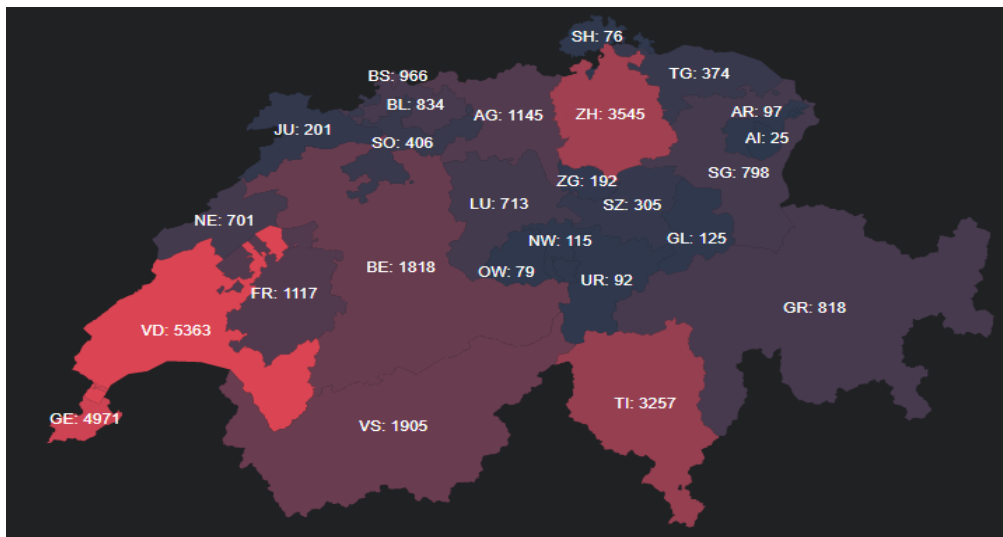# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
08.05.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 273,500 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (77,559) and UK (31,241). There have been more than 3,967,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.

- The WHO said efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic need to go back to the basics. "*We seem also to be avoiding the uncomfortable reality that we need to get back to public health surveillance,*" Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the World Health Organization health emergencies program, said on Friday during a briefing. "*We need to go back where we should have been months ago: finding cases, tracking cases, testing cases, isolating people who are tested positive, doing quarantine for contacts,*" Ryan said. "*We sometimes look for the answers where they are not. We need to go back to the basic principles of how we control this disease, a comprehensive strategy that matches basic public health surveillance.*" he added. Ryan said there is a lot of other information and science out there, *"but we need to stick to the core strategy, or else we really will risk looking for answers, where the answers are not.*"

- Controversial trials in which volunteers are intentionally infected with Covid-19 could accelerate vaccine development, according to the WHO, which has released new guidance on how the approach could be ethically justified despite the potential dangers for participants. So-called challenge trials are a mainstream approach in vaccine development and have been used in malaria, typhoid and flu, but there are treatments available for these diseases if a volunteer becomes severely ill. For Covid-19, a safe dose of the virus has not been established and there are no failsafe treatments if things go wrong. Scientists, however, increasingly agree that such trials should be considered, and the WHO is the latest body to indicate conditional support for the idea.

- People in Switzerland will be able to go to bars and restaurants again from May 11, but they will be urged, rather than required, to leave their phone numbers. On Friday it was confirmed by a government statement need to leave telephone numbers would be voluntary, rather than necessary, as was first understood. Restaurants must ask for contact details from guests, however. The change comes after an outcry that the move would have been too intrusive or was against data protection rules.

- The decentralised contact tracing app DP-3T, developed by the federal institutes of technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) and Lausanne (EPFL), will launch on May 13 in a pilot phase "for a certain group of the population" until the end of the month, Health Minister Alain Berset said on Friday. The app, which people can voluntarily download and use, employs Bluetooth technology to allow smartphones to communicate with each another anonymously. If a person tests positive for coronavirus, all the people with whom that person was in contact in previous days – less than two metres proximity for more than 15 minutes – are alerted via the app to isolate themselves and get tested. The DP-3T system is decentralised with contacts and data stored on devices rather than on an external server.

- The Mayor of Milan, Beppe Sala, expressed his horror at images of locals going for evening strolls in the Navigli area of the Italian city despite coronavirus restrictions still requiring social distancing. "*When it's time to thank the Milanese for their virtuous behavior I am always the first to do it and I also like it. But there are times when you get really sad and this is one of those moments. Yesterday's images along the canals are shameful,*" Sala said Friday during a live broadcast on Facebook.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	77,559	1,299,772	219,485
UK	31,241	211,364	N/A
Italy	30,201	217,185	99,023
Spain	26,299	260,117	168,408
France	25,987	174,791	55,027
Brazil	9,390	138,121	55,350
Belgium	8,521	52,011	13,201
Germany	7,392	169,430	141,700
Iran	6,541	104,691	83,837
Netherlands	5,359	42,093	N/A
China	4,633	82,886	77,993
Canada	4,473	65,400	29,682
Turkey	3,641	133,721	82,984
Sweden	3,175	25,265	4,971
Mexico	2,961	29,616	17,781
India	1,980	59,205	17,698
Switzerland	1,810	30,207	25,900
Russia	1,723	187,859	26,608
Ecuador	1,654	30,298	3,433
Peru	1,627	58,526	18,388
Ireland	1,403	22,385	17,110
Portugal	1,114	27,268	2,422
Indonesia	943	13,112	2,494
Romania	923	14,811	6,423
Poland	776	15,366	5,184
Philippines	696	10,463	1,734
Austria	614	15,774	13,836
Pakistan	599	26,435	7,530
Japan	577	15,477	4,918
Denmark	522	10,218	7,927
Egypt	503	8,476	1,945
Algeria	488	5,369	2,467
Colombia	407	9,456	2,300
Hungary	392	3,178	865
Dominican Republic	380	9,376	2,286
Ukraine	361	14,195	2,706
Chile	294	25,972	12,160
Argentina	282	5,371	1,601
Czechia	271	8,065	4,408
Finland	260	5,738	4,000
S. Korea	256	10,822	9,484
Israel	245	16,409	11,007
Saudi Arabia	229	35,432	9,120
Panama	225	7,868	886
Norway	218	8,055	32
Serbia	209	9,943	2,453
Bangladesh	206	13,134	2,101
Morocco	186	5,711	2,324
UAE	174	16,793	3,837
South Africa	161	8,232	3,153
Moldova	150	4,728	1,826
Greece	150	2,691	1,374
Belarus	121	21,101	5,484
Afghanistan	109	3,778	472
Cameroon	108	2,267	1,002
Malaysia	107	6,535	4,864
Nigeria	107	3,526	601
Honduras	105	1,685	154
Bolivia	102	2,081	219
Iraq	102	2,543	1,626
Slovenia	100	1,450	252
Luxembourg	100	3,871	3,526
Bosnia and Herzegovina	98	2,070	960
Australia	97	6,914	6,079
North Macedonia	90	1,586	1,099
Bulgaria	86	1,872	401
Croatia	86	2,161	1,689
Cuba	74	1,741	1,078
Estonia	56	1,725	704
Thailand	55	3,000	2,784
Sudan	52	930	92
Lithuania	49	1,436	765
Burkina Faso	48	736	562
Kuwait	47	7,208	2,466
Andorra	47	752	526

Tunisia	44	1,026	600
Somalia	44	928	106
Armenia	43	3,029	1,218
Niger	42	781	586
San Marino	41	623	114
Channel Islands	40	545	445
DRC	36	897	119
Mali	32	650	271
Kazakhstan	31	4,794	1,615
Albania	31	850	620
Kenya	29	621	202
Azerbaijan	28	2,279	1,576
Chad	27	253	50
Lebanon	26	796	223
Slovakia	26	1,455	905
Guatemala	23	832	90
Isle of Man	23	329	271
New Zealand	21	1,490	1,347
Singapore	20	21,707	2,040
Ivory Coast	20	1,571	742
Liberia	20	189	79
Ghana	18	3,091	303
Latvia	18	928	464
Sierra Leone	17	257	54
Uruguay	17	684	492
Oman	16	3,112	1,025
Tanzania	16	480	167
Cyprus	15	891	400
El Salvador	15	742	257
Martinique	14	183	83
Sint Maarten	14	76	44
Senegal	13	1,551	611
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
Guadeloupe	13	153	104
Qatar	12	20,201	2,370
Kyrgyzstan	12	906	650
Tajikistan	12	522	0
Haiti	12	129	16
Guinea	11	1,927	629
Bahamas	11	92	26
Georgia	10	623	288
Togo	10	145	85
Uzbekistan	10	2,324	1,775
Iceland	10	1,801	1,755
Mayotte	10	854	352
Paraguay	10	462	148
Venezuela	10	381	185
Mauritius	10	332	320
Congo	10	274	33
Guyana	10	93	34
Sri Lanka	9	824	240
Jordan	9	508	385
Jamaica	9	488	58
Bahrain	8	4,404	2,027
Gabon	8	504	110
Montenegro	8	324	266
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	103
Yemen	7	34	1
Bermuda	7	118	61
Barbados	7	82	53
Costa Rica	6	765	445
Taiwan	6	440	355
Myanmar	6	176	67
Sao Tome and Principe	5	208	4
Malta	5	489	419
Nicaragua	5	16	7
Hong Kong	4	1,045	960

- United Nations chief António Guterres has said the coronavirus pandemic has unleashed a "tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering", and appealed for an all-out effort "to end hate speech globally."The UN secretary-general said anti-foreigner sentiment has surged online and on the streets, and highlighted the spread of antisemitic conspiracy theories and Covid-19-related anti-Muslim attacks. His comments came as China said it was "always open to cooperate" with WHO investigations into the origins of the coronavirus, as Donald Trump repeated claims that the outbreak originated in a Wuhan laboratory.
- Norway also announced it will ease many of the restrictions, including reopening all schools next week and lifting the maximum number of people allowed at public gatherings.
- Spain continues to show a downward trend in the number of deaths and cases on Friday, as health authorities continue to ponder which regions to advance to the next phase of de-escalation, further easing anti-coronavirus restrictions.

- **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

    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).

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