

COVID – 19

Tajikistan Situation Report # 6

11 May 2020



UNITED NATIONS
TAJIKISTAN



COVID-19
RESPONSE

This report is produced by the Office of UN Resident Coordinator and OCHA HAT in collaboration with international partners. It covers the period of April 5 - 11 May 2020. The next report will be issued on or around May 18, 2020.

- Temporary hospital for treatment of COVID-19 infected patients opened in Dushanbe.
- All schools are released for early summer vacations.
- Opening of non-food markets in Dushanbe has been postponed until 31 May 2020.

661 (+432)*

Confirmed cases of COVID 19

21 (+18)*

Deaths

4738

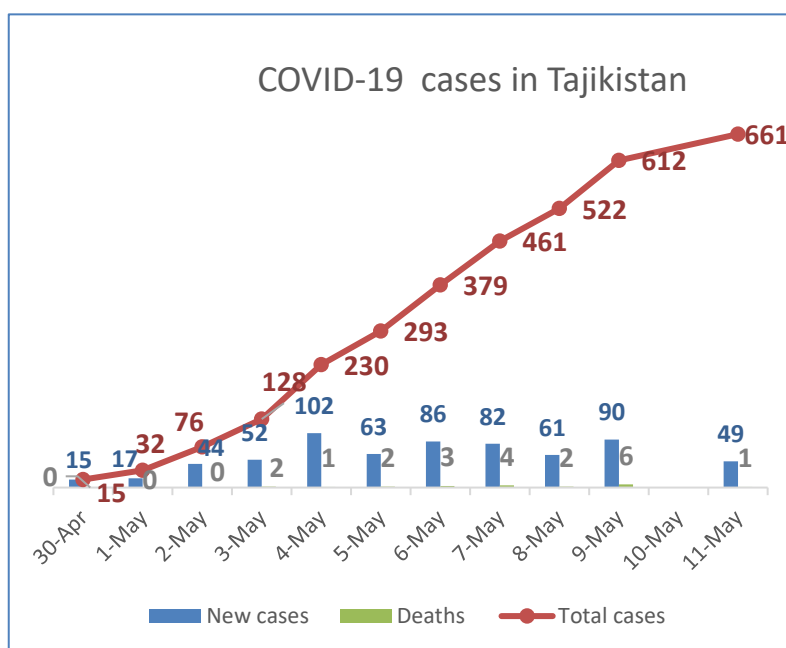
Patients admitted to hospitals (as of May 9, 2020)

*new cases since May 4, 2020 (Situation Report # 5)

Source: Ministry of Health and Social protection of the Population, Tajikistan

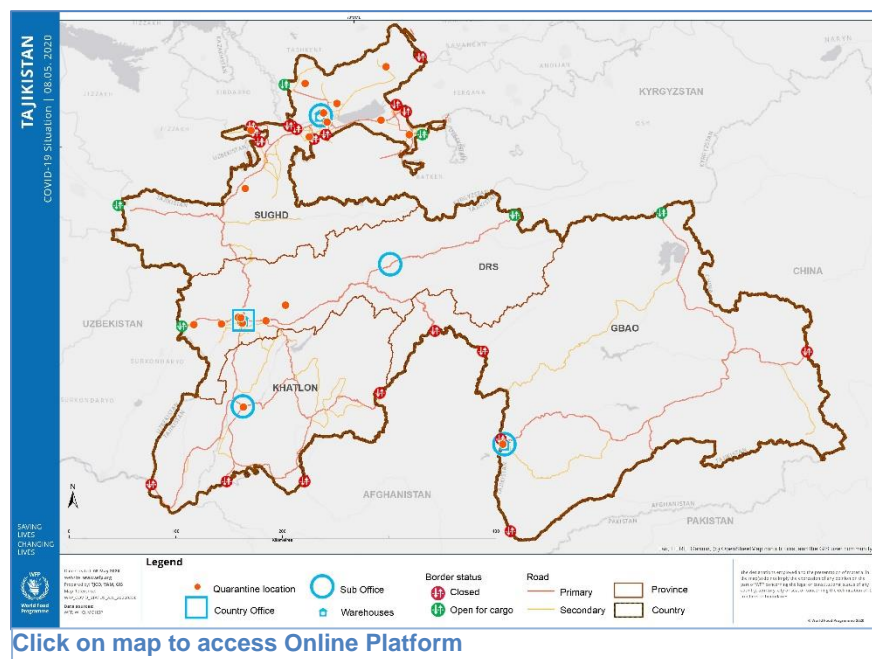
Tajikistan situation overview

- As of 11 May 2020 (17:30 local time) a total of 661 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 21 deaths have been reported by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoSHP). On May 9, 2020 MoHSP reported that 4738 patients are admitted to hospitals throughout the country and remain under supervision of medical staff.
- Major public concern regarding large number of pneumonia caused deaths, heavily overstretched hospitals, lack of protocols for testing, testing possibilities particular for those outside of Dushanbe, drastic lack of PPE for medical staff, as well as shortage of medicines in the drugstores continues to be on rise.
- On 8 May 2020 a temporary hospital in Dushanbe was opened with 500 beds for treatment of COVID-19 infected patients by 150 doctors. Newly constructed building of Republican Medical College has been appropriated for the purpose.
- WHO mission that arrived on 1 May continues its work and up to date held number of meetings with high-level officials, public health counterparts in Dushanbe and regions, civil society and media to assess the risks and recommend measures for strengthening response mechanisms. The mission arrived at the request of the Government to support the Tajik authorities in managing the response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Group of Uzbekistan healthcare experts continue their mission in Tajikistan, assisting and advising local healthcare specialists on diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 cases, through provision of trainings and consultations, as well as advising on methodological guidance.
- A new COVID-19 hotline “311” has been launched, in addition to existing “511” hotline operated by MoHSP. Both hotlines work 24/7 and operated by medical and health experts.
- Authorities enforce mandatory use of masks by population and social distancing in public places, including public transport through communication campaign as well as inspections by the staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs at the streets.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan will automatically extend the length of stay of foreign citizens and stateless persons who are temporarily in the Republic of Tajikistan until July 1, 2020.
- All schoolchildren and university students were released for early summer vacations. School graduates are expected to return for graduation examinations in mid-June, while University graduates are supposed to pass



their graduation examinations by 15 May 2020. All kindergartens are closed until stabilization of epidemiological situation in the country. Closure of non-food markets and shopping malls in Dushanbe has been extended until 31 May 2020. Other public services (food markets, public transport, banks and etc.) are functioning in regular mode. Public events, including sports events, public meetings, cinema showings and theatre performances is temporarily banned throughout the country.

- Important movement of population within Tajikistan have been observed, with families, children and students leaving Dushanbe to reach their hometown in GBAO. Increase in local transport cost between Dushanbe and Khorog was reported, up by 25 percent compared to pre-COVID-19.
- No changes have been reported on status of borders. Airports remain closed, while railway routes remain open for cargo.



- Staple food commodities were available in most monitored markets during the reporting week. In Khorog market, due to low stock of wheat flour and rapid price fluctuations, the government introduced price controls and purchase limitations for wheat flour (50 kg per household a day). In addition, bakeries are no longer provided with credit purchase of wheat flour.

- Prices have been changing across the country, with some commodities prices increasing, such as wheat flour (2-3 percent), rice (7 percent), cotton and vegetable (2-5 percent) while some commodities prices decreased, such as potatoes (6-19 percent) and onions (16-63 percent) in some monitored markets during the

reporting week compared to the previous week. This week's prices moderated against monthly averages of April 2020 but remained high in comparison with April 2019. More details can be found in Annex 1 - Tajikistan Weekly Market Situation Update.

Decisions and measures undertaken by the Government

- On 7 May 2020 the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19 chaired by the Prime-Minister of Republic of Tajikistan focused on the issues related to regulation of medicines prices in drug-stores and prevention of illicit trafficking of medicines and other medical supplies.
- On 5 May 2020 President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon released Olimzoda Nasim of his post as Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Population and appointed Abdullozoda Jamoliddin (former Director of Istiqlol Hospital in Dushanbe) as the new Minister.
- On 7 May 2020, Dushanbe Mayor's office facilitated organization of special charter flight from India to Tajikistan for delivery of medical supplies to be further distributed among health facilities by Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

Response

Bi-lateral assistance – The government of Uzbekistan provided humanitarian aid to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan for the diagnosis and treatment of coronavirus. Humanitarian aid includes disinfectants, antiseptics, medical gowns, respirators, goggles, gloves, masks, ventilators and medicines. Uzbekistan also deployed the team of eight healthcare experts to support the team, as well as mobile containers for establishment of temporary hospital.

Budgetary support – The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a disbursement of US\$189.5 million for budget support to help Tajikistan meet urgent balance of payments and fiscal needs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthcare and medical supply - The overview of assistance provided by International Partners (including bilateral assistance) prepared by DCC Working Group on Health can be found at: <https://untj.org/dcc/covid-19/>.

Voluntary groups – Volunteers and activists in Khujand and Dushanbe continue collection of donations and in-kind contributions from population for provision of PPEs to medical staff, as well as ready meals for healthcare workers as well as patients. Also, these charity groups and foundations provide financial and in-kind assistance to the households in need.

Communication - UNICEF along with a number of partners, including Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, UNFPA and others continue its support in ensuring Risk Communication and Community Engagement.

Needs

- The Government of Tajikistan appealed to the Development Partners with the request to provide 2,500 pcs of lung ventilators.
- Need for a framework to provide support to migrants stuck in Tajikistan. Migrants who could not leave are adding pressure to the already 250,000 re-entry banned migrants who struggle to find employment opportunities within the country.
- A number of rapid sectoral analysis are on-going to assess the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on different sectors and groups, including the most important emerging and longer-term needs.

Coordination arrangements

- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19 preparedness and response (Standing Committee) chaired by the Prime Minister continues to lead and coordinate state COVID-19 operation. Similarly Standing Committees have been established at all administrative levels by local authorities, as well as within all Ministries and Agencies.
- Overall coordination of development partners in Tajikistan on COVID-19 preparedness and response is undertaken by the UN Resident Coordinator with the technical guidance of WHO, in frames of the COVID 19 Response Group.
- Ms. Shirin Ismatullozoda, the Deputy Prime Minister has been appointed to lead the coordination of Risk Communication and Community Engagement on COVID 19 in Tajikistan and supported by MoHSP and UNICEF with active participation of Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and other partners.

Communication and information sharing:

- To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact: **Shahlo Rahimova, OCHA NDRA @ +992939999451; rahimova@un.org**
 - For any urgent information related to COVID-19 (situation, needs, response etc.), please contact: **Dr.Safarov Abdulakhad, NPO WHO @ +992 98 515 23 32; safarova@who.int**
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