

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

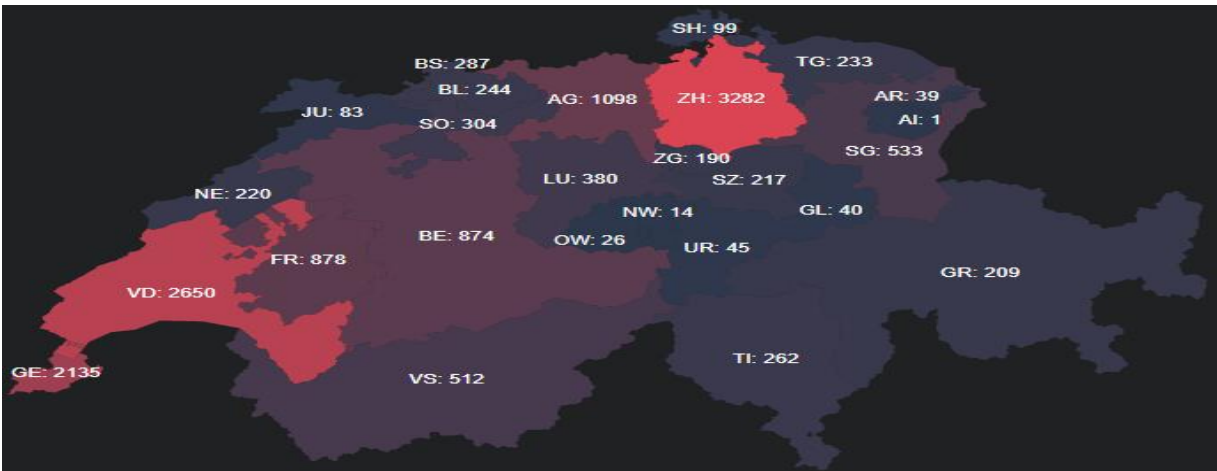
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 915,102 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (196,367) and Brazil (129,575). There have been more than 28,415,130 global cases in 210 countries and territories. [1]
- The WHO needs more money for program to speed access to vaccines. The WHO program aimed at speeding global access to coronavirus tests, treatments and vaccines needs \$35 billion, director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Thursday. The Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, launched in April, is a partnership to catalyze the development of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, as well as equitable access to such treatments. But the program, which Tedros said is threatened by bilateral vaccine deals and vaccine nationalism, needs more funding. [2]
- Understanding antibody responses against Covid-19 is fundamental for the development of effective treatments and a preventive vaccine, experts say. But if antibodies decline overtime it could suggest immunity from a potential vaccine would also fade, rendering it less effective or require boosters. In this latest study published in PLOS Pathogens, researchers from Nanjing University Medical School in China monitored Covid-19 antibody responses in 19 non-severe and seven severe coronavirus patients for seven weeks from disease onset. They found that most patients generated antibody responses against the virus. But only a small portion produced a potent level of antibody neutralization activity and around one in five (20%) produced no antibody response at all. [3]
- Clinical trials of one of the most advanced experimental COVID-19 vaccines, which is being developed by pharmaceutical company Astrazeneca and Oxford University, were “paused” Tuesday after a volunteer developed an unexplained illness. A spokesperson for the AstraZeneca vaccine said in a statement Tuesday that *“we voluntarily paused vaccination to allow review of safety data by an independent committee. This is a routine action which has to happen whenever there is a potentially unexplained illness in one of the trials, while it is investigated, ensuring we maintain the integrity of the trials.”* The company said that in large trials, illnesses will sometimes happen by chance. [3]
- In France, data from the WHO shows that the country now has a cumulative incidence rate of 114.8 cases per 100,000 people over the latest 14-day period. This marks a 105 per cent increase on the previous two-week window. According to the WHO, authorities are once again reporting community transmission, predominantly among younger people. It’s a similar story across the border in Spain, the first western European country to record more than half a million cases. In both France and Spain, hospital admissions are also slowly rising perhaps the most reliable weathervane for the true direction of this pandemic. [4]
- Switzerland has announced that people travelling from part of France, and Austria would need to be quarantined because of rising coronavirus cases there, but exempted immediate border regions. Switzerland considers that countries which count more than 60 new daily Covid-19 cases and reserves the right to impose restrictions, including a 10-day quarantine. Neighboring France passed that bar at the end of August, sparking concern that border closures could be looming. Swiss Health Minister Alain Berset told a news conference that the government had decided to place nine of 13 French regions, including Paris, on its at-risk list, as well as Vienna in neighboring Austria. [5]

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	196,376	6,593,776	3,882,232
Brazil	129,575	4,239,763	3,497,337
India	76,676	4,601,997	3,578,494
Mexico	69,649	652,364	458,850
UK	41,608	358,138	N/A
Italy	35,587	283,180	211,885
France	30,813	353,944	88,742
Peru	30,344	710,067	544,745
Spain	29,699	554,143	N/A
Iran	22,913	397,801	342,539
Colombia	22,275	694,664	569,479
Russia	18,365	1,051,874	868,107
South Africa	15,265	644,438	573,003
Chile	11,850	430,535	403,064
Argentina	10,994	524,198	400,121
Ecuador	10,749	113,206	91,242
Belgium	9,917	90,568	18,659
Germany	9,421	258,769	233,300
Canada	9,163	134,924	118,990
Indonesia	8,544	210,940	150,217
Iraq	7,814	278,418	213,817
Bolivia	7,193	124,205	79,483
Turkey	6,895	286,455	255,407
Pakistan	6,370	300,371	288,206
Netherlands	6,252	79,781	N/A
Sweden	5,846	86,505	N/A
Egypt	5,590	100,557	81,597
Bangladesh	4,668	334,762	236,024
China	4,634	85,168	80,377
Saudi Arabia	4,213	324,407	300,933
Philippines	4,108	252,964	186,606
Romania	4,100	101,075	41,010
Ukraine	3,076	148,756	67,005
Guatemala	2,918	80,306	68,927
Poland	2,169	73,047	58,848
Panama	2,127	99,715	72,203
Honduras	2,049	65,802	15,577
Switzerland	2,020	46,239	38,100
Dominican Republic	1,926	101,716	75,034
Portugal	1,855	62,813	43,644
Ireland	1,781	30,360	23,364
Kazakhstan	1,634	106,661	100,409
Algeria	1,591	47,488	33,562
Morocco	1,491	79,767	61,850
Afghanistan	1,420	38,606	31,154
Japan	1,406	73,221	64,835
Moldova	1,106	41,704	30,437
Israel	1,090	148,564	111,728
Nigeria	1,075	55,829	43,810
Kyrgyzstan	1,063	44,761	40,631
Ethiopia	974	62,578	23,640
Armenia	909	45,503	41,434
Sudan	833	13,437	6,730
Australia	797	26,565	23,217
El Salvador	777	26,773	17,433
Oman	762	88,337	83,325
Austria	750	31,827	26,257
Belarus	738	73,784	72,369
Serbia	730	32,228	31,100
Bulgaria	706	17,598	12,619
Bosnia and Herzegovina	686	22,834	15,672
North Macedonia	642	15,555	12,994
Hungary	631	10,909	4,014
Denmark	629	19,216	16,139
Kenya	612	35,603	22,047
Yemen	580	2,003	1,211
Costa Rica	567	52,549	20,322
Kuwait	557	93,475	83,660
Azerbaijan	557	38,037	35,440
Paraguay	485	25,631	12,729
Venezuela	460	57,823	46,125
Czechia	448	32,413	20,787

Cameroon	415	20,009	18,837
UAE	398	77,842	68,462
Uzbekistan	377	46,160	42,857
Libya	352	21,908	2,506
S. Korea	350	21,919	17,616
Finland	337	8,512	7,500
Albania	324	10,860	6,346
Nepal	322	51,919	36,672
Zambia	306	13,323	11,899
Greece	297	12,452	3,804
Senegal	293	14,193	10,350
Ghana	285	45,388	44,267
Norway	265	11,924	10,371
DRC	262	10,361	9,622
Zimbabwe	222	7,453	5,635
Lebanon	219	22,437	7,312
Haiti	215	8,429	5,991
Croatia	211	13,107	10,466
Madagascar	209	15,669	14,320
Bahrain	208	58,207	52,284
Qatar	205	121,287	118,199
Palestine	204	29,256	19,788
Malawi	176	5,655	3,683
Mauritania	161	7,222	6,758
Syria	147	3,416	797
Nicaragua	144	4,818	2,913
Slovenia	135	3,497	2,662
Angola	130	3,217	1,277
Malaysia	128	9,810	9,181
Mali	128	2,909	2,269
Luxembourg	124	7,088	6,397
Ivory Coast	119	18,869	17,884
Montenegro	114	6,222	4,393
Cuba	106	4,551	3,779
Gambia	100	3,362	1,582
Tunisia	99	5,882	1,862
Hong Kong	99	4,926	4,597
Eswatini	98	4,994	4,103
Somalia	97	3,371	2,738
Namibia	96	9,256	4,767
Suriname	93	4,477	3,706
Lithuania	86	3,243	2,049
Equatorial Guinea	83	4,990	4,479
Congo	83	4,891	3,887
Liberia	82	1,315	1,194
Chad	79	1,051	932
Tajikistan	72	8,939	7,714
Sierra Leone	72	2,069	1,622
Niger	69	1,178	1,099
Estonia	64	2,632	2,233
Guinea	63	9,946	9,100
French Guiana	63	9,462	9,040
Bahamas	63	2,721	1,183
CAR	62	4,747	1,825
Djibouti	61	5,394	5,327
Thailand	58	3,461	3,312
Burkina Faso	56	1,486	1,123
Gabon	53	8,621	7,618
Andorra	53	1,344	943
Uganda	49	4,377	1,998
South Sudan	49	2,555	1,290
Guyana	49	1,750	1,088
Channel Islands	48	631	575
Trinidad and Tobago	45	2,777	762
Uruguay	45	1,759	1,484
Cabo Verde	43	4,557	3,993
San Marino	42	722	662
Jamaica	40	3,511	1,019
Mayotte	40	3,374	2,964
Benin	40	2,242	1,793
Guinea-Bissau	39	2,275	1,127
Slovakia	37	5,252	3,081

- Ninety people have tested positive and eight have died in two care homes in central Switzerland in two of the largest outbreaks seen in retirement facilities. The new clusters come amid a steady rise in cases in the country since mid-June, despite low and stable case numbers compared to its European neighbours. In the Siviriez nursing home in the canton of Fribourg, 37 elderly residents and 19 staff members have tested positive for Covid-19. Seven people have died in the past week, the canton's authorities said in a statement Thursday. Civil defence forces were called in to help and some sick residents have been moved to hospital as there were no longer enough staff to care for them, it said. In the Maison Bourgeoisiale retirement home in Bulle, also in Fribourg, 21 residents and 13 staff have tested positive, the canton said, adding that one person there had died. [5]
- Austria has responded to an increase in infections by making face-masks compulsory in more places including all shops and school corridors, and limiting the size of private events indoors to 50 people. [4]
- The UK has ordered a total of 340m doses of potential coronavirus vaccines from six manufacturers. The EU has done a deal said to be worth €2.4bn (£2.2bn) with one developer, while the US has orders with six companies for 800m doses under Operation Warp Speed, with options on a further 1.6bn. Wealthy countries are paying upfront for something that has not yet been proven to work, willing to spend whatever it takes to get their economies running again. And yet they could have backed the wrong horse. It is a lottery on an unprecedented scale. [4]



Newly reported cases since 01.06 in Switzerland. [6]

- **Funding opportunity for researchers**

PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe) Fast Track Call for Proposals

- <https://prace-ri.eu/prace-support-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19-pandemic/>

The US Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program - a call for proposals on COVID-19

- <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/ProgramFY.htm?programFYId=256400>

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 Schöglger (aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch) and Leah Witton (leah.witton@research.unibe.ch).

Sources

- [1] <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>
- [2] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/sep/11/coronavirus-live-news-fauci-says>
- [3] <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/covid-19-news/20200908>
- [4] <https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-09-11-20-intl/index.html>
- [5] <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/in-depth/coronavirus>
- [6] <https://www.corona-data.ch/>