

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

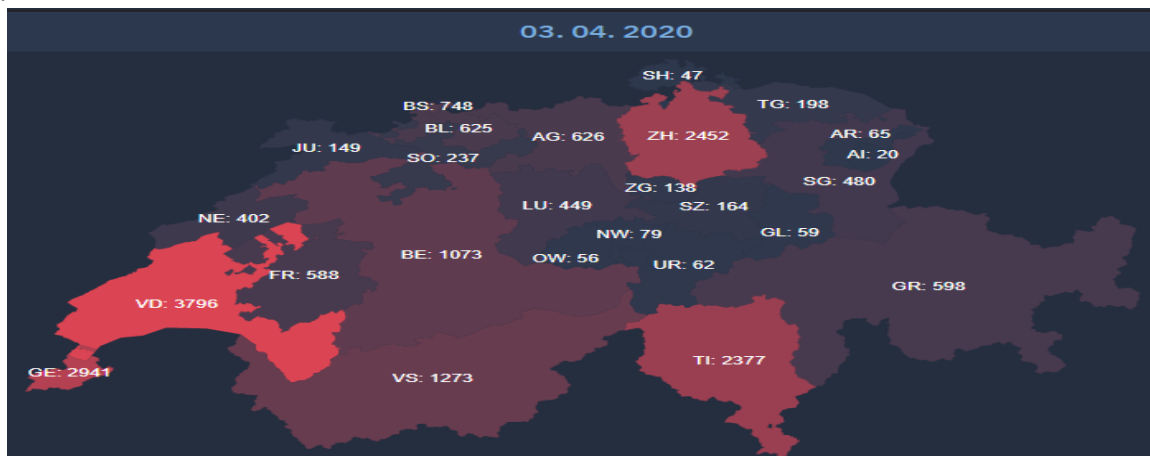
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 56,700 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (14,681) and Spain (10,935). There have been more than 1,067,000 global cases in 206 countries.
- Swiss National COVID-19 Task Force – Coronavirus: The federal government sets up a scientific advisory board, chaired by Prof. Matthias Egger, President of the National Research Council of the SNSF and research group head at ISPM.
- Switzerland and the other sponsors had been concerned by the UN Security Council's inaction over the global crisis and had called for a strong and unified response to the pandemic.
- Switzerland's testing approach has evolved over the last two months, as the pandemic has spread and domestic cases have begun emerging. In early March, the federal government said that some 2,500 tests were being carried out per day. By March 22, around 7,000 tests per day were being conducted throughout the country. Switzerland's head of infectious diseases, Daniel Koch, announced in a press conference on Wednesday that 16,000 tests were conducted the day before.
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom, WHO's director general, has called for countries to provide free care and testing for covid-19, regardless of a person's insurance, citizenship or residency status. *"This is an unprecedented crisis which requires an unprecedented response,"* he said.
- Dr Maria Van Kerkhove said WHO is "working with a number of countries that are looking into the use of serologic assays in the form of research." The test will estimate the antibody levels in populations in a country. She added it is a positive sign that there are a number of tests being rapidly developed.
- The WHO said countries need a transition strategy that gets them in control of the virus. Countries need to avoid a scenario where they relax rules around a lockdown only to have to implement one again.
- The WHO is standing by its recommendation to only wear a mask if you are sick or caring for someone who is sick. "Mask wearing by the general public is not among the WHO's recommendations," the organization said.
- The global community is racing to slow down and eventually halt the spread of COVID-19, a pandemic that has claimed thousands of lives and sickened tens of thousands of others. In Africa, the virus has spread to dozens of countries within weeks. Governments and health authorities across the continent are striving to limit widespread infections.
- Importantly, basic preventative measures by individuals and communities remain the most powerful tool to prevent the spread of COVID-19. WHO is helping local authorities craft radio messaging and TV spots to inform the public about the risks of COVID-19 and what measures should be taken. The Organization is also helping to counter disinformation and is guiding countries on setting up call centres to ensure the public is informed.
- China, where the pandemic originated, has succeeded in stabilizing its outbreak, with the number of new domestic – as opposed to imported – transmissions reportedly reduced to zero. Authorities in the city of Wuhan, the initial center of the outbreak, on Friday began loosening lockdown restrictions imposed in late January.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
USA	246'961	6'152	10'411
Italy	119'827	14'681	19'758
Spain	117'710	10'935	30'513
Germany	88'808	1'193	24'575
China	81'620	3'322	76'571
France	59'105	5'387	12'428
Iran	53'183	3'294	17'935
UK	38'168	3'605	135
Switzerland	19'303	573	4'846
Turkey	18'135	356	415
Belgium	16'770	1'143	2'872
Netherlands	15'723	1'487	250
Austria	11'412	168	2'022
Canada	11'283	173	1'979
S. Korea	10'062	174	6'021
Portugal	9'886	246	68
Brazil	8'165	332	127
Israel	7'030	39	338
Sweden	6'078	333	103
Australia	5'350	28	585
Norway	5'296	56	32
Ireland	3'849	98	5
Czechia	3'869	46	71
Russia	4'149	34	281
Chile	3'737	22	427
Denmark	3'672	139	1'193
Ecuador	3'163	120	65
Malaysia	3'333	53	827
Romania	3'183	122	283
Poland	3'149	59	56
Philippines	3'018	136	52
Luxembourg	2'487	30	80
Pakistan	2'458	35	126
Japan	2'617	63	514
India	2'567	72	192
Saudi Arabia	2'039	25	351
Thailand	1'978	19	581
Indonesia	1'986	181	134
Greece	1'544	53	61
Finland	1'615	20	300
South Africa	1'505	5	95
Peru	1'414	55	537
Dominican Republic	1'488	68	16
Mexico	1'510	50	633
Iceland	1'364	4	309
Panama	1'475	37	9
Serbia	1'476	39	42
Argentina	1'265	39	256
Colombia	1'161	19	55
Singapore	1'114	5	282
Croatia	1'079	8	92
Algeria	986	86	61
Slovenia	934	20	70
Estonia	961	12	48
Egypt	865	58	201
Qatar	949	3	72
UAE	1'024	8	96

Ukraine	942	23	19
Hong Kong	845	4	173
New Zealand	868	1	103
Iraq	772	54	202
Diamond Princess	712	11	619
Morocco	735	47	49
Armenia	736	7	43
Lithuania	696	9	7
Bahrain	672	4	382
Hungary	623	26	43
Bosnia and Herzegovina	574	17	27
Moldova	505	6	26
Lebanon	508	17	46
Latvia	493	0	1
Bulgaria	485	14	30
Tunisia	455	14	5
Kazakhstan	460	6	29
Andorra	439	16	16
Slovakia	450	1	10
Azerbaijan	443	5	32
North Macedonia	430	11	17
Costa Rica	396	2	6
Cyprus	356	10	28
Uruguay	369	4	68
Kuwait	417	0	82
Taiwan	348	5	50
Réunion	308	0	40
Belarus	351	4	53
Jordan	299	5	45
Burkina Faso	288	16	50
Cameroon	306	7	10
Albania	304	16	89
Afghanistan	273	6	10
San Marino	245	30	21
Cuba	233	6	13
Oman	252	1	57
Vietnam	237	0	85
Honduras	222	15	3
Ghana	204	5	31
Malta	202	0	2
Senegal	207	1	66
Channel Islands	232	4	13
Uzbekistan	221	2	25
Ivory Coast	194	1	15
Faeroe Islands	179	0	91
Nigeria	190	2	20
Mauritius	186	7	0
Palestine	171	1	18
Sri Lanka	152	4	24
Venezuela	146	5	43
Montenegro	160	2	0
Martinique	138	3	27
Brunei	134	1	65
Georgia	148	0	27
Guadeloupe	128	6	24
DRC	134	13	3
Bolivia	132	9	1
Mayotte	116	1	10
Kyrgyzstan	130	1	5
Kenya	122	4	4
Cambodia	114	0	35
Isle of Man	114	1	0
Trinidad and Tobago	97	6	1

- Europe has been the focus of the crisis for the past several weeks, but signs have emerged this week that the epidemic could be approaching its peak there. Italy and Spain together account for almost half of the global death toll, but experts say the number of new infections in both countries is continuing to slow.
- Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the Covid-19 pandemic in the US is going to "get worse, much worse, before it gets better," but that social distancing is working to mitigate the spread of the virus.
- Even though some early data out of Wuhan, China, suggests that the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine could "significantly" shorten the time it takes for Covid-19 patients to recover from illness, US infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci warned that more research is needed to determine that drug's effectiveness against Covid-19. That early data is not "very robust," said Fauci.
- Germany's largest football stadium — the Westfalen stadium — will be a coronavirus treatment center starting tomorrow, the Borussia Dortmund football team confirmed in a statement.
- The British Health Secretary Matt Hancock and health officials in the United Kingdom have called on Britons to continue to stay at home despite an expected rise in temperatures across the country over the weekend. *"We absolutely cannot afford to relax social distancing measures,"* he said. *"If we do people will die."*



Funding opportunities for researchers

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) - Call Open on Therapeutics and Diagnostics Combatting Coronavirus Infection

- https://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=499&tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=1168&no_cache=1&user_id=51472&job_id=4718

Wellcome Trust:

- <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/epidemic-preparedness-covid-19>

Sources

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- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/03/focus-turns-us-coronavirus-continues-spread-around-world>
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