



Week Ending 27 September 2020

Coronavirus Cases

| | Overall | New This Week |
|-------------|---------|---------------|
| Total Cases | 1398 | 247 |
| Deaths | 61 | 9 |
| Recoveries | 397 | 63 |

Key Developments

- Director of National Hospital in Raqqa refusing to wear face-mask in protest at short supply
- Infamous former ISIS prison in Raqqa's 'black stadium' turned into coronavirus confinement center
- This week sees highest daily increase in coronavirus cases to date, with 95 new cases recorded on Wednesday
- 2 health workers in Deir-ez-Zor diagnosed with disease, corona facilities yet to host a single patient
- This week saw a 25% decrease (331, 247) in new recorded cases, but a 21% rise in new cases

In depth

Case study: Tabqa

The Director of the National Hospital of Raqqa has complained that they don't have enough masks for their medical workers. He also refuses to wear one as an act of protest, saying: "People in the streets are eating from the trash. How are we supposed to ask them to wear a mask?"

As of 19 September, the National Hospital of Raqqa had confirmed only 49 coronavirus cases using the PCR test. Only one of these cases has been confined to hospital. Raqqa has a very low rate of testing compared to Qamishlo, which is conducting approximately 150 tests per day; and has the capacity to do 4 times this amount. Currently, the Covid-19 Rapid Response team is active, but it is not functioning properly. Some people do come to the Rapid Response team for testing, but the team should properly be going among the people to test.

Bahar, a local NGO which is one of the 7 NGOs active in Raqqa, has rehabilitated the football stadium known as the 'Black Stadium' and turned it into a coronavirus isolation center. The site was previously used by ISIS as a prison and torture chamber.



Case Study: Deir-ez-Zor

The health facilities of Deir-ez-Zor are still not prepared, or active, and until now have they have not hosted one single patient. They have 10 ventilator machines, but they have no specialized staff to attend to the coronavirus ward. PCR tests are being used in Deir-ez-Zor, which are more accurate. But the civilian population remains reluctant to ask for testing. Health officials in Deir-ez-Zor have called for more support to be transferred to their region, to enable them to ramp up their coronavirus response to the same levels seen in Qamishlo and Heseke.

Most significantly, the largely rural region lacks a properly-equipped central health facility. Sherwan Berry of the Kurdish Red Crescent said: "In many villages there are health facilities, so the complaints of the population concerning the lack of hospitals in Deir-Ez-Zor are not accurate. Maybe people have to move to another village, but we are working on solving this problem."

Two health workers in separate facilities in Deir-ez-Zor were diagnosed with coronavirus, one in Kesra, and the other in Abu Khaseb. They join other medical facilities where staff have recently been diagnosed with coronavirus, including the National Hospital of Heseke, the Health Center in Washokani Camp, two Health Centers in Hol Camp, Til Temir clinic, and Dirbesiye hospital.