

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

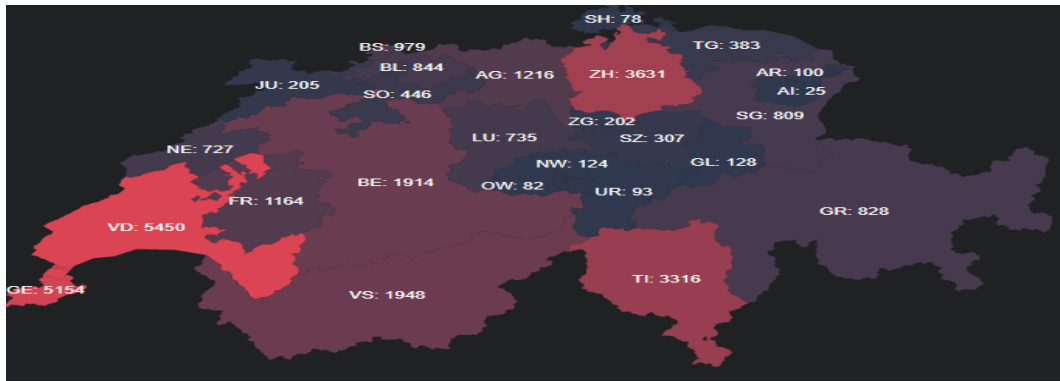
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 388,970 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (109,257) and UK (39,728). There have been more than 6,622,700 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The first carefully controlled trial of hydroxychloroquine given to people exposed to the coronavirus did not show any benefit. The malaria drug hydroxychloroquine did not prevent Covid-19 in a rigorous study of 821 people who had been exposed to patients infected with the virus, researchers from the University of Minnesota and Canada are reporting on Wednesday. The study was the first controlled clinical trial of hydroxychloroquine, a drug that President Trump has repeatedly promoted and recently taken himself. Conducted in the US and Canada, this trial was the first to test whether the drug could prevent illness in people who have been exposed to the coronavirus. This type of study, in which patients are picked at random to receive either an experimental treatment or a placebo, is considered the most reliable way to measure the safety and effectiveness of a drug. The participants were health care workers and people who had been exposed at home to ill spouses, partners or parents. *“The take-home message for the general public is that if you’re exposed to someone with Covid-19, hydroxychloroquine is not an effective post-exposure, preventive therapy,”* the lead author of the study, Dr. David R. Boulware, from the University of Minnesota, said in an interview. The results are being published in The New England Journal of Medicine.
- South Korea identified 39 new cases of Covid-19 today. 33 of which are locally transmitted, according to the country’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The new local cases are tied to several clusters in the capital, Seoul, and other surrounding areas. Yoon Tae-ho, an official with the South Korean Health Ministry, warned that because multiple clusters are growing, locally transmitted cases may become more difficult to trace.
- WHO welcomes funding commitments made at today’s Global Vaccine Summit, hosted virtually by the UK government. The Summit is Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance’s third pledging conference. The new pledges will enable Gavi to protect the next generation and reduce disease inequality by reaching an additional 300 million children with vaccines by 2025. *“Thanks to vaccines, hundreds of millions of deaths have been prevented. Polio has been pushed to the brink of eradication, and just in the past few years new vaccines have become available for Ebola and malaria,”* said Dr Tedros, WHO Director-General. *“But vaccines only realize their true power when they are deployed to protect the poorest and most vulnerable. The COVID-19 pandemic is unravelling many of the gains we have made, with vaccination campaigns for polio, cholera, measles, diphtheria, and meningitis.”* The bold funding commitments mean that the Gavi Alliance will be better able to maintain immunization in lower-income countries, mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. They will help strengthen health system too.
- Brazil and Mexico both announced a record number of virus-related deaths in a single day. Brazil registered a record number of daily deaths from the novel coronavirus for a second consecutive day, according to Health Ministry data released on Wednesday, even as city and state authorities move aggressively to open commerce back up.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	109,257	1,906,885	688,921
UK	39,728	279,856	N/A
Italy	33,601	233,836	160,938
Brazil	32,688	590,485	266,132
France	29,021	151,677	69,455
Spain	27,128	287,406	N/A
Mexico	11,729	101,238	73,271
Belgium	9,548	58,767	16,048
Germany	8,701	184,492	167,800
Iran	8,071	164,270	127,485
Canada	7,498	93,085	51,048
India	6,301	224,215	107,419
Netherlands	5,990	46,942	N/A
Russia	5,384	441,108	204,623
Peru	4,894	178,914	72,319
China	4,634	83,022	78,319
Turkey	4,609	166,422	130,852
Sweden	4,542	40,803	N/A
Ecuador	3,486	40,966	20,019
Switzerland	1,921	30,913	28,600
Indonesia	1,721	28,818	8,892
Pakistan	1,770	85,264	30,128
Ireland	1,659	25,111	22,698
Portugal	1,455	33,592	20,323
Romania	1,299	19,907	13,919
Chile	1,275	113,628	90,748
Poland	1,117	25,048	12,227
Egypt	1,088	28,615	7,350
Colombia	1,045	33,354	12,288
Philippines	984	20,382	4,248
Japan	900	16,986	14,771
South Africa	792	37,525	19,682
Bangladesh	781	57,563	12,161
Ukraine	747	25,411	11,042
Algeria	673	9,733	6,218
Austria	670	16,805	15,717
Denmark	582	11,811	10,620
Saudi Arabia	611	93,157	68,965
Argentina	588	19,268	5,993
Hungary	539	3,954	2,205
Dominican Republic	520	18,319	11,474
Bolivia	400	11,638	1,507
Panama	357	14,609	9,519
Czechia	325	9,478	6,808
Finland	322	6,911	5,800
Nigeria	315	11,166	3,329
Moldova	315	9,018	5,009
Sudan	314	5,499	1,711
Afghanistan	300	18,054	1,585
Israel	291	17,429	14,993
S. Korea	273	11,629	10,499
UAE	273	37,018	19,572
Iraq	271	8,840	4,338
Belarus	253	45,981	21,162
Serbia	246	11,571	6,910
Norway	238	8,488	8,138
Kuwait	236	29,921	17,223
Honduras	234	5,690	617
Morocco	207	7,967	7,160
Cameroon	203	6,789	3,705
Greece	180	2,952	1,374
Armenia	176	11,221	3,468
Bosnia and Herzegovina	159	2,594	1,951
Bulgaria	147	2,585	1,322
North Macedonia	147	2,611	1,621
Guatemala	143	5,760	929
Malaysia	115	8,247	6,559
Luxembourg	110	4,024	3,861
Slovenia	109	1,477	1,359
Croatia	103	2,247	2,105
Australia	102	7,240	6,648
Yemen	95	419	17
Cuba	83	2,119	1,839
Somalia	79	2,204	418

Mali	79	1,386	788
Azerbaijan	78	6,522	3,737
DRC	78	3,644	495
Kenya	78	2,340	592
Lithuania	71	1,687	1,273
Estonia	69	1,890	1,663
Oman	67	14,316	3,451
Chad	66	820	590
Niger	65	961	857
Thailand	58	3,101	2,968
Burkina Faso	53	884	753
Andorra	51	852	738
El Salvador	51	2,781	1,208
Tunisia	49	1,087	968
Kazakhstan	48	12,067	6,606
Tajikistan	48	4,289	2,401
Haiti	50	2,640	24
Sierra Leone	47	914	491
Nicaragua	46	1,118	370
Channel Islands	46	561	512
Qatar	45	63,741	39,468
Senegal	45	4,021	2,162
San Marino	42	678	408
Ghana	38	8,548	3,132
Ivory Coast	35	3,110	1,530
Albania	33	1,197	898
Mauritania	34	745	57
Slovakia	28	1,526	1,376
Liberia	28	321	175
Lebanon	28	1,306	731
Djibouti	26	4,054	1,685
Singapore	24	36,922	23,904
Mayotte	25	2,058	1,523
Latvia	25	1,082	760
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Guinea	23	3,933	2,332
Uruguay	23	828	698
New Zealand	22	1,504	1,481
Tanzania	21	509	183
Bahrain	21	13,229	7,728
Gabon	20	2,902	801
Kyrgyzstan	20	1,899	1,292
Congo	20	611	179
Venezuela	20	1,952	334
Ethiopia	18	1,636	250
Cyprus	17	958	790
Uzbekistan	16	3,909	3,087
Sint Maarten	15	77	60
Martinique	14	200	98
Guadeloupe	14	162	138
Georgia	13	801	644
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	452	236
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,306	200
Sao Tome and Principe	12	485	68
Guyana	12	153	70
Sri Lanka	11	1,790	839
Paraguay	11	1,070	511
Bahamas	11	102	55
Iceland	10	1,806	1,794
Costa Rica	10	1,157	685
South Sudan	10	994	6
Mauritius	10	335	322
Nepal	10	2,634	290
Jordan	9	757	561
Malta	9	622	576
Jamaica	10	591	361
Montenegro	9	324	315

- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that some people may be putting off emergency care for serious health conditions during the coronavirus pandemic -- and fewer visits for critical conditions could result in complications or even death. During the pandemic, the total number of visits to hospital emergency departments across the United States for conditions other than Covid-19 was 42% lower than during this same time last year, according to a new CDC report. The research, published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on Wednesday, found that emergency department visits fell from about 2.1 million visits per week between March 31 and April 27 last year to 1.2 million between March 29 and April 25 this year. The "steepest decreases" were among children 14 and younger, women and girls, and people living in the northeast region of the country.
- Pakistan now has 85,264 confirmed cases of Covid-19, authorities said, becoming the latest country to overtake the total in China. At least 1,770 virus-related deaths have also been recorded in Pakistan.
- The Trump administration has selected five companies as the most likely to produce a Covid-19 vaccine, a White House coronavirus task force source tells CNN. Meanwhile, a Covid-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University in partnership with AstraZeneca pharmaceutical will be tested in Brazil, the Federal University of Sao Paulo (Unifesp) said in a statement.
- The Spanish tourism minister, Reyes Maroto, has said that all restrictions on border crossings with France and Portugal will be lifted from 22 June.



- **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).

Sources

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