



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

Secrétariat

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Subject: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation and impact on the service delivery of meteorological satellite operators

Action required: Inform the WMO Secretariat on :

- (a) Any relevant information resources (e.g. dedicated webpages) your organization has already set up to provide up-to-date service delivery information and points of contact;
- (b) The extent to which your regional or global service delivery commitments could be compromised as a result of COVID-19, in the short and in the longer term.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you that the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) continues to closely monitor the rapidly changing global situation of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. I commend the pro-active steps that the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) Members and yourself are already taking, including to support the continuing operation of meteorological satellites and to mitigate the potential impacts of the Virus on the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services' (NMHS') national, regional and global service delivery commitments.

Given the development of this unprecedented situation that is likely to affect even more countries and to last for several months, I acknowledge that some WMO Members and their NMHSs may face challenges that could push even robust business continuity plans and procedures to their limits, in all areas from observation to forecasting and the delivery of services at all time scales and across all sectors. Impacts could also be felt by the operators of the meteorological satellites upon which WMO Members depend for critical observation data.

Under these circumstances, the importance of ensuring the continuity of the space-based observations provided by the Members and Observers of the CGMS is even more critical than ever before. It is highly important to ensure that these services continue during this critical time period, when severe weather, water and climate events continue to pose huge risks on top of the Coronavirus crisis. We may also need to consider what short-term solutions could be put in place to, for example, deliver low volume products to WMO Members who are experiencing difficulties accessing operational systems due to being forced to work remotely.

I have requested the WMO Infrastructure Department to maintain contact with CGMS Members and Observers and to coordinate actions across the Secretariat, including the Regional Offices, so that as a community we can support each other to the best of our capabilities.

To: Heads of the Members and Observers of the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites

cc: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO with Satellite Operators

I should therefore be grateful, if you could notify WMO about:

1. Any relevant information resources (e.g. dedicated webpages) your organization has already set up to provide up-to-date service delivery information and points of contact. We plan to collectively make this information available through the WMO website.
2. The extent to which your regional or global service delivery commitments could be compromised as a result of COVID-19, in the short and in the longer term.

I would kindly request that you inform the Secretariat at your earliest convenience and identify contact points from your side by sending your replies to Dr Anthony Rea, Director, Infrastructure Department at ARea@wmo.int and Dr Werner Balogh, Officer-in-Charge, Space Systems and Utilization Division at WBalogh@wmo.int.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your continued support to the activities of WMO. During this difficult time, I am sure you will continue to support WMO Members should the need arise. My sympathies and thoughts are with all those already struggling and let me close by sending my sincere best wishes to you, your families and your staff.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a series of loops and a final upward stroke.

(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General