

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

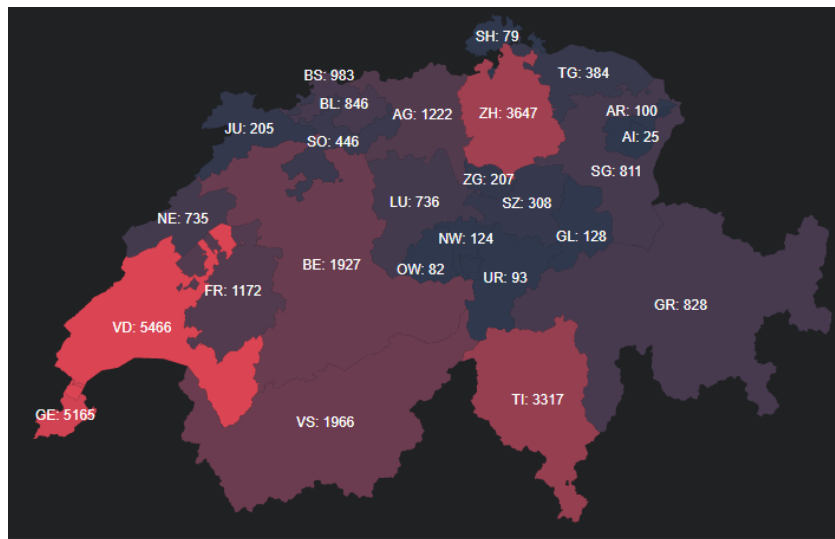
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 425,000 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (116,169) and UK (41,481). There have been more than 7,648,330 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- All viruses mutate — including the novel coronavirus. But as the world now races to develop a Covid-19 vaccine, the coronavirus mutations are not expected to alter vaccine efficacy during this race, said WHO chief scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan. *"The mutations have not been shown to be in those regions of the virus — the spike protein, the receptor binding domain — that are going to alter the efficacy of a vaccine so far,"* Swaminathan said today during a live Q&A broadcast on WHO's social media pages. Swaminathan added that *"viruses keep on changing and we have to keep an eye on that."* Currently there are about 200 vaccine candidates in development around the world, with 10 in human trials — four in the United States, five in China and one in the United Kingdom — and 126 in preclinical trials globally, according to WHO. Regarding how the coronavirus may differ across countries due to mutations, *"the virus may be slightly different but it's not so different that the vaccine will not work. It's also good to have vaccine trials in many different countries because you have different populations, different genetics, different risk factors and WHO very much would like to see the candidates that are being developed now being tested in many countries,"* Swaminathan said.
- The phase 3 trial of the Covid-19 vaccine candidate developed by University of Oxford is underway, and is expected to include 42,000 people when the Oxford-led trial is combined with a phase 3 trial led by its partner, AstraZeneca. In phase 3, Oxford is enrolling 10,000 people in the UK, and AstraZeneca is enrolling 30,000 in the US. On June 2, the Brazilian government approved the inclusion of volunteers in their country, with 2,000 volunteers to be tested there. The AstraZeneca portion of the phase 3 trial will begin in August, according to the National Institutes of Health, which will be conducting and funding the trials. Participants in the phase 3 group will "receive one or two doses" of their Covid-19 vaccine candidate, or another licensed vaccine that will be the control group.
- The WHO has warned that the coronavirus pandemic is accelerating in Africa, after the continent hit 200,000 cases earlier this week. Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's regional director for Africa, said, *"It took 98 days to reach the first 100,000 cases, and only 18 days to move to 200,000 cases. "Africa has so far recorded 5,635 deaths. Even though these cases in Africa account for less than 3% of the global total, it's clear that the pandemic is accelerating. South Africa is the worst-affected country on the continent, with more than a quarter of all infections. But most countries have fewer than 1,000 infections",* said Moeti. She said that in most countries on the continent, the virus entered capitals through international flights from Europe.
- Japan is aiming to launch a smartphone contact tracking app next week to curb the spread of coronavirus, the health ministry has said. Phones with the app installed can detect each other via Bluetooth and log those who have come into close contact. If a user is found to be infected, people who spent more than 15 minutes within a radius of one meter of that individual over the previous 14 days will be notified that they were in close contact with a coronavirus-infected person, and be prompted to seek medical consultation.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	116,169	2,095,138	817,376
UK	41,481	292,950	N/A
Brazil	41,058	805,649	396,692
Italy	34,167	236,142	171,338
France	29,346	155,561	72,149
Spain	27,136	290,289	N/A
Mexico	15,944	133,974	98,064
Belgium	9,646	59,819	16,498
Germany	8,853	186,933	171,600
India	8,718	305,951	152,395
Iran	8,659	182,525	144,649
Canada	8,005	97,712	57,960
Russia	6,715	511,423	269,370
Peru	6,109	214,788	102,429
Netherlands	6,053	48,461	N/A
Sweden	4,854	49,684	N/A
Turkey	4,763	174,023	147,860
China	4,634	83,064	78,365
Ecuador	3,720	44,440	21,862
Chile	2,648	154,092	126,444
Pakistan	2,463	125,933	40,247
Indonesia	2,048	36,406	13,213
Switzerland	1,938	31,063	28,800
Ireland	1,703	25,238	22,698
Portugal	1,505	36,180	22,200
Colombia	1,488	45,212	17,790
Romania	1,380	21,404	15,445
Egypt	1,377	39,726	10,691
South Africa	1,284	58,568	33,252
Poland	1,222	28,577	13,805
Bangladesh	1,095	81,523	17,249
Philippines	1,052	24,787	5,454
Japan	920	17,292	15,383
Saudi Arabia	893	119,942	81,029
Ukraine	870	29,753	13,567
Argentina	772	27,373	8,743
Algeria	751	10,698	7,322
Austria	675	17,064	15,985
Denmark	594	12,099	10,993
Dominican Republic	568	22,008	12,754
Hungary	555	4,053	2,447
Bolivia	533	16,165	2,372
Iraq	496	17,770	6,868
Afghanistan	446	23,546	3,928
Panama	418	18,586	10,977
Sudan	413	6,730	2,278
Nigeria	387	14,554	4,494
Moldova	385	11,093	6,229
Guatemala	334	8,561	1,567
Czechia	329	9,887	7,170
Finland	325	7,073	6,200
Israel	300	18,701	15,288
Belarus	298	52,520	27,760
Honduras	294	7,669	837
UAE	287	41,499	25,946
Kuwait	285	34,952	25,048
S. Korea	277	12,003	10,669
Armenia	258	15,281	5,639
Serbia	252	12,175	11,348
Norway	242	8,613	8,138
Cameroon	212	8,681	4,836
Morocco	212	8,581	7,600
Greece	183	3,108	1,374
North Macedonia	171	3,701	1,694
Bulgaria	168	3,086	1,688
Bosnia and Herzegovina	163	2,893	2,119
Yemen	136	591	23
Malaysia	119	8,402	7,168
Azerbaijan	113	9,218	5,116
Luxembourg	110	4,052	3,910
Slovenia	109	1,490	1,359
Croatia	107	2,249	2,133
Australia	102	7,290	6,783
DRC	101	4,637	580
Mali	101	1,752	1,023
Oman	96	21,071	7,489
Kenya	96	3,305	1,164

Somalia	85	2,513	532
Cuba	84	2,233	1,902
Lithuania	74	1,756	1,400
Mauritania	74	1,439	250
Chad	72	848	706
Qatar	70	76,588	53,296
Estonia	69	1,970	1,703
Kazakhstan	68	13,872	8,668
El Salvador	68	3,481	1,587
Niger	65	974	878
Haiti	64	3,941	24
Thailand	58	3,129	2,987
Senegal	56	4,851	3,100
Nicaragua	55	1,464	953
Burkina Faso	53	892	791
Sierra Leone	51	1,103	648
Andorra	51	853	781
Tajikistan	49	4,902	3,158
Tunisia	49	1,093	995
Ghana	48	10,856	3,921
Channel Islands	48	565	512
Ethiopia	47	2,915	451
San Marino	42	694	520
Ivory Coast	41	4,404	2,212
Djibouti	38	4,441	2,730
Bahrain	36	17,269	11,903
Albania	36	1,416	1,034
Lebanon	31	1,422	853
Liberia	31	410	206
Mayotte	28	2,240	1,654
Slovakia	28	1,542	1,409
Latvia	27	1,096	818
Kyrgyzstan	26	2,166	1,668
Singapore	25	39,850	28,040
South Sudan	24	1,670	48
Congo	24	728	221
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Guinea	23	4,372	3,033
Gabon	23	3,463	1,024
Venezuela	23	2,814	487
Uruguay	23	847	772
New Zealand	22	1,504	1,482
Tanzania	21	509	183
Uzbekistan	19	4,837	3,700
Cyprus	18	975	807
Nepal	16	5,062	877
Sint Maarten	15	77	61
Martinique	14	202	98
Guadeloupe	14	164	144
Georgia	13	843	697
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	524	271
Costa Rica	12	1,538	722
Guinea-Bissau	12	1,389	153
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,306	200
Sao Tome and Principe	12	639	156
Guyana	12	158	92
Sri Lanka	11	1,878	1,196
Paraguay	11	1,230	624
Bahamas	11	103	68
Iceland	10	1,807	1,794
Madagascar	10	1,240	344
Zambia	10	1,200	912
Jamaica	10	611	408
Mauritius	10	337	325
Jordan	9	890	670
Malta	9	645	600
Montenegro	9	324	315
Bermuda	9	141	127
Maldives	8	1,976	1,153

- The Spanish government has provided new details of a program to begin opening up parts of the country to European tourists as coronavirus restrictions are lifted. From next Monday, travelers from other parts of the European Union will be allowed to travel -- on specified air routes -- to the Balearic islands, which include the holiday destinations of Majorca and Ibiza. Tourists will only be allowed to visit parts of Spain that are already in "Phase Three" of the process easing lockdown -- and where the rate of coronavirus infection is lower than nine per 100,000 people -- without going into quarantine.
- India reported 10,956 coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, the highest single-day increase and the first time the numbers have risen by more 10,000. The total number of reported coronavirus infections now stands at 297,535 with 8,498 deaths, according to India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have recorded more than 1.5 million combined Covid-19 cases as of Thursday evening, according to Johns Hopkins University. The region has a combined total of 1,508,683 confirmed cases, according to JHU's tally.



- **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

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Sources

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