

Global Mission Partners (GMP) COVID-19 Update¹ #26

These updates incorporate all nations where GMP programs (COCOA, ICP and IMA) operate. GMP programs operate independently of one another, and adhere to their own processes and practices in line with the relevant oversight bodies.

Brackets indicate figures from (8/9).

Green = No cases, or situation under control.

Yellow = Cases growing but well monitored OR cases potentially getting out of hand and a serious situation is likely to occur.

Red = Situation out of control or official figures cannot be trusted.

There are 29.4 million cases globally, and over 932,000 deaths. Monday was the worst day in terms of recorded cases on a global scale. Latin and South America have become the global 'hot spot', with Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Chile, Argentina and Ecuador in the top 20 in terms of deaths. Bolivia is at 22.

Australia (54²): 816 deaths; 26,739 cases. (762 deaths; 26,322 cases). Testing: 275,320 per million.

Some good news this week; regional Victoria has opened up to a greater extent, and for the first time in two months there were no deaths recorded in Victoria (15/9); Melbourne metropolitan cases, on a two-week average, have dropped to just below 53 per day. South Australia is talking about opening its borders to NSW and the ACT, and the outbreaks in NSW and Qld appear to have been contained. There are concerns about those whose Jobkeeper and Jobseeker benefits will be reduced, especially for those still in lockdown.

GMP Programs: IMA, embody.

India (3): 80,808 deaths; 4,930,236 cases. (75,022 deaths; 4,277,584 cases). T=42,170

India has recorded the highest daily cases (90,000+) over the past week. The Indian Government continues to open up, despite the sharp increases in cases and deaths. In the last 24 hours, there was an increase of 83,000 cases. Schools (for senior students only) will open in a few weeks, after being shut for five months. The Taj Mahal will be opened on September 21, albeit to only 5,000 tourists. There is no sign that the Indian Government is going to pull back from its reopening plans. **GMP Programs:** COCOA, ICP.

Bangladesh (28): 4,759 deaths; 339,332 cases. (4,516 deaths; 327,359 cases). T=10,560

Bangladesh is facing the twin crises of flooding and COVID-19. Normally during the monsoon, workers will migrate to the cities for work – Dhaka being one of those choices, is also the epicentre for COVID-19 in Bangladesh. CNBC reports: *However, this year, economic stagnation and job losses amid Covid-19 have forced workers to return to their flood-prone villages, where there are even fewer economic opportunities. This has devastated remittance flows from overseas and Bangladesh's urban centres. Many more of Bangladesh's rural poor are afraid to take shelter at evacuation centres, with some even opting to live on their rooftops to escape the waters instead.*

GMP Programs: COCOA, ICP

Vietnam (148): 35 deaths; 1,063 cases. (35 deaths; 1,049 cases). T=10,348

Active cases in Vietnam have dropped from 161 to 102, with only 14 new cases added during the week. This is a wonderful result given that the government has opened up the impacted areas. Restaurants and beaches in Da Nang have reopened, and none of the new cases this week were from community transmission.

GMP Programs: ICP.

Indonesia (20): 8,841 deaths; 221,523. (8,103 deaths; 196,989 cases.) T=9,750

Jakarta is back in lockdown as of Monday, with offices and restaurants shut as the Indonesian figures have spiked over the past week. The governor of Jakarta stated: *"We have no other choice except immediately pulling the emergency brake" because the fatality rate and bed occupancy rate for new coronavirus patients keep going up, bringing the capital into an "emergency situation". We will be back to the early days of the pandemic – working from home, studying from home and performing religious activities at home," he added.* (scmp.com) Jakarta is – and has been from the beginning – the most concerning hotspot of the pandemic in Indonesia, responsible for a quarter of the cases.

GMP Programs: ICP.

¹ Obviously, these numbers change rapidly. This is current as of 5pm on 15/9/20.

² This number indicates – in terms of fatalities – where a nation is ranked of the 215 nations that have recorded cases of COVID-19.

Fiji (183): 2 deaths, 32 cases. (2 deaths; 31 cases). T=10,109

A further case was added this week – this was a woman returning from India.

GMP Programs: ICP.

Vanuatu: 0 deaths; 0 cases. (0 deaths; 0 cases).

Still clear of COVID-19.

GMP Programs: COCOA, ICP.

Thailand (128): 58 deaths; 3,480 cases. (58 deaths; 3,417 cases). T=10,728

Cases again increased, but active cases are at 107 nationally. Business closures in June/July were up by 38% on the previous year (*The Bangkok Post*). A 10.8-million-baht scheme to pay Thais to go on holidays within the country (40% off fares and 10 nights' accommodation) has been introduced by the Thai government.

Thailand is a classic case of a nation which has dealt brilliantly with the health crisis, but is still faced with a huge economic crisis.

GMP Programs: COCOA, ICP

South Sudan (135): 49 deaths; 2,587 cases. (48 deaths; 2,545 cases). T=1,073

Again, minimal reporting makes these figures out of South Sudan almost irrelevant. It is worth noting that some experts believe that the fatality rate in places like South Sudan is lower due to the population being younger.

GMP Programs: COCOA, ICP

Zimbabwe: (90) 224 deaths; 7,531 cases. (210 deaths; 7,298 cases). T=10,403

Some higher education facilities partly reopened this week, and the good news is that cases slowed after concerning levels a few weeks ago. Zimbabwe is not out of the woods, but is at least moving in a positive direction. Primary and secondary schools are opening on September 28 to prepare for exams. Businesses can now open from 6.30am-6.30pm, up from the 8am-4.30pm measures.

GMP Programs: COCOA, ICP

Papua New Guinea: (177) 6 deaths; 511 cases. (5 deaths; 497 cases). T=1,924

Another eight ventilators have been brought into the country via UNICEF. PNG is still ill-equipped to fight the virus but it seems like progress has been made in the past week. There is still community transmission in Port Moresby, and 13 of the 22 provinces have recorded cases including two in Wewak in the East Sepik – although none have been reported as yet in the Madang Province. The curfew in Port Moresby has been relaxed over the past week. *The National* reported: *National Pandemic Centre incident manager Dr. Daoni Esserom said the pandemic revealed that the country's health system was very fragile.*

GMP Programs: ICP

The Philippines (30): 4,630 deaths; 265,888 cases. (3,890 deaths; 238,727 cases.) T=28,360

After a 'more stable' week last week, the Philippines has now been recording much higher levels of cases and deaths. Unfortunately, it appears that the slower numbers of the past few weeks are not a sign of the decline of the virus, but merely a pause in its intensity. The former task force leader, Dr. Tony Leachon, was quoted by the *Tribune*, saying: *We're not yet out of danger, our cases are still high. The decrease of social distancing in public transport may cause an increase in our cases especially in the NCR (National Capital Region), our epicentre.*"

GMP Programs: ICP