

CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



https://images.waqa.ac/images/NewsThumb/147/14703161_4f6e-4c6f-b4f6-f23543b7118.jpg

*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. **1,986,627** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and **1,730,773** individuals are completely vaccinated.²

Global Level³

# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Active Cases
451,983,405	386,439,180	6,045,664	59,498,561

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)	405,194 <i>Including 73,945 in Jerusalem</i>	399,979 (72,936)	3,656 (298)	1,557 (711)
Gaza Strip	248,099	241,504	1,947	4,648

Today, 10.03.2022, the Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, announced that there are **327** new people who have COVID-19, bringing the total cases to **653,293**. Since Monday, 07.03.2022, there has been an overall increase of **995** cases in Palestine. The Ministry further indicated that there are a total of **641,483** recoveries and **5,603** deaths, while **6,205** 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 Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, indicated that the recovery rate from the Coronavirus in Palestine reached 98.1%, while active cases reached 1%, and the death rate 0.9% of the total cases. Sources: [The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

China has donated its third batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). "This generous donation came as China's immediate response to the agency's needs amid global constraints in COVID-19 vaccine supply, as well as emerging uncertainties around the vaccination rollouts across the region," the statement noted. Akihiro Seita, director of the UNRWA Department of Health, said the donation "provides a crucial layer of protection for Palestinian refugees and promotes the equitable and timely vaccine access. This will also strengthen our collaboration with host countries as they kindly included Palestinian refugees in their national vaccination program," he noted. Sources: [Raya News Network](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

Today, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics issued a statement, indicating a total of 3,179 building licenses were issued in the fourth quarter of 2021, of which 1,940 are new buildings. The total number of building licenses issued in the fourth quarter of 2021 increased by 11% compared with the third quarter of 2021 and increased by 16% compared with the fourth quarter of 2020, where the number of new building licenses increased by 9% compared with the third quarter of 2021 and increased by 8% compared with the fourth quarter of 2020. 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, a fence was demolished and a container of goods was seized, both belonging to Palestinians, in the village of Al-Diuk Al-Tahta, west of Jericho. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)
2. Today, (24) Palestinian men were arrested from several Governorates across the West Bank, including: Qalqilya, Jenin, Ramallah and Al-Bireh and Hebron. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, (135) settlers invaded Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)
4. Today, Al-Aroub refugee camp, north of the Hebron Governorate, was invaded and tear gas canisters were thrown. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)
5. Today, a commercial strike took place in the town of Jabal Mukaber in occupied Jerusalem, in protest against home demolitions. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)
6. Today, Israeli navy forces opened fire towards fishing boats, belonging to Palestinians, in the Rafah Sea, southern Gaza Strip, forcing the fishermen to leave the sea. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)
7. Today, the Commission of Detainees Affairs issued a statement, indicating that the Israeli prison service continues to practice medical neglect against Palestinian prisoners, which is in violation of all international conventions and laws related to their right to receive treatment and provide them with full medical care. Sources: [The Commission of Detainees Affairs's Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)
8. Yesterday, (60) grape trees, belonging to Palestinians, were uprooted in the town of Kafr Al-Dik, west of the Salfit Governorate. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)

Local and International Events

The US will provide funding of \$5.5 million to Israeli and Palestinian trade associations to increase cross-border partnerships, reported the Times of Israel. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman announced the grants during her visit to Jerusalem yesterday. Implemented through the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA), the aid will aim to "build partnerships, increase economic growth, and lay the foundation for peace through people-to-people programs," according to a USAID statement. Initially, \$3.3 million will be distributed to supporting women entrepreneurs followed by an additional \$2.2 million, which will fund small and medium-sized businesses in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories interested in collaboration. However, trade names will not be disclosed due to some potential participants feeling sceptical about the joint project. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

The State of Kuwait pledged yesterday to pursue efforts for bolstering joint Arab action at various levels, reaffirmed support for the Palestinian people and international efforts to resolve the Ukrainian crisis with diplomacy. Minister Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser renewed the unwavering support for the Palestinian people, holding the Zionist entity, the occupation-hinging force, responsible for crimes perpetrated against the Palestinians in violation of international laws and conventions. The international community should shoulder the responsibility to revive the Middle East peace process according to relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, he said. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

France's interior minister on Wednesday announced the dissolution of two pro-Palestinian advocacy organizations, accusing them of inciting violence and hatred. Gerald Darmanin confirmed on Twitter that both the "Collectif Palestine Vaincra" ("Palestine Will Overcome Collective") and the Palestine Action Committee were "dissolved this morning in the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the instructions of the President of the Republic." [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

U.S. House Approves \$1b Iron Dome Emergency Aid to Israel. The bill, which comes after months of stalling, also includes \$3.3 billion in security assistance to Israel and \$500 million in missile-defense partnerships. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

The UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, issued a statement on the situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. He stated: "I am deeply concerned by the deteriorating security situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This past week, daily violence has claimed the lives of six Palestinians, including one child, and 26 Palestinians and seven Israelis have been injured." [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 **3,690,981**, of which **10,322** died and **3,634,202** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **46,457** active cases in Israel, **410** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❑ Some countries in East and Southeast Asia are enduring their worst waves of the pandemic even as a severe Omicron wave ebbs in much of the world.
- ❑ After 660 days, India records under 5,000 new COVID cases.
- ❑ US CDC officials say it's increasingly likely the Coronavirus will never truly go away, instead simmering at low levels and rising in the winter.
- ❑ The U.S. is averaging 49,569 new Covid cases a day, a decrease of more than 54% over the past two weeks.
- ❑ Hawaii is letting its mask mandate expire on March 25, making it the last state in the U.S. to drop the Covid-19 protection, Gov. David Ige said Tuesday.
- ❑ Moderna plans to invest \$500 million to produce messenger RNA, the technology underlying its Covid vaccines, at the facility in Kenya.
- ❑ Restarting payments for the millions of Americans with student loans after more than two years will be practically, and politically, complicated. As a result, borrowers may get many more months before having to pay their loan bill again.
- ❑ White House chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci has said the U.S. can safely return to a more normal way of life when the disease burden from Covid resembles viruses like the flu.
- ❑ Two dozen scientists, doctors and public health experts, in a 136-page report, said Covid is still causing an "intolerable" level of death that's far higher than other viruses such as the flu.

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/>