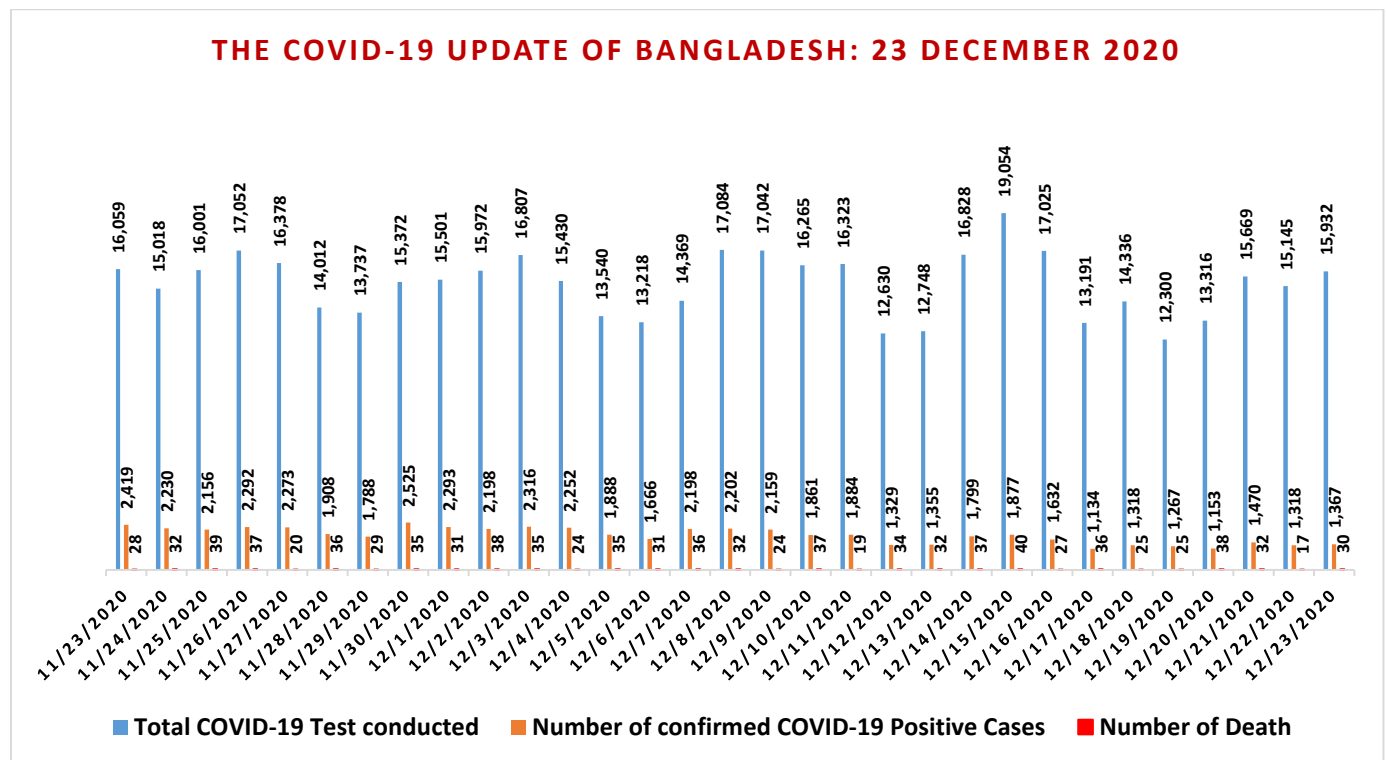


Situation Update on COVID-19: 23 December 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has already been shaped a global economic and humanitarian crisis of a completely different magnitude. Declared as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), it has prepared several guidelines to fight against pandemic. Governments across the world enforce lockdowns to suppress the spread of Covid-19 although many countries have been unable to contain its spread. However, it has been detected in **213** countries so far. The COVID-19 has already resulted in **1,725,282** deaths globally; the confirmed COVID-19 positive cases are **78,425,759** where **21,512,290** are the active cases¹.

Bangladesh is not new to disasters or major humanitarian crises. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, is a crisis of a completely different magnitude and one that will require a response of an unprecedented scale. The first case of Covid-19 in Bangladesh was detected on 8 March 2020. However, the confirmed COVID-19 positive cases are increasing on a daily basis. Compare to the total conducted test of COVID-19, **8.58%** is tested positive today, on the one hand. The recovery rate is **4.54%** out of total **53,164** active cases. Moreover, **2,191** deaths were recorded from 8th March to 13th June with COVID-19 symptoms². To control the situation and the spread of COVID-19, the government has taken several measures which include confirmed Social and Physical Distancing, Countrywide Lockdown, Institutional and Home Quarantines etc.



¹<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>

²<http://peaceobservatory-cgs.org/#/all-division-heat-map>

| The most Common COVID-19 myths and rumours | Facts³ |
|--|--|
| Hydroxychloroquine can be used to treat COVID-19 Patients. | There are currently NO drugs licensed for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. |
| Adding pepper to your soup or other meals can prevent or cure COVID-19. | Hot peppers in your food, though very tasty, CANNOT prevent or cure COVID-19. |
| COVID-19 IS transmitted through houseflies. | NO , there is no evidence or information to suggest that the COVID-19 virus transmitted through houseflies. |
| Spraying and introducing bleach or another disinfectant into your body will protect you against COVID-19. | NO , it does not protect you. These substances can be poisonous if ingested and cause irritation and damage to your skin and eyes. |
| Drinking methanol, ethanol or bleach prevents or cure COVID-19. | Methanol, ethanol, and bleach CANNOT prevent or cure COVID-19. These are poisons can be extremely dangerous. |
| 5G mobile networks spread COVID-19. | Viruses CANNOT travel on radio waves/mobile networks. COVID-19 is spreading in many countries that do not have 5G mobile networks. |
| Exposing yourself to the sun or to temperatures higher than 25C degrees prevents the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) | NO , you can catch COVID-19, no matter how sunny or hot the weather is. |
| Being able to hold your breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or feeling discomfort means you are free from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or any other lung disease. | You CANNOT confirm it with this breathing exercise, which can even be dangerous. |
| Drinking alcohol protects you against COVID-19 and can be dangerous. | NO , it cannot protect you against COVID-19. Frequent or excessive alcohol consumption can increase your risk of health problems. |
| Taking a hot bath prevents the new coronavirus disease. | Taking a hot bath WILL NOT prevent you from catching COVID-19. |
| The new coronavirus can be transmitted through mosquito bites. | NO , to date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes. |
| Are hand dryers effective in killing the new coronavirus? | NO . Hand dryers are not effective in killing the 2019-nCoV |
| Ultra-violet (UV) lamps can disinfect hands or other areas of your skin. | Ultra-violet (UV) lamps SHOULD NOT be used. UV radiation can cause skin irritation and damage your eyes. |
| Thermal scanners can detect COVID-19. | Thermal scanners are effective in detecting people who have a fever. They CANNOT detect people who are infected with COVID-19. |
| Do vaccines against pneumonia protect you against the new coronavirus? | NO , Vaccines against pneumonia, such as pneumococcal vaccine and Haemophilus influenza type B (Hib) vaccine, do not provide protection against the new coronavirus. |
| Can regularly rinsing your nose with saline help prevent infection with the new coronavirus? | NO . There is no evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline has protected people from infection with the new coronavirus. |
| Can eating garlic help prevent infection with the new coronavirus? | Garlic is a healthy food that may have some antimicrobial properties. However, there IS NO EVIDENCE from the current outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from the new coronavirus. |
| Does the new coronavirus affect older people, or are younger people also susceptible? | PEOPLE OF ALL AGES CAN BE INFECTED BY THE NEW CORONAVIRUS (2019-NCOV) . Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. |
| Are antibiotics effective in preventing and treating the new coronavirus? | NO , antibiotics do not work against viruses, only bacteria. |

For COVID-19 related any emergency, please contact below numbers:

National Call Center: 333; Health Portal: 16263; IEDCR: 10655; Specialist Health Line: 0196116 77777; National Helpline: 109; Website: www.corona.gov.bd or www.iedcr.gov.bd

³ World Health Organization