

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

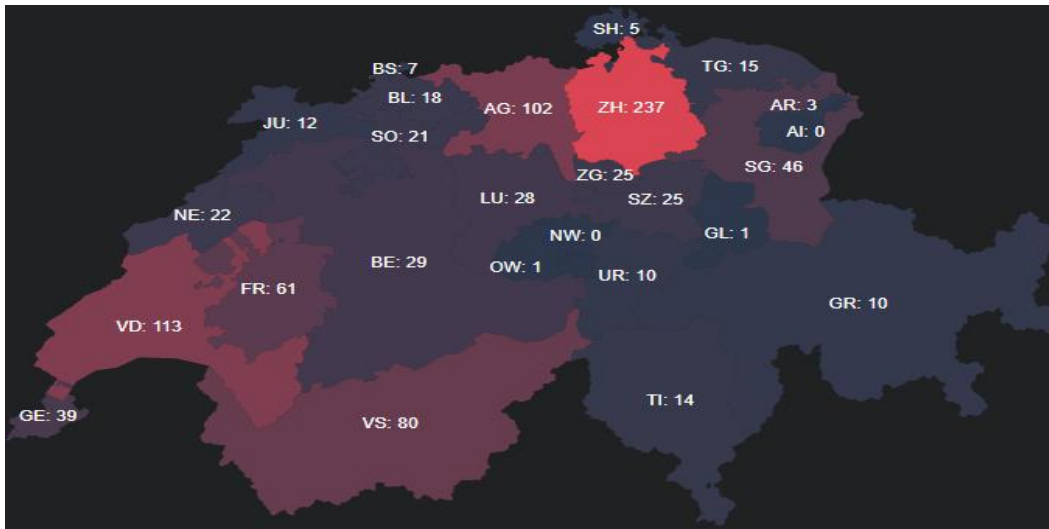
01.07.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 516,307 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (130,365) and Brazil (60,194). There have been more than 10,681,773 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Masks declared obligatory on Swiss public transport. *“Following the lifting of measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic, more people are using public transport. In many cases the recommended distance cannot be maintained,”* the government said in a statement today. The mask requirement applies to everyone aged 12 or older. It applies in trains, trams and buses, mountain railways, cable cars and on ships. The Swiss Federal Railways said conductors will ask anyone not wearing a mask to leave the train and anyone refusing will be fined.
- The global coronavirus pandemic is accelerating, the WHO has said, pointing out that June saw more than half of all cases reported since the start of the pandemic. *“For the past week, the number of the new cases has exceeded 160,000 on every single day,”* WHO chief Dr.Tedros told a virtual briefing. Sixty percent of all cases so far have been reported just in the past month. The coronavirus pandemic is *“not even close to being over”*, the WHO warned earlier this week. Tedros reiterated that taking a *“comprehensive approach”* was the best way to rein in the virus.
- Official Covid-19 death counts in the United States may underestimate the full rise in fatalities linked with the pandemic, according to a new study. The new study, published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine today, found that the number of excess deaths that have occurred so far during the pandemic, between March and May, is actually 28% higher than the nation’s official number of deaths attributed to Covid-19. The researchers added that, *“As the pandemic has progressed, official statistics have become better aligned with excess mortality estimates, perhaps due to enhanced testing and increased recognition of the clinical features of Covid-19.”*
- The Covid-19 vaccine candidate being developed by US pharmaceutical company Pfizer and German biotechnology company BioNTech has yielded positive data in early tests, according to data released by the companies. The companies announced these preliminary findings on Wednesday in a pre-print paper that shows participants in a Phase 1/2 study of the vaccine, called BNT162b1, responded to the immunization and it was found to be well tolerated. The Phase 1/2 study is ongoing. The data has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.
- A leading scientist behind the University of Oxford’s potential Covid-19 vaccine said the team has seen the right sort of immune response in trials, but declined to give a firm timeframe for when it could be ready. Speaking at a parliamentary hearing, Sarah Gilbert, professor of vaccinology at the university, said 8,000 volunteers had been enrolled for Phase III of its trial into the vaccine, AZD1222, which was licensed to AstraZeneca. She said: *We’re very happy that we’re seeing the right sort of immune response that will give protection, and not the wrong sort.* The project has started Phase III of the human trials to assess how the vaccine works in a large number of people over the age of 18. The race is on to develop a working Covid-19 vaccine, with fears that the pandemic could re-intensify towards the end of the year, in the northern hemisphere’s winter season.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	130,365	2,746,425	1,144,359
Brazil	60,194	1,426,913	790,040
UK	43,906	313,483	N/A
Italy	34,788	240,760	190,717
France	29,843	164,801	76,274
Spain	28,355	296,351	N/A
Mexico	27,769	226,089	134,957
India	17,822	603,990	359,354
Iran	10,958	230,211	191,487
Belgium	9,754	61,509	17,021
Peru	9,677	285,213	174,535
Russia	9,536	654,405	422,931
Germany	9,053	195,998	179,800
Canada	8,615	104,271	67,743
Netherlands	6,113	50,273	N/A
Chile	5,753	282,043	245,443
Sweden	5,333	68,451	N/A
Turkey	5,131	199,906	173,111
China	4,634	83,534	78,479
Ecuador	4,527	56,432	27,594
Pakistan	4,395	213,470	100,802
Colombia	3,334	97,846	42,073
Indonesia	2,934	57,770	25,595
Egypt	2,953	68,311	18,460
South Africa	2,657	151,209	73,543
Switzerland	1,965	31,851	29,200
Iraq	2,050	51,524	26,267
Bangladesh	1,888	149,258	62,108
Ireland	1,736	25,473	23,364
Romania	1,667	27,296	19,314
Saudi Arabia	1,698	194,225	132,760
Portugal	1,579	42,454	27,798
Poland	1,477	34,775	21,791
Philippines	1,270	38,511	10,438
Argentina	1,310	64,530	23,040
Ukraine	1,173	44,998	19,548
Bolivia	1,123	33,219	9,340
Japan	972	18,593	16,631
Algeria	920	14,272	10,040
Dominican Republic	747	32,568	17,580
Afghanistan	774	31,836	15,651
Guatemala	773	18,096	3,194
Austria	705	17,873	16,491
Denmark	606	12,794	11,693
Panama	631	33,550	15,745
Hungary	586	4,157	2,714
Sudan	572	9,257	4,014
Nigeria	590	25,694	9,746
Moldova	549	16,898	9,594
Honduras	497	19,558	2,060
Armenia	453	26,065	14,563
Belarus	398	62,424	47,553
Kuwait	358	46,940	37,715
Czechia	349	12,006	7,797
Finland	328	7,236	6,700
Israel	321	26,021	17,429
UAE	315	48,667	37,566
Cameroon	313	12,592	10,100
Yemen	312	1,158	488
North Macedonia	306	6,454	2,598
S. Korea	282	12,850	11,613
Serbia	281	14,836	12,772
Norway	250	8,887	8,138
Morocco	228	12,596	8,978
Bulgaria	230	4,989	2,676
Azerbaijan	220	18,112	10,061
Greece	192	3,432	1,374
Bosnia and Herzegovina	188	4,606	2,432
Kazakhstan	188	22,308	13,845
Oman	185	41,194	24,162
DRC	175	7,122	1,785
El Salvador	182	6,736	3,964
Kenya	149	6,673	2,089
Mauritania	129	4,363	1,622
Malaysia	121	8,640	8,375

Mali	116	2,181	1,474
Qatar	115	97,003	83,965
Ghana	112	17,741	13,268
Slovenia	111	1,613	1,384
Luxembourg	110	4,345	4,003
Senegal	116	6,925	4,545
Croatia	108	2,831	2,155
Australia	104	7,920	7,040
Haiti	105	5,975	931
Ethiopia	103	5,846	2,430
Somalia	90	2,924	910
Cuba	86	2,348	2,218
Bahrain	91	26,758	21,331
Lithuania	78	1,818	1,524
Nicaragua	83	2,519	1,238
Chad	74	866	781
Estonia	69	1,989	1,836
Niger	67	1,075	943
Ivory Coast	68	9,499	4,273
Sierra Leone	60	1,462	974
Thailand	58	3,173	3,059
Albania	65	2,580	1,516
Djibouti	55	4,704	4,550
Burkina Faso	53	962	838
Tajikistan	52	5,954	4,568
Andorra	52	855	799
Kyrgyzstan	62	5,735	2,443
Tunisia	50	1,175	1,038
Channel Islands	47	571	512
CAR	47	3,745	787
Venezuela	51	5,832	1,649
San Marino	42	698	656
Gabon	42	5,394	2,420
Congo	37	1,087	456
South Sudan	38	2,007	279
Liberia	37	804	335
Lebanon	34	1,788	1,223
Mayotte	35	2,643	2,341
Equatorial Guinea	32	2,001	515
Guinea	33	5,391	4,326
Latvia	30	1,121	974
Nepal	30	14,046	4,656
Slovakia	28	1,687	1,466
Uruguay	27	936	824
Singapore	26	44,122	39,011
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Uzbekistan	26	8,671	5,737
Guinea-Bissau	24	1,654	317
Zambia	30	1,632	1,348
New Zealand	22	1,528	1,484
Libya	24	824	209
Tanzania	21	509	183
Madagascar	22	2,303	1,006
Benin	21	1,199	333
Cyprus	19	998	833
French Guiana	16	4,268	1,602
Costa Rica	16	3,459	1,436
Paraguay	17	2,221	1,089
Georgia	15	931	794
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Togo	14	650	402
Martinique	14	242	98
Guadeloupe	14	182	157
Malawi	16	1,265	260
Sao Tome and Principe	13	714	236
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Suriname	13	517	227
Cabo Verde	15	1,267	629
Guyana	12	245	114
Sri Lanka	11	2,053	1,748

- At least 16 US states have halted their reopening plans in response to a surge in new infections, but some health officials say the spread of coronavirus will be difficult to control. Experts have long warned that some states reopened far too soon and too quickly, cautioning the move could lead to more spikes in cases.
- The European Union has agreed to allow travelers from 14 countries outside the bloc to visit EU countries, months after it shut its external borders in response to the pandemic. The list does not include the US, which doesn't meet the criteria set by the EU for it to be considered a "safe country."
- Brazil has suffered 1,280 more deaths, bringing the country's confirmed death toll to 59,594, according to health ministry data. The total number of confirmed cases rose by 33,846 to reach 1,402,041, the worst outbreak in the world outside the US.



- **Funding opportunity for researchers**

PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe) Fast Track Call for Proposals

- <https://prace-ri.eu/prace-support-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19-pandemic/>

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

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

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science - Applications are paused

- <https://fastgrants.org/>

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

<https://twitter.com/WHO>

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.corona-data.ch/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-07-01-20-intl/index.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/jul/01/coronavirus-live-updates-latest-news-us-buys-global-remdesivir-stocks-brazil-deaths-near-60000?page=with:block-5efcb77a8f08a1c3db3f7066#block-5efcb77a8f08a1c3db3f7066>