

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

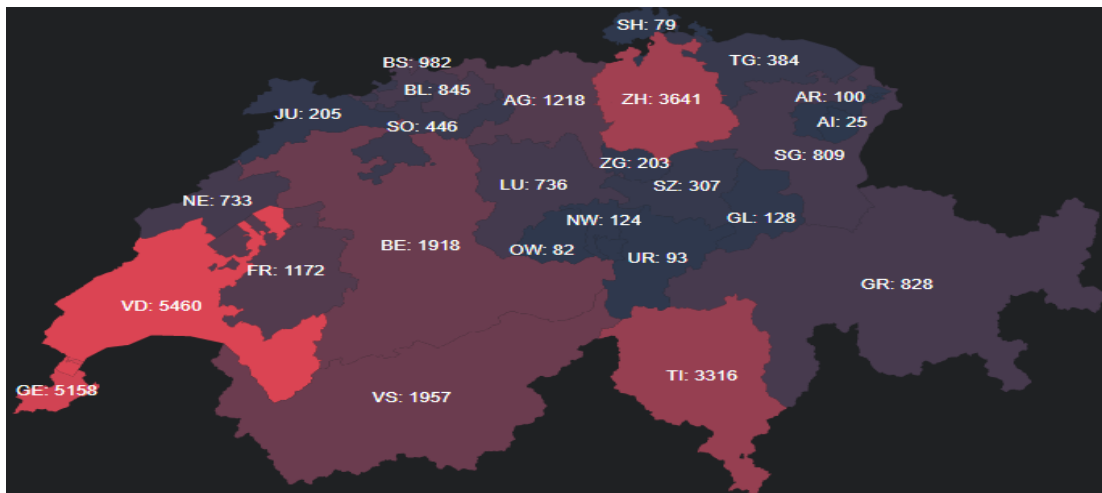
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 407,400 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (112,645) and UK (40,597). There have been more than 7,146,100 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Sunday marked the most Covid-19 cases reported to the WHO in a single day so far during the coronavirus pandemic, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a media briefing today. *"Yesterday, more than 136,000 cases were reported — the most in a single day so far. Almost 75% of yesterday's cases come from 10 countries, mostly in the Americas and South Asia. Most countries in the African region are still experiencing an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases, with some reporting cases in new geographic areas, although most countries in the region have less than 1,000 cases. We also see increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases in parts of Eastern Europe and central Asia,"* Tedros said, although the situation in Europe overall has been improving. Tedros added, *"At the same time, we're encouraged that several countries around the world are seeing very positive signs."*
- The WHO has reversed course on face masks. It's now encouraging people to wear them to prevent the coronavirus from spreading. The general public should use fabric masks in high-spread areas, the WHO said, or whenever social distancing is impossible. The global health agency also said that all health workers, not just those caring for Covid-19 patients, should wear masks in clinical areas. In an effort to make more masks available for health workers, the WHO had previously advised the public to avoid wearing them if they were not sick or caring for someone who is ill. The policy shift is another reminder of the constantly evolving challenges faced in the fight against the virus.
- New Zealand lifted all social and economic restrictions except border controls after declaring on Monday it was free of the coronavirus, one of the first countries in the world to return to pre-pandemic normality. Public and private events, the retail and hospitality industries and all public transport were allowed to resume without the distancing rules still in place across much of the world. "While the job is not done, there is no denying this is a milestone ... Thank you, New Zealand," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told a news conference, saying she had danced for joy at the news. "We are confident we have eliminated transmission of the virus in New Zealand for now, but elimination is not a point in time, it is a sustained effort."
- Latin America has become the pandemic's hotspot. The region has recorded nearly 1.2 million cases and more than 60,000 deaths. But these numbers may be superficial. That's because in several countries, testing rates remain low and many Covid-19 deaths go unreported. Brazil, the region's worst-hit country, has reported a new record number of deaths in each of the past three days. One study released this week says Brazil will likely see 1 million cases and 50,000 deaths by June 20.
- The WHO has also published new guidelines on the use of digital tools for contact tracing. Many digital tools have been developed to assist with contact tracing and case identification. "Some are designed for use by public health personnel, like WHO's [godata](#) application, which has been used successfully to trace contacts during the ongoing Ebola outbreak in DRC. "Others use GPS or Bluetooth technology to identify those who may have been exposed to an infected person. And still others can be used by people to self-report signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	112,645	2,013,887	763,303
UK	40,597	287,399	N/A
Brazil	37,312	693,953	302,084
Italy	33,964	235,278	166,584
France	29,155	153,977	70,842
Spain	27,136	288,630	N/A
Mexico	13,699	117,103	84,419
Belgium	9,606	59,348	16,315
Germany	8,783	186,056	169,600
Iran	8,351	173,832	136,360
Canada	7,830	96,140	54,473
India	7,473	265,740	128,894
Netherlands	6,016	47,739	N/A
Russia	5,971	476,658	230,688
Peru	5,465	196,515	86,219
Sweden	4,694	45,133	N/A
Turkey	4,692	170,132	137,969
China	4,634	83,040	78,341
Ecuador	3,642	43,378	21,020
Chile	2,264	138,846	95,631
Pakistan	2,067	103,671	34,355
Switzerland	1,923	30,972	28,700
Indonesia	1,883	32,033	10,904
Ireland	1,679	25,201	22,698
Portugal	1,485	34,885	21,156
Romania	1,339	20,604	14,826
Colombia	1,259	39,236	15,322
Egypt	1,237	34,079	8,961
Poland	1,166	27,160	12,998
Philippines	1,011	22,474	4,637
South Africa	998	48,285	24,364
Bangladesh	930	68,504	14,560
Japan	916	17,141	15,139
Ukraine	797	27,462	12,195
Saudi Arabia	746	105,283	74,524
Algeria	715	10,265	6,799
Austria	672	16,968	15,839
Argentina	670	22,794	7,305
Denmark	593	11,962	10,792
Hungary	548	4,014	2,284
Dominican Republic	539	20,126	12,158
Bolivia	465	13,643	2,086
Panama	393	16,425	10,218
Iraq	370	13,481	5,572
Afghanistan	369	20,917	2,171
Sudan	359	6,081	2,014
Nigeria	354	12,486	3,959
Moldova	353	9,807	5,738
Czechia	328	9,670	6,979
Finland	323	7,001	5,800
Israel	298	17,915	15,102
Belarus	276	49,453	23,880
UAE	276	38,808	21,806
S. Korea	273	11,814	10,563
Kuwait	269	32,510	21,242
Honduras	258	6,327	712
Guatemala	252	7,055	1,261
Serbia	250	11,896	11,348
Norway	239	8,561	8,138
Cameroon	212	8,060	4,748
Armenia	211	13,325	4,099
Morocco	208	8,250	7,370
Greece	182	3,049	1,374
Bulgaria	160	2,727	1,548
Bosnia and Herzegovina	160	2,704	2,023
North Macedonia	156	3,152	1,653
Malaysia	117	8,329	6,694
Yemen	112	484	23
Luxembourg	110	4,040	3,901
Slovenia	109	1,485	1,359
Croatia	104	2,247	2,128
Australia	102	7,265	6,706

Azerbaijan	93	7,876	4,377
Mali	92	1,547	916
DRC	88	4,106	537
Kenya	85	2,872	849
Somalia	84	2,368	470
Cuba	83	2,200	1,868
Oman	81	17,486	3,793
Lithuania	71	1,720	1,331
Estonia	69	1,940	1,683
Chad	69	837	672
Niger	65	973	867
Thailand	58	3,119	2,973
Qatar	57	70,158	45,935
Kazakhstan	56	12,859	7,376
El Salvador	55	3,104	1,361
Mauritania	55	1,049	108
Burkina Faso	53	890	765
Haiti	51	3,334	24
Andorra	51	852	751
Senegal	49	4,427	2,699
Tunisia	49	1,087	982
Sierra Leone	49	1,001	611
Tajikistan	48	4,609	2,763
Nicaragua	46	1,118	370
Channel Islands	46	564	512
Ghana	44	9,638	3,636
San Marino	42	687	478
Ivory Coast	36	3,739	1,818
Albania	34	1,263	945
Djibouti	31	4,278	2,013
Lebanon	30	1,350	779
Liberia	30	370	195
Slovakia	28	1,530	1,396
Ethiopia	27	2,156	361
Bahrain	26	15,417	10,326
Latvia	26	1,088	781
Singapore	25	38,296	25,368
Mayotte	25	2,151	1,654
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Guinea	23	4,117	2,877
Kyrgyzstan	23	2,032	1,445
Uruguay	23	845	730
Venezuela	22	2,377	487
New Zealand	22	1,504	1,482
Congo	22	683	210
Gabon	21	3,101	833
Tanzania	21	509	183
South Sudan	19	1,604	15
Uzbekistan	18	4,352	3,354
Cyprus	18	970	807
Sint Maarten	15	77	61
Nepal	14	3,762	488
Martinique	14	202	98
Guadeloupe	14	164	144
Georgia	13	812	683
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	495	248
Guinea-Bissau	12	1,368	153
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,306	200
Sao Tome and Principe	12	513	68
Guyana	12	154	80
Sri Lanka	11	1,857	990
Paraguay	11	1,135	575
Bahamas	11	103	62
Iceland	10	1,807	1,794
Costa Rica	10	1,318	704
Zambia	10	1,200	912
Jamaica	10	598	405
Mauritius	10	337	324
Madagascar	9	1,094	254
Jordan	9	831	627
Malta	9	630	596
Montenegro	9	324	315
Bermuda	9	141	114
Maldives	8	1,903	827

- Switzerland ranks first for its economic resilience and its careful approach towards relaxing “lockdown and economic freezing mandates in a fact- and science-based manner, without sacrificing public health and safety”, states Deep Knowledge Group in its Covid-19 Regional Safety Assessment. The ranking, published last week, takes into account factors such as monitoring and detection capacity, quarantine and government efficiency, and healthcare and emergency readiness. Altogether the analysis includes 130 qualitative and quantitative parameters. The 250-page report is based on 500 data sources, including the WHO, Johns Hopkins University, Worldometers and the United States’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Switzerland has too many face masks. The country ordered 250 Mio masks and now doesn't know what to do with them, as almost nobody uses them.
- In a report published Sunday outlining China's actions in fighting the novel coronavirus epidemic, the country’s State Council Information Office says “China immediately notified the WHO and relevant countries and regional organizations of the outbreak.” The report adds that China “shared the whole genome sequence and specific primers and probes for detection of COVID-19.” China has been criticized by other countries for allegedly withholding information about the outbreak in its early days.



- **Funding opportunity for researchers**

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).

Sources

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