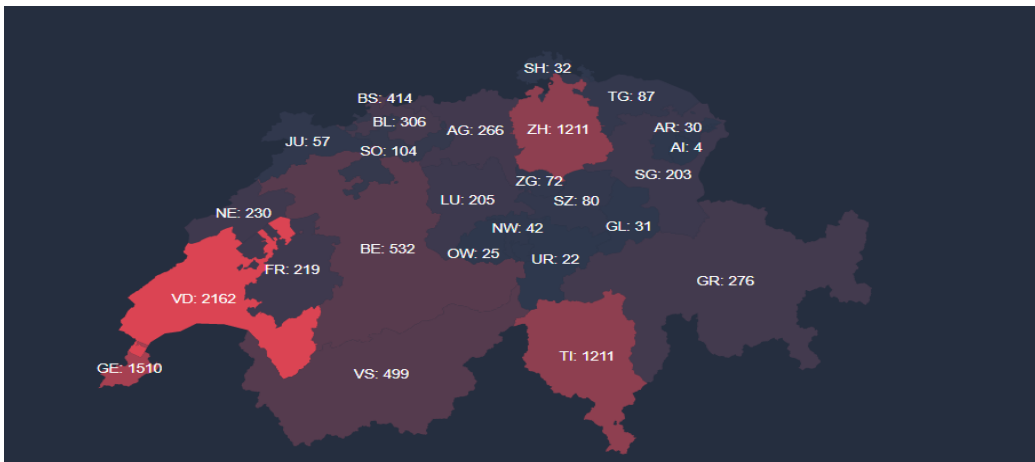# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
24.03.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 17,260 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (6,820) and China (3,270). There have been more than 398,000 global cases in 197 countries.

- The WHO has warned that the pandemic is accelerating, with more than 300,000 cases now confirmed. It is urging countries to adopt rigorous testing and contact-tracing strategies.

- The WHO has also warned the US has the potential to become the global epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak. Speaking in Geneva, WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris said there had been a "*very large acceleration*" in cases in the country. "*We cannot say that is the case yet but it does have that potential*" to become the next Covid-19 hotspot, she told reporters, according to Reuters. So far, there have been more than 46,000 cases in the US and 593 deaths, according to data collated by Johns Hopkins University.

- The lockdown in Wuhan, the Chinese city where the global coronavirus outbreak began, will be partially lifted on 8 April, officials say. Travel restrictions in the rest of Hubei province will be lifted from midnight on Tuesday - for residents who are healthy. A single new case of the virus was reported in Wuhan on Tuesday following almost a week of no reported new cases.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) says about 3.4% of all cases have resulted in deaths, but scientists estimate that the death rate is actually much lower because many cases have mild symptoms and are not reported. The rate of fatalities also depends on a range of factors including age, sex, pre-existing conditions and the health system you are in. From the evidence available, we know that some groups of people are more likely to die if they contract the virus - the elderly, the unwell and, maybe, men.

- Researchers in four countries will soon start a clinical trial of an unorthodox approach to the new coronavirus. They will test whether a century-old vaccine against tuberculosis (TB), a bacterial disease, can rev up the human immune system in a broad way, allowing it to better fight the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 and, perhaps, prevent infection with it altogether.

- The City of Los Angeles has introduced limited COVID-19 testing for certain high-risk individuals. Current individuals eligible for testing are people 65 or older, people with underlying chronic health conditions, people who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- Even when the world is trying to find a cure for the dreaded coronavirus pandemic, a report in Global Times said that a man from China's Yunnan province died from *Hantavirus* while on a bus to the Shandong province. All the fellow passengers on the bus have been tested for the virus. The Centre for Disease Control says that the virus is spread mainly from rodents. It goes on to say that infection with any of the hantavirus can cause hantavirus disease in people.

- Indian PM Narendra Modi has just announced the most wide-ranging lockdown the world has seen yet - with some 1.3 billion people affected. Here are the key points of his address: The lockdown will be "absolute" and in force for 21 days, no citizen will be allowed to leave their homes during this period. Mr Modi said it was the only way to break the cycle of the virus and that if the country could not manage the next 21 days, it would be set back by 21 years.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
China	81'171	3'277	73'159
Italy	69'176	6'820	8'326
USA	48'720	588	295
Spain	39'673	2'696	3'794
Germany	31'370	133	749
Iran	24'811	1'934	8'913
France	19'856	860	2'200
Switzerland	9'117	122	131
S. Korea	9'037	120	3'507
UK	6'735	337	135
Netherlands	5'560	276	2
Austria	5'010	28	9
Belgium	4'269	122	461
Norway	2'753	12	6
Portugal	2'362	30	22
Sweden	2'286	36	16
Australia	2'144	8	118
Canada	2'091	24	112
Brazil	1'967	34	2
Israel	1'656	2	49
Malaysia	1'624	15	183
Denmark	1'577	32	1
Turkey	1'529	37	0
Czechia	1'289	2	8
Japan	1'140	42	285
Ireland	1'125	6	5
Ecuador	1'049	27	3
Pakistan	958	7	13
Chile	922	2	17
Luxembourg	875	8	6
Thailand	827	4	52
Poland	799	9	1
Finland	792	1	10
Saudi Arabia	767	1	28
Romania	762	8	79
Diamond Princess	712	10	587
Greece	695	19	29
Indonesia	686	55	30
Iceland	648	2	51
Singapore	558	2	156
South Africa	554	0	4
Philippines	552	35	20
India	519	10	40
Qatar	501	0	37
Russia	495	1	22
Slovenia	480	4	3
Peru	395	5	1
Bahrain	390	3	164
Hong Kong	386	4	102
Croatia	382	1	5
Estonia	369	0	7
Mexico	367	4	4
Egypt	366	19	68
Panama	345	6	1
Iraq	316	27	75
Dominican Republic	312	6	3
Colombia	306	3	6
Lebanon	304	4	8
Serbia	303	3	15
Argentina	301	5	51
Armenia	235	0	2
Algeria	230	17	65
Taiwan	216	2	29
Slovakia	204	0	7
Lithuania	203	1	1
Bulgaria	202	3	3
UAE	198	2	41
Latvia	197	0	1
Kuwait	191	0	39
San Marino	187	21	4
Hungary	187	9	21
Andorra	164	1	1
Uruguay	162	0	0
Costa Rica	158	2	2
New Zealand	155	0	12
Bosnia and Herzegovina	153	2	2
North Macedonia	148	2	1
Morocco	143	4	5
Vietnam	134	0	17
Jordan	127	0	1
Albania	123	5	10
Faeroe Islands	122	0	23
Cyprus	116	1	3
Burkina Faso	114	4	7
Tunisia	114	3	1
Malta	110	0	2
Moldova	109	1	2
Brunei	104	0	2
Sri Lanka	102	0	2
Ukraine	97	3	1
Cambodia	91	0	4

Azerbaijan	87	1	10
Senegal	86	0	8
Oman	84	0	17
Venezuela	84	0	15
Belarus	81	0	22
Réunion	75	0	1
Afghanistan	74	1	1
Kazakhstan	68	0	0
Georgia	67	0	9
Cameroon	66	0	2
Guadeloupe	62	1	0
Palestine	60	0	16
Martinique	53	1	0
Ghana	52	2	0
Trinidad and Tobago	52	0	0
Liechtenstein	51	0	0
Uzbekistan	50	0	0
Cuba	48	1	0
DRC	45	2	0
Nigeria	42	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	42	0	0
Bangladesh	39	4	5
Puerto Rico	39	2	1
Mauritius	36	2	0
Channel Islands	36	0	0
Mayotte	36	0	0
Rwanda	36	0	0
Guam	32	1	0
Honduras	30	0	0
Montenegro	29	1	0
Bolivia	28	0	0
Paraguay	27	2	0
Macao	26	0	10
Ivory Coast	25	0	2
Kenya	25	0	0
Monaco	23	0	1
French Guiana	23	0	6
French Polynesia	23	0	0
Jamaica	21	1	2
Guatemala	20	1	0
Guyana	20	1	0
Isle of Man	20	0	0
Togo	20	0	1
Barbados	17	0	0
Madagascar	17	0	0
U.S. Virgin Islands	17	0	0
Gibraltar	15	0	5
Maldives	13	0	5
Aruba	12	0	1
Ethiopia	12	0	0
Tanzania	12	0	0
Mongolia	10	0	0
New Caledonia	10	0	0
Equatorial Guinea	9	0	0
Uganda	9	0	0
Saint Martin	8	0	0
Seychelles	7	0	0
Gabon	6	1	0
Benin	6	0	0
Bermuda	6	0	0
Haiti	6	0	0
Suriname	6	0	0
Cayman Islands	5	1	0
El Salvador	5	0	0
Curaçao	4	1	0
Bahamas	4	0	0
Congo	4	0	0
Fiji	4	0	0
Greenland	4	0	2
Guinea	4	0	0
Namibia	4	0	0
Eswatini	4	0	0
Cabo Verde	3	1	0
Sudan	3	1	0
Zimbabwe	3	1	0
Angola	3	0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	3	0	0
CAR	3	0	0
Chad	3	0	0
Djibouti	3	0	0
Liberia	3	0	0
Mozambique	3	0	0
Niger	3	0	0
St. Barth	3	0	0
Saint Lucia	3	0	0
Zambia	3	0	0
Gambia	2	1	0
Nepal	2	0	1
Bhutan	2	0	0
Dominica	2	0	0
Laos	2	0	0
Mauritania	2	0	0
Myanmar	2	0	0
Nicaragua	2	0	0
Sint Maarten	2	0	0
Belize	1	0	0
Eritrea	1	0	0
Grenada	1	0	0
Vatican City	1	0	0
Montserrat	1	0	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0
St. Vincent Grenadines	1	0	0
Somalia	1	0	0
Syria	1	0	0
Timor-Leste	1	0	0
Turks and Caicos	1	0	0

- With more countries shutting borders, export restrictions in India and manufacturing disruptions in China, there are growing concerns about the future of antibiotics - a key line of defense against hospital infections.
- The UK is getting to grips with sweeping new measures to tackle the spread of coronavirus, including a ban on public gatherings of more than two people and the immediate closure of shops selling non-essential goods.
- Saudi Arabia has confirmed its first death from Covid-19. The victim was a 51-year-old man from Afghanistan, the health ministry says.
- The Olympics, due to begin in July, are moved to next year.
- 514 more people die in Spain, the worst day yet.
- A person who tested positive for the corona virus died on Tuesday. It is the first death in the canton of Thurgau.
- The Matterhorn is illuminated as a sign of hope. On behalf of Zermatt, the light artist Gerry Hofstetter will illuminate the Matterhorn daily between sunset and 11:00 p.m. from Tuesday - as a sign of hope and solidarity in the Corona crisis.

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%5btt_news%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

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