

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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. **1,908,842** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and **1,671,711** individuals are completely vaccinated.<sup>2</sup>

Global Level <sup>3</sup>			
# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Active Cases
412,817,411	333,427,423	5,836,879	75,553,109

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

<sup>2</sup><http://www.corona.ps>

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

Local Level <sup>4</sup>				
Location	# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Currently Infected Patients
West Bank (including Jerusalem)	382,654 <i>Including 58,835 in Jerusalem</i>	361,008 (51,066)	3,461 (270)	18,185 (7,499)
Gaza Strip	234,775	197,713	1,840	35,222

Yesterday, 09.02.2022, the Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, announced that there are **3,538** new people who have COVID-19, bringing the total cases to **617,429**. The Ministry further indicated that there are a total of **558,721** recoveries and **5,301** deaths, while **53,407** 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](#)

Yesterday, the Minister of Health, Dr. May Al-Kaila, that the recovery rate from the Coronavirus in Palestine reached 90.2%, while the percentage of active infections was 8.9%, 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 received 300,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, Moderna, from the Republic of Poland to confront the pandemic. The Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, confirmed that the Poland's support will help the MoH to complete the national vaccination campaign, while praising the role of the World Health Organization and the European Union in supporting the Palestinian health sector. [Sources: The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website and Wafa News Agency](#)

The Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela held a meeting with the Director of the World Health Organization's office in Jerusalem, Richard Pepperkorn, to enhance cooperation and support the various sectors in the Ministry of Health. They addressed plans to advance the various sectors in the Ministry, such as mental health, the strategic plan to support this sector and enhance services provided to cancer patients in Palestine, in addition to the epidemiological situation and the availability of anti-Coronavirus vaccines. [Sources: The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website, Raya News Network and Wafa News Agency](#)

The Palestinian Ministry of Health signed a service purchase agreement from the Arab Medical Complex Hospitals Group. The Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela stated: "This agreement comes within the framework of the Ministry's strategy to provide various treatment services to citizens and accelerate their access to appropriate treatment. Dr. Al-Kela also confirmed that the Palestinian Ministry of Health adopts the approach to localizing treatment in Palestinian hospitals, and the Ministry is keen to develop a national health system that provides treatment services of the best quality to the public, including building and developing treatment centers and departments, providing them with various medical staff, medical devices, supplies and equipment and medicines. [Sources: The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website and Wafa News Agency](#)



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



1. Today, a home, belonging to a Palestinian, was demolished in the neighborhood of Sateh Marhaba in the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)
2. Today, (11) Palestinian men were arrested across the West Bank, including Hebron, Salfit, Nablus, occupied Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley. 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 45<sup>th</sup> consecutive day that administrative prisoners continue to boycott the Israeli occupation courts. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, the occupying forces continue to close Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, preventing residents from passing through. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)
6. Today, vehicles, belonging to Palestinians, were destroyed in the village of Jinsafut, east of the Qalqilya Governorate. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)
7. Today, (40) olive trees, belonging to Palestinians, were uprooted in the village of Shufa, southeast of the Tulkarem 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

Palestinian prisoners declared today as a day of rage in all Israeli prisons and detention centers in protest against Israeli punitive measures. The protest steps include a one-day hunger strike. This came as a state of tension prevailed in Israeli prisons after the prison administration imposed new punitive measures against the prisoners, further deepening their difficult detention conditions. [Source: Ma'an News Agency](#)

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas warned against the repercussions of attacks on residents and attempts to take over Palestinian properties in Jerusalem, particularly in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood. "This matter will be on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee," Mr Abbas said, referring to a visit by a controversial far-right Jewish lawmaker Itamar Ben Gvir to the neighbourhood. Yesterday, clashes broke out as Ben Gvir of the Religious Zionism alliance opened a parliamentary office in Sheikh Jarrah, calling it an effort to show support for the Jewish residents in the neighbourhood. [Source: Ma'an News Agency](#)

The increase in the prices of fresh vegetables and eggs is the main reason for the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during January 2022, according to a statement issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). The overall CPI for Palestine during January 2022 recorded an increase by 0.68% compared with December 2021 (1.00% in Jerusalem J1, 0.73% in the West Bank, and 0.33% in Gaza Strip). The changes in Palestinian CPI for January 2022 were traced back to changes in prices of the following expenditure sub groups compared with previous month. The Palestinian CPI during January 2022 increased by 2.68% compared with January 2021 (3.78% in Jerusalem J1, 2.68% in the West Bank, and 2.01% in Gaza Strip). [Source: Ma'an News Agency and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Website](#)

The international pro-Palestine Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement has called for a boycott of German sportswear company Puma over its sponsorship of the Israel Football Association (IFA). The movement said in a statement that its online campaign aims to pressure the company, which is one of the world's largest providers of sports footwear, apparel and accessories, "to end complicity with the Israeli colonial and apartheid regime." BDS said Puma has signed a contract with an Israeli distributor, who conducts sale operations in illegal Israeli settlements built on Palestinian lands in the occupied West Bank. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

The European Union has called for Israeli settler violence and irresponsible provocations against Palestinians in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of occupied Jerusalem to be stopped. "Concerned about ongoing developments in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem, with violent clashes leading to several injuries and arrests. Incidents of settler violence, irresponsible provocations and other escalatory acts in this sensitive area only fuel further tensions & must cease," the European Union delegation to the Palestinian Territories said on Twitter. [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 **3,426,103**, of which **9,544** died and **3,131,754** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **284,805** active cases in Israel, **1,056** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- "Omicron will not be the last variant you will hear us speaking about. The next variant of concern will be more fit and what we mean by that is it will be more transmissible because it will have to overtake what is currently circulating. The big question is whether or not future variants will be more or less severe," said Maria Van Kerkhove, COVID-19 technical lead at WHO.
- The World Health Organization said it had added its first monoclonal antibody tocilizumab to its so-called pre-qualification list, an official list of medicines used as a benchmark for procurement by developing countries.
- Norway will scrap nearly all its remaining COVID-19 lockdown measures as high levels of coronavirus infections are unlikely to jeopardise health services, Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said.
- South Korea will begin administering a fourth COVID-19 vaccine dose by the end of February and supply millions of additional home test kits to ease shortages amid a surge in Omicron infections, authorities confirmed.
- Hong Kong is being overwhelmed by the "onslaught" of COVID-19 infections, its leader said, although deaths remain far less than similar-sized cities since the pandemic erupted two years ago.
- COVID-19 is subsiding worldwide with a 1% weekly decline in deaths and 19% drop in cases as only Russia, Germany, Netherlands and South Korea set national daily marks among large nations in the past week.
- In all, more than 10.3 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered, an increase of 100 million in one week with the world's population of 7.9 billion.
- Japan's government has agreed to buy an additional 10 million does of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer to be delivered in March.

### **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](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)
4. <https://www.moh.gov.ps/portal/en/>