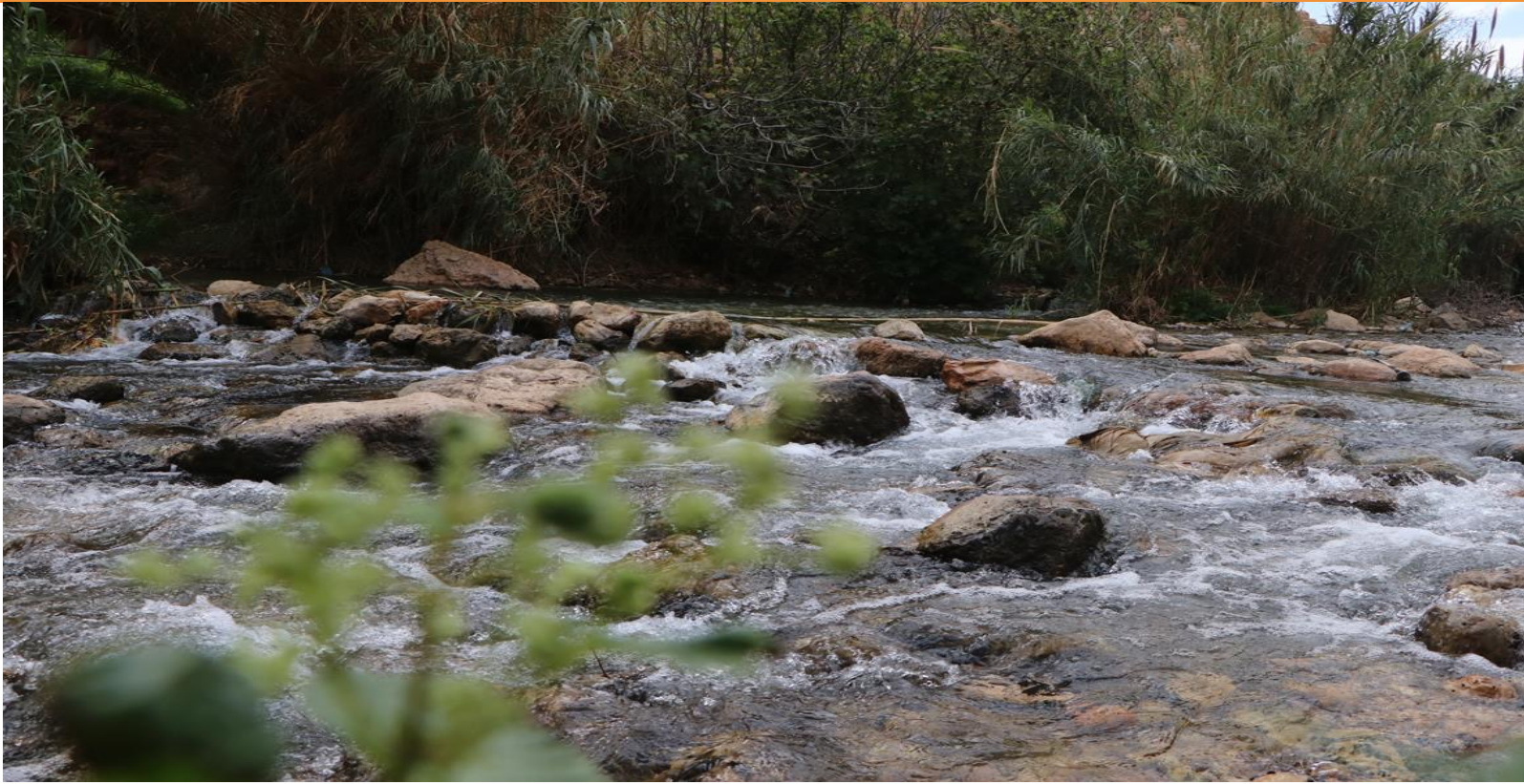


CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

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

487,226,647

422,453,690

6,163,108

58,609,849

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

Note: The Palestinian Ministry of Health has not updated its statistics of COVID-19 since Wednesday, 27.03.2022.

On Wednesday, 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](#)

On Wednesday, 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](#)

On Wednesday, 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](#)

Yesterday, the Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, held a meeting with Keiko Miwa, the World Bank's Regional Director for Human Development covering the Middle East and North Africa region, to strengthen cooperation and support for the health sector in Palestine. Sources: [The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics issued a report indicating that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices increased by 5% in Palestine during the 4th quarter 2021 compared to the previous quarter; therefore, the (GDP) increased by 7% in the year 2021 compared to the previous year. Sources: [The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Website](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics issued a report indicating that the overall Producer Price Index for Palestine with its base year (2019 = 100) reached 105.44 in February 2022, as it increased by 2.80% compared to January 2022. 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 tractor, belonging to a Palestinian, was seized in Masafer Yatta, south of the Hebron Governorate. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
2. Today, a young man was wounded, west of the Tulkarem Governorate, and transferred to a hospital for treatment. [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. Today, (25) Palestinian men were arrested from several Governorates across the West Bank, including: Bethlehem, Nablus, Hebron and Jenin, in addition to occupied Jerusalem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)
5. Today, a 30-year-old Palestinian man was shot, south of the Bethlehem Governorate, and was later pronounced dead. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)
6. Today, there was open fire on vehicles, belonging to Palestinians, pass through settlement street no. 60, south of the Bethlehem Governorate. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)
7. Today, the main road connecting the Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates was closed, preventing citizens from passing. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)
8. Today, Israeli Knesset member Itamar Ben Gvir, along with a group of settlers, stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque, under the protection of the occupying forces. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Ma'an News Agency](#)

Local and International Events

Senior ministers reportedly decided Wednesday to push ahead with plans to ease restrictions for Palestinians during Ramadan, while ordering the bolstering of police and counter-terror efforts. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett convened his high-level security cabinet for the first time in months Wednesday night. Ministers voted to bolster police presence at friction points and to find money for hundreds more cops to be hired, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

The Palestinian Authority has condemned the 'Negev Summit', which was attended by Bahrain, Morocco, the UAE, Egypt and the US, and hosted by Israel, as a 'betrayal' of the Palestinians by their Arab neighbours. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Over two-thirds of the US Senate, including lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, have signed a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling for the Biden administration to quash a UN Human Rights Council inquiry into Israel's treatment of Palestinians. "This one-sided approach is consistent with UNHRC's continuing bias against Israel and the disproportionate use of resources in an ongoing campaign to disparage, discredit and denounce Israel," reads the open letter sent to Blinken on Monday, signed by 68 lawmakers. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh on Monday criticized the recent meetings between Arab states and Israel, stressing that holding these meetings, without ending the Israeli occupation, is an illusion. "We're following with concern Israel's movement in the region," said the prime minister at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting in Ramallah. Shtayyeh was referring to the meeting for the foreign ministers of Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates with their Israeli and US counterparts held in the Naqab desert. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

The European Union (EU) has called for the protection of the Palestinian people "in accordance with Israel's obligations under international law." In a statement issued Monday, the EU stressed the need to "to prevent further violence ahead of Ramadan, Pesach and Easter coinciding in April." [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called on gun owners to arm themselves in public. "After a period of quiet, there is a violent eruption by those who want to destroy us, those who want to hurt us at any price." "What is expected of you, Israeli citizens? Vigilance and responsibility. Whoever has a gun license, this is the time to carry a gun." "We are also currently evaluating a larger framework to involve civilian volunteers who want to help and be of assistance," he added. [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 **3,904,305**, of which **10,485** died and **3,782,095** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **111,725** active cases in Israel, **278** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❑ The Coronavirus has been confirmed in wildlife in at least 24 states. Recently, an early Canadian study showed someone probably contracted a highly mutated strain from a deer.
- ❑ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it has approved the emergency use of an additional dose of coronavirus vaccines separately developed by Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc., with people aged 50 or older eligible for the fourth shots.
- ❑ The highly contagious Omicron subvariant BA.2 is now the dominant Coronavirus strain in the United States, causing more than half of all Covid-19 infections last week, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.
- ❑ China's banks and investment firms are calling on essential staff to live at the office this week to avoid any trading disruption during Shanghai's massive Covid lockdown.
- ❑ A study in the United States, published last week in the medical journal The Lancet, found an increased incidence rate of diabetes in people who had recovered from Covid-19: a 40% increase in risk at least a year after infection. The researchers estimate that about 2 out of every 100 people who are infected with Covid-19 will have a new diagnosis of diabetes.
- ❑ The Biden administration will offer Covid-19 vaccines to migrants taken into custody at the US-Mexico border, according to two sources familiar with the planning, and confirmed by the Department of Homeland Security, as officials prepare for an influx of migrants, Priscilla Alvarez writes.
- ❑ The CDC estimates that, as of Friday, there have been at least 3.1 million infections, 31,000 hospitalizations and 1,800 deaths from flu so far this season.

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/>