

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

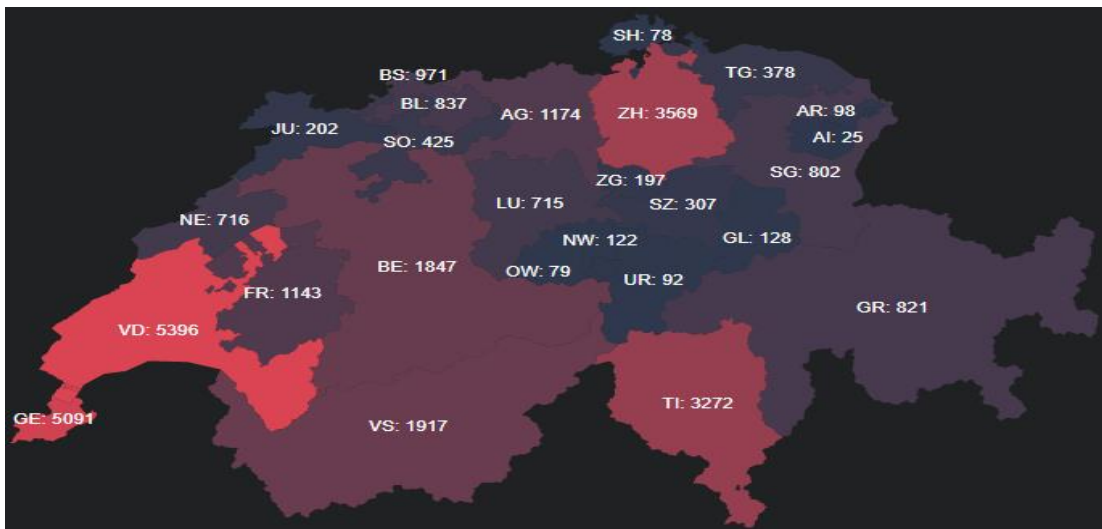
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 300,250 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (85,488) and UK (33,614). There have been more than 4,479,300 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The WHO has warned that coronavirus “may never go away” as its experts predicted that a global mental health crisis caused by the pandemic was looming. The global health body on Wednesday cautioned against trying to predict how long coronavirus would keep circulating, and called for a “massive effort” to overcome it. *“It is important to put this on the table: this virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities, and this virus may never go away,”* said Michael Ryan, the WHO’s emergencies chief. *“I think there are no promises in this and there are no dates. This disease may settle into a long problem, or it may not be,”* he said.
- A report by the WHO’s mental health department to the UN warned of another looming crisis: *“The isolation, the fear, the uncertainty, the economic turmoil – they all cause or could cause psychological distress,”* said the department’s director, Devora Kestel. She said the world could expect to see an upsurge in the severity of mental illness, including amongst children, young people and healthcare workers. *“The mental health and wellbeing of whole societies have been severely impacted by this crisis and are a priority to be addressed urgently,”* she said.
- Only 5% of people in Spain have developed coronavirus antibodies so far, according to preliminary results of an epidemiological study by the government, which were announced on Wednesday evening. *“These results are very far from us being able to say there is herd immunity. There could be a second wave of infections, we don’t know what is going to happen,”* said Dr. Marina Pollán, Director of the National Epidemiology Center, during a press conference late Wednesday. The study also revealed that 87% of all participants who have tested positive using the PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) for Covid-19 had developed antibodies.
- Britain has approved a coronavirus antibody test developed by pharmaceutical company Roche and is now working towards acquiring enough kits for widespread testing. UK health officials determined the tests were “highly specific,” with an accuracy of 100%, in an independent evaluation, Public Health England (PHE) said in a statement. Scientists believe antibodies provide a degree of immunity from future coronavirus infection, though it has not been determined how long such immunity lasts. Edward Argar, a UK health minister, said Roche’s test “appears to be extremely reliable” and “has the potential to be a game changer” in a television interview.
- There have been more than 22,000 excess deaths among care home residents in England and Wales as a direct or indirect result of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new report from London School of Economics (LSE) academics. The study, published by two academics at LSE’s Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, found that by May 1 there had been “in excess of 22,000 deaths of care home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic” in England and Wales, which is 54% of all excess deaths. This calculation was based on the total excess mortality in care homes of 19,038, and adjusted by 15%, based on an assumption from Care Quality Commission data that 15% of all deaths of care home residents are found to happen in hospitals.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	85'488	1'437'118	310'834
UK	33'614	233'151	N/A
Italy	31'368	223'096	115'288
Spain	27'321	272'646	186'480
France	27'074	178'060	58'673
Brazil	13'551	196'158	78'424
Belgium	8'903	54'288	14'111
Germany	7'868	174'284	150'300
Iran	6'854	114'533	90'539
Netherlands	5'590	43'481	N/A
Canada	5'302	72'278	35'164
China	4'633	82'929	78'195
Mexico	4'220	40'186	26'990
Turkey	3'952	143'114	101'715
Sweden	3'529	28'582	4'971
India	2'564	79'333	26'675
Ecuador	2'334	30'486	3'433
Russia	2'305	252'245	53'530
Peru	2'169	76'306	24'324
Switzerland	1'872	30'463	27'100
Ireland	1'497	23'401	19'470
Portugal	1'184	28'319	3'198
Romania	1'046	16'247	9'053
Indonesia	1'043	16'006	3'518
Poland	883	17'615	6'696
Philippines	790	11'876	2'337
Pakistan	770	35'788	9'695
Japan	678	16'049	8'920
Austria	626	16'058	14'405
Egypt	556	10'431	2'486
Denmark	537	10'713	8'805
Algeria	529	6'442	3'158
Colombia	509	12'930	3'133
Ukraine	456	16'847	4'143
Hungary	436	3'380	1'169
Dominican Republic	409	11'196	3'221
Chile	368	37'040	15'655
Argentina	344	6'879	2'385
Czechia	292	8'330	5'227
Finland	287	6'145	4'300
Saudi Arabia	283	46'869	19'051
Bangladesh	283	18'863	3'361
Israel	264	16'567	12'364
S. Korea	260	10'991	9'762
Panama	256	8'944	6'067
Norway	232	8'187	32
Serbia	224	10'374	4'084
South Africa	219	12'074	4'745
UAE	208	21'084	6'930
Moldova	194	5'553	2'228
Morocco	189	6'593	3'222
Nigeria	164	4'971	1'070
Greece	156	2'770	1'374
Belarus	151	26'772	8'168
Bolivia	142	3'148	339
Afghanistan	136	5'639	691
Cameroon	136	2'800	1'543
Honduras	123	2'255	237
Bosnia and Herzegovina	122	2'218	1'272
Iraq	115	3'143	2'028
Malaysia	112	6'819	5'351
Luxembourg	103	3'915	3'665
Slovenia	103	1'464	267
Bulgaria	99	2'100	531
Australia	98	6'989	6'301
North Macedonia	95	1'723	1'235
Croatia	94	2'221	1'850
Sudan	90	1'818	198
Kuwait	88	11'975	3'451
Cuba	79	1'830	1'383
Estonia	62	1'758	909
Thailand	56	3'018	2'850

Lithuania	54	1'511	934
Somalia	52	1'219	130
Burkina Faso	51	773	592
DRC	50	1'242	157
Armenia	49	3'860	1'572
Niger	49	860	658
Andorra	49	760	576
Tunisia	45	1'032	759
Mali	44	758	412
Channel Islands	43	548	456
Kenya	42	758	284
Chad	42	372	78
San Marino	41	648	172
Azerbaijan	35	2'879	1'833
Kazakhstan	32	5'571	2'408
Albania	31	898	694
Guatemala	29	1'342	121
Tajikistan	29	907	0
Slovakia	27	1'477	1'112
Lebanon	26	886	236
Sierra Leone	26	408	97
Ghana	24	5'408	514
Ivory Coast	24	1'912	902
Senegal	23	2'189	842
Isle of Man	23	332	274
Singapore	21	26'098	4'809
New Zealand	21	1'497	1'411
Tanzania	21	509	183
El Salvador	20	1'112	405
Liberia	20	213	101
Latvia	19	962	627
Uruguay	19	719	545
Haiti	18	234	17
Oman	17	4'341	1'303
Cyprus	17	907	449
Sint Maarten	15	76	46
Qatar	14	28'272	3'356
Guinea	14	2'374	856
Mayotte	14	1'143	627
Martinique	14	189	91
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Guadeloupe	13	155	109
Kyrgyzstan	12	1'082	735
Georgia	12	652	383
Yemen	12	85	1
Uzbekistan	11	2'636	2'136
Paraguay	11	740	182
Congo	11	333	53
Togo	11	219	96
Bahamas	11	94	41
Bahrain	10	6'069	2'220
Iceland	10	1'802	1'780
Venezuela	10	440	220
Mauritius	10	332	322
Guyana	10	113	41
Gabon	9	1'004	152
Sri Lanka	9	916	445
Jordan	9	586	393
Jamaica	9	509	113
Montenegro	9	324	309
Costa Rica	8	815	527
Bermuda	8	121	66
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	107
Nicaragua	8	25	7
Zambia	7	654	124
Taiwan	7	440	383
Barbados	7	85	65
Equatorial Guinea	6	522	13
Malta	6	522	443

- Russia's capital is launching a large coronavirus screening program starting May 15th, the city's mayor Sergey Sobyenin announced in a blog post. Sobyenin said the city currently performs 40,000 coronavirus tests a day, but in order to establish the real infection rate and determine when to lift quarantine restrictions, the authorities plan to test the population for antibodies.
- The novel coronavirus can infect organs throughout the body, including the lungs, heart, liver, brain, kidneys and the intestines, researchers reported Wednesday. Two separate reports suggest the virus goes far beyond the lungs and can attack various organs -- findings that can help explain the wide range of symptoms caused by Covid-19 infection. The findings might help explain some of the puzzling symptoms seen in coronavirus patients. They include blood clots that cause strokes in younger people and that clog dialysis machines, headaches and kidney failure.
- Hong Kong aims to test 860 people as new cluster grows. Officials will try to test the residents of two apartment buildings, after a couple and their granddaughter were diagnosed with Covid-19.



- **Funding opportunity for researcher**

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

Sources

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