

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

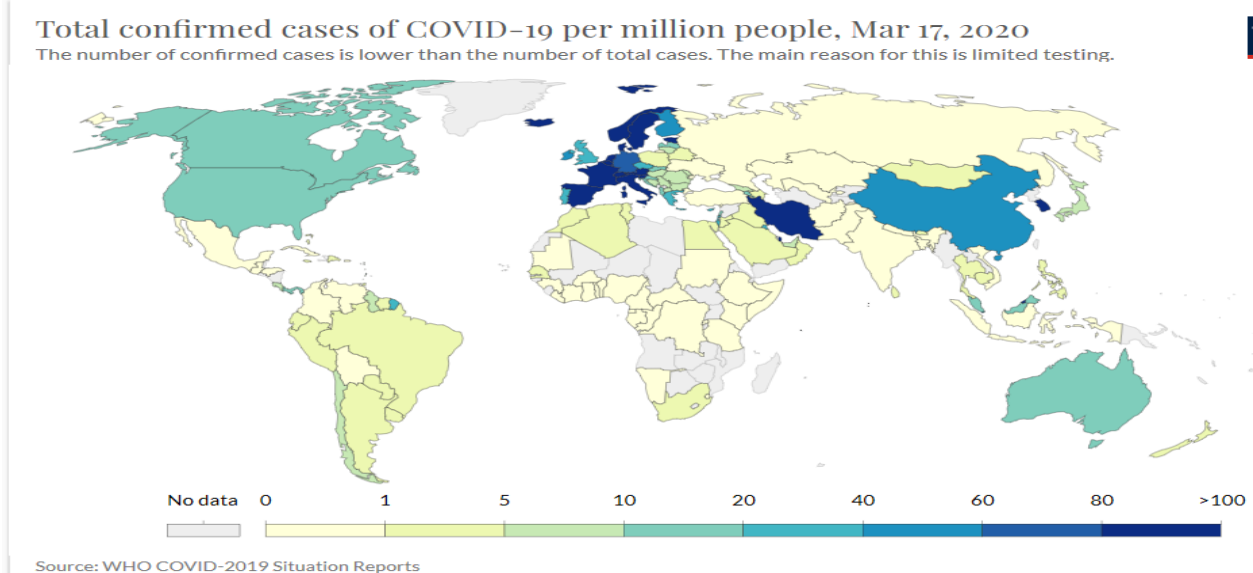
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 8,300 worldwide, with the vast majority in mainland China (3,237) and Italy (2,503). There have been more than 200,000 global cases in 171 countries.
- The World Health Organization announced in a press briefing in Geneva today that it has organized a study to examine various untested coronavirus treatments. "*WHO and its partners are therefore organizing a study in many countries in which some of these untested treatments are compared with each other,*" WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during the briefing. "*This large, international study is designed to generate the robust data we need, to show which treatments are the most effective*".
- Tedros added: "*We have called this study the SOLIDARITY trial. The SOLIDARITY trial provides simplified procedures to enable even hospitals that have been overloaded to participate. Many countries have already confirmed that they will join the SOLIDARITY trial — Argentina, Bahrain, Canada, France, Iran, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and Thailand — and I trust many more will join.*"
- An infection control experiment that was rolled out in a small Italian community at the start of Europe's coronavirus crisis has stopped all new infections in the town that was at the center of the country's outbreak. Through testing and retesting of all 3,300 inhabitants of the town of Vò, near Venice, regardless of whether they were exhibiting symptoms, and rigorous quarantining of their contacts once infection was confirmed, health authorities have been able to completely stop the spread of the illness there.
- China says a flu drug approved in Japan was effective in a study of 340 coronavirus patients. Lung X-rays showed improvements in ~91% of patients treated with favipiravir, compared to 62% of those not treated with drug.
- The canton of Bern is opening a first center for Corona rapid tests next week. If you have symptoms of corona, you can soon have it easily tested in the canton and get the result on the same day. Up to 1000 smears can be taken per day. The canton of Basel-Landschaft uses mobile test teams.
- Iran reported its single biggest jump in deaths from the new coronavirus on Wednesday, saying that a further 147 had died in a nearly 15% increase that raises the death toll to 1,135 people nationwide.
- The Federal Council of Switzerland rations painkillers. As of 2 p.m. today, doctors and pharmacies can only give their customers one pack per purchase. All common headache tablets are affected, respectively antipyretic products as well as Opioids. These include acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin), paracetamol (Dafalgan, Panadol, etc.) and ibuprofen (Algifor, Brufen, etc.).
- In the canton of Ticino, four more people died of the Covid-19 within 24 hours. This increases the number of victims in the southern canton to 14.
- The European Union has closed its borders for 30 days.
- All 50 states in the US now have confirmed cases.
- More than 250 million Europeans are in full or partial lockdown as Belgium and Germany joined Italy, Spain and France in closing schools and all non-essential shops, and urging – or requiring – people not to leave their homes.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
China	80'894	3'237	69'614
Italy	31'506	2'503	2'941
Iran	17'361	1'135	5'389
Spain	13'910	623	1'081
Germany	11'302	27	86
S. Korea	8'413	84	1'540
France	7'730	175	602
USA	7'568	117	106
Switzerland	3'076	33	15
UK	2'626	104	65
Netherlands	2'051	58	2
Norway	1'550	6	1
Austria	1'646	4	9
Belgium	1'486	14	31
Sweden	1'292	8	1
Denmark	1'057	4	1
Japan	899	29	144
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	712	7	456
Malaysia	790	2	60
Australia	565	6	43
Canada	598	8	12
Portugal	642	2	4
Qatar	442	0	4
Czechia	464	0	3
Greece	418	5	14
Israel	433	0	11
Finland	359	0	10
Brazil	367	1	2
Slovenia	286	1	0
Singapore	313	0	114
Bahrain	255	1	95
Pakistan	272	0	2
Iceland	250	0	5
Estonia	258	0	1
Ireland	292	2	5
Romania	260	0	19
Poland	251	5	1
Chile	238	0	0
Philippines	202	17	4
Thailand	212	1	41
Indonesia	227	19	11
Saudi Arabia	171	0	6
Egypt	196	6	26
Hong Kong	181	4	92
Iraq	164	12	41
India	155	3	14
Luxembourg	203	2	0
Kuwait	142	0	15
Lebanon	133	4	4
Peru	145	0	1
Russia	147	0	8
Ecuador	155	2	0
San Marino	119	11	4
UAE	113	0	26
Slovakia	105	0	0
Mexico	93	0	4
Bulgaria	92	2	0
Taiwan	100	1	20
Armenia	102	0	1
Panama	86	1	0
Argentina	79	2	3
Croatia	81	0	5
Vietnam	75	0	16
Colombia	93	0	1
Serbia	83	0	1
South Africa	116	0	0
Algeria	72	6	10
Latvia	71	0	1
Brunei	68	0	0
Albania	59	2	0
Hungary	58	1	2
Faeroe Islands	58	0	1
Turkey	98	1	0
Cyprus	49	0	0
Sri Lanka	51	0	3
Costa Rica	50	0	0
Palestine	44	0	0
Morocco	49	2	1
Malta	48	0	2
Belarus	51	0	5
Jordan	52	0	1
Georgia	38	0	1
Cambodia	35	0	1
Kazakhstan	36	0	0
Venezuela	36	0	0
Moldova	30	1	1
Uruguay	50	0	0

Azerbaijan	34	1	6
Senegal	31	0	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	39	0	2
North Macedonia	35	0	1
Oman	33	0	12
Tunisia	29	0	1
Afghanistan	22	0	1
Lithuania	33	0	1
Dominican Republic	21	1	0
Andorra	39	0	1
Martinique	19	1	0
Burkina Faso	20	1	0
Macao	15	0	10
Maldives	13	0	0
New Zealand	20	0	0
Jamaica	13	0	2
Bolivia	12	0	0
French Guiana	11	0	0
Uzbekistan	15	0	0
Bangladesh	14	1	3
Cameroon	10	0	0
Monaco	9	0	0
Paraguay	11	0	0
Réunion	12	0	0
Guatemala	8	1	0
Honduras	9	0	0
Guyana	4	1	0
Ukraine	14	2	0
Liechtenstein	19	0	0
Rwanda	8	0	0
Channel Islands	6	0	0
Ethiopia	6	0	0
Ghana	7	0	0
Guadeloupe	27	0	0
Cuba	7	0	0
Guam	8	0	0
Mongolia	6	0	0
Puerto Rico	5	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	7	0	0
Ivory Coast	6	0	1
Kenya	7	0	0
Seychelles	6	0	0
Nigeria	8	0	1
Aruba	4	0	0
Curaçao	3	0	0
DRC	7	0	0
French Polynesia	3	0	0
Gibraltar	8	0	2
St. Barth	3	0	0
Barbados	2	0	0
Liberia	2	0	0
Namibia	2	0	0
Saint Lucia	2	0	0
Saint Martin	3	0	0
U.S. Virgin Islands	2	0	0
Cayman Islands	1	1	0
Sudan	2	1	0
Nepal	1	0	1
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0	0
Bahamas	1	0	0
Benin	2	0	0
Bhutan	1	0	0
CAR	1	0	0
Congo	1	0	0
Equatorial Guinea	4	0	0
Gabon	3	0	0
Greenland	2	0	0
Guinea	1	0	0
Vatican City	1	0	0
Mauritania	2	0	0
Mayotte	3	0	0
St. Vincent Grenadines	1	0	0
Somalia	1	0	0
Suriname	1	0	0
Eswatini	1	0	0
Tanzania	3	0	0
Togo	1	0	0

- Belgium is the latest country to go into lockdown, with citizens asked to stay at home and limit contact to their closest family.
- Medical supplies from China arrived in France today. The minister detailed the delivery, saying that “about a million masks” were to be sent to France altogether.
- Cuba’s Health Ministry confirmed its first novel coronavirus-related death, a 61-year-old Italian man, today.
- Governments are pumping huge sums of stimulus funds into their economies to keep industries from collapsing.



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%5bttnews%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>

Sources

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- <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus#confirmed-covid-19-cases-by-country>