

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

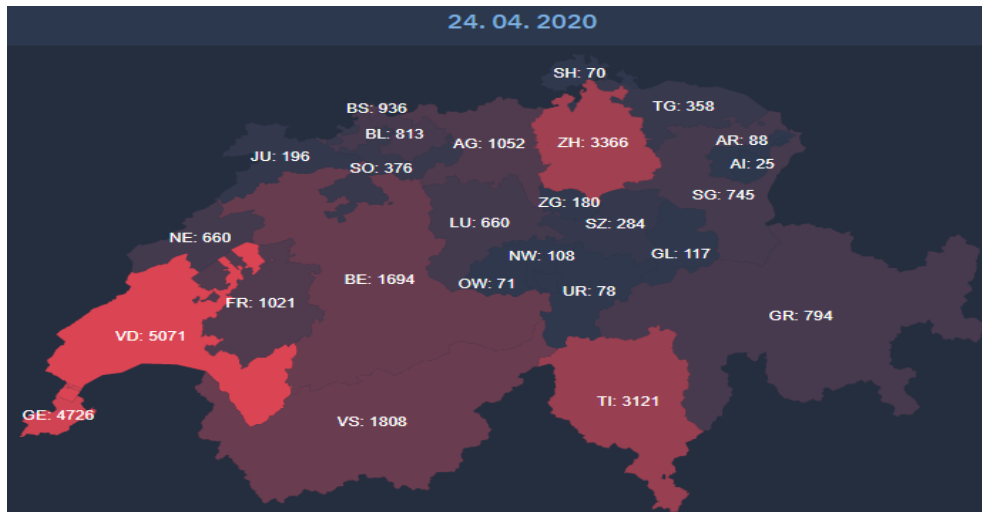
24.04.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 194,434 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (50,919) and Italy (25,969). There have been more than 2,774,766 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The WHO has announced a multibillion-pound “call to action” for a global response to the Covid-19 pandemic. *“Past experience has taught us that even when tools are available, they have been not been equally available to all - but we cannot allow that to happen. Today, the WHO is proud to be uniting with many partners to launch the Access to Covid Tools Accelerator”*, said WHO director general Dr. Tedros. The WHO call comes as it launches a “landmark collaboration” to speed the development of effective drugs, tests and vaccines to prevent and treat Covid-19, with Dr. Tedros warning the disease is a *“common threat which we can only defeat with a common approach”*.
- Italy began testing people after diagnosing its first local patient on 21 February in Codogno, a small town in wealthy Lombardy. Cases and deaths immediately surged. A study presented on Friday suggests the earliest Covid-19 infections in Italy in fact date back to at least a month earlier. Stefano Merler, of the Bruno Kessler Foundation, told a news conference with Italy’s top health authorities that his institute had looked at the first known cases and drawn clear conclusions from the subsequent pace of contagion. *“We realized that there were a lot of infected people in Lombardy well before 20 February, which means the epidemic had started much earlier,”* he said. *“In January for sure, but maybe even before. We’ll never know,”* he said, adding that he believed the immediate surge in cases suggested the virus was probably brought to Italy by a group of people rather than a single individual.
- *Remdesivir*, a drug thought to be one of the best prospects for treating Covid-19, failed to have any effect in the first full trial, it has been revealed. The drug is in short supply globally because of the excitement it has generated. It is one of the drugs Donald Trump claimed was “promising”. In a “gold standard” trial of 237 patients, some of whom received remdesivir while others did not, the drug did not work. The trial was also stopped early because of side-effects. News of the failure was posted on a WHO clinical trials database, but later removed. A WHO spokesman said it had been uploaded too soon by accident.
- As several European countries continued to cautiously lift their lockdowns, sending children back to school and reopening some shops and businesses, Sweden’s chief epidemiologist, Anders Tegnell, said the original measures looked difficult to justify. Sweden has favoured civic responsibility over mandatory rules, closing senior high schools and banning gatherings of more than 50 people, but asking rather than ordering people to avoid non-essential travel, work from home and stay indoors if they are over 70 or feeling ill. Shops, restaurants and junior schools have stayed open.
- In France, government has announced that millions of washable face masks will be provided to the public from next month. The government move is the latest development in a row over its apparent flip-flopping over the value of masks in protecting people from Covid-19 infection. More than 10m textile masks were produced by domestic and international plants last week and output should reach 25m by the end of April. From 4 May, the masks will be sold to the public, likely via pharmacies, supermarkets and online.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	50'919	894'034	90'187
Italy	25'969	192'994	60'498
Spain	22'524	219'764	92'355
France	21'856	158'183	42'088
UK	19'506	143'464	N/A
Iran	5'574	88'194	66'599
Belgium	6'679	44'293	10'122
China	4'632	82'804	77'257
Germany	5'577	153'584	106'800
Netherlands	4'289	36'535	N/A
Brazil	3'407	51'073	26'573
Turkey	2'600	104'912	21'737
Switzerland	1'578	28'677	20'600
Sweden	2'152	17'567	550
Canada	2'197	42'773	15'202
Portugal	854	22'797	1'228
Indonesia	689	8'211	1'002
Austria	530	15'071	11'872
India	722	23'502	5'012
Ireland	794	17'607	9'233
Ecuador	560	11'183	1'328
Romania	567	10'417	2'817
Philippines	477	7'192	762
Mexico	1'069	11'633	2'627
Algeria	407	3'007	1'355
Denmark	403	8'210	5'526
Poland	494	10'892	1'944
S. Korea	240	10'708	8'501
Peru	572	20'914	7'422
Dominican Republic	267	5'749	763
Russia	615	68'622	5'568
Egypt	294	4'092	1'075
Czechia	214	7'236	2'371
Japan	328	12'368	1'494
Norway	199	7'444	32
Morocco	155	3'692	478
Hungary	250	2'383	401
Israel	193	14'882	5'685
Colombia	215	4'561	927
Argentina	167	3'435	976
Greece	130	2'490	577
Ukraine	193	7'647	601
Pakistan	237	11'155	2'527
Serbia	144	7'483	1'094
Panama	146	5'166	271
Chile	174	12'306	6'327
Malaysia	96	5'691	3'663
Iraq	83	1'677	1'171
Saudi Arabia	127	15'102	2'049
Luxembourg	83	3'665	728
Finland	177	4'395	2'500
Australia	79	6'675	5'136
Slovenia	80	1'373	211
Bangladesh	131	4'689	112
North Macedonia	57	1'326	337
Thailand	50	2'854	2'490
Bosnia and Herzegovina	55	1'421	538
Moldova	84	3'110	755
San Marino	40	513	64
Bulgaria	54	1'188	193
Tunisia	38	918	190
Belarus	63	8'773	1'120
Croatia	51	2'009	982
Estonia	46	1'605	206
Andorra	40	731	333
Bolivia	43	703	44
South Africa	75	3'953	1'473
Burkina Faso	41	616	410
Lithuania	40	1'410	430
Honduras	47	562	50
UAE	64	9'281	1'760
Albania	27	678	394
Afghanistan	43	1'351	188
Cuba	49	1'285	416
Lebanon	22	696	140
DRC	25	394	48
Armenia	27	1'596	728

Kazakhstan	25	2'376	602
Cameroon	43	1'430	668
Azerbaijan	21	1'592	1'013
Niger	24	671	256
Mali	21	309	77
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
Cyprus	14	804	98
Singapore	12	12'075	924
Nigeria	31	981	197
New Zealand	17	1'456	1'095
Channel Islands	29	521	295
Mauritius	9	331	285
Kenya	14	336	94
Venezuela	10	311	126
Sint Maarten	12	73	22
Iceland	10	1'789	1'542
Ghana	10	1'279	134
Uruguay	12	557	354
Guadeloupe	12	149	82
Trinidad and Tobago	8	115	48
Bahamas	11	72	14
Qatar	10	8'525	809
Bahrain	8	2'506	1'113
Jordan	7	441	326
Sri Lanka	7	416	109
Paraguay	9	220	70
Ivory Coast	14	1'004	359
Taiwan	6	428	264
Martinique	14	170	77
El Salvador	8	261	72
Liberia	8	117	25
Guyana	7	70	12
Latvia	12	784	267
Kyrgyzstan	8	656	322
Guatemala	11	384	30
Congo	6	186	16
Bermuda	5	99	39
Sudan	16	174	14
Uzbekistan	8	1'778	617
Hong Kong	4	1'036	699
Oman	9	1'790	325
Montenegro	5	319	123
Jamaica	6	257	28
Barbados	6	76	30
Myanmar	5	143	9
Kuwait	15	2'614	613
Costa Rica	6	686	196
Malta	3	447	223
Georgia	5	431	132
Mayotte	4	354	144
Ethiopia	3	117	25
Togo	6	90	59
Tanzania	10	284	48
Haiti	5	72	2
Zimbabwe	4	29	2
Slovakia	17	1'360	355
Djibouti	2	999	330
Palestine	4	480	92
Senegal	7	545	262
Isle of Man	16	307	221
Somalia	16	328	8
Zambia	3	84	37
Saint Martin	2	38	20
Syria	3	42	6
Antigua and Barbuda	3	24	10
Angola	2	25	6
Belize	2	18	5
Malawi	3	33	3
MS Zaandam	2	9	0
Brunei	1	138	120
Monaco	4	94	35
Liechtenstein	1	81	55
Gabon	2	167	24
Cayman Islands	1	66	7
Benin	1	54	27
Libya	2	60	18
Curaçao	1	14	11
Botswana	1	22	0
Cabo Verde	1	88	1
Suriname	1	10	6
Turks and Caicos	1	11	4

- Marcel Tanner; epidemiologist, a member of the government's Covid-19 task force, says it will take more than 12 months for daily life in Switzerland to go back to normal if a new wave of the coronavirus pandemic is to be prevented. He does not expect a vaccine against the infectious disease to be available within 15 to 18 months at the earliest. He also said he expected that most people can go back to work in June if the necessary safety precautions are respected, including in public transport.
- Coronavirus has been detected on particles of air pollution by scientists investigating whether this could enable it to be carried over longer distances and increase the number of people infected. The work is preliminary and it is not yet known if the virus remains viable on pollution particles and in sufficient quantity to cause disease. The Italian scientists used standard techniques to collect outdoor air pollution samples at one urban and one industrial site in Bergamo province and identified a gene highly specific to Covid-19 in multiple samples. The detection was confirmed by blind testing at an independent laboratory. Leonardo Setti, at the University of Bologna in Italy, who led the work, said it was important to investigate if the virus could be carried more widely by air pollution.
- The UK has reported 684 more deaths in hospitals from Covid-19, bringing the total death toll in the country to 19,506, according to a daily report from health authorities.



- **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

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.corona-data.ch/>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/society/expert-opinion_no-mass-events-likely-in-switzerland-before-next-summer/45713896?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=socialflow&utm_campaign=own-posts&utm_content=o

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/apr/24/coronavirus-death-toll-trump-china-live-news-us-passes-480bn-relief-bill-as-ramadan-restrictions-are-imposed-indonesia>

<https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-04-24-20-intl/index.html>