

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

23.03.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 11,800 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (5,476) and China (3,270). There have been more than 360,000 global cases in 194 countries.
- FIFA, the international governing body of football, and the WHO have teamed up to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) by launching a new awareness campaign led by world-renowned footballers, who are calling on all people around the world to follow five key steps to stop the spread of the disease.
- The *“Pass the message to kick out coronavirus”* campaign promotes five key steps for people to follow to protect their health in line with WHO guidance, focused on hand washing, coughing etiquette, not touching your face, physical distance and staying home if feeling unwell.
- The WHO has launched a WhatsApp Health Alert. *“It has now attracted 10 million users since we launched it last Friday – this is just in 4 days –delivering reliable health information directly to their mobile phones. Details on how to sign up are on the front page of our website. The Arabic, French and Spanish versions will be launched this week, and this is the best way to be connected directly with people”* said WHO Director-General.
- Panama has confirmed the death of a 13-year-old girl from Covid-19 - one of the youngest reported deaths so far. Panama case illustrates what medical experts have been trying to drum home in recent days: young adults and children are not immune to the virus or serious complications.
- South Africa’s coronavirus cases jumped to 402 on Monday, up 128 from the day before. There are now 43 countries in Africa hit by Covid-19, 1,600 cases and 54 deaths according to the most recent source. Cyril Ramaphosa, the South African president, is expected to speak this evening to the nation about the threat from the disease and is widely expected him to announce new restrictive measures to try to slow its spread.
- 300 Chinese doctors and nurses arrived in Italy. They were welcomed by the National Anthem.
- *“We expect to see the first effects of the stringent lockdown measures adopted on March 11 after 2-3 weeks, so the coming week will be absolutely crucial in this sense: we expect to finally see a sign of trend reversal,”* said Franco Locatelli, President of the Health Council.
- South Korea ‘s methods of contact tracing: case interview, phone GPS records, CCTV footage, card transaction logs, record of visits to medical facilities and pharmacies.
- Reproduction is coming down in Lombardi comparing to last month’s according to study.
- Zimbabwe records first death from coronavirus.
- Swiss army being called to help for first time since World War Two. Being used at the borders and supporting hospitals and for food deliveries.
- Masks are in short supply in Switzerland. This has already meant that the Inselspital in Bern is more certain to give a ruffle and no longer indiscriminately put on masks. China is now helping Switzerland.
- The state city of Shenzhen is giving Switzerland 70,000 protective masks, as has already been said. Because Shenzhen is the partner region of the Canton of Bern.

| Countries | Cases | Deaths | Recovered |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| China | 81'093 | 3'270 | 72'703 |
| Italy | 63'927 | 6'077 | 7'432 |
| USA | 40'773 | 479 | 187 |
| Spain | 33'089 | 2'206 | 3'355 |
| Germany | 27'558 | 115 | 422 |
| Iran | 23'049 | 1'812 | 8'376 |
| France | 16'689 | 674 | 2'200 |
| S. Korea | 8'961 | 111 | 3'166 |
| Switzerland | 8'547 | 118 | 131 |
| UK | 5'837 | 335 | 135 |
| Netherlands | 4'749 | 213 | 2 |
| Austria | 4'306 | 21 | 9 |
| Belgium | 3'743 | 88 | 401 |
| Norway | 2'547 | 10 | 6 |
| Portugal | 2'060 | 23 | 14 |
| Sweden | 2'046 | 25 | 16 |
| Australia | 1'717 | 7 | 88 |
| Brazil | 1'620 | 25 | 2 |
| Canada | 1'563 | 21 | 18 |
| Malaysia | 1'518 | 14 | 159 |
| Denmark | 1'450 | 24 | 1 |
| Israel | 1'238 | 1 | 37 |
| Turkey | 1'236 | 30 | 0 |
| Czechia | 1'165 | 1 | 6 |
| Japan | 1'101 | 41 | 235 |
| Ecuador | 981 | 18 | 3 |
| Ireland | 906 | 4 | 5 |
| Luxembourg | 875 | 8 | 6 |
| Pakistan | 873 | 6 | 13 |
| Chile | 746 | 2 | 11 |
| Thailand | 721 | 1 | 52 |
| Diamond Princess | 712 | 8 | 567 |
| Finland | 700 | 1 | 10 |
| Greece | 695 | 17 | 19 |
| Poland | 692 | 8 | 13 |
| Iceland | 588 | 1 | 51 |
| Indonesia | 579 | 49 | 30 |
| Romania | 576 | 5 | 73 |
| Saudi Arabia | 562 | 0 | 19 |
| Singapore | 509 | 2 | 152 |
| Qatar | 494 | 0 | 33 |
| India | 467 | 9 | 34 |
| Philippines | 462 | 33 | 18 |
| Slovenia | 442 | 3 | 0 |
| Russia | 438 | 1 | 17 |
| South Africa | 402 | 0 | 4 |
| Peru | 363 | 5 | 1 |
| Hong Kong | 356 | 4 | 100 |
| Estonia | 352 | 0 | 4 |
| Bahrain | 339 | 2 | 160 |
| Egypt | 327 | 14 | 56 |
| Mexico | 316 | 2 | 4 |
| Croatia | 315 | 1 | 5 |
| Panama | 313 | 3 | 1 |
| Lebanon | 267 | 4 | 8 |
| Iraq | 266 | 23 | 62 |
| Argentina | 266 | 4 | 27 |
| Serbia | 249 | 2 | 3 |
| Dominican Republic | 245 | 3 | 0 |
| Colombia | 235 | 3 | 3 |
| Algeria | 230 | 17 | 65 |
| Bulgaria | 201 | 3 | 3 |
| UAE | 198 | 2 | 41 |
| Taiwan | 195 | 2 | 28 |
| Armenia | 194 | 0 | 2 |
| Kuwait | 189 | 0 | 30 |
| San Marino | 187 | 20 | 4 |
| Slovakia | 186 | 0 | 7 |
| Latvia | 180 | 0 | 1 |
| Hungary | 167 | 7 | 16 |
| Lithuania | 160 | 1 | 1 |
| Uruguay | 158 | 0 | 0 |
| North Macedonia | 136 | 2 | 1 |
| Morocco | 134 | 4 | 3 |
| Costa Rica | 134 | 2 | 2 |
| Andorra | 133 | 1 | 1 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 130 | 1 | 2 |
| Vietnam | 123 | 0 | 17 |
| Faeroe Islands | 118 | 0 | 14 |
| Cyprus | 116 | 1 | 3 |
| Jordan | 112 | 0 | 1 |
| Moldova | 109 | 1 | 2 |
| Malta | 107 | 0 | 2 |
| Albania | 104 | 4 | 2 |
| New Zealand | 102 | 0 | 0 |
| Burkina Faso | 99 | 4 | 5 |
| Sri Lanka | 94 | 0 | 3 |

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|------------------------|----|---|----|
| Brunei | 91 | 0 | 2 |
| Tunisia | 89 | 3 | 1 |
| Cambodia | 86 | 0 | 2 |
| Belarus | 81 | 0 | 22 |
| Venezuela | 77 | 0 | 15 |
| Ukraine | 73 | 3 | 1 |
| Azerbaijan | 72 | 1 | 10 |
| Réunion | 71 | 0 | 1 |
| Senegal | 67 | 0 | 5 |
| Oman | 66 | 0 | 17 |
| Kazakhstan | 62 | 0 | 0 |
| Georgia | 61 | 0 | 8 |
| Palestine | 59 | 0 | 17 |
| Guadeloupe | 58 | 1 | 0 |
| Cameroon | 56 | 0 | 2 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| Liechtenstein | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| Uzbekistan | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| Martinique | 44 | 1 | 0 |
| Afghanistan | 40 | 1 | 1 |
| DRC | 36 | 1 | 0 |
| Nigeria | 36 | 1 | 2 |
| Channel Islands | 36 | 0 | 0 |
| Cuba | 35 | 1 | 0 |
| Bangladesh | 33 | 3 | 5 |
| Puerto Rico | 31 | 2 | 1 |
| Guam | 29 | 1 | 0 |
| Mauritius | 28 | 2 | 0 |
| Bolivia | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Honduras | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Ivory Coast | 25 | 0 | 2 |
| Ghana | 24 | 1 | 0 |
| Macao | 24 | 0 | 10 |
| Monaco | 23 | 0 | 1 |
| Montenegro | 22 | 1 | 0 |
| Paraguay | 22 | 1 | 0 |
| Mayotte | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| French Guiana | 20 | 0 | 6 |
| Guatemala | 19 | 1 | 0 |
| Guyana | 19 | 1 | 0 |
| Jamaica | 19 | 1 | 2 |
| Rwanda | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| French Polynesia | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Togo | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Barbados | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| Kenya | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Gibraltar | 15 | 0 | 5 |
| Isle of Man | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Maldives | 13 | 0 | 5 |
| Madagascar | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Tanzania | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Ethiopia | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Mongolia | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Aruba | 9 | 0 | 1 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| New Caledonia | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Seychelles | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Bermuda | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Gabon | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Haiti | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Saint Martin | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Suriname | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Curaçao | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Bahamas | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenland | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Guinea | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Eswatini | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Cayman Islands | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Zimbabwe | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Cabo Verde | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| CAR | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Congo | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| El Salvador | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Fiji | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Liberia | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Namibia | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Barth | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Zambia | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Gambia | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Sudan | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Nepal | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Angola | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Benin | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Bhutan | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mauritania | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Nicaragua | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Niger | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Saint Lucia | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Belize | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Chad | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Djibouti | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dominica | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Eritrea | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Grenada | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Vatican City | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Montserrat | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mozambique | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Vincent Grenadines | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sint Maarten | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Somalia | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Syria | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Timor-Leste | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Turks and Caicos | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Uganda | 1 | 0 | 0 |

- Among the deaths: a 34-year-old man in Rome with no existing health conditions (according to reports) who died after being hospitalized for 4 days in sub-intensive care. He had developed a fever after returning from Barcelona, Spain.
- The Ticino government council is sticking to the measures adopted on Sunday. These prohibit over 65-year-olds from doing their own shopping.
- France and China are seeking emergency G20 talks over coronavirus. The two countries have agreed on the need for emergency talks by leaders of the G20 major economies to coordinate an international response to the coronavirus crisis, the French presidency has said.
- Phd student of the Uni Bern has created a tool follow the currently confirmed Covid-19 cases in Switzerland. The tool is open source and is available to everyone free of charge: <https://www.corona-data.ch/>



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%5bttnews%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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