

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 3,300 worldwide, with the vast majority in mainland China. There have been more than 96,300 global cases.
- Poland and Bosnia confirmed their first cases of the coronavirus today, while both Spain and Iceland have reported a spike in infections.
- Infections linked to Italy's outbreak are spreading worldwide. At least 215 people came into contact with a group of Italian tourists in India, some of whom have tested positive for the virus.
- South Africa diagnosed a traveler returning from Italy as its first case of the novel coronavirus on Thursday. *"The patient is a 38-year-old male who traveled to Italy with his wife,"* South Africa's health minister Dr. Zweli Mkhize said in a statement. *"They were part of a group of 10 people and they arrived back in South Africa on March 1, 2020."*
- Switzerland has had its first death of coronavirus, the Vaud region police said in a statement. The patient was 74 years old, had been suffering from a chronic illness and was considered "high risk." The patient had been infected by the virus on Tuesday and died on Wednesday night.
- Germany has recorded 109 new coronavirus patients within 24 hours, according to the German center for disease control. There are now 349 cases in the country.
- Iran's Ministry of Health is planning to open specially equipped hospitals in all regions of the country to treat coronavirus patients, WHO representative Richard Brennan told Iranian state media.
- Iran has begun work on developing a coronavirus vaccine and is ready to start producing test kits. Also, Iran will begin putting up checkpoints to limit travel between major cities and has urged people to reduce their use of banknotes as authorities try to restrict the spread of the coronavirus, which has caused at least 107 deaths and infected more than 3,500 people across the country.
- The United States now has 159 coronavirus cases, with the majority of infections in California and Washington states. Many cities across the country, including San Francisco and Seattle, and even entire states like Washington, have declared states of emergency. This allows the local and state authorities greater access to emergency resources and funding in preparation for a bigger outbreak. Washington state is closing all schools for up to two weeks.
- Italy has canceled the Rome marathon scheduled for March 29, the press office for the organizers said today.
- *"We are eight weeks into this #COVID19 outbreak: yet we have identified the virus, we have the genetic sequence, PCR & serological assay in use. This wealth of knowledge is unprecedented for a new disease",* tweeted WHO.
- Greece has become the latest country to try to halt the spread of the coronavirus by closing schools and universities and cancelling large public gatherings, as the WHO insisted the virus could still be "pushed back" if governments around the world took the necessary action.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
China	80'430	3'013	52'259
S. Korea	6'088	40	135
Iran	3'513	107	739
Italy	3'089	107	276
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	696	6	212
Japan	361	6	43
Germany	444	0	16
France	377	6	12
Spain	259	3	2
USA	164	11	9
Singapore	117	0	81
Hong Kong	105	2	37
Switzerland	114	1	3
UK	115	0	8
Kuwait	58	0	0
Bahrain	55	0	4
Australia	53	2	21
Malaysia	55	0	22
Norway	72	0	0
Thailand	47	1	31
Taiwan	44	1	12
Netherlands	82	0	0
Sweden	60	0	1
Canada	37	0	8
Iraq	35	3	0
India	30	0	3
Austria	41	0	2
UAE	28	0	5
Belgium	50	0	1
Iceland	34	0	0
San Marino	21	1	0
Vietnam	16	0	16
Israel	16	0	2
Lebanon	16	0	0
Oman	16	0	2
Macao	10	0	9
Denmark	15	0	0
Croatia	10	0	0
Greece	31	0	0
Algeria	17	0	0
Czechia	12	0	0
Qatar	8	0	0
Ecuador	13	0	0
Finland	12	0	1
Belarus	6	0	0
Mexico	6	0	1
Romania	6	0	1
Pakistan	5	0	0
Portugal	8	0	0
Philippines	3	1	2
Azerbaijan	6	0	0
Georgia	4	0	0
Russia	4	0	2
Brazil	4	0	0
Egypt	3	0	1
Estonia	3	0	0
Indonesia	2	0	0
Ireland	6	0	0
New Zealand	3	0	0
Senegal	4	0	0
Afghanistan	1	0	0
Andorra	1	0	0
Armenia	1	0	0
Cambodia	1	0	1
Dominican Republic	1	0	0
Jordan	1	0	0
Latvia	1	0	0
Lithuania	1	0	0
Luxembourg	1	0	0
North Macedonia	1	0	0
Monaco	1	0	0
Morocco	2	0	0
Nepal	1	0	1
Nigeria	1	0	0
Saudi Arabia	5	0	1
Sri Lanka	1	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0
Ukraine	1	0	0
Argentina	1	0	0
Chile	3	0	0
Liechtenstein	1	0	0
Poland	1	0	0
South Africa	1	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	0	0

- Europe is experiencing delays in supplies of medicines and face masks because of coronavirus disruptions, according to EU and industry officials, compounding already acute shortages of drugs on the continent.
- Egypt has declared its first coronavirus infection of an Egyptian national. The country's Ministry of Health and Population said the 44-year-old display symptoms after returning from Serbia via 12-hour transit in France.
- The number of coronavirus cases in the Netherlands has doubled to 82, after 44 new patients were identified today.



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

SNF - Special call for research into coronaviruses

- <http://www.snf.ch/en/researchinFocus/newsroom/Pages/news-200227-special-call-for-research-into-coronaviruses.aspx>

Wellcome Trust:

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

Sources

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