

With 239 deaths, Iran hits its highest daily COVID-19 toll

October 7 2020, by Nasser Karimi



In this April 30, 2020 file photo, a woman wearing mask and gloves, prays at the grave of her mother who died from the new coronavirus, at a cemetery in the outskirts of the city of Babol, in northern Iran. Iranian state TV said Wednesday Oct. 7, 2020, that the country has hit its highest number of daily deaths from the coronavirus, with 239 new fatalities. Wednesday's report quotes the spokesperson of the country's health ministry as saying the new deaths were recorded since Tuesday. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi, File)

Iranian state TV said the country has hit its highest number of daily deaths from the coronavirus, with 239 new fatalities reported on Wednesday.

The report quoted the spokesperson of the country's [health ministry](#), Sima Sadat Lari, as saying that the 239 died since Tuesday. Iran has in the past had 235 daily deaths.

The latest death toll brought the total number of fatalities to 27,658. The ministry spokesperson said [healthcare professionals](#) recorded 4,019 new confirmed cases since Tuesday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in Iran to 483,844.

Lari said 4,274 patients are in critical conditions and that 397,109 have recovered so far. The Islamic Republic has been struggling with both the region's largest outbreak and the highest number of fatalities in the Middle East.

Authorities have blamed the high death toll on rampant disregard of health measures by people, especially those traveling between cities and large gatherings at ceremonies, though they have closed many [public places](#) such as cafes and gyms.

Health officials said some 50% of the fatalities have been recorded in the capital, Tehran, with a population of 10 million.

Iran also suffered the region's first major outbreak, with top politicians, health officials and religious leaders in its Shiite theocracy stricken with the [virus](#). It has since struggled to contain the spread of the virus across this nation of 80 million people, initially beating it back only to see a spike in cases again, beginning in June.

The first coronavirus cases and deaths were reported in Iran on the same

day in February—the Mideast's first outbreak of the virus—yet it only saw its highest single-day spike in reported cases in June. The highest daily [death](#) toll was reported in July.

In February, authorities for days denied the virus had reached the country, allowing the virus time to spread as the nation marked the 41st anniversary of its 1979 Islamic Revolution with mass demonstrations and then held a parliamentary election in which authorities desperately sought to boost turnout.

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