

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

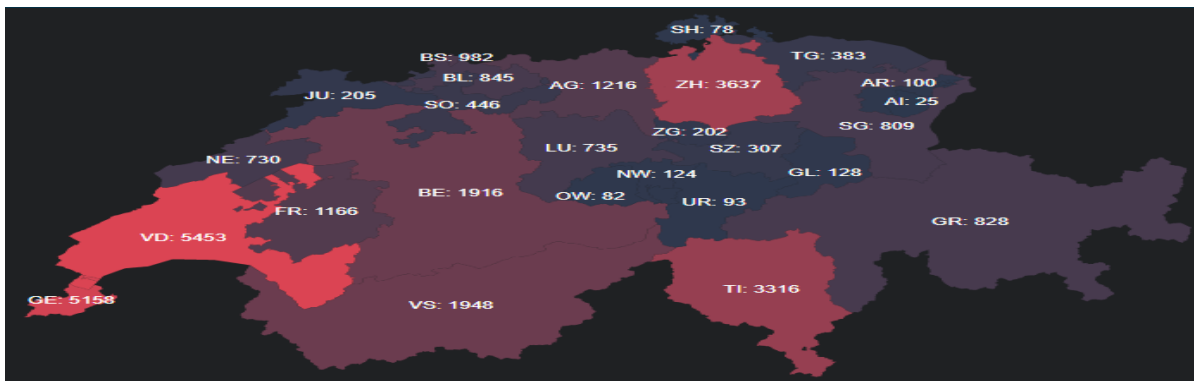
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 394,960 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (110,472) and UK (40,261). There have been more than 6,759,800 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The fight against the coronavirus will not be over “until there is no virus anywhere in the world,” according to WHO spokesperson Dr. Margaret Harris. Speaking at a press briefing in Geneva, Harris confirmed that there have been “upticks” of the virus in countries which have eased measures, but she said that she was “not talking specifically about Europe”. “*When the lockdowns ease, when the social distancing measures ease, people sometimes interpret this as 'OK, it's over.'*” she said. The WHO has continually affirmed that countries easing measures should do so gradually and cautiously.
- People over 60 or with health issues should wear a medical-grade mask when they are out and cannot socially distance, according to new guidance from the World Health Organization, while all others should wear a three-layer fabric mask. The new WHO guidance, announced on Friday, is a result of research commissioned by the organization. It is still unknown whether the wearers of masks are protected, say its experts, but the new design it advocates does give protection to other people if properly used. The WHO says masks should be made of three layers – with cotton closest to the face, followed by a polypropylene layer and then a synthetic layer that is fluid-resistant. These are no substitute for physical distancing and hand hygiene, it says, but should be worn in situations where distancing is difficult, such as on public transport and at mass demonstrations.
- The Singapore Government is developing and will “soon” roll out a portable and wearable contact tracing device, Minister Balakrishnan told Parliament today. “*If this portable device works, we may then distribute it to everyone in Singapore,*” he said. “*And I believe this will be more inclusive, and it will ensure that all of us will be protected.*” The TraceTogether app works by sending Bluetooth signals to each other when in close proximity, making it easier for authorities to conduct contact tracing when a user tests positive for COVID-19. However, the Government has decided not to make the download of the app compulsory as it does not work equally well across different smartphone operating systems, Dr Balakrishnan said. Apple's iOS suspends Bluetooth scanning when the app is running in the background, meaning users have to leave it in the foreground, without using other apps. “We've had repeated discussions at both the technical and policy level with Apple, but we have not yet been able to find a satisfactory solution,” Dr Balakrishnan said. Nevertheless, a total of 1.5 million users have downloaded the app, about one-fifth of Singapore's population. Dr Balakrishnan called this figure “encouraging”, given that downloading the app is voluntary.
- USA: Twenty-six states report that 50% or more of their Covid-19 deaths occurred in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) – such as nursing homes and group homes, according to a report by three doctors at Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine. Minnesota and Rhode Island top the list, each reporting that 81% of Covid-19 deaths occurred in long-term care facilities. NY reported the lowest proportion in long-term care facilities: 21%. The study authors say that is likely a “gross underestimate” caused by lack of available coronavirus testing in long-term care facilities, coupled with the fact that Covid-19 deaths were only counted as such if they were backed by a positive test.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	110,472	1,931,250	712,814
UK	40,261	283,311	N/A
Brazil	34,072	618,554	274,997
Italy	33,774	234,531	163,781
France	29,065	152,444	69,976
Spain	27,133	287,740	N/A
Mexico	12,545	105,680	75,448
Belgium	9,566	58,907	16,112
Germany	8,758	185,354	168,500
Iran	8,134	167,156	129,741
Canada	7,652	94,070	52,114
India	6,637	235,540	112,757
Netherlands	6,005	47,152	N/A
Russia	5,528	449,834	212,680
Peru	5,031	183,198	76,228
China	4,634	83,027	78,327
Turkey	4,630	167,410	131,778
Sweden	4,562	41,883	N/A
Ecuador	3,534	41,575	20,568
Switzerland	1,921	30,936	28,600
Pakistan	1,838	89,249	31,198
Indonesia	1,770	29,521	9,443
Ireland	1,664	25,142	22,698
Portugal	1,465	33,969	20,526
Chile	1,448	122,499	95,631
Romania	1,315	20,103	14,145
Poland	1,137	25,410	12,410
Egypt	1,126	29,767	7,756
Colombia	1,087	35,120	12,921
Philippines	987	20,626	4,330
Japan	903	17,018	14,867
South Africa	848	40,792	21,311
Bangladesh	811	60,391	12,804
Ukraine	762	25,964	11,372
Algeria	690	9,935	6,453
Austria	672	16,843	15,742
Saudi Arabia	642	95,748	70,616
Argentina	615	20,197	6,088
Denmark	586	11,875	10,653
Hungary	542	3,970	2,245
Dominican Republic	525	18,708	11,736
Bolivia	415	12,245	1,658
Panama	363	15,044	9,619
Sudan	333	5,714	1,825
Czechia	327	9,520	6,880
Nigeria	323	11,516	3,535
Moldova	323	9,247	5,240
Finland	322	6,941	5,800
Afghanistan	309	18,969	1,762
Israel	291	17,562	15,026
Iraq	285	9,846	4,573
UAE	273	37,018	19,572
S. Korea	273	11,668	10,506
Belarus	259	46,868	22,066
Serbia	247	11,667	6,931
Kuwait	244	30,644	18,277
Honduras	243	5,880	648
Norway	238	8,510	8,138
Morocco	208	8,030	7,215
Cameroon	205	7,392	4,575
Armenia	183	11,817	3,513
Greece	180	2,952	1,374
Bulgaria	159	2,627	1,390
Bosnia and Herzegovina	159	2,606	1,968
Guatemala	158	6,154	979
North Macedonia	149	2,790	1,632
Malaysia	116	8,266	6,610
Luxembourg	110	4,032	3,885
Slovenia	109	1,479	1,359
Croatia	103	2,247	2,113
Yemen	103	453	17
Australia	102	7,251	6,683
Mali	85	1,461	806
Cuba	83	2,119	1,839

Azerbaijan	82	6,860	3,871
DRC	81	3,764	512
Kenya	79	2,474	643
Somalia	79	2,204	418
Oman	72	15,086	3,451
Lithuania	71	1,694	1,302
Estonia	69	1,910	1,667
Chad	66	828	633
Niger	65	963	860
Thailand	58	3,102	2,971
El Salvador	53	2,849	1,249
Burkina Faso	53	885	760
Kazakhstan	52	12,312	6,903
Andorra	51	852	741
Haiti	50	2,640	24
Qatar	49	65,495	40,935
Tunisia	49	1,087	969
Tajikistan	48	4,370	2,491
Sierra Leone	47	929	580
Nicaragua	46	1,118	370
Channel Islands	46	561	512
Senegal	45	4,155	2,276
San Marino	42	678	408
Mauritania	39	784	65
Ghana	38	8,885	3,189
Ivory Coast	35	3,262	1,584
Albania	33	1,212	910
Liberia	30	334	176
Slovakia	28	1,526	1,379
Lebanon	28	1,312	768
Djibouti	26	4,054	1,685
Mayotte	25	2,058	1,523
Latvia	25	1,085	781
Singapore	24	37,183	24,209
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Guinea	23	3,991	2,512
Uruguay	23	832	709
Bahrain	22	13,733	8,471
Kyrgyzstan	22	1,936	1,340
New Zealand	22	1,504	1,481
Gabon	21	2,955	818
Tanzania	21	509	183
Venezuela	20	2,087	334
Congo	20	611	179
Ethiopia	19	1,805	262
Cyprus	17	958	807
Uzbekistan	16	3,987	3,227
Sint Maarten	15	77	61
Martinique	14	200	98
Guadeloupe	14	162	138
Georgia	13	805	650
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	465	239
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,306	200
Sao Tome and Principe	12	485	68
Guyana	12	153	77
Nepal	11	2,912	333
Sri Lanka	11	1,801	858
Paraguay	11	1,086	511
Bahamas	11	102	55
Iceland	10	1,806	1,794
Costa Rica	10	1,194	687
South Sudan	10	994	6
Jamaica	10	591	368
Mauritius	10	337	322
Jordan	9	784	571
Malta	9	625	583
Montenegro	9	324	315
Bermuda	9	141	113
Guinea-Bissau	8	1,339	53
Trinidad and Tobago	8	117	108
Maldives	7	1,872	648
Zambia	7	1,089	912

- Switzerland will lift coronavirus-imposed restrictions at its borders with all European Union and EFTA countries – and the United Kingdom – from June 15. The announcement, made on Friday [external link](#), follows a previous decision that borders with neighbouring Austria, Germany and France would be opened on that date. Restrictions for Germany and Austria were already partially eased - for people with family in these countries for example - on May 16.
- Black people with HIV were significantly more likely to be admitted to a major London hospital with COVID-19 than other people with HIV, while in Madrid, researchers found that COVID-19 was diagnosed more often in people with HIV who had underlying conditions than others with HIV. The findings, published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* and *Lancet HIV*, are the first from studies looking at risk factors for COVID-19 within cohorts of people living with HIV. They provide the first comparisons of people living with HIV who have - or have not - needed treatment for COVID-19. The London study found that people with lower CD4 counts were more likely to be admitted to hospital with COVID-19 but the Spanish study did not find such a relationship.
- Brazil now has the third-highest number of coronavirus fatalities in the world, behind the US and the United Kingdom. Brazil's health ministry reported 34,021 deaths as of Thursday. Mexico has more than 105,600 total cases after 4,442 new infections were reported Thursday -- its largest single-day increase to date.



- **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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