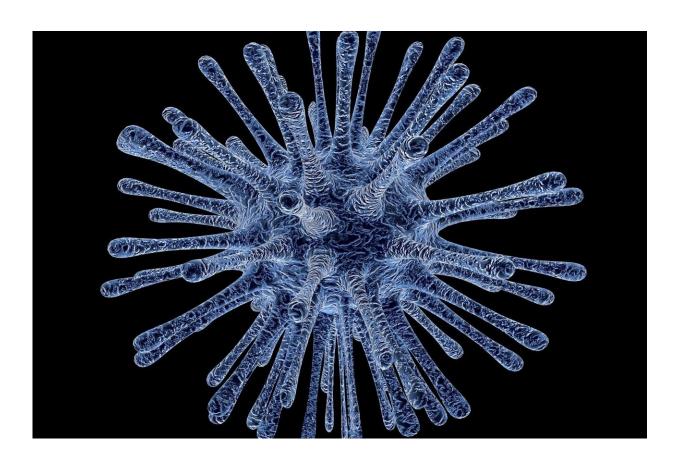


Iran reports 135 new virus deaths, raising total to 988

March 17 2020



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Iran announced on Tuesday another 135 deaths from the novel coronavirus, bringing the overall toll to 988 in one of the world's worsthit countries.



"Reports by more than 56 laboratories indicated that we have had 1,178 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection in the past 24 hours," health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said in a televised news conference.

"This brings the <u>total number</u> of confirmed cases to 16,169 as of today noon," he added.

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