A microscopic view of several coronavirus particles, showing their characteristic spherical shape and surface covered in small, rounded protrusions (spikes). The particles are rendered in shades of blue and white, with a soft glow effect. They are scattered across the upper half of the image, with a larger, more detailed particle in the center-right.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak

COVID-19: Stepping up WHO European Region Response

Dr. Nedret Emiroglu

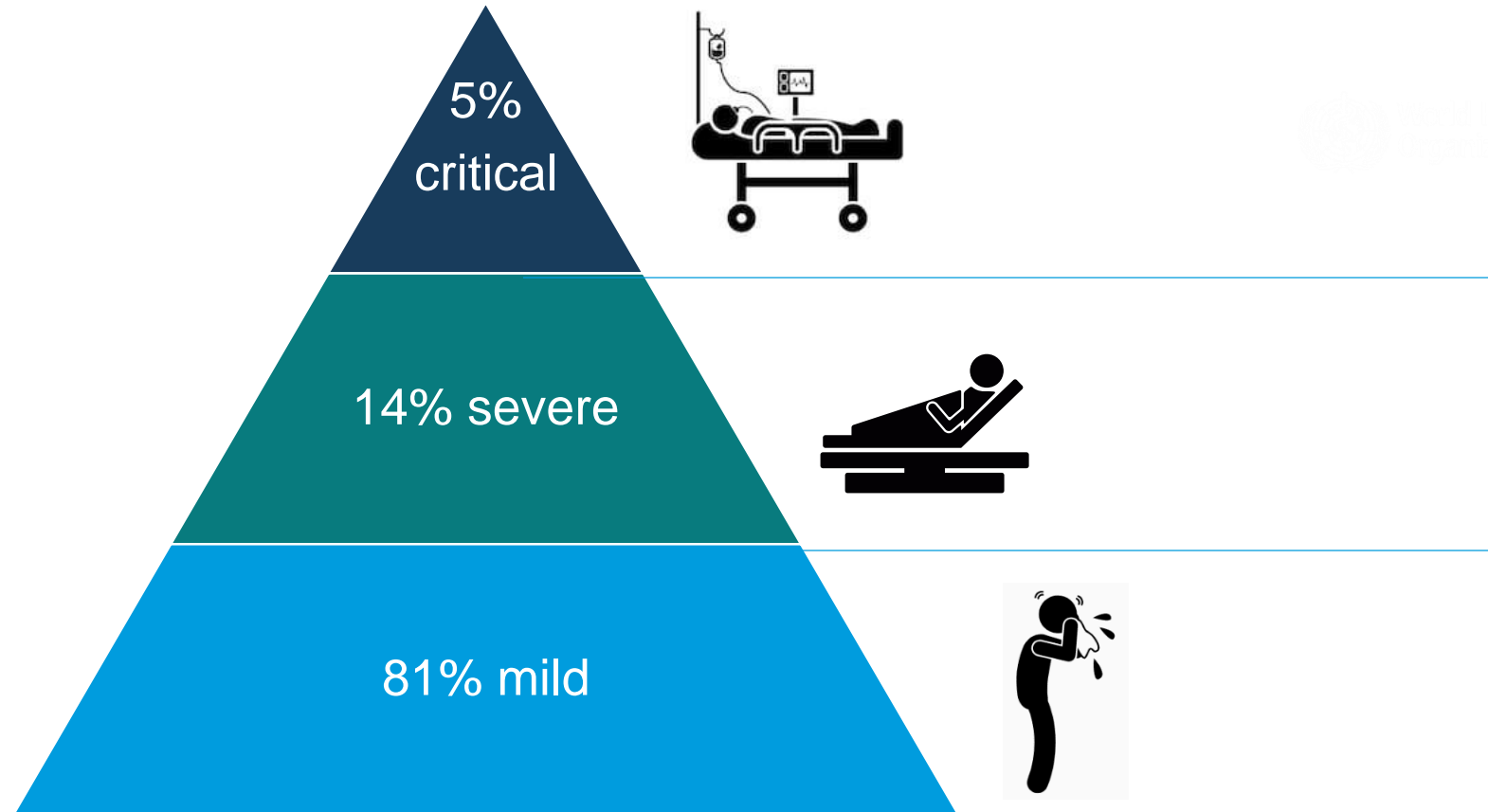
A new virus – a new disease

- The event was declared a WHO Grade 3 emergency on 26 January with very high risk at country level (China), high risk at regional level (WPRO), and high risk at global level
- On 30 January it was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30 January
- Revised risk assessment on 28 February: very high risk at all levels

Situation in the European Region

To be updated from WHO European Region Dashboard

Largest, most recent study from China CDC (n=72,314)



Source: China CDC Weekly submitted 14.02.20

Transmission of COVID-19

The spread of COVID-19 between humans is being driven by droplet transmission

The virus is transmitted from a sick person to a healthy person through respiratory droplets



The risk depends on where you live, your age and general health

WHO provides general guidelines.

Important to follow the national guidance and consult local health professional

A small window of opportunity

National coordinated multisectoral response to slow transmission and save lives:

- Ensure strengthened surveillance
- Health service readiness
- Maintaining essential services
- Protecting health workers
- Engaging communities to protect people who are most at risk
- Protecting countries that are the most vulnerable, by doing our utmost to contain epidemics in countries with the capacity to do it
- Improving risk communication

This virus does not respect borders

Priorities for every country

- Detect cases early
- Isolate patients
- Trace contacts
- Provide quality clinical care
- Prevent hospital outbreaks
- Prevent community transmission

WHO Supports Countries in partnerships

1. **Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring - Command and control system**
2. **Risk communication and community engagement**
3. **Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation**
4. **Points of entry**
5. **National laboratories**
6. **Infection prevention and control**
7. **Case management**
8. **Operational support and logistics**



Laboratory and logistics support to countries



Technical support to laboratories requesting assistance with COVID-19 diagnostic capacities:

- Assistance with establishing COVID-19 virus diagnostic capacities: 50/53 countries have identified national laboratories for testing
- Provision of technical guidance, including adapting diagnostic assays to national laboratory platforms
- Facilitating access to referral laboratories, provide information and funding on shipping of clinical samples

Personal protective equipment (PPE) and reagents for priority countries

Surge capacity has been deployed to support priority countries through the Central Asia, Balkan and Caucasus Hubs as well as in WHO office in Copenhagen;

Challenges

- **Shipment delays due to regulations and customs**
- **Lack of emergency procurement procedures**
- **Global shortages**

Distribution status of supplies within EURO region

1. Testing Kits

Delivered to Labs	Arrived, under customs clearance	In transit
ALB, ARM, AZE, BIH, BLR, GEO, KGZ, LTU, MDA, MKD, MNE, RUS, SRB*, TKM, UKR	KAZ	TJK, UZB

2. Case Management Kits

Delivered	In transit	Ready to ship	Under preparation
-	-	KAZ, KGZ, SRB*, TJK, UZB	ALB, ARM, BIH, MDA, MKD, MNE, TKM, UKR

* Including for Kosovo in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 [1999]

Epidemiological support

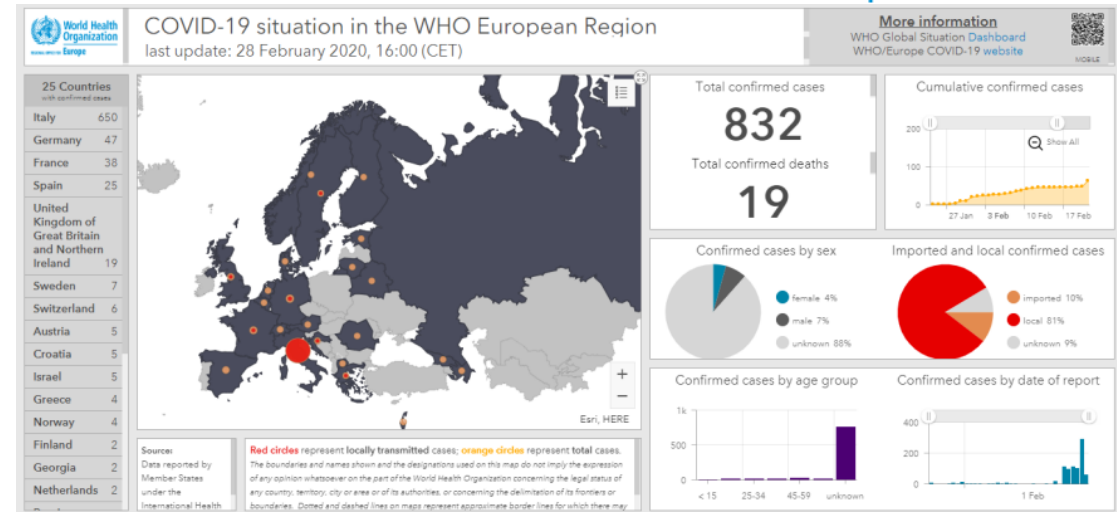
Daily situation updates for European Region
Guidance documents in English and Russian
Country missions (e.g. Italy ongoing)

Technical assistance on containment, repatriation, surveillance, contact tracing, and epidemiological investigations/studies

Adaptation of existing influenza surveillance systems for COVID-19

Surveillance gaps and needs analysis

Regular contact with technical counterparts and EC/ECDC



Infection Prevention and Control

WHO/Europe continues to support countries in their application of appropriate Infection Prevention and Control measures and national capacities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak through;

- Development of guidance on infection prevention and control practices in healthcare and homecare
- Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine, for countries who choose to implement such measures
- Advice on the use of masks and rational use of personal protective equipment
- Strengthening health promotion in the areas of hand and respiratory hygiene
- Regular contacts with national focal points and 2nd IPC best practices meeting on Infection Prevention and Control in the context of COVID-19.

Hospital Readiness

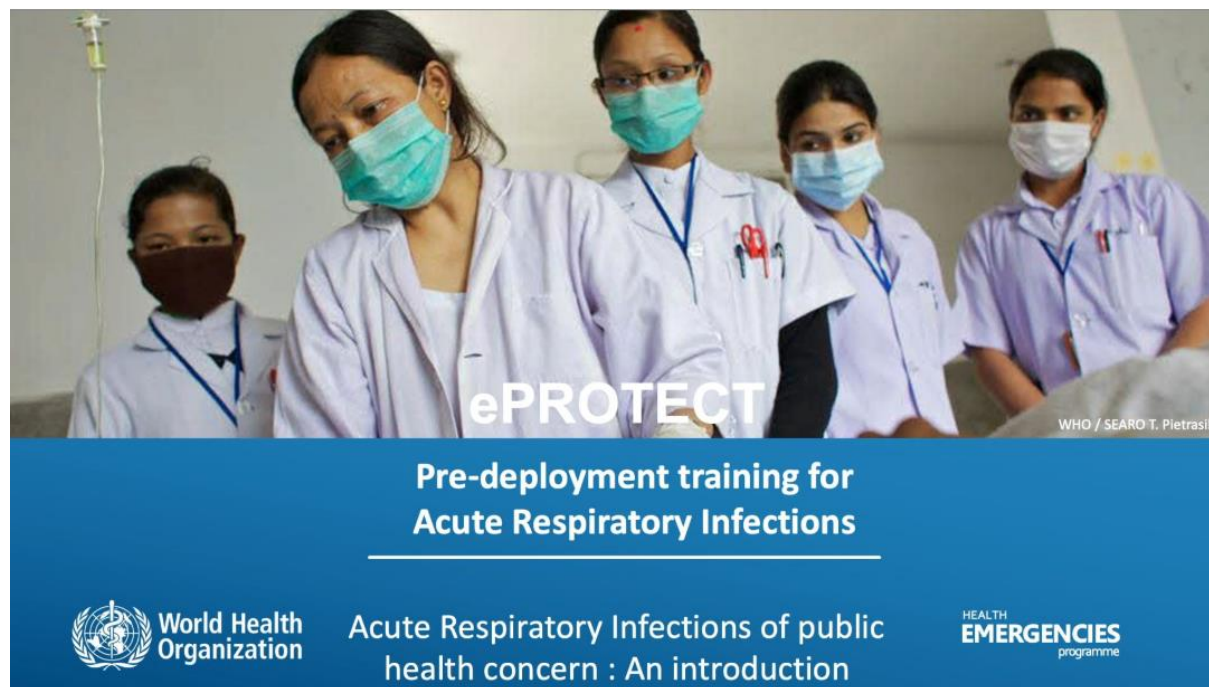
Risk Communication



Rapid Response Team mission in Italy to support COVID-19 control and prevention efforts

Assisting and learning

A WHO-led team with experts from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) arrived in Italy on Monday 24 February to support in the areas of **clinical management, infection prevention and control, surveillance and risk communication.**



Partnerships

- UN agencies, EU and its institutions and particularly European Center for Disease Control (ECDC).
- Global Alert and Response Network (GOARN):
 - 55% of deployments and 30% of GOARN offers from partners within the Region.
 - GOARN deployments to support the Regional Office and assist surveillance and epidemiological efforts in the Italian response
- Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) from the Region are currently providing emergency preparedness and response support nationally and also globally.
 - Germany EMT to support Mongolia,
 - Two UK EMTs to support Ghana, Cambodia and the Marshall Islands



World Health
Organization

Reduce risk of **coronavirus** **infection**

1



Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

2



When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands

3



Avoid close contact with anyone that has fever and cough

Avoid traveling if you have fever or cough



Credit: Euronews

People with no respiratory symptoms, such as cough, do not need to wear a medical mask

The use of masks is crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone (at home or in a health care facility)

If you are over 60 years old, or if you have an underlying condition, you may wish to take extra precautions to avoid crowded areas, or places where you might interact with people who are sick

Risk Communication

Make sure your information comes from reliable sources – your local or national public health agency, the WHO website, or your local health professionals.

Educate yourself about COVID-19

- Everyone should know the symptoms:
 - For most people, it starts with a fever and a dry cough, not a runny nose
 - Most people will have mild disease and get better without needing any special care

If you feel unwell

It's not usually a runny nose. In 90% of cases it's a fever and in 70% of cases a dry cough.

Stay at home and call your doctor or local health professional

At home, stay separately from your family, use different utensils and cutlery to eat.

If you develop shortness of breath, call the your doctor/emergency team and seek care immediately.

Its normal to feel anxious, especially if you live in a country or community that has been affected.

Discuss how to stay safe, with your workplace and aspects of your life, help your community.



Stigma is harmful to people and to the outbreak response

Stigma can.....

- drive people to hide the illness to avoid discrimination.
- stop people from seeking health care immediately and
- prevent people from adopting healthy behaviors.

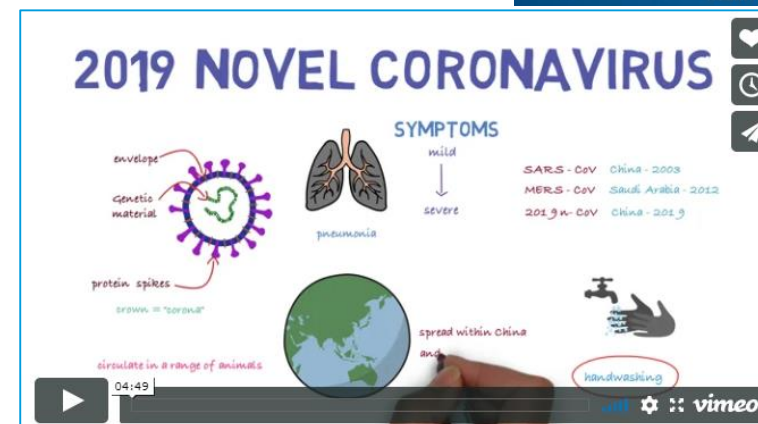
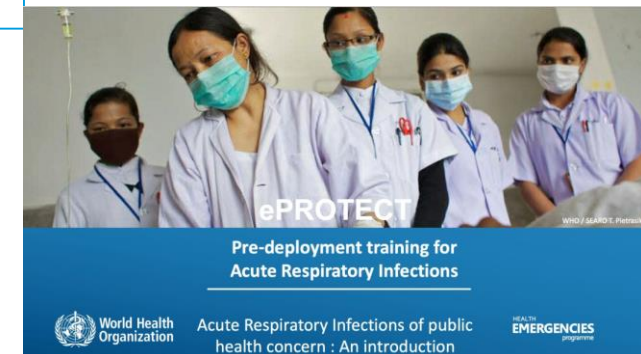


Dr. Tedros

"This is the time for facts, not fear.
This is the time for science, not rumors.
This is the time for solidarity, not stigma.
We are all in this together."

COVID-19 training resources

- Public health preparedness for mass gathering events
<https://extranet.who.int/hslp/training/enrol/index.php?id=135>
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) <https://openwho.org/courses/COVID-19-IPC-EN>)
- ePROTECT for respiratory diseases
<https://openwho.org/courses/eprotect-acute-respiratory-infections>
- WHO Critical Care Severe Acute Respiratory Infection course
<https://openwho.org/courses/severe-acute-respiratory-infection>
- Emerging respiratory viruses, including COVID-19: methods for detection, prevention, response and control
<https://openwho.org/courses/introduction-to-ncov>



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



Press conference on the IHR Emergency Committee on the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV)



THANK YOU