UNRWA COVID-19 BRIEF UPDATE: 18 MARCH 2020

1. Epidemiological situation (WHO data: as of 17 March 2020)

**Number of cases**
- Lebanon: 120 cases, 16 recovered, 3 deaths (local transmission)
- West Bank: 43 cases, 3 recovered, 0 deaths (local transmission)
- Jordan: 48 cases, 1 recovered, 0 deaths (imported case)
- Gaza: 0 case, 0 deaths
- Syria: 0 case, 0 deaths

**ALL COUNTRIES at HIGH RISK: COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Global situation**
- 184,975 cases, 7,529 deaths

**Situation in neighboring countries**
- Iran: 16,169 cases, 988 deaths
- Iraq: 154 cases, 11 deaths
- Egypt: 166 cases, 4 deaths
- Israel: 304 cases, 0 deaths

(Ref: WHO)

2. UNRWA operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Affected operations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>Schools, Gaza Training Centre (GTC) and Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC) closed till end of March. People advised to avoid gatherings. Restricted access, only for urgent medical cases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Bank (WB)</td>
<td>Schools closed this month. Access restricted between Jerusalem &amp; WB. Some staff in Jerusalem are under home quarantine. Tulkarem is lockdown and curfew was imposed in Beit Sahour after the confirmation of new case. UN advised that, starting from 16 March, all UN staff (inclusive) in WB should be working from home, unless they must come to their offices. Field Office and HQ staff based in Jerusalem are telecommuting. Palestinian workers can enter Israel only in the condition of staying inside for two months under the responsibility of their contractors.</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Educational institutions at all levels are closed. In addition, effective 18 March 2020 at 8:00 am for two weeks: Public departments and institutions and private sector are closed, except for vital sectors and the entire health sector. Suspending mass transportation, preventing movement between governorates, and people not to leave their homes except in urgent cases. Stopping medical operations and limiting work to emergency cases and emergency operations. Pharmacies, ration centers, bakeries and food, drug, water and fuel supply chains will continue to operate. Setting up quarantine camps on the land ports for Jordanians returning through them. UNRWA staff are working from home from 16 March. MoH launched a <strong>COVID-19 public website</strong> (Arabic only).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Schools are closed; all unrwa offices will be closed today until 29th March, and staff will work from home except the health centers’ staff, environment health workers and Procurement and Logistics (PLD) colleagues (who will be called for duty).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Schools, Training Centers and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) are closed until 2/4/2020, all staff will work from home except health centers’ staff, cash and food assistance staff, and staff who cannot work from home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>Most staff at HQ (Amman) and all staff at HQ (Jerusalem) are telecommuting. HQ (Amman) has minimal number of staff who work at their office. All meetings are done virtually.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Health centres are all operational in all fields, implementing triage for people with respiratory symptoms. Purchase of hand sanitizers, liquid soap and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is ongoing to be distributed to health centres, distribution centres and sanitation labourers as needed.

3. When you feel sick, who should you contact?

If you develop fever, tiredness, dry cough, runny nose, shortness of breath, nasal congestion, sore throat or diarrhea, you should immediately contact your respective Field Disease Control Officer (FDCO) listed in the previously shared **Health Focal Points on COVID-19** at your duty station.

In addition, please visit UNRWA’s Facebook page to watch videos on **FB-COVID-19 (Corona)**

For HQA Staff, please contact Dr. Yousef Shahin at (+962) 791300822 or y.shahin2@unrwa.org.

- For more info, please visit the following websites: [WHO](https://www.who.int) [WHO/ Eastern Mediterranean Office](https://www.emro.who.int)

Please email at [unrwa-covid19@unrwa.org](mailto:unrwa-covid19@unrwa.org) for any questions.