

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

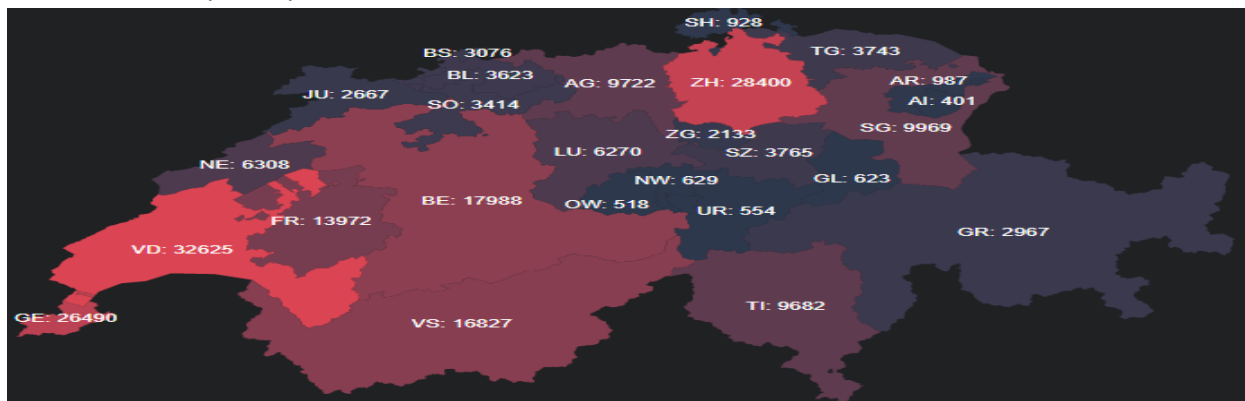
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 1,244,029 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (241,189) and Brazil (161,871). There have been more than 49,344,706 global cases in 210 countries and territories. [1]
- A Danish vaccine specialist has warned that a new wave of the coronavirus could be started by the Covid-19 mink variant. *“The worst-case scenario is that we would start a new pandemic in Denmark. There’s a risk this mutated virus is so different from the others we’d have to put new things in a vaccine, slamming us all back to the start,”* said Prof Kåre Mølbak, director of infectious diseases at Denmark’s State Serum Institute. He added, however, that the world was in a better place than when the Covid-19 outbreak began, saying: *“We know the virus, have measures in place including testing and infection control, and the outbreak will be contained, to the best of our knowledge.”* Denmark, the world’s largest mink producer, said on Wednesday that it planned to cull more than 15m of the animals, owing to fears that a Covid-19 mutation moving from mink to humans could jeopardise future vaccines. Prof Allan Randrup Thomsen, a virologist at the University of Copenhagen, said: *“This variant can develop further, so it becomes completely resistant and then a vaccine does not matter. So we need to take [the mutation] out of the equation. It’s serious.”* [2]
- A WHO official has praised Denmark’s decision to cull the country’s herd of mink, saying the animals appear to be a good reservoir for coronavirus and have infected people with a mutated strain. *“It seems that minks are susceptible to the virus and quite good at becoming a reservoir for the virus,”* Catherine Smallwood, a senior emergency officer at the WHO in Europe said Thursday. *“So there is a risk of course that this mink population could contribute in some way to the transmission of the virus from minks into humans and onwards from humans to humans.”* She said the transmission of Covid-19 from humans to animals and back to humans is not new. However, she said Danish researchers had tracked mutations of the virus in the mink. *“We’re of course very interested in this specific variant and then the genetic changes that are being reported, and we need to understand more about it but it doesn’t change right now what’s going on, epidemiologically.”* On Wednesday, the Danish Prime Minister announced the findings of the research and that all mink would be culled. WHO European regional director Hans Kluge on Thursday described the decision as “commendable”. [3]
- Aspirin, a drug commonly used as a blood thinner, will be evaluated as a possible treatment for Covid-19 in one of the UK’s biggest trials looking into a range of potential treatments for the illness. Patients infected by the novel coronavirus are at a higher risk of blood clots because of hyper-reactive platelets, the cell fragments that help stop bleeding. Aspirin is an antiplatelet agent and can reduce the risk of clots, the Recovery trial’s website said on Friday. *“There is a clear rationale for believing that [aspirin] might be beneficial, and it is safe, inexpensive and widely available,”* said Peter Horby, co-chief investigator of the trial. At least 2,000 patients are expected to randomly get 150mg of aspirin daily along with the usual regimen. Data from those patients will be compared with at least 2,000 other patients who receive the standard-of-care on its own, the website showed. [4]

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	241,189	9,942,738	6,342,585
Brazil	161,871	5,617,844	5,064,344
India	125,263	8,439,389	7,791,363
Mexico	93,772	949,197	701,837
UK	48,475	1,146,484	N/A
Italy	40,638	862,681	322,925
France	39,037	1,601,367	124,278
Spain	38,486	1,365,895	N/A
Iran	37,409	663,800	509,952
Peru	34,730	914,722	838,265
Argentina	32,766	1,217,028	1,030,137
Colombia	32,209	1,117,977	1,011,166
Russia	29,887	1,733,440	1,296,124
South Africa	19,677	732,414	671,579
Chile	14,450	518,390	494,303
Indonesia	14,442	429,574	360,705
Ecuador	12,761	172,508	149,048
Belgium	12,520	479,341	27,987
Germany	11,267	631,212	402,500
Iraq	11,244	493,139	423,266
Turkey	10,722	389,256	334,293
Canada	10,420	253,474	210,019
Bolivia	8,768	142,201	113,386
Ukraine	8,125	440,188	195,544
Netherlands	7,887	397,730	N/A
Romania	7,663	287,062	195,971
Philippines	7,461	391,809	349,974
Poland	7,287	493,765	188,675
Pakistan	6,923	340,251	317,086
Egypt	6,329	108,530	100,006
Bangladesh	6,036	417,475	335,027
Sweden	6,022	146,461	N/A
Saudi Arabia	5,506	349,822	336,533
China	4,634	86,151	81,098
Czechia	4,330	391,945	214,272
Morocco	4,059	240,951	197,215
Guatemala	3,794	110,502	100,319
Portugal	2,792	166,900	93,754
Panama	2,756	136,567	115,078
Honduras	2,736	99,347	42,574
Switzerland	2,666	211,913	87,300
Israel	2,644	318,402	306,890
Dominican Republic	2,261	129,300	107,038
Hungary	2,250	99,625	23,213
Algeria	2,024	60,800	41,510
Ireland	1,933	64,046	23,364
Moldova	1,882	80,501	60,220
Kazakhstan	1,857	114,826	107,339
Japan	1,806	104,782	95,756
Tunisia	1,577	66,334	36,727
Afghanistan	1,554	41,975	34,440
Bulgaria	1,518	68,345	22,709
Ethiopia	1,508	98,391	57,114
Armenia	1,506	101,773	61,782
Paraguay	1,462	65,778	45,794
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,457	59,427	29,970
Costa Rica	1,444	114,367	70,002
Myanmar	1,376	59,277	43,277
Austria	1,340	138,979	83,707
Oman	1,286	117,167	107,368
Kyrgyzstan	1,170	61,748	52,855
Nigeria	1,155	63,508	59,748
Jordan	1,136	101,248	8,506
Kenya	1,093	60,704	40,131
North Macedonia	1,084	36,372	22,526
Nepal	1,070	188,883	152,908
El Salvador	1,002	34,966	30,941

Belarus	1,001	104,286	89,555
Libya	915	66,444	38,624
Australia	907	27,645	25,428
Serbia	871	57,958	31,536
Sudan	837	13,943	6,764
Venezuela	819	93,921	88,701
Azerbaijan	811	62,338	47,270
Kuwait	804	130,463	121,263
Denmark	738	53,180	38,627
Croatia	717	62,305	46,021
Greece	715	52,254	9,989
Lebanon	683	89,186	45,820
Yemen	601	2,063	1,375
Uzbekistan	579	68,139	65,333
Albania	549	23,210	11,861
Palestine	511	57,226	49,537
UAE	510	139,891	136,936
Slovenia	497	42,658	18,825
S. Korea	476	27,195	24,821
Cameroon	429	22,103	21,151
Georgia	423	51,993	37,019
Finland	362	17,385	12,700
Zambia	349	16,819	15,862
Bahrain	328	82,786	80,174
Montenegro	328	22,079	15,294
Senegal	326	15,676	15,294
Ghana	320	48,788	47,521
Slovakia	317	71,088	16,990
DRC	315	11,517	10,838
Syria	305	6,040	2,195
Angola	299	12,102	5,350
Norway	285	23,600	11,863
Malaysia	279	38,189	26,380
Zimbabwe	248	8,444	7,975
Madagascar	244	17,111	16,409
Qatar	232	133,811	130,881
Haiti	232	9,109	7,589
Jamaica	218	9,426	4,801
Lithuania	192	20,747	5,454
Malawi	184	5,940	5,338
Luxembourg	180	21,806	12,094
Mauritania	165	7,777	7,463
Nicaragua	157	5,591	4,225
Bahamas	150	6,882	4,779
Mali	137	3,657	2,817
Namibia	133	13,143	11,578
Guadeloupe	133	7,903	2,242
Cuba	130	7,228	6,542
Guyana	130	4,393	3,409
Ivory Coast	126	20,789	20,466
Gambia	120	3,681	3,518
Uganda	117	13,568	7,645
Eswatini	117	5,967	5,694
Suriname	112	5,225	5,097
Trinidad and Tobago	111	5,774	5,024
Hong Kong	107	5,362	5,131
Somalia	107	4,229	3,247
Chad	99	1,529	1,354
Mozambique	97	13,391	11,177
Cabo Verde	97	9,149	8,289
Latvia	95	7,476	1,444
Congo	92	5,348	3,887
Equatorial Guinea	85	5,092	4,968
Tajikistan	83	11,256	10,546
Liberia	82	1,440	1,305
Andorra	75	5,135	3,858
Sierra Leone	74	2,371	1,805
Guinea	73	12,363	10,751
Malta	73	6,893	4,832
Estonia	73	5,705	4,103

- Coronavirus cases hit new daily highs this week in Russia, and Germany and Britain announced plans Tuesday to expand virus testing as European countries battled rapidly increasing COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. Nations reintroduced restrictions to get ahead of a virus. New measures took effect Tuesday in Austria, Greece, and Sweden, following a partial shutdown imposed Monday in Germany and tighter rules in Italy, France, Kosovo, and Croatia. England faces a near-total lockdown starting Thursday, although schools and universities will stay open. Melanie Brinkmann, an expert with Germany's Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, said that no individual public health measure can slow the spread of the virus, but that together they are effective. She likened actions such as social distancing, mask use, hand washing, and widening the use of antigen tests to slices of Swiss cheese, which individually have holes but together form a solid block. *"The Swiss cheese model says that every slice of cheese has holes, imperfections,"* Brinkmann said. The measures *"are all new slices of the cheese that all have their imperfections, but if we stack them all together with one another, we can better protect ourselves from this virus."* [2]
- The daily number of new coronavirus cases across Switzerland reached more than 10,000 at the beginning of November. New restrictions, including mask-wearing in all enclosed public spaces, come into force across Switzerland on October 29, as authorities try to rein in a rapidly deteriorating public health situation. Geneva will be the first Swiss canton to receive support from the army in the second coronavirus wave, Swiss officials have announced. *"In Geneva the number of intensive care beds is in short supply and staff are at their limit,"* Anne Lévy, head of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) said at the weekly Friday media conference. [5]



Newly reported cases since 01.06 in Switzerland. [6]

- **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>

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

[1] <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

[2] <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/covid-19-news/20201105/281487868865528/textview>

[3] <https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-11-06-20-intl/index.html>

[4] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/nov/06/coronavirus-live-news-us-records-global-record-102000-new-cases-as-world-suffers-highest-daily-deaths>

[5] <https://www.swissinfo.ch>

[6] <https://www.corona-data.ch/>