

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

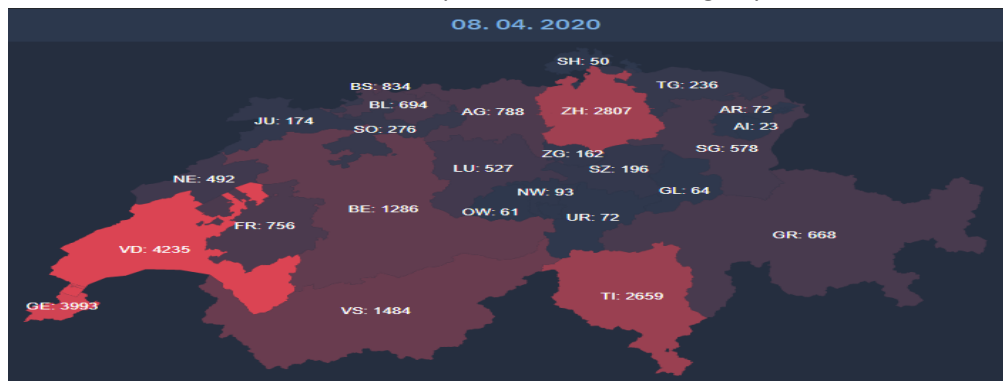
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 77,300 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in Italy (17,669) and Spain (14,555). There have been more than 1,470,000 global cases in 211 countries.
- The Swiss government has extended the anti-coronavirus restrictions in place for another week until April 26. But it said it plans to examine an easing of measures at the end of the month. The measures put in place to combat the virus are being followed well by the public and are having the desired effect, according to President Simonetta Sommaruga and Interior Minister Alain Berset. *"After four weeks the situation has evolved favorably,"* Berset told a news conference. *"We are on the right path, but we haven't reached the finishing line,"* Sommaruga added.
- The W.H.O, today, are launching the UN COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force, to dramatically scale up the supply of these life-saving tools, and match supply with needs.
- Today, 130 scientists, funders and manufacturers from around the world have signed a statement committing to work with W.H.O to speed the development of a vaccine against COVID-19.
- *"We're working to train and mobilize health workers. More than 1.2 million people have enrolled in 6 courses in 43 languages on our OpenWHO.org platform. Our target is to train tens of millions, and we have all the readiness to train tens of millions, hundreds of millions",* said Dr. Tedros during the media briefing.
- In the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, the open sharing of materials, information and data is gaining increasing importance in biotech. The biotech industry is doing its part by fast-tracking the production of diagnostics, rapidly repurposing existing treatments, and accelerating the discovery and development of new experimental therapeutics and vaccines that specifically target the virus.
- Serologic tests being developed may aid diagnosis and management of COVID-19 and provide insights into the kinetics of the immune response. Three teams of investigators are developing serologic tests to answer key questions about SARS-CoV-2. One of the teams looked at the kinetics of immunoglobulin M, (IgM), IgA, and IgG antibody response in infected patients using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) based on SARS-CoV-2 viral nucleocapsid protein. The researchers assessed 208 plasma samples from 82 confirmed and 58 probable COVID-19 cases.
- The Swiss chemical company Clariant has started monthly production of two million liters of disinfectant at its facilities in neighboring Germany amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Swiss medical diagnostics company Quotient is poised to release machines that can conduct large scale coronavirus antibody tests.
- Conspiracy theories claiming 5G technology helps transmit coronavirus have been condemned by the scientific community. Videos have been shared on social media showing mobile phone masts on fire in Birmingham and Merseyside - along with the claims. The posts have been shared on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram - including by verified accounts with hundreds of thousands of followers. But scientists say the idea of a connection between Covid-19 and 5G is "complete rubbish" and biologically impossible.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
Italy	17'669	139'422	26'491
Spain	14'673	146'690	48'021
USA	13'868	406'697	22'033
France	10'328	109'069	19'337
UK	7'097	60'733	135
Iran	3'993	64'586	29'812
China	3'333	81'802	77'279
Netherlands	2'248	20'549	250
Belgium	2'240	23'403	4'681
Germany	2'105	109'702	36'081
Switzerland	893	23'248	9'800
Turkey	812	38'226	1'846
Brazil	706	14'275	127
Sweden	687	8'419	205
Canada	402	18'479	4'333
Portugal	380	13'141	196
Austria	273	12'920	4'512
Indonesia	240	2'956	222
Ireland	235	6'074	25
Ecuador	220	3'995	140
Denmark	218	5'402	1'621
Romania	215	4'761	528
Algeria	205	1'572	237
S. Korea	200	10'384	6'776
Philippines	182	3'870	96
India	178	5'749	506
Poland	159	5'205	222
Mexico	141	2'785	633
Dominican Republic	108	2'111	50
Peru	107	2'954	1'301
Norway	101	6'086	32
Czechia	99	5'221	233
Egypt	94	1'450	276
Japan	93	4'257	622
Morocco	91	1'242	97
Greece	83	1'884	269
Israel	72	9'404	801
Iraq	69	1'202	452
Malaysia	65	4'119	1'487
Serbia	65	2'666	118
Russia	63	8'672	580
Argentina	63	1'715	338
Pakistan	60	4'196	467
Panama	59	2'249	16
Hungary	58	895	94
Ukraine	52	1'668	35
Australia	50	6'013	2'813
Colombia	50	1'780	100
Chile	48	5'546	1'115
Luxembourg	46	3'034	500
Saudi Arabia	41	3'122	631
Finland	40	2'487	300
Slovenia	40	1'091	120
Bosnia and Herzegovina	34	803	79
San Marino	34	279	40
Thailand	30	2'369	888
North Macedonia	29	617	35
Moldova	27	1'174	40
Estonia	24	1'185	72
Bulgaria	24	593	42
Tunisia	23	623	25
Andorra	23	564	52
Albania	22	400	154
Honduras	22	312	6
Bangladesh	20	218	33
Croatia	19	1'343	179
Lebanon	19	575	62

Burkina Faso	19	384	127
DRC	18	180	9
Lithuania	15	912	8
Bolivia	15	210	2
Afghanistan	14	444	29
South Africa	13	1'749	95
Belarus	13	1'066	77
UAE	12	2'659	239
Cuba	12	457	27
Diamond Princess	11	712	619
Niger	11	278	26
Armenia	9	881	114
Cameroon	9	685	60
Cyprus	9	526	52
Azerbaijan	8	822	63
Trinidad and Tobago	8	107	1
Kazakhstan	7	718	54
Uruguay	7	424	150
Channel Islands	7	335	34
Mauritius	7	273	19
Sri Lanka	7	189	44
Venezuela	7	166	65
Guadeloupe	7	139	31
Mali	7	59	16
Qatar	6	2'210	178
Singapore	6	1'623	406
Iceland	6	1'616	633
Jordan	6	353	138
Ghana	6	313	34
Nigeria	6	254	44
Kenya	6	179	9
Sint Maarten	6	40	1
Bahamas	6	36	5
Bahrain	5	821	467
Taiwan	5	379	67
Paraguay	5	119	15
El Salvador	5	93	9
Congo	5	45	2
Guyana	5	33	8
Hong Kong	4	961	264
Kyrgyzstan	4	270	33
Martinique	4	152	50
Liberia	4	31	3
Uzbekistan	3	545	30
Ivory Coast	3	349	41
Georgia	3	208	50
Guatemala	3	87	17
Togo	3	70	23
Barbados	3	63	6
Jamaica	3	63	10
Myanmar	3	22	0
Slovakia	2	682	16
Latvia	2	577	16
Costa Rica	2	483	24
Oman	2	419	72
Montenegro	2	248	4
Senegal	2	244	113
Mayotte	2	171	22
Ethiopia	2	55	4
Bermuda	2	39	17
Saint Martin	2	32	7
Antigua and Barbuda	2	19	0
Syria	2	19	3
Angola	2	17	2
Sudan	2	14	2
Zimbabwe	2	11	0
MS Zaandam	2	9	0
New Zealand	1	1'210	282
Kuwait	1	855	111
Palestine	1	263	44
Isle of Man	1	158	82
Brunei	1	135	91
Monaco	1	81	4
Liechtenstein	1	78	55
Cayman Islands	1	45	6
Zambia	1	39	7
Gabon	1	30	1
Haiti	1	27	0
Benin	1	26	5
Tanzania	1	25	5
Libya	1	21	2
Curaçao	1	13	7
Somalia	1	12	1
Suriname	1	10	3
Belize	1	8	0
Malawi	1	8	0
Turks and Caicos	1	8	0

- The government in the west African country of Benin has made wearing face masks mandatory in public in several key regions. The authorities have ordered security forces to step up patrols and detain people without masks, but have not outlined penalties for those failing to comply.
- The death toll in the US is more than 12,900 after the country recorded the newest virus deaths in a single day.
- The European Union has reshuffled its aid budget and promised €20bn to help countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific tackle coronavirus, as well as near neighbors in eastern Europe.
- The European commission has advised EU member states to extend restrictions on non-essential travel until 15 May but is preparing to issue a “roadmap” on a coordinated lifting of Europe’s lockdown. *“While we can see encouraging first results, prolonging the travel restriction is necessary to continue reducing the risks of the disease spreading further. We should not yet let the door open whilst we are securing our house”*, said the European commission’s vice-president Margaritis Schinas.
- Two million protective masks purchased by Finland from China have turned out to be unsuitable for use in hospitals.
- The Health System Response Monitor (HSRM) has been designed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak to collect and organize up-to-date information on how countries are responding to the crisis. It focuses primarily on the responses of health systems but also captures wider public health initiatives. This is a joint undertaking of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Commission, and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. The COVID-19 HSRM currently includes up-to-date information for the following countries: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom. More countries will be added to the platform in the coming days.



## Sources

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