

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

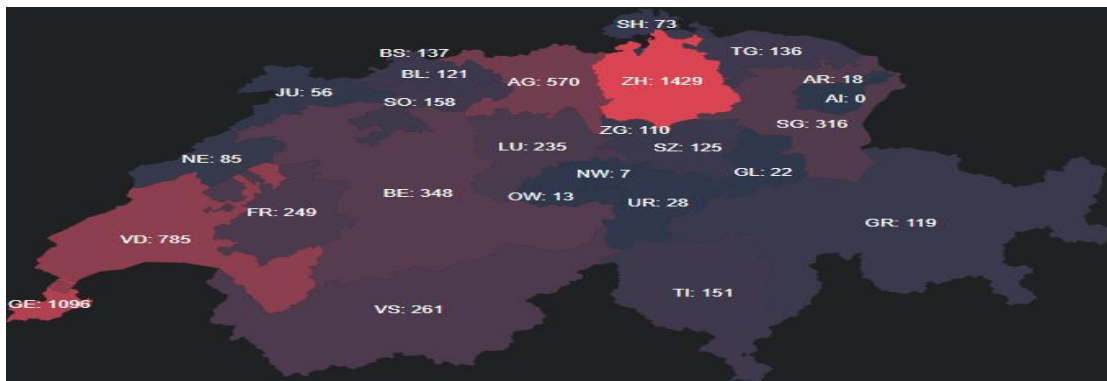
14.08.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 758,325 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (170,446) and Brazil (105,564). There have been more than 21,128,670 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- More than 800 million children globally are not able to wash their hands at school, according to a new joint report from the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund released Wednesday. Guidelines for reopening schools during the Covid-19 pandemic emphasize the need for hygiene to reduce transmission and recommend that schools enforce regular hand washing, among other measures. There are 818 million children globally who do not have access to basic handwashing at school. Of those children, 355 million -- mainly in Northern Africa and Western Asia -- have access to water but not soap. The remaining 462 million have no access to hand washing. Over half of the children without access to hand washing live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The WHO on Thursday urged countries to invest billions of dollars in searching for Covid-19 vaccines and treatments – calling it a snip compared to the vast economic cost of the coronavirus crisis. The WHO insisted it was a smarter bet than the trillions of dollars being thrown at handling the consequences of the global pandemic.
- Kiwi scientists have identified the "family" of COVID-19 outbreak - and it is called B.1.1.1. Otago University's Dr Jemma Geoghegan has done the sequencing and said it was part of what was called B.1.1.1. The sequencing follows scientists from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) extracting the ribonucleic acid or RNA from inside the samples - which is like human DNA. It puts it inside a massive and complicated family tree of the virus - with B.1.1.1 effectively a major branch of the tree. Using the global crowdsourcing forum called "Nextstrain", the lineage can be tracked around the world. Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield pointed out on Thursday that the samples had strong links to the United Kingdom and Australia. B.1.1.1 is also present in other places like Peru, Uruguay, South Africa, Switzerland and Bangladesh.
- The Indian Medical Association has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing the *"rising concerns of safety of doctors during this Covid crisis,"* saying that almost 200 doctors have died across the country because of the virus. *"Increasing number of doctors are getting infected and losing lives due to Covid. Substantial number of them are General Practitioners,"* said the letter.
- The nation's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, confirmed that scientists at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases are working to create a strain of coronavirus that could be used in human challenge trials of a Covid-19 vaccine. Fauci described this approach as a "Plan D". If needed, such human challenge trials would be in a matter of months at the earliest.
- Thirteen percent of Londoners have coronavirus antibodies, according to a study led by Imperial College London which surveyed more than 100,000 people across England. Those who tested positive for antibodies are likely to have previously contracted Covid-19, Researchers found that antibody levels in London were over twice England's national average. Key workers and health care employees were most likely to have previously had Covid-19, according to the study, which has not been peer reviewed.

| Countries | Deaths | Cases | Recovered |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| USA | 170,446 | 5,418,071 | 2,844,262 |
| Brazil | 105,564 | 3,229,621 | 2,356,640 |
| Mexico | 55,293 | 505,751 | 341,507 |
| India | 48,367 | 2,483,567 | 1,770,682 |
| UK | 41,347 | 313,798 | N/A |
| Italy | 35,231 | 252,235 | 202,923 |
| France | 30,388 | 209,365 | 83,472 |
| Spain | 28,605 | 355,856 | N/A |
| Peru | 25,648 | 507,996 | 348,006 |
| Iran | 19,331 | 338,825 | 293,811 |
| Russia | 15,498 | 912,823 | 722,964 |
| Colombia | 14,145 | 433,805 | 250,494 |
| South Africa | 11,270 | 572,865 | 437,617 |
| Chile | 10,299 | 380,034 | 353,131 |
| Belgium | 9,916 | 76,191 | 17,913 |
| Germany | 9,283 | 222,487 | 200,800 |
| Canada | 9,015 | 121,234 | 107,553 |
| Netherlands | 6,167 | 61,840 | N/A |
| Pakistan | 6,153 | 287,300 | 265,215 |
| Indonesia | 6,021 | 135,123 | 89,618 |
| Ecuador | 6,010 | 98,343 | 78,957 |
| Turkey | 5,912 | 245,635 | 228,057 |
| Sweden | 5,783 | 84,294 | N/A |
| Iraq | 5,641 | 164,277 | 117,208 |
| Argentina | 5,362 | 276,072 | 192,434 |
| Egypt | 5,107 | 96,108 | 56,890 |
| China | 4,634 | 84,786 | 79,462 |
| Bolivia | 3,884 | 96,459 | 33,720 |
| Bangladesh | 3,591 | 271,881 | 156,623 |
| Saudi Arabia | 3,338 | 295,902 | 262,959 |
| Romania | 2,904 | 68,046 | 31,920 |
| Philippines | 2,442 | 153,660 | 71,405 |
| Guatemala | 2,296 | 60,284 | 48,305 |
| Ukraine | 2,011 | 87,872 | 46,797 |
| Switzerland | 1,991 | 37,671 | 32,700 |
| Poland | 1,858 | 55,319 | 38,362 |
| Ireland | 1,774 | 26,929 | 23,364 |
| Portugal | 1,770 | 53,548 | 39,177 |
| Panama | 1,722 | 78,446 | 52,210 |
| Honduras | 1,542 | 49,042 | 7,032 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1,491 | 41,373 | 33,592 |
| Dominican Republic | 1,393 | 83,134 | 47,946 |
| Afghanistan | 1,363 | 37,431 | 26,714 |
| Algeria | 1,341 | 37,187 | 26,004 |
| Kazakhstan | 1,269 | 101,848 | 78,633 |
| Japan | 1,063 | 51,147 | 36,134 |
| Nigeria | 966 | 48,116 | 34,309 |
| Moldova | 884 | 29,483 | 20,556 |
| Armenia | 814 | 41,299 | 34,164 |
| Sudan | 793 | 12,162 | 6,325 |
| Austria | 725 | 22,876 | 20,499 |
| Serbia | 665 | 29,233 | 26,117 |
| Israel | 657 | 90,472 | 66,151 |
| Denmark | 621 | 15,379 | 13,216 |
| Hungary | 607 | 4,853 | 3,590 |
| Belarus | 603 | 69,308 | 66,452 |
| El Salvador | 595 | 22,314 | 10,455 |
| Morocco | 584 | 37,935 | 26,687 |
| Oman | 557 | 82,743 | 77,427 |
| North Macedonia | 535 | 12,515 | 9,030 |
| Yemen | 528 | 1,847 | 949 |
| Azerbaijan | 504 | 34,018 | 31,490 |
| Kuwait | 489 | 74,486 | 66,099 |
| Bulgaria | 484 | 14,069 | 8,901 |
| Ethiopia | 479 | 26,204 | 11,428 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 469 | 15,535 | 9,344 |
| Kenya | 465 | 29,334 | 15,298 |
| Cameroon | 401 | 18,308 | 15,320 |
| Czechia | 391 | 19,401 | 13,574 |
| Australia | 375 | 22,743 | 13,350 |
| UAE | 359 | 63,819 | 57,473 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|---------|---------|
| Finland | 333 | 7,700 | 7,050 |
| S. Korea | 305 | 14,873 | 13,863 |
| Costa Rica | 272 | 26,129 | 8,412 |
| Norway | 261 | 9,887 | 8,857 |
| Venezuela | 259 | 30,369 | 21,385 |
| Senegal | 249 | 11,872 | 7,615 |
| Zambia | 246 | 8,663 | 7,401 |
| DRC | 238 | 9,605 | 8,512 |
| Ghana | 223 | 41,847 | 39,718 |
| Greece | 221 | 6,381 | 3,804 |
| Uzbekistan | 220 | 33,821 | 27,825 |
| Albania | 213 | 6,971 | 3,616 |
| Haiti | 192 | 7,810 | 5,123 |
| Qatar | 190 | 114,532 | 111,258 |
| Bahrain | 167 | 45,726 | 42,180 |
| Madagascar | 164 | 13,643 | 12,011 |
| Croatia | 163 | 6,258 | 5,134 |
| Mauritania | 157 | 6,653 | 5,843 |
| Malawi | 153 | 4,912 | 2,550 |
| Libya | 135 | 7,050 | 816 |
| Slovenia | 129 | 2,369 | 2,027 |
| Zimbabwe | 128 | 4,990 | 1,927 |
| Nicaragua | 128 | 4,115 | 2,913 |
| Malaysia | 125 | 9,149 | 8,828 |
| Mali | 125 | 2,597 | 1,979 |
| Luxembourg | 122 | 7,368 | 6,414 |
| Ivory Coast | 107 | 16,889 | 13,522 |
| Palestine | 106 | 15,834 | 9,382 |
| Nepal | 99 | 25,551 | 17,077 |
| Paraguay | 97 | 8,389 | 5,516 |
| Somalia | 93 | 3,227 | 1,728 |
| Lebanon | 92 | 7,711 | 2,496 |
| Cuba | 89 | 3,174 | 2,525 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 83 | 4,821 | 2,182 |
| Liberia | 82 | 1,252 | 738 |
| Lithuania | 81 | 2,352 | 1,691 |
| Angola | 80 | 1,815 | 577 |
| Chad | 76 | 949 | 860 |
| Montenegro | 73 | 3,857 | 2,680 |
| Sierra Leone | 69 | 1,940 | 1,496 |
| Niger | 69 | 1,161 | 1,075 |
| Hong Kong | 67 | 4,361 | 3,392 |
| Eswatini | 65 | 3,599 | 1,991 |
| Tajikistan | 63 | 7,950 | 6,741 |
| Estonia | 63 | 2,177 | 1,976 |
| CAR | 61 | 4,652 | 1,728 |
| Congo | 60 | 3,745 | 1,625 |
| Djibouti | 59 | 5,358 | 5,167 |
| Thailand | 58 | 3,376 | 3,173 |
| Syria | 55 | 1,432 | 395 |
| Burkina Faso | 54 | 1,228 | 997 |
| Tunisia | 53 | 1,847 | 1,302 |
| Andorra | 53 | 981 | 858 |
| French Guiana | 51 | 8,471 | 7,784 |
| Gabon | 51 | 8,077 | 5,920 |
| Guinea | 50 | 8,198 | 7,120 |
| Gambia | 50 | 1,623 | 304 |
| South Sudan | 47 | 2,478 | 1,175 |
| Channel Islands | 47 | 603 | 545 |
| San Marino | 42 | 699 | 657 |
| Suriname | 40 | 2,761 | 1,830 |
| Mayotte | 39 | 3,119 | 2,940 |
| Benin | 38 | 2,014 | 1,681 |
| Uruguay | 37 | 1,409 | 1,180 |
| Cabo Verde | 33 | 3,073 | 2,232 |
| Latvia | 32 | 1,308 | 1,078 |
| Slovakia | 31 | 2,801 | 1,944 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 29 | 2,088 | 1,015 |
| Singapore | 27 | 55,580 | 50,736 |
| Namibia | 27 | 3,544 | 848 |
| Togo | 26 | 1,104 | 791 |
| Lesotho | 25 | 884 | 271 |
| Isle of Man | 24 | 336 | 312 |
| New Zealand | 22 | 1,602 | 1,531 |

- New Zealand's extended a lockdown in its most populous city demonstrates how fast early successes in the pandemic can change. The country is battling a fresh community coronavirus outbreak after months without any locally transmitted cases. South Korea registered 103 new coronavirus cases on Thursday, the South Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) said. It's the first time the country reported more than 100 new daily cases since April 1.
- Events of more than 1,000 people can apply for permits to take place after October 1 in. Switzerland expects a budget deficit of CHF3.1 billion for 2020. Extraordinary Covid-19 expenditure amounts to CHF17.8 billion. This amounts to an expected total funding deficit of CHF20.9 billion. Citizens travelling from most non-Schengen countries, including the US, may not enter Switzerland except in exceptional cases. A list of non-Schengen countries not affected by this ban – 20 as of August 8 – can be found here (<https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20201773/index.html#app1>). Citizens and residents of Switzerland may always enter the country. Those who do enter Switzerland from any of 42 "high-risk" countries must undergo a ten-day quarantine or face a fine. On August 8 this list expanded to 46 countries, including mainland Spain (the Balearic and Canary Islands are excluded) and Singapore (<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/empfehlungen-fuer-reisende/quarantaene-einreisende.html#1918240392>). Since August 1, passengers coming from Israel, Serbia and Turkey have had to undergo a Covid-19 test if they fly into Basel Airport.



Newly reported cases since 01.06 in Switzerland.

- **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>

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science - Applications are paused

- <https://fastgrants.org/>

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

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