

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

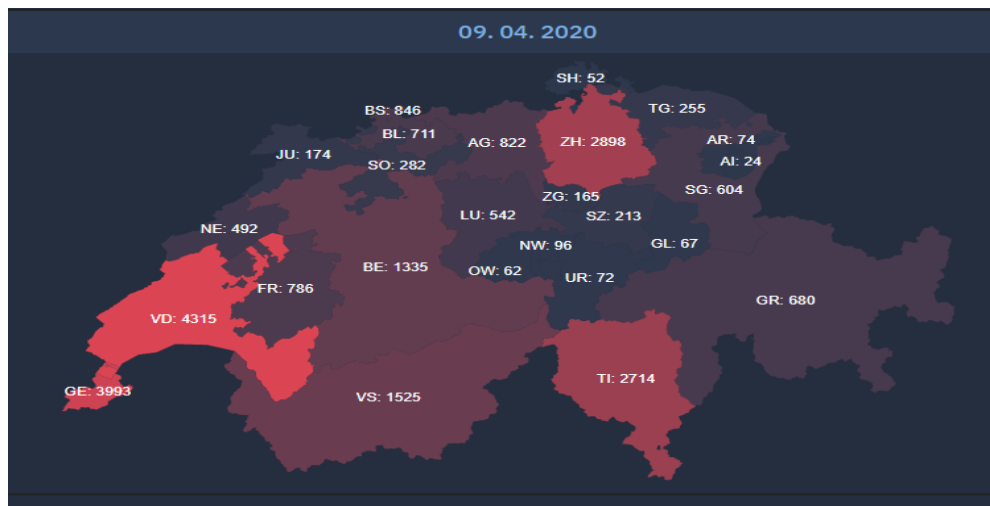
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 90,000 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in Italy (17,669) and Spain (15,238). There have been more than 1,541,000 global cases in 211 countries.
- Some African countries could see a peak in coronavirus cases in the coming weeks, and testing should be urgently increased in the region, World Health Organization (WHO) officials said today. *“During the last four days we can see that the numbers have already doubled. If the trend continues, and also learning from what happened in China and in Europe, some countries may face a huge peak very soon”*, said the WHO Africa programme manager Michel Yao.
- *“For the past 100 days, our unwavering commitment has been to serve all people of the world with equity, objectivity and neutrality. That will continue to be our sole focus in the days, weeks and months ahead”*, tweeted Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
- The WHO’s Africa head, Matshidiso Moeti, said there was an “urgent need” to expand testing capacity beyond capital cities in Africa, as the virus spreads through countries.
- The Swiss government is examining plans to stave off bankruptcies of companies struggling with the fallout of the coronavirus crisis. But regular debt collection procedures will resume on April 20.
- Health authorities in Singapore today reported an increase of 287 confirmed cases of coronavirus, double the increase registered a day earlier, with the majority linked to dormitories used to house foreign workers. Singapore’s strict surveillance and quarantine regime initially slowed the outbreak, but recent rises in locally transmitted cases have raised fresh concerns.
- All trains, train stations, buses, bus stops and interchanges in Singapore will be progressively marked with safe distancing stickers, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) said today, the third day of heightened measures to combat the Covid-19 outbreak. Standing spaces and seats that should be avoided will be marked out. *“Commuters should adhere to the spaces that are demarcated to maintain safe distances from others when commuting,”* the LTA said.
- The number of people killed by the coronavirus in Spain passed 15,000 on Thursday, but the daily death toll fell to 683 after two consecutive days of rising above 740.
- Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez expects to extend the country's state of emergency into May to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. *“I am convinced that in 15 days we will have to do it because we won’t have put an end to the pandemic,”* he said.
- Germany’s army is donating 60 mobile ventilators free of charge to the UK following a call for help as the NHS scrambles to get hold of enough life-saving equipment as the Covid-19 pandemic intensifies.
- Germany has seen some positive developments over the last few days and is ready to "gradually return to normalcy" after Easter if current restriction measures are adhered to over the holidays, Germany's Health Minister Jens Spahn said.
- At least 100 doctors have died from coronavirus in Italy, the Italian Association of Doctors said Thursday. Eighty of them worked in the north of Italy, the hardest-hit area of the country. As of Wednesday, 13,522 health workers have been infected in Italy, according to the Italian Institute of Health.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
Italy	17'669	139'422	26'491
Spain	15'238	152'446	52'165
USA	14'909	436'969	24'391
France	10'869	112'950	21'254
UK	7'097	60'733	135
Iran	4'110	66'220	32'309
China	3'335	81'865	77'370
Netherlands	2'396	21'762	250
Belgium	2'523	24'983	5'164
Germany	2'349	114'257	46'300
Switzerland	937	23'799	9'900
Turkey	812	38'226	1'846
Brazil	826	16'275	173
Sweden	793	9'141	205
Canada	462	19'805	4'884
Portugal	409	13'956	205
Austria	295	13'206	5'240
Indonesia	280	3'293	252
Ireland	235	6'074	25
Ecuador	242	4'450	140
Denmark	237	5'635	1'736
Romania	229	5'202	647
Algeria	205	1'572	237
S. Korea	204	10'423	6'973
Philippines	203	4'076	124
India	199	6'588	598
Poland	174	5'575	284
Mexico	174	3'181	633
Dominican Republic	118	2'349	80
Peru	121	4'342	1'333
Norway	104	6'160	32
Czechia	104	5'335	243
Egypt	103	1'560	305
Japan	94	4'667	632
Morocco	96	1'346	103
Greece	86	1'955	269
Israel	79	9'755	864
Iraq	69	1'202	452
Malaysia	67	4'228	1'608
Serbia	66	2'867	118
Russia	76	10'131	698
Argentina	70	1'795	358
Pakistan	63	4'489	572
Panama	63	2'528	16
Hungary	66	980	96
Ukraine	57	1'892	45
Australia	51	6'104	2'987
Colombia	55	2'054	123
Chile	57	5'972	1'274
Luxembourg	46	3'034	500
Saudi Arabia	44	3'287	666
Finland	42	2'605	300
Slovenia	43	1'124	128
Bosnia and Herzegovina	35	841	101
San Marino	34	308	45
Thailand	32	2'423	940
North Macedonia	30	663	37
Moldova	29	1'289	50
Estonia	24	1'207	83
Bulgaria	24	618	48
Tunisia	24	628	25
Andorra	25	583	58
Albania	22	409	165
Honduras	23	343	6
Bangladesh	21	330	33
Croatia	20	1'407	219
Lebanon	19	582	67

Burkina Faso	23	414	134
DRC	18	180	9
Lithuania	16	955	8
Bolivia	18	264	2
Afghanistan	15	484	32
South Africa	18	1'845	95
Belarus	16	1'486	139
UAE	12	2'659	239
Cuba	15	515	28
Diamond Princess	11	712	619
Niger	11	342	28
Armenia	10	921	138
Cameroon	10	730	60
Cyprus	10	564	53
Azerbaijan	9	926	101
Trinidad and Tobago	8	109	1
Kazakhstan	7	764	60
Uruguay	7	456	192
Channel Islands	8	361	40
Mauritius	7	314	23
Sri Lanka	7	190	49
Venezuela	9	167	65
Guadeloupe	8	141	43
Mali	7	74	22
Qatar	6	2'376	206
Singapore	6	1'910	460
Iceland	6	1'616	633
Jordan	6	358	150
Ghana	6	313	34
Nigeria	6	276	44
Kenya	7	184	12
Sint Maarten	6	43	1
Bahamas	7	40	5
Bahrain	5	855	495
Taiwan	5	380	80
Paraguay	5	124	18
El Salvador	5	103	10
Congo	5	60	5
Guyana	6	37	8
Hong Kong	4	974	293
Kyrgyzstan	4	280	35
Martinique	6	154	50
Liberia	4	31	3
Uzbekistan	3	582	38
Ivory Coast	3	384	48
Georgia	3	214	50
Guatemala	3	95	17
Togo	3	73	24
Barbados	3	63	8
Jamaica	4	63	10
Myanmar	3	23	1
Slovakia	2	701	23
Latvia	3	589	16
Costa Rica	3	502	29
Oman	2	457	109
Montenegro	2	252	4
Senegal	2	250	123
Mayotte	2	184	22
Ethiopia	2	56	4
Bermuda	3	39	23
Saint Martin	2	32	7
Antigua and Barbuda	2	19	0
Syria	2	19	4
Angola	2	19	2
Sudan	2	15	2
Zimbabwe	3	11	0
MS Zaandam	2	9	0
New Zealand	1	1'239	317
Kuwait	1	910	111
Palestine	1	263	44
Isle of Man	1	190	92
Brunei	1	135	92
Monaco	1	81	4
Liechtenstein	1	78	55
Cayman Islands	1	45	6
Zambia	1	39	7

- The Finnish government extended restrictions on schools, museums and theaters to contain the spread of coronavirus until May 13, announced in a statement on Thursday.
- Chinese companies have signed medical supply contracts with 58 countries and regions, as well as four international bodies, as authorities around the world scramble to secure essential equipment.
- The pandemic will turn global economic growth “sharply negative” in 2020, triggering the worst fallout since the 1930s Great Depression, with only a partial recovery seen in 2021, the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.
- It doesn't look like coronavirus will go away once the weather warms up, a prestigious scientific panel told the White House. *"There is some evidence to suggest that [coronavirus] may transmit less efficiently in environments with higher ambient temperature and humidity; however, given the lack of host immunity globally, this reduction in transmission efficiency may not lead to a significant reduction in disease spread without the concomitant adoption of major public health interventions,"* according to the National Academy of Sciences committee.



Funding opportunity for researcher

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science

- <https://fastgrants.org/>

Sources

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