

COVID – 19 Tajikistan Situation Report # 2 10 April 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 3 – 10, 2020. The next report will be issued on or around April 17, 2020.

As of 10 April 2020 - no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Tajikistan.

0

Confirmed cases of COVID 19

1,681

Specimen tested (negative)

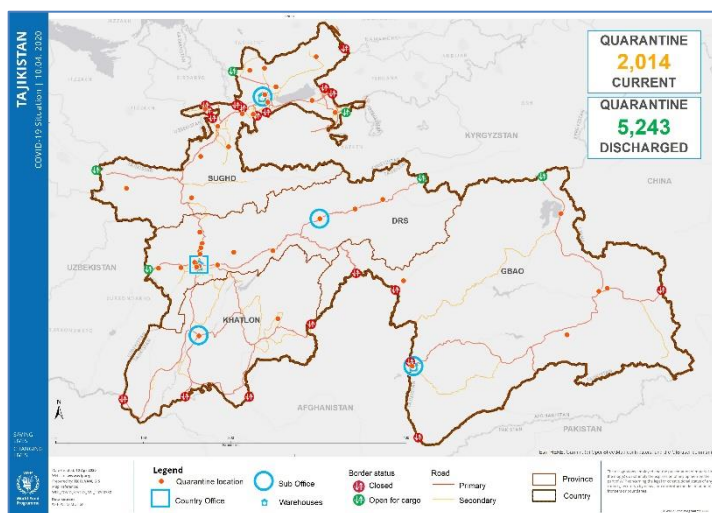
2,014

People in quarantine
(in 22 hospitals/sanatoriums across Tajikistan)

Source: Ministry of Health and Social protection of the Population, Tajikistan, 9 April 2020

Tajikistan situation overview

- No restrictions on mass gatherings in the country. All public services (markets, public transport, banks and etc), including all education facilities are functioning in regular mode. Authorities report that appropriate disinfection works are being undertaken regularly in all the public facilities.
- Over the weekend of April 4 – 5, 2020 authorities placed the Central Hospital in Jabbor Rasulov district of Sughd oblast under quarantine after the death of a 61 y.o man who was being treated for pneumonia. This created rumors that the patient had died from COVID-19. MoHSP made an official statement that patient was tested negative for coronavirus twice before passing away. Relatives and health workers treating the patient, as well as health facilities were put in quarantine as a precautionary measure.
- Inter-city road communication is not restricted across the country, except of partial closure of roads to Ovchi-Qalacha and Khistevarz Jamoats of B. Gafurov district in the Sughd oblast. The villages of the named Jamoats are located directly on the border with Kyrgyzstan.
- On April 10, 2020 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced temporary restrictions on the entry and exit of all foreign citizens and stateless persons through all checkpoints on the state border of the Republic of Tajikistan, except diplomatic corps, representatives of international organizations and financial institutions, as well as members of their families accredited in the Republic of Tajikistan. Those who enter, are placed in 14 days mandatory self-isolation under the supervision of employees of MoHSP.
- Airports remain closed, while railway routes remain open for cargo. Only few charter repatriation flights are occurring by local and foreign air couriers.
- Border crossing points with China and Afghanistan remain closed, while 3 border crossing points with Uzbekistan and another 3 with Kyrgyzstan are open for international cargo. International trucks are unloaded in the terminal zone and goods are loaded onto local trucks. Drivers who enter Tajikistan are placed in 14-day quarantine in districts hospitals.
- As of 10 April 2020, staple food commodities are reportedly available in all Tajik markets with the exception of Khorog central market where a temporary stockout of wheat flour was reported from 3-7 April 2020.
- During the reporting week, price fluctuations were observed in all five markets compared to the previous week, and prices remained high. Potato prices increased across all the markets up to 20 percent during the reporting week compared to previous week.
- Status of food commodities: WFP Safety Nets Alert Platform: <https://snap.vam.wfp.org/index1.php>
- Prices for petrol and diesel decreases in Khorog, Khujand and Gharm in the range from 1.2 to 6.5 percent during the reporting week.



Click on map to access Online Platform

Decisions and measures undertaken by the Government

- Government of Tajikistan, through Ministry of Finance is negotiating with different IFIs the budgetary support to ensure socio-economic stability during COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Ministry of Finance announced that negotiations are on-going with the IMF on long-term concessional credit.
- The National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT) is assessing the possibility to defer the credit repayments due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of Tajikistan.
- On April 10, 2020 Ministry of Education and Science approved the National Education Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 developed with the support of UNICEF. Among others the Plan foresees Education-Specific Rapid Needs Assessment in the context of COVID-19 emergency in Tajikistan to identify education-related needs in relation to access to learning opportunities, nutrition, WASH, disability, as well as impact on education budget and possible education disruption in the new academic year.
- On April 6, 2020 Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested all UN Agencies and International Organizations accredited in the Republic of Tajikistan to postpone all the events planned for April 2020 to later period due to epidemiological situation.

Response

- WHO Tajikistan continues to provide the technical advice to Government of Tajikistan, through MoHSP on public health protection, including supporting MoHSP in development of comprehensive list of needed medical supplies.
- Uzbekistan provided 1,000 MT of Wheat Flour and other medical supplies, mainly Personal Protective Equipment.
- USAID announced a commitment of \$868,923 to be channeled through partners Abt Associates, IFRC and WHO. Assistance includes support to strengthening Tajikistan's health system, medical supplies, strengthening laboratory capacities, risk communication and etc.
- In addition to the three batches of PPE & hygiene supplies that have already been procured/ handed over to MoHSP, UNICEF has committed to deliver 63 MT of Personal Protective Equipment to the Government of Tajikistan, to be used in national healthcare facilities;
- The **overview of the assistance provided by International Partners** (including bi-lateral assistance) prepared by DCC Working Group on Health can be found at: <https://untj.org/dcc/covid-19/>

Needs

- Government of Tajikistan through the Office of the Prime Minister has appealed to international partners for assistance in acquisition of critical medical items, including mechanical ventilation machines, express tests for COVID-19 detection, as well as Personal Protective Equipment.
- At the meeting of the Prime Minister of Tajikistan with the Development Coordination Council (2 April 2020) following the medical supplies, food assistance was mentioned as next priority need.

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. Similar Standing Committees have been established at all administrative levels by local authorities, as well as within all Ministries and Agencies.
- MoHSP is the central operational body within the Government and Standing Committee, responsible for coordination and liaison with the international partners.
- 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.
- Coordination of Risk Communication and Community Engagement on COVID 19 in Tajikistan is led by MoHSP supported by UNICEF.

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**