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Konu : Dünya Sağlık Örgütü'nün COVID-19 Güncel Bilgileri Hk.

Sirküler No: 884

Sayın Üyemiz,

Uluslararası Deniz Ticaret Odası'ndan (International Chamber of Shipping - ICS) alınan 03.08.2020 tarihli Ek'te sunulan yazıda, bölge ve ülkelerdeki COVID-19 vakalarına ilişkin sayılar, ülkelerin güncel durumları ve toplam ölüm oranları hakkında detaylı bilgiler verilmektedir.

Yazıda devamla, COVID-19 salgını ile ilgili Uluslararası Sağlık Tüzüğü (International Health Regulations–IHR) Acil Durum Komitesi'nin 31 Temmuz 2020 tarihinde gerçekleştirilen 4. Toplantısı sonrasında Dünya Sağlık Örgütü (World Health Organization–WHO) tarafından yapılan açıklamaya <https://bit.ly/2PqviAp>; COVID-19 salgını ile mücadelede G-7 Yüksek Düzey Ulaştırma İlkeleri'ne <https://bit.ly/3a2GqN2> ve Dünya Sağlık Örgütü tarafından yayımlanan "Uluslararası Seyahatler Süresince Halk Sağlığı ile İlgili Hususlar" konulu yeni kılavuza ise <https://bit.ly/31mAP0d> internet adresinden ulaşılabileceği bildirilmektedir.

COVID-19 salgını ile ilgili ülke ve bölgelere ilişkin verilen detaylı bilgiler Ek'te sunulmaktadır.

Bilgilerinize arz/rica ederim.

Saygılarımla,

İsmet SALİHOĞLU
Genel Sekreter

Ek:

ICS'den alınan 03.08.2020 tarihli yazı. (14 sayfa)

Dağıtım:

- Tüm Üyeler (WEB Sayfası)

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3 August 2020

COVID-19(20)125

**TO: LABOUR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ALL MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
BI WEEKLY MEMBERS MEETING PARTICIPANTS
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION GROUP PARTICIPANTS**

COVID-19 UPDATE AS OF 2 AUGUST 2020

ACTION REQUIRED: *Members are invited to note:*

- *Information provided by WHO for 2 August 2020.*
- *Publication of a WHO Statement following the 4th IHR Emergency Committee for COVID-19 - 31 July 2020.*
[https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/01-08-2020-statement-on-the-fourth-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/01-08-2020-statement-on-the-fourth-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19))
- *Publication of G7 High-Level Transportation Principles in Response to COVID-19. It includes some high-level principles related to Protection and Treatment of Seafarers*
<https://www.state.gov/q7-high-level-transportation-principles-in-response-to-covid-19/>
- *New guidance of the WHO on 'Public health considerations while resuming international travel'*
<https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/public-health-considerations-while-resuming-international-travel>

216 countries have now reported 17 660 523 confirmed cases of COVID-19. 1,874882 (10.61%) additional cases were confirmed since the last report a week ago. There have also been 40,878 (6.01%) additional deaths. However, many countries still cannot report all cases due to insufficient testing equipment, so numbers will be considerably higher. 13 Countries reporting cases of Covid-19 are now declaring themselves currently COVID-19 free compared to 14 last week.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS BY WHO REGION

Region	Cases	Deaths
Global	17 660 523	680 894
Africa	802 792	13 779
Americas	9 476 763	359 180
Eastern Mediterranean	1 554 065	40 386
Europe	3 375 535	213 284
South-East Asia	2 131 165	45 837
Western Pacific	319 462	8 415

To get specific information about a country please visit the WHO-Covid-19 dashboard. [Link](#).

TOP 12 COUNTRIES WITH CASES AS AT 20 JULY 2020 (Greatest first)

	Last Week	This week	Status
1	United States of America	United States of America	The Same
2	Brazil	Brazil	The Same
3	India	India	The Same
4	Russia	Russia	The Same
5	South Africa	South Africa	The Same
6	Peru	Mexico	Changed
7	Mexico	Peru	Changed
8	Chile	Chile	The Same
9	United Kingdom	Iran	Changed
10	Iran	United Kingdom	Changed
11	Pakistan	Colombia	Changed
12	Spain	Spain	The Same

TOP 12 COUNTRIES

	WITH INCREASING CASES RECORDED YESTERDAY	WITH HIGHEST FATALITIES RECORDED YESTERDAY
1	India	Mexico
2	United States of America	India
3	Brazil	Brazil
4	Colombia	USA
5	Mexico	Colombia
6	South Africa	South Africa
7	Peru	Iran
8	Russia	Peru
9	Argentina	Bolivia

10	Philippines	Chile
11	Iran	Russia
12	Iraq	Iraq

Cruise News

A crew member on a Pacific cruise ship has tested positive for Covid-19, according to reports from French Polynesia. The Paul Gauguin had to suspend its journey just weeks after resuming operations when the case was detected by the ship's doctor. Passengers were told to stay in their cabins as the ship turned back to Papeete on Tahiti, where all on board are expected to be tested. Ahead of resuming operations, Ponant, the company running the Paul Gauguin, reassured customers that it had strict regulations in place that exceed the international standards for the sector. The ship was sailing between Bora Bora and Rangiroa when the case was found.

A Norwegian cruise ship has also been struck by the virus. 36 crew members confined on the Hurtigruten MS Roald Amundsen tested positive for coronavirus, officials said on Saturday. It was on a journey to the Svalbard in the Arctic before it docked in Tromso, northern Norway. All 160 quarantined crew are to be tested and the 177 passengers, now disembarked urged to self-isolate.

TUI Cruises and AIDA Cruises have also both had to cancel some small scale test cruises due to positive cases of seafarers. The good news is that the protocols of both companies have actually worked as they found seafarers about to join the ships and isolated them. The bad news though is that all of them came from Manila and were certified before leaving as negative

Around the World

Africa

South Africa

South Africa is the hardest-hit country in Africa and accounts for half of all reported infections in Africa. It also has the fifth-highest number of cases globally. Researchers have said the true number of deaths in the country may be far higher. Over half a million coronavirus cases have been confirmed in South Africa, according to the country's health minister. He announced 10,107 new cases on Saturday, bringing the tally to 503,290, along with 8,153 deaths.

South African health authorities have said the rate of infection is increasing rapidly, with cases currently concentrated around Pretoria. Over a third of all infections have been reported in Gauteng - South Africa's financial hub, and a province that has quickly become the epicentre of the national outbreak. Infections are not expected to peak for another month.

Responding to the new figures, President Ramaphosa called on citizens to remain vigilant.

South Africa imposed a strict lockdown in April and May to slow the spread of the virus. It began a gradual reopening in June but restrictions including a ban on alcohol sales were reintroduced last month as infection rates began to rise again. A state of emergency is also in force until 15 August.

The president tried to highlight the positive as South Africa reached its grim milestone in the battle against the virus pointing to a recovery rate of 68% and said the number of deaths was significantly lower than the global average.

But experts were sceptical given the different criteria and methods used by different provinces and comparisons with African countries with low levels of testing.

Mr Ramaphosa said the lockdown had prevented the health system from becoming initially overwhelmed and suspension of alcohol sales had significantly reduced trauma cases in hospitals. Yet even with such strict restrictions it has been mandatory, for example, to wear face masks in public since May social distancing is often impossible in South Africa's densely packed townships, where the virus quickly spread during the winter season.

The influx of patients has put an incredible strain on South Africa's hospitals. President Ramaphosa said last month that 28,000 hospital beds had been made available for Covid-19 patients but the country still faces a "serious" shortage of doctors and nurses.

Asia

Australia

Melbourne is shutting down shops, factories and other non-essential businesses as authorities fight a second wave of coronavirus. Other measures include a night-time curfew for five million residents, after an earlier lockdown failed to contain the virus.

About one million workers in Australia's second-biggest city will now have to stay at home. Authorities hope this will reduce the virus' transmission.

Until recently, Australia had had more success than many other countries in tackling Covid-19, but an outbreak in Melbourne has pushed the nation to its worst point yet. Over half of the nation's total 18,300 cases were recorded just the last month in Victoria. There have been 215 deaths. Melburnians endured their first night of curfew on Sunday which will run from 20:00 to 05:00 for six weeks. The only valid reasons for leaving home during these hours will be work, medical care or care-giving.

Many people say they have accepted the necessity of the restrictions but expressed anger and despair over the new measures. Under "Stage Four" lockdown, Melbourne residents will also only be allowed to shop and exercise within 5km (three miles) of their home. Exercise outside of the home will only be allowed for one hour at a time.

In Melbourne, there are currently about 750,000 workers who are working from home or have been furloughed. Forcing businesses such as construction sites and factories to reduce their workforce from Thursday for the first time in the pandemic meant another 250,000 people would not be travelling for work.

Essential shops like supermarkets will remain open authorities have stressed. Remote education is also set to resume from Wednesday, taking about one million students and teachers out of the city's public transport system. Essential services like supermarkets, petrol stations and banks would remain open and urged people not to panic buy.

China

On Friday China recorded its highest daily total of new Covid-19 cases since early March, as the United Nations warned the pandemic could force tens of millions of people in south-east Asia into extreme poverty. Chinese health authorities confirmed 127 new cases, including four imported and 123 local transmissions. Of the local transmissions, 112 were in Xinjiang and 11 in the province of Liaoning. Separately, authorities also reported 11 new asymptomatic cases. Last week saw China's largest daily rises in cases since the peak, with 105 reported on Wednesday, 101 on Tuesday, and 68 on Monday.

In Xinjiang, strict anti-virus measures were put in place in Urumqi for over a week, including suspension of most public transport and flights, and controls on the entry and exit of people at housing compounds in some districts.

However, experts have sounded the alarm over the risk to people detained in China's secretive internment camps. Clusters of infections have been recorded in Urumqi, and the city of Kashgar about 300km away, suggesting infections could be widespread in between. There are fears the virus could be brought into the camps by employees or brought into the homes of Uighur and other Turkic minority families by Han Chinese who move into their house under a compulsory homestay program.

The Liaoning outbreak is centred in Dalian but has spread to other cities and provinces in recent days. Over 17,500 medics were mobilised to run almost 2,700 testing sites across the city. By midnight on Tuesday about 3.53m samples were collected.

Since bringing the virus largely under control after the outbreak in Wuhan over seven months ago, China continues to see frequent outbreaks in large cities, including in Beijing, and a second spike in Wuhan. Authorities have responded quickly with varying lockdown measures, and large-scale testing, which the China Daily described as being a default response to new clusters of Covid-19.

Over 2.3m tests were conducted in Urumqi in the first 10 days of the outbreak, and over 1.2m on the first day of Dalian's outbreak. In Urumqi 13 - 38 asymptomatic carriers a day were identified. A National Health Commission spokesman claimed China could test 3.78 million people a day and had doubled testing facilities between early March and late June.

Hong Kong

The first members of a team of medical experts from mainland China have arrived in Hong Kong to help with the new wave of infections. The territory is in the midst of a serious surge in cases after managing to keep the virus at bay. For almost two weeks, daily cases have exceeded 100, fuelling fears that containment and contact tracing are not working well. Today, two more deaths were linked to Covid-19, taking the overall toll to 37. Authorities confirmed 80 new cases. Local media are reporting plans to test the entire population.

India

A senior Indian leader Amit Shah, was admitted to hospital with coronavirus, one among a series of top party stalwarts to be afflicted he tweeted that he was tested after showing “initial symptoms.” He appealed to all those who had come in contact with him in recent days to isolate themselves and get tested. He is last known to have met prime minister Modi at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, though Indian officials said on Sunday that the prime minister was following social distancing protocols. He has also appeared at some public functions and was at the front of efforts to persuade Indians that India has fared far better than advanced, wealthier nations declaring India was fighting a most successful battle against the virus.

BS Yeddyurappa, chief minister of the BJP-ruled southern state of Karnataka, also confirmed that he had been infected with the deadly pathogen on Sunday night, and was in hospital. He is the second state chief minister to be afflicted with the virus, after the BJP’s Shivraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh tested positive last week.

India has been hard hit by covid with over 52,700 people testing positive for covid in the past 24 hours, exceeding the number of new cases in the US. In total, India has confirmed 1.8m infections, with 38,171 deaths, including over 750 on yesterday.

In Uttar Pradesh among those who died this weekend was Kamal Rani, a member of the cabinet of the state government. Another cabinet minister, Mahendra Singh, minister of water, and Swatantra Dev Singh, the BJP chief also tested positive for covid yesterday. BJP veteran Banwarilal Purohit, 80, governor of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, also tested positive yesterday was admitted to hospital.

Indonesia

The governor of the capital, Jakarta, Anies Baswedan, extended social restrictions on Thursday to curb coronavirus transmission, warning of a hike in cases. Schools remain closed and restaurants and public transportation will continue to operate at limited capacity until 13 August. There has not been any improvement from two weeks ago to right now, he said, adding there had been clusters found in offices in the capital. Indonesia has reported a total of 106,336 coronavirus cases, the biggest in east Asia, though it is feared by some health experts to be an underestimate.

Japan

Tokyo confirmed an additional 292 covid infections yesterday down from the increases of recent days, while newly reported cases across Japan topped 1,000 for the fifth straight day. Across Japan, 1,331 more infections were reported, bringing the cumulative total to 39,902. The death toll stayed at 1,026.

Japan has seen a resurgence of covid since the central government fully lifted a state of emergency in late May, with Tokyo and other prefectures reimposing restrictions on some businesses to try to prevent further infections. People have been asked to consider carefully if they need to return to their hometowns during summer vacation, citing fears that such trips could spread the virus, particularly among the elderly. Many in the public are on high alert while authorities in large cities have been forced to reimpose restrictions on some businesses to address the resurgence of the virus.

With Sunday’s figure in Tokyo, the city’s cumulative total now stands at 13,455.

Tokyo raised its alert for covid in mid-July to the highest of the four levels, meaning “infections are spreading.” Gov. Yuriko Koike warned on Friday that Tokyo may declare an emergency, although the central government fully lifted a state of emergency in late May. The metropolitan government has requested that establishments serving alcohol and karaoke parlors close early at 10 p.m. to prevent further spread of the virus, effective today through to the end of August.

Osaka and Aichi prefectures are following suit after a growing number of infections were reported in downtown areas. In Osaka, 194 new infections were reported Sunday, slightly lower than the 195 confirmed the previous day. The highest daily count was 221 logged last Wednesday. In Aichi, Gov. Omura said 160 new cases were confirmed Sunday, with 103 in Nagoya. The prefecture’s cumulative total is 2,139.

Prefectures near Tokyo also saw a spike in infections. Kanagawa Prefecture reported 72 new cases on Sunday, while Chiba reported 51.

In Okinawa, the prefectural government said yesterday that 64 more people had been infected with the virus. 517 cases have been confirmed so far. It also said it had received reports from the U.S. military that 17 personnel at Camp Hansen, Camp Kinser and one Kadena and Futenma bases had tested positive. The number of U.S. military personnel infected with COVID-19 now stands at 273, according to the Okinawa government.

New Zealand

Auckland International Airport in New Zealand is to be separated into two zones in preparation for a potential air corridor between the country and the Cook islands. Zone A would be for countries with a “bubble arrangement” with New Zealand and for people who have been in New Zealand for over two weeks. This zone will have restaurants, Zone B is for travellers from countries without a safe travel arrangement and those who would have to go into quarantine, along with others transiting through the airport. People in zone b will be completely closed off from the rest of the airport. The Aviation Council said plans were in place for similar moves at Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown airports.

Philippines

It has been 2 months since the Filipino government announced that Metro Manila and most of the country was under General Community Quarantine (GCQ). Under this status, there was a phased approach to allow the economy to re-start after the lockdown period that lasted for over 100 days. The GCQ status enabled more businesses to open in phases and more people movement as work resumes.

In the past two weeks there was a spike in reported cases. Due to the increase, the Health sector and the government will focus more to allow health services to catch up in terms of capacity restoration and capacity building. Effective 04 August 2020, areas within Metro Manila, the provinces of Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, and Bulacan will once again be under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) status which is expected to last for 2 weeks. With the MECQ, there will be limited movement of non-essential workers and there will be no public transportation. It is unclear if government offices and embassies will remain open.

The Maritime industry is considered as an essential industry, and seafarers are essential workers and classified as Authorized Person Outside of Residence (APOR). While domestic transportation is a challenge, FSA will try to continue deployment and repatriation of seafarers.

Singapore

Commencing Thursday next week, Singapore will use an electronic tracker to monitor the 14 days of quarantine for anyone allowed to spend the time at home rather than in a state-run facility. So far, the quarantine has only been monitored with spot checks and phone calls. From 11 August, people will have to wear an electronic tracking device that will record their GPS location. Enforcement will likely be strict and unforgiving. Tampering with the device or flouting quarantine will lead to high fines and up to six months in prison.

Thailand

While many countries have managed to control covid it has disrupted trade, and brought travel to a standstill in tourism-dependent countries such as Thailand.

Vietnam

The health ministry in Vietnam says there were two more deaths linked to Covid-19, bringing the total to five. The deaths, were all recorded in just the past three days, are the first in Vietnam since the pandemic began. Health authorities also warn that the strain of the virus detected in the new outbreak around Da Nang is a more contagious one than the first wave. Vietnam has recorded only around 600 confirmed cases.

The Americas

Bolivia

Bolivia has declared the school year finished more than four months early. The cabinet chief said that rural areas just did not have enough access to the internet to make online studies feasible. All pupils will automatically pass to the higher year when classes resume. Teachers will continue to get paid, the government said. Bolivia has more than 80,000 confirmed cases and more than 3,100 Covid-related deaths.

Brazil

According to the Brazilian Health Ministry's official figures, July was the deadliest month for Brazil with at least 39,912 dying in the last month. However due to underreporting the real figures are probably much higher. With no end in sight for Covid in the country Brazil's death count is increasing each month whilst states and cities end lockdown measures.

Colombia

The past two days have seen a steep rise in cases in Colombia. It registered a new record daily high on Saturday with 10,673 new cases, only to surpass that figure on Sunday with 11,470 new cases in 24 hours.

Venezuela

Over 72,500 people who fled Venezuela's economic and political crisis returned to their home country via its land borders since COVID started, according to UN figures. Many Venezuelan migrants rely on informal jobs which were heavily hit by strict lockdowns imposed in many

countries in the region. Those returning face a mandatory quarantine in camps where conditions are described as overcrowded and squalid.

United States

One of President Trump's top medical advisers has warned that the US is entering a new phase in its fight against coronavirus. Deborah Birx said the disease was "extraordinarily widespread" across the country and a greater threat than when it first began. She said it was now affecting rural areas as well as big cities and that rural communities were not immune and should wear masks and practice social distancing. According to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, more than 4.6 million infections and at least 154,834 deaths have been confirmed in America.

She has urged people to return from holidays in any outbreak hotspots. She also shared her concerns about people taking holidays in hot spots, citing what she had seen while visiting 14 states during the last three weeks. "As I travelled around the country, I saw all of America moving," she said. "If you have chosen to go on vacation into a hot spot, you really need to come back and protect those with co-morbidities and assume you're infected." The outbreak has speeded up over the summer, particularly in southern and western states.

In another development, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi attacked Dr Birx, linking her to "disinformation" spread by President Trump. Dr Birx responded that she always based her decisions on scientific data.

Europe and the Middle East

Belgium

As of Saturday the number of new confirmed coronavirus cases in Belgium doubled in one week, as an average of 448.1 people per day tested positive in the last week of July.

France

New coronavirus cases rose 54% in mainland France last week as reported last Friday. Health authorities say the increase is particularly concerning among people aged 20-30. The rise covered all age groups but the rise was particularly worrying in those aged between 20 and 30. There was also an increase in patients admitted to hospital with Covid-19, and figures for those requiring intensive care went up by one the first increase in 16 weeks.

As France prepared for a heatwave, people were being urged to keep their face coverings on despite soaring temperatures, expected to reach 41C (106F) in some areas.

The number of new cases in the previous 24 hours was 1,377, only slightly fewer than the previous day, which was a record since May, and the number of clusters being investigated rose by 10 to 151. There were 16 deaths in hospital in the previous 24 hours, taking the total number of deaths in France attributed to coronavirus to 30,254.

In its report for 20-26 July, Santé Publique France said positive tests in France, including overseas departments, had risen for the third week running and the increase was significant. Just under 458,000 patients were tested with 6,407 testing positive, an increase of 44% on positive tests for the week before. Of those tested, just under 440,000 lived in mainland

France, known as l'Hexagone, and 5,592 tested positive, an increase of 54% of positive tests from the previous week. The number of tests conducted increased by 27%, while positive results increased by 54%. Over half of those testing positive showed no symptoms with 69% aged 15-44 and the biggest increase was for 20- to 25-year-olds.

The R-number, rose from 1.35 to 1.42. The increase in number of clusters was said to result from large family gatherings and public and private events. Santé Publique France said the rise was also due to a drop in the systematic adoption of prevention measures keeping a minimum 1-metre distance, not shaking hands and stopping embraces.

Germany

Thousands of demonstrators were expected to gather in Berlin at the weekend to protest against restrictions introduced to dampen the spread of coronavirus. Under the umbrella title "End of the pandemic – the Day of Freedom", diverse groups from the extreme left and right, including anti-vaxxers, Holocaust deniers, and conspiracy theorists who believe the virus was imposed by an elite to gain power planned to hold dozens of individual protests across the German capital. Police and lawmakers urged participants to observe physical distancing rules and to wear face coverings, amid evidence that the frequency of the virus is increasing.

A group of demonstrators suggested storming the German parliament building. Others argued it could bring the protest into disrepute. Over 1,500 police were expected to be present, with about 22,000 protesters due to participate from across Germany. The main gathering was expected to occur at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, before participants march down the wide 17. Juni boulevard to the Victory column. Other protests are planned for elsewhere in the city.

The anti-coronavirus restriction demonstrators were thought to be in decline since Germany gradually relaxed lockdown rules after reducing active infections. The demonstrators come from various groups, including followers of QAnon, an online conspiracy theory cult focused on "deep state" dominance, one of whose heroes is US president, Donald Trump, and the Querdenken alliance, whose followers wear tin-foil pendants and are against a coronavirus vaccine, who have gained more traction as covid has continued. Its sympathisers have used social media to gain support. This weekend's events were the first time the various groups actively came together. One of their broad demands is for the German parliament to call fresh elections in September, a year ahead of schedule for voters to bring down the "corona emergency government" of chancellor Merkel.

Germany will conduct mandatory tests of travellers returning from areas with a high risk of Covid-19, according to the health ministry. Health Minister Jens Spahn said: "We have first drafts. We want to co-ordinate this well with the states because they need to implement it at airports and train stations."

Germany has been less badly affected by covid than some European countries, but cases are rising. Today, the number of confirmed cases in Germany rose by 509 to 210,402. The death toll rose by seven to 9,148, according to the Robert Koch Institute, Germany's disease and control prevention agency.

Iran

The number of deaths from coronavirus in Iran is nearly triple what Iran's government claims according to a BBC Persia investigation. Government records appear to show almost 42,000 people died with Covid-19 symptoms up to 20 July, versus 14,405 reported by its health ministry. The number of people known to be infected is almost double official figures: 451,024 rather than 278,827. Recently, there has been a second steep rise in cases. The first death in Iran from Covid-19 was recorded on 22 January, according to lists and medical records passed to the BBC almost a month before the first official case of coronavirus was reported. Tehran, has the highest number of deaths with 8,120 people who died with Covid-19 or similar symptoms. Qom, the initial epicentre of the virus in Iran, is worst hit proportionally, with 1,419 deaths, one Covid-19 death for every 1,000 people. Across Iran, 1,916 deaths were non-Iranian nationals indicating disproportionate deaths amongst migrants and refugees mostly from Afghanistan. The overall trend of cases and deaths in the leaked data reflects official reports albeit different in size. The initial rise of deaths is far steeper than Health Ministry figures and by mid-March were five times the official figure.

Lockdown measures commenced over the Iranian New Year holidays in the third week in March with a corresponding decline in cases and deaths. But as restrictions relaxed, cases and deaths increased after late-May. The first recorded death on the leaked list was on 22 January, a month before official reporting in Iran. At the time Health Ministry officials would not acknowledge any COVID in Iran, despite reports by journalists and warnings from various medics. In 28 days until the first official acknowledgement on 19 February, 52 people had already died. Doctors with direct knowledge of the situation explained that the Iranian health ministry was under pressure from Iranian security and intelligence bodies. A doctor advised that initially they did not have testing kits which when they arrived were not used widely enough. The security services would not admit to the existence of coronavirus. It was the persistence of two doctors from Qom who lost their brother, which forced the health ministry to acknowledge the first official case, insisting he should be tested for Covid-19, which resulted to be positive. In Kamkar hospital, where he died, numerous patients had similar symptoms to Covid-19 and would not respond to usual treatments but none were tested.

The start of the outbreak coincided with the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and parliamentary elections which were major opportunities for the Islamic Republic to demonstrate its popular support and not risk damaging it because of the virus. Ayatollah Khamenei, accused some of wishing to use the virus to undermine the election which had a very low turnout. Before the global coronavirus pandemic hit, Iran already experienced a series of its own crises. In November 2019, the government increased the price of petrol and cracked down violently on protests which followed. Hundreds of protesters were killed in a few days. In January this year, the Iranian response to the US assassination of General Qasem Soleimani, one of the most powerful figures in Iran after its Supreme Leader, created another problem. Iranian armed forces on high alert mistakenly fired missiles at a Ukrainian airliner only minutes after take off from Tehran's international airport killing all 176 people on board. The Iranian authorities initially tried to cover up events, but after three days were forced to admit it.

Iran stopped Médecins Sans Frontières from treating coronavirus cases in Isfahan as evidence of how security conscious its approach towards covid is. Iran experienced tough times even before the US military showdown and the virus hit following the sanctions after the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal in May 2018.

The health ministry has said that the country's reports to the World Health Organization regarding the number of cases and deaths are transparent and far from any deviations.

Spain

Spain's health ministry on Friday reported 3,092 new coronavirus cases, marking the biggest jump since a national lockdown was lifted in June and beating the previous day's record rise. Cumulative cases, which also include results from antibody tests on people who may have recovered increased to 288,522 from 285,430. The ministry added that 1,525 of the infections were confirmed within the past 24 hours - the highest daily increase since the end of April.

The government's most senior coronavirus expert, Fernando Simon, denied Spain was in the grip of a second wave of infections saying a second wave would be when we have uncontrolled, widespread community transmission. While acknowledging the virus was spreading freely within Catalonia and Aragon, Simon said most of Spain had the outbreak under control. He also stressed Spain's epidemic was far less deadly than the early April peak, when the daily death toll approached 1,000. Just 10 people died in the last seven days, partly as the virus spread more among young people who were less vulnerable.

The health ministry is monitoring 483 active clusters of the virus, defined as three or more linked cases spread across different households. Around three quarters of the clusters include less than 10 people, Simon said, though a few contain more than 100 infections.

The rising rates of virus transmission has left travellers to the popular holiday destination stranded, after many left straight after Spanish lockdown was relaxed, only to find themselves in a country that was witnessing a resurgence in cases.

Ten tourists have been quarantined in a Majorcan hotel set aside for coronavirus patients who do not require hospital treatment. Holidaymakers must self-isolate for 14 days after one tested positive for Covid-19. The hotel, the three-star Morlans Gardens in Peguera is a small beach resort ten minutes from Magaluf. The nationalities of the tourists were not yet been made public but thought to have come from abroad.

President of the Palmanova-Magaluf Hotel Association, Mauricio Carballeda, told local media today that under a third of Magaluf or Palmanova hotels plan to open in August. : 'Of the 88 hotels in Palmanova and Magaluf, only 33 are open or were going to open. Now, after the UK announced its quarantine for returning British tourists, two of those hotels will close and three have said they won't open. That leaves 28 hotels out of 88. The recent measures announced by the British government have made what was already a complicated and difficult year worse.'

Ukraine

According to Reuters the Ukraine reported a record high 1,197 new coronavirus cases on July 29 and a record number of hospital admissions, with health authorities blaming the jump on wider use of public transport and attendance of church services.

New daily infections in Ukraine increased sharply over the past two months as some restrictions to contain the spread of the virus, imposed in March, were eased including allowing cafes, churches and public transport to reopen, although a nationwide lockdown remains in place and was extended last week until the end of August.

Health Minister Maksym Stepanov said on Thursday that 248 people with COVID-19 had been admitted to hospital over the past day. "The main reason for the increase in patients in western Ukraine, especially in the villages, is church services. Such results were shown by epidemiological investigations," he said in a statement released by the press service.

United Kingdom

New 90-minute tests to detect coronavirus and flu will be rolled out in care homes and laboratories from next week. The on-the-spot swab and DNA tests will help distinguish between Covid-19 and other seasonal illnesses, the government said. The health secretary said this would be "hugely beneficial" over the winter.

Currently, three quarters of test results are returned within 24 hours and a quarter can take up to two days. The announcement comes as the government withdrew a July target to regularly test care home staff and residents, saying testing kits had become more limited.

Almost half a million of the new LamPORE rapid swab tests will be available from next week in adult care settings and laboratories, with millions more due to be rolled out later this year. Additionally, thousands of DNA test machines, used in eight London hospitals can analyse nose swabs and will be rolled out further from September. Around 5,000 machines will provide 5.8 million tests in the coming months.

There is currently no publicly available data on the accuracy of the new tests but Sir John Bell, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University, who has advised the government on tests, said they produced the same "sensitivity" as current lab-based tests.

The Health Secretary described the innovations in coronavirus testing as "life-saving". He added: "Millions of new rapid coronavirus tests will provide on-the-spot results in under 90 minutes, helping us to break chains of transmission quickly. "The fact these tests can detect flu and Covid-19 will be hugely beneficial as we head into winter, so patients can follow the right advice to protect themselves and others."

450,000 LamPORE tests will be rolled out from next week and then DnaNudge test machines will enter the NHS labs and other settings, aiming to provide capacity for 5.8m tests in coming months. Dame Anne Johnson, professor of infectious disease and epidemiology at University College London said the new tests were great news but part of a wider system which needed to act rapidly overall. Rapid diagnosis was useful, but the most important thing was for people to self isolate if they felt ill.

Coronavirus tests are currently done at drive-through, walk-in sites and hospitals for patients and NHS workers. Home testing kits can also be sent to someone's door for people to test themselves. Swab samples are analysed at a laboratory before passing the result to the individual. Those infected with Covid-19 must self-isolate for 10 days.

The Department of Health said: "A combination of factors have meant that a more limited number of testing kits, predominantly used in care homes, are currently available for asymptomatic re-testing and we are working round the clock with providers to restore capacity." Last month, the government withdrew one brand of home-testing kits used in care homes over safety concerns.

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