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No. 21

Subject: Timeline of Iran’s Major Steps Toward COVID-19 Epidemic Control

Total confirmed cases: 70,029 Total associated deaths: 4,357 Total recovered cases: 41,947 New cases: 1,837

Since the onset of the COVID-19 epidemic in Iran, extensive interventions have been taken to control the epidemic. These interventions can be classified into three main areas:

1) Measures to change community health behaviors and improve self-care
2) launching physical distance
3) Launching active case finding and isolation of identified COVID-19 cases

Major steps taken toward the epidemic control are listed below in a chronological order.

- Ban on flights to Wuhan, China
- Control of passenger importation from China
- Closure of schools and universities
- Closure of cinemas, theaters and concerts
- Holding the competitions without watchers
- Cancelling sport competitions
- Closure of some business units in epicenters
- Closure of parks and promenades
- Launching national campaign on COVID-19 screening and control
- Launching community awareness
- Establishment of the national COVID-19 management committee
- Substantial changes in the community health behaviors
- Relaxing some restrictions
- Smart social distancing & cancellation of between-city travels
- Strengthened early case finding and isolation
- Suspending mass gathering for religious events
- Restrictions on between-city travels
- Scale-up of physical distancing (Phase 2)
- Closure of historical & tourism sites in Shiraz & Isfahan
- Strict limitations on new-year travels
- Suspending mass gathering for weekend religious events
- Suspending conferences and social mass gatherings
- Travel restrictions
- Launching community awareness

In addition to the interventions described above, valuable and effective treatment services provided in Iran’s hospitals by medical staff have had significant effects on reducing the burden of the disease, especially the mortality. By screening the general population, and early detection and isolation of cases, community health workers have had an outstanding role in controlling the spread of the virus. Also, the unique support, empathy and altruism of the community have once again demonstrated the crystallization of the country’s rich culture.