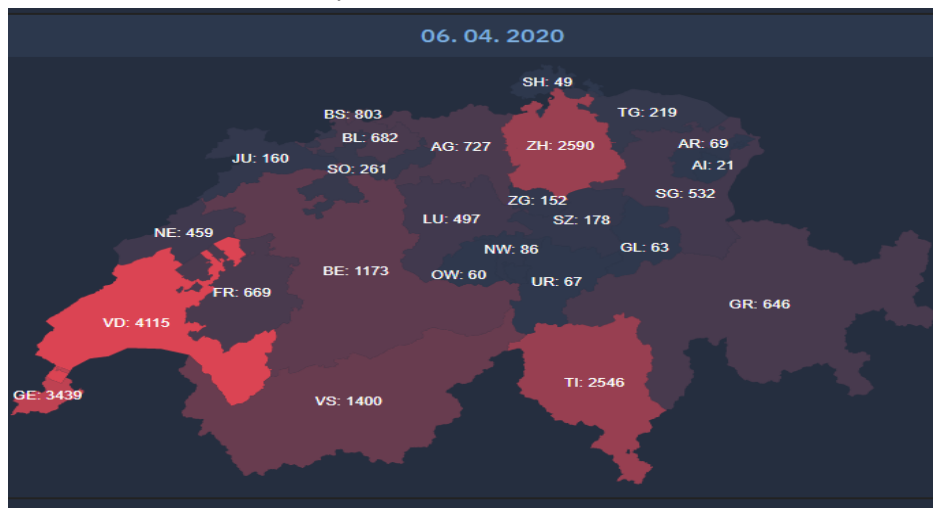# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
06.04.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 72,700 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (16,523) and Spain (13,169). There have been more than 1,318,000 global cases in 206 countries.

- With deaths in Spain declining for the fourth consecutive day, Italy reporting its lowest death toll in two weeks and France recording a decline in new hospital admissions, there is tentative hope across Europe that lockdowns are starting to show results.

- The director general of the WHO has said new guidance will be issued on the use of face masks in public to support countries that have decided to implement their wider use. *"If masks are worn they must be used safely and properly. The WHO has guidance on how to put on, take off and dispose of masks. What is clear is that there is limited research in this area. We encourage countries that are considering introducing masks for the general population to study their effectiveness. Masks alone cannot stop the pandemic. Countries must continue to find, test isolate and treat every case and trace every contact"*, said Dr. Tedros Adhanom.

- A key study of the common coronaviruses - HCoV-NL63, HCoV-OC43 and HCoV-229E - was published last week by scientists at University College London. By analysing samples collected several years ago they found high rates of coronavirus infections in February, while in summer they were very low. Other studies have also shown coronaviruses are seasonal in behaviour in temperate climates. The study's lead author, Rob Aldridge, sounded a note of caution, however. "We could see continued but lower levels of coronavirus transmission in summer but this may reverse in the winter if there is still a large susceptible population at that point," he said.

- Case numbers are increasing exponentially in the African region," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa. "It took 16 days from the first confirmed case in the Region to reach 100 cases. It took a further 10 days to reach the first thousand. Three days after this, there were 2000 cases, and two days later we were at 3000."

- The WHO Regional Office for Africa hosted its first virtual 'hackathon' bringing together 100 leading innovators from across sub-Saharan Africa in a bid to pioneer creative local solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic and address critical gaps in the regional response. As COVID-19 spreads rapidly across Africa, raising concerns about the strain on already fragile health systems, it has become clear that "solutions in the response require action beyond the health sector," said Dr Moredreck Chibi.

- *"Tomorrow we are publishing our first report on the state of the world's nursing, which highlights gaps and makes recommendations for all countries. One of the lessons I hope the world learns from COVID-19 is that we must invest in health workers – not only to protect lives, but also to protect livelihoods",* said Dr. Tedros.

- China is sending protective material to Switzerland with a first batch of "urgently needed" gowns delivered to Zurich hospitals on Monday, Keystone-SDA news agency reported, citing cantonal authorities. Another flight arrived in Geneva and more are expected in the coming days.

- A tiger at New York City's Bronx Zoo has tested positive for the coronavirus, in the first known case of Covid-19 in an animal in the US. But a veterinary expert says cat owners shouldn't panic.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
USA	352'160	10'369	19'247
Spain	135'032	13'169	40'437
Italy	132'547	16'523	22'837
Germany	101'178	1'612	28'700
France	92'839	8'078	16'183
China	81'708	3'331	77'078
Iran	60'500	3'739	24'236
UK	51'608	5'373	135
Turkey	30'217	649	1'326
Switzerland	21'652	762	8'056
Belgium	20'814	1'632	3'986
Netherlands	18'803	1'867	250
Canada	15'853	293	3'128
Austria	12'280	220	3'463
Portugal	11'730	311	140
Brazil	11'516	506	127
S. Korea	10'284	186	6'598
Israel	8'611	56	585
Sweden	7'206	477	205
Russia	6'343	47	406
Australia	5'795	41	2'432
Norway	5'760	74	32
Ireland	5'364	174	25
Chile	4'815	37	728
Czechia	4'735	78	121
India	4'693	129	346
Denmark	4'681	187	1'378
Poland	4'413	107	162
Romania	4'057	168	406
Malaysia	3'793	62	1'241
Ecuador	3'747	191	100
Pakistan	3'662	52	259
Philippines	3'660	163	73
Japan	3'654	85	575
Luxembourg	2'843	41	500
Saudi Arabia	2'523	38	551
Indonesia	2'491	209	192
Peru	2'281	83	989
Thailand	2'220	26	793
Serbia	2'200	58	54
Finland	2'176	27	300
Mexico	2'143	94	633
UAE	2'076	11	167
Panama	1'988	54	13
Qatar	1'832	4	131
Dominican Republic	1'828	86	33
Greece	1'755	79	269
South Africa	1'655	11	95
Iceland	1'562	6	460
Argentina	1'554	48	325
Colombia	1'485	35	88
Algeria	1'423	173	90
Singapore	1'375	6	344
Ukraine	1'319	38	28
Croatia	1'222	16	130
Egypt	1'173	78	247
Morocco	1'113	71	76
Estonia	1'108	19	62
New Zealand	1'106	1	176
Iraq	1'031	64	344
Slovenia	1'021	30	102
Moldova	965	19	37
Hong Kong	915	4	216
Lithuania	843	14	8
Armenia	833	8	62
Hungary	744	38	67
Bahrain	723	4	451

Diamond Princess	712	11	619
Belarus	700	13	53
Bosnia and Herzegovina	674	29	47
Kuwait	665	1	103
Cameroon	658	9	17
Kazakhstan	651	6	45
Azerbaijan	641	7	44
Tunisia	574	22	5
North Macedonia	570	21	30
Bulgaria	549	22	39
Latvia	542	1	16
Lebanon	541	19	60
Slovakia	534	2	8
Andorra	501	18	26
Cyprus	465	9	45
Costa Rica	454	2	16
Uruguay	406	6	104
Uzbekistan	397	2	30
Albania	377	21	116
Taiwan	373	5	57
Afghanistan	367	7	18
Cuba	350	9	18
Réunion	349	0	40
Burkina Faso	345	17	90
Jordan	345	5	110
Oman	331	2	61
Channel Islands	309	7	27
Honduras	298	22	6
San Marino	266	32	35
Ivory Coast	261	3	37
Palestine	253	1	25
Vietnam	245	0	95
Mauritius	244	7	7
Malta	241	0	5
Montenegro	233	2	1
Nigeria	232	5	33
Senegal	226	2	92
Kyrgyzstan	216	4	33
Ghana	214	5	31
Georgia	188	2	39
Niger	184	10	13
Bolivia	183	11	2
Faeroe Islands	183	0	107
Sri Lanka	178	5	38
DRC	161	18	5
Venezuela	159	7	52
Kenya	158	6	4
Martinique	149	4	50
Mayotte	147	2	14
Isle of Man	139	1	55
Guadeloupe	135	7	31
Brunei	135	1	82
Bangladesh	123	12	33
Guinea	121	0	5
Cambodia	114	0	53
Paraguay	113	5	12
Gibraltar	109	0	52
Trinidad and Tobago	105	8	1
Rwanda	104	0	4
Liechtenstein	77	1	55
Monaco	73	1	3
Madagascar	72	0	2
Guatemala	70	3	15
El Salvador	69	3	2
French Guiana	68	0	27
Aruba	64	0	1
Djibouti	59	0	9
Jamaica	58	3	8
Barbados	56	1	6
Togo	52	3	22

- Austria became the first European country to announce plans to lift its lockdown, with some shops being reopened from next week, and Spain said it would start widespread testing as a first step towards slowly easing restrictions.
- The number of new coronavirus infections is decreasing in "practically all" regions across Spain, Maria Jose Sierra, an official from the country's center for health emergencies said at a briefing on Monday. "It is important that a few days pass to confirm this tendency, but the data allows us to observe that the growth rate of the coronavirus pandemic is decreasing in practically all communities," Sierra said. Around 19,400 Spanish health workers, including doctors and nurses, have been infected with the novel coronavirus, Sierra added.
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will declare a state of emergency on Tuesday, lasting for approximately one month. The news comes after 378 new cases and three more deaths in Japan were announced Sunday.
- The coronavirus pandemic is the biggest test the European Union has faced in its history, Angela Merkel said on Monday.
- France is heading for the worst economic downturn since World War II, the country's Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire says.

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

Wellcome Trust:

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

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