Force Health Protection Branch
NATO MilMed COE
Munich

S h o r t U p d a t e 3 0 a
COVID-19
Coronavirus Disease
31st of JULY 2020

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NATO OTAN

GLOBAL

17 270 269
Confirmed cases
10 142 436
recovered
673 286 deaths

USA
(new cases/day 64 536)
→
4 477 094
confirmed cases
1 413 533 recovered
151 823 deaths

Brazil
(new cases/day 46 393)
→
2 610 102
confirmed cases
1 956 807 recovered
91 263 deaths

India
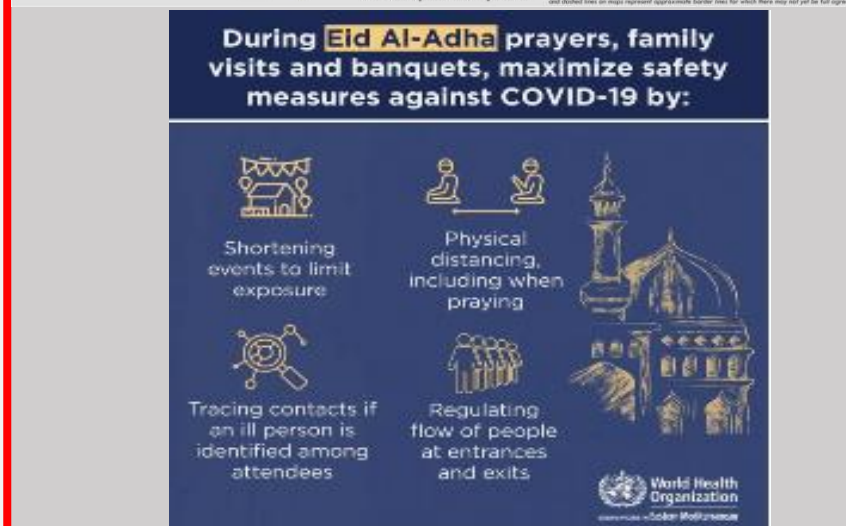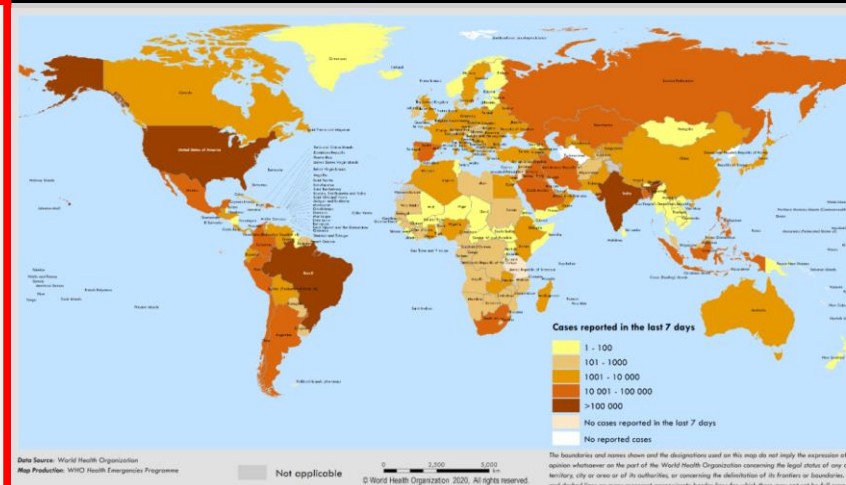(new cases/day 49 033)
↗
1 634 746
confirmed cases
1 055 348 recovered
35 718 deaths

News:

- In the **United States**, more than 150,000 people have died as a result of coronavirus infection. The threshold was exceeded on Wednesday, according to Johns Hopkins University. By evening (local time), 150,447 deaths had been counted. Finally, another 1267 fatalities were added within 24 hours.
- In **Africa**, around 20,000 new infections are currently reported every day - twice as much as a month ago. South Africa is most affected. It ranks fifth among the countries with the most cases worldwide.
- **UN**: reported that the corona virus is spreading more and more in the civil war-torn country of Syria. Cases have now been confirmed in all but one of the Syrian provinces. UN workers who work in Syria are also affected by the disease. The number of confirmed infections is relatively small at a few hundred, but the UN expected a high number of unreported cases.
- **WHO** published an interim guidance on Considerations for implementing mass treatment, active case-finding and population-based surveys for neglected tropical diseases in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The document proposes a two-step approach: a risk–benefit assessment, to decide if the planned neglected tropical diseases activity should proceed, and a review of a list of precautionary measures, to decide how the planned activity should be implemented.
- **WHO Regional Office for Europe** urges Turkmenistan to activate critical measures to prepare for COVID-19 outbreaks. To date, Turkmenistan has not reported any confirmed COVID-19 cases to WHO, however, the country has recently activated measures to prevent the transmission of respiratory infections within communities.
- WHO's health emergencies online learning platform: OpenWHO.org.

- Find Articles and other materials about COVID-19 on **our** website here.
- Please use **our** online observation form to report your lessons learned observations as soon as possible here.

Topics:

- **Global situation;** Africa and the Americas
- **Subject in Focus:** Safe Eid al Adha in the context of COVID-19
- **In the press**

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Cases reported in the last 7 days
1 - 100
101 - 1000
1001 - 10 000
10 001 - 100 000
>100 000
No cases reported in the last 7 days
No reported cases
Not applicable

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During Eid Al-Adha prayers, family visits and banquets, maximize safety measures against COVID-19 by:

- Shortening events to limit exposure
- Physical distancing, including when praying
- Tracing contacts if an ill person is identified among attendees
- Regulating flow of people at entrances and exits

World Health Organization

EUROPE

3 042 459
confirmed cases

1 863 513 recovered
208 613 deaths

Russia
(new cases/day 5 610)
→
832 993
confirmed cases

628 482 recovered
13 778 deaths

SPAIN
(new cases/day 2 181)
↗
285 430
confirmed cases
150 376 recovered
28 443 deaths

ITALY
(new cases/day 260)
↗
247 158
confirmed cases

199 796 recovered
35 132 deaths

Global Situation

Brazil is ready to welcome foreign visitors who enter the country by plane despite registering a record number, almost 70,000 new cases in a single day, of confirmed infections and deaths.
The country has extended its ban on visitors arriving by land or sea for another 30 days. However, those arriving by air will be allowed into the country in a bid to revive Brazil's tourism industry, which has been ravaged by the four-month lockdown.

India reports 52,123 new infections, a new daily record for the hard-hit country. The Health Ministry also reported 775 deaths over the past 24 hours, India is the third hardest-hit country behind the United States and Brazil in terms of reported cases, although its fatality rate is significantly lower.

US death toll surpasses 150,000. More than half of the country's 50 states have recorded 1,000 deaths.

South Korean biopharmaceutical firm Celltrion has received approval from the UK to begin a phase I clinical trial for its COVID-19 treatment drug. Celltrion's antiviral treatment targets the surface of the virus and is designed to block it from attaching to human cells. The company received South Korean approval for an early-stage trial earlier this month, which was the first such antiviral drug to be tested on humans. Celltrion CEO Kee Wo-sung has said the treatment will be cheaper than Gilead's antiviral drug remdesivir. Kee has advocated for drugmakers to make COVID-19 treatments affordable to help end the pandemic.

Japan will allow some foreign residents to re-enter the country next week, lifting a ban designed to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Some 90,000 foreign nationals with residency permits in Japan are stranded abroad after authorities banned re-entry from over 100 countries. From August 5, students, business people and trainees will be able to return to Japan provided they have a "re-entry confirmation letter" from the nearest Japanese diplomatic mission and can prove they have tested negative within 72 hours of their return flight. Foreign nationals in other categories, including permanent long-term residents and spouses and children of Japanese residents, can return from September 1.

Costa Rica will begin a staggered reopening plan on Saturday to help the beleaguered economy, despite a rise in cases. Under the terms of President Carlos Alvarado's plan, restaurants will open during the first nine days of August, but then will pause for 12 days and resume restrictions — a cycle that will be repeated.

Hospital officials in Guatemala say they have had to bury dozens of unidentified COVID-19 death victims. A hospital has been creating an archive with the hopes of eventually identifying the deceased when the pandemic passes. Workers at one of the country's largest hospitals have begun photographing people too ill to give their personal details when they enter the premises.

Despite a curfew in Melbourne of two weeks now, the number of corona cases in the **Australian** state of Victoria continues to increase dramatically. After several outbreaks in retirement homes, Australia reported a record number of new infections nationwide on Thursday - and registered the highest death toll since the pandemic began. In the state of Victoria alone, 13 deaths and 723 new infections were recorded within 24 hours.

The **Philippines** has announced further easing despite rising corona infections and an overwhelmed health system. From August 1, fitness centers and other sports facilities, internet cafes, cosmetic studios and drive-in cinemas with up to 30 percent of capacity will reopen.

In **Germany**, 22 percent of the COVID-19 patients admitted to hospitals from late February to mid-April died. This is the result of a study by the Scientific Institute of the AOK (WIdO), the German Interdisciplinary Association for Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine (DIVI) and the Technical University of Berlin. Mortality was 53 percent in patients with ventilation and 16 percent in those without ventilation. The mortality rate is highest in the age group of 70 to 79 years.

Initial restrictions have been tightened in parts of **northern England** due to a significant increase in coronavirus infections. Greater Manchester and parts of West Yorkshire and East Lancashire are affected.

In view of the increasing number of Corona infections, Amsterdam and Rotterdam are the first **Dutch** cities to introduce a mask requirement. This applies to particularly busy squares, streets and shops, the cities announced on Thursday. The mask requirement is to apply to all persons over the age of 13 from August 5.

After a series of new infections, **Iceland** is returning to somewhat stricter measures against the spread of the coronavirus. From Friday, the maximum number of participants for events will again be reduced from 500 to 100. The two-meter distance rule is now mandatory and not just a recommendation. Restaurants, bars, gyms and swimming pools should remain open as long as they can guarantee this distance and the necessary hygiene regulations. All of this initially applies to the next two weeks.

Global Situation

COVID-19 Situation in the Region of Africa as of 29th July 2020

Since the last update on 22 July 2020, a total of 114 394 new confirmed COVID-19 cases (an 18% increase) was reported from 45 countries between 22 and 28 July 2020, compared to a 23% increase recorded during the previous reporting period (15 -21 July 2020). Of the 11 4394 reported new cases, the majority, 68% (77 963), were recorded in South Africa, which remains the hardest hit country across the continent and ranks fifth globally after the United States of America, Brazil, India, and the Russian Federation. Even with high case numbers in South Africa, the reported deaths are comparatively low. Gambia (which had previously reported the least case incidence in the past months) registered the highest percentage increase of 147% (132 to 326 cases). This was followed by Zimbabwe with a 55% increase (from 1 820 to 2 817 cases) and Zambia (50% increase; from 3 326 to 5 002 cases). Other countries with high percentage increase included; Botswana 42% (from 522to 739cases), Lesotho 41% (from 359 to 505 cases), and Namibia 40% (from 1 366 to 1 917 cases).

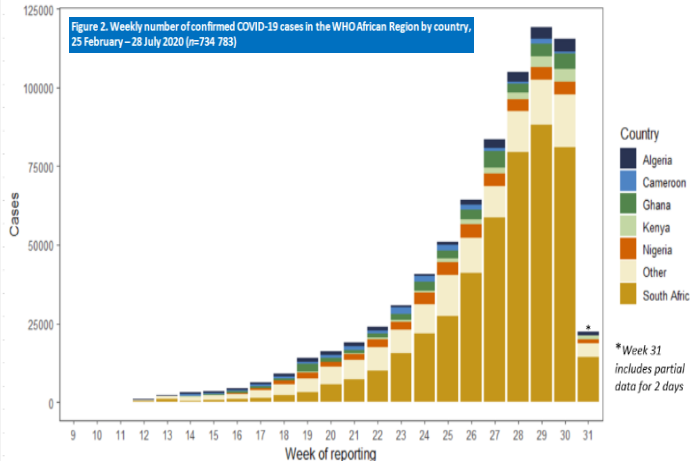A total of 147 new health worker infections were recorded from nine countries.

Uganda recorded two new deaths for the first time since the beginning of the outbreak. The WHO African Region and South Africa hit an unfortunate milestone with their highest daily deaths of 625 and 572, respectively, on the 22 July 2020. During this period, 2 360 new COVID-19 related deaths (23% increase) were reported from 33 countries, with 1 889 (80%) of the deaths recorded in South Africa.

South Africa has registered more than half, 63% (459 761) of all reported confirmed cases in the region. The other countries that reported large numbers of cases are Nigeria (41 804), Ghana (34 406), Algeria (28 615), Kenya (18 581), Cameroon (17 179), Côte d'Ivoire (15 713), Ethiopia (15 200), Madagascar (10 104) and Senegal (9 805). These 10 countries collectively account for 89% (65 1168) of all reported cases. Of the 734 783 COVID-19 cases reported, 457 619 (62%) have recovered from across all the 47 countries in the region.

Currently, 33 (70%) countries in the region are experiencing community transmission, 10 (21%) have clusters of cases and four (9%) have sporadic cases of COVID-19. The region continues to observe increased incidences of importation of cases from affected countries within the region, largely fueled by long-distance truck drivers and illic it movement through porous borders.

Source: WHO Africa

Figure 2. Weekly number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the WHO African Region by country, 25 February – 28 July 2020 (n=734 783)

*Week 31 includes partial data for 2 days

COVID-19 Situation in the Region of the Americas as of July 29th, 2020

An additional 139,657 cases and 3,919 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, representing a 1.6% relative increase in cases and a 1.14% relative increase in deaths, compared to the previous day.

Countries reporting the highest numbers of new cases compared with the previous day are: United States of America (1.4% increase), Brazil (1.7% increase), Colombia (4.0% increase), (Mexico (1.8% increase), Argentina (3.5% increase), Peru (1.4% increase), Dominican Republic (2.3%) and Guatemala (2.5% increase).

Countries reporting the highest numbers of new deaths: United States of America (0.8% increase), Brazil (1.1% increase), Mexico (1.9% increase), Colombia (3.4% increase), Peru (1.1% increase), and Argentina (3.8% increase).
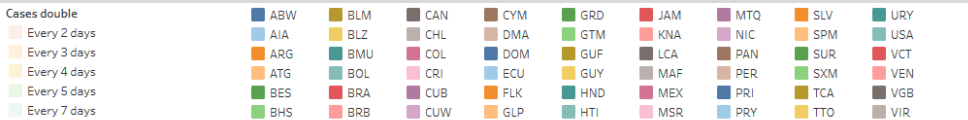
United States of America accounts for 48.1% of all cases and 42.9% of all deaths for the Region of the Americas and Brazil accounts for 27.7% of all cases and 25.5% of all deaths.

Combined, these two countries account for 75.8% of all cases and 68.4% of all deaths currently reported in the Region of the Americas.
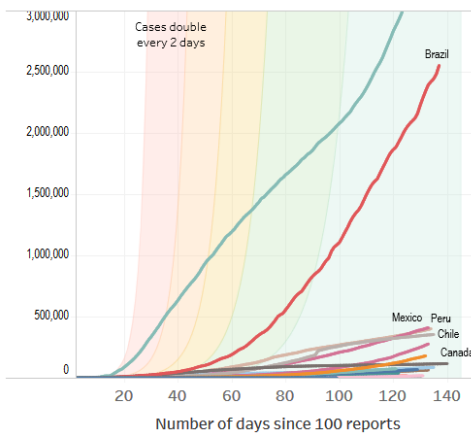
Source: PAHO

Safe Eid al Adha in 2020

Proses tawaf dalam haji tahun 2020 dengan social distancing (Foto: AP/STR)
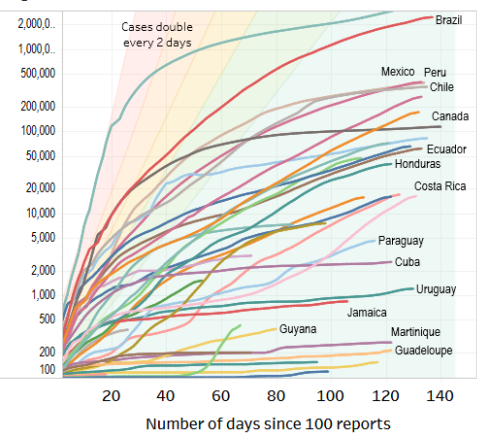
The Eid al Adha, also called Eid Qurban("Feast of the sacrifice") is a celebration observed by Muslims worldwide, during which families and friends unite to pray and give alms, usually meat from animals that have been sacrificed (hence the name).
Eid al-Adha is the second major Muslim festival after Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. The occasion will be celebrated in most countries on Friday, July 31.

Muslims pray at the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia in 2019 [File: Waleed Ali/Reuters]

Some 2.5 million pilgrims from around the world flock annually to the cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia for the ritual. Festivities may last from one to a few days, and are characterized by many social and religious gatherings. During the COVID-19 pandemic, precautions need to be taken to prevent transmission of the virus.

Therefore WHO published an interim guidance on safe Eid al Adha practices in the context of COVID-19 that is telling communities to decide after an risk-based approach, may cancel a planned event or make it virtual. If, on the contrary, it is decided to proceed with an event, key precautions should be implemented, including basic measures for enforcing physical distancing of at least one metre (three feet) between people at all times, frequent hand cleaning, and respiratory etiquette.

Other recommendations are
- To hold the event outdoors and/or make it as short as possible;
- Regulate the number and flow of people entering, attending and departing from the event;
- Refrain specific population groups, (sick persons, persons with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and those at higher risk) from entering the event;
- General precautionary measures relating to animal management, meat processing, and market places as recommended by national and international food safety and hygiene regulations should be followed;
- Precautions should also be applied by the faithful when distributing meat to those in need, so that remembrance, charity and care for others can safely remain at the core of Eid al Adha's celebrations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To address the concerns mandatory guidelines and health protocols that pilgrims need to follow while performing the rituals of this year's Haj season have been set by the Saudi authorities.:

- Already from July 19 there a ban was announced that prohibit the entering the holy sites (Mina, Muzdalifah, Arafat) without a permit until August 2.
- This year's pilgrimage is restricted to a very limited number of pilgrims of all nationalities (under 65 years) who are already residing in the country, so that it does not exceed 10,000 pilgrims, while Umrah will remain suspended until further notice.
- Pilgrims should not sharing personal tools and equipment such as protective equipment, communication devices, clothing, shaving products or towels.
- During congregational prayers, pilgrims must wear face masks, keep a safe distance and adhere to all protocols for mosques.
- Each pilgrim is specifying a bus and a seat for the whole time The number of passengers inside the bus should not exceed 50 per cent of the total capacity of the bus, and maintain the physical distancing on the bus and leave at least an empty seat between each passenger.
- Health protocols include that pilgrims must commit to residing in designated places and not to deviate from the path designated by the Haj trip's regulator. They must wear face masks all the time while performing the Haj rituals.
- Food provided during these rituals should be limited to the pre-envelope only, and the need to maintain social distancing between pilgrims.
- The protocols for stoning of Satan, the stone-throwing ritual, include providing pilgrims with pre-sterilised stones that are placed or wrapped in sealed bags. Regulating the throwing site, so that the number of pilgrims throwing stones at the same time does not exceed 50 pilgrims, while keeping a distance of 1.5 metres at least between each of them.
- Barriers will be placed this year to prevent pilgrims from touching or kissing the black stone.
- Circling the cube-shaped Kaaba is only allowed in a manner that guarantees a distance of at least 1.5 metres between pilgrims.

	Mouth and nose protection	FFP2/FFP3 mask without valve	FFP2/FFP3 mask with valve
Protects wearer of mask	limited ⚠️	✅	✅
Protects periphery	✅	✅	❌

NEW STUDY ON MOUTH NOSE PROTECTION AND SOCIAL DISTANCING
Unfortunately, in the epicenter of the new hot spots areas often enough people are seen who do not adhere to the still valid protective regulations such as social distancing and the correct wearing of a nose and mouth protection. It could be as simple as that - new studies show that these two measures make a significant contribution to reducing the probability of transmission.
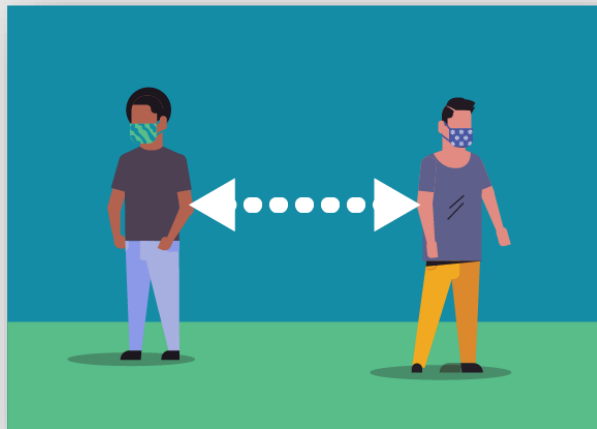In the case of protective masks with an advertised protective effect in connection with SARS-CoV-2, depending on the intended purpose, a distinction is made between two types:
Medical face masks (MNS; surgical (surgical) masks); are primarily used for third-party protection and protect the person against the exposure of potentially infectious droplets of the person wearing the face mask. Corresponding MNS protect the wearer of the mask if the fit is tight, but this is not the primary purpose of MNS. This is e.g. used to prevent droplets from the patient's breathing air from getting into open wounds of a patient. Since, depending on the fit of the medical face mask, the wearer not only breathes in through the filter fleece, but the breathing air is drawn in as a leakage current past the edges of the MNS, medical face masks generally offer the wearer little protection against aerosols containing excitation. However, you can protect the mouth and nose area of the wearer from the direct impact of exhaled droplets from the other person as well as from pathogen transmission through direct contact with the hands.
Particle-filtering half masks (FFP masks); are objects of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the context of occupational safety and are intended to protect the wearer of the mask from particles, droplets and aerosols. The design of the particle-filtering half masks is different. There are masks *without an exhalation valve* and masks *with an exhalation* valve. Masks without a valve filter both the inhaled air and the exhaled air and therefore offer both internal and external protection, although they are primarily designed for internal protection only. Masks with valves only filter the inhaled air and therefore **offer no external protection!!!**
As a large number of unrecognized people move around in public spaces without symptoms, mouth and nose protection protects other people, thereby reducing the spread of the infection and thus indirectly reducing the risk of becoming infected

Due to the occasion, it should be pointed out again and again, also by executives, that the correct way of wearing the mask is essential to achieve maximum protection. The mask wrong, e.g. for example, wearing it under the nose means accepting a possible infection of others.

FFP2 / 3 masks are still considered deficient equipment and should be kept available for healthcare workers and emergency services.

When wearing a facemask, don't do the following:

DON'T wear your facemask under your nose or mouth.
DON'T allow a strap to hang down. DON'T cross the straps.
DON'T touch or adjust your facemask without cleaning your hands before and after.
DON'T wear your facemask on your head.
DON'T wear your facemask around your neck.
DON'T wear your facemask around your arm.
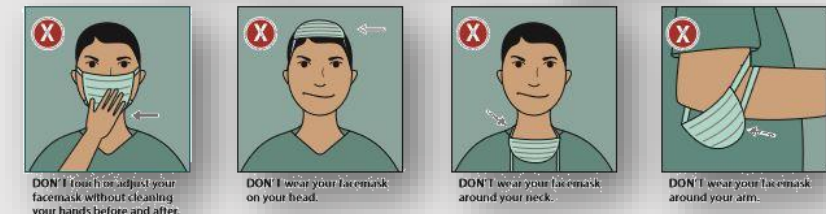
https://www.sueddeutsche.de/gesundheit/atemschutzmaske-coronavirus-maske-schutz-1.4867144
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html
https://www.bfarm.de/SharedDocs/Risikoinformationen/Medizinprodukte/DE/schutzmasken.html

Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when caring for Patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19

Who needs PPE:

Patients with confirmed or possible SARS-CoV-2 infection should wear a facemask when being evaluated medically

Healthcare personnel should adhere to Standard and Transmission-bases Precautions when caring for patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection. Recommended PPE is describe in the **Infection Control Guidance.**

Before caring for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, healthcare personnel (HCP) must:
- Receive comprehensive training on when and what PPE is necessary, how to don (put on) and doff (take off) PPE, limitations of PPE, and proper care, maintenance, and disposal of PPE
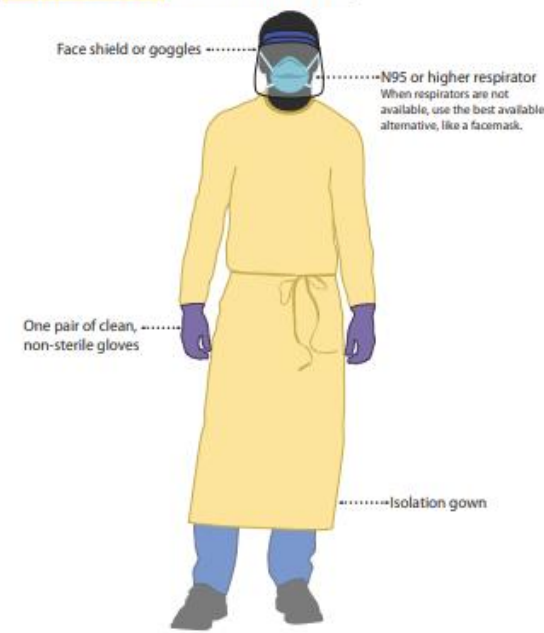- Demonstrate competency in performing appropriate infection control practices and procedures

Remember:
- PPE must be donned correctly before entering the patient area
- PPE must remain in place and be worn correctly for the duration of work in potentially contaminated areas
- PPE should not be adjusted during patient care and
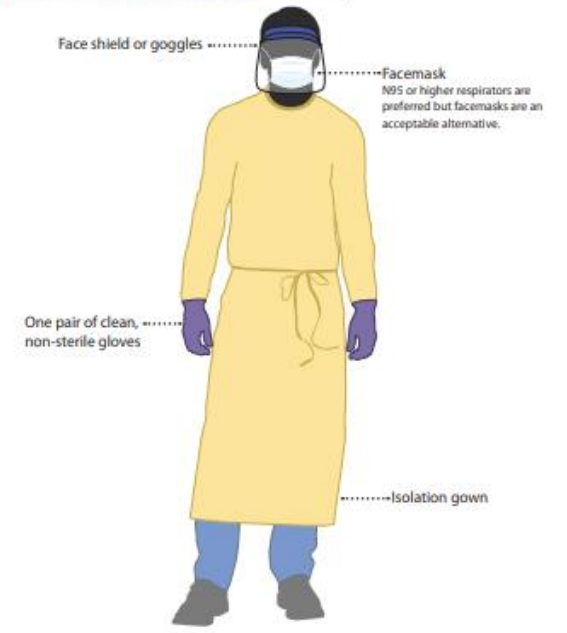- PPE must be removed slowly and deliberately in a sequence that prevents self-contamination

Preferred PPE – Use N95 or Higher Respirator

Face shield or goggles

N95 or higher respirator
When respirators are not available, use the best available alternative, like a facemask.

One pair of clean, non-sterile gloves

Isolation gown

Acceptable Alternative PPE – Use Facemask

Face shield or goggles

Facemask
N95 or higher respirators are preferred but facemasks are an acceptable alternative.

One pair of clean, non-sterile gloves

Isolation gown

Donning (putting on the gear):
1. **Identify and gather the proper PPE to don**. Ensure choice of gown size is correct.
2. **Perform hand hygiene using hand sanitizer**
3. **Put on isolation gown.** Assistance may be needed by other HCP
4. **Put on NIOSH-approved N95 filtering facepiece respirator of higher (use a facemask if a respirator is not available.**
- **Respirator** straps should be placed on crown of head and base of neck. Perform a user seal check each time you put on the respirator.
- **Facemask** should be secured on crown of head and base of nex. If mask has loops, hook them appropriately around your ears.
5**. Put on face shield or googles.**
6. **Put on gloves**
7. **HCP may now enter patient room**

Doffing (taking off the gear):
1. **Remove gloves.** Ensure gloves removal does not cause additional contamination of hands.
2. **Remove gown.** Untie all tis. Some gown ties can be broken rather than untied. Do so in gentle manner, avoiding a forceful movement. Reach up to the shoulders and carefully pull gown down and away from the body.
3. **HCP may now exit patient room.**
4. **Perform hand hygiene.**
5. **Remove face shield or googles. Carefully remove face shield or googles by grapping the strap and pulling upwards and away from head. Do not touch the front of face shield or googles.**
6. **Remove and discard respirator.** Remove the bottom strap by touching only the strap and bring it carefully over the head. Grasp the top strap and bring it carefully over the head and then pull the respirator away from the face without touching the front of the respirator or facemask.
7. **Perform hand hygiene after removing the respirator/facemask**

Use of gloves in in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Recommendations for the use of gloves to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission by community setting

Activity	Non-sterile gloves (without EN standards)	Non-sterile gloves[a]	Sterile gloves[a]	Gloves used in microbiological and biochemical laboratories[b]
Community				
Visiting busy closed spaces such as grocery stores, shopping centers.	no	no	no	no
Leisure activities.	no	no	no	no
Using public transport.	no	no	no	no
Workplaces and professions that involve physical proximity to many people, that did not wear gloves for occupational reasons prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g. cashiers in shops and supermarkets.	no	no	no	no
People in occupations that wore gloves prior to COVID-19, such as environmental cleaners and the police.	yes/no[c]	yes/no[c]	no	no
Healthcare setting (e.g. acute care hospitals, general practices, long-term care facilities)				
Aseptic procedures, e.g. surgical operations, central venous catheter insertion.	n/a	n/a	yes	no
Activities with a risk of contamination of healthcare workers' hands, including contamination with body fluids, or contact with mucous membranes and non-intact skin, e.g. peripheral venous catheter insertion/removal, intubation, cleaning spills of body fluids, emptying emesis basins, handling/cleaning used instruments, handling waste.	yes	yes	no	no
Procedures not included in the two previous examples.	no	no	no	no
Specific laboratory work.	no	no	no	yes

[a] - European Standard EN 455 on medical gloves for single use, as stipulated in the Council Directive 93/42/EEC
[b] - Standards and specifics for the gloves used in microbiological and biochemical laboratories are described in the European Standard EN ISO 374
[c] - Dependent on occupation specific guidance applicable to the setting and/or applicable national guidelines /legislation
n/a - not applicable
Source: https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Use-of-gloves-within-COVID-19.pdf

In the context of COVID-19, there is currently insufficient evidence to recommend the regular use of gloves as a preventive measure to the public and most occupations outside of healthcare.

Community use of gloves may lead to the misconception that hand hygiene can be neglected.

You do not need gloves, performing hand hygiene is sufficient and effective.

Wearing gloves could lead to the misconception that you can touch anything without the risk of getting infected with SARS-CoV-2.

If you decide to wear gloves, please do not forget to wash or disinfect your hands after removing the gloves.

#COVID19

ecdc.europa.eu

In the press

30th July 2020
World Economic Forum
Could this COVID-19 'health passport' be the future of travel and events?
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/covid-19-passport-app-health-travel-covidpass-quarantine-event/

30th July 2020
The Guardian
Covid-19 has shaken global economy but other white swan threats remain
https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/jul/30/covid-19-has-shaken-global-economy-but-other-white-swan-threats-remain

29th July 2020
The Guardian
Germany's Covid-19 fears grow over 'reckless' partygoer
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/29/germany-covid-19-fears-grow-over-reckless-partygoers

29th July 2020
Aljazeera
COVID-19 spreads in Vietnam after outbreak at tourist spot
https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/covid-19-spreads-vietnam-outbreak-tourist-spot-200729132714763.html

29th July 2020
European Commission
European Commission secures EU access to Remdesivir for treatment of COVID-19
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1416

29th July 2020
LA Times
California won't conquer the coronavirus, and fully reopen, until it can protect essential workers
https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-29/california-wont-conquer-the-coronavirus-and-fully-reopen-until-it-can-protect-essential-workers

28th July 2020
DW
Coronavirus: German officials say EU internal borders should stay open
https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-german-officials-say-eu-internal-borders-should-stay-open/a-54358391

30th July 2020
South China Morning Post
Coronavirus vaccine success to hinge on global immunisation programme
https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3095197/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-success-hinge-global-immunisation