

# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

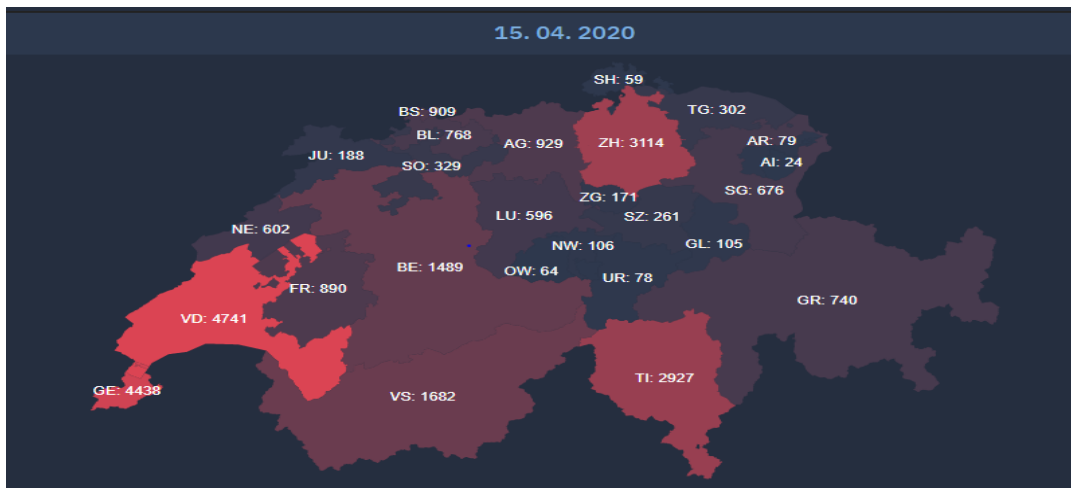
15.04.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 130,000 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (26,208) and Italy (21,645). There have been more than 2,041,000 global cases in 211 countries.
- The University of Bern increases test capacity for suspected corona samples. A new device enables fully automated tests of a large number of samples.
- *"WHO is grateful to the many nations, organizations and individuals who have expressed their support and commitment to WHO in recent days, including their financial commitment," Tedros said. "We welcome this demonstration of global solidarity because solidarity is the rule of the game to defeat Covid-19. WHO is getting on with the job. We're continuing to study this virus every moment of every day, we are learning from many countries about what works and we are sharing that information with the world."*, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a media briefing today.
- *"We will continue to work with every country and every partner to serve the people of the world, with a relentless commitment to science, solutions and solidarity,"* Tedros added. *"WHO has been fighting the pandemic with every ounce of our soul and spirit. We will continue to do that until the end"*.
- The United States has temporarily suspended its funding to the WHO over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic. US President Donald Trump announced yesterday that US contributions to the WHO would be frozen while his administration carried out a review of the organization's response to the pandemic. *"The review was likely to take 60-90 days"*, he said.
- The US decision has sparked criticism from health experts and leaders. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was *"not the time"* to reduce resources for WHO operations.
- A vaccine for coronavirus may be ready for use by emergency workers sometime this autumn, according to Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, the National Institute of Health's lead scientist for coronavirus vaccine research. Corbett said that the vaccine could be ready for use by front-line health care workers as soon as this fall and for the global population by next spring. Her team is currently testing the safety of the vaccine in the first phase, and then will test its effectiveness in subsequent phases
- The Swiss Solidarity, which has raised more than CHF17 million for deprived sections of society during the coronavirus pandemic, will conclude with a National Solidarity Day on April 16. With the support of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, Swiss Solidarity collects money for disadvantaged people. The eventual sum of money raised will be distributed to charities and NGOs such as the Swiss Red Cross [external link](#), Caritas [external link](#) and Pro Senectute [external link](#), who will funnel funds to those most in need.
- Switzerland faces shortages of medicine for coronavirus patients in intensive care unit, the country's health ministry admitted Tuesday, calling the situation "tense." Patrick Mathys, the head of the Swiss federal health ministry resolution team, told reporters in a press conference *"there are real bottlenecks for essential medicines in intensive care"* adding that *"there has been some easing of the situation, but in the long term it's a huge problem."*

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	27'190	619'716	47'639
Italy	21'645	165'155	38'092
Spain	18'579	177'633	70'853
France	15'729	143'303	28'805
UK	12'868	98'476	N/A
Iran	4'777	76'389	49'933
Belgium	4'440	33'573	7'107
China	3'342	82'295	77'816
Germany	3'592	133'154	72'600
Netherlands	3'134	28'153	250
Brazil	1'590	26'113	14'026
Turkey	1'518	69'392	5'674
Switzerland	1'239	26'336	15'400
Sweden	1'203	11'927	381
Canada	954	27'593	8'592
Portugal	599	18'091	383
Indonesia	469	5'136	446
Austria	393	14'331	8'098
India	405	12'320	1'432
Ireland	444	12'547	77
Ecuador	388	7'858	780
Romania	362	7'216	1'217
Philippines	349	5'453	353
Mexico	406	5'399	2'125
Algeria	336	2'160	708
Denmark	309	6'681	2'748
Poland	286	7'582	668
S. Korea	225	10'591	7'616
Peru	230	10'303	2'869
Dominican Republic	189	3'614	208
Russia	198	24'490	1'986
Egypt	178	2'350	589
Czechia	166	6'216	819
Japan	146	8'100	853
Norway	145	6'740	32
Morocco	127	2'024	229
Hungary	134	1'579	192
Israel	126	12'200	2'309
Colombia	127	2'979	354
Argentina	109	2'443	596
Greece	102	2'192	269
Ukraine	108	3'764	143
Pakistan	107	5'988	1'446
Serbia	99	4'873	400
Panama	95	3'574	72
Chile	94	8'273	2'937
Malaysia	83	5'072	2'647
Iraq	79	1'415	812
Saudi Arabia	79	5'862	931
Luxembourg	69	3'373	526
Finland	72	3'237	300
Australia	63	6'447	3'686
Slovenia	61	1'248	165
Bangladesh	50	1'231	49
North Macedonia	45	974	98
Thailand	43	2'643	1'497
Bosnia and Herzegovina	41	1'110	253
Moldova	46	2'049	171
San Marino	36	372	53
Bulgaria	36	747	105
Tunisia	34	747	43
Belarus	36	3'728	203
Croatia	34	1'741	473
Estonia	35	1'400	117
Andorra	33	673	169
Bolivia	28	397	7
South Africa	34	2'506	410

Burkina Faso	30	528	177
Lithuania	30	1'091	138
Honduras	31	419	9
UAE	28	4'933	933
Albania	25	494	251
Afghanistan	25	784	43
Cuba	24	814	151
Lebanon	21	658	81
DRC	21	254	21
Armenia	17	1'111	297
Kazakhstan	16	1'295	240
Cameroon	17	848	165
Azerbaijan	13	1'253	404
Niger	14	570	90
Mali	13	148	34
Diamond Princess	12	712	639
Cyprus	12	715	65
Singapore	10	3'699	652
Nigeria	11	373	99
New Zealand	9	1'386	728
Channel Islands	13	445	69
Mauritius	9	324	65
Kenya	10	225	53
Venezuela	9	197	111
Sint Maarten	9	52	5
Iceland	8	1'727	1'077
Ghana	8	636	17
Uruguay	8	492	260
Guadeloupe	8	145	67
Trinidad and Tobago	8	114	19
Bahamas	8	49	6
Qatar	7	3'711	406
Bahrain	7	1'671	663
Jordan	7	401	250
Sri Lanka	7	237	63
Paraguay	8	161	23
Ivory Coast	6	638	114
Taiwan	6	395	137
Martinique	8	158	73
El Salvador	6	159	30
Liberia	6	59	4
Guyana	6	48	8
Latvia	5	666	44
Kyrgyzstan	5	449	78
Guatemala	5	180	19
Congo	5	117	11
Bermuda	5	57	30
Sudan	5	32	4
Uzbekistan	4	1'275	107
Hong Kong	4	1'017	459
Oman	4	910	131
Montenegro	4	288	55
Jamaica	5	105	21
Barbados	5	73	15
Myanmar	4	74	2
Kuwait	3	1'405	206
Costa Rica	3	618	66
Malta	3	399	44
Georgia	3	306	71
Mayotte	3	217	69
Ethiopia	3	85	15
Togo	3	81	35
Tanzania	4	88	11
Haiti	3	40	0
Zimbabwe	3	18	1
Slovakia	6	863	151
Djibouti	2	435	71
Palestine	2	308	62
Senegal	2	314	190
Isle of Man	4	256	151
Somalia	2	60	2
Zambia	2	48	30
Saint Martin	2	35	13
Syria	2	29	5
Antigua and Barbuda	2	23	3
Angola	2	19	5
Belize	2	18	0
Malawi	2	16	0
MS Zaandam	2	9	0
Brunei	1	136	108
Monaco	1	93	6
Liechtenstein	1	79	55
Gabon	1	80	4
Cayman Islands	1	54	6
Benin	1	35	18
Libya	1	35	9
Curaçao	1	14	10
Botswana	1	13	0

- Immunity after any infection can range from lifelong and complete to nearly nonexistent. So far, however, only the first glimmers of data are available about immunity to SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19. What can scientists, and the decision makers who rely on science to inform policies, do in such a situation? The best approach is to construct a conceptual model — a set of assumptions about how immunity might work — based on current knowledge of the immune system and information about related viruses, and then identify how each aspect of that model might be wrong, how one would know and what the implications would be. Next, scientists should set out to work to improve this understanding with observation and experiment, said an epidemiologist and infectious disease specialist, Marc Lipsitch.
- France and the United States are among the countries that have decided to release inmates as a measure to prevent the spread of coronavirus in prisons. But, not so Switzerland. Despite growing tension within the prison population in Switzerland, other approaches are being tested.
- G20 finance ministers have agreed to suspend poorer countries' debt payments from 1 May until the end of the year, as they prepare for increased spending on healthcare systems during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Spanish government will distribute more than 2 million masks to workers in the transportation industry, the Ministry for Transport said in a statement.



## Funding opportunity for researcher

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science

- <https://fastgrants.org/>

## Sources

<https://www.who.int>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://edition.cnn.com/asia/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-intl-04-15-20/index.html>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.corona-data.ch/>

<https://www.nau.ch>

[https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/no-amnesty\\_prisoners-in-switzerland-stay-behind-bars-despite-coronavirus/45686672?utm\\_medium=socialflow&utm\\_campaign=own-posts&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_content=o](https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/no-amnesty_prisoners-in-switzerland-stay-behind-bars-despite-coronavirus/45686672?utm_medium=socialflow&utm_campaign=own-posts&utm_source=twitter&utm_content=o)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/apr/15/coronavirus-live-news-trump-suspends-who-funding-as-global-deaths-pass-125000>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/apr/15/coronavirus-live-news-trump-suspends-who-funding-as-global-deaths-pass-125000>