

# Corona threat: Schools directed to maintain best hygiene standards

Education Ministry sends guidelines to schools on levels of hygiene

TDT | Manama

Schools in the Kingdom have been ordered to maintain a high-level of cleanliness at buildings as part of efforts to combat the risk of coronavirus.

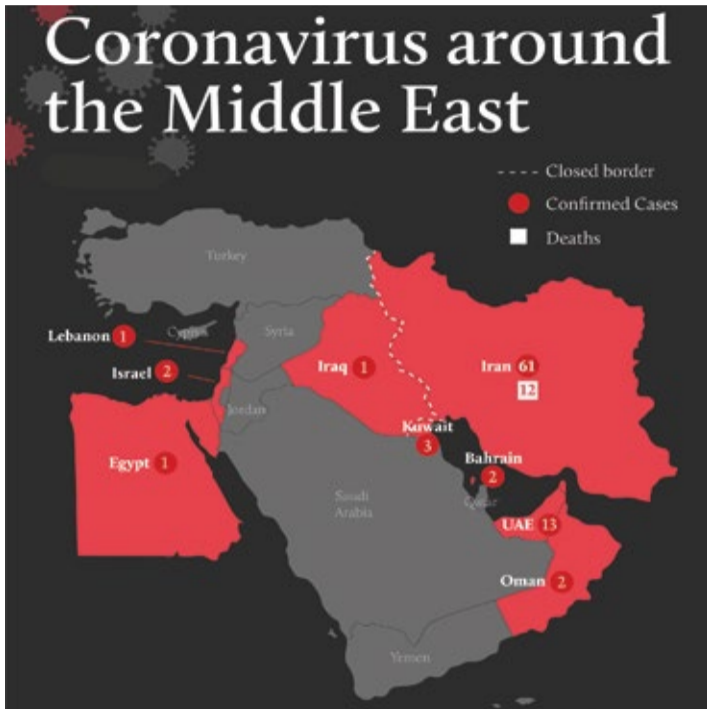
Sources said the Education Ministry authorities have urged schools to keep an extra high level of hygiene to thwart the risk of coronavirus virus, which was confirmed to have infected a Bahraini citizen yesterday.

The ministry has sent a set of guidelines to schools on maintaining high level of cleanliness and hygiene.

It ordered the educational institutions to make sure highest hygiene standards are implemented across classrooms, canteens, and its building premises.

It also instructed schools to educate students on cleanliness procedures and health awareness programmes and also educating the student on what to do if they find themselves sick.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has stepped up efforts to spread awareness about corona-



The number of coronavirus infections have been increasing in the region.

virus as they urge residents and citizens to take 'hygiene measures' The ministry has urged citizens and residents to take various

measures to protect themselves from coronavirus. The ministry sources said that educational campaigns are in full



Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Medical Centre has been designated as an isolation centre.

swing to create awareness in the public about the novel coronavirus. The modes used to create awareness include traditional me-

dia, social media and even SMS campaign which was recently done. "Dear citizens and residents,



Citizens and residents should take various measures to protect themselves from coronavirus.

HEALTH MINISTRY

kindly be reminded to take the following precautions to reduce the risk of contracting the Coronavirus (Covid-19): Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly using soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitisers.

"Clean and disinfect frequently used objects and surfaces such as door handles. Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of used wipes properly. Avoid contact with people experiencing a fever or suffering from a cough.

"The Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)," the ministry stated in a mass SMS campaign, which was sent out to Bahrainis and expatriates across the Kingdom.

## Acute mask shortage at pharma stores

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Face masks were out of stock at many pharma stores across the Kingdom as people began buying them in large numbers over coronavirus fear.

The shortage is attributed to declining supply and increasing demand in the Kingdom.

This comes in light of the Kingdom's Health Ministry confirming its first case of coronavirus infection.

Earlier, speaking to Tribune, a pharma store manager, who doesn't want to be named, had said: "We have a huge shortage of face masks as we sold out our stocks in the last two days.

"Though no cases are reported in the Kingdom, people here are taking special caution and a good number of them are wear-



There is a huge demand for face masks across the Kingdom.



We have a huge shortage of face masks as we sold out our stocks in the last two days.

PHARMA STORE MANAGER

ing face masks, which is one of the ways to prevent being infected."

He said masks were being imported from China and the supplies have declined owing to huge demand in that country.

"If you see, the Chinese authorities have asked everyone at risk to wear face masks. The demand is vast as China is the largest populated country in the world," he added.

However, on the contrary, there were also many reports on media, which states there are not enough evidences to suggest that wearing a face mask has any benefit for the general public.

Health experts have said that the choice of mask could make a big difference to its effectiveness.

Of the two main types of face masks on the market -- N95 respirators that fit tight to the face and include a filtration system, and the surgical face masks typically worn by hospital workers -- it is the latter that offers the best defence against the virus, a health expert said.

"Respirators are designed to protect the user, because they want to keep the contaminants out," he added.

"Surgical masks, actually in the healthcare environment are meant to protect the patients."

The World Health Organisation has warned that the huge surge in demand for face masks and other protective clothing could lead to a shortage for those who need them most: doctors and nurses treating coronavirus patients.

## Call to comply with health guidelines

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All necessary medical precautions, including monitoring those who have been in contact with the patient, have been taken.

HEALTH MINISTRY

The Ministry of Health has called for an immediate compliance with the health guidelines set out, alongside other precautionary efforts the Ministry continues to take, in order to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Ministry of Health, in co-ordination with related entities, has ensured the readiness of all health workers, in response to the first confirmed case in the Kingdom following a citizen's return from Iran carrying the virus.

"All necessary medical precautions, including monitoring those who have been in contact with the patient, have been taken," the ministry said.

Citizens can help prevent the spread of infections by washing their hands thoroughly with

soap, refraining from close interactions such as shaking hands, hugging or kissing, in addition to covering their mouths and noses with a tissue while sneezing or sneezing into the crook of their elbow.

The ministry noted that the immune system, which is at the core of health and wellness, can be strengthened through exercise, a healthy diet, adequate sleep, vaccinations, drinking plenty of water to avoid dehydration, not smoking and avoiding stress.

## 'First cases linked to Iran'

Dubai

Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Iraq yesterday recorded their first new coronavirus cases, all people who had been in Iran, which raised its toll from the disease to 12 dead and 61 infected.

Oman's health ministry said two Omani women were diagnosed with the virus after arriving from Iran, while the sultanate's civil aviation authority said on Monday it had halted all flights to the Islamic Republic.

Iraq said the new coronavirus was detected in an Iranian theology student in Najaf, who entered the country before it banned the entry of non-Iraqis coming from Iran.

Kuwait recorded the virus in



Kuwaiti special forces wearing protective masks guard the entrance to a hotel, where people evacuated from Iran are being held in quarantine, in Fahaheel, Kuwait.



three people among 700 who had been evacuated on Saturday

from the Iranian city of Mashhad. They were a 53-year-old Kuwaiti

man, a 61-year-old Saudi man and a 21-year-old whose nationality

was unclear. The United Arab Emirates on

Monday banned its citizens from traveling to Iran and Thailand due to concern over coronavirus, state news agency WAM said.

The UAE, a major air transit centre and tourism and business hub, has recorded 13 cases since Jan 28; the latest two are an Iranian tourist and his wife.

Kuwait Airways and Iraq Airways last week suspended flights to Iran while Saudi Arabia suspended travel to Iran. Iraq has shut its Safwan border crossing with Kuwait to travelers and trade at Kuwait's request.

Iran's Deputy Health Minister, Iraj Harirchi, said 12 people had died and up to 61 had been infected in Iran. Most infections were in the Shi'ite holy city of Qom.