

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 10,400 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (4032) and China (3,248). There have been more than 256,000 global cases in 183 countries.
- For the second day in a row, no new confirmed or suspected cases have been reported in Wuhan and in Hubei. All new cases were imported from overseas (no new domestically transmitted infections for the second consecutive day).
- South Korea has emerged as a sign of hope and a model to emulate. The country of 50 million appears to have greatly slowed its epidemic; it reported only 74 new cases today. And it has done so without locking down entire cities or taking some of the other authoritarian measures that helped China bring its epidemic under control. South Korea's success may hold lessons for other countries—and also a warning: Even after driving case numbers down, the country is braced for a resurgence.
- Behind South Korea success so far has been the most expansive and well-organized testing program in the world, combined with extensive efforts to isolate infected people and trace and quarantine their contacts. South Korea has tested more than 270,000 people, which amounts to more than 5200 tests per million inhabitants. The United States has so far carried out 74 tests per 1 million inhabitants, data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show.
- Misinformation is impacting on efforts to quell the coronavirus pandemic as even “very well educated” people share false cures, hoaxes and conspiracy theories online, experts warned as recorded cases continued to climb. The World Health Organization (WHO) has increased its efforts to tackle myths and rumors since it warned in February of a massive “**infodemic**”, a deluge of information, including false claims that can risk public health.
- *“Countries that have succeeded in pushing back coronavirus should maintain vigilance to quickly identify, isolate, test and treat cases and quarantine contacts in order to prevent any resurgence in a subsequent wave”*, The WHO's director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tweeted.
- The WHO's director general also said: *“I have a message for young people: you are not invincible. This virus could put you in hospital for weeks or even kill you.”*
- Dr Maria van Kerkhove, speaking at the WHO briefing, said people can keep connected in many ways without being in the same space. *“We are saying physical distance... we want people to remain connected through the internet and social media because your mental health, when going through this, is just as important as your physical health.”*
- Italy announces 627 more coronavirus deaths, the biggest day-to-day increase in the country's four-week epidemic.
- Roche is launching a clinical trial of a potential new Covid-19 drug, adding to rapidly growing investments in combating coronavirus after the World Health Organization (WHO) unveiled plans for its own trial to study potential treatments. The Swiss drugmaker said on Thursday it was working with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the US government to initiate a phase 3 trial to evaluate the safety of Actemra, a drug used to treat cytokine release syndrome and rheumatoid arthritis, two inflammatory diseases.

| Countries | Cases | Deaths | Recovered |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| China | 80'967 | 3'248 | 71'150 |
| Italy | 47'021 | 4'032 | 5'129 |
| Spain | 20'412 | 1'041 | 1'588 |
| Iran | 19'644 | 1'433 | 6'745 |
| Germany | 18'328 | 52 | 180 |
| USA | 14'556 | 218 | 125 |
| France | 10'995 | 372 | 1'295 |
| S. Korea | 8'652 | 94 | 2'233 |
| Switzerland | 4'906 | 51 | 15 |
| UK | 3'269 | 184 | 65 |
| Netherlands | 2'994 | 106 | 2 |
| Austria | 2'388 | 6 | 9 |
| Belgium | 2'257 | 37 | 204 |
| Norway | 1'895 | 7 | 1 |
| Sweden | 1'639 | 16 | 16 |
| Denmark | 1'226 | 9 | 1 |
| Malaysia | 1'030 | 3 | 87 |
| Portugal | 1'020 | 6 | 5 |
| Japan | 963 | 33 | 215 |
| Canada | 924 | 12 | 11 |
| Australia | 876 | 7 | 46 |
| Czechia | 774 | 0 | 4 |
| Diamond Princess | 712 | 7 | 527 |
| Israel | 705 | 0 | 15 |
| Brazil | 651 | 7 | 2 |
| Ireland | 557 | 3 | 5 |
| Luxembourg | 484 | 5 | 6 |
| Pakistan | 478 | 3 | 13 |
| Greece | 464 | 6 | 19 |
| Qatar | 460 | 0 | 10 |
| Finland | 450 | 0 | 10 |
| Chile | 434 | 0 | 6 |
| Poland | 411 | 5 | 13 |
| Iceland | 409 | 0 | 5 |
| Singapore | 385 | 0 | 131 |
| Indonesia | 369 | 32 | 17 |
| Ecuador | 367 | 5 | 3 |
| Turkey | 359 | 4 | 0 |
| Slovenia | 341 | 1 | 0 |
| Thailand | 322 | 1 | 42 |
| Romania | 308 | 0 | 31 |
| Bahrain | 284 | 1 | 110 |
| Estonia | 283 | 0 | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 274 | 0 | 8 |
| Egypt | 256 | 7 | 42 |
| Hong Kong | 256 | 4 | 98 |
| Russia | 253 | 1 | 12 |
| Peru | 234 | 3 | 1 |
| Philippines | 230 | 18 | 8 |
| India | 223 | 5 | 23 |
| South Africa | 202 | 0 | 0 |
| Iraq | 192 | 13 | 49 |
| Mexico | 164 | 1 | 4 |
| Lebanon | 163 | 4 | 4 |
| Kuwait | 159 | 0 | 22 |
| San Marino | 144 | 14 | 4 |
| UAE | 140 | 0 | 31 |
| Panama | 137 | 1 | 1 |
| Slovakia | 137 | 0 | 0 |
| Armenia | 136 | 0 | 1 |
| Taiwan | 135 | 2 | 28 |
| Bulgaria | 129 | 3 | 1 |
| Argentina | 128 | 3 | 3 |
| Croatia | 128 | 1 | 5 |
| Colombia | 128 | 0 | 1 |
| Serbia | 118 | 0 | 2 |
| Latvia | 111 | 0 | 1 |
| Uruguay | 94 | 0 | 0 |
| Vietnam | 91 | 0 | 17 |
| Algeria | 90 | 11 | 32 |
| Costa Rica | 89 | 2 | 0 |
| Hungary | 85 | 3 | 7 |
| Faeroe Islands | 80 | 0 | 3 |
| Brunei | 78 | 0 | 1 |
| Andorra | 75 | 0 | 1 |
| Morocco | 74 | 3 | 2 |
| Sri Lanka | 73 | 0 | 3 |
| Dominican Republic | 72 | 2 | 0 |
| Albania | 70 | 2 | 0 |
| North Macedonia | 70 | 0 | 1 |
| Belarus | 69 | 0 | 15 |
| Jordan | 69 | 0 | 1 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 69 | 0 | 2 |
| Cyprus | 67 | 0 | 0 |
| Moldova | 66 | 1 | 1 |
| Malta | 64 | 0 | 2 |
| Tunisia | 54 | 1 | 1 |

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|------------------------|----|---|----|
| Cambodia | 51 | 0 | 1 |
| Kazakhstan | 49 | 0 | 0 |
| Lithuania | 49 | 0 | 1 |
| Oman | 48 | 0 | 13 |
| Palestine | 48 | 0 | 17 |
| Guadeloupe | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| Azerbaijan | 44 | 1 | 7 |
| Georgia | 44 | 0 | 1 |
| Venezuela | 42 | 0 | 0 |
| Burkina Faso | 40 | 1 | 4 |
| New Zealand | 39 | 0 | 0 |
| Senegal | 38 | 0 | 2 |
| Uzbekistan | 33 | 0 | 0 |
| Martinique | 32 | 1 | 0 |
| Liechtenstein | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| Réunion | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 26 | 3 | 1 |
| Afghanistan | 24 | 0 | 1 |
| Honduras | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Bangladesh | 20 | 1 | 3 |
| Cameroon | 20 | 0 | 2 |
| DRC | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Macao | 17 | 0 | 10 |
| Cuba | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Jamaica | 16 | 1 | 2 |
| Bolivia | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Ghana | 16 | 0 | 8 |
| Guyana | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| French Guiana | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Guam | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Maldives | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Montenegro | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Paraguay | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Guatemala | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| Nigeria | 12 | 0 | 1 |
| Mauritius | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Monaco | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Channel Islands | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| French Polynesia | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Rwanda | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Gibraltar | 10 | 0 | 2 |
| Ivory Coast | 9 | 0 | 1 |
| Ethiopia | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Togo | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerto Rico | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Kenya | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Seychelles | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Mayotte | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Mongolia | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Tanzania | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Aruba | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Barbados | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Saint Martin | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Suriname | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Cayman Islands | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Curaçao | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Gabon | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Bahamas | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| CAR | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Congo | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Namibia | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Barth | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Sudan | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Benin | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Bermuda | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Bhutan | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenland | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Guinea | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Haiti | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Liberia | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mauritania | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| New Caledonia | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Saint Lucia | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Zambia | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Nepal | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Angola | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Cabo Verde | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Chad | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Djibouti | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| El Salvador | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fiji | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Gambia | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Vatican City | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Isle of Man | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Montserrat | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Nicaragua | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Niger | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Vincent Grenadines | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sint Maarten | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Somalia | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Eswatini | 1 | 0 | 0 |

- More than 700 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in 34 countries in Africa as of 20 March, compared with 147 cases about one week ago.
- Italian army trucks form a long line in the center of Bergamo to transport the coffins from the Bergamo cemetery to cremation sites in other regions, as morgues can't cope with more coronavirus deaths.
- The Swiss government has tightened anti-coronavirus measures and announced an additional CHF32 billion to help the economy.



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%5btt_news%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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