

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

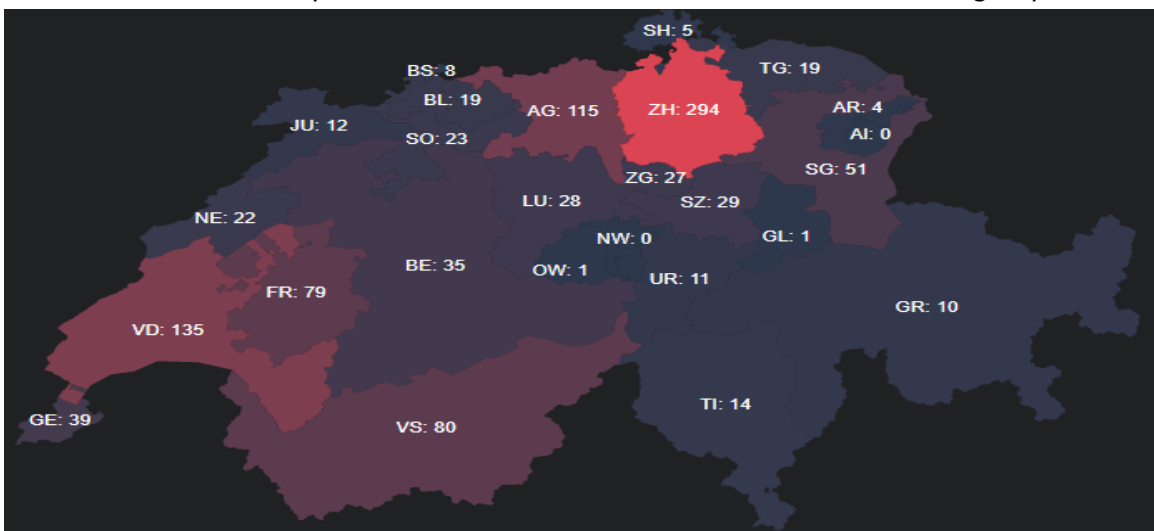
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 520,173 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (130,906) and Brazil (60,813). There have been more than 10,860,970 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Masks should be worn not only in public transport, but in all public spaces. *“From an epidemiological perspective, widening the obligation to the entire public space would be possible, and we would welcome it,”* the president of the Swiss cantonal doctors association, Rudolf Hauri, said today.
- A strain of Covid-19 that has infected more than 300 people in Beijing since early June could have originated in south or southeast Asia, according to a study by Harvard University researchers. The virus found in the Beijing cases is an imported strain of Covid-19, according to the China Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. The Harvard study took three of the SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences collected in Beijing last month and compared them to 7,643 samples worldwide. The three genomes showed the greatest resemblance to cases in Europe from February to May, and to cases in south and southeast Asia from May to June. They were also similar to a small number of infections seen in China in March, suggesting the strain could have appeared first in China and then returned to the country three months later, the authors said.
- The United States remains on target to have a Covid-19 vaccine available by the end of the year or early next year, US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn said today. *“We expect two of these vaccines to go in the late stage of clinical trials, which are large clinical trials, in this month,”* Hahn said. *“We are on target to reach a vaccine by year's end or early next year, so I'm cautiously optimistic. Of course it depends upon the data that are generated from the trial.”* Hahn added that FDA's job is to assess the data and science from the trials to determine the safety and efficacy of that vaccine. According to the WHO there are 17 candidate vaccines in clinical evaluation globally.
- The Middle East is at a “critical threshold” in the outbreak as countries across the region have started to ease their lockdowns and the pandemic speeds up, according to Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari, regional director for World Health Organization’s Eastern Mediterranean Region. *“The number of cases reported in June alone is higher than the total number of cases reported during the four months following the first reported case in the Region on 29 January,”* Al-Mandhari said in a statement. Al-Mandhari said that three countries -- Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan -- make up more than 50% total cases reported in the region, with increasing numbers of cases reported by Iraq, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Oman.
- From July 6, anyone entering Switzerland from risk areas will have to undergo a ten-day quarantine. Since mid-June the number of new cases has begun to slowly creep up in different parts of the country. Over 1,500 people are in quarantine after being exposed to several new local outbreaks of the virus in different parts of the country. Tests are now free for residents. Also, travel is now possible between Switzerland and the European Union, EFTA countries and the United Kingdom. It is likely to be expanded to a further 18 "safe" countries from July 20.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	130,906	2,787,038	1,168,422
Brazil	60,813	1,456,969	916,147
UK	43,906	313,483	N/A
Italy	34,788	240,760	190,717
France	29,861	165,719	76,539
Spain	28,363	296,739	N/A
Mexico	28,510	231,770	138,319
India	17,996	612,486	366,027
Iran	11,106	232,863	194,098
Peru	9,860	288,477	178,245
Belgium	9,761	61,598	17,044
Russia	9,683	661,165	428,978
Germany	9,061	196,372	180,300
Canada	8,615	104,271	67,744
Netherlands	6,113	50,335	N/A
Chile	5,753	282,043	245,443
Sweden	5,370	69,692	N/A
Turkey	5,150	201,098	175,422
China	4,634	83,537	78,487
Ecuador	4,576	58,257	27,887
Pakistan	4,473	217,809	104,694
Colombia	3,470	102,009	43,407
Indonesia	2,987	59,394	26,667
Egypt	3,034	69,814	18,881
South Africa	2,749	159,333	76,025
Switzerland	1,965	31,967	29,200
Iraq	2,160	53,708	27,912
Bangladesh	1,926	153,277	66,442
Ireland	1,738	25,477	23,364
Romania	1,687	27,746	19,363
Saudi Arabia	1,752	197,608	137,669
Portugal	1,587	42,782	28,097
Poland	1,492	35,146	22,209
Philippines	1,274	38,805	10,673
Argentina	1,363	67,197	24,186
Ukraine	1,185	45,887	20,053
Bolivia	1,201	34,227	9,764
Japan	974	18,723	16,731
Algeria	920	14,272	10,040
Dominican Republic	765	34,197	18,141
Afghanistan	807	32,022	16,041
Guatemala	817	19,011	3,231
Austria	705	17,941	16,514
Denmark	606	12,815	11,769
Panama	645	34,463	15,945
Hungary	587	4,166	2,721
Sudan	602	9,573	4,606
Nigeria	603	26,484	10,152
Moldova	560	17,150	9,846
Honduras	542	20,262	2,123
Armenia	459	26,658	15,036
Belarus	405	62,698	48,738
Kuwait	359	47,859	38,390
Czechia	349	12,046	7,797
Finland	328	7,241	6,700
Israel	324	26,452	17,481
UAE	316	49,069	38,160
Cameroon	313	12,592	10,100
Yemen	318	1,190	504
North Macedonia	321	6,625	2,748
S. Korea	282	12,904	11,684
Serbia	287	15,195	12,912
Norway	251	8,902	8,138
Morocco	228	12,854	9,052
Bulgaria	232	5,154	2,722
Azerbaijan	228	18,684	10,425
Greece	192	3,432	1,374
Bosnia and Herzegovina	189	4,788	2,515
Kazakhstan	188	42,574	25,533
Oman	188	42,555	25,318
DRC	176	7,189	2,317
El Salvador	191	7,000	4,115
Kenya	152	6,941	2,109
Mauritania	129	4,472	1,677
Malaysia	121	8,643	8,437

Mali	116	2,202	1,483
Qatar	118	97,897	86,597
Ghana	117	18,134	13,550
Slovenia	111	1,634	1,384
Luxembourg	110	4,345	4,003
Senegal	121	7,054	4,599
Croatia	110	2,912	2,155
Australia	104	8,001	7,090
Haiti	107	6,040	1,032
Ethiopia	103	5,846	2,430
Somalia	90	2,924	932
Cuba	86	2,353	2,221
Bahrain	93	27,414	21,948
Lithuania	78	1,825	1,536
Nicaragua	83	2,519	1,238
Chad	74	866	785
Estonia	69	1,990	1,842
Niger	67	1,075	947
Ivory Coast	68	9,702	4,381
Sierra Leone	60	1,498	999
Thailand	58	3,179	3,059
Albania	69	2,662	1,559
Djibouti	55	4,704	4,550
Burkina Faso	53	967	846
Tajikistan	52	6,058	4,690
Andorra	52	855	799
Kyrgyzstan	66	6,261	2,530
Tunisia	50	1,178	1,039
Channel Islands	47	571	512
CAR	47	3,788	810
Venezuela	54	6,062	1,649
San Marino	42	698	656
Gabon	42	5,513	2,508
Congo	41	1,382	486
South Sudan	38	2,021	333
Liberia	37	819	338
Lebanon	35	1,796	1,242
Mayotte	35	2,643	2,341
Equatorial Guinea	32	2,001	515
Guinea	33	5,404	4,346
Latvia	30	1,122	988
Nepal	31	14,519	5,320
Slovakia	28	1,700	1,466
Uruguay	28	943	825
Singapore	26	44,310	39,429
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Uzbekistan	27	8,996	5,847
Guinea-Bissau	24	1,654	317
Zambia	30	1,632	1,348
New Zealand	22	1,530	1,490
Libya	25	874	223
Tanzania	21	509	183
Madagascar	24	2,403	1,040
Benin	21	1,199	333
Cyprus	19	999	833
French Guiana	16	4,444	1,680
Costa Rica	17	3,753	1,516
Paraguay	19	2,260	1,102
Georgia	15	939	817
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Togo	14	661	414
Martinique	14	242	98
Guadeloupe	14	182	157
Malawi	16	1,342	271
Sao Tome and Principe	13	715	252
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Suriname	13	535	242
Cabo Verde	15	1,301	629

- Wearing face coverings will become mandatory in shops in Scotland from 10 July. At her daily briefing, first minister Nicola Sturgeon also confirmed the 2-metre rule would be retained in the country with exceptions for some sectors, including hospitality, from the end of next week.
- Greece's tourist season has begun on a beam of light with health authorities announcing that all 250 tests conducted on passengers landing in Heraklion, the Cretan capital, on the first day of regional airports reopening to international travellers yesterday have come in negative. Some 6,500 tests, based on information garnered through passenger locator forms that incoming visitors are obliged to fill 48 hours ahead of arrival. The results will be released throughout the day.
- Indonesia reported 1,624 coronavirus infections on Thursday in its biggest jump in new cases since the epidemic began, health ministry official Achmad Yurianto said.
- Tokyo confirmed 107 new coronavirus infections on Thursday, its highest daily tally in two months, but Japan's chief cabinet secretary said there was no need to reintroduce a state of emergency.



- **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

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