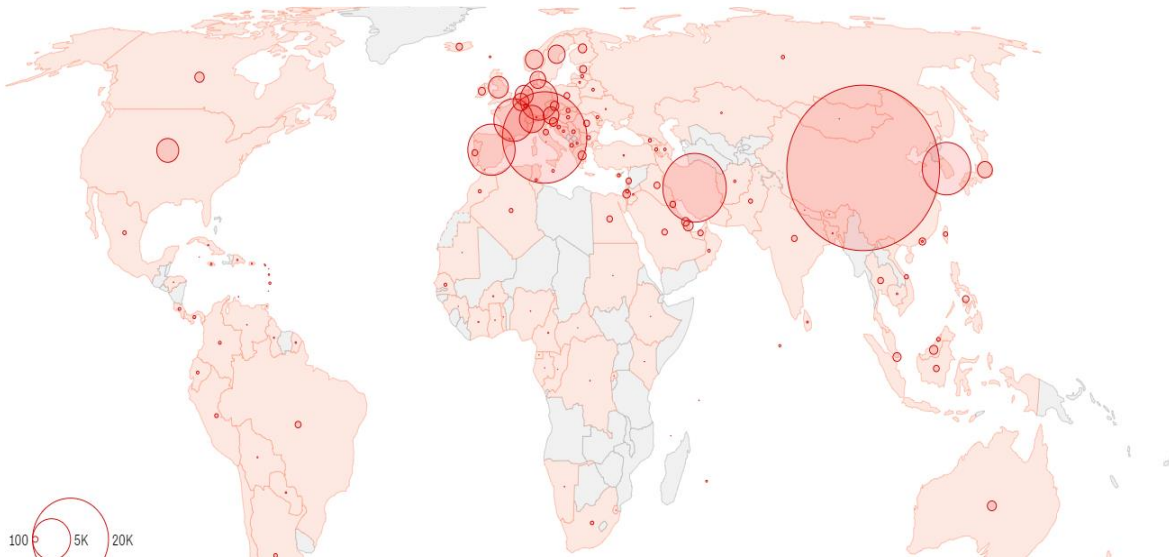# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
16.03.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 6,600 worldwide, with the vast majority in mainland China. There have been more than 174,000 global cases.

- The European Union launched measures to support its member states in tackling the coronavirus pandemic, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides, said today. "*Essential goods and medicines must be able to cross borders as smoothly as possible,*" the European health commissioner added, calling for "solidarity and cooperation" across the EU.

- The European Commission will introduce temporary restrictions on non-essential travel to the EU, as part of its efforts to tackle and contain the ongoing spread of coronavirus across Europe, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced today. "*These restrictions should be in place for an initial period of 30 days, which can be prolonged as necessary*," she added.

- A lead investor in a German biotech company, Dietmar Hopp, that is working on a coronavirus vaccine has issued a statement saying that it should be available anywhere, without mentioning US President Donald Trump. Hopp said: "*I am equally committed to the goal of protecting all people from infections and improving therapies for patients worldwide, ideally curing them, as well as to my intention of creating sustainable innovative infrastructure and jobs in Germany*".

- The city of Paris announced today the closure within a few hours of all public parks and gardens in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

- Singapore criticizes UK coronavirus strategy. Adding to a growing chorus of international criticism, Singapore's national development minister Lawrence Wong sharply criticized the UK approach to tackling the coronavirus outbreak as he announced new border control measures to apply to the UK, Switzerland and Japan.

- Borders between Spain and Portugal will be closed by the end of Monday, leaving only nine active crossings open to allow for the transit of products and workers who are required to cross the border.

- Primates found to have developed antibodies after being infected with Covid-19 – a discovery that suggests the immune system will fight back against the disease.

- The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has enhanced its emergency support to refugees in Iran following the coronavirus outbreak there, it said in a statement on Sunday.

- Federal government and state leaders agree to close German retail outlets. Exceptions: food & drink, pharmacies and medical supplies, banks, petrol stations, drug stores, post offices, hairdressers, newsagents, launderettes, gardening and pet supplies, wholesalers.

- In the UK, routine inspections for hospitals, GP surgeries and care homes have been suspended so health and care workers can concentrate efforts on battling coronavirus.

- The first trial in people of a vaccine to protect against pandemic coronavirus is starting in the US later on Monday, according to reports. A group of 45 healthy volunteers will have the jab, at the Kaiser Permanente research facility, in Seattle. The vaccine cannot cause Covid-19 but contains a harmless genetic code copied from the virus that causes the disease.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
China	80'880	3'213	67'819
Italy	24'747	1'809	2'335
Iran	14'991	853	4'590
Spain	9'428	335	530
S. Korea	8'236	75	1'137
Germany	6'924	14	59
France	5'423	127	12
USA	4'040	70	73
Switzerland	2'221	18	4
UK	1'543	36	20
Netherlands	1'413	24	2
Norway	1'312	3	1
Sweden	1'103	7	1
Belgium	1'058	5	1
Austria	1'018	3	8
Denmark	898	4	1
Japan	845	27	144
Diamond Princess	696	7	456
Malaysia	566	0	42
Qatar	439	0	4
Australia	375	5	27
Canada	375	1	11
Greece	331	4	8
Portugal	331	0	3
Czechia	298	0	0
Finland	278	0	10
Israel	255	0	4
Slovenia	253	1	0
Singapore	243	0	109
Bahrain	221	1	77
Estonia	205	0	1
Brazil	203	0	2
Iceland	180	0	0
Ireland	170	2	5
Romania	158	0	9
Poland	156	3	0
Hong Kong	155	4	81
Chile	155	0	0
Egypt	150	2	32
Thailand	147	1	35
Philippines	142	12	5
Pakistan	136	0	2
Indonesia	134	5	8
India	129	2	13
Iraq	124	10	26
Kuwait	123	0	9
Saudi Arabia	118	0	6
San Marino	109	7	4
Lebanon	109	3	1
UAE	98	0	23
Russia	93	0	8
Peru	86	0	1
Luxembourg	81	1	0
Taiwan	67	1	20
South Africa	64	0	0
Slovakia	63	0	0
Bulgaria	62	2	0
Vietnam	61	0	16
Croatia	57	0	3
Argentina	56	2	3
Panama	55	1	0
Serbia	55	0	1
Algeria	54	4	10
Brunei	54	0	0
Colombia	54	0	1
Mexico	53	0	4
Albania	51	1	0
Hungary	39	1	1
Palestine	39	0	0
Ecuador	37	2	0
Belarus	36	0	3
Costa Rica	35	0	0
Latvia	34	0	1
Georgia	33	0	1
Cyprus	33	0	0
Armenia	30	0	1
Malta	30	0	2

Morocco	29	1	1
Sri Lanka	28	0	1
Azerbaijan	25	1	6
Senegal	24	0	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	24	0	0
Moldova	23	0	0
Oman	22	0	9
Afghanistan	21	0	1
Tunisia	20	0	0
Jordan	19	0	1
North Macedonia	19	0	1
Faeroe Islands	18	0	0
Turkey	18	0	0
Lithuania	17	0	1
Venezuela	17	0	0
Burkina Faso	15	0	0
Jamaica	15	0	2
Martinique	15	0	0
Maldives	13	0	0
Cambodia	12	0	1
Macao	11	0	10
Dominican Republic	11	0	0
Bolivia	11	0	0
French Guiana	11	0	0
Kazakhstan	10	0	0
Réunion	9	0	0
New Zealand	8	0	0
Bangladesh	8	0	3
Paraguay	8	0	0
Uruguay	8	0	0
Uzbekistan	8	0	0
Guyana	7	1	0
Liechtenstein	7	0	0
Monaco	6	0	0
Channel Islands	6	0	0
Ghana	6	0	0
Guadeloupe	6	0	0
Honduras	6	0	0
Ukraine	5	1	0
Andorra	5	0	0
Ethiopia	5	0	0
Puerto Rico	5	0	0
Rwanda	5	0	0
Cameroon	4	0	0
Ivory Coast	4	0	0
Cuba	4	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	4	0	0
French Polynesia	3	0	0
Guam	3	0	0
Kenya	3	0	0
St. Barth	3	0	0
Seychelles	3	0	0
Guatemala	2	1	0
Nigeria	2	0	1
Aruba	2	0	0
Curaçao	2	0	0
DRC	2	0	0
Namibia	2	0	0
Saint Lucia	2	0	0
Saint Martin	2	0	0
Cayman Islands	1	1	0
Sudan	1	1	0
Nepal	1	0	1
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0	0
Bahamas	1	0	0
Benin	1	0	0
Bhutan	1	0	0
CAR	1	0	0
Congo	1	0	0
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	0
Gabon	1	0	0
Gibraltar	1	0	1
Greenland	1	0	0
Guinea	1	0	0
Vatican City	1	0	0
Liberia	1	0	0
Mauritania	1	0	0
Mayotte	1	0	0
Mongolia	1	0	0
St. Vincent Grenadines	1	0	0
Somalia	1	0	0
Suriname	1	0	0
Eswatini	1	0	0
Tanzania	1	0	0
Togo	1	0	0
U.S. Virgin Islands	1	0	0

- Experts have criticized **NHS** advice that people self-isolating with Covid-19 should take ibuprofen, saying there is plausible evidence this could aggravate the condition.
- Airlines are calling on governments across the globe to take further measures over the "unprecedented challenges" faced by the industry during the coronavirus outbreak.
- The corona virus continues to spread in Switzerland. Cantons declare an emergency. The Federal Council is likely to advise similar drastic measures for the whole country. Information about the lockdown will available after 5 p.m.

Funding opportunities for researchers

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) - Call Open on Therapeutics and Diagnostics Combatting Coronavirus Infection

- https://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=499&tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=1168&no_cache=1&user_id=51472&job_id=4718

SNF - Special call for research into coronaviruses

- http://www.snf.ch/en/researchinFocus/newsroom/Pages/news-200306-call-special-call-on-coronaviruses.aspx

Wellcome Trust:

- https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/epidemic-preparedness-covid-19

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