

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

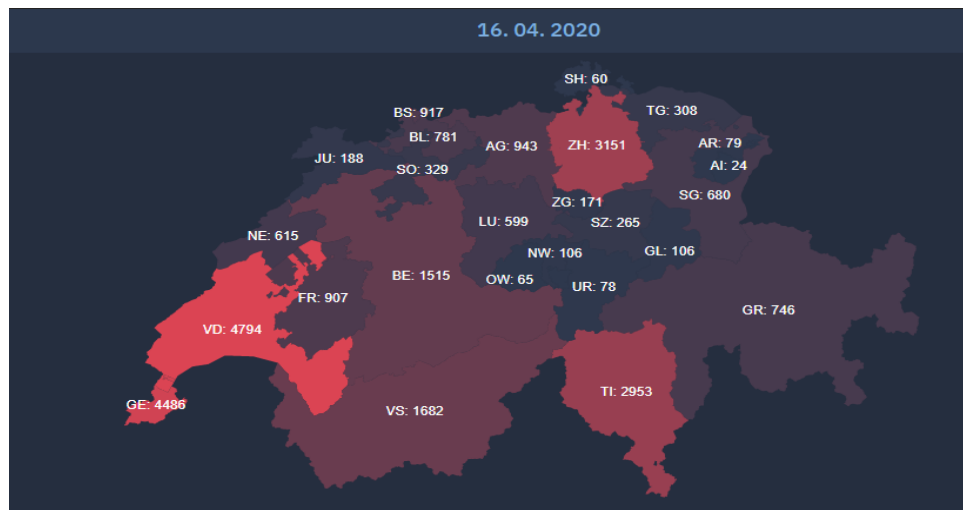
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 142,000 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (33,434) and Italy (22,170). There have been more than 2,128,000 global cases in 211 countries.
- Today the Swiss government announced its three-phase plan for restoring Switzerland to normality during a crisis. Switzerland will start easing its coronavirus lockdown from April 27. Hospitals will be allowed to perform all procedures, even elective surgeries, while hair salons, massage parlours and cosmetic studios will be allowed to reopen. Children should be able to return to compulsory schooling from May 11. The government said that high-risk people would not be forced to return to work immediately. Companies have a duty to protect such workers. Cantons will continue to trace and isolate infected people to prevent further transmissions. In a third stage it will reopen secondary schools, vocational schools and universities from June 8. The government also foresees allowing an existing ban of meetings of more than five people to be relaxed, although the details of this stage will be announced at the end of May.
- *"I thank all countries for expressing their continued support to our work and for their trust. We will continue to be led by science, find solutions to save lives and build global solidarity. I reassured them that WHO will continue to give this fight our spirit and soul!"*, tweeted WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus today.
- Britain's Covid-19 lockdown measures have been extended for "at least" another three weeks, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said.
- Spain has doubled the number of daily coronavirus tests to 40,000, resulting in an increase of figures since the start of the pandemic, said Fernando Simón, the country's director of health emergencies. Even though the total overall number is up because of expanded testing, Simón said, the number of active cases is in decline, at less than 1%, Spain's Health Ministry records show.
- Coronavirus cases in Africa are on the rise. *"Africa is now reporting more than 17,000 cases and about 900 have lost their lives"*, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, said. A number of countries have seen a rapid increase in the last week and *"we understand very well, the impact on Africa will be very severe,"* Moeti said.
- The US Food and Drug Administration on Thursday put out a call for recovered Covid-19 patients to donate blood plasma which could potentially be used to help ill patients fight the disease.
- Italy is struggling to pull its economy through the coronavirus crisis. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen apologised to Italy on behalf of Europe for its failure to do more to help at the beginning of the pandemic. *"It is true that no one was really ready for this. It is also true that too many were not there on time when Italy needed a helping hand at the very beginning,"* she said in a speech to the European Parliament.
- Singapore has reported 728 new confirmed cases of coronavirus detected in the past 24 hours, the biggest jump yet in numbers in the city state, which had fought hard to keep its outbreak under control.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	33'434	653'751	56'618
Italy	22'170	168'941	40'164
Spain	19'130	182'816	74'797
France	17'167	147'863	30'955
UK	13'729	103'093	N/A
Iran	4'869	77'995	52'229
Belgium	4'857	34'809	7'562
China	3'342	82'341	77'892
Germany	3'867	135'663	77'000
Netherlands	3'315	29'214	250
Brazil	1'764	29'165	14'026
Turkey	1'643	74'193	7'089
Switzerland	1'281	26'732	15'400
Sweden	1'333	12'540	550
Canada	1'048	28'923	9'271
Portugal	629	18'841	493
Indonesia	496	5'516	548
Austria	393	14'462	8'986
India	423	12'759	1'514
Ireland	444	12'547	77
Ecuador	403	8'225	838
Romania	392	7'707	1'357
Philippines	362	5'660	435
Mexico	449	5'847	2'125
Algeria	348	2'268	783
Denmark	321	6'879	3'023
Poland	314	7'918	774
S. Korea	229	10'613	7'757
Peru	254	11'475	3'108
Dominican Republic	196	3'755	215
Russia	232	27'938	2'304
Egypt	183	2'505	589
Czechia	169	6'359	972
Japan	178	8'626	901
Norway	152	6'848	32
Morocco	128	2'251	247
Hungary	142	1'652	199
Israel	140	12'591	2'624
Colombia	131	3'105	452
Argentina	115	2'571	631
Greece	105	2'207	269
Ukraine	116	4'161	186
Pakistan	128	6'919	1'645
Serbia	103	5'318	443
Panama	103	3'751	75
Chile	105	8'807	3'299
Malaysia	84	5'182	2'766
Iraq	80	1'434	856
Saudi Arabia	83	6'380	990
Luxembourg	69	3'444	526
Finland	75	3'369	1'700
Australia	63	6'468	3'747
Slovenia	61	1'268	174
Bangladesh	60	1'572	49
North Macedonia	46	1'081	121
Thailand	46	2'672	1'593
Bosnia and Herzegovina	43	1'167	277
Moldova	53	2'154	235
San Marino	38	426	55
Bulgaria	38	800	122
Tunisia	35	780	43
Belarus	40	4'204	203
Croatia	35	1'791	529
Estonia	36	1'434	133
Andorra	33	673	169
Bolivia	29	441	14
South Africa	34	2'506	410

Burkina Faso	32	542	226
Lithuania	32	1'128	178
Honduras	35	426	9
UAE	33	5'365	1'034
Albania	26	518	277
Afghanistan	30	840	54
Cuba	27	862	171
Lebanon	21	663	85
DRC	22	267	23
Armenia	18	1'159	358
Kazakhstan	17	1'362	277
Cameroon	17	848	165
Azerbaijan	15	1'283	460
Niger	14	584	90
Mali	13	148	34
Diamond Princess	12	712	644
Cyprus	12	735	65
Singapore	10	4'427	683
Nigeria	12	407	128
New Zealand	9	1'401	770
Channel Islands	15	447	69
Mauritius	9	324	81
Kenya	11	234	53
Venezuela	9	197	111
Sint Maarten	9	57	12
Iceland	8	1'727	1'077
Ghana	8	641	83
Uruguay	9	493	272
Guadeloupe	8	145	67
Trinidad and Tobago	8	114	20
Bahamas	8	53	6
Qatar	7	4'103	415
Bahrain	7	1'700	703
Jordan	7	401	250
Sri Lanka	7	238	68
Paraguay	8	174	30
Ivory Coast	6	654	146
Taiwan	6	395	155
Martinique	8	158	73
El Salvador	6	164	33
Liberia	6	59	4
Guyana	6	55	8
Latvia	5	675	57
Kyrgyzstan	5	466	91
Guatemala	5	196	19
Congo	5	117	11
Bermuda	5	81	33
Sudan	5	32	4
Uzbekistan	4	1'349	129
Hong Kong	4	1'018	485
Oman	4	1'019	176
Montenegro	4	294	55
Jamaica	5	125	21
Barbados	5	75	15
Myanmar	4	85	2
Kuwait	3	1'524	225
Costa Rica	4	626	67
Malta	3	412	82
Georgia	3	340	76
Mayotte	3	233	69
Ethiopia	3	92	15
Togo	5	81	45

- As research showed that when it comes to containing the deadly disease Greece is the one of the best performing countries in Europe. Four weeks after the first 100 COVID-19 cases were detected in each country, it took 19 days for the number of cases in Greece to double, a clear indicator that Greece has successfully ‘flattened the curve’.
- Hydroxychloroquine & hypoxic pneumonia: Researchers in France examined the medical records of 84 patients with COVID-19 requiring oxygen who received hydroxychloroquine (600 mg daily) and 97 similar patients who did not get the drug. The primary outcome — transfer to the ICU or death from any cause within 7 days — did not differ significantly between the groups (in a weighted analysis, roughly 21%-22% of patients). The researchers say the findings "do not support the use of [hydroxychloroquine] in patients hospitalized for a documented SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia."
- The Swiss army has been given an CHF800 million (\$830 million) mandate to locate and import medical supplies, such as face masks, during the coronavirus pandemic, according to “Tages Anzeiger” newspaper report. The newspaper says the decision to bring in military procurement support was taken by the government in mid-March, around the time it ordered a nationwide shutdown of schools and non-essential businesses.



Funding opportunity for researcher

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science

- <https://fastgrants.org/>

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