

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

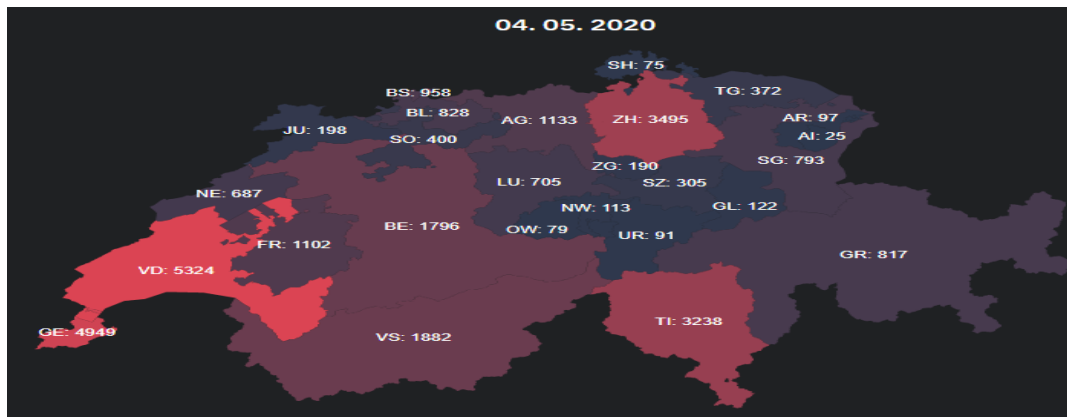
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 250,120 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (62,319) and Italy (27,967). There have been more than 3,611,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Unexpected discoveries about a virus, scientists still don't know well could slow down the development of a safe and effective vaccine, Matthias Egger said in an interview published on Sunday. Egger, who leads the scientific task force set up by the Swiss government to coordinate advice and research on the virus, told the NZZ am Sonntag newspaper he hoped large-scale vaccinations could take place in the context of studies in a year's time. But until doctors have all the answers to the virus, measures like social distancing should continue in a bid to keep the reproductive rate or R0 factor (the estimated number of new infections caused by a single case) below one – and thus slow the spread of the virus. *"We may have to live like this for another two years or more,"* he said.
- His views were echoed by Didier Pittet, head of the infection control programme at Geneva University Hospital. Pittet told the newspaper Le Matin Dimanche that Switzerland has managed to lower its R0 factor from a high of 3.8 at the start of the outbreak to 0.6, following lockdown measures. To prevent another spike, he said social distancing, good hand-washing and wearing masks in certain situations may be necessary in the long term.
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given emergency approval for use of the serological test developed by Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche, the company announced on Sunday. The test is designed to determine whether a person has been exposed to the new coronavirus and developed antibodies against the disease. Roche says that its Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 test has a specificity rate of 99.8% – which lowers the chance of false positives – and detects antibodies with 100% sensitivity. Roche has started shipping the new test to laboratories around the world and says it plans to increase production to "high double-digit millions per month" to supply countries that accept the CE mark as well as the US.
- Japan will extend its state of emergency until May 31, but the country must prepare for a "life with coronavirus," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at a task force meeting today. Some prefectures with a high infection rate, including Tokyo and Osaka, will keep working to reduce social contact by 80% to stem the spread of the virus. The rest of the nation may begin easing restrictions for small businesses, such as restaurants and cultural facilities, with appropriate prevention measures.
- The European Union started an international conference on the search for vaccines and coronavirus treatment by pledging one billion euros to the cause. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told the virtual Coronavirus Global Response conference the initial aim is to raise 7.5 billion euros, to ramp up immediate work, but more will be needed. She described it as the start of a global "pledging marathon".
- Studies in Britain show that most people who have had Covid-19 develop antibodies, England's deputy chief medical officer Jonathan Van-Tam said, but it was too early to say whether this gave them immunity.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	69'035	1'198'843	180'329
Italy	29'079	211'938	82'879
UK	28'734	190'584	N/A
Spain	25'428	248'301	151'633
France	24'895	168'693	50'784
Belgium	7'924	50'267	12'378
Brazil	7'051	101'826	42'991
Germany	6'866	165'745	132'700
Iran	6'277	98'647	79'379
Netherlands	5'082	40'770	N/A
China	4'633	82'880	77'766
Canada	3'767	59'858	25'422
Turkey	3'397	126'045	63'151
Sweden	2'769	22'721	1'005
Mexico	2'154	23'471	13'447
Switzerland	1'779	29'981	24'500
Ecuador	1'569	31'881	3'433
India	1'395	42'836	11'782
Russia	1'356	145'268	18'095
Ireland	1'319	21'772	13'386
Peru	1'286	45'928	13'550
Portugal	1'063	25'524	1'712
Indonesia	864	11'587	1'954
Romania	818	13'512	5'269
Poland	698	14'006	4'095
Philippines	623	9'485	1'315
Austria	600	15'621	13'316
Denmark	493	9'670	7'088
Japan	487	14'877	3'981
Pakistan	476	20'884	5'635
Algeria	465	4'648	1'998
Egypt	436	6'813	1'632
Hungary	351	3'035	630
Dominican Republic	346	8'235	1'771
Colombia	340	7'668	1'722
Ukraine	303	12'331	1'619
Chile	270	20'643	10'415
S. Korea	252	10'801	9'217
Czechia	251	7'799	3'786
Argentina	246	4'783	1'354
Finland	240	5'327	3'500
Israel	234	16'237	9'858
Norway	214	7'884	32
Panama	200	7'197	641
Serbia	197	9'557	1'574
Saudi Arabia	191	28'656	4'476
Bangladesh	182	10'143	1'209
Morocco	179	5'053	1'653
Greece	146	2'632	1'374
Moldova	132	4'248	1'423
South Africa	131	6'783	2'549
UAE	126	14'163	2'763
Malaysia	105	6'353	4'484
Belarus	103	17'489	3'259
Iraq	98	2'346	1'544
Slovenia	97	1'439	241
Luxembourg	96	3'828	3'405
Australia	95	6'825	5'859
Afghanistan	90	2'894	397
Nigeria	87	2'558	400
North Macedonia	85	1'518	992
Honduras	82	1'055	118
Croatia	80	2'101	1'522
Bosnia and Herzegovina	78	1'926	855
Bulgaria	78	1'652	321
Bolivia	76	1'594	166
Cuba	69	1'668	876
Cameroon	64	2'077	953

Estonia	55	1'703	259
Thailand	54	2'987	2'740
Lithuania	46	1'419	638
Andorra	45	750	499
Burkina Faso	45	662	540
Tunisia	42	1'013	328
Sudan	41	678	61
San Marino	41	582	86
Channel Islands	41	544	406
Kuwait	40	5'278	1'947
Armenia	39	2'507	1'071
Niger	36	750	518
Somalia	35	756	61
DRC	34	682	80
Albania	31	803	543
Kazakhstan	29	4'049	1'173
Mali	29	580	223
Azerbaijan	26	1'984	1'480
Slovakia	25	1'413	643
Lebanon	25	740	200
Kenya	24	490	173
Isle of Man	22	321	271
New Zealand	20	1'487	1'276
Singapore	18	18'778	1'457
Ghana	18	2'169	229
Liberia	18	166	58
Ivory Coast	17	1'398	653
Guatemala	17	703	72
Uruguay	17	655	442
Latvia	16	896	348
Tanzania	16	480	167
Cyprus	15	874	296
Martinique	14	181	83
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
Sint Maarten	13	76	44
Qatar	12	16'191	1'810
Oman	12	2'637	816
El Salvador	12	555	180
Guadeloupe	12	152	98
Bahamas	11	83	24
Uzbekistan	10	2'181	1'405
Iceland	10	1'799	1'723
Senegal	10	1'271	415
Kyrgyzstan	10	830	575
Paraguay	10	396	126
Venezuela	10	357	158
Mauritius	10	332	316
Chad	10	117	39
Guinea	9	1'710	450
Georgia	9	593	223
Jamaica	9	469	38
Jordan	9	465	370
Congo	9	229	25
Sierra Leone	9	178	37
Togo	9	126	74
Haiti	9	88	10
Guyana	9	82	22
Bahrain	8	3'383	1'718
Sri Lanka	8	721	194
Montenegro	8	323	253
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	96
Bermuda	7	115	51
Barbados	7	82	44
Costa Rica	6	742	399
Mayotte	6	686	352
Taiwan	6	438	334
Myanmar	6	161	49
Gabon	5	335	85
Nicaragua	5	15	7
Hong Kong	4	1'041	900
Malta	4	480	399
Monaco	4	95	78
Zimbabwe	4	34	5

- Spain has begun its transition into a new phase of de-escalation toward a "new normal" Monday as the country's health authorities report a second day of record low Covid-19 new infections and deaths. The country is seeing "the lowest number of cases in two months" by percentage, said Dr. Fernando Simón, Spain's Director for Health Emergencies, speaking at the government's daily coronavirus technical briefing. Spain's Ministry of Health has reported a record low 0.16% rise of new coronavirus infection cases confirmed by PCR.
- Iran has reported 74 additional coronavirus-related deaths and 1,223 new cases over the past 24 hours – a slight jump from Sunday's numbers.
- Final-year high school students in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus outbreak was first detected last December, will return to school this Wednesday.
- The Swiss government is launching a fund to help start-ups facing cashflow problems as a result of the coronavirus crisis. The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs announced on Monday that it will accept application for government-guaranteed bank loans between May 7 and August 31.



- **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>

SNF - NRP 78 "Covid-19"

- <http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/programmes/nrp78-covid-19/Pages/default.aspx>

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

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Sources

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