

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

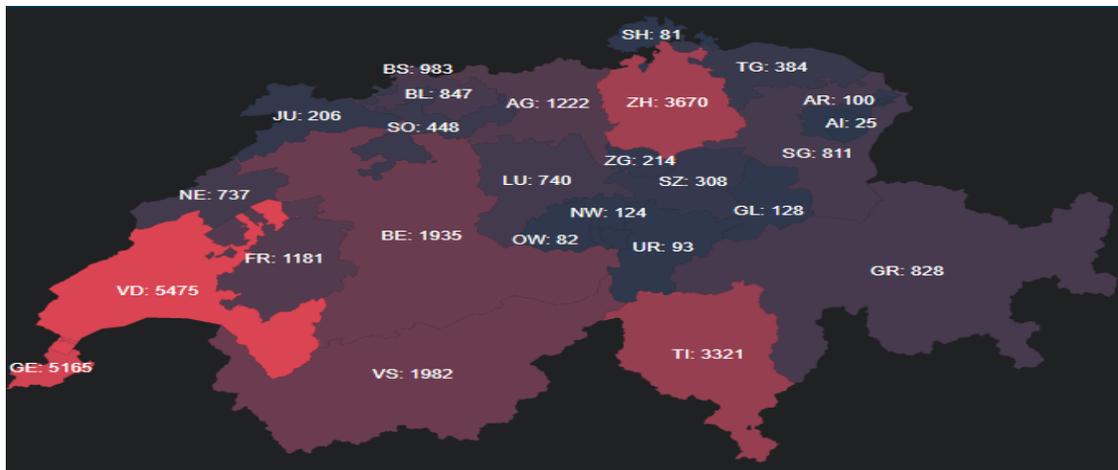
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 440,500 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (118,487) and Brazil (44,148). There have been more than 8,163,040 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Researchers at Imperial College London will this week begin clinical trials of a possible coronavirus vaccine in 300 people. The healthy participants, aged between 18 and 70, will all receive two doses of the vaccine over the coming weeks, and the hopes is that tests could then move on to 6,000 volunteers if there is an effective immune response. Rather than giving people a weakened form of the illness, the Imperial vaccine instead uses synthetic strands of genetic code based on the genetic material of Sars-CoV-2, the “novel coronavirus” responsible for the pandemic. Robin Shattock, the Imperial College London professor leading its development, has told Bloomberg that early protective vaccines might not completely stop a person contracting the virus. “Is that protection against infection? Is it protection against illness? Is it protection against severe disease? It’s quite possible a vaccine that only protects against severe disease would be very useful.” When injected, the Imperial experimental vaccine instructs muscle cells to produce virus proteins to protect against future infection. In animal tests, the vaccine was shown to be safe and showed “encouraging signs of an effective immune response”, Shattock’s team said.
- Authorities in Beijing have described the city’s coronavirus outbreak as “extremely severe” as dozens more cases emerged and travel from the city was curtailed. Additional neighbourhoods were fenced off on Tuesday, with security checkpoints set up at residential compounds, and high-risk people – such as close contacts of people who test positive – prevented from leaving the city. More than 20 neighborhoods in the Chinese capital have now been designated medium risk, which means authorities can impose stricter restrictions on the movement of people and cars and can carry out temperature checks. Health authorities said sealed-off residences and people in quarantine would have food and medicine delivered to them.
- The WHO regional director for the Americas, Carissa Etienne, has said the region is fast approaching four million cases of coronavirus and the pandemic continues to accelerate. Etienne said Brazil accounts for 23% of the more than 3.8 million cases in the Americas and 23% of the almost 204,000 deaths in the region, and “we are not seeing transmission slowing down.”
- People with underlying health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes are six times more likely to be hospitalised with Covid-19 and have a risk of coronavirus-related death 12 times higher than otherwise healthy individuals, a US study found. Men were more likely than women to have bad outcomes, and the prevalence of hospitalisations and deaths were highest among patients aged 70 years and older, according to a US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that confirmed similar reports from outbreak hotspots in recent months. By analysing data from over 1.3 million Covid-19 patients between 22 January and 30 May, the CDC found that the most prevalent underlying health conditions in more severe cases were cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic lung disease. About 45% of patients who had underlying health conditions were hospitalised, compared with 7.6% of those without such chronic health issues.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	118,487	2,188,203	891,068
Brazil	44,148	891,896	464,774
UK	41,969	298,136	N/A
Italy	34,371	237,290	177,010
France	29,436	157,372	73,044
Spain	27,136	291,189	N/A
Mexico	17,580	150,264	113,006
India	10,015	347,821	184,243
Belgium	9,663	60,155	16,625
Iran	9,065	192,439	152,675
Germany	8,887	188,086	173,100
Canada	8,186	99,331	61,260
Russia	7,284	545,458	294,306
Peru	6,860	232,992	119,409
Netherlands	6,070	49,087	N/A
Sweden	4,939	53,323	N/A
Turkey	4,825	179,831	152,364
China	4,634	83,221	78,377
Ecuador	3,929	47,322	23,349
Chile	3,383	184,449	148,792
Pakistan	2,839	148,921	56,390
Indonesia	2,231	40,400	15,703
Switzerland	1,939	31,146	28,900
Ireland	1,706	25,321	22,698
Colombia	1,726	53,063	19,952
Egypt	1,672	46,289	12,329
Portugal	1,522	37,336	23,212
South Africa	1,568	73,533	39,867
Romania	1,437	22,415	16,071
Poland	1,272	30,195	14,654
Bangladesh	1,262	94,481	36,264
Philippines	1,103	26,781	6,552
Saudi Arabia	1,052	136,315	89,540
Japan	925	17,502	15,686
Ukraine	912	32,476	14,528
Argentina	862	32,785	10,174
Algeria	777	11,031	7,735
Austria	681	17,189	16,089
Iraq	712	22,700	9,862
Bolivia	632	19,073	3,430
Dominican Republic	615	23,686	14,133
Denmark	598	12,250	11,125
Hungary	565	4,077	2,516
Afghanistan	491	26,310	5,508
Sudan	468	7,435	2,720
Panama	448	21,422	13,766
Nigeria	424	16,658	5,349
Moldova	423	12,254	6,901
Guatemala	399	10,272	1,966
Czechia	331	10,095	7,358
Finland	326	7,112	6,200
Belarus	318	55,369	31,273
Honduras	322	9,178	1,025
Israel	302	19,338	15,438
Kuwait	303	36,958	28,206
UAE	293	42,982	28,861
Armenia	293	17,489	6,571
S. Korea	278	12,155	10,760
Cameroon	276	9,864	5,570
Serbia	256	12,426	11,511
Norway	242	8,655	8,138
Morocco	212	8,921	7,880
North Macedonia	201	4,289	1,757
Greece	185	3,148	1,374
Bulgaria	176	3,341	1,784
Bosnia and Herzegovina	168	3,085	2,178
Yemen	208	844	79
Malaysia	121	8,505	7,733
Azerbaijan	126	10,662	5,948
DRC	112	4,974	628
Luxembourg	110	4,072	3,931
Slovenia	109	1,499	1,359
Oman	114	25,269	11,089
Croatia	107	2,255	2,140
Kenya	105	3,860	1,328

Mali	104	1,860	1,125
Australia	102	7,347	6,853
Somalia	88	2,642	622
Mauritania	91	1,887	360
Cuba	84	2,273	1,994
Kazakhstan	88	15,192	9,647
Qatar	80	82,077	60,461
Lithuania	76	1,776	1,441
El Salvador	76	3,941	2,041
Haiti	76	4,441	24
Chad	73	850	720
Estonia	69	1,975	1,728
Niger	66	980	885
Senegal	70	5,247	3,525
Ethiopia	61	3,630	738
Thailand	58	3,135	2,993
Nicaragua	55	1,464	953
Ghana	54	11,964	4,258
Burkina Faso	53	894	807
Sierra Leone	51	1,176	683
Andorra	52	854	789
Tajikistan	50	5,160	3,624
Tunisia	49	1,125	1,002
Channel Islands	48	568	512
Bahrain	47	19,013	13,267
Ivory Coast	46	5,439	2,590
Djibouti	43	4,501	3,183
San Marino	42	694	590
Albania	37	1,672	1,064
Liberia	33	509	222
Lebanon	32	1,473	889
Mayotte	29	2,310	2,058
Slovakia	28	1,552	1,426
Latvia	28	1,098	875
Kyrgyzstan	28	2,472	1,847
South Sudan	27	1,693	49
Singapore	26	40,969	31,163
Guinea	26	4,572	3,259
Venezuela	26	3,062	835
Congo	27	883	391
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Gabon	27	4,033	1,334
Uruguay	23	848	792
New Zealand	22	1,506	1,482
Tanzania	21	509	183
Nepal	19	6,591	1,158
Uzbekistan	19	5,328	4,054
Cyprus	18	985	807
Guinea-Bissau	15	1,492	153
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Georgia	14	879	724
Martinique	14	202	98
Guadeloupe	14	171	157
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	532	308
Costa Rica	12	1,744	771
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,306	200
Sao Tome and Principe	12	662	177
Guyana	12	159	99
Sri Lanka	11	1,914	1,371
Zambia	11	1,405	1,142
Paraguay	12	1,296	673
Bahamas	11	104	72
Iceland	10	1,812	1,796
Madagascar	12	1,317	417
Jamaica	10	621	430
Libya	10	467	70
Mauritius	10	337	325
Jordan	9	981	693
Malta	9	656	608
Benin	9	532	236
Montenegro	9	326	315
Bermuda	9	144	127
Maldives	8	2,065	1,540
Trinidad and Tobago	8	123	109
CAR	10	2,289	382
Taiwan	7	445	433

- In London a study into the steroid dexamethasone has been found to reduce the risk deaths in serious coronavirus cases by a third, trial results show. Researchers led by a team from the University of Oxford administered the widely available drug to more than 2,000 severely ill Covid-19 patients. Among those who could only breathe with the help of a ventilator, dexamethasone reduced deaths by 35%, and by one-fifth in other patients receiving oxygen only, according to preliminary results.
- A survey conducted in Italy on the psychological impact of coronavirus lockdowns on children has shown youngsters were more irritable, had trouble sleeping and in some cases regressed developmentally. Those symptoms were more pronounced in families in which the parents were particularly stressed and in families with elderly relatives at high risk of becoming seriously ill with Covid-19, the national survey by the Giannina Gaslini Pediatric Hospital in Genoa in conjunction with the University of Genoa found. Italy's health ministry on Tuesday released the results of the anonymous survey of 6,800 people who voluntarily responded to an online questionnaire between 24 March and 3 April. The questionnaire on the Gaslini website, which started two weeks into a 10-week lockdown in Italy, asked a series of questions about how respondents and their families were experiencing the government-ordered measures. Among those with children under age 6, 65% reported their children suffered behavior problems and regression. Some respondents also reported their children wept inconsolably, the researchers found.



- **Funding opportunity for researchers**

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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