

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

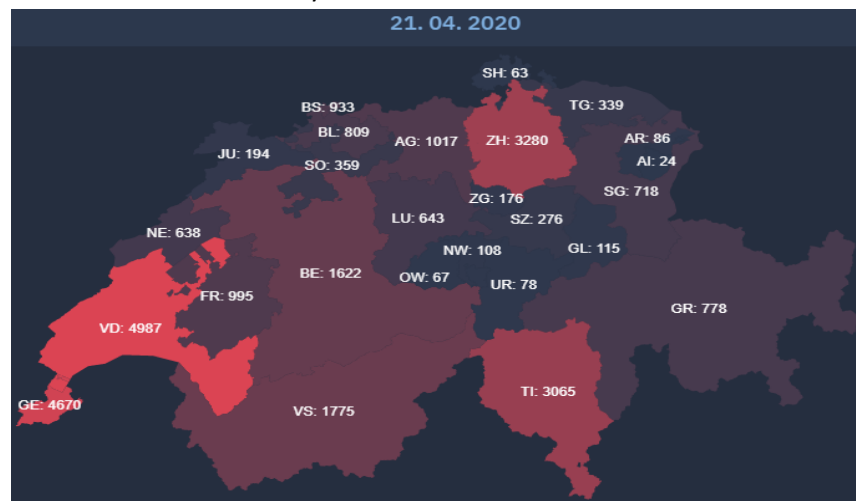
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 174,500 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (43,558) and Italy (24,648). There have been more than 2,529,090 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- *“WHO’s commitment is to science, solutions and solidarity. Our commitment is to supporting all countries to save lives. That’s it, that’s our intention. That’s what we’re for: saving lives. We want to re-emphasize that easing restrictions is not the end of the epidemic in any country. Ending the epidemic will require a sustained effort on the part of individuals, communities and governments to continue suppressing and controlling this deadly virus. So-called lockdowns can help to take the heat out of a country’s epidemic, but they cannot end it alone. Countries must now ensure they can detect, test, isolate and care for every case, and trace every contact, said Dr. Tedros at a media briefing.*
- *“At this stage, it is not possible to determine precisely the source of the virus which caused the Covid-19 pandemic,”* WHO spokesperson Fadela Chaib said at a briefing today. *“However, all available evidence suggests that the virus has a natural animal origin and is not a manipulated or constructed virus. The virus most probably has its ecological reservoir in bats. Many researchers have been able to look at its genomic features — and they have found that the evidence does not support the idea that the underlying virus is a laboratory construct.”* Also, Chaib added that people should focus on facts – not *“spurious theories”* about the origins of the virus.
- The decentralized contact tracing app DP-3T, designed to alert users who have come into contact with people infected with infectious diseases, should be ready by May 11, according to two Swiss universities involved in its conception. Swiss health authorities are working with the European consortium behind the project with the aim of having the system ready for use in Switzerland. DP-3T [external link](#) is being offered as a digital antidote to the spate of nationwide lockdowns during the coronavirus pandemic.
- A sensor that can “see” and “feel” airborne viruses could help contain the spread of epidemics, say Swiss scientists who have developed a device that sends alerts when it detects high concentrations of Covid-19. The biosensor uses receptors engraved with the “fingerprint” of specific strands of RNA which are unique to each virus. The sensor only scores a match when it comes into contact with the virus it is looking for, and is precise enough that it can tell the difference between the 2003 SARS virus and the current novel coronavirus. The device was developed by the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa) in collaboration with Zurich’s Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ). The team was already working on a sensor to detect airborne viruses and bacteria. Now they have shown that it can be calibrated to reliably detect Covid-19.
- Singapore has moved to extend restrictions to combat coronavirus until early June, as the number of cases in the city state exceeded 9,000 due to a growing number of infections in its crowded migrant worker dormitories. While Singapore had drawn worldwide attention for what was seen as its success in containing the early stages of the outbreak, a new and quickly expanding second peak of infections has underlined how easily the virus is able to return.

| Countries | Deaths | Cases | Recovered |
|------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|
| USA | 43'558 | 803'018 | 75'317 |
| Italy | 24'648 | 183'957 | 51'600 |
| Spain | 21'282 | 204'178 | 82'514 |
| France | 20'265 | 155'383 | 37'409 |
| UK | 17'337 | 129'044 | N/A |
| Iran | 5'297 | 84'802 | 60'965 |
| Belgium | 5'998 | 40'956 | 9'002 |
| China | 4'632 | 82'758 | 77'123 |
| Germany | 4'934 | 147'958 | 95'200 |
| Netherlands | 3'916 | 34'134 | N/A |
| Brazil | 2'588 | 40'814 | 22'991 |
| Turkey | 2'259 | 95'591 | 14'918 |
| Switzerland | 1'478 | 28'063 | 18'600 |
| Sweden | 1'765 | 15'322 | 550 |
| Canada | 1'728 | 37'398 | 12'586 |
| Portugal | 762 | 21'379 | 917 |
| Indonesia | 616 | 7'135 | 842 |
| Austria | 491 | 14'873 | 10'971 |
| India | 603 | 18'985 | 3'273 |
| Ireland | 687 | 15'652 | 77 |
| Ecuador | 520 | 10'398 | 1'207 |
| Romania | 498 | 9'242 | 2'153 |
| Philippines | 437 | 6'599 | 654 |
| Mexico | 712 | 8'772 | 2'627 |
| Algeria | 392 | 2'811 | 1'152 |
| Denmark | 370 | 7'695 | 4'700 |
| Poland | 401 | 9'856 | 1'297 |
| S. Korea | 237 | 10'683 | 8'213 |
| Peru | 445 | 16'325 | 6'968 |
| Dominican Republic | 245 | 5'044 | 463 |
| Russia | 456 | 52'763 | 3'873 |
| Egypt | 250 | 3'333 | 821 |
| Czechia | 201 | 6'961 | 1'753 |
| Japan | 263 | 11'135 | 1'239 |
| Norway | 182 | 7'191 | 32 |
| Morocco | 144 | 3'186 | 359 |
| Hungary | 213 | 2'098 | 287 |
| Israel | 181 | 13'883 | 4'353 |
| Colombia | 189 | 3'977 | 804 |
| Argentina | 147 | 3'031 | 840 |
| Greece | 121 | 2'401 | 577 |
| Ukraine | 161 | 6'125 | 367 |
| Pakistan | 201 | 9'565 | 2'073 |
| Serbia | 130 | 6'890 | 977 |
| Panama | 136 | 4'658 | 204 |
| Chile | 147 | 10'832 | 4'969 |
| Malaysia | 92 | 5'482 | 3'349 |
| Iraq | 83 | 1'602 | 1'096 |
| Saudi Arabia | 109 | 11'631 | 1'640 |
| Luxembourg | 78 | 3'618 | 670 |
| Finland | 141 | 4'014 | 2'000 |
| Australia | 71 | 6'645 | 4'685 |
| Slovenia | 77 | 1'344 | 197 |
| Bangladesh | 110 | 3'382 | 87 |
| North Macedonia | 55 | 1'231 | 224 |
| Thailand | 48 | 2'811 | 2'108 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 51 | 1'342 | 437 |
| Moldova | 72 | 2'614 | 505 |
| San Marino | 40 | 476 | 62 |
| Bulgaria | 45 | 975 | 170 |
| Tunisia | 38 | 884 | 148 |
| Belarus | 55 | 6'723 | 577 |
| Croatia | 48 | 1'908 | 801 |
| Estonia | 43 | 1'552 | 169 |
| Andorra | 37 | 717 | 248 |
| Bolivia | 34 | 598 | 37 |
| South Africa | 58 | 3'465 | 1'055 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|-------|-------|
| Burkina Faso | 38 | 581 | 357 |
| Lithuania | 37 | 1'350 | 298 |
| Honduras | 46 | 494 | 29 |
| UAE | 46 | 7'755 | 1'443 |
| Albania | 26 | 609 | 345 |
| Afghanistan | 36 | 1'092 | 150 |
| Cuba | 38 | 1'137 | 309 |
| Lebanon | 21 | 677 | 103 |
| DRC | 25 | 350 | 35 |
| Armenia | 24 | 1'401 | 609 |
| Kazakhstan | 19 | 1'995 | 489 |
| Cameroon | 43 | 1'163 | 329 |
| Azerbaijan | 20 | 1'480 | 865 |
| Niger | 20 | 655 | 124 |
| Mali | 14 | 258 | 57 |
| Diamond Princess | 13 | 712 | 644 |
| Cyprus | 12 | 784 | 98 |
| Singapore | 11 | 9'125 | 801 |
| Nigeria | 22 | 665 | 188 |
| New Zealand | 13 | 1'445 | 1'006 |
| Channel Islands | 24 | 488 | 230 |
| Mauritius | 9 | 328 | 243 |
| Kenya | 14 | 296 | 74 |
| Venezuela | 10 | 285 | 117 |
| Sint Maarten | 10 | 67 | 12 |
| Iceland | 10 | 1'778 | 1'417 |
| Ghana | 9 | 1'042 | 99 |
| Uruguay | 11 | 535 | 313 |
| Guadeloupe | 8 | 148 | 73 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 8 | 114 | 26 |
| Bahamas | 9 | 64 | 11 |
| Qatar | 9 | 6'533 | 614 |
| Bahrain | 7 | 1'952 | 783 |
| Jordan | 7 | 425 | 282 |
| Sri Lanka | 7 | 310 | 102 |
| Paraguay | 8 | 208 | 53 |
| Ivory Coast | 10 | 879 | 287 |
| Taiwan | 6 | 425 | 217 |
| Martinique | 14 | 163 | 73 |
| El Salvador | 7 | 225 | 48 |
| Liberia | 8 | 101 | 7 |
| Guyana | 7 | 66 | 9 |
| Latvia | 9 | 748 | 133 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 7 | 590 | 216 |
| Guatemala | 7 | 294 | 24 |
| Congo | 6 | 160 | 16 |
| Bermuda | 5 | 86 | 37 |
| Sudan | 12 | 107 | 8 |
| Uzbekistan | 6 | 1'657 | 357 |
| Hong Kong | 4 | 1'030 | 650 |
| Oman | 8 | 1'508 | 238 |
| Montenegro | 5 | 313 | 101 |
| Jamaica | 6 | 223 | 27 |
| Barbados | 5 | 75 | 23 |
| Myanmar | 5 | 121 | 7 |
| Kuwait | 11 | 2'080 | 412 |
| Costa Rica | 6 | 662 | 124 |
| Malta | 3 | 443 | 150 |
| Georgia | 4 | 408 | 97 |
| Mayotte | 4 | 284 | 117 |
| Ethiopia | 3 | 114 | 16 |
| Togo | 6 | 84 | 53 |
| Tanzania | 10 | 254 | 11 |
| Haiti | 3 | 57 | 0 |
| Zimbabwe | 3 | 25 | 2 |
| Slovakia | 14 | 1'199 | 258 |
| Djibouti | 2 | 945 | 112 |
| Palestine | 4 | 466 | 71 |
| Senegal | 5 | 412 | 242 |
| Isle of Man | 9 | 307 | 200 |
| Somalia | 8 | 237 | 4 |

- A team of researchers at the University of Bern is hoping to be the first to produce a vaccine against Covid-19 and inoculate the entire Swiss population in October. “We have a realistic chance of being successful,” said Martin Bachmann, head of immunology at the Swiss university via a web conference with ACANU, the United Nations press association. “*The vaccine is unique because of the huge scalability. It has the ability to produce billions of doses in a short time frame,*” Bachmann said.
- Human coronavirus vaccine trials will begin on Thursday in Oxford, UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock said today.
- Even if scientists successfully develop a vaccine, distributing it will require “*one of the greatest scientific, one of the greatest political, one of the greatest financial, one of the greatest public health operations in a generation,*” Michael Ryan, the executive director of the World Health Organization’s emergencies program, warned yesterday.
- The number of active Covid-19 cases in Italy has gone down for the second day in a row, according data released by the the Italian Civil Protection Agency on Tuesday. The country saw the biggest daily drop in active cases, reporting 528 fewer cases than on Monday.
- “*We have not contained the pandemic and we cannot predict any deadline for it,*” Iraj Harirchi, Iran’s deputy health minister, said on Iranian state television today.
- Moscow’s new coronavirus hospital, which was built in 30 days, admitted its first 20 patients, Moscow mayor’s office said in a statement Tuesday.



- **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://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/pa>

Sources

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