

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

01.05.2020

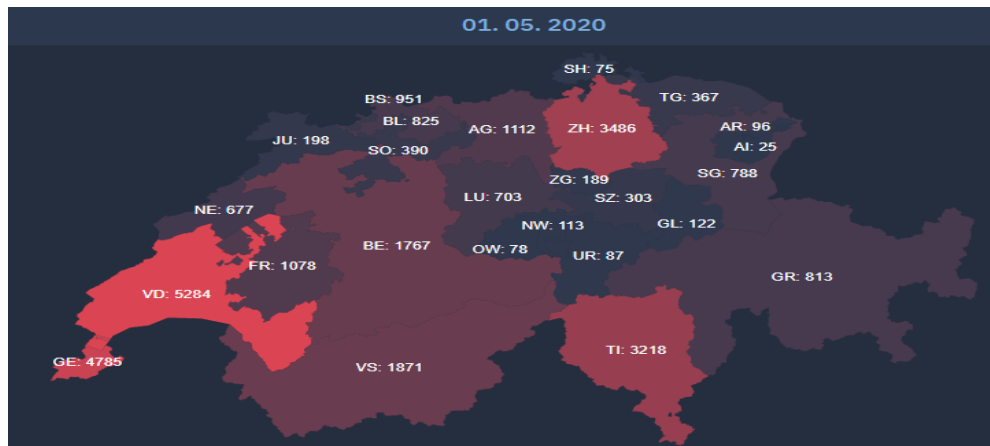
The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 235,600 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (62,319) and Italy (27,967). There have been more than 3,339,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.

- A new collaboration has been announced in the world's quest for a potential vaccine against the novel coronavirus. Biotechnology company Moderna and Switzerland-based Lonza Ltd. said on Friday that they were agreeing to a 10-year collaboration to manufacture a potential Covid-19 vaccine, mRNA-1273. Moderna's Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel said in a news release today that the collaboration would enable the firm to accelerate its manufacturing capacity for mRNA-1273 and other products by a factor of 10. In April, Moderna submitted an Investigational New Drug application to the US Food and Drug Administration for Phase 2 and late-stage studies of mRNA-1273 and the company expects to begin the study in the second quarter of 2020, according to its news release.
- The new coronavirus is likely to keep spreading for at least another 18 months to two years—until 60% to 70% of the population has been infected, a team of longstanding pandemic experts predicted in a report released Thursday. They recommended that the US prepare for a worst-case scenario that includes a second big wave of coronavirus infections in the fall and winter. Even in a best-case scenario, people will continue to die from the virus, they predicted. "*This thing's not going to stop until it infects 60 to 70% of people,*" said Mike Osterholm, who directs the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota. "The idea that this is going to be done soon defies microbiology." Osterholm has been writing about the risk of pandemics for 20 years and has advised several presidents and wrote the report along with several epidemiologists and a historian. Because Covid-19 is new, no one has any immunity, they said. Their predictions are different from models presented by groups such as the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington and Imperial College London, whose report predicting millions of deaths in the US and UK helped galvanize responses by both governments.
- Scientists working for the US military have designed a new Covid-19 test that could potentially identify carriers before they become infectious and spread the disease. The test has emerged from a project set up by the US military's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa) aimed at rapid diagnosis of germ or chemicalwarfare poisoning. It was hurriedly repurposed when the pandemic broke out and the new test is expected to be put forward for emergency use approval (EUA) by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) within a week.
- China's Hubei province will lower its coronavirus emergency response level from the highest level starting on May 2, according to Yang Yunyan, the vice governor of Hubei. In a news conference held on Friday, vice governor Yang said: "*We have basically curbed the spread of the epidemic.*" Yang encouraged Hubei residents "*to stay at home as much as possible and avoid gatherings with other people*" while health officials continue to carry out "*targeted efforts in the community.*" He said that the government's focus will now shift to controlling "*domestic rebound and imported cases*" and monitoring "*large workplaces and key groups of people.*"

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	64'410	1'102'360	156'094
Italy	27'967	205'463	75'945
UK	26'771	171'253	N/A
Spain	24'824	239'639	137'984
France	24'376	167'178	49'476
Belgium	7'703	49'032	11'892
Germany	6'632	163'331	126'900
Iran	6'091	95'646	76'318
Brazil	6'006	87'187	35'935
Netherlands	4'893	39'791	N/A
China	4'633	82'874	77'642
Canada	3'223	53'657	22'043
Turkey	3'174	120'204	48'886
Sweden	2'653	21'520	1'005
Mexico	1'859	19'224	11'423
Switzerland	1'749	29'705	23'400
Ireland	1'232	20'612	13'386
Russia	1'169	114'431	13'220
India	1'154	35'043	9'068
Peru	1'051	36'976	10'405
Portugal	1'007	25'351	1'647
Ecuador	900	24'934	1'558
Indonesia	800	10'551	1'591
Romania	726	12'567	4'328
Poland	651	13'105	3'491
Austria	589	15'531	13'110
Philippines	579	8'772	1'084
Denmark	460	9'311	6'729
Algeria	453	4'154	1'821
Japan	430	14'088	2'460
Pakistan	406	17'611	4'315
Egypt	406	5'895	1'460
Hungary	323	2'863	609
Dominican Republic	313	7'288	1'387
Colombia	293	6'507	1'439
Ukraine	272	10'861	1'413
S. Korea	248	10'774	9'072
Czechia	237	7'689	3'314
Chile	234	17'008	9'018
Israel	223	16'004	8'758
Finland	218	5'051	3'000
Argentina	218	4'428	1'256
Norway	210	7'770	32
Panama	188	6'532	576
Serbia	185	9'205	1'379
Morocco	171	4'529	1'055
Bangladesh	170	8'238	174
Saudi Arabia	169	24'097	3'555
Greece	140	2'612	1'374
Moldova	122	3'980	1'272
UAE	111	13'038	2'543
Malaysia	103	6'071	4'210
South Africa	103	5'647	2'073
Belarus	93	14'917	2'918
Australia	93	6'767	5'745
Iraq	93	2'085	1'375
Luxembourg	92	3'802	3'213
Slovenia	92	1'434	233
North Macedonia	81	1'494	807
Croatia	75	2'085	1'421
Honduras	75	804	112
Bosnia and Herzegovina	70	1'781	755
Afghanistan	68	2'335	310
Bulgaria	68	1'555	276
Bolivia	62	1'167	132
Cameroon	61	1'832	934
Cuba	61	1'501	681
Nigeria	58	1'932	319
Thailand	54	2'960	2'719
Estonia	52	1'694	253
Lithuania	45	1'399	594
Burkina Faso	43	645	506
Andorra	42	745	468
Tunisia	41	994	305

San Marino	41	580	82
Channel Islands	41	538	406
Armenia	33	2'148	977
Niger	32	719	452
Albania	31	782	488
DRC	31	572	73
Sudan	31	442	39
Kuwait	30	4'377	1'602
Somalia	28	601	31
Mali	26	508	196
Kazakhstan	25	3'551	866
Azerbaijan	25	1'854	1'365
Lebanon	24	729	192
Slovakia	23	1'403	558
Isle of Man	22	316	271
Kenya	21	411	150
New Zealand	19	1'479	1'252
Liberia	18	152	45
Ghana	17	2'074	212
Uruguay	17	643	417
Singapore	16	17'101	1'244
Latvia	16	870	348
Guatemala	16	599	66
Tanzania	16	480	167
Cyprus	15	857	296
Ivory Coast	14	1'275	574
Martinique	14	179	83
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
Sint Maarten	13	76	44
Qatar	12	14'096	1'436
Guadeloupe	12	152	95
Oman	11	2'447	495
Bahamas	11	81	25
Iceland	10	1'798	1'689
El Salvador	10	424	124
Venezuela	10	333	142
Mauritius	10	332	310
Paraguay	10	266	113
Uzbekistan	9	2'075	1'182
Senegal	9	1'024	356
Congo	9	220	19
Togo	9	123	66
Guyana	9	82	22
Bahrain	8	3'169	1'553
Kyrgyzstan	8	756	504
Jordan	8	453	362
Jamaica	8	422	29
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	73
Haiti	8	81	8
Guinea	7	1'495	329
Sri Lanka	7	690	162
Montenegro	7	322	219
Sierra Leone	7	136	21
Barbados	7	81	39
Costa Rica	6	719	338
Georgia	6	566	207
Taiwan	6	429	324
Myanmar	6	151	28
Bermuda	6	114	48
Chad	5	73	33
Hong Kong	4	1'040	859
Mayotte	4	539	235
Malta	4	467	367
Monaco	4	95	64
Zimbabwe	4	40	5
Gabon	3	276	67
Ethiopia	3	133	66
Zambia	3	109	74
Libya	3	61	18
Syria	3	43	21
Saint Martin	3	38	27
Malawi	3	37	9
Antigua and Barbuda	3	24	11
Nicaragua	3	14	7
Djibouti	2	1'097	672
Palestine	2	344	76

- Russia reported more than 7,900 new coronavirus cases today -- its biggest single-day jump in cases so far. In addition, South Korea announced one new local case of Covid-19 today – one day after announcing the milestone of zero new local cases in 72 days. Furthermore, Singapore reported more than 930 new cases today -- a dramatic jump from yesterday's count of 528 new infections. The Asian city-state saw its numbers spike in April, with clusters identified at dormitories where migrant workers live together in cramped conditions.
- Around 35 million face masks were distributed across Switzerland by the end of April, the government's top coronavirus pandemic officials have said, with more now available to the general public. The re-opening - which was confirmed by the government on Wednesday - applies to compulsory schools (with pupils up to the age of 16). Upper secondary schools are only allowed to open for small groups of pupils. Under Switzerland's federal system, it's the cantons that are in charge of educational matters – hence they have the last say in what happens.
- More countries are announcing plans to loosen restrictions, including India and Malaysia, while Australia will consider easing its lockdown early.



- **Funding opportunity for researcher**

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science

- <https://fastgrants.org/>

The US Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program - a call for proposals on COVID-19

- <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/ProgramFY.htm?programFYId=256400>

A new COVID-19 calls

- <https://intern.unibe.ch/dienstleistungen/forschung/covid/open/>

Anyone submitting to US (NIH, DoD) or EU Horizon 2020 calls can contact the Grants Office for support: grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch. The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schögler (aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch) and Leah Witton (leah.witton@research.unibe.ch).

Sources

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