

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

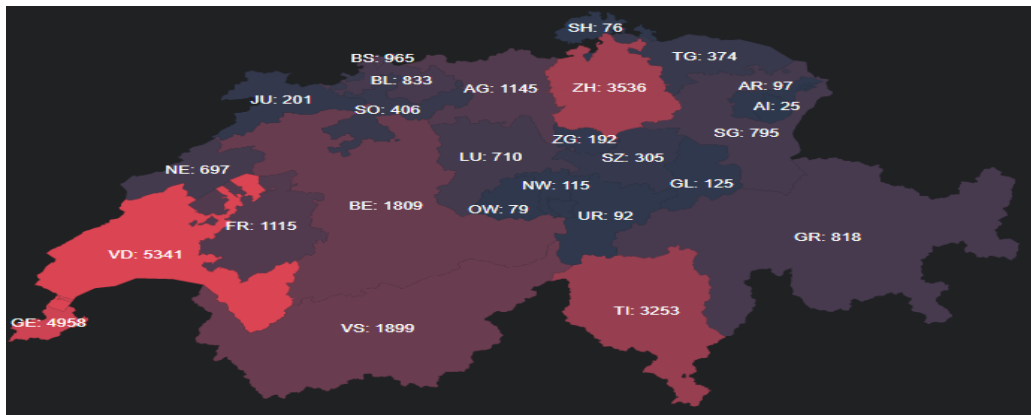
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 267,900 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (75,576) and UK (30,615). There have been more than 3,873,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Japan has approved the use of the experimental anti-viral drug remdesivir, for the treatment of coronavirus patients with severe symptoms. Researchers in the US released some good news last week about a possible treatment for coronavirus — evidence that the experimental drug may help patients recover more quickly from the infection. The US Food and Drug Administration has authorized remdesivir for emergency use in patients with severe Covid-19. The Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare granted special approval of the drug, developed by the US's Gilead Pharmaceutical, just three days after it applied for approval.
- *“We are very concerned that almost 1,000 African health workers have been infected with Covid-19. We know that most African countries already have a severe shortage of health care workers. And when our front line workers fall ill or are absent from work, communities don’t have access to essential services like immunizations, safe deliveries and treatment for chronic and infectious diseases,”* Dr. Moeti said today during a briefing. Dr. Amit Thakker, President of the Africa Healthcare Federation, said to address the global shortages of personal protection equipment (PPE), countries across Africa are “repositioning and refashioning” their businesses. *“Many manufactures who never made PPE are now making PPE,”* he said. Some factories in Kenya have already put up machinery to produce masks, gowns and hand sanitizers. *“I see that countries are making a lot of effort to invest in overcoming the situation,”* Dr. Moeti said.
- More than five months after the coronavirus pandemic broke out in China, all mainland counties are now at a “low-risk” of the outbreak, the government said today. National Health Commission spokesperson Mi Feng said China is still faced with a high level of uncertainty. We should continue to push ahead with treatment and rehabilitation management and recognize our routine efforts to prevent a resurgence,” he added. China hasn't reported any new coronavirus deaths in 22 days and no new domestic transmission cases have been reported in four days.
- The UK's lockdown measures are still being debated and nothing is finalized, but the country's stay-at-home message is likely to be eased this weekend. The official said changes would likely include allowing Britons to expand their social groups. It was still being discussed how that expansion would be defined. The official was confident that Sunday would see the UK government dropping “stay at home” as a core part of its message.
- France will start lifting its stay at home restrictions starting on Monday, French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced today. He said it would be a “very gradual process” in order to “slowly but surely” lift lockdown measures. The Prime Minister warned that France was "divided in two," as progress in some parts is slower than expected.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	75'576	1'271'059	213'562
UK	30'615	206'715	N/A
Italy	29'958	215'858	96'276
Spain	26'070	256'855	163'919
France	25'809	174'191	53'972
Belgium	8'415	51'420	12'980
Brazil	8'609	127'655	51'370
Germany	7'336	168'912	139'900
Iran	6'486	103'135	82'744
Netherlands	5'288	41'774	N/A
China	4'633	82'885	77'957
Canada	4'283	63'904	28'171
Turkey	3'641	133'721	82'984
Sweden	3'040	24'623	4'074
Mexico	2'704	27'634	17'781
Switzerland	1'810	30'126	25'700
India	1'837	54'539	16'048
Ecuador	1'654	30'298	3'433
Russia	1'625	177'160	23'803
Peru	1'533	54'817	17'527
Ireland	1'403	22'385	17'110
Portugal	1'105	26'715	2'258
Indonesia	930	12'776	2'381
Romania	886	14'499	6'144
Poland	755	15'047	4'862
Philippines	685	10'343	1'618
Austria	609	15'752	13'698
Japan	556	15'253	4'496
Pakistan	585	24'644	6'464
Denmark	514	10'083	7'711
Algeria	483	5'182	2'323
Egypt	482	7'981	1'887
Hungary	383	3'150	801
Colombia	397	8'959	2'148
Dominican Republic	373	9'095	2'064
Ukraine	340	13'691	2'396
Chile	285	24'581	11'664
Argentina	273	5'208	1'601
S. Korea	256	10'810	9'419
Czechia	269	8'002	4'369
Finland	255	5'673	3'500
Israel	239	16'346	10'737
Norway	216	7'996	32
Panama	218	7'731	859
Saudi Arabia	219	33'731	7'798
Serbia	206	9'848	2'160
Bangladesh	199	12'425	1'910
Morocco	183	5'548	2'179
UAE	165	16'240	3'572
Greece	148	2'678	1'374
South Africa	153	7'808	3'153
Moldova	145	4'605	1'747
Belarus	116	20'168	5'067
Malaysia	107	6'467	4'776
Iraq	102	2'543	1'626
Slovenia	99	1'449	247
Australia	97	6'896	6'040
Luxembourg	100	3'859	3'505
Afghanistan	106	3'563	468
Nigeria	103	3'145	534
North Macedonia	89	1'572	1'079
Croatia	86	2'125	1'641
Honduras	99	1'461	132
Bolivia	91	1'886	198
Bulgaria	84	1'829	384
Bosnia and Herzegovina	90	2'027	954
Cuba	73	1'729	1'031
Cameroon	108	2'267	1'002
Estonia	56	1'720	273
Thailand	55	2'992	2'772

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Lithuania	49	1'433	739
Burkina Faso	48	729	555
Sudan	52	930	92
Andorra	46	751	521
Tunisia	43	1'025	591
San Marino	41	622	106
Channel Islands	40	545	429
Kuwait	44	6'567	2'381
Armenia	42	2'884	1'185
Somalia	44	928	106
Niger	38	770	561
DRC	36	863	103
Mali	32	631	261
Albania	31	842	605
Kazakhstan	30	4'578	1'518
Azerbaijan	28	2'204	1'551
Slovakia	26	1'445	806
Lebanon	25	784	220
Kenya	29	607	197
Isle of Man	23	327	271
New Zealand	21	1'489	1'332
Guatemala	21	798	86
Singapore	20	20'939	1'712
Ghana	18	3'091	303
Liberia	20	178	75
Ivory Coast	18	1'516	721
Latvia	18	909	464
Uruguay	17	673	486
Tanzania	16	480	167
Cyprus	15	889	400
Martinique	14	182	83
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
El Salvador	15	695	245
Sint Maarten	14	76	44
Qatar	12	18'890	2'286
Oman	14	2'958	980
Guadeloupe	13	152	104
Senegal	13	1'492	562
Kyrgyzstan	12	895	637
Sierra Leone	16	231	54
Haiti	12	108	15
Bahamas	11	92	26
Uzbekistan	10	2'269	1'656
Iceland	10	1'799	1'750
Paraguay	10	440	142
Venezuela	10	379	176
Mauritius	10	332	320
Congo	10	264	30
Chad	17	170	43
Guinea	11	1'856	597
Sri Lanka	9	804	232
Georgia	9	615	275
Jamaica	9	478	57
Jordan	9	484	381
Togo	9	128	77
Guyana	10	93	27
Bahrain	8	4'131	1'998
Montenegro	8	324	265
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	103
Bermuda	7	118	59
Barbados	7	82	47
Costa Rica	6	761	428
Mayotte	9	739	352
Taiwan	6	440	347
Gabon	8	439	99
Myanmar	6	176	62
Malta	5	486	413
Tajikistan	12	461	0
Nicaragua	5	16	7
Hong Kong	4	1'045	944
Ethiopia	4	187	93
Monaco	4	95	82
Zimbabwe	4	34	5

- The number of coronavirus-related deaths in Sweden is at least 3,040, the country's Public Health Agency said on Thursday. Sweden has been an outlier during the coronavirus outbreak. The country has not joined many of its European neighbors in imposing strict limits on citizens' lives, and images of people heading to work on busy streets, or chatting at cafes and bars have raised eyebrows.
- The UK's contact-tracing app must not be rolled out until the government has increased privacy and data protections, an influential parliamentary committee has said, as rights groups warn that the current trial is unlawful under the Data Protection Act. The joint committee on human rights said on Thursday it was essential legislation was enacted to ensure the mass surveillance of personal data did not result in a violation before the trial was expanded.
- New York City will test 140,000 people for coronavirus antibodies between next week and early June, mayor Bill de Blasio announced. The antibody tests, which indicate whether a person has been infected with the virus at some point, will be offered for free by appointment at five locations around the city, de Blasio said.



- **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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