Globally, between 31 Dec 2019 - 17 Mar 2020

- A total of 184,976 confirmed cases
- 159 countries and regions affected
- 7,529 deaths

Source: WHO
New Cases of COVID-19 since 1 February 2020

Number of new, confirmed daily cases

Source: WHO Situation Reports
Prepare the health system to face a significant increase in demand for care.
“Flatten the curve”

The steep curve represents exponential spread of the virus – the local health system will quickly become overloaded beyond its capacity to treat people.

The flatter curve assumes the same number of people get infected but over a longer period of time – a less stressed health system and potentially less deaths.

Adapted from CDC
Rationale 1: severity profile of COVID-19

There is no data from populations with high prevalence of HIV, malnutrition etc.

Patients need mechanical ventilation

Patients need oxygen therapy

Pneumonia

Hypothetical estimate of numbers requiring hospitalization based on current size of outbreak:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of reported cases</th>
<th>20% (# people requiring oxygen &amp; ventilation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>27,980</td>
<td>5,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>14,991</td>
<td>2,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>9,942</td>
<td>1,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>8,320</td>
<td>1,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>7,272</td>
<td>1,454</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the following assumption: all severe (15%) and critical cases (5%) require hospitalization.
These numbers represent the current situation (as of 17.03.2020) which will change as more cases are confirmed.
Rationale 2: measure the time from the appearance of the first few cases to a large outbreak…. approximately 2 weeks to prepare

Number of COVID-19 deaths per day in Italy and the Islamic Republic of Iran

Source: WHO Situation Reports
Get the health system ready: TRIAGE

AIM: prevent transmission in facilities and homes; do not overburden system;

- Isolate COVID-19 patients from other patients and ensure proper infection prevention and control in facilities.
- Establish screening at all health care facilities (primary health care centers and hospitals).
- Mild cases must be managed and isolated at home whenever possible.
- Maintain essential services for prioritized health needs beyond COVID-19.

“COVID cabanas” set up outside hospitals in Utah for screening of patients.
Credit: Business Insider.

Triage tents
Credit: TODAYonline.
Get the health system ready: **SPACE and SUPPLIES**

**AIM: ensure capacity to treat severe and critical patients while maintaining essential health services**

- Establish COVID-19 treatment areas with oxygen therapy and intensive care units with ventilation, where possible
- Anticipate number of beds needed
- Maintain a plan to expand capacity (repurposing of other facilities)
- Plan for continuity of supplies and management of waste

Credit: South China Morning Post
Get the health system ready: protect **HEALTH WORKERS**

**AIM:** protect health workers for continued care and service

- Ensure [access to appropriate PPE](#) for health workers
- Bring in surge capacity and strengthen measures to prevent burnout (restricted working hours, access to psychosocial support)
- Provide [adequate compensation to health workers](#) and their families in the event of a health worker falling ill or dying

[Health workers in Italy](#)

Credit: AFP & Business Insider

17/03/2020
More information

WHO sources:

COVID-19 website: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

WHO Travel Advice: https://www.who.int/ith/en/

Email: EPI-WIN@who.int

Website: www.EPI-WIN.com