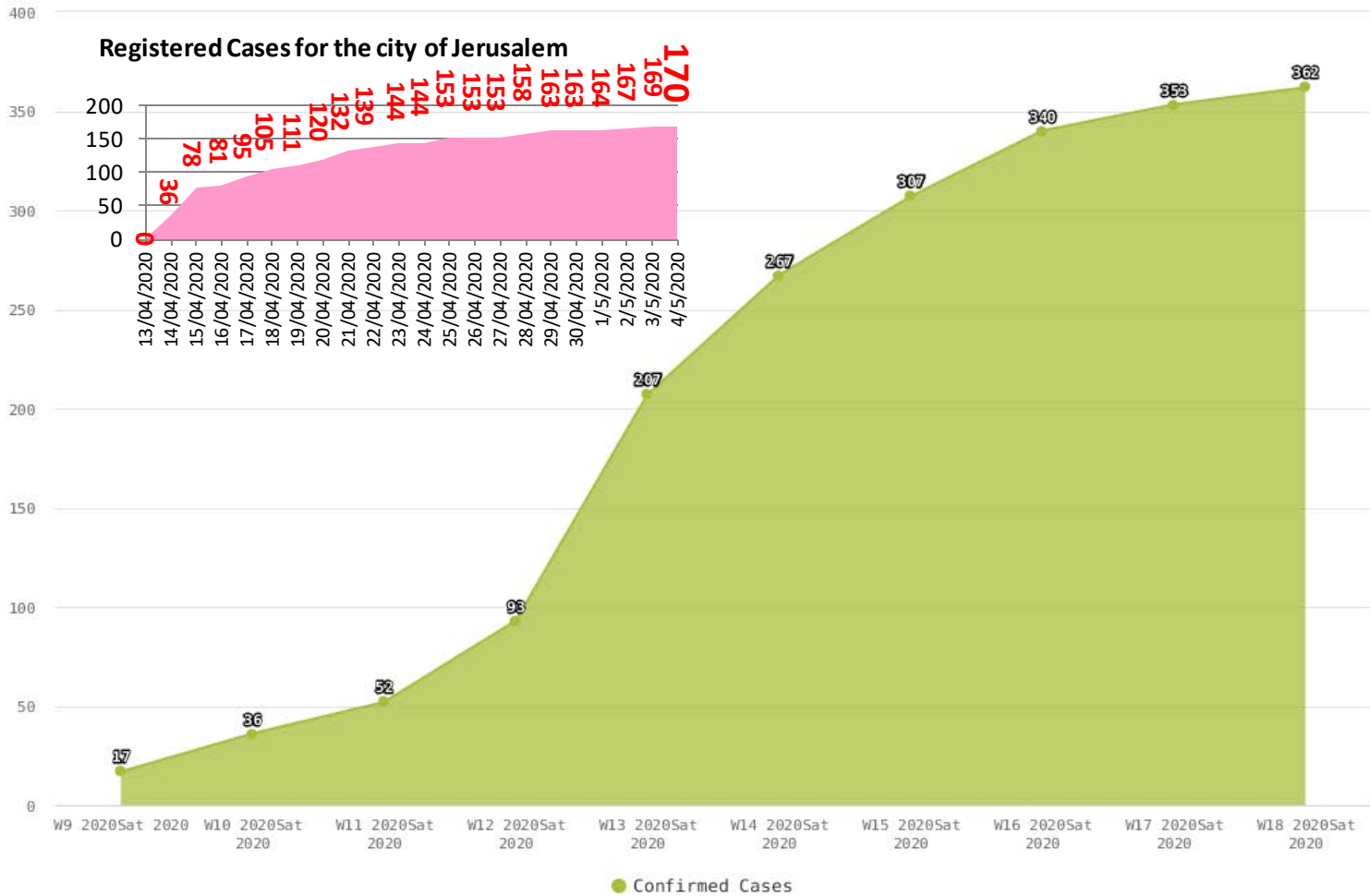
Total cases Registered in Palestine		
Districts	No. of Cases	%
Outskirts of Jerusalem	140	26.3
Jerusalem City	170	32.0
Ramallah & Albirah	77	14.5
Bethlehem	59	11.1
Hebron	50	9.4
Qalqiliah	0	0.0
Nablus	7	1.3
Tulkarm	6	1.1
Jenin	4	0.8
Jericho	1	0.2
Salfit	1	0.2
Tubas	0	0.0
Gaza	17	3.2
Total	532	100

Total cases Registered By Health Status in Palestine

Actual Registered Cases		Registered Recovered cases		Registered deaths		Total Registered Cases	
Northern Districts	161	Northern Districts	43	Northern Districts	1	Northern Districts	205
Southern Districts	5	Southern Districts	12	Southern Districts	0	Southern Districts	17
Jerusalem District	219	Jerusalem District	88	Jerusalem District	3	Jerusalem District	310
Total	385	Total	143	Total	4	Total	532

Registered Cases in Palestine

Palestine



Total cases Registered in Jerusalem District

Health Status of Jerusalem			
District / Health Status	Jerusalem of Outskirts	Jerusalem City	Total
Recovered Cases	47	41	88
Dead Cases	1	2	3
Active Cases	92	127	219
Total	140	170	310

Total cases Registered By Gender in Palestine without Jerusalem City

Distribution of cases by sex (without Jerusalem)		
Male	233	64.4
Female	129	35.6
Total	362	100.0

Total cases Registered By Age Group in Palestine without Jerusalem City

Confirmed Cases By Age Group										
Period	2020									Total
Organisation unit / Data	0 - 9 y	10 - 19 y	20 - 29 y	30 - 39 y	40 - 49 y	50 - 59 y	60 - 69 y	70 - 79 y	>=80 y	
Palestine	31	41	93	74	56	39	25	3		362
Total	31	41	93	74	56	39	25	3		362

Distribution of Cases according to classification in the northern and southern governorates, except for the city of Jerusalem

Cases Classification	No.	%
Workers	109	30.1
Contacts with workers	163	45.0
Travelers	22	6.1
Contact with Travelers	11	3.0
Contact with tourist delegation	40	11.0
Health Staff	9	2.5
Prisoners	1	0.3
Contacts with Health staff	5	1.4
Other	2	0.6
Total	362	100.0

Health Quarantine	
Actual Quarantine	15179
Finished Quarantine	39344
New cases	1136
Total Cases	54523

Lab tests	
No. of Sample	35578

Total Cases registered in Diaspora	
Total cases	1266

Thank You..