

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

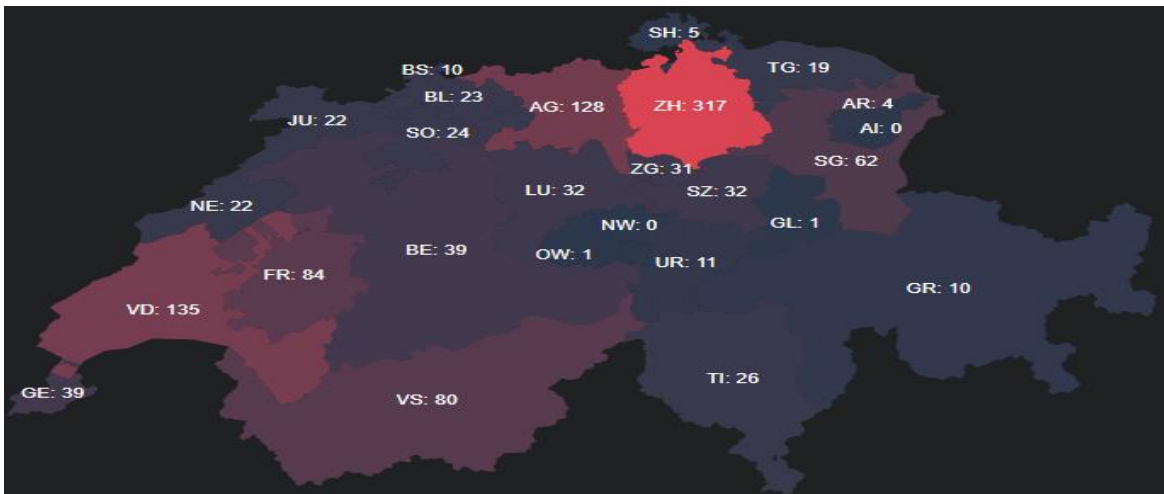
03.07.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 525,534 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (131,675) and Brazil (62,045). There have been more than 11,061,580 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- A global study has found strong evidence that a new form of the coronavirus has spread from Europe to the US. The new mutation makes the virus more likely to infect people but does not seem to make them any sicker than earlier variations of the virus, an international team of researchers reported. "It is now the dominant form infecting people," Erica Ollmann Saphire of the La Jolla Institute for Immunology and the Coronavirus Immunotherapy Consortium, who worked on the study, told today. The study, published in the journal Cell, builds on some earlier work the team did that was released on a preprint server earlier in the year. Shared information on genetic sequences had indicated that a certain mutant version of the virus was taking over. Now the team has not only checked more genetic sequences, but they have also run experiments involving people, animals and cells in lab dishes that show the mutated version is more common and that it's more infectious than other versions. "We do know that the new virus is fitter. It doesn't look at first glance as if it is worse," Saphire said. The researchers call the new mutation G614, and they show that it has almost completely replaced the first version to spread in Europe and the US, one called D614.
- The European Commission has granted "conditional marketing authorization" for remdesivir as a treatment for coronavirus infection, Gilead Sciences, the company that makes the Covid-19 drug, announced in a press release on Friday morning. The authorization, based on a review of scientific data that dates back to April, means that the drug will be indicated in Europe for the treatment of Covid-19 in adults and adolescents ages 12 and older or weighing at least 40 kilograms, who have pneumonia that requires oxygen support. "Ongoing clinical trials continue to evaluate the safety and efficacy of remdesivir, including studies of remdesivir in combination with anti-inflammatory medicines and in special populations including pediatric patients," the press release said. "Research is also being conducted on new, investigational formulations of remdesivir that may enable studies of remdesivir in earlier stages of disease."
- Swiss officials have expressed concern over the slow increase in coronavirus infections in Switzerland over the past few weeks. On Friday there were 134 confirmed cases, the third day in a row cases were over 100. In addition, this week the government announced that from July 6 all passengers using Swiss public transport will have to wear face masks. The decision is a response to the rising number of coronavirus infections and demands from cantons for such measures. "We count on our clients being a bit more disciplined. It works in France and Germany so there is no reason for it not to work here in Switzerland," Vincent Ducrot, the head of Swiss Federal Railways (SBB/CFF), said today.
- Staff and residents in care homes in England will receive regular coronavirus tests from next week. The testing policy, which begins on Monday, will also apply to younger patients suffering from dementia. Any care home dealing with an outbreak, or at increased risk of an outbreak, will be more intensively tested. Care sector experts say that repeated testing is crucial to containing the virus, following criticism of the government's handling of the pandemic in residential homes.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	131,675	2,857,054	1,196,169
Brazil	62,045	1,502,424	916,147
UK	43,995	283,757	N/A
Italy	34,833	241,184	191,467
France	29,875	166,378	76,802
Mexico	29,189	238,511	142,593
Spain	28,385	297,625	N/A
India	18,399	638,039	386,736
Iran	11,260	235,429	196,446
Peru	10,045	292,004	182,097
Russia	9,859	667,883	437,893
Belgium	9,765	61,727	17,073
Germany	9,064	196,738	181,000
Canada	8,644	104,936	68,526
Netherlands	6,113	50,335	N/A
Chile	6,051	288,089	253,343
Sweden	5,411	70,639	N/A
Turkey	5,167	202,284	176,965
China	4,634	83,542	78,499
Ecuador	4,639	59,468	28,032
Pakistan	4,551	221,896	113,623
Colombia	3,641	106,110	44,531
Indonesia	3,036	60,695	27,568
Egypt	3,120	71,299	19,288
South Africa	2,844	168,061	81,999
Switzerland	1,965	32,101	29,200
Iraq	2,262	56,020	29,600
Bangladesh	1,968	156,391	68,048
Ireland	1,738	25,489	23,364
Romania	1,708	28,166	19,545
Saudi Arabia	1,802	201,801	140,614
Portugal	1,587	42,782	28,097
Poland	1,507	35,405	22,651
Philippines	1,280	40,336	11,073
Argentina	1,403	69,941	25,224
Ukraine	1,212	46,763	20,558
Bolivia	1,271	35,528	10,358
Japan	975	18,874	16,772
Algeria	928	14,657	10,342
Dominican Republic	765	34,197	18,141
Afghanistan	819	32,324	17,331
Guatemala	843	20,072	3,279
Austria	705	18,050	16,558
Denmark	606	12,832	11,817
Panama	667	35,237	16,445
Hungary	588	4,172	2,752
Sudan	604	9,663	4,624
Nigeria	616	27,110	10,801
Moldova	563	17,150	10,093
Honduras	591	21,120	2,190
Armenia	469	27,320	15,484
Belarus	412	62,997	49,909
Kuwait	360	48,672	39,276
Czechia	353	12,248	7,822
Finland	329	7,242	6,700
Israel	326	28,055	17,669
UAE	317	49,469	38,664
Cameroon	313	12,592	10,100
Yemen	325	1,221	513
North Macedonia	328	6,787	2,876
S. Korea	282	12,967	11,759
Serbia	298	15,504	13,064
Norway	251	8,902	8,138
Morocco	230	13,215	9,158
Bulgaria	232	5,315	2,802
Azerbaijan	235	19,267	10,820
Greece	192	3,458	1,374
Bosnia and Herzegovina	191	4,962	2,550
Kazakhstan	188	44,075	26,251
Oman	193	43,929	26,169
DRC	179	7,311	2,684
El Salvador	202	7,267	4,268
Kenya	154	7,188	2,109

Mauritania	129	4,606	1,727
Malaysia	121	8,648	8,446
Mali	117	2,260	1,502
Qatar	121	98,653	88,583
Ghana	117	18,134	13,550
Slovenia	111	1,650	1,384
Luxembourg	110	4,395	4,012
Senegal	125	7,164	4,666
Croatia	112	3,008	2,168
Australia	104	8,255	7,319
Haiti	110	6,101	1,141
Ethiopia	103	5,846	2,430
Somalia	90	2,944	951
Cuba	86	2,353	2,221
Bahrain	95	27,837	22,583
Lithuania	79	1,828	1,539
Nicaragua	83	2,519	1,238
Chad	74	868	785
Estonia	69	1,991	1,859
Niger	68	1,081	959
Ivory Coast	68	9,992	4,660
Sierra Leone	60	1,518	1,007
Thailand	58	3,180	3,066
Albania	72	2,752	1,592
Djibouti	55	4,736	4,580
Burkina Faso	53	980	852
Tajikistan	52	6,058	4,690
Andorra	52	855	800
Kyrgyzstan	76	6,767	2,655
Tunisia	50	1,178	1,039
Channel Islands	47	571	512
CAR	48	3,823	816
Venezuela	57	6,273	2,100
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	1,830	1,292
Mayotte	35	2,661	2,375
Equatorial Guinea	51	3,071	842
Guinea	33	5,450	4,392
Latvia	30	1,122	997
Nepal	32	15,259	6,143
Slovakia	28	1,720	1,466
Uruguay	28	947	828
Singapore	26	44,479	39,769
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Uzbekistan	28	9,326	6,161
Guinea-Bissau	24	1,654	317
Zambia	30	1,632	1,348
New Zealand	22	1,530	1,490
Libya	26	891	224
Tanzania	21	509	183
Madagascar	26	2,512	1,057
Benin	21	1,199	333
Cyprus	19	999	833
French Guiana	16	4,558	1,777
Costa Rica	18	4,023	1,589
Paraguay	19	2,303	1,108
Georgia	15	943	821
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Togo	14	667	424
Martinique	14	242	98
Guadeloupe	14	182	157
Malawi	16	1,402	317
Sao Tome and Principe	13	717	260
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Suriname	13	547	254
Cabo Verde	15	1,382	629
Guyana	14	250	117
Sri Lanka	11	2,066	1,863

- A fresh state of emergency has been declared in Belgrade, with a number of restrictions restored after a new increase in coronavirus infections in the Serbian capital, Belgrade. People will be required to wear masks in indoor public spaces or on public transport, opening hours of clubs and cafes will be shortened, and gatherings will be limited to 100 people indoors or 500 outdoors.
- Cases of coronavirus are surging in South Africa, a month after the country lifted most of the restrictions brought in with one of the world's strictest lockdowns. Yesterday, authorities reported the country's biggest single-day jump in coronavirus cases, adding 8,728 confirmed infections. The fastest rise in cases has been in Gauteng, the country's richest and most populous province, where health officials now say may have to reimpose some restrictions as limited hospital facilities are overwhelmed. Officials describe a "covid storm" that will last through the southern hemisphere winter until September.
- Despite having nearly 1.5 million Covid-19 cases, experts say Brazil has yet to see the worst of the pandemic. However, the country's second-largest city Rio de Janeiro has started to allow bars, restaurants and gyms to reopen.



- **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://www.theguardian.com/world/coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-07-03-20-intl/index.html>

https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53272489?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cmi34zwmwzvt/care-homes&link_location=live-reporting-story