

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

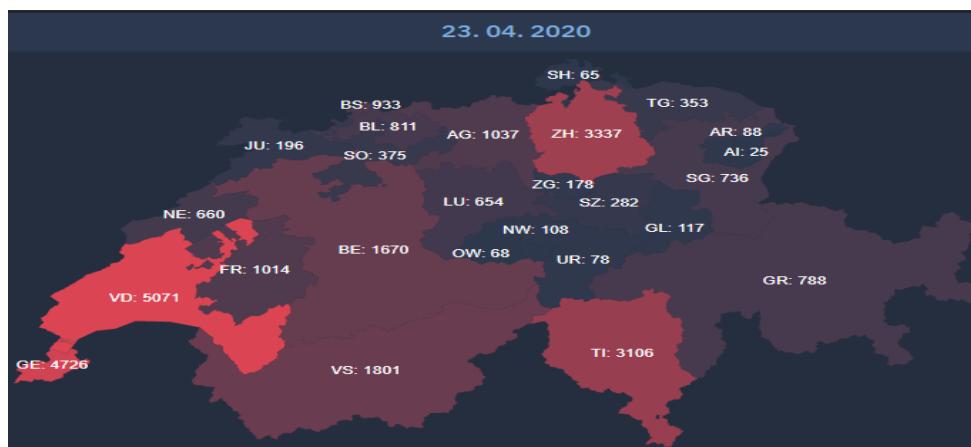
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 187,923 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (48,788) and Italy (25,549). There have been more than 2,682,745 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Researchers in Geneva and Basel have launched a clinical trial to test two drugs in the prevention of infection among people who were in contact with newly confirmed Covid-19 patients. The trial announced today is intended to help monitor and contain any new Covid-19 outbreaks at a time when many countries, including Switzerland, are easing restrictions.
- Initial results from a serological antibody test in canton Geneva has estimated that over 5% of the Geneva population - some 27,000 people – could have been infected by the novel coronavirus.
- Switzerland plans to introduce a contact tracing app in the next few weeks. The decentralized contact tracing app DP-3T should be ready by May 11, according to two Swiss universities involved in its conception. According to a survey, carried out by consulting firm Deloitte, 64% of Swiss residents are in favor of being tracked in return for alerts when they come into contact with people infected with the coronavirus. The study released by the Geneva University Hospital on Wednesday is based on blood samples taken from 760 people in Geneva. Serological tests were used to detect a specific antibody type G, which is directed against the pathogen. The test confirms the presence of antibodies in the blood, but researchers caution that this does not indicate whether someone has any immunity against the virus.
- As many as half of the people who have died from Covid-19 in Europe were residents in long-term care facilities, according to estimates from the WHO. “This is an unimaginable human tragedy,” WHO’s Europe Director Hans Kluge said during a press conference Thursday. “This pandemic has shone a spotlight on the overlooked and undervalued corners of our society. Across the European Region, long-term care has often been notoriously neglected. But it should not be this way,” said Kluge, calling the workers employed in these facilities as “the unsung heroes of this pandemic.”
- A day after the government announced the re-opening of primary schools, set for May 11, Daniel Koch clarified his position on the role played by children in transmitting the novel coronavirus. “Children are most certainly not the drivers of this epidemic. Of course, there are children who have been infected, mostly by their parents. But children are not vectors [and] are not really impacted [by the virus],” Koch said. The lack of ample data on the role children play in transmitting Covid-19 may be driving this uncertainty, as experts also appear divided on how to interpret emerging research in this area.
- The WHO’s Africa director, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, in a briefing today again emphasised the risk that lockdowns across Africa could hamper health services on the continent from tackling other diseases. “While Covid-19 is a major health threat, it’s critical to maintain malaria prevention and treatment programmes,” said the WHO’s Africa director, Dr Matshidiso Moeti. “The new modeling shows deaths could exceed 700,000 this year alone. We haven’t seen mortality levels like that in 20 years. We must not turn back the clock.”
- Germany warning: The country is only at the start of its coronavirus crisis and risks squandering gains it has made in slowing the spread if it reopens too quickly, Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	48'788	859'425	84'812
Italy	25'549	189'973	57'576
Spain	22'157	213'024	89'250
France	21'340	159'877	40'657
UK	18'738	138'078	N/A
Iran	5'481	87'026	64'843
Belgium	6'490	42'797	9'800
China	4'632	82'798	77'207
Germany	5'354	151'195	103'300
Netherlands	4'177	35'729	N/A
Brazil	2'940	46'701	25'318
Turkey	2'376	98'674	16'477
Switzerland	1'538	28'496	19'900
Sweden	2'021	16'755	550
Canada	2'028	40'824	13'986
Portugal	820	22'353	1'201
Indonesia	647	7'775	960
Austria	522	15'002	11'694
India	686	21'797	4'376
Ireland	769	16'671	9'233
Ecuador	560	11'183	1'328
Romania	541	10'096	2'478
Philippines	462	6'981	722
Mexico	970	10'544	2'627
Algeria	407	3'007	1'355
Denmark	394	8'073	5'384
Poland	454	10'511	1'740
S. Korea	240	10'702	8'411
Peru	530	19'250	7'027
Dominican Republic	265	5'543	581
Russia	555	62'773	4'891
Egypt	276	3'659	935
Czechia	210	7'138	2'152
Japan	299	11'950	1'424
Norway	191	7'361	32
Morocco	151	3'537	430
Hungary	239	2'284	390
Israel	191	14'592	5'334
Colombia	206	4'356	870
Argentina	159	3'288	919
Greece	125	2'463	577
Ukraine	187	7'170	504
Pakistan	228	10'825	2'337
Serbia	139	7'276	1'063
Panama	144	4'992	255
Chile	168	11'812	5'804
Malaysia	95	5'603	3'542
Iraq	83	1'677	1'171
Saudi Arabia	121	13'930	1'925
Luxembourg	83	3'665	728
Finland	172	4'284	2'000
Australia	75	6'661	5'045
Slovenia	79	1'366	211
Bangladesh	127	4'186	108
North Macedonia	56	1'300	301
Thailand	50	2'839	2'430
Bosnia and Herzegovina	54	1'413	485
Moldova	80	2'926	661
San Marino	40	501	63
Bulgaria	52	1'097	190
Tunisia	38	909	190
Belarus	60	8'022	938
Croatia	50	1'981	883
Estonia	45	1'592	192
Andorra	37	723	333
Bolivia	40	672	44
South Africa	75	3'953	1'473
Burkina Faso	39	609	389
Lithuania	38	1'398	399
Honduras	47	519	31

UAE	56	8'756	1'637
Albania	27	663	385
Afghanistan	42	1'279	179
Cuba	43	1'235	365
Lebanon	22	688	140
DRC	25	377	47
Armenia	24	1'523	659
Kazakhstan	20	2'251	551
Cameroon	43	1'334	668
Azerbaijan	20	1'548	948
Niger	22	662	193
Mali	21	309	77
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
Cyprus	13	795	98
Singapore	12	11'178	924
Nigeria	28	873	197
New Zealand	16	1'451	1'065
Channel Islands	29	519	295
Mauritius	9	331	266
Kenya	14	320	89
Venezuela	10	298	122
Sint Maarten	12	73	22
Iceland	10	1'789	1'509
Ghana	9	1'154	99
Uruguay	12	549	337
Guadeloupe	12	148	76
Trinidad and Tobago	8	115	41
Bahamas	9	70	12
Qatar	10	7'764	750
Bahrain	8	2'098	1'082
Jordan	7	435	315
Sri Lanka	7	368	107
Paraguay	9	213	62
Ivory Coast	14	952	310
Taiwan	6	427	253
Martinique	14	164	73
El Salvador	8	250	67
Liberia	8	101	20
Guyana	7	67	9
Latvia	11	778	133
Kyrgyzstan	8	631	302
Guatemala	10	342	25
Congo	6	186	16
Bermuda	5	99	39
Sudan	13	162	14
Uzbekistan	7	1'735	561
Hong Kong	4	1'036	699
Oman	8	1'716	307
Montenegro	5	316	123
Jamaica	6	252	28
Barbados	6	76	27
Myanmar	5	132	9
Kuwait	14	2'399	498
Costa Rica	6	681	180
Malta	3	445	204
Georgia	5	420	111
Mayotte	4	326	125
Ethiopia	3	116	21
Togo	6	88	59
Tanzania	10	284	11
Haiti	4	62	2
Zimbabwe	4	28	2
Slovakia	15	1'325	288
Djibouti	2	986	252
Palestine	4	480	92
Senegal	6	479	257
Isle of Man	16	307	221
Somalia	16	328	8
Zambia	3	76	37
Saint Martin	2	38	19
Syria	3	42	6
Antigua and Barbuda	3	24	10
Angola	2	25	6
Belize	2	18	5

- In Africa and Latin America, rumours and misinformation are spreading as fast as the coronavirus. Swiss development and humanitarian organizations have stepped up efforts to protect the population and counter fake news with focused media projects.
- To end the coronavirus pandemic, the US is either going to have to continue with extreme social distancing measures or do it with "ubiquitous" testing, according to Dr. Anish Jha, the director of the Harvard Global Health Initiative.
- The UK now has the capacity for carrying out 51,000 coronavirus tests per day, Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced Thursday. That means "essential workers will be able to book tests themselves on Gov.UK," Hancock said, adding that the process will be free, and that people who live with essential workers will also be able to get tested.
- The number of coronavirus patients in intensive care in Belgium has fallen below 1,000 for the first time since the end of last month.
- China is donating an additional \$30 million to the World Health Organization to support its fight against the coronavirus pandemic, according to a tweet from China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying Thursday.



- **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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