

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

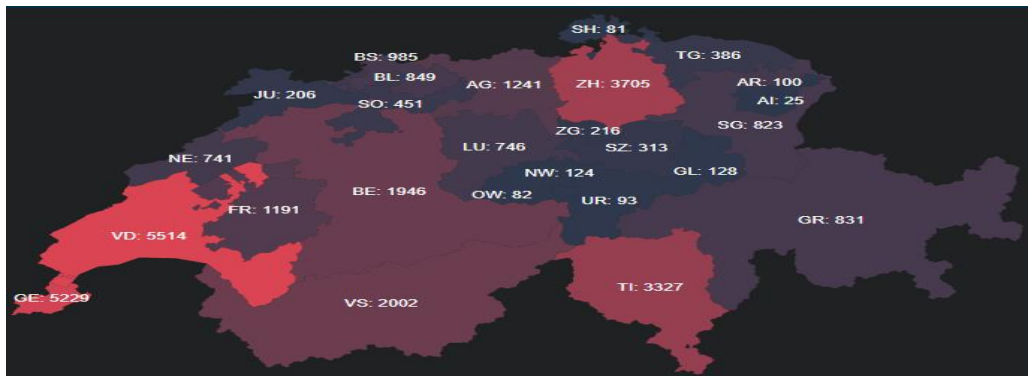
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 475,600 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (122,705) and Brazil (51,407). There have been more than 9,243,221 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- More than 100 million children in South Asia could slip into poverty as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, a UN report said of the long-term impact of the crisis. Cases across the densely populated region – home to almost a quarter of the world’s population – have risen in recent weeks even as the countries lift lockdowns to revive economies badly shattered by the virus. *“While they may be less susceptible to the virus itself, children are being profoundly affected by the fallout, including the economic and social consequences of the lockdown,”* the report by the UN children’s agency said.
- *“We continue to urge all countries to double down on the fundamental public health measures that we know work: Finding and testing suspected COVID-19 cases, isolating and caring for the sick, tracing and quarantining contacts, protecting health workers”*, tweeted Dr. Tedros, WHO General-Director.
- Today Iran reported 121 new coronavirus deaths, its highest daily toll in over two months, as it battles to contain the Middle East’s deadliest Covid-19 outbreak. Health ministry spokeswoman said the new fatalities brought the overall virus death toll to 9,863.
- The US government’s top infectious disease experts will warn Congress today about the “tremendous burden” which could face hospitals in the fall and winter, as coronavirus cases continue to rise in about half the states and political polarization competes for attention with public health recommendations. In a prepared statement, the experts said it is unclear how long the Covid-19 outbreak will last, but they expect it to continue *“for some time.” “If there is Covid-19 and flu activity at the same time, this could place a tremendous burden on the healthcare system related to bed occupancy, laboratory testing needs, personal protective equipment and health care worker safety,”* the statement said.
- South Korea and Germany who initially seemed to have the virus under control are racing to contain newer clusters, which are threatening their relative progress at containing the pandemic. Meanwhile India, with the fourth highest number of coronavirus cases in the world, has seen more than 100,000 new cases in the past eight days as the country struggles to contain the virus.
- In Latin America, which has seen the biggest recent increases in cases, the also situation continues to worsen. On Monday, Mexico recorded a higher daily death count than Brazil for the second consecutive day, and Brazil, which has the second highest numbers of cases worldwide, has reported an average of 1,000 virus-related deaths a day over the past week.
- As coronavirus chaos has enveloped Pakistan, with hospitals overflowing, doctors dying and infections escalating at an unmanageable rate, a dangerous black market in blood plasma has emerged. The blood plasma of recovered coronavirus patients is now being sold to those who are desperately looking for a cure, at a time when doctors say Pakistan’s healthcare system is on the brink of collapse. Convalescent plasma is being trialed around the world as a possible treatment for the disease. It contains antibodies generated by the immune systems of people who have fought off the virus. Doctors in government hospitals in Islamabad said they had witnessed transactions between patients and intermediaries.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	122,705	2,390,986	1,003,322
Brazil	51,407	1,113,606	594,104
UK	42,927	306,210	N/A
Italy	34,657	238,720	183,426
France	29,663	160,750	74,612
Spain	28,324	293,584	N/A
Mexico	22,584	185,122	140,118
India	14,162	449,613	254,204
Iran	9,863	209,970	169,160
Belgium	9,713	60,810	16,771
Germany	8,977	192,429	175,700
Canada	8,436	101,637	64,334
Russia	8,359	599,705	356,429
Peru	8,223	257,447	145,320
Netherlands	6,095	49,722	N/A
Sweden	5,161	60,837	N/A
Turkey	4,974	188,897	161,533
China	4,634	83,418	78,425
Chile	4,505	250,767	210,570
Ecuador	4,223	50,640	24,991
Pakistan	3,695	185,034	73,471
Indonesia	2,535	47,896	19,241
Switzerland	1,956	31,332	29,000
Colombia	2,310	71,183	28,968
Egypt	2,278	56,809	15,133
South Africa	1,991	101,590	53,444
Ireland	1,717	25,383	22,698
Portugal	1,540	39,737	25,829
Romania	1,539	24,505	17,187
Bangladesh	1,545	119,198	47,635
Poland	1,375	32,527	17,573
Saudi Arabia	1,346	164,144	109,885
Philippines	1,186	31,825	8,442
Ukraine	1,035	38,074	16,956
Argentina	1,049	44,931	13,576
Japan	953	17,916	16,133
Iraq	1,167	32,676	14,785
Algeria	852	11,920	8,559
Bolivia	820	25,493	5,857
Austria	693	17,408	16,261
Dominican Republic	675	27,936	15,551
Denmark	603	12,561	11,393
Hungary	573	4,107	2,600
Afghanistan	618	29,481	9,260
Sudan	533	8,698	3,460
Panama	521	26,752	14,664
Nigeria	525	20,919	7,109
Moldova	490	14,714	8,212
Guatemala	547	13,769	2,818
Honduras	395	13,356	1,362
Belarus	357	59,487	38,688
Czechia	337	10,561	7,543
Finland	327	7,155	6,400
Armenia	372	21,006	10,144
Kuwait	334	41,033	32,304
Israel	307	21,246	15,812
UAE	305	45,683	33,703
Cameroon	308	12,041	7,740
S. Korea	281	12,484	10,908
Serbia	263	13,092	12,054
Yemen	257	967	350
Norway	248	8,772	8,138
North Macedonia	251	5,311	2,048
Morocco	214	10,264	8,384
Bulgaria	207	3,984	2,171
Greece	190	3,302	1,374
Bosnia and Herzegovina	172	3,588	2,285
Azerbaijan	161	13,207	7,168
Oman	140	32,394	17,279
DRC	135	6,027	861
Malaysia	121	8,590	8,186
Kenya	128	4,952	1,782
Kazakhstan	127	18,231	11,220
Luxembourg	110	4,121	3,959
Slovenia	109	1,534	1,376

Mali	111	1,978	1,302
Croatia	107	2,366	2,142
Australia	102	7,492	6,904
Mauritania	112	3,121	905
Qatar	99	89,579	71,501
Somalia	90	2,812	818
El Salvador	113	4,973	2,814
Cuba	85	2,318	2,123
Haiti	88	5,211	338
Senegal	89	6,034	4,046
Lithuania	77	1,803	1,483
Chad	74	858	755
Ethiopia	75	4,848	1,412
Ghana	95	14,568	10,907
Estonia	69	1,982	1,771
Niger	67	1,046	913
Nicaragua	64	1,823	1,238
Thailand	58	3,156	3,023
Bahrain	66	22,407	16,862
Burkina Faso	53	907	823
Andorra	52	855	796
Tajikistan	52	5,567	4,109
Sierra Leone	55	1,340	788
Tunisia	50	1,159	1,023
Ivory Coast	56	7,677	3,493
Channel Islands	47	570	512
Djibouti	48	4,599	3,952
Albania	45	2,047	1,195
San Marino	42	698	632
Liberia	34	652	270
Gabon	39	4,739	2,002
Kyrgyzstan	41	3,519	2,054
South Sudan	35	1,916	190
Equatorial Guinea	32	1,664	515
Lebanon	32	1,622	1,098
Latvia	30	1,111	903
Mayotte	31	2,434	2,188
Venezuela	35	4,048	1,327
Slovakia	28	1,589	1,448
Congo	37	1,087	456
Singapore	26	42,432	35,590
Guinea	28	5,040	3,685
Uruguay	25	882	815
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Nepal	24	10,099	2,224
New Zealand	22	1,515	1,483
Tanzania	21	509	183
Uzbekistan	19	6,535	4,520
CAR	30	2,963	495
Cyprus	19	988	824
Guinea-Bissau	19	1,556	191
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Georgia	14	911	761
Martinique	14	236	98
Guadeloupe	14	174	157
Madagascar	15	1,724	732
Paraguay	13	1,392	903
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	569	380
Costa Rica	12	2,277	1,043
Sao Tome and Principe	12	702	203
Guyana	12	205	103
Sri Lanka	11	1,951	1,548
Zambia	11	1,430	1,194
Benin	13	850	272
Bahamas	11	104	77
Iceland	10	1,824	1,806
Jamaica	10	665	516
Libya	10	595	116
Mauritius	10	340	326
Jordan	9	1,047	772
Malta	9	665	618
Montenegro	9	375	315
Bermuda	9	146	132
Maldives	8	2,217	1,813
Malawi	11	803	258

- Dr. Preeti Malani, a fellow with the Infectious Diseases Society of America and Chief Health Officer at the University of Michigan, said contact tracing "will be essential, especially in the fall." Malani said as children return to school, contact tracing will be especially important. And as it is now, "There's a lot of work that needs to be done between now and then, in terms of just making this functional," she said while speaking at a briefing Tuesday morning. Malani said this is new territory, but "the role of technology is going to be very important."
- Researchers from the University of Zurich share how the coronavirus led them to redirect their research in order to better understand people's communication habits during the pandemic, and what they found. Across all modes of communication, the number of people who increased activity greatly outnumbered those who slowed down. The highest activity increases could be observed with video calls, text messages and voice calls. Italian-speakers were most likely to make more use of video calls and social media. Text messaging became more popular among French-speaking participants. Only a small minority of people cut down communication. Since social media are generally popular for communication (over 95% of participants in this survey use WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube), they were curious to see how many people were using them to source information about the pandemic. Overall, 70% of Swiss obtained coronavirus information from at least one of these platforms. There were pronounced differences between language groups, particularly for Instagram and Twitter. Italian-speakers were most reliant on social media as coronavirus information sources. German-speaking respondents were significantly less likely to use WhatsApp, Facebook and YouTube.



- **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](mailto:grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch). The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schögler ([aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch](mailto:aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch)) and Leah Witton ([leah.witton@research.unibe.ch](mailto:leah.witton@research.unibe.ch)).

## Sources

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