

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

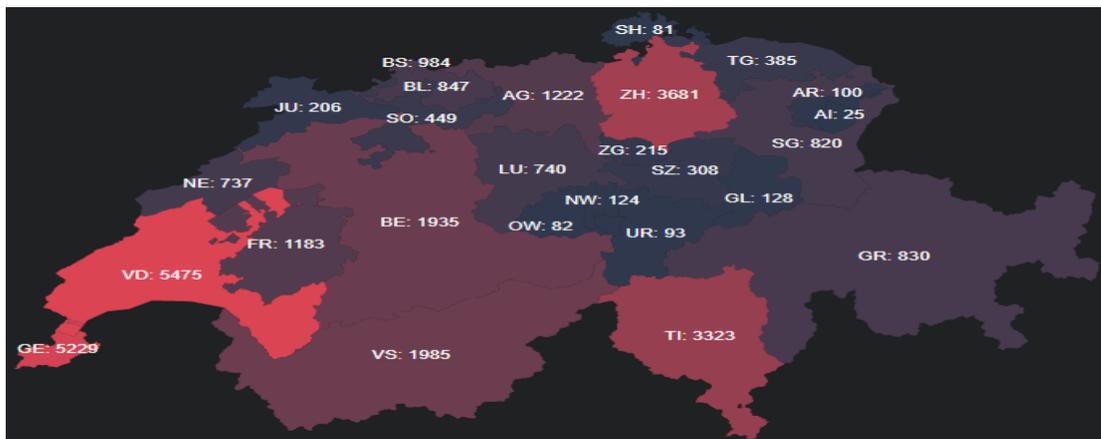
17.06.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 447,360 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (119,199) and Brazil (45,400). There have been more than 8,309,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Dexamethasone is associated with reduced mortality risk among patients with severe COVID-19, making it the first drug to show such an effect, according to a statement by trial investigators at the University of Oxford. Over 6000 hospitalized patients were randomized to receive either dexamethasone (6 mg daily) or usual care for 10 days. Dexamethasone was associated with significantly lower risk for death among ventilated patients (rate ratio, 0.65) and other patients receiving oxygen (RR, 0.80), compared with those given usual care. Patients who didn't require respiratory support did not see a benefit. The authors estimate that eight ventilated patients or 25 patients requiring only oxygen would need to be treated with dexamethasone to prevent one death. The results have not been published in a journal yet.
- The first patient in a phase 3 trial was dosed with a drug from Eli Lilly that the pharmaceutical company hopes can help hospitalized patients with Covid-19. The drug — named baricitinib and marketed as Olumiant — is a therapy approved to treat adults that have moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis. The phase 3 study will enroll 400 patients with Covid-19 who have at least one marker for inflammation but have not been put on a ventilator by the start of the study. The study looks at whether the drug could reduce cytokine storm, the body's hyper-inflammatory response to the virus and a severe complication that can come with Covid-19 infection.
- New Zealand's Prime Minister said on today that the two new coronavirus cases reported on yesterday was due to an "unacceptable failure of the system." "This case represents an unacceptable failure of the system. It should never have happened and it cannot be repeated" said Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. The cases marked the first instances of coronavirus in New Zealand to be reported in 24 days, according to the country's Ministry of Health. The two cases are both women from the same family who arrived in New Zealand from the UK via Australia and were permitted on compassionate grounds to leave an isolation hotel in Auckland and travel to Wellington via private vehicle to visit a relative who has since died, Director-General of Health Dr. Ashley Bloomfield said in news conference yesterday.
- Around 356,000 people linked to the Xinfadi market coronavirus cluster have been tested according to Beijing officials. Those tested include residents in the surrounding communities, those who have been tracked by big data and personnel in various markets across the city according to Zhang Qiang, an official with the Beijing government. Beijing's testing capacity currently stands at around 400,000 tests a day but will continue to increase, the Beijing official said. Zhang added that some residents were tested after reporting themselves to authorities during "community door-knocking initiatives."
- A German pharmaceutical company has been authorized to launch human trials for a vaccine against coronavirus by the federal institute for Vaccines and Biomedicines. CureVac, a company based in Tuebingen, will start testing on 168 healthy volunteers and is the 11th authorized clinical trial for a preventive vaccine globally. The announcement comes on the same day that a district of the German capital has placed more than 300 households into quarantine after 57 new outbreaks were registered.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	119,199	2,212,607	903,137
Brazil	45,467	929,149	477,364
UK	42,153	299,251	N/A
Italy	34,405	237,500	178,526
France	29,547	157,716	73,335
Spain	27,136	291,408	N/A
Mexico	18,310	154,863	116,178
India	12,028	359,398	187,718
Belgium	9,675	60,244	16,684
Iran	9,185	195,051	154,812
Germany	8,918	189,027	173,600
Canada	8,213	99,467	61,443
Russia	7,478	553,301	304,342
Peru	7,056	237,156	125,205
Netherlands	6,074	49,204	N/A
Sweden	5,041	54,562	N/A
Turkey	4,842	181,298	153,379
China	4,634	83,265	78,379
Ecuador	3,970	47,943	23,684
Chile	3,383	184,449	156,232
Pakistan	2,975	154,760	58,437
Indonesia	2,276	41,431	16,243
Switzerland	1,956	31,183	28,900
Ireland	1,709	25,334	22,698
Colombia	1,801	54,931	20,366
Egypt	1,766	47,856	12,730
Portugal	1,523	37,672	23,580
South Africa	1,625	76,334	42,063
Romania	1,451	22,760	16,117
Poland	1,286	30,701	14,921
Bangladesh	1,305	98,489	38,189
Philippines	1,108	27,238	6,820
Saudi Arabia	1,091	141,234	91,662
Japan	927	17,587	15,701
Ukraine	943	33,234	14,943
Argentina	886	34,159	10,512
Algeria	788	11,147	7,842
Austria	687	17,203	16,099
Iraq	773	24,254	10,770
Bolivia	659	19,883	3,752
Dominican Republic	633	24,105	14,216
Denmark	598	12,294	11,185
Hungary	567	4,078	2,547
Afghanistan	504	26,874	6,158
Sudan	477	7,740	2,820
Panama	457	21,962	13,774
Nigeria	455	17,148	5,623
Moldova	427	12,254	7,077
Guatemala	418	10,706	2,096
Czechia	332	10,112	7,360
Finland	326	7,117	6,200
Belarus	324	56,032	32,735
Honduras	330	9,656	1,075
Israel	303	19,637	15,459
Kuwait	306	37,533	28,896
UAE	293	42,982	28,861
Armenia	302	18,033	6,814
S. Korea	279	12,198	10,774
Cameroon	276	9,864	5,570
Serbia	257	12,522	11,511
Norway	243	8,680	8,138
Morocco	212	8,985	7,960
North Macedonia	210	4,482	1,803
Greece	185	3,148	1,374
Bulgaria	181	3,453	1,817
Bosnia and Herzegovina	168	3,141	2,197
Yemen	214	885	91
Malaysia	121	8,515	7,873
Azerbaijan	126	10,662	5,948
DRC	115	5,100	640
Luxembourg	110	4,075	3,933
Slovenia	109	1,503	1,359
Oman	116	26,079	11,797
Croatia	107	2,258	2,141
Kenya	105	3,860	1,328
Mali	107	1,890	1,168

Australia	102	7,370	6,859
Somalia	88	2,658	649
Mauritania	93	2,057	373
Cuba	84	2,280	1,999
Kazakhstan	88	15,542	9,716
Qatar	82	83,174	62,172
Lithuania	76	1,778	1,447
El Salvador	78	4,066	2,137
Haiti	80	4,547	24
Chad	74	853	720
Estonia	69	1,977	1,743
Niger	66	1,016	885
Senegal	73	5,369	3,606
Ethiopia	63	3,759	849
Thailand	58	3,135	2,996
Nicaragua	64	1,823	1,238
Ghana	66	12,590	4,410
Burkina Faso	53	895	809
Sierra Leone	51	1,225	686
Andorra	52	854	791
Tajikistan	50	5,160	3,624
Tunisia	50	1,128	1,004
Channel Islands	48	568	512
Bahrain	48	19,553	13,866
Ivory Coast	46	5,679	2,637
Djibouti	43	4,539	3,324
San Marino	42	696	591
Albania	38	1,722	1,077
Liberia	33	516	240
Lebanon	32	1,489	907
Mayotte	29	2,333	2,058
Slovakia	28	1,561	1,437
Latvia	30	1,104	875
Kyrgyzstan	30	2,562	1,902
South Sudan	30	1,776	58
Singapore	26	41,216	31,163
Guinea	26	4,639	3,327
Venezuela	27	3,150	835
Congo	27	883	391
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Gabon	29	4,114	1,432
Uruguay	24	849	801
New Zealand	22	1,506	1,482
Tanzania	21	509	183
Nepal	20	7,177	1,167
Uzbekistan	19	5,638	4,131
Cyprus	18	985	816
Guinea-Bissau	15	1,492	153
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Georgia	14	888	731
Martinique	14	202	98
Guadeloupe	14	171	157
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	537	344
Costa Rica	12	1,796	794
Equatorial Guinea	32	1,664	515
Sao Tome and Principe	12	671	182
Guyana	12	171	99
Sri Lanka	11	1,924	1,397
Zambia	11	1,405	1,142
Paraguay	13	1,303	699
Bahamas	11	104	72
Iceland	10	1,815	1,797
Madagascar	12	1,378	450
Jamaica	10	621	449
Libya	10	484	76
Mauritius	10	337	325
Jordan	9	987	693
Malta	9	662	610
Benin	9	572	237
Montenegro	9	326	315
Bermuda	9	144	128
Maldives	8	2,094	1,670
Trinidad and Tobago	8	123	109
CAR	14	2,410	396
Taiwan	7	445	434
Barbados	7	97	83
Cabo Verde	7	791	354
Malawi	6	564	73
Myanmar	6	262	185
Syria	6	177	78

- A combination of physical distancing, isolation and contact tracing could be the most effective way to control transmission of Covid-19, researchers in Britain reported Tuesday. “Our findings reinforce the growing body of evidence which suggests that we can’t rely on one single public health measure to achieve epidemic control,” said Dr. Adam Kucharski of the Center for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Disease at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who worked on the study. Kucharski and colleagues estimated that when communities combine isolation of those with symptoms with household quarantines and testing of contacts, transmission rates could be cut by up to 64%. “We estimated that if some level of physical distancing were maintained, it could supplement reductions in transmission from contact tracing,” they wrote in their report, published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases.
- A South Dakota company expects to start human trials next month for a Covid-19 antibody treatment derived from the plasma of cows. But these aren't just any cows. Scientists genetically engineered the animals to give them an immune system that's part human. That way, the animals produce disease-fighting human antibodies to Covid-19, which are then turned into a drug to attack the virus.



- **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

- <https://twitter.com/WHO>
- <https://www.swissinfo.ch/>
- <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.corona-data.ch/>
- <https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-06-17-20-intl/index.html>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/jun/17/coronavirus-live-news>