

Iran reports 154 new virus deaths

July 3 2020



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Iran on Friday reported 154 new deaths from the novel coronavirus, with fatalities picking up again days after hitting a record high.

Health ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said in a televised

interview that the latest deaths had taken the overall toll in Iran's outbreak to 11,260.

She said another 2,566 people had tested positive for the virus, bringing to 235,429 the [total number](#) of confirmed cases since the outbreak emerged in February.

Fatalities had dropped slightly after hitting the highest single-day toll of 162 on Monday but resumed a rising trajectory in the past two days.

The growing caseload has seen some previously largely unscathed provinces classified as "red"—the highest level on Iran's colour-coded risk scale—with authorities allowed to reimpose restrictive measures if required.

They include Bushehr, Hormozgan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Khorasan Razavi, and Kurdistan, all located along Iran's borders.

It has prompted the government to make the wearing of masks mandatory in enclosed [public spaces](#) from Sunday, with some officials and state television anchors wearing masks on camera as part of a campaign to encourage their use.

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Citation: Iran reports 154 new virus deaths (2020, July 3) retrieved 17 July 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-07-iran-virus-deaths.html>

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