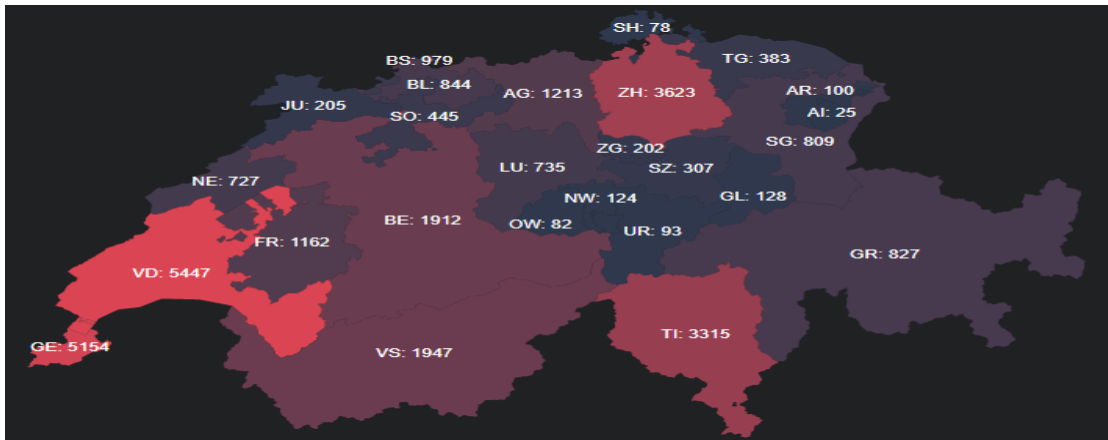# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
03.06.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 384,600 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (108,567) and UK (39,728). There have been more than 6,513,800 global cases in 210 countries and territories.

- The World Health Organization's Data Safety and Monitoring Committee has recommended for WHO to continue studying hydroxychloroquine as a potential Covid-19 treatment in its Solidarity Trial, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a media briefing today. Last week, WHO announced that it had temporarily paused the hydroxychloroquine arms of the trial due to concerns surrounding the drug's safety. *"This decision was taken as a precaution while the safety data were reviewed. The Data Safety and Monitoring Committee of the Solidarity Trial has been reviewing the data,"* Tedros said today. *"On the basis of the available mortality data, the members of the committee recommended that there are no reasons to modify the trial protocol,"* Tedros said, adding that the recommendation about resuming hydroxychloroquine studies will be shared with the trial's principal investigators. Currently, there is no approved treatment for Covid-19.

- The WHO said a large number of scientists across the world are studying coronavirus and none of the genome sequences show the virus is mutating to become more dangerous. But WHO warns that doesn't mean the pandemic is not getting more dangerous. *"There are more than 40,000 full genome sequences that are available,"* WHO infectious disease epidemiologist Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove told a briefing. *"Scientists are looking to see, are there changes in the virus? And as it is a coronavirus — it is an RNA virus — there are normal changes in this virus that one would expect over time,"* she said. RNA viruses such as influenza and coronaviruses are generally more unstable and prone to mutation than viruses that use DNA to replicate. *"None of these changes so far indicate that the virus itself is changing in terms of its ability to transmit or to cause more severe disease,"* Van Kerkhove added.

- More than 600 nurses worldwide have died from Covid-19, and more than 230,000 health care workers have contracted the virus, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) said today in a statement. The ICN represents more than 130 national nursing associations with 20 million members globally, and "has been highlighting the lack of systematic data on COVID-19 infection rates of healthcare workers (HCWs) and related deaths of nurses," an ICN spokesman said today. It "implores" governments to act to protect their health and save lives.

- A new London-based coronavirus treatment trial launched this week will test if a formulation of ibuprofen can treat one of the complications of coronavirus: severe acute respiratory distress syndrome. The trial is jointly headed by King's College London, a London research hospital and the pharmaceutical organization, the SEEK Group. It aims to reduce Covid-19 related respiratory failure, which in turn may decrease the need for more aggressive intervention such as ventilation, Kings College London said in a statement. The drug would be given at a "very specific stage" of the virus to hospitalized patients with confirmed or suspected Covid-19 in a randomized study. Researchers say the drug differs from standard ibuprofen and is already licensed for use in the UK to treat other conditions. If proven successful, the treatment could be "invaluable" because of the low cost and high availability of the drug, the statement adds.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	108,567	1,890,239	649,189
UK	39,728	279,856	N/A
Italy	33,601	233,836	160,938
Brazil	31,417	560,737	253,570
France	28,940	151,325	68,812
Spain	27,127	287,012	N/A
Mexico	10,637	97,326	70,308
Belgium	9,522	58,685	15,959
Germany	8,680	184,214	167,300
Iran	8,012	160,696	125,206
Canada	7,495	93,040	50,685
India	6,087	216,429	103,949
Netherlands	5,977	46,733	N/A
Russia	5,215	432,277	195,957
Peru	4,767	174,884	69,257
China	4,634	83,021	78,314
Turkey	4,609	166,422	130,852
Sweden	4,542	40,803	N/A
Ecuador	3,438	40,414	20,019
Switzerland	1,921	30,893	28,600
Indonesia	1,698	28,233	8,406
Pakistan	1,688	80,463	28,923
Ireland	1,659	25,111	22,698
Portugal	1,447	33,261	20,079
Romania	1,296	19,669	13,800
Chile	1,275	113,628	86,173
Poland	1,115	24,687	12,014
Egypt	1,052	27,536	6,827
Colombia	1,009	31,833	11,142
Philippines	974	19,748	4,153
Japan	894	16,930	14,650
South Africa	755	35,812	18,313
Bangladesh	746	55,140	11,590
Ukraine	735	24,823	10,440
Algeria	673	9,733	6,218
Austria	670	16,771	15,672
Denmark	580	11,771	10,552
Saudi Arabia	579	91,182	68,159
Argentina	570	18,319	5,896
Hungary	534	3,931	2,190
Dominican Republic	516	18,040	11,224
Bolivia	376	10,991	1,298
Panama	352	14,095	9,514
Czechia	323	9,374	6,693
Finland	321	6,911	5,500
Nigeria	314	10,819	3,240
Moldova	310	8,795	4,863
Sudan	307	5,310	1,625
Afghanistan	294	17,267	1,522
Israel	290	17,342	14,955
S. Korea	273	11,590	10,467
UAE	269	35,788	18,726
Iraq	256	8,168	4,095
Belarus	248	45,116	20,171
Serbia	245	11,523	6,852
Norway	237	8,467	7,727
Kuwait	230	29,359	15,750
Honduras	225	5,527	563
Morocco	206	7,922	6,866
Cameroon	200	6,585	3,676
Greece	179	2,937	1,374
Armenia	170	10,524	3,454
Bosnia and Herzegovina	157	2,551	1,939
Bulgaria	146	2,560	1,206
North Macedonia	145	2,492	1,605
Guatemala	123	5,586	824
Malaysia	115	7,970	6,531
Luxembourg	110	4,024	3,861
Slovenia	109	1,477	1,358
Croatia	103	2,246	2,095
Australia	102	7,229	6,640

Country			
Yemen	87	399	15
Cuba	83	2,107	1,830
Somalia	79	2,146	406
Mali	78	1,351	769
Azerbaijan	76	6,260	3,665
DRC	75	3,495	492
Kenya	74	2,216	553
Lithuania	71	1,684	1,260
Estonia	69	1,880	1,650
Oman	67	13,537	2,845
Chad	66	803	562
Niger	65	960	848
Thailand	58	3,084	2,968
Burkina Faso	53	884	753
Andorra	51	851	735
El Salvador	49	2,705	1,179
Tunisia	49	1,087	965
Kazakhstan	48	11,796	6,240
Tajikistan	48	4,191	2,347
Haiti	48	2,507	24
Sierra Leone	47	909	491
Nicaragua	46	1,118	370
Channel Islands	46	560	512
Qatar	45	62,160	37,542
Senegal	45	3,932	2,063
San Marino	42	674	391
Ghana	38	8,548	3,132
Ivory Coast	33	3,024	1,501
Albania	33	1,184	898
Mauritania	31	668	55
Slovakia	28	1,525	1,375
Liberia	28	316	169
Lebanon	27	1,256	724
Djibouti	26	3,935	1,636
Singapore	24	36,405	23,582
Mayotte	24	1,993	1,523
Latvia	24	1,079	760
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Guinea	23	3,886	2,267
Uruguay	23	826	691
New Zealand	22	1,504	1,481
Tanzania	21	509	183
Bahrain	20	12,574	7,410
Gabon	20	2,803	779
Kyrgyzstan	20	1,871	1,265
Congo	20	611	179
Venezuela	18	1,819	334
Ethiopia	17	1,486	246
Cyprus	17	958	790
Uzbekistan	16	3,815	3,014
Sint Maarten	15	77	60
Martinique	14	200	98
Guadeloupe	14	162	138
Georgia	13	800	640
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	445	230
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,306	200
Sao Tome and Principe	12	484	68
Guyana	12	153	70
Sri Lanka	11	1,730	836
Paraguay	11	1,013	498
Bahamas	11	102	49
Iceland	10	1,806	1,794
Costa Rica	10	1,105	682
South Sudan	10	994	6
Mauritius	10	335	322
Nepal	9	2,300	278
Jordan	9	757	561
Malta	9	622	562
Jamaica	9	590	356
Montenegro	9	324	315
Bermuda	9	141	113
Guinea-Bissau	8	1,339	53
Trinidad and Tobago	8	117	108
Maldives	7	1,850	644
Zambia	7	1,089	912

- The WHO said that "cases in Europe continue to decline" during a briefing Wednesday. "*Yesterday saw the fewest cases reported in Europe since the 22nd of March*," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Though Tedros added, WHO is "especially worried" about Central and South America where "many countries are witnessing accelerating epidemics." "*More than 100,000 cases of Covid-19 have been reported to WHO for each of the past five days. The Americas continues to account for the most cases,*" Tedros said. "*For several weeks, the number of cases reported each day in the Americas has been more than the rest of the world put together,*" Tedros said. He added WHO is also seeing an increase of cases in the Eastern Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and Africa.

- Researchers are learning more about how Covid-19 affects children, and a new study finds that among a group of children and adolescents in New York who were hospitalized with the disease, about a fifth — 22% — had obesity. The study, published in the journal The Lancet on Wednesday, suggests that having obesity could put a child at an increased risk of getting severely ill with Covid-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

- India reported nearly 9,000 new Covid-19 infections today, a highest single-day spike that pushes its total over 200,000 cases. Austria and Germany are preparing to ease travel restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Austria will reopen its borders with seven neighboring countries from Thursday -- but not with Italy.

- **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).

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