



## North & East Syria Coronavirus Update

As of 30 November 2020

### Coronavirus Cases

	Overall	New This Month
Total Cases	7031	2427
Deaths	195	70
Recoveries	1032	325

### Key Developments

- New quarantine in place across North and East Syria (NES) as coronavirus cases continue to rise
- NES faces worst economic hardship in Syria as a result of coronavirus, 48% of families experiencing significant hardship
- NES also has lowest level of adherence to preventative guidelines, 93% of households struggling to implement basic measures
- Heseke region struggling to contain coronavirus due to chronic water shortages, doctor warns

### In Depth

#### **Economic hardship means locals struggle to follow basic preventative measures**

High levels of reluctance to follow preventative measures are still being reported in North and East Syria. Many residents report that the quarantine will limit their ability to work, with a vast majority of the population reporting that the community's ability to meet its needs has been worsened, and 48% saying their ability to make a sufficient income has been significantly negatively impacted. 93% of households in NES state they face difficulty to follow the preventative guidelines.

According to one report, the AANES has the lowest levels of adherence to preventative measures across Syria, despite locals having much higher trust in the local media and the local administration compared to Syrians in other parts of the country. In NES, coronavirus has made the biggest impact (in terms of ability to remain open and functional)



on education, legal services, financial services, and psychosocial support services. One of the biggest difficulties is lack of awareness, or belief in the virus.

### **New quarantine in place across North and East Syria**

A full quarantine began 26 November in the regions of Qamishlo, Heseke, Tabqa and Raqqa, and will continue until 6 December, joining a pre-existing quarantine in the Euphrates region, which has just been renewed. Most of NES is now under a strict lockdown.

This quarantine prevents unnecessary movement between cities, as well as enforcing the closure of all stores and institutions with the exception of bakeries, hospitals and pharmacies. Schools, public transportation and the marketplace have all been closed for the duration of the quarantine. Local security forces have increased their presence to ensure the new coronavirus security measures are being adhered to.

### **Heseke region struggling to contain coronavirus due to chronic water shortages, doctor warns**

Ibad Anada, head of the Kurdish Red Crescent Covid Hospital in Heseke, tells RIC that Turkish-enforced water shortages are still making it difficult for locals to maintain basic hygiene standards:

"I would like to send a message to the people, not to be reckless when it comes to the coronavirus, because it's real. It exists. We aren't able to control coronavirus. So we lose people, and they die. So you must believe in the virus' existence, and people must follow the instructions. We know that there is a shortage of water, but as much as we can we are asking for people to avoid human contact. Anyone who feels that they have the symptoms must self-isolate, and maintain awareness for their families. Because this virus exists, and if we didn't stand against it, it would be very dangerous.

Hygiene is something essential. An essential weapon against coronavirus. But in Heseke, as everyone knows, the water is a problem. Heseke is poor in terms of its water. The place that gives Heseke water is controlled by Turkey. So we have a big problem, honestly. We hope that it will be solved in the future. Hygiene is important, and the lack of water is a problem, so protocols cannot be followed. It's also something that causes a lot of coronavirus cases.

Now, Heseke has a lot of refugee camps, in order to host more refugees. There are some problems in terms of water distribution. Also, some children contract diarrhea. Because the water is not drinkable. It's not as it should be. It's delivered by trucks, from unknown sources. These trucks are private, and not connected to any side. It's water wells for human consumption. Without any sterilization. So it hasn't been analyzed for purity, to know if it's fit for human consumption or not."