

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

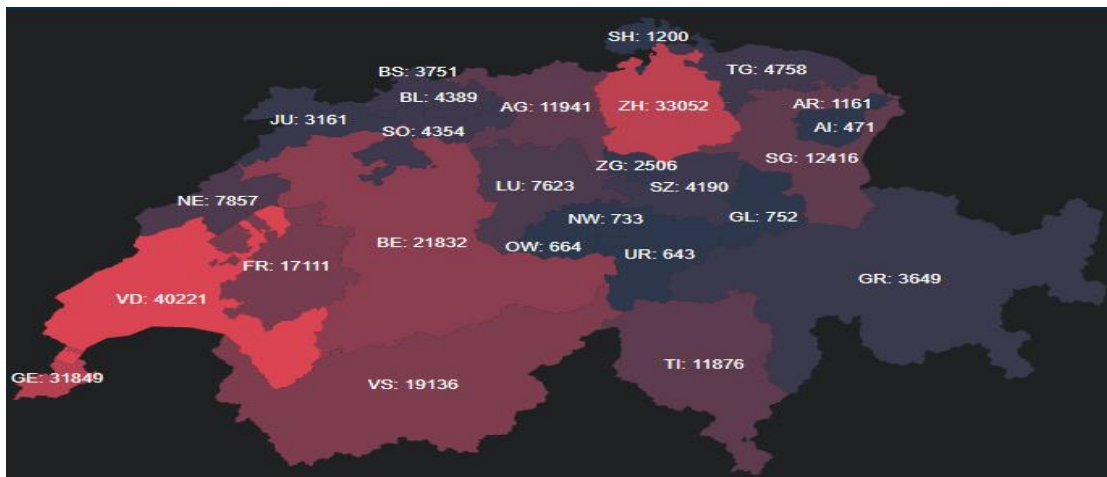
13.11.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 1,304,174 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (248,696) and Brazil (164,514). There have been more than 53,409,965 global cases in 210 countries and territories. [1]
- A vaccine against Covid-19 is in sight, with the announcement of the first interim results in large-scale trials showing the Pfizer/BioNTech candidate is 90% effective, according to the manufacturers, whose analysis shows a much better performance than most experts had hoped for. The high percentage of those protected makes the findings compelling. Regulators have said they would approve a vaccine that is just 50% effective – protecting half those who get it. The company says there have been no serious side-effects. *“Today is a great day for science and humanity. The first set of results from our phase 3 Covid-19 vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine’s ability to prevent Covid-19,”* said Dr Albert Bourla, the Pfizer chairman and CEO. *“We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it most with infection rates setting new records, hospitals nearing over-capacity and economies struggling to reopen.”* The trial will continue until there have been 164 confirmed cases so there is potential for the efficacy rate to change, but a finding that 90% of infections were prevented will excite politicians and public health leaders and brings into view a potential end to the pandemic. The phase 3 trials have involved more than 43,000 people. Gathering the required safety data will take until the third week of November, says the company. The dossier will then be submitted to the regulators for approval. Speedy licensing could mean the first doses being given to healthcare workers by the end of the year. [2]
- Numerous mutations have been detected in Sars-cov-2 throughout the pandemic – yet scientists have warned that a new coronavirus strain that has passed from the weasel-like animal to humans could affect the effectiveness of future vaccines. A total of 12 people have been infected with this “cluster 5” strain so far, with all of the cases detected in Denmark’s north Jutland region. The WHO said this variant featured a combination of mutations that have not been previously observed, and warned that it appeared to show “moderately decreased sensitivity” to the body’s neutralising antibodies. The WHO said the animals will have contracted Sars-cov-2 “following exposure from infected humans” before it spread through Denmark’s vast mink farming industry. As the virus was passed from one mink to another, it will have undergone genetic mutations that enabled it to adapt to its new host. Strains of coronavirus have been previously detected in mink farms in the Netherlands, Sweden and Spain, yet the cluster 5 variant appears to have been successful in making the jump back into humans – a process that is believed to drive further genetic mutation. [3]
- The WHO has been in contact with the Russian institute behind the Sputnik-V coronavirus vaccine, the WHO confirmed in a statement Friday morning. Russia’s sovereign wealth fund said Wednesday that an early analysis of data from its Sputnik-V coronavirus vaccine suggests the candidate is 92% effective. “WHO has been in touch with the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, who expressed interest in applying for WHO emergency use listing (EUL), and we look forward to receiving the data for their Sputnik V candidate vaccine,” the WHO said in a statement. [4]

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	248,696	10,889,066	6,729,915
Brazil	164,514	5,787,766	5,256,767
India	129,056	8,757,540	8,145,134
Mexico	97,056	991,835	736,197
UK	51,304	1,317,496	N/A
Italy	44,139	1,107,303	399,238
France	42,960	1,898,710	134,954
Iran	40,582	738,322	546,642
Spain	40,461	1,484,868	N/A
Peru	35,067	930,237	856,023
Argentina	34,782	1,284,519	1,100,180
Colombia	33,491	1,174,012	1,081,691
Russia	32,443	1,880,551	1,406,903
South Africa	20,076	744,732	690,903
Indonesia	15,037	457,735	385,094
Chile	14,738	528,030	503,540
Belgium	13,891	520,393	31,372
Ecuador	12,946	177,513	154,956
Germany	12,392	762,563	481,700
Iraq	11,580	514,496	441,856
Turkey	11,326	407,939	348,804
Canada	10,816	285,276	228,957
Poland	9,499	665,547	267,580
Ukraine	9,317	512,652	233,849
Bolivia	8,825	142,889	116,137
Romania	8,684	343,725	231,808
Netherlands	8,358	436,544	N/A
Philippines	7,752	404,713	362,903
Pakistan	7,092	352,296	321,563
Egypt	6,417	110,095	100,760
Sweden	6,164	177,355	N/A
Bangladesh	6,159	428,965	346,387
Czechia	5,755	446,675	300,719
Saudi Arabia	5,625	352,601	339,568
China	4,634	86,307	81,279
Morocco	4,570	276,821	226,040
Guatemala	3,880	114,123	103,685
Switzerland	3,280	257,135	141,000
Portugal	3,250	204,664	117,382
Hungary	2,883	131,887	29,802
Panama	2,830	143,352	122,070
Honduras	2,804	101,468	44,068
Israel	2,716	322,695	310,605
Dominican Republic	2,280	132,554	109,268
Tunisia	2,151	76,106	51,807
Algeria	2,124	65,975	43,779
Moldova	1,987	87,361	68,392
Bulgaria	1,970	90,725	27,587
Ireland	1,965	66,632	23,364
Kazakhstan	1,899	119,129	108,958
Japan	1,867	113,298	101,018
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,808	69,625	34,491
Armenia	1,697	114,383	72,116
Austria	1,661	191,228	112,728
Jordan	1,618	136,555	9,729
Afghanistan	1,595	42,969	35,036
Ethiopia	1,554	101,248	63,268
Paraguay	1,543	69,653	50,045
Myanmar	1,534	66,734	50,336
Costa Rica	1,527	120,939	74,255
Oman	1,326	119,442	110,050
North Macedonia	1,238	43,835	25,782
Kenya	1,228	68,193	44,872
Nepal	1,202	206,353	168,129
Kyrgyzstan	1,195	65,454	56,307
Nigeria	1,162	64,728	60,790
Sudan	1,116	14,401	9,535

Belarus	1,033	111,622	93,570
El Salvador	1,033	36,195	32,487
Greece	997	69,675	9,989
Libya	995	72,628	43,259
Serbia	972	77,264	31,536
Croatia	968	78,978	61,264
Azerbaijan	927	71,580	53,001
Australia	907	27,702	25,468
Venezuela	841	96,140	91,141
Kuwait	833	135,650	126,344
Lebanon	775	100,703	55,706
Denmark	756	60,000	45,705
Slovenia	724	52,385	31,792
Georgia	636	73,154	55,511
Albania	605	26,701	12,667
Yemen	605	2,071	1,394
Uzbekistan	594	69,754	66,886
Palestine	548	61,514	53,367
UAE	528	147,961	141,883
Slovakia	491	83,796	26,439
S. Korea	488	28,133	25,537
Cameroon	433	22,490	21,510
Montenegro	377	26,109	16,904
Finland	369	18,858	14,000
Zambia	350	17,093	16,134
Syria	333	6,486	2,558
Bahrain	332	84,192	81,846
Senegal	326	15,755	15,400
Ghana	320	50,018	48,179
DRC	318	11,692	10,983
Angola	315	13,053	6,250
Malaysia	304	45,095	32,969
Norway	294	27,485	11,863
Zimbabwe	255	8,696	8,060
Lithuania	253	31,878	7,247
Madagascar	249	17,223	16,516
Qatar	234	135,367	132,356
Haiti	232	9,160	7,701
Jamaica	227	9,723	5,168
Luxembourg	211	25,218	14,798
Malawi	185	5,962	5,372
Mauritania	165	7,900	7,500
Nicaragua	158	5,661	4,225
Bahamas	155	7,124	5,192
Uganda	144	15,402	8,038
Guadeloupe	139	8,098	2,242
Guyana	138	4,662	3,616
Mali	138	3,792	2,923
Namibia	135	13,345	12,188
Cuba	131	7,541	6,965
Ivory Coast	127	20,882	20,584
Gambia	122	3,698	3,557
Eswatini	117	6,060	5,746
Latvia	116	9,836	1,515
Suriname	114	5,261	5,126
Trinidad and Tobago	111	5,930	5,317
Mozambique	110	14,227	12,238
Hong Kong	108	5,437	5,177
Somalia	107	4,301	3,330
Cabo Verde	102	9,694	9,004
Chad	100	1,578	1,428
Malta	92	7,796	5,580
Congo	92	5,379	3,887
Tajikistan	85	11,534	10,894
Equatorial Guinea	85	5,104	4,973
Liberia	82	1,491	1,314
Estonia	80	7,148	4,551
Andorra	75	5,616	4,585
Belize	75	4,596	2,513
Guinea	74	12,537	10,899
Sierra Leone	74	2,387	1,816
French Guiana	70	10,780	9,995
Niger	69	1,282	1,144
Burkina Faso	67	2,586	2,411
Uruguay	63	3,795	3,103

- The surge of new coronavirus cases appears to be slowing in Germany and France, generating hopes that the two European heavyweights are beginning to regain control over the pandemic. But authorities have said that hospitals are crowded and are likely to face further strain in the coming weeks with numbers of confirmed cases and contact-tracing efforts being overwhelmed in Germany. One death in four in France is now linked to Covid. But the number of people infected per 100,000 has been dropping for 10 days, and the number of virus patients in hospitals is expected to peak early next week. [3]
- Switzerland has assured reservations for about 13 million doses of vaccines from two suppliers and an international programme by the WHO. [5]
- India will celebrate its biggest festival, Diwali, this weekend, as it battles the world's second-highest coronavirus caseload and enters its annual air pollution season. Experts fear those factors combined could lead to a surge in coronavirus cases, especially in the capital where infections are already rising rapidly. [4]
- In the countries of central Europe, which during spring seemed to provide a best-practice model for keeping coronavirus at bay, case numbers have risen sharply, and governments in the region fear that their health systems are close to capacity and may struggle to cope. Central Europe is now just as badly hit as countries further west, and by some parameters is doing worse. The Visegrad Four group of nations – Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia are now under some kind of lockdown. [3]



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](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

[1] <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

[2] <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/covid-19-news/details>

[3] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/nov/13/coronavirus-live-news-quarter-of-deaths-in-france-linked-to-covid-as-us-tops-140000-daily-cases>

[4] <https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-11-13-20-intl/index.html>

[5] <https://www.swissinfo.ch>

[6] <https://www.corona-data.ch/>