

# **Government of the United Arab Emirates**

## **COVID-19 Update**

APRIL, 8 2020

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# UAE COVID-19 News

## Researchers at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi

are working to develop and produce cheaper ventilators at only 2 percent of current market cost. The expert team aims to roll out a prototype in less than two weeks to mass produce the ventilators

**The UAE has supplied** 10 tonnes of aid to Italy, 13 tonnes of aid to Kazakhstan, and 10 tonnes of aid to Colombia in the fight against COVID-19. The shipments, which contained hundreds of thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment, will benefit over 30,000 healthcare workers across the three countries.

## The UAE's Arabic remote learning platform

**Madrassa** is now serving 2.5 million people across the Arab world, three times more than before the COVID-19 crisis began. With over 5,000 educational videos on offer, the platform complements the UAE's distance learning initiative launched on March 22.

# UAE COVID-19 News

## **Etihad Airways will partner with Australian company**

**Elenium Automation** to test new technology that can detect sick travelers, including those with early symptoms of COVID-19. The system aims to track passengers' temperature, heart rate, and respiratory rate when passing through check-in desks, baggage drops, and security checkpoints.

**Etihad announced** it would add new flights from Abu Dhabi to Melbourne and Amsterdam to repatriate stranded passengers seeking to return home. Etihad continues to operate special flights to Seoul, Singapore, Manila, and Jakarta.

**The UAE** has now conducted almost 540,000 tests, approximately one for every 18 people in the country, and more than twice the number it had conducted at the beginning of the month. The UAE continues to conduct more testing per million people than any other country, roughly four times the next highest tester.

A photograph of Luigi Di Maio, the Italian Foreign Minister, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is gesturing with his right hand. A microphone is visible in front of him. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

**Luigi Di Maio**  
**ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER**

“We are currently experiencing a phase that can only be described as war against an invisible enemy waged by our medical personnel, and the personal protective equipment provided by the UAE to Italy is our weapon in this battle. We consider this gesture to embody solidarity in practice and on-ground assistance. Italy will never forget the countries that supported it during this difficult period, which is not only a health crisis but an economic and community one as well.”



## **Dr. Cesare Stefanini**

### **DIRECTOR OF KHALIFA UNIVERSITY'S HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING INNOVATION CENTRE**

“The number of intensive care beds and mechanical ventilators in hospitals is a fraction of what may be needed in the coming weeks as the situation develops worldwide. Our plan needs to be very aggressive. We aim to develop a working prototype in less than two weeks, alongside designing a mass-production unit. We have all the theoretical and design expertise in our team, especially in the prototyping phase.”