

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

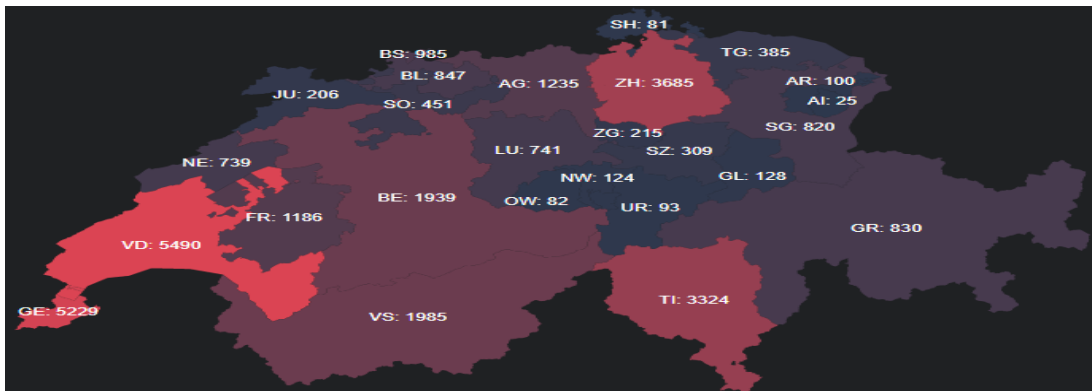
### 19.06.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 457,990 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (120,897) and Brazil (47,895). There have been more than 8,645,830 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- More than 150,000 new coronavirus cases were reported to WHO yesterday — "the most in a single day so far," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a Friday briefing. *"Almost half of those cases were reported from the Americas, with large numbers also being reported from South Asia and the Middle East,"* he added. Tedros warned, *"The world is in a new and dangerous phase. Many people are understandably fed up with being at home. Countries are understandably eager to open up their societies and economies. But the virus is spreading fast, it is still deadly, and most people are still susceptible."* WHO urges people to continue to maintain distance from others, stay home if you feel sick, wear a mask when appropriate, and washing your hands frequently.
- 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. *"We are now at a critical time for the prevention and control of the epidemic,"* an official said of the outbreak, which centred on a Xinfadi wholesale food market.
- Chief epidemiologist at China's CDC Wu Zunyou declared the virus flare-up in the Chinese capital is already "under control." But the current outbreak in Beijing is the worst resurgence of the coronavirus yet, and authorities are still trying to track down its source. The cluster has infected more than 180 people as of Friday.
- The coronavirus was present in two large Italian cities in December, more than two months before the first case was detected, a national health institute study of waste water has found. That suggests the virus appeared in Italy around the same time it was first reported in China. Researchers discovered genetic traces of Sars-CoV-2 - as the virus is officially known, in samples of waste water collected in Milan and Turin at the end of last year and Bologna in January, the ISS institute said in a statement today. Italy's first known native case was discovered mid-February. The results *"help to understand the start of the circulation of the virus in Italy,"* the ISS said. They also *"confirm the by-now consolidated international evidence"* as to the strategic function of sewer samples as an early detection tool, it added. The results feed into an effort by scientists around the world to trace the virus's family tree.
- The UK government is abandoning its attempt to develop a coronavirus tracing app from scratch and will instead build one based on a system created by Google and Apple after repeated delays. Germany's government said its coronavirus smartphone app has been downloaded 9.6 million times since it was launched on Tuesday.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	120,897	2,276,937	931,499
Brazil	47,897	984,315	520,360
UK	42,461	301,815	N/A
Italy	34,514	238,159	180,544
France	29,603	158,641	73,887
Spain	27,136	292,348	N/A
Mexico	19,747	165,455	123,095
India	12,746	387,835	209,301
Belgium	9,695	60,476	16,751
Iran	9,392	200,262	159,192
Germany	8,952	190,290	174,100
Canada	8,346	100,565	62,961
Russia	7,841	569,063	324,406
Peru	7,461	244,388	131,190
Netherlands	6,081	49,426	N/A
Sweden	5,053	56,043	N/A
Turkey	4,882	184,031	156,022
China	4,634	83,325	78,398
Chile	4,093	231,393	186,441
Ecuador	4,087	49,097	24,123
Pakistan	3,229	165,062	61,383
Indonesia	2,373	43,803	17,349
Switzerland	1,956	31,217	28,900
Colombia	1,950	60,217	22,680
Egypt	1,938	50,437	13,528
South Africa	1,737	83,890	44,920
Ireland	1,714	25,355	22,698
Portugal	1,527	38,464	24,477
Romania	1,484	23,400	16,555
Bangladesh	1,388	105,535	42,945
Poland	1,334	31,316	15,698
Saudi Arabia	1,184	150,292	95,764
Philippines	1,130	28,459	7,378
Ukraine	985	34,984	16,033
Argentina	954	37,510	11,851
Japan	935	17,668	15,930
Iraq	925	27,352	12,205
Algeria	825	11,504	8,196
Bolivia	697	21,499	4,002
Austria	688	17,271	16,141
Dominican Republic	647	25,068	14,605
Denmark	600	12,391	11,282
Hungary	568	4,081	2,581
Afghanistan	548	27,878	7,962
Sudan	487	8,020	2,966
Panama	475	23,351	13,782
Nigeria	475	18,480	6,307
Moldova	449	13,106	7,525
Guatemala	449	11,868	2,290
Honduras	343	10,739	1,179
Belarus	337	57,333	35,275
Czechia	335	10,361	7,472
Finland	326	7,133	6,200
Armenia	319	19,157	8,266
Kuwait	313	38,678	30,190
Israel	304	20,243	15,567
UAE	300	44,145	30,996
Cameroon	282	10,638	7,548
S. Korea	280	12,306	10,835
Serbia	259	12,709	11,511
Yemen	248	909	273
Norway	244	8,721	8,138
North Macedonia	222	4,820	1,863
Morocco	213	9,280	8,081
Bulgaria	190	3,674	1,941
Greece	189	3,237	1,374
Bosnia and Herzegovina	169	3,273	2,241
Azerbaijan	143	11,767	6,325
Oman	125	27,670	13,974
DRC	122	5,477	719
Malaysia	121	8,535	8,070
Kenya	119	4,374	1,550
Kazakhstan	113	16,351	10,195
Luxembourg	110	4,099	3,944
Slovenia	109	1,513	1,359

Mali	108	1,923	1,217
Croatia	107	2,280	2,142
Australia	102	7,409	6,878
Mauritania	97	2,424	550
Qatar	93	85,462	65,409
Somalia	88	2,719	724
El Salvador	86	4,329	2,310
Cuba	85	2,305	2,037
Haiti	84	4,916	24
Senegal	79	5,639	3,788
Lithuania	76	1,792	1,462
Chad	74	858	742
Ethiopia	72	4,070	1,027
Ghana	70	13,203	4,548
Estonia	69	1,979	1,755
Niger	67	1,020	901
Nicaragua	64	1,823	1,238
Thailand	58	3,146	3,008
Bahrain	57	20,430	14,696
Burkina Faso	53	900	810
Andorra	52	855	792
Tajikistan	51	5,338	3,830
Sierra Leone	51	1,272	710
Tunisia	50	1,146	1,014
Ivory Coast	49	6,444	2,863
Channel Islands	48	570	512
Djibouti	43	4,557	3,527
Albania	42	1,838	1,114
San Marino	42	696	610
Liberia	33	542	250
Gabon	32	4,340	1,657
Kyrgyzstan	32	2,789	1,961
South Sudan	32	1,830	117
Equatorial Guinea	32	1,664	515
Lebanon	32	1,510	960
Latvia	30	1,110	903
Mayotte	29	2,383	2,066
Venezuela	28	3,483	835
Slovakia	28	1,576	1,447
Congo	27	883	391
Singapore	26	41,615	33,459
Guinea	26	4,841	3,467
Uruguay	24	850	814
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Nepal	22	8,274	1,402
New Zealand	22	1,507	1,482
Tanzania	21	509	183
Uzbekistan	19	5,920	4,273
CAR	19	2,605	417
Cyprus	19	985	818
Guinea-Bissau	15	1,492	153
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Georgia	14	896	741
Martinique	14	221	98
Guadeloupe	14	171	157
Madagascar	13	1,443	498
Paraguay	13	1,330	717
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	547	353
Costa Rica	12	1,939	937
Sao Tome and Principe	12	688	191
Guyana	12	183	102
Sri Lanka	11	1,948	1,446
Zambia	11	1,416	1,144
Benin	11	650	247
Bahamas	11	104	74
Iceland	10	1,819	1,801
Jamaica	10	638	458
Libya	10	510	81
Mauritius	10	337	325
Jordan	9	1,008	708
Malta	9	663	613
Montenegro	9	337	315

- Switzerland will allow events of up to 1,000 people again from next week as cases of the new coronavirus wane, the government said today, declaring their country better equipped to handle any fresh flare-ups. *“As of Monday, June 22, the measures put in place to tackle the coronavirus will for the most part be lifted. Only the ban on large-scale events will remain in place until the end of August,”* the cabinet said. More than 31,000 people have tested positive for the virus and 1,680 have died of COVID-19 since the first case was reported in late February, according to authorities. New cases have dwindled to a few dozens a day, allowing Switzerland to reopen schools, shops and borders with fellow members of the Schengen passport-free travel zone as life returns to near-normal. The government appealed to the public to maintain proper hygiene and physical distancing, but scrapped a recommendation to work from home and cut the safe distance for interaction with strangers to 1.5 metres from two. *“Given the scientific information that has emerged, experience from managing the first wave, and the additional resources now available, the current situation is no longer comparable to the situation at the beginning of the year,”* it said.
- Respect, understanding and a lot of handwashing will go a long way to fighting the spread of coronavirus, the WHO director-general said. *“By understanding that this is everybody’s business, and each and every individual should take care of herself and himself and his loved ones should care about the others to when we do that, we could really suppress this virus,”* he said. Tedros said the basics are a strong comprehensive public health system, testing and contact tracing and keeping physical distances, wearing masks and good hand hygiene.



- Funding opportunity for researchers**

PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe) Fast Track Call for Proposals

- <https://prace-ri.eu/prace-support-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19-pandemic/>

The US Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program - a call for proposals on COVID-19

- <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/ProgramFY.htm?programFYId=256400>

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science - Applications are paused

- <https://fastgrants.org/>

Anyone submitting to US (NIH, DoD) or EU Horizon 2020 calls can contact the Grants Office for support: [grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch](mailto:grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch). The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schöglger ([aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch](mailto:aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch)) and Leah Witton ([leah.witton@research.unibe.ch](mailto:leah.witton@research.unibe.ch)).

### Sources

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