

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. **1,995,424** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and **1,754,946** individuals are completely vaccinated.²

Global Level³

# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Active Cases
482,321,248	416,778,869	6,149,159	59,393,220

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)	406,557 <i>Including 74,675 in Jerusalem</i>	402,223 (74,211)	3,677 (304)	657 (160)
Gaza Strip	249,193	246,364	1,978	851

Yesterday, 27.03.2022, the Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, announced that there are **282** new people who have COVID-19, bringing the total cases to **655,750** in Palestine. The Ministry further indicated that there are a total of **648,587** recoveries and **5,655** deaths, while **1,508** 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 Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, indicated that the recovery rate from the Coronavirus in Palestine reached 99%, while active cases reached 0.1%, and the death rate 0.9% of the total cases. Sources: [The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

Yesterday, the Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, indicated that 50.8% of Palestinian residents are fully vaccinated, i.e., 62.6% in the West Bank and 34.8% in the Gaza Strip. Sources: [The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website](#) and [Raya News Network](#)

The Palestinian Ministry of Health condemns the attack on a doctor at the Martyr Khalil Suleiman Governmental Hospital which was done while he performing his humanitarian duty. The minister said that the attack on the doctor caused injuries to his hand, arm and mouth, in addition to the verbal assault. The ministry will take all necessary measures to deter and hold accountable all those who try to attack our people from among the cadres working in the health sector. In addition, the Ministry called on everyone to unite to prevent the recurrence of such attacks. Sources: [The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

The Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela had a meeting with Minister of Higher Education - Acting Minister of Health and Population Khaled Abdel Ghaffar on the sidelines of the 156th session of the Council of Arab Health Ministers in Cairo to discuss the health conditions in Palestine and addressed epidemics and infection control. 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 Palestinian man was arrested while working on a bulldozer to prepare his land for cultivation in the village of Rojib, east of the Nablus Governorate. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)
2. Today, various areas in the occupied city of Jerusalem were stormed by dozens of settlers and occupation soldiers. They were accompanied by members of the occupation police who took over their protection. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, the Petra Hotel in Bab Al-Khalil in occupied Jerusalem was stormed by dozens of settlers at night through the doors of the basement floor, in an attempt to control it, claiming that they had a decision from the occupation court allowing them to take control of the hotel and evict the people in it. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)
4. Yesterday night, four private vehicles of members of the Obeid family, who live in Ras al-Jabal in the eastern region of Jalud town, were burned. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)
5. Today, three young men near the town of Al-Isawiya and the Bab Al-Amoud area were arrested. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)
6. Today, the tires of a number of Palestinian citizens' vehicles were destroyed. They also wrote slogans on the cars and on the homes of the Palestinians in the town of Turmusaya, north of Ramallah. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)
7. Today, the Al-Aqsa Mosque was stormed by dozens of settlers under the protection of the Israeli occupation police. They performed rituals in the Mosque's courtyards, especially in the eastern area, while a number of them took pictures in front of the Dome of the Rock. Sources: [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Ma'an News Agency](#)

Local and International Events

The top diplomats of the United States and four Arab countries convened in Israel on Monday in a display of unity against Iran but also used the rare summit to press their host to revive long-stalled peacemaking with the Palestinians. While hailing the accords, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that: "We have to be clear that these regional peace agreements are not a substitute for progress between Palestinians and Israelis". Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh told his cabinet on Monday: "Unless the occupation ends, Arab normalisation meetings are nothing but an illusion and free reward for Israel." [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Jordan's King Abdullah arrived in Ramallah to hold talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, a first such visit in years that was expected to focus on efforts to reduce regional tensions ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The King's visit comes as foreign ministers from four Arab states joined an unprecedented meeting hosted in Israel, a gathering Israel hailed as "historic," following a series of normalization agreements last year. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Hospital for Rehabilitation and Prosthetics in Gaza launched a workshop to provide electronic prosthetics for disabled Palestinians in Gaza on Sunday. In the presence of Mohammed Al-Emadi, head of the Qatar Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza, Sultan Al-Asiri, the Qatar Fund for Development's representative, announced during a press conference that the new medical project had completed its first phase of installing electronic prosthetics for patients. He stated that: "About 40 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip will benefit from the workshop, out of 60 cases in need of limbs. The medical teams will start working with 20 cases, and then complete the second phase with a further 20 cases after Eid al-Fitr," adding that these types of medical projects "give hope to Gaza's amputee younger generation and children and will restore a level of normality to their lives and ease integration into society." [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas criticised Sunday the West's "double standards" that he said penalized Russia over its invasion of Ukraine while ignoring Israel's crimes against Palestinians. Abbas voiced his frustration to visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a press briefing with reporters at the Palestinian presidential residence in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah. The Palestinian President stated that "Despite the crimes of the Israeli occupation that amounted to ethnic cleansing and racial discrimination... we find no one who is holding Israel responsible for behaving as a state above the law." [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 **3,864,155**, of which **10,485** died and **3,782,095** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **71,575** active cases in Israel, **287** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❑ Two years into the pandemic, scientists and physicians are shifting their attention to the long-term consequences of a Covid-19 infection, termed "long Covid." Recent studies add diabetes to the list of possible long Covid outcomes.
- ❑ Videos posted to social media Sunday show chaotic scenes erupting in Shanghai after authorities announced part of the city would enter a large-scale lockdown to stop the spread of Covid-19.
- ❑ Shanghai has said it will lock down each half of the city by turns for mass Covid-19 testing starting Monday amid surging infections. The eastern half of the city -- comprising around 11 million residents -- will go into lockdown at the start of the week for four days, while the 14 million remaining people will start lockdown from Friday.
- ❑ South Korea's latest Covid-19 wave has pushed the country's total infections past 10 million since the pandemic began, as funeral homes struggle to keep up with a sudden surge in deaths. Cases began rising in February, driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant. The country is now seeing hundreds of thousands of new cases each day -- some of the highest daily averages in the world.
- ❑ The global Covid-19 death toll surpassed 6 million on Monday, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Global daily deaths have been dropping quickly over the past month, down from about 11,000 a day in the second week of February to about 7,000 a day now -- one of the lowest rates reported over the past year.
- ❑ A study published in the journal Nature has found that the brains of those who had Covid-19 had a greater loss of gray matter and abnormalities in the brain tissue compared with those who didn't have Covid-19. Many of those changes were in the area of the brain related to the sense of smell.

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/>