

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

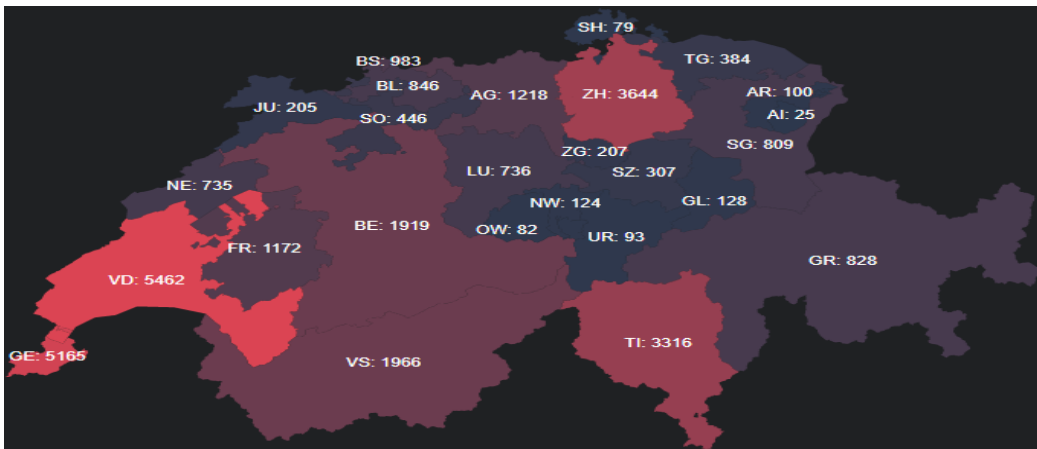
### 10.06.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 415,400 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (114,400) and UK (41,128). There have been more than 7,379,800 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus today addressed the confusing comments that a WHO official made earlier this week about the asymptomatic spread of novel coronavirus. *"Since early February, we have said that asymptomatic people can transmit Covid-19, but that we need more research to establish the extent of asymptomatic transmission. That research is ongoing." But here is what we do know — that finding, isolating and testing people with symptoms, and tracing and quarantining their contacts, is the most critical way to stop transmission. This is a new virus and we're all learning all the time. Communicating complex science in real time about a new virus is not always easy, but we believe it's part of our duty to the world. And we can always do better. We welcome constructive debate. That's how science advances,"* Tedros said during a briefing today.
- The US government will fund and conduct key studies on three experimental coronavirus vaccines – those developed by Moderna, Oxford University/AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Anthony Fauci said today. Phase three trials, which typically involve tens of thousands of people and measure whether a vaccine is safe and effective, will begin with Moderna in July, then Oxford/AstraZeneca in August and Johnson & Johnson in September.
- Singapore approves key antiviral drug. The city state's health authority has approved use of remdesivir to be used to treat some coronavirus patients. The drug is the only one shown to work against the disease. The authority said the conditional approval would allow specialists to administer the drug to virus patients who require supplemental oxygen and more intensive breathing support. Those with levels of oxygen saturation below 94% are also eligible for treatment. *"Although the data on [remdesivir's] efficacy and safety is very limited at this point, Singapore's Health Sciences Authority (HAS) has expedited the review of remdesivir given the urgent public health need during the coronavirus pandemic,"* the spokesperson added.
- The Chinese government has removed pangolin scales from its 2020 list of approved ingredients used in traditional Chinese medicine, a move campaigners describe as a "critical step" towards saving the world's most trafficked mammal. According to Chinese state-run media, the latest edition of Chinese Pharmacopoeia -- an official government compendium of drugs covering traditional Chinese and Western medicines no longer includes pangolin scales on the list of approved ingredients, owing to "wild resources exhaustion." The latest move to protect pangolins comes in the wake of new research that suggests pangolins kept in wildlife markets across China may have helped incubate the novel coronavirus before it spread to humans. According to a team of researchers from Duke University and Los Alamos National Laboratory, the virus swapped genes repeatedly with similar strains infecting bats, pangolins and a possible third species prior to jumping to humans. The researchers concluded that although it was too soon to blame pangolins for the pandemic, it was clear that people must reduce their contact with wild animals that can transmit new infections.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	114,407	2,053,132	789,423
UK	41,128	290,143	N/A
Brazil	38,701	747,561	325,602
Italy	34,114	235,763	169,939
France	29,296	154,591	71,506
Spain	27,136	289,046	N/A
Mexico	14,649	124,301	90,748
Belgium	9,629	59,569	16,392
Germany	8,840	186,866	170,700
Iran	8,506	177,938	140,590
Canada	7,908	96,904	56,122
India	7,996	284,754	140,033
Netherlands	6,042	48,087	N/A
Russia	6,358	493,657	252,783
Peru	5,738	203,736	92,929
Sweden	4,795	46,814	N/A
Turkey	4,729	172,114	144,598
China	4,634	83,046	78,357
Ecuador	3,690	43,917	21,020
Chile	2,283	142,759	95,631
Pakistan	2,255	113,702	36,308
Switzerland	1,936	31,011	28,700
Indonesia	1,959	34,316	12,129
Ireland	1,691	25,215	22,698
Portugal	1,497	35,600	21,742
Romania	1,360	20,945	15,103
Colombia	1,372	42,078	16,534
Egypt	1,306	36,829	9,786
Poland	1,206	27,842	13,411
Philippines	1,027	23,732	4,895
South Africa	1,162	52,991	29,006
Bangladesh	1,012	74,865	15,900
Japan	916	17,210	15,213
Ukraine	833	28,381	12,769
Saudi Arabia	819	112,288	77,954
Algeria	732	10,484	7,074
Austria	673	17,005	15,910
Argentina	717	24,761	7,991
Denmark	593	12,016	10,904
Hungary	551	4,027	2,355
Dominican Republic	550	20,808	12,318
Bolivia	487	14,644	2,190
Panama	403	17,233	10,561
Iraq	426	15,414	6,214
Afghanistan	405	22,142	3,013
Sudan	389	6,427	2,127
Nigeria	365	13,464	4,206
Moldova	371	10,321	5,930
Czechia	330	9,787	7,111
Finland	324	7,040	5,800
Israel	299	18,268	15,168
Belarus	288	51,066	25,667
UAE	283	39,904	22,740
S. Korea	276	11,902	10,611
Kuwait	275	33,823	23,288
Honduras	271	6,935	787
Guatemala	289	7,866	1,413
Serbia	251	12,031	11,348
Norway	239	8,588	8,138
Cameroon	212	8,681	4,836
Armenia	227	14,103	5,226
Morocco	210	8,455	7,496
Greece	183	3,068	1,374
Bulgaria	167	2,889	1,623
Bosnia and Herzegovina	161	2,775	2,063
North Macedonia	164	3,364	1,664
Malaysia	118	8,338	7,014
Yemen	127	524	23
Luxembourg	110	4,049	3,904
Slovenia	109	1,488	1,359
Croatia	106	2,249	2,130
Australia	102	7,276	6,744
Azerbaijan	102	8,530	4,720
Mali	96	1,667	948
DRC	96	4,390	565
Kenya	89	3,094	1,048
Somalia	85	2,452	506

Cuba	83	2,211	1,886
Oman	84	18,887	5,640
Lithuania	74	1,733	1,369
Estonia	69	1,958	1,690
Chad	71	844	706
Niger	65	974	871
Thailand	58	3,125	2,981
Qatar	66	73,595	49,413
Kazakhstan	61	13,319	8,138
El Salvador	60	3,274	1,438
Mauritania	61	1,162	139
Burkina Faso	53	891	765
Haiti	56	3,662	24
Andorra	51	852	759
Senegal	52	4,640	2,885
Tunisia	49	1,087	983
Sierra Leone	50	1,062	637
Tajikistan	48	4,763	2,947
Nicaragua	55	1,464	953
Channel Islands	48	565	512
Ghana	48	10,201	3,755
San Marino	42	691	496
Ivory Coast	38	3,995	2,045
Albania	34	1,341	980
Djibouti	34	4,373	2,260
Lebanon	30	1,388	832
Liberia	31	383	199
Slovakia	28	1,533	1,404
Ethiopia	35	2,506	401
Bahrain	30	16,200	11,109
Latvia	26	1,092	794
Singapore	25	38,965	26,532
Mayotte	28	2,226	1,654
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Guinea	23	4,258	2,942
Kyrgyzstan	26	2,093	1,572
Uruguay	23	846	754
Venezuela	23	2,632	487
New Zealand	22	1,504	1,482
Congo	24	728	221
Gabon	21	3,294	956
Tanzania	21	509	183
South Sudan	19	1,604	15
Uzbekistan	18	4,591	3,504
Cyprus	18	972	807
Sint Maarten	15	77	61
Nepal	15	4,364	674
Martinique	14	202	98
Guadeloupe	14	164	144
Georgia	13	827	690
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	501	260
Guinea-Bissau	12	1,389	153
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,306	200
Sao Tome and Principe	12	611	135
Guyana	12	156	86
Sri Lanka	11	1,868	1,122
Paraguay	11	1,187	604
Bahamas	11	103	64
Iceland	10	1,807	1,794
Costa Rica	11	1,375	717
Zambia	10	1,200	912
Jamaica	10	605	405

- A fully transparent surgical mask that filters out germs but allows facial expressions to be seen has been developed by Swiss scientists. Caregivers should be able to wear them from the summer of 2021. “For some segments of the population – like children, the elderly and the hearing impaired – the [current] masks are a major obstacle to communication,” said the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA) in a statement. Along with researchers at the Swiss EPFL, EMPA has been working for two years on a completely transparent surgical mask. They have now finalized a biomass-based material to manufacture the so-called HelloMasks and have created a start-up called HMCARE, based on the Biotech campus in Geneva, to market them.
- The WHO has taken the unusual step of urging Pakistan to return to lockdown, suggesting the country implement restrictions in a cycle of two weeks on, two weeks off.
- Saudi Arabia recorded 3,717 new coronavirus cases and 36 new deaths, the country's Health Ministry said today; the highest daily number of infections, according to government statistics.
- A factory in Siberia is recalling its flagship ventilator model from all Russian hospitals after two machines caught fire in coronavirus hospitals a month ago, state media reported.
- Germany extends travel warning. The country has advised its citizens to avoid non-essential travel until August 31. EU countries, Schengen members and the UK are exempt from the warning.



- **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](mailto:grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch). The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schögler ([aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch](mailto:aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch)) and Leah Witton ([leah.witton@research.unibe.ch](mailto:leah.witton@research.unibe.ch)).

### Sources

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