

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

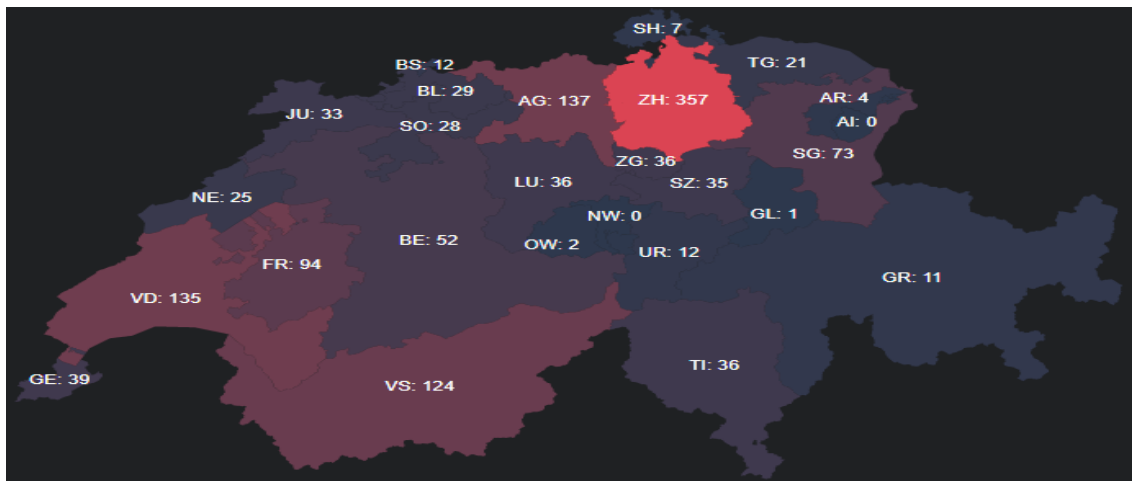
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 538,124 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (132,664) and Brazil (64,900). There have been more than 11,624,659 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- WHO accepted the recommendation from the Solidarity Trial's International Steering Committee to discontinue the trial's hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir arms. The Solidarity Trial was established by WHO to find an effective COVID-19 treatment for hospitalized patients. The International Steering Committee formulated the recommendation in light of the evidence for hydroxychloroquine vs standard-of-care and for lopinavir/ritonavir vs standard-of-care from the Solidarity trial interim results, and from a review of the evidence from all trials presented at the 1-2 July WHO Summit on COVID-19 research and innovation. These interim trial results show that hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir produce little or no reduction in the mortality of hospitalized COVID-19 patients when compared to standard of care. Solidarity trial investigators will interrupt the trials with immediate effect. For each of the drugs, the interim results do not provide solid evidence of increased mortality. There were, however, some associated safety signals in the clinical laboratory findings of the add-on Discovery trial, a participant in the Solidarity trial. This decision applies only to the conduct of the Solidarity trial in hospitalized patients and does not affect the possible evaluation in other studies of hydroxychloroquine or lopinavir/ritonavir in non-hospitalized patients or as pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis for COVID-19. The interim Solidarity results are now being readied for peer-reviewed publication.
- Results from the final stage of a nationwide antibody study showed some 5.2% of the Spanish population has been exposed to the coronavirus, health officials said on Monday, confirming findings from earlier stages and adding to evidence that so-called "herd immunity" to Covid-19 is not realistic. Reuters reports that the study, which tested nearly 70,000 people across Spain three times over the past three months, found the virus' prevalence had not altered significantly since preliminary results were published in May. It also suggested that immunity to the virus can be short-lived, with 14% of participants who tested positive for antibodies in the first stage subsequently testing negative in the last stage. "Immunity can be incomplete, it can be transitory, it can last for just a short time and then disappear," said Dr Raquel Yotti, director of Spain's Carlos III Health Institute, which co-led the study. The loss of immunity was most common among people who never developed symptoms.
- In an interview published in the SonntagsBlick news outlet yesterday, Simonetta Sommaruga, the politician said she has always sought the right compromise. *"We have a lot of freedom in the current situation. But the virus is still there,"* Sommaruga said. This is why the governing Federal Council reacted by mandating the compulsory wearing of masks on public transport and compulsory quarantine for travellers coming from risk areas, she added. *"We must remain cautious"*. According to her, it was also crucial that the Federal Council handled the crisis with discernment, was able to learn and was open to adjustments. She stated that, on the whole, Switzerland has done a lot of things right during the crisis. The president admitted that the requirement to wear a mask could have been introduced earlier. *"But we wanted to see how the situation would develop and we intervened where necessary."*

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	132'664	2'996'027	1'291'315
Brazil	64'900	1'604'585	978'615
UK	44'220	285'416	N/A
Italy	34'861	241'611	192'108
Mexico	30'639	256'848	155'604
France	29'893	166'960	77'060
Spain	28'385	297'625	N/A
India	20'073	712'920	435'441
Iran	11'731	243'051	204'083
Peru	10'589	302'718	193'957
Russia	10'296	687'862	454'329
Belgium	9'771	62'016	17'091
Germany	9'086	197'651	182'200
Canada	8'684	105'536	69'239
Chile	6'384	298'557	264'371
Netherlands	6'127	50'621	N/A
Sweden	5'420	71'419	N/A
Turkey	5'225	205'758	180'680
Ecuador	4'781	61'958	28'722
Pakistan	4'762	231'818	131'649
China	4'634	83'557	78'518
Colombia	4'064	117'110	47'881
Egypt	3'343	75'253	20'726
Indonesia	3'241	64'958	29'919
South Africa	3'199	196'750	93'315
Iraq	2'567	62'275	34'741
Bangladesh	2'096	165'618	76'149
Saudi Arabia	1'968	213'716	149'634
Switzerland	1'965	32'315	29'300
Romania	1'768	29'223	20'213
Ireland	1'741	25'527	23'364
Portugal	1'620	44'129	29'166
Argentina	1'523	77'815	28'531
Poland	1'521	36'155	23'966
Bolivia	1'434	39'297	11'667
Philippines	1'303	46'333	12'185
Ukraine	1'262	49'043	21'703
Japan	977	19'522	17'050
Algeria	952	15'941	11'492
Guatemala	947	23'248	3'382
Afghanistan	898	33'190	20'103
Dominican Republic	794	37'425	18'943
Panama	747	38'149	17'986
Austria	706	18'365	16'647
Nigeria	645	28'711	11'665
Honduras	639	23'943	2'490
Sudan	608	9'767	4'673
Denmark	607	12'878	11'935
Moldova	592	17'906	11'047
Hungary	589	4'189	2'860
Armenia	491	28'936	16'302
Belarus	429	63'804	51'120
Kuwait	373	50'644	41'001
Czechia	348	12'515	7'864
North Macedonia	346	7'124	3'199
Yemen	338	1'265	552
Israel	332	30'162	17'974
Finland	329	7'257	6'700
UAE	323	51'540	40'297
Serbia	317	16'420	13'366
Cameroon	313	12'592	10'100
S. Korea	284	13'137	11'848
Azerbaijan	258	20'837	12'182
Norway	251	8'930	8'138
Bulgaria	246	5'740	2'915
Morocco	235	14'329	9'837
El Salvador	223	8'027	4'730
Oman	218	47'735	29'146
Bosnia and Herzegovina	199	5'458	2'598
Greece	192	3'519	1'374
Kazakhstan	188	48'574	27'334
DRC	182	7'432	3'226
Kenya	164	8'067	2'414

Qatar	133	100'345	93'898
Senegal	133	7'400	4'870
Mauritania	130	4'879	1'844
Ghana	122	20'085	14'870
Malaysia	121	8'668	8'476
Mali	119	2'330	1'527
Haiti	113	6'333	1'549
Croatia	113	3'220	2'210
Slovenia	111	1'716	1'384
Luxembourg	110	4'522	4'016
Australia	106	8'586	7'420
Ethiopia	103	5'846	2'430
Bahrain	98	29'367	24'649
Kyrgyzstan	92	7'691	2'843
Somalia	92	2'997	1'014
Cuba	86	2'372	2'229
Nicaragua	83	2'519	1'238
Albania	79	2'964	1'702
Lithuania	79	1'841	1'547
Ivory Coast	74	10'772	5'067
Chad	74	872	787
Estonia	69	1'994	1'875
Niger	68	1'093	968
Venezuela	65	7'169	2'100
Sierra Leone	62	1'542	1'062
Thailand	58	3'195	3'072
Djibouti	55	4'792	4'593
Tajikistan	53	6'213	4'858
Burkina Faso	53	1'000	858
Andorra	52	855	800
Equatorial Guinea	51	3'071	842
Tunisia	50	1'188	1'048
CAR	48	3'969	914
Channel Islands	47	577	512
Gabon	44	5'620	2'555
Congo	44	1'557	501
San Marino	42	698	656
South Sudan	38	2'021	333
Liberia	37	874	377
Uzbekistan	36	10'284	6'584
Lebanon	36	1'885	1'311
Nepal	35	15'964	6'811
Guinea	34	5'610	4'522
Mayotte	34	2'661	2'375
Madagascar	33	3'250	1'135
Libya	32	1'046	261
Zambia	30	1'632	1'348
Latvia	30	1'127	1'000
Slovakia	28	1'765	1'466
Uruguay	28	956	849
Singapore	26	44'983	40'441
Guinea-Bissau	25	1'765	676
Isle of Man	24	336	312
New Zealand	22	1'534	1'490
Benin	21	1'199	333
Tanzania	21	509	183
Costa Rica	20	4'996	1'745
Paraguay	20	2'427	1'166
Malawi	19	1'742	317
Cyprus	19	1'003	839
Angola	19	346	108
Palestine	17	4'341	491
Cabo Verde	17	1'451	655
French Guiana	16	4'913	1'866
Georgia	15	953	830
Togo	15	680	447
Guyana	15	273	120
Sint Maarten	15	78	63
Montenegro	14	781	315
Suriname	14	594	292
Syria	14	372	126

- Bars, nightclubs, gyms and event halls have been closed in Israel as restrictions are reimposed to tackle a spike in coronavirus infections.
- Troops in Serbia set up an emergency 500-bed field hospital Monday, a day after neighbouring Kosovo re-imposed a nighttime curfew in four cities, as the Balkans battled to contain a surge in coronavirus infections that underscored the risks of swiftly easing lockdowns.
- The coronavirus pandemic is threatening to put progress in the fight against HIV back by 10 years or more, the UN has said. “The global HIV targets set for 2020 will not be reached, the UN’s AIDS agency said in a report. “Even the gains made could be lost and progress further stalled if we fail to act.” Data from 2019 shows that 38 million people worldwide are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS – a million more than in 2018 – the report said. Although 25.4 million HIV positive people were on antiretroviral treatment in 2019, 12.6 million people are still not getting medicines. The report also found the world is far behind in preventing new HIV infections, with 1.7 million new HIV cases in 2019. “Every day in the next decade decisive action is needed to get the world back on track to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030,” said Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS’ executive director.



- **Funding opportunity for researchers**

PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe) Fast Track Call for Proposals

- <https://prace-ri.eu/prace-support-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19-pandemic/>

The US Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program - a call for proposals on COVID-19

- <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/ProgramFY.htm?programFYid=256400>

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science - Applications are paused

- <https://fastgrants.org/>

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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