

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

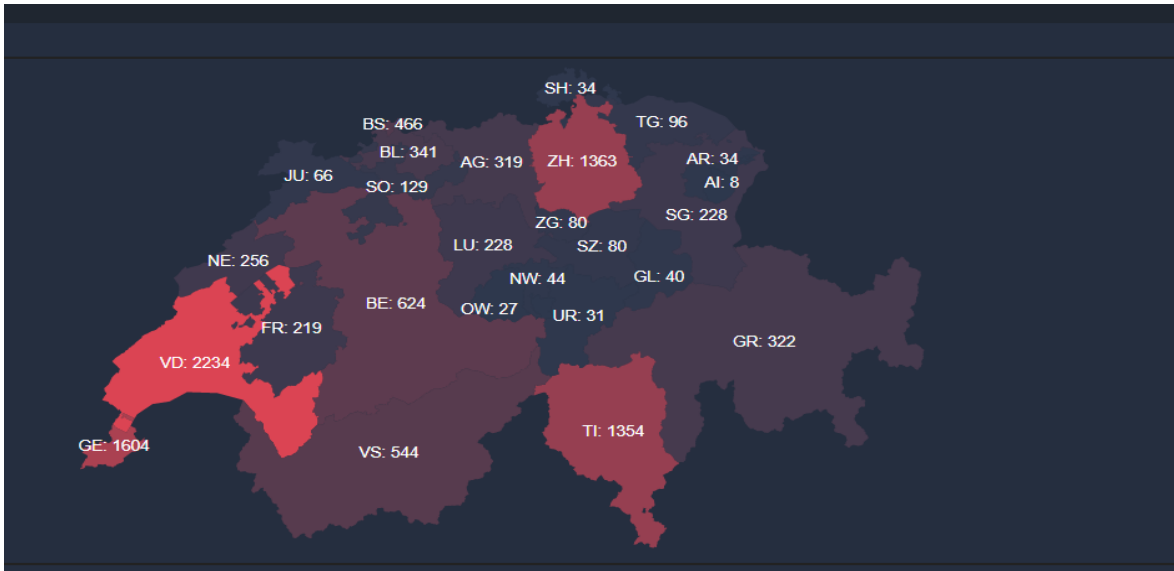
25.03.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 19,790 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (6,820) and China (3,281). There have been more than 446,000 global cases in 197 countries.
- China's Hubei Province, ground zero for the pandemic, plans to lift nearly all lockdown restrictions tomorrow.
- The World Health Organization has partnered with Facebook, Microsoft and several other tech companies for a hackathon to promote the development of software to take on challenges related to the coronavirus pandemic. Tech companies Twitter, WeChat, TikTok, Pinterest, Slack and Giphy are also participating.
- World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned untested drugs can provide false hope and cause a shortage of proven treatments needed for other diseases. In addition to malaria, both drugs are used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.
- Results from the first controlled trial on “hydroxychloroquine” for COVID-19 are out. But the study is really too small to conclude much of anything.
- Vaccine researchers say they are wasting time applying for grants rather than developing drugs to beat the coronavirus because of a huge shortfall in desperately needed funds. Scientists told that because of a lack of funding it was entirely possible that they could develop a vaccine that works, but not have the manufacturing capacity or understanding in place to then produce the millions of doses needed.
- Today, the United Nations system is launching a humanitarian campaign to fight the coronavirus in the world’s most vulnerable countries. This virus knows no borders, and we are only as strong as the weakest health system.
- Switzerland has introduced temporary restrictions on the export of protective equipment to head off shortages among medical staff and others fighting the coronavirus outbreak.
- Deliveries of protective equipment to Switzerland are still blocked in France and Germany, despite a European Union directive exempting the export of protective equipment to EFTA states from needing an export permit.
- The Swiss government has extended entry restrictions to all Schengen States. This will increase the protection given to the population against the coronavirus, it says.
- Spain requests NATO assistance to tackle coronavirus pandemic
- Australia banned overseas travel and extended social restrictions, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced today. *"We will be living with this virus for at least six months"* Morrison warned, stating further that, *"The highest priority should be placed on social isolation measures."*
- Two infants in San Diego have tested positive for coronavirus, Public Health Officer Dr. Wilma Wooten announced at a news conference Tuesday. This is the first time San Diego County has reported cases of infants less than one year of age, Wooten confirmed.
- New Zealand has recorded a 30% jump in coronavirus cases as the country heads into lockdown by the end of day Wednesday, according to Ashley Bloomfield, the country's Director of Health. There are 47 new confirmed cases and three new probable cases, bringing to 205.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
China	81'218	3'281	73'650
Italy	74'386	7'503	9'362
USA	59'987	808	379
Spain	47'610	3'434	5'367
Germany	35'740	186	3'540
Iran	27'017	2'077	9'625
France	22'304	1'100	3'281
Switzerland	10'537	149	131
S. Korea	9'137	126	3'730
UK	8'227	433	135
Netherlands	6'412	356	3
Austria	5'588	30	9
Belgium	4'937	178	547
Norway	3'034	14	6
Portugal	2'995	43	22
Canada	2'892	28	185
Sweden	2'526	44	16
Australia	2'431	9	118
Brazil	2'274	47	2
Israel	2'170	5	58
Turkey	1'874	44	0
Malaysia	1'796	20	199
Denmark	1'715	34	1
Czechia	1'497	5	10
Luxembourg	1'333	8	6
Ireland	1'329	7	5
Japan	1'193	43	285
Ecuador	1'173	28	3
Chile	1'142	3	22
Pakistan	1'022	8	21
Poland	957	13	2
Thailand	934	4	70
Romania	906	14	86
Saudi Arabia	900	2	29
Finland	880	3	10
Greece	821	22	29
Indonesia	790	58	31
Iceland	737	2	56
Diamond Princess	712	10	587
South Africa	709	0	12
Russia	658	1	29
Philippines	636	38	26
Singapore	631	2	160
India	606	10	42
Slovenia	528	5	10
Qatar	526	0	41
Panama	443	8	1
Egypt	442	21	93
Croatia	442	1	22
Bahrain	419	3	177
Peru	416	7	1
Hong Kong	410	4	102
Mexico	405	5	4
Estonia	404	1	8
Dominican Republic	392	10	3
Argentina	387	8	52
Serbia	384	4	15
Colombia	378	3	6
Iraq	346	29	103
Lebanon	333	4	8
UAE	333	2	52
Algeria	302	21	65
Armenia	265	0	16
Lithuania	255	4	1
Bulgaria	242	3	4
Taiwan	235	2	29
Hungary	226	10	21
Latvia	221	0	1
Slovakia	216	0	7
New Zealand	205	0	22
Kuwait	195	0	43
Uruguay	189	0	0
Andorra	188	1	1
San Marino	187	21	4
North Macedonia	177	3	1
Costa Rica	177	2	2
Tunisia	173	5	2
Morocco	170	5	6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	168	3	2
Jordan	154	0	1
Moldova	149	1	2
Albania	146	5	17
Vietnam	141	0	17
Faeroe Islands	132	0	38
Malta	129	0	2
Cyprus	124	3	3

Ukraine	116	4	1
Burkina Faso	114	4	7
Réunion	111	0	1
Brunei	109	0	2
Sri Lanka	102	0	3
Oman	99	0	17
Senegal	99	0	9
Cambodia	96	0	10
Azerbaijan	93	2	10
Venezuela	91	0	15
Belarus	86	0	29
Afghanistan	84	2	2
Kazakhstan	80	0	0
Guadeloupe	73	1	0
Georgia	73	0	10
Ivory Coast	73	0	2
Cameroon	70	1	2
Ghana	68	3	0
Palestine	62	0	16
Trinidad and Tobago	60	0	0
Cuba	57	1	1
Martinique	57	1	0
Uzbekistan	56	0	0
Montenegro	52	1	0
Liechtenstein	51	0	0
DRC	48	2	0
Mauritius	48	2	0
Nigeria	46	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	44	0	0
Rwanda	40	0	0
Bangladesh	39	5	7
Channel Islands	39	0	0
Paraguay	37	3	0
Honduras	36	0	0
Mayotte	36	0	0
Bolivia	32	0	0
Macao	30	0	10
Kenya	28	0	1
Gibraltar	26	0	5
Jamaica	25	1	2
French Polynesia	25	0	0
Monaco	23	0	1
French Guiana	23	0	6
Isle of Man	23	0	0
Togo	23	0	1
Guatemala	21	1	0
Madagascar	19	0	0
Barbados	18	0	0
Aruba	17	0	1
New Caledonia	14	0	0
Uganda	14	0	0
Maldives	13	0	8
Ethiopia	12	0	0
Tanzania	12	0	0
Zambia	12	0	0
Djibouti	11	0	0
Mongolia	10	0	0
El Salvador	9	0	0
Equatorial Guinea	9	0	0
Saint Martin	8	0	0
Suriname	8	0	0
Niger	7	1	0
Dominica	7	0	0
Haiti	7	0	0
Namibia	7	0	2
Seychelles	7	0	0
Cayman Islands	6	1	0
Curaçao	6	1	0
Gabon	6	1	0
Benin	6	0	0
Bermuda	6	0	0
Greenland	6	0	2
Guyana	5	1	0
Bahamas	5	0	1
Fiji	5	0	0
Mozambique	5	0	0
Cabo Verde	4	1	0
Congo	4	0	0
Guinea	4	0	0
Vatican City	4	0	0
Eswatini	4	0	0
Syria	4	0	0
Gambia	3	1	0
Sudan	3	1	0
Zimbabwe	3	1	0
Nepal	3	0	1
Angola	3	0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	3	0	0
CAR	3	0	0
Chad	3	0	0
Laos	3	0	0
Liberia	3	0	0
Myanmar	3	0	0
St. Barth	3	0	0
Saint Lucia	3	0	0
Bhutan	2	0	0
Guinea-Bissau	2	0	0
Mali	2	0	0
Mauritania	2	0	0
Nicaragua	2	0	0
Sint Maarten	2	0	0
Belize	1	0	0
Eritrea	1	0	0
Grenada	1	0	0
Libya	1	0	0
Montserrat	1	0	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0
St. Vincent Grenadines	1	0	0
Somalia	1	0	0
Timor-Leste	1	0	0
Turks and Caicos	1	0	0

- Two scientists —sociologist Emma Spiro and crisis informatics researcher Kate Starbird—are monitoring news reports and scraping massive amounts of data from social media platforms, they are examining how misinformation is spreading during the pandemic, and how scientific expertise factors into public perceptions. *“We’re trying to think about questions of how data and statistics are being used and debated in these conversations online, and what is the impact of that on public understanding and the way that people make decisions and take actions,”* Spiro told this week.
- New York's infection "attack rate" is five times higher than the rest of the US.



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

Wellcome Trust:

- <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/epidemic-preparedness-covid-19>

Sources

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

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

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/03/researchers-are-tracking-another-epidemic-too-misinformation>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/vaccine-teams-need-cash-injection-n3jnzdtdb>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/24/facebook-microsoft-and-other-tech-companies-partner-with-who-for-coronavirus-hackathon.html>

<https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-outbreak-03-24-20-intl-hnk/index.html>

https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/politics/coronavirus_medical_goods_from_the_eu_remain_blocked/45642340?utm_medium=socialflow&utm_content=o&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=own-posts

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

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/coronavirus-outbreak>