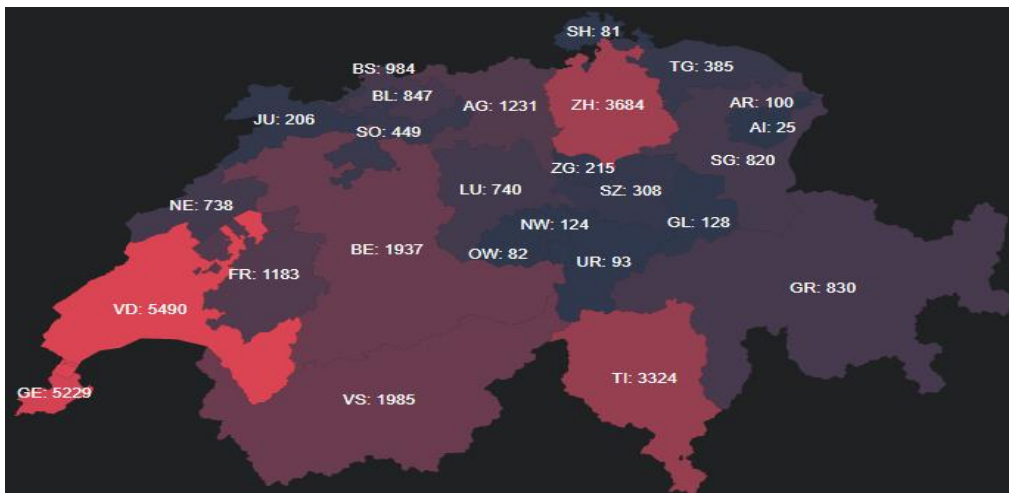# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
18.06.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 452,500 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (120,095) and Brazil (46,665). There have been more than 8,491 ,610 global cases in 210 countries and territories.

- WHO welcomed the UK's successful trial of dexamethasone, the low-cost anti-inflammatory drug found to save lives when used on coronavirus patients. The global body said it marked a "lifesaving breakthrough" in the fight against the virus and ordered its own analysis on the drug. However, some scientists - including South Korea's top public health official - expressed caution on the drug.

- Beijing's cluster of new coronavirus cases may have begun a month earlier than first thought, partly due to asymptomatic infections, according to the director of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Amid tight restrictions to stop the spread of the capital's cluster, which now numbers more than 150 cases, Gao Fu said the outbreak probably did not occur in early June or late May, but probably a month earlier, according to state media. Gao said the volume of asymptomatic cases detected in the outbreak may be partially responsible, but that further investigation was needed. *"A lot of asymptomatic or mild cases were detected in this outbreak and that is why the environment has such amount of virus,"* said Gao at a seminar in Shanghai on Tuesday. More than 356,000 people have been tested in a five-day period, with entire neighborhoods walled in or under entry monitoring. Schools have been closed flights cancelled, and travel in and out of the city restricted. On Wednesday the emergency response level was raised from level three to level two.

- Germany has agreed to ban large events for another four months to guard against a second spike.

- The Danish Government has collaborated with IT service provider Netcompany to create digital solutions to ease the national lockdown restrictions. The Danish tech company and the National Board of Digitisation have developed 'COVIDmeter', which allows users to input and monitor coronavirus symptoms, and the 'Mobile Proximity App', which tracks the spread of the virus. COVIDmeter (already available for use) is intended to provide Danish health authorities with information on the continued spread and status of the coronavirus as restrictive measures on society are relaxed. The platform is linked to the Statens Serum Institut (SSI), the branch of the Danish Ministry for Health in charge of infectious diseases. Citizens volunteer to answer a weekly questionnaire about their health, including whether they have been tested for the virus or, to their knowledge, have been in contact with it. Login is secured with similar protections to online banking and any identifying information is available to the SSI only in pseudo-anonymised form, preventing possible misuse.

- America's top public health expert has warned the nation it is "still in the first wave" of coronavirus infections and deaths, as six states report record numbers of new cases amid continued rapid easing of lockdown restrictions. However, the state of New York recorded 17 coronavirus deaths on 16 June, its lowest daily death toll since the start of the outbreak. Just 10 weeks ago 800 New Yorkers died in a single day, so the decline is extraordinary.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	120,095	2,243,408	919,140
Brazil	46,665	960,309	503,507
UK	42,288	300,469	N/A
Italy	34,448	237,828	179,455
France	29,575	158,174	73,667
Spain	27,136	291,763	N/A
Mexico	19,080	159,793	119,355
India	12,389	372,685	197,596
Belgium	9,683	60,348	16,724
Iran	9,272	197,647	156,991
Germany	8,933	189,547	173,600
Canada	8,299	100,146	62,237
Russia	7,660	561,091	313,963
Peru	7,257	240,908	128,622
Netherlands	6,078	49,319	N/A
Sweden	5,053	56,043	N/A
Turkey	4,861	182,727	154,640
China	4,634	83,293	78,394
Ecuador	4,007	48,490	23,881
Chile	3,615	220,628	156,232
Pakistan	3,093	160,118	59,215
Indonesia	2,339	42,762	16,798
Switzerland	1,956	31,200	28,900
Ireland	1,710	25,341	22,698
Colombia	1,864	57,046	21,326
Egypt	1,850	49,219	13,141
Portugal	1,524	38,089	24,010
South Africa	1,674	80,412	44,331
Romania	1,473	23,080	16,308
Poland	1,316	31,015	15,317
Bangladesh	1,343	102,292	40,164
Philippines	1,116	27,799	7,090
Saudi Arabia	1,139	145,991	93,915
Japan	931	17,628	15,850
Ukraine	966	34,063	15,447
Argentina	929	35,552	10,721
Algeria	811	11,385	8,078
Austria	688	17,223	16,101
Iraq	773	24,254	10,770
Bolivia	679	20,685	4,002
Dominican Republic	635	24,645	14,293
Denmark	600	12,344	11,242
Hungary	568	4,079	2,564
Afghanistan	546	27,532	7,660
Sudan	487	8,020	2,966
Panama	470	22,597	13,774
Nigeria	469	17,735	5,967
Moldova	444	13,106	7,252
Guatemala	432	11,251	2,200
Czechia	333	10,176	7,401
Finland	326	7,119	6,200
Belarus	331	56,657	34,023
Honduras	336	10,299	1,116
Israel	303	19,894	15,499
Kuwait	308	38,074	29,512
UAE	298	43,752	30,241
Armenia	309	18,698	7,560
S. Korea	280	12,257	10,800
Cameroon	276	9,864	5,570
Serbia	258	12,616	11,511
Norway	244	8,707	8,138
Morocco	213	9,042	7,999
North Macedonia	216	4,664	1,836
Greece	188	3,227	1,374
Bulgaria	184	3,542	1,880
Bosnia and Herzegovina	168	3,174	2,219
Yemen	244	902	271
Malaysia	121	8,529	8,000
Azerbaijan	139	11,329	6,192
DRC	117	5,283	685
Luxembourg	110	4,091	3,940
Slovenia	109	1,511	1,359
Oman	119	26,818	13,264
Croatia	107	2,269	2,142
Kenya	117	4,257	1,459
Mali	107	1,906	1,192
Australia	102	7,391	6,877

Somalia	88	2,719	724
Mauritania	95	2,223	427
Cuba	85	2,295	2,020
Kazakhstan	100	15,877	10,065
Qatar	86	84,441	63,642
Lithuania	76	1,784	1,449
El Salvador	82	4,200	2,235
Haiti	82	4,688	24
Chad	74	854	733
Estonia	69	1,977	1,748
Niger	67	1,020	893
Senegal	76	5,475	3,716
Ethiopia	65	3,954	934
Thailand	58	3,141	2,997
Nicaragua	64	1,823	1,238
Ghana	66	12,929	4,468
Burkina Faso	53	899	810
Sierra Leone	51	1,249	707
Andorra	52	855	792
Tajikistan	51	5,279	3,762
Tunisia	50	1,132	1,006
Channel Islands	48	570	512
Bahrain	53	19,961	14,185
Ivory Coast	48	6,063	2,749
Djibouti	43	4,545	3,411
San Marino	45	696	609
Albania	39	1,788	1,086
Liberia	33	542	250
Lebanon	32	1,495	944
Mayotte	29	2,383	2,066
Slovakia	28	1,562	1,443
Latvia	30	1,108	903
Kyrgyzstan	31	2,657	1,933
South Sudan	31	1,813	89
Singapore	26	41,473	32,712
Guinea	26	4,668	3,364
Venezuela	28	3,386	835
Congo	27	883	391
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Gabon	30	4,229	1,505
Uruguay	24	849	810
New Zealand	22	1,507	1,482
Tanzania	21	509	183
Nepal	22	7,848	1,186
Uzbekistan	19	5,730	4,166
Cyprus	18	985	816
Guinea-Bissau	15	1,492	153
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Georgia	14	893	739
Martinique	14	221	98
Guadeloupe	14	171	157
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	544	353
Costa Rica	12	1,871	899
Equatorial Guinea	32	1,664	515
Sao Tome and Principe	12	683	188
Guyana	12	171	102
Sri Lanka	11	1,926	1,421
Zambia	11	1,416	1,144
Paraguay	13	1,308	711
Bahamas	11	104	72
Iceland	10	1,816	1,801
Madagascar	13	1,403	463
Jamaica	10	626	451
Libya	10	500	78
Mauritius	10	337	325
Jordan	9	1,001	697
Malta	9	663	610
Benin	11	597	238
Montenegro	9	333	315
Bermuda	9	144	128
Maldives	8	2,120	1,677
Trinidad and Tobago	8	123	109
CAR	18	2,564	402
Taiwan	7	446	434
Barbados	7	97	85
Cabo Verde	7	823	377
Malawi	6	572	73
Myanmar	6	263	185
Syria	7	187	78
Angola	7	155	64
Hong Kong	4	1,125	1,072
Eswatini	4	563	262
Zimbabwe	4	401	63

- A fresh coronavirus case has been reported in New Zealand as officials scramble to contain the fallout from Tuesday's embarrassing quarantine breach and reports emerge of people disappearing after leaving isolation early. Thursday's case – the third to emerge this week after a 24-day streak of no cases – was a man in his 60s who arrived in Auckland from Pakistan. Officials were contacting all passengers on the flight and have alerted overseas counterparts for the other flights, said Dr Ashley Bloomfield, the director general of health. The man was wearing a mask on all flights and was now in a quarantine facility in Auckland, Bloomfield said.
- Aside from COVID-19, hydroxychloroquine is still regarded as a generally safe drug for patients with autoimmune diseases or malaria. It helps many people with difficult and chronic conditions live better lives. This evidence does not apply to the use of hydroxychloroquine for preventing COVID-19 infections or treating non-hospitalized patients, two areas where we still need more evidence on the drug's effectiveness against the coronavirus. The Solidarity Trial's hydroxychloroquine arm is being stopped, on the basis of evidence showing it does not reduce mortality for hospitalised COVID-19 patients, WHO tweeted today.

- **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/

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