

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

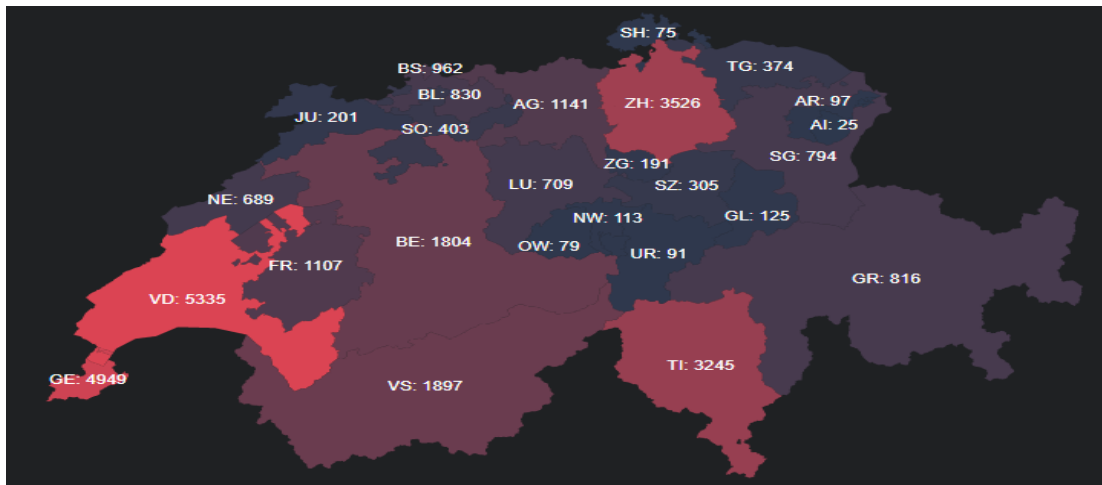
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 261,160 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (72,828) and UK (30,076). There have been more than 3,776,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- A new genetic analysis of the virus that causes Covid-19 taken from more than 7,600 patients around the world shows it has been circulating in people since late last year, and must have spread extremely quickly after the first infection. Researchers in Britain looked at mutations in the virus and found evidence of quick spread, but no evidence the virus is becoming more easily transmitted or more likely to cause serious disease. "The virus is changing, but this in itself does not mean it's getting worse," genetics researcher Francois Balloux of the University College London Genetics Institute told CNN. They looked at samples taken at different times and from different places, and said they indicate that the virus first started infecting people at the end of last year. "This rules out any scenario that assumes SARSCoV-2 may have been in circulation long before it was identified, and hence have already infected large proportions of the population," Balloux's team wrote in their report, published in the journal Infection, Genetics and Evolution.
- Singaporeans will receive improved reusable masks soon, with the Government embarking on a third mask distribution exercise towards the end of this circuit breaker period. The new cloth masks will have higher protective qualities and also be more comfortable to wear for a long period of time, said Trade and Industry Minister Chan Chun Sing today. Over the last few weeks, the Government has been working with local manufacturers and A*Star to improve on the materials used for the reusable cloth masks.
- People in Switzerland will be able to go to bars and restaurants again from May 11, but only if they leave their phone numbers, according to an anti-coronavirus safety plan for the sector. Groups will be limited to four people (with the exception of large families) and there must be a distance of at least two metres between tables, according to the plan unveiled on Tuesday by the hotel and restaurant sector associations. In addition, customers' details (name, telephone number, date and time of visit) will be recorded along with their table number. The restaurant must keep this data for 14 days and then delete it fully. This measure is to help anti-coronavirus contact tracing according to the plan drawn up in consultation with the Federal Office of Public Health and the Federal Food Safety Office. Standing in bars and restaurants will not be allowed when they re-open on Monday. Establishments must make hand cleansing with soap and water or disinfectant available to customers as they enter.
- Contact restrictions in Germany will continue through early June but the country's football league is set to resume play towards the end of May, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced today.
- Belgian households will be able to expand their social circle to include four people from outside their home from May 10. These people must be the same four people and must socialize within the confines of the home. Citizens have been advised to socialize outdoors if they have a garden or terrace, Belgian Prime Minister Sophie Wilmès said in a press conference in Brussels.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	72'828	1'243'475	201'937
UK	30'076	201'101	N/A
Italy	29'684	214'457	93'245
Spain	25'857	253'682	159'359
France	25'531	170'551	52'736
Belgium	8'339	50'781	12'731
Brazil	7'966	116'299	48'221
Germany	6'993	167'372	137'400
Iran	6'418	101'650	81'587
Netherlands	5'204	41'319	N/A
China	4'633	82'883	77'911
Canada	4'043	62'046	26'993
Turkey	3'584	131'744	78'202
Sweden	2'941	23'918	4'074
Mexico	2'507	26'025	16'810
Switzerland	1'795	30'060	25'400
India	1'768	52'340	14'911
Ecuador	1'569	31'881	3'433
Russia	1'537	165'929	21'327
Peru	1'444	51'189	15'413
Ireland	1'339	21'983	13'386
Portugal	1'089	26'182	2'076
Indonesia	895	12'438	2'317
Romania	858	14'107	5'788
Poland	733	14'740	4'655
Philippines	658	10'004	1'506
Austria	608	15'684	13'639
Japan	556	15'253	4'496
Pakistan	526	22'550	6'217
Denmark	506	9'938	7'493
Algeria	476	4'997	2'197
Egypt	469	7'588	1'815
Hungary	373	3'111	759
Colombia	378	8'613	2'013
Dominican Republic	362	8'807	1'905
Ukraine	327	13'184	2'097
Chile	281	23'048	11'189
Argentina	264	5'020	1'524
S. Korea	255	10'806	9'333
Czechia	262	7'933	4'202
Finland	252	5'573	3'500
Israel	238	16'314	10'527
Norway	216	7'976	32
Panama	210	7'523	823
Saudi Arabia	209	31'938	6'783
Serbia	203	9'791	1'971
Bangladesh	186	11'719	1'403
Morocco	182	5'382	1'969
UAE	146	15'192	3'153
Greece	147	2'663	1'374
South Africa	148	7'572	2'746
Moldova	143	4'476	1'544
Belarus	112	19'255	4'388
Malaysia	107	6'428	4'702
Iraq	102	2'480	1'602
Slovenia	99	1'448	246
Australia	97	6'875	5'984
Luxembourg	98	3'851	3'452
Afghanistan	104	3'392	458
Nigeria	98	2'950	481
North Macedonia	88	1'539	1'057
Croatia	85	2'119	1'601
Honduras	93	1'270	122
Bolivia	86	1'802	187
Bulgaria	84	1'778	360
Bosnia and Herzegovina	86	1'987	928
Cuba	69	1'703	1'001
Cameroon	64	2'265	1'000
Estonia	55	1'713	264
Thailand	55	2'989	2'761

Lithuania	48	1'428	718
Burkina Faso	48	688	548
Sudan	45	852	80
Andorra	46	751	514
Tunisia	43	1'022	482
San Marino	41	608	97
Channel Islands	40	545	406
Kuwait	42	6'289	2'219
Armenia	40	2'782	1'135
Somalia	39	873	87
Niger	38	763	543
DRC	35	797	92
Mali	32	631	261
Albania	31	832	595
Kazakhstan	30	4'344	1'387
Azerbaijan	28	2'127	1'536
Slovakia	25	1'429	762
Lebanon	25	750	206
Kenya	26	582	190
Isle of Man	23	326	271
New Zealand	21	1'488	1'316
Guatemala	19	763	79
Singapore	20	20'198	1'634
Ghana	18	2'719	294
Liberia	20	178	75
Ivory Coast	18	1'464	701
Latvia	17	900	464
Uruguay	17	670	468
Tanzania	16	480	167
Cyprus	15	883	296
Martinique	14	182	83
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
El Salvador	14	633	219
Sint Maarten	14	76	44
Qatar	12	17'972	2'070
Oman	13	2'903	888
Guadeloupe	13	152	104
Senegal	12	1'433	493
Kyrgyzstan	12	871	614
Sierra Leone	14	225	54
Haiti	12	101	10
Bahamas	11	89	26
Uzbekistan	10	2'231	1'577
Iceland	10	1'799	1'750
Paraguay	10	431	135
Venezuela	10	367	164
Mauritius	10	332	320
Congo	10	236	26
Chad	17	170	43
Guinea	10	1'811	498
Sri Lanka	9	795	215
Georgia	9	610	269
Jamaica	9	473	56
Jordan	9	473	377
Togo	9	128	77
Guyana	10	93	27
Bahrain	8	3'842	1'860
Montenegro	8	324	261
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	103
Bermuda	7	115	54
Barbados	7	82	47
Costa Rica	6	755	413
Mayotte	9	739	352
Taiwan	6	439	339
Gabon	6	397	93
Myanmar	6	161	50
Malta	5	484	407
Tajikistan	8	379	0

- USA - More than half of the country's states have started reopening, including many that have not met White House guidelines on when to do so. They may need to shut down again though.
- Heathrow Airport is testing technologies around a large-scale screening system to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission while traveling. Trials will assess for medical effectiveness, passenger response as well as suitability to the airport environment. Technologies under review will include UV sanitation, facial recognition thermal screening technology and contactless security procedures.
- Nearly 58,000 students returned to school today in Wuhan. Wuhan began lifting restrictions in early April, after more than two months of total lockdown.
- Infection slowdown: South Korea and mainland China both recorded no new local transmissions yesterday. South Korea has issued guidelines that offer an insight into the new post-lockdown normal.



- **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 (aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch) and Leah Witton (leah.witton@research.unibe.ch).

Sources

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