



WHO Lebanon Country Office is the directing and coordinating authority for international health work within the United Nations. We work closely and in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and other ministries as well as sister UN agencies operating in Lebanon.

We work on improving health outcomes by providing technical support and assistance in scaling up essential prevention, treatment and care services throughout the health sector.

Lebanon remains free of coronavirus

MOPH and WHO Lebanon taking preparedness measures

No cases of coronavirus have yet been reported in Lebanon. At global level, as of 4 February 2020 a total of 28,256 cases of infection. The novel coronavirus is progressing faster than the SARS, but is less lethal with 2.2% death rate. About 99% are reported in China, the rest are in of cases in 25 countries. The the Eastern Mediterranean region as of 4 February 2020, 5 cases have been reported in UAE. However, the Ministry of Public Health remains very vigilant for early detection of any case, as per the requirements of the International Health Regulations. The WHO Lebanon Office supports and works closely with the MOPH to increase preparedness and response measures (efforts) and to monitor the rapidly evolving situation to minimize the risk of Coronavirus importation into the country. The Ministry of Public Health is monitoring the potential

patients through temperature monitoring system at the Airport, and distributing the risk checklist to all passengers coming directly or indirectly from countries where the virus is confirmed. Any patient suspected to be exposed will be followed-up by phone by the Communicable Diseases department at the MOPH. WHO Lebanon is following-up with National reference laboratory at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital to obtain the coronavirus primers from WHO to be able to confirm cases. All hospitals have received the detailed guidance for diagnosis, prevention and care related to the coronavirus. The patient and staff safety at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital is ensured through a four-bed capacity for isolation, and Personal Protected Equipment, as well as trained staff.

Coronavirus Useful Link

[WHO real time dashboard](#)

[WHO nCov page](#)

[WHO travel advice \(English/Arabic\)](#)

[Protect yourself \(English/Arabic\)](#)

[Q&A \(English/Arabic\)](#)

World Health Organization [online course](#) on emerging respiratory viruses, including nCoV

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



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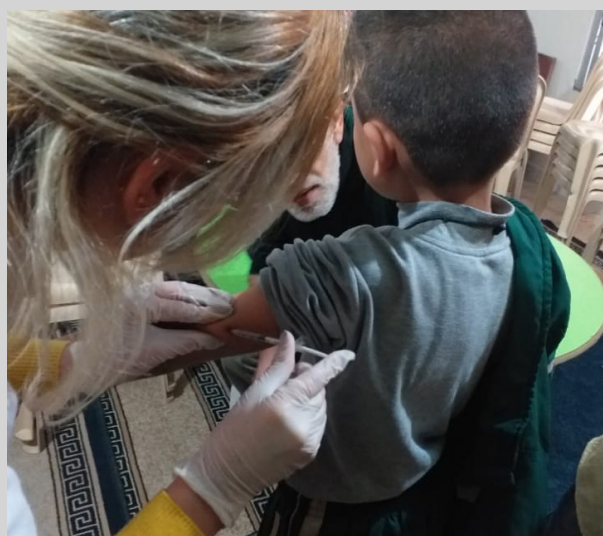
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Ongoing national measles campaign reaches 300,000 children



Over 200,000 children were vaccinated so far in the national vaccination campaign, the first phase of which was launched on 6 December 2019 covering the areas of Akkar, North, and Baalbeck-Hermel governorates. The campaign included measles or measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) injections, and OPV drops targeting children between the age of six months and less than ten years. The second phase of the campaign will begin in March 2020 and will cover the rest of the country including Lebanese and non-Lebanese citizens. This national initiative

is carried out by the Ministry of Public Health with support from WHO and UNICEF with funds by the Kuwait Fund for Development which aims to halt measles transmission and to ensure the protection of children's health in Lebanon. The vaccines are given free of charge at schools, nurseries, dispensaries, healthcare centers and mobile vaccination stations. More than 900,000 children will be covered nationwide by the time the second phase ends in July 2020.

WHO support to the surveillance of measles amid measles outbreak

In response to the 2018-2019 measles outbreak in Lebanon and in line with the 2019 measles assessment mission recommendations, the World Health Organization supported the Epidemiological Surveillance Program (ESU) at the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in the enhancement of detection and confirmation of measles cases. WHO support included training of 60 MOPH peripheral staff on adequate case investigation, specimen management and sensitization on epi-linking of measles cases. Thirty staff from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in informal educational institutions were also sensitized on measles to enhance reporting in order to have better estimation of measles burden among Syrian population. WHO also supported the ESU with supplementary human resources and with the development and printing of advocacy material for healthcare workers. In parallel, WHO provided the national measles laboratory at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital (RHUH) with needed reagents, supplies and equipment for confirmation and genotyping of measles.



Tripoli engages in waste management initiative under WHO Healthy City Programme



In the drive to create cleaner and more environmentally-friendly cities, the WHO country office in Lebanon, in collaboration with the Municipality of Tripoli, conducted a training of trainers workshop on 23 January 2020 on solid waste management with a focus on sorting and recycling practices as a first step in the Healthy City Programme. A total of 45 volunteers, including representatives of nongovernmental organizations, municipality staff, students and local experts took part in the training, of whom 20 will be selected to undertake mass education activities on waste segregation and recycling through door-to-door visits, etc. Awareness-raising material on waste segregation and recycling practices, developed by the WHO country office in cooperation with the municipality, will be disseminated to the community. WHO has also provided recycling bins/containers to the municipality for recycling of waste at Lebanese and Syrian households, restaurants, schools and in the streets. At the end of the project, a cleaning campaign will be undertaken with the support of the municipality and the participation of volunteers and the community.

Considering the priorities of the city of Tripoli and the improper management of solid waste in the city, a healthy city programme on community-based solid waste management is under implementation in 3 selected areas as a pilot project. This will then be replicated in other streets in the city. The overall objective of the project is to improve the solid waste management in the selected areas and to raise awareness of the importance of sorting waste and recycling practices in the context of the WHO healthy city programme.

Lebanon - a platform for international health interventions: The SEEK Trial

Lebanon will be one of the platforms for an international evidence-based intervention targeting refugee population. WHO HQ is currently developing a psychosocial sexual and reproductive health (SRH) integrated intervention package aimed to improve SRH services uptake by Syrian Refugees' young women living in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. The 4th investigators' meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey and included representative from academic institutions, Ministries of Health, and WHO Country Offices. The project now is in its formative phase; experts are assessing the needs of the target population and exploring the availability and quality of SRH services in the country. During the meeting; results of the focus group discussions were presented, and the content of the intervention package was discussed. "Through the SEEK Trial, WHO will explore innovative approaches to improve uptake of sexual and reproductive health services while ensuring community engagement and abiding by the principles of Universal Health Coverage" stated WHO Representative Dr. Iman Shankiti at the opening session of the meeting.



Partnership between NAP/WHO and Global Fund resulted in improved monitoring of HIV service delivery

With the effective start of the MER2 grant in June 2019, the National AIDS Program focused on strengthening HIV reporting mechanisms and linkages of testing to treatment. The noticeable improvements came as a direct result of the standardization of decentralized data collection, as well as the increasing use of unique identifiers across the different pillars of the test-treat-retain cascade. The political and economic crisis the country is witnessing led to a dip in testing volume during the last quarter of the year, which picked up again in December. In parallel to voluntary testing, the NAP recorded over 7,900 mandatory HIV tests conducted through blood banks and in/outpatient clinics at key hospitals with zero infections detected. The gap between VCT and laboratory reporting of HIV positive cases will be addressed in 2020. Throughout the year, 214 new HIV positive patients were enrolled in treatment.



How shared decision-making can improve people's health

Evidence indicates that many people would like to receive more information than they are routinely given, and would like to be involved in decision-making about their health and health care. Many of them are not aware that they can participate in making these decisions. Since the people, and not their health care provider, are generally responsible to implement many of the decisions made during the consultation, especially those made in a primary health care setting (e.g., making needed lifestyle changes or taking medicines as prescribed), shared decision-making becomes a necessity to increase persons' adherence to treatment plans.

Communicating that a choice is available and inviting the persons to participate in the process can be done through meaningful dialogue about treatment options and their related benefits, harms, and risks, and what matters most to the persons in order to select the most appropriate treatment option. This shared decision-making will improve the persons buy-in, which is essential to treatment plans adherence and health improvement.

Essential Steps of Shared Decision-Making

- Step 1** Seek your patient's participation
- Step 2** Help your patient explore and compare treatment options
- Step 3** Assess your patient's values and preferences
- Step 4** Reach a decision with your patient
- Step 5** Evaluate your patient's decision

WHO is currently working with the MOPH on integrating the people-centred primary care approach including improving health literacy within the national primary healthcare centers network, with the ultimate aim of improving health outcomes and quality of life for people, and reducing avoidable demand for health and care services. This project is funded by the European Union.

STAY HEALTHY WHILE TRAVELLING

Avoid travel if you have a fever and cough



If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider



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