

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

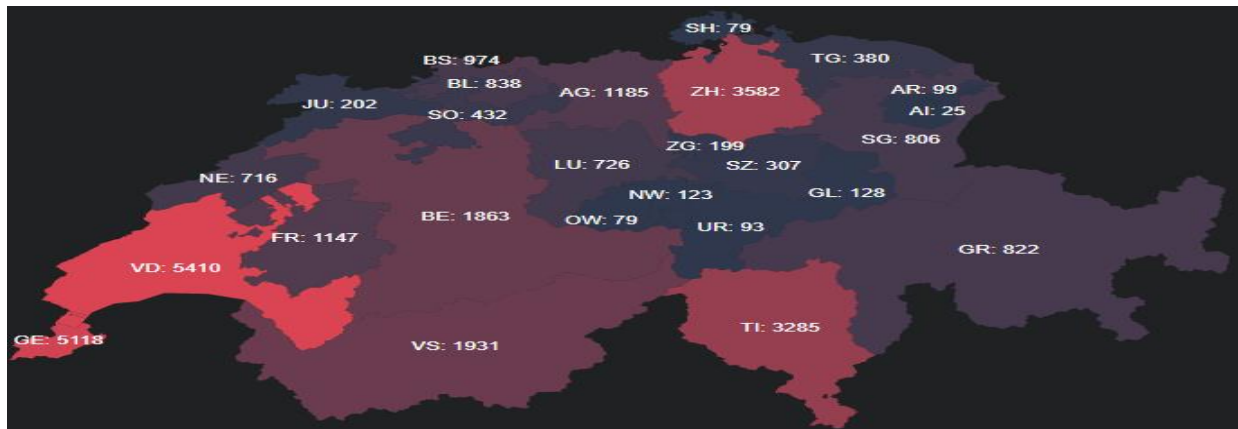
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 318,000 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (91,268) and UK (34,796). There have been more than 4,851,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- More than 100 countries have proposed a draft resolution calling for an independent "evaluation" into the coronavirus pandemic. It would be presented to the WHO during its 73rd World Health Assembly today. The draft does not single out China, but Beijing is facing mounting international scrutiny for its initial handling of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- The world has "been humbled by this very small microbe," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said to the 73rd World Health Assembly today. "If this virus is teaching us anything, it's humility," he said. "Six months ago, it would have been inconceivable to most that the world's biggest cities would fall," Tedros added. "That shops, restaurants, schools and workplaces would be closed. That global travel would grind to a standstill. That simply shaking hands could be life threatening." He urged officials to "treat this virus with the respect and attention it deserves," noting that millions of cases have been reported around the world. "But numbers don't even begin to tell the story of this virus, each loss of life leaves a scar for families, communities and nations."
- Study subjects who received Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine had positive early results, according to a press release issued Monday by the biotech company, which partnered with the National Institutes of Health to develop the vaccine. These early data come from a Phase 1 clinical trial, which typically study a small number of people and focus on whether a vaccine is safe. The information has not been peer reviewed, nor published in a medical journal.
- Patients who re-tested positive for coronavirus after being discharged are not contagious, South Korean health officials said Monday. The Korean Centre for Disease Control (KCDC) made the announcement after conducting a lab analysis of 108 cases and epidemiology investigations on 285 cases to determine whether coronavirus patients should be quarantined for two weeks after being released from hospital. Health officials tested 790 close contacts of the 285 cases who re-tested positive for the virus after recovering, but found no infections linked to the recovered patients.
- Loss of sense of smell or taste have been added to the official list of coronavirus symptoms in the UK, the Department of Health and Social Care said Monday. A government statement said "from today all individuals should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever or anosmia." Anosmia refers to the loss of or changes in a person's sense of smell. According to the department of health, "it can also affect your sense of taste as the two are closely linked."
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron announced a new Franco-German fund worth 500 billion euros as part of the European Union's coronavirus recovery plan. Speaking during a joint video conference today, Merkel confirmed that the European Commission will borrow money to boost the European economy, which has been severely weakened by emergency measures implemented to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	91'268	1'534'453	290
UK	34'796	246'406	160
Italy	32'007	225'886	99
Spain	27'650	277'719	0
France	28'108	179'569	0
Brazil	16'203	244'135	85
Belgium	9'080	55'559	28
Germany	8'085	177'182	36
Iran	7'057	122'492	69
Netherlands	5'694	44'141	14
Canada	5'805	77'309	23
China	4'634	82'954	0
Mexico	5'177	49'219	132
Turkey	4'171	150'593	31
Sweden	3'698	30'377	19
India	3'155	100'293	130
Ecuador	2'736	33'182	0
Russia	2'722	290'678	91
Peru	2'648	92'273	0
Switzerland	1'886	30'597	5
Ireland	1'547	24'200	4
Portugal	1'231	29'209	13
Romania	1'107	17'036	0
Indonesia	1'191	18'010	43
Poland	936	18'885	11
Philippines	831	12'718	7
Pakistan	903	42'125	30
Japan	744	16'285	0
Austria	629	16'269	0
Egypt	630	12'229	0
Denmark	548	10'968	1
Algeria	555	7'201	7
Colombia	574	15'574	0
Ukraine	535	18'616	21
Hungary	462	3'535	11
Dominican Republic	434	12'725	6
Chile	478	46'059	28
Argentina	374	8'068	1
Czechia	298	8'527	0
Finland	300	6'380	2
Saudi Arabia	320	57'345	8
Bangladesh	349	23'870	21
Israel	272	16'621	0
S. Korea	263	11'065	1
Panama	275	9'606	6
Norway	233	8'257	1
Serbia	231	10'699	1
South Africa	264	15'515	0
UAE	220	23'358	0
Moldova	217	6'138	6
Morocco	192	6'952	0
Nigeria	182	5'959	0
Greece	165	2'836	2
Belarus	171	30'572	6
Bolivia	169	4'088	4
Afghanistan	173	7'072	4
Cameroon	140	3'105	0
Honduras	142	2'646	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	133	2'304	0
Iraq	127	3'554	4
Malaysia	113	6'941	0
Luxembourg	107	3'945	0
Slovenia	104	1'466	0
Bulgaria	110	2'235	2
Australia	99	7'060	1
North Macedonia	104	1'817	3
Croatia	95	2'228	0
Sudan	105	2'591	8
Kuwait	118	15'691	6
Cuba	79	1'881	0
Estonia	64	1'784	1
Thailand	56	3'031	0
Lithuania	59	1'547	3
Somalia	56	1'421	0
Burkina Faso	51	796	0
DRC	61	1'455	0
Armenia	61	4'823	1
Niger	54	904	0
Andorra	51	761	0
Tunisia	45	1'037	0

Mali	52	874	0
Channel Islands	43	554	0
Kenya	50	912	0
Chad	53	503	0
San Marino	41	654	0
Azerbaijan	40	3'387	1
Kazakhstan	35	6'440	1
Albania	31	948	0
Guatemala	35	1'912	2
Tajikistan	41	1'729	2
Slovakia	28	1'495	0
Lebanon	26	931	0
Sierra Leone	32	505	0
Ghana	29	5'735	0
Ivory Coast	27	2'109	0
Senegal	26	2'544	1
Isle of Man	24	335	0
Singapore	22	28'343	0
New Zealand	21	1'499	0
Tanzania	21	509	0
El Salvador	30	1'413	3
Liberia	22	229	1
Latvia	19	1'009	0
Uruguay	20	734	0
Haiti	20	456	0
Oman	25	5'379	3
Cyprus	17	917	0
Sint Maarten	15	77	0
Qatar	15	33'969	0
Guinea	16	2'658	0
Mayotte	18	1'342	0
Martinique	14	192	0
Diamond Princess	13	712	0
Guadeloupe	13	155	0
Kyrgyzstan	14	1'216	0
Georgia	12	701	0
Yemen	20	128	0
Uzbekistan	13	2'779	1
Paraguay	11	786	0
Congo	15	391	0
Togo	11	301	0
Bahamas	11	96	0
Bahrain	12	7'156	0
Iceland	10	1'802	0
Venezuela	10	541	0
Mauritius	10	332	0
Guyana	10	117	0
Gabon	11	1'320	0
Sri Lanka	9	986	0
Jordan	9	613	0
Jamaica	9	520	0
Montenegro	9	324	0
Costa Rica	10	863	0
Bermuda	9	123	0
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	0
Nicaragua	8	25	0
Zambia	7	761	0
Taiwan	7	440	0
Barbados	7	88	0
Equatorial Guinea	7	594	0
Malta	6	558	0

- Vaccines and targeted therapeutics for treatment of this disease are currently lacking. Report, published in nature, investigated a human monoclonal antibody that neutralizes SARS-CoV-2 (and SARS-CoV) in cell culture. This cross-neutralizing antibody targets a communal epitope on these viruses and may offer potential for prevention and treatment of COVID-19. Presently, no approved targeted therapeutics are available for COVID-19. Monoclonal antibodies targeting vulnerable sites on viral surface proteins are increasingly recognized as a promising class of drugs against infectious diseases and have shown therapeutic efficacy for a number of viruses <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16256-y>.
- South Africa reported 1,160 new coronavirus infections, the highest daily number since the first case was recorded in March.
- Some 69 out of 209 employees at an agricultural producer near St. Brieuc in northwestern France have tested positive for coronavirus following a mass screening, according to the local health authority.
- Italy is reopening bars, cafes, restaurants and hairdressers – with social distancing measures in place – for the first time since its lockdown began. Meanwhile, in Spain, almost three-quarters of the country progressed to the second phase of its lockdown de-escalation, allowing millions of people to meet up in groups of up to 10, and to have a drink or a meal on cafe and restaurant terraces.
- The next few months will be “very hard” but “we will do everything we can to help everyone”, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said in a letter to Italians published Monday in the daily newspaper.



- **Funding opportunity for researcher**

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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