

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

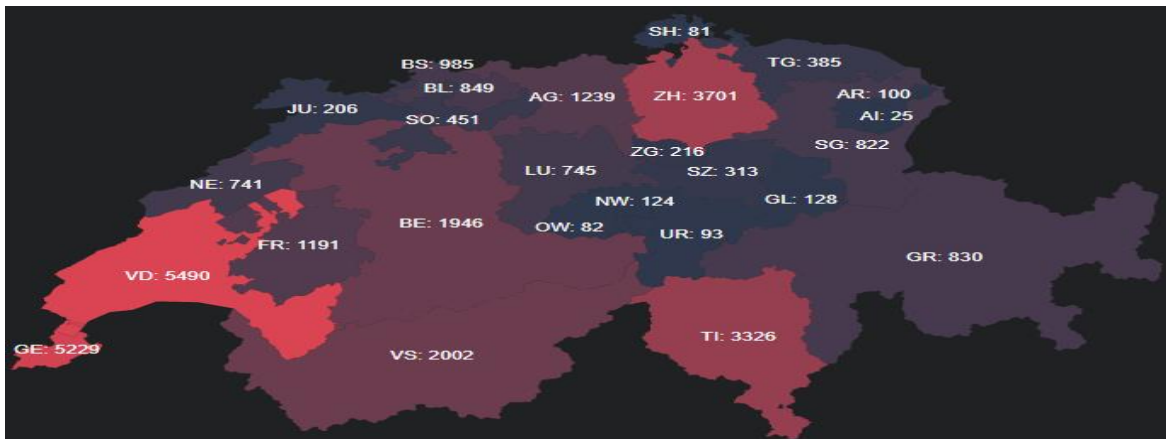
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 471,570 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (122,318) and Brazil (50,659). There have been more than 9,101,396 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The WHO reported a record increase in global coronavirus cases yesterday, with the total rising by 183,020 in a 24-hour period. The biggest increase was from North and South America with new cases.
- “We are not ready for the most recent easing,” Matthias Egger, who leads the scientific task force set up by the Swiss government to coordinate advice and research on the virus, told the NZZ am Sonntag newspaper. “We are still lacking, like previously, a functioning monitoring system for the whole of Switzerland. It’s also unclear how good the contact tracing system is.” On June 19 the Swiss government announced that it was simplifying and lifting most of the remaining restrictions. The recommended "social distance" is being reduced from two to 1.5 meters with immediate effect. Egger remains cautious, warning that from a scientific point of view there is a high risk that the easing could endanger the Alpine country if the virus again spreads. The number of new infections has fallen from the peak of 1,000 cases a day in mid-March to 10-35 in the past few weeks. Hospitals have shown their ability to cope and have not been overwhelmed as feared. The head of the taskforce said the fight against the epidemic had gone well so far. But he warned that the number of new infections appeared to have increased in the past two weeks and that it is likely that the reproduction rate is 1 or higher.
- The coronavirus reproduction rate in Germany jumped to 2.88 on Sunday, up from 1.79 a day earlier, the Robert Koch Institute for public health said. A rate of less than one is needed to gradually contain the disease. Germany has been widely regarded as a success story in Europe in terms of containing the coronavirus. But infections have been rising again.
- Authorities in South Korea have said the country is experiencing a second wave of the coronavirus in and around Seoul, and warned that stronger physical-distancing measures will be reimposed if the daily increase in infections does not come down. Confirmation of the new wave came as the Israeli government said a lockdown could be reintroduced amid a sharp rise in cases, and a team of contact tracing experts prepared to deploy to the Australian state of Victoria to tackle a new outbreak in Melbourne. The new outbreaks once again highlight the difficulties of fully eradicating the virus, even in countries considered role models in their initial response to the pandemic. They came as the pandemic continued its spread worldwide. Dr. Tedros, the head of the WHO, today warned it was still accelerating and while it had taken three months to reach the first one million cases, the last one million had come in just eight days.
- The major thrust of new coronavirus cases in the US is in the South and West, where officials say more young people are ignoring social distancing measures and testing positive. Young people are more likely to have milder outcomes from coronavirus, but they can still infect others who are more at risk. "With younger age of recent infections in at least some places such as Florida, expect a lower death rate in this wave ... until the 20-40 year olds who are infected today go on to infect others," Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on Twitter.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	122,318	2,365,846	981,238
Brazil	50,659	1,086,990	579,226
UK	42,647	305,289	N/A
Italy	34,657	238,720	183,426
France	29,640	160,377	74,372
Spain	28,323	293,352	N/A
Mexico	21,825	180,545	135,279
India	13,780	430,708	240,289
Belgium	9,696	60,550	16,771
Iran	9,742	207,525	166,427
Germany	8,964	191,718	175,300
Canada	8,433	101,498	64,100
Russia	8,206	592,280	344,416
Peru	8,045	254,936	141,967
Netherlands	6,090	49,658	N/A
Sweden	5,053	56,043	N/A
Turkey	4,950	187,685	160,240
China	4,634	83,396	78,413
Chile	4,502	246,963	205,397
Ecuador	4,223	50,640	24,991
Pakistan	3,590	181,088	71,458
Indonesia	2,500	46,845	18,735
Switzerland	1,956	31,310	29,000
Colombia	2,237	68,652	27,360
Egypt	2,193	55,233	14,736
South Africa	1,930	97,302	51,608
Ireland	1,715	25,379	22,698
Portugal	1,534	39,392	25,548
Romania	1,523	24,291	17,031
Bangladesh	1,502	115,786	46,755
Poland	1,359	32,227	17,076
Saudi Arabia	1,307	161,005	105,175
Philippines	1,177	30,682	8,143
Ukraine	1,012	37,241	16,642
Argentina	1,016	42,785	13,153
Japan	953	17,864	16,108
Iraq	1,167	32,676	14,785
Algeria	852	11,920	8,559
Bolivia	773	24,388	5,454
Austria	690	17,380	16,241
Dominican Republic	669	27,370	15,338
Denmark	602	12,527	11,347
Hungary	572	4,102	2,590
Afghanistan	598	29,143	8,841
Sudan	533	8,698	3,460
Panama	501	26,030	14,359
Nigeria	518	20,244	6,879
Moldova	480	14,363	8,019
Guatemala	531	13,145	2,711
Honduras	363	12,769	1,293
Belarus	351	59,023	37,923
Czechia	336	10,523	7,537
Finland	327	7,144	6,400
Armenia	360	20,588	9,131
Kuwait	330	40,291	31,770
Israel	307	20,869	15,714
UAE	302	44,925	32,415
Cameroon	303	11,892	7,710
S. Korea	280	12,438	10,881
Serbia	262	12,990	11,997
Yemen	256	941	347
Norway	248	8,745	8,138
North Macedonia	247	5,196	1,974
Morocco	214	10,079	8,319
Bulgaria	199	3,905	2,074
Greece	190	3,287	1,374
Bosnia and Herzegovina	171	3,525	2,270
Azerbaijan	161	13,207	7,168
Oman	137	31,076	16,408

DRC	135	5,924	856
Malaysia	121	8,587	8,177
Kenya	125	4,797	1,680
Kazakhstan	120	17,732	11,158
Luxembourg	110	4,121	3,959
Slovenia	109	1,521	1,376
Mali	111	1,961	1,266
Croatia	107	2,336	2,142
Australia	102	7,474	6,903
Mauritania	111	2,984	811
Qatar	99	88,403	69,956
Somalia	90	2,779	782
El Salvador	107	4,808	2,655
Cuba	85	2,315	2,113
Haiti	88	5,211	24
Senegal	86	5,970	3,953
Lithuania	76	1,801	1,475
Chad	74	858	752
Ethiopia	75	4,663	1,297
Ghana	85	14,154	10,473
Estonia	69	1,981	1,765
Niger	67	1,036	911
Nicaragua	64	1,823	1,238
Thailand	58	3,151	3,022
Bahrain	64	21,764	16,419
Burkina Faso	53	903	814
Andorra	52	855	796
Tajikistan	52	5,457	3,995
Sierra Leone	55	1,327	788
Tunisia	50	1,159	1,020
Ivory Coast	54	7,492	3,068
Channel Islands	48	570	512
Djibouti	48	4,599	3,952
Albania	44	1,995	1,159
San Marino	42	697	627
Liberia	34	626	254
Gabon	34	4,428	1,750
Kyrgyzstan	40	3,356	2,021
South Sudan	34	1,892	169
Equatorial Guinea	32	1,664	515
Lebanon	32	1,603	1,077
Latvia	30	1,111	903
Mayotte	31	2,434	2,188
Venezuela	33	3,917	835
Slovakia	28	1,588	1,447
Congo	27	883	391
Singapore	26	42,313	35,590
Guinea	27	4,988	3,669
Uruguay	25	876	814
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Nepal	23	9,561	2,148
New Zealand	22	1,513	1,482
Tanzania	21	509	183
Uzbekistan	19	6,401	4,450
CAR	23	2,808	472
Cyprus	19	986	824
Guinea-Bissau	17	1,541	153
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Georgia	14	908	761
Martinique	14	236	98
Guadeloupe	14	174	157
Madagascar	15	1,640	692
Paraguay	13	1,379	871
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	569	375
Costa Rica	12	2,213	1,032
Sao Tome and Principe	12	698	203
Guyana	12	184	103
Sri Lanka	11	1,950	1,526
Zambia	11	1,430	1,194
Benin	13	807	253
Bahamas	11	104	77
Iceland	10	1,823	1,805
Jamaica	10	659	516
Libya	10	571	103
Mauritius	10	340	326
Jordan	9	1,042	751
Malta	9	665	617
Montenegro	9	362	315
Bermuda	9	146	132
Maldives	8	2,203	1,803
Malawi	11	749	258
Angola	9	183	77
Trinidad and Tobago	8	123	109
Cabo Verde	8	890	413
Taiwan	7	446	435
Suriname	8	314	106
Syria	7	219	83

- Worldwide demand for the steroid drug dexamethasone has surged since a UK-based study last week found that it could help reduce the risk of death among hospitalized Covid-19 patients requiring ventilation or oxygen, according to the WHO. "Demand has already surged, following the trial results showing dexamethasone's clear benefit," WHO director-general Dr. Tedros said during a news briefing in Geneva today. When the preliminary study results were announced last week, WHO said that it welcomed the clinical trial results. The findings are still being compiled and have not published in a peer-reviewed journal. "Although the data is still preliminary, the recent finding that the steroid dexamethasone has life-saving potential for critically ill Covid-19 patients gave us a much-needed reason to celebrate," Tedros said.
- Novartis began the clinical trial in April. Some 440 hospitalised patients with the virus were expected to participate in the study. But the pharma company said on June 19 that it had decided to halt the trial due to "acute enrolment challenges that have made trial completion infeasible". Novartis' move follows this week's US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision to revoke emergency use authorisation for hydroxychloroquine against Covid-19 on grounds it and a related drug, chloroquine, are unlikely to help patients. "The recruitment challenge facing our hydroxychloroquine trial has made it unlikely that the clinical team will be able to collect meaningful data in a reasonable time frame to determine the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine in treating patients with COVID-19," Novartis said.



- 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. 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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