

Data reported by the Department of Health on 22 March 2020

### Highlights

- **150 new cases tested positive for COVID-19 and 7 additional deaths reported since 20 March 2020**
- Out of 380 confirmed cases, 38.2% are still under investigation.
- Department of Health (DOH) stepping up its case investigation and contact tracing system with Epidemiological Surveillance Units (ESU) through online system at regional, provincial, city and municipal level.
- Many hospitals reportedly running low on Personal Protection Equipment, causing an increasing number of health workers to self-quarantine because of exposure to suspected COVID-19 cases.
- Many parts of the Philippines with **enhanced community quarantine** in place.
- DOH preparing three hospitals in National Capital Region (NCR) dedicated for COVID-19 patients: Lung Centre, Philippine General Hospital, and Dr Jose M Rodriguez Memorial Hospital (75 beds)\*
- **Community quarantine measures aimed at decreasing stress on health facilities through minimizing risk of infection, potentially resulting in lower morbidity and mortality. Key focus on at-risk groups including elderly and people with underlying health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension**
- Increase in the daily testing capacity at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and 4 sub national laboratories in Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Manila. Laboratory assessment among additional public and private hospitals ongoing.
- Increased cooperation among public and private partners in procurement of urgently needed supplies in view of global shortages.
- Government finalizing National COVID-19 Contingency Plan complemented by Humanitarian Country Team Response Plan.

\* Correction from earlier reported 4 hospitals

### PHILIPPINES SITUATION IN NUMBERS

380 confirmed (150 new)

25 deaths (7 new)

593 admitted Persons Under Investigation

6,321 Persons Under Monitoring

1,516 samples tested

<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

<http://www.covid19.gov.ph/>

#### DOH COVID-19 HOTLINE

OPEN TO ALL CALLERS NATIONWIDE:

**(02) 894-COVID**

(02) 894-26843

FOR PLDT, SMART, SUN,  
AND TNT SUBSCRIBERS:

**1555**

We're working to have the 1555 hotline accessible for all.

f OfficialDOHgov @DOHgovph doh.gov.ph (02) 894-COVID

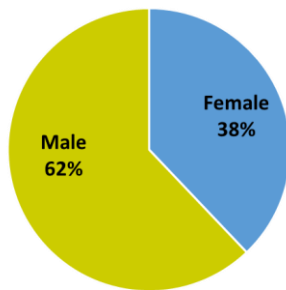
## Current Situation

Between 20 and 22 March, 150 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the Philippines, and 7 additional death, totalling 380 confirmed cases, including 25 deaths.

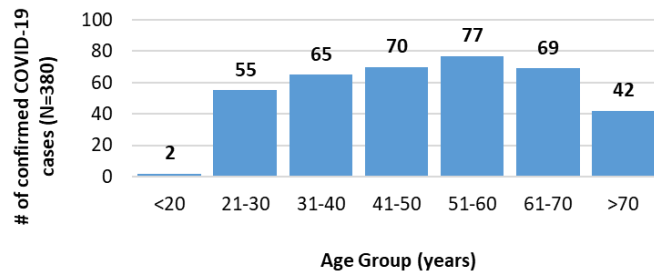
Out of total 25 deaths, 78% are male, and the majority are 60 years and older, ranging between 39 and 88 years of age with a median age of 66. 90% of deaths had either one or several known co-morbidities including diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and hypertension.

Among the 380 confirmed cases, 236 are male (62%) and 144 are female (38%). The most affected age groups are 51-60 (20%) followed by 41-50 years (18%)

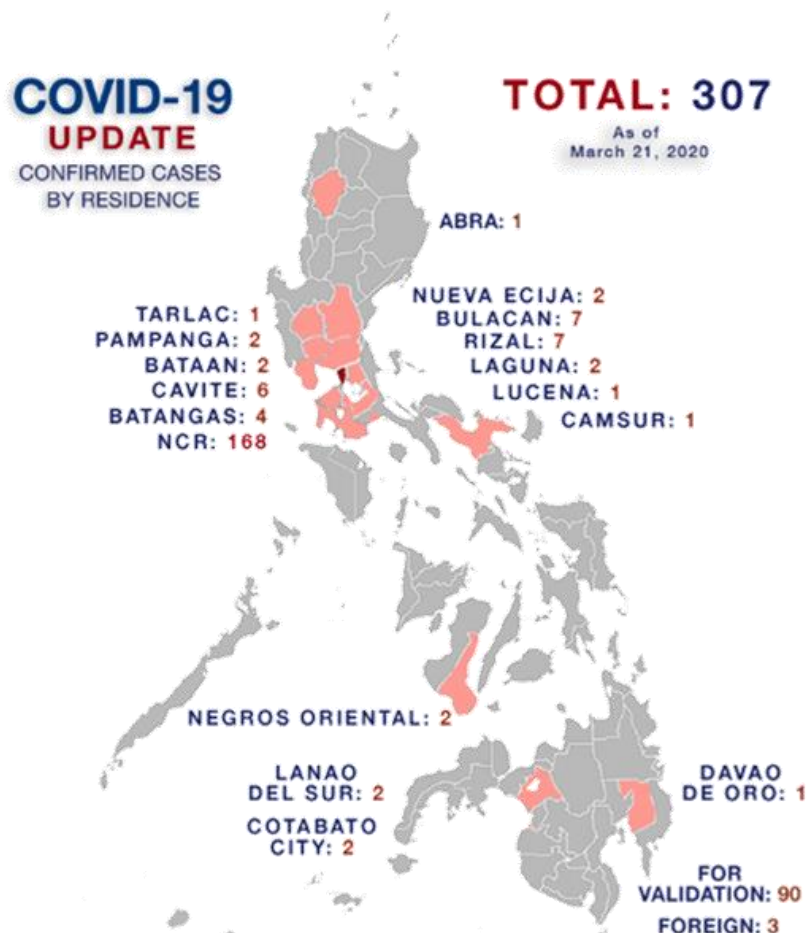
**Gender distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in %**  
18 January-22 March 2020 (N=380)



**Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in #**  
18 January-22 March 2020 (N=380)



**Confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines by Residence**  
18 January-21 March 2020 (N=307)



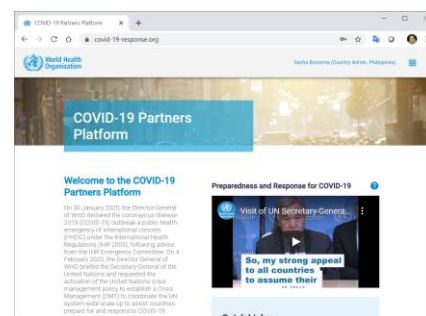
## Country readiness and response operations

### Country-level coordination

The National COVID-19 Contingency Plan is being finalized with inputs from key government partners, complemented by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Response Plan for COVID-19.

WHO and OCHA jointly updating Philippines profile on online COVID-19 Partners Platform for Country Preparedness and Response

<https://covid-19-response.org/>.



COVID-19-related restrictions are hindering many NGO partners in ongoing operations to provide support to displaced populations affected by recent disasters. WHO is advocating with DOH for supporting partners' exemption requests for increased access. NGOs like Community and Family Services International (CFSI) have successfully advocated for access into Marawi for humanitarian aid and medical missions from recognized national and international organizations.

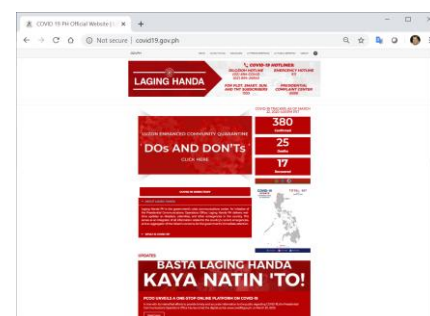
Interagency Task Forces (IATF) are established at regional and provincial level to better coordinate inter-governmental response to the outbreak. Many IATF have started to explore possible quarantine facilities for COVID-19 cases at city and province level.

All relevant guidelines, issuances, and documents from key government departments on actions taken so far are available online at [bit.ly/COVIDPH](http://bit.ly/COVIDPH).

### Risk communication and community engagement

With more and more localities in the Philippines enforcing community quarantine, the use of social media becomes increasingly important to reach the broader population as well as specific target groups including barangay health workers, with key messages on staying home, hand hygiene, disinfection, as well as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

The government now has a dedicated website for COVID-19 available at <http://www.covid19.gov.ph>



### Surveillance

DOH has set up an online system to speed up data collection on confirmed and suspected cases as well as contacts from Epidemiological Surveillance Units (ESU) at municipal, city, provincial and regional level. Further rumour-based investigations are ongoing to look for clusters of unknown diseases.

DOH is also enhancing its surveillance of Influenza Like Illness and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness to actively find suspected COVID-19 cases.

### National laboratory system

Laboratory assessment ongoing among additional private and public hospital laboratories to step up laboratory testing in country, besides RITM, 4 sub national laboratories (Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Manila), and the University of the Philippines National Institute for Health (UP-NIH).

Global shortage of key supplies is resulting in serious delays with delivery of reagents, primers, probes, extraction kits and transport media. WHO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are supporting DOH with the sourcing of urgently required laboratory supplies.

Please see WHO's Emergency Use Listing (EUL) Weekly Update from 17 March 2020

[https://www.who.int/diagnostics\\_laboratory/200317\\_eul\\_covid\\_19\\_ivd\\_update.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/diagnostics_laboratory/200317_eul_covid_19_ivd_update.pdf?ua=1)

### Infection prevention and control

Different modalities for IPC training for public and private hospitals workers and community health workers being explored, including Facebook live sessions, webinars through Zoom and other. As soon as IPC guidelines for health workers are approved by DOH, manuals will be adapted into online modules. IPC trainings are supported by USAID’s Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPs), UNICEF and WHO.



Lack of proper Personal Protection Equipment is forcing health authorities like in BARMM to use improvised materials to protect its health workers

NGOs like the International Medical Corps (IMC) have provided PPEs and Training of Trainers on infection prevention and control to the Manila Health Department. IMC also supports with the installation of tent facilities and transport of health workers of the Santa Ana Hospital in Manila with a 24H service vehicle, as well as with the provision of cleaning materials.

### Case management and continuity of essential services

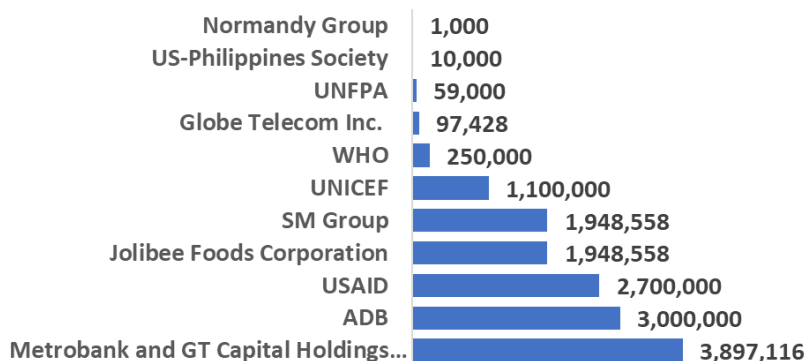
Virtual working groups are being established between UN and NGO partners to support DOH with providing technical inputs to guidelines focused on continuation of essential health care services, including TB, HIV, mother and child health care, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, and routine immunization.

WHO is supporting DOH with preparing its dedicated hospitals in NCR for treatment of severe and critical COVID-19 cases, to reduce the burden on other health facilities currently at risk of being overwhelmed.

## Resource mobilization

### Grant

DOH has received grants from the below donors up to date:



As of 19 March, WHO received more than US\$ 165.5 million and an additional US\$ 138.9 million in pledges to its global appeal. This includes €114 million from the European Union to support 80 priority countries with weakened health care systems and capacity including the Philippines.

### Loan



**Logistics, procurement, and supply management**

Who	What		Delivered	Expected	
Americares	N95 masks	1,440	DOH on 17/3		
PRC	Medical tents for isolation and treatment	30	In country		
	Face masks	20,000	Philippines General Hospital		
	PPE	2,000			
UNFPA	Medical supplies, masks, alcohol, food		6 Manila district hospitals		
	Face masks	100,000	DOH		
	Handheld thermometers	1,130			
UNICEF	PPE	± 60,000 USD	For frontline health workers		
	Tents for triage and isolation purposes	44	20 donated on 11/3	24 on 23/4	
	Disinfection kits	100	In country		
USAID	PPE sets for hospital workers (complete)	55,000		Ongoing procurement	
	PPE sets for contact tracing (mask and gloves)	30,000			
	N95 Respirators	1,000		Awaiting delivery	
	Faceshield	2,500			
	Gloves, nitrile	20,000			
	Goggles, reusable	500			
	Gowns	1,500			
	Surgical Masks	20,000			
	Apron	2,500			
	Shoe Cover	5,000			
WHO	Surgical Cap	5,000			
	PPE	12,000	Donated to DOH		
	<b>Laboratory supplies</b>				
		<i>E-gene EAV kits</i>	115	Donated to RITM	
		<i>RdRP-gene kits</i>	95		
		<i>N gene/E gene/RdRp gene vials</i>	12		
	<b>Universal Transport Media</b>				
		<i>UTM Viral transport kit</i>	300		Awaiting delivery
		<i>Flexible Mini Tip</i>	1000		
		<i>Regular Flocked Swab</i>	1000		
<b>Extraction kits</b>					
	<i>QIAgen QIamp Viral RNA Mini Kit</i>	18	17 delivered	21 on the way	
	<i>SuperScript III Platinum One-step qRT-PCR</i>	20			
World Vision	Mobile Storage Unit 10 x 32m	4	2 in Manila and 2 in Cebu		
	Tents (child-friendly space) 7 x 6m	17	Clark, Pampanga		