

**WMO OMM**

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

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29 April 2020

Subject: Global Information System Centres issues management for COVID-19 outbreak

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you that during recent weeks the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS, <https://wdqms.wmo.int>) has shown a significant decrease and sometimes a cessation in the exchange of observations from some Members. In the current extraordinary situation related to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is essential to ascertain if the decrease of observations exchange is caused by COVID-19 issues, so as to be able to provide when possible the necessary support to Members to recover to a normal operational level.

The Global Information System Centres (GISCs) are ensuring the continued and secure operations of the WMO Information System (WIS) with their GISC watch activity. Therefore they are in a position to monitor the situation and to use their communication channels with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in their area of responsibility to assess the situation and eventually provide technical support in coordination with the WMO Secretariat.

As a follow-up to the letter reference No. 06432/2020/S/DPS-COVID-19 dated 2 April 2020, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Task Team on Global Information System Centres (TT-GISC), agreed on starting immediately a GISC issue tracking procedure focused on monitoring significant decreases in surface observations exchange related to COVID-19.

In the near future, TT-GISC will propose the procedure to be implemented in the context of the GISC watch operational activity.

I would like to underline the critical role of GISCs in this initiative in support of the operational activities of Members in their respective area of responsibility.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your continued support for WMO activities.

Yours faithfully,

(W. Zhang)
for the Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO operating Global Information System Centres (GISCs) (limited distribution)

cc: President of the Infrastructure Commission