



Week Ending 20 September 2020

Coronavirus Cases

	Overall	New This Week
Total Cases	1151	311
Deaths	52	6
Recoveries	334	52

Total new cases by region

Jazira region: 170

Deir-ez-Zor region: 9

Euphrates region: 77

Shebha pocket: 2

Key Developments

- Total cases increased by 37% (840, 1151), and fatalities increased by 13% (46, 52)
- Only the rate of recoveries decreased by 58%, last week there were 124 new recoveries, this week only 52 were recorded
- 25 coronavirus cases confirmed among healthworkers (15% of total)
- Of these, 50 (40% of cases among health workers) recorded in Heseke
- Damascus-controlled crossings allow coronavirus to spread in Tabqa
- Second case confirmed in al-Hol camp

In depth

Case study: Tabqa

Our RIC team has been following the coronavirus crisis from on the ground, most recently in the city of Tabqa. Only 18 cases are confirmed in Tabqa, though it is likely many more cases remained unconfirmed. This is due to the fact this region, including Kobane and Manbij, primarily uses the rapid response tests, which are not as effective as the PCR test. Now efforts are being made to switch over to using PCR tests. Despite the low level of accurate testing, the Covid committee in Tabqa seems to be well prepared compared to other regions.

The National Hospital of Tabqa is well prepared, but there are only 5 beds for moderate cases. There is capacity for 16 more beds (these will be activated soon, 8 beds will be used for suspected cases and 8 for moderate cases) and 6 ICU beds. The NGO UPP (the only active NGO in Tabqa besides Heyva Sora Kurd) will train the personal.



They also have a private center with a higher capacity (68 beds), but they will change locations and rebuild an old school which has fallen into disrepair. This new center will not be ready for some months.

At the entrance of the hospital everyone is checked to make sure they wear a mask, have no fever and washes their hands. According to representatives of the Tabqa Civil Council people are being denied entrance to public buildings if they do not wear a mask. But on the street no one wears a mask including the Internal Security Forces, and are not practising social distancing.

Bread is now being distributed in communes as opposed to the bakeries to avoid large crowds. Covid advisers are also trying to spread awareness of social distancing, specifically in shops and restaurants, making an effort to create a “new normal”.

Situation of GoS Border Crossings in Tabqa

There are two Syrian Government-controlled border crossings near Tabqa (Abo Asi and Tabqa), there is a corona quarantine center for the crossing, but upon evaluation this center does not appear to be functioning well as it is in fact providing an ideal environment for the virus to spread.

Before people are allowed to cross they are asked routine questions about their health and receive a temperature check. But of the 6,000 people who have entered not one case of corona was detected. This is possibly due to people not wanting to be put in quarantine and giving false answers to the questions concerning their health.

The International Coalition to Defeat ISIS has reportedly provided NES with \$500,000 to improve health infrastructure and better control points of entry into NES. Health authorities are discussing how best to use this money.