

CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



As the highly contagious Coronavirus, COVID-19, is affecting **223 countries and territories** around the world, Palestine attempts to contain a local outbreak that has effectively halted daily life and led to tens of thousands of people entering quarantine.¹

Although **3,078,533** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been tested for COVID-19, there remains a deficiency in the amount of testing kits, as there is an increase in the number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. **1,898,819** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and **1,661,481** individuals are completely vaccinated.²

Global Level³

# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Active Cases
404,293,993	324,255,601	5,798,313	74,240,079

¹<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

²<http://www.corona.ps>

³<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

Local Level ⁴				
Location	# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Currently Infected Patients
West Bank (including Jerusalem)	375,289 <i>Including 55,775 in Jerusalem</i>	343,181 (45,016)	3,429 (269)	28,679 (10,490)
Gaza Strip	230,058	193,753	1,806	34,499

Today, 10.02.2022, the Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, announced that there are **5,219** new people who have COVID-19, bringing the total cases to **605,347**. Since Monday, 07.02.2022, there has been an overall increase of **18,992** cases in Palestine. The Ministry further indicated that there are a total of **536,934** recoveries and **5,235** deaths, while **63,178** remain active across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including occupied Jerusalem. Sources: [The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website](#), [Ma'an News Agency](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

Today, the Minister of Health, Dr. May Al-Kaila, that the recovery rate from the Coronavirus in Palestine reached 88.7%, while the percentage of active infections was 10.4%, and the death rate was 0.9% of the total infections. Sources: [The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

The Palestinian Ministry of Health has confirmed the safety of all vaccines available in the ministry's warehouses and vaccination centers in terms of expiry date, storage conditions and transportation within the recommended cold chain. The Ministry calls for the necessity of taking vaccinations against the Corona virus, and adhering to the recommended doses and the necessary preventive measures, in order to avoid the spread of infection. Sources: [The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

Yesterday, the Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, met with the Speaker of the Seimas of Lithuania, Viktorija Cmilyte-Nielsen, to discuss strengthening joint cooperation between the two countries and the accompanying delegation on the situation in Palestine. They also addressed several matters to preserve the two-state solution and end the occupation. Nielsen confirmed her country's firm position on supporting the two-state solution in accordance with United Nations resolutions and international law. The meeting affirmed the continuation of strengthening cooperation between the two countries, especially in the sectors of education, culture, development and economy. Sources: [The Council of Ministers' Website](#), [Raya News Network](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in cooperation with Ministry of National Economy and financial support from the World Bank, conducted a survey; a second round, on the impact of COVID-19 on business establishments. The results of sample (2600 establishments) indicated that the Coronavirus pandemic made business establishments suffer from demand and supply shocks and financial shocks, which, in return, made establishments turn to take financial and administrative measures as well as digital solutions to face the impacts of the pandemic. Sources: [The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

Several attacks and arrests by the Israeli occupying forces took place across Palestine:



1. Today, the archaeological site in the town of Sebastia, northwest of the Nablus Governorate, was invaded. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
2. Today, (12) Palestinian men, including (2) 15-year-old boys, were arrested from several Governorates across the West Bank, including: Bethlehem, Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Nablus and Jenin, in addition to occupied Jerusalem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, dozens of settlers invaded Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
4. Today marks the 41st consecutive day that administrative prisoners continue to boycott the Israeli occupation courts. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, the Prisoners Club confirmed that all Palestinian prisoners in all of Israeli prisons decided to close the sections and refrain from daily examinations, in opposition of Israeli prison administration. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)
6. Today, vehicles, belonging to Palestinians, were destroyed in the town of Kifl Haris, north of the Salfit Governorate. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)
7. Today, homes, belonging to Palestinians, were searched in the Jenin Governorate. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)
8. Today, the occupying forces opened fire towards agricultural lands, belonging to Palestinians, in the southern Gaza Strip. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)

Local and International Events

Yesterday, the occupied West Bank went on a full general strike in mourning of the three Palestinian youths who were murdered by gunfire while driving in the city of Nablus. The general strike was observed across Palestinian towns and cities, such as Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin and Tulkarem. Eye witness accounts, according to different media sources, say the vehicle was riddled with 80 bullets. [Source: Ma'an News Agency](#)

Yesterday, the Palestinian Central Council decided to terminate the commitment of the Palestine Liberation Organization to all agreements signed with Israel. The announcement was made after three days of meetings in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "In view of Israel's ongoing denial of the signed agreements, the PCC decided to terminate the obligations of the PLO and the Palestinian Authority to all agreements signed with Israel," its statement read, adding that Israel's persistence in accelerating the confiscation of Palestinian land had contributed to the decision. [Source: Ma'an News Agency](#)

A Palestinian journalist, who was fired from Germany's international broadcaster for alleged antisemitic views, has strongly criticized the management for unfair treatment and censoring freedom of speech. "I'm not antisemitic. I am someone who believes in freedom of speech," Maram Salem said, adding that criticism on Israeli policies does not amount to antisemitism. "In my case, my post was about freedom of speech in Europe. I criticized the situation in Europe," she said, adding that her Facebook post, which was investigated by the management, did not even mention Jews or Israel. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that Turkey normalizing relations with Israel would not mean a change in Ankara's Palestinian policy, ahead of an expected visit by Israeli President Isaac Herzog next month. He also added that Turkey will not turn its back on its commitment to a Palestinian state in order to broker closer ties with Israel. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

The World Bank is calling on Israel to remove restrictions on telecoms and internet services in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip to boost the Palestinian digital economy, address soaring unemployment and ease access to global markets. "Investing in the Palestinian digital economy is more important than ever. Not only does it enhance its competitiveness and access to the global markets, providing jobs and a source of fiscal revenue, but it has also become vital in times of crisis," said Kanthan Shankar, World Bank country director for West Bank and Gaza. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani has reaffirmed that his country will not normalize relations with Israel in the absence of a two-state solution with the Palestinians. This comes as US-led naval exercises have for the first time brought together Israel and most Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states—with the exception of Kuwait and Qatar. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Miscellaneous

Today, the Israeli Ministry of Health confirmed that total number of COVID-19 cases is **3,316,235**, of which **9,337** died and **2,978,360** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **328,538** active cases in Israel, **1,159** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- The Head of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, cautioned that "diseases know no borders" and the Omicron variant's emergence has shown that "any feeling of safety can change in a moment. Depending on where you live, it might feel like the COVID-19 pandemic is almost over, or, it might feel like it is at its worst. But wherever you live, COVID isn't finished with us," he said.
- All remaining Covid restrictions in England - including the legal rule to self-isolate - could end later this month, Boris Johnson has said.
- At least 2 million Quebecers infected with Omicron variant, health officials estimate.
- Another COVID-19 vaccine maker, AstraZeneca, has announced its financial results for 2021. The drugs giant is not making a profit from the Coronavirus jab and posted a pre-tax loss of \$265m (£196m) last year, against profits of \$3.92bn (£2.9bn). AstraZeneca has made \$4bn (£3bn) in sales from its jab.
- South Korea will begin to offer Novavax's COVID vaccine at hospitals, nursing homes and public health centres next week.
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is considering authorising the use of the Pfizer vaccine for under-fives as early as 21 February.
- New Zealand police clash with anti-vaccine protesters at parliament, over 120 arrested.
- Blockades on the busiest border bridge between Canada and the US could have a serious impact on the economies of both countries, disrupting the automotive industry, agricultural exports, and causing multimillion-dollar losses, the two countries' governments have said.
- Australia's medical regulator has given its first green light to the AstraZeneca booster shot for people above the age of 18.

Following are links of useful resources for information and updates on COVID-19:

1. <http://www.corona.ps/details>
2. <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>
3. https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1
4. <https://www.moh.gov.ps/portal/en/>