

# The third monitoring report of the Corona epidemic inside Syria

1 April 2020

This report is the third of its kind, as the Center for Civil Society and Democracy monitors the outbreak of the Corona epidemic in Syria, precautionary measures that have been taken, and the impact of the virus.

During the past week, we monitored an increase in the precautionary measures taken by the local authorities, where a curfew was imposed in most areas, with penalties applied to violators, with no such imposition in the Northwest regions where calls to stay at home were not being imposed on the population.

## First - in the Syrian Regime-controlled areas:

As of the date of preparing this report, 16 new cases of virus infection have been recorded, the mandatory curfew measures imposed by the Syrian Regime continue, with the continued suspension of schools and universities, the reduction of staff rates in government departments, the ban on public transportation, and the closure of markets, with the exception of centers selling food and supplies and pharmacies and private health centers. A circular was issued to suspend all legal procedures for inviting taxpayers and prosecuting them for failure to join until April 22, 2020.

## Second - In the areas of Self-Management control:

The ban continues in the areas of Self-Management control, with the tightening of procedures to compel residents to stay in their homes, with disinfection campaigns continuing for directorates in the areas of control of the system and Self-Management, as well as the deployment of devices to measure body temperature at security barriers in the security blocks in the cities of Qamishli and Al-Hassaka by the government health directorate. Continuing disinfection campaigns inside cities were also monitored, and running cars loaded with amplifiers roamed around the city of Al-Hassaka, calling on people to commit to staying home, with phone numbers assigned to report suspected cases and infection of Coronavirus and a phone number to report complaints regarding high prices. Also, those arriving through all border crossings into the area are subjected to quarantine for a period of 14 days in pre-quarantined centers.

The Kurdish Red Crescent also set up two tents in the city of Derek to receive those suspected to have been infected with the Coronavirus before transferring them to the centers designated for treatment.

On the societal level, an initiative was launched in Al-Hassaka governorate by more than 40 women and men doctors of all specialties in Al-Qamishli entitled "The Comprehensive Virtual Clinic" to respond to patients' inquiries and provide treatment by phone or through mobile applications (e.g. WhatsApp) during the curfew period. There were also other initiatives to exempt tenants from their monthly rent during the curfew. In the Western countryside of Deir Al-Zour, civil organizations carried out a voluntary disinfection campaign that included hospitals, civil society organizations, and mosques in the Al-Kasra and Al-Muhaimidah areas. The "You Are Our People" campaign was launched with the participation of nine organizations that included the disinfection of public facilities and the distribution of sterile materials and educational brochures to people.

### Third - in the Northwestern regions of Syria:

No cases were recorded at the time of this report's writing, with suspicions being examined by the health directorates of the Interim Government. The suspension of school hours remains, and all roads and crossings were closed in all cases except for humanitarian and relief cases and commercial shipments. The decision to close the crossings between areas of "the olive branch" and Idlib, Al-Ghazawiya crossing and Deir Ballut, witnessed a large crowd of civilians moving inside and outside of these areas. There are no mandatory precautions for residents to limit the spread of the epidemic.

The Civil Defense Organization has worked on spraying and disinfection campaigns for public facilities in the regions of Northern Idlib and its countryside and camps, and this campaign has also been accompanied by awareness campaigns on methods of prevention, methods of protection from the virus, and the importance of home quarantine through the distribution of brochures, posters, and stops.

Response coordinators in Syria launched a guide to fight rumors about the Coronavirus, distributed brochures that include methods of prevention and methods of disease protection, and issued a simplified assessment of the health sector's capabilities in Northwestern Syria, which clarifies and predicts a major humanitarian catastrophe in the event of the spread of the disease, as it shows the health sector's inability to control the disease if it spreads.

A set of precautionary steps were taken in hospitals to reduce overcrowding and the application of social distancing between examiners, in addition to wearing masks and protective clothing for the medical staff, and instructing the examiners on the importance of wearing masks and gloves.

It was observed this week that the demand for improved plastic masks and gloves increased, raising the price to develop a mask to a price of 300 to 350 with one layer and 400 to 450, and sometimes to 1000, for improved masks.

As for the rubber gloves, they went from 75 to 125, and the price of latex gloves went up from 3000 to 3500 Syrian pounds.