

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

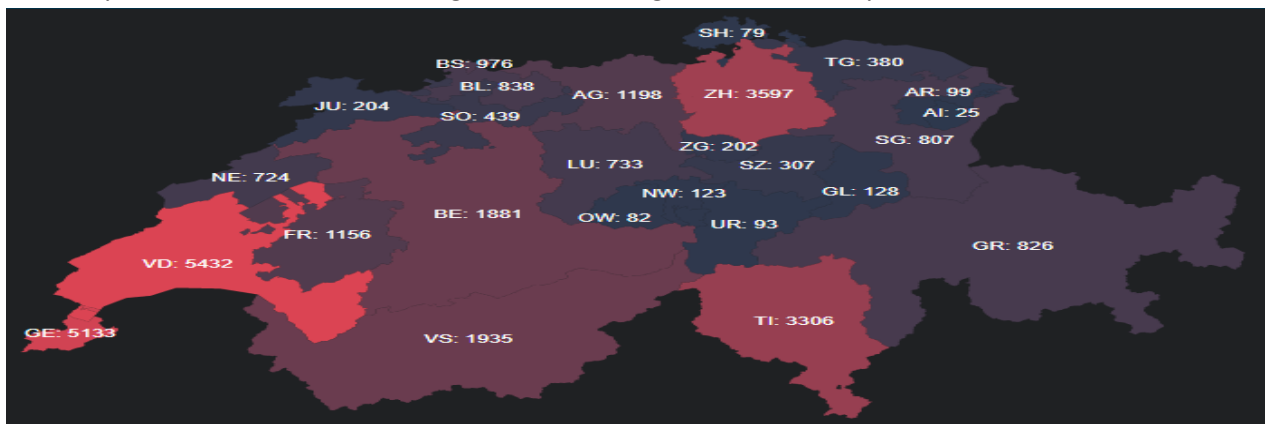
### 25.05.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 347,800 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (99,448) and UK (36,793). There have been more than 5,549,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The World Health Organization has temporarily halted studying hydroxychloroquine as a potential Covid-19 treatment in its Solidarity Trial due to safety concerns, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a briefing in Geneva on Monday. The decision was made after an observational study was published in the medical journal The Lancet on Friday, which described how seriously ill Covid-19 patients who were treated with hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine were more likely to die. Tedros said that an independent executive group is now reviewing the use of hydroxychloroquine in WHO's Solidarity Trial. The trial, which involves actively recruiting patients from more than 400 hospitals in 35 countries, is a global research effort to find safe and effective therapeutics for Covid-19. "The Executive Group of the Solidarity Trial, representing 10 of the participating countries, met on Saturday and has agreed to review a comprehensive analysis and critical appraisal of all evidence available globally," Tedros said today.
- Today's World Health Organization coronavirus briefing is marking Africa day, which is the anniversary of the founding of the Organisation for African Unity, the forerunner of today's African Union. "Countries across Africa have garnered a great deal of experience from tackling infectious diseases like polio, measles, Ebola, yellow fever, influenza and many more. Africa's knowledge and experience of suppressing infectious diseases has been critical to rapidly scaling up an agile response to COVID-19. There has been solidarity across the continent. Labs in Senegal and South Africa were some of the first in the world to implement COVID-19 diagnostic testing. And beyond that they worked together with Africa CDC and WHO to extend training for laboratory technicians for detection of COVID-19 and to build up the national capacity across the region. Furthermore, health clinicians, scientists, researchers and academics from across Africa are collectively contributing to the worldwide understanding of COVID-19 disease", said Dr. Tedros during a media briefing.
- Vienna's medical university successfully conducted the first coronavirus lung transplant in Europe last week, the medical center said in a press release Monday. The hospital said the 45-year-old COVID-19 patient would not have survived otherwise but is now recovering well. "*In our view, she is doing exceptionally well and there are not major problems,*" said Walter Klepetko, the head of surgery at the clinic. The hospital said the patient was in good health without prior illnesses before coming down with coronavirus eight weeks ago. Shortly after falling ill, her condition deteriorated dramatically. "The situation was hopeless, the lung was like a block, there was nothing left," Klepetko said. The hospital describes the operation as being "highly complicated" but successful. Klepetko added, "All organs are working and we are very satisfied. But it will still be a long way ahead until we can hopefully discharge her from the hospital."
- Sweden's top epidemiologist has defended his country's coronavirus outbreak strategy, after the number of people dying after catching the virus passed 4,000 on Monday.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	99,448	1,693,797	456,397
UK	36,793	259,559	N/A
Italy	32,877	230,158	141,981
France	28,367	182,584	64,617
Spain	28,752	282,852	196,958
Brazil	22,965	367,906	149,911
Belgium	9,312	57,342	15,297
Germany	8,395	180,602	161,200
Iran	7,451	137,724	107,713
Mexico	7,394	68,620	47,424
Canada	6,453	85,104	44,207
Netherlands	5,830	45,445	N/A
China	4,634	82,985	78,268
Turkey	4,340	156,827	118,694
Sweden	4,029	33,843	4,971
India	4,147	144,135	60,137
Russia	3,633	353,427	118,798
Peru	3,456	119,959	49,795
Ecuador	3,108	36,756	3,560
Switzerland	1,913	30,746	28,100
Ireland	1,608	24,639	21,060
Indonesia	1,391	22,750	5,642
Portugal	1,330	30,788	17,822
Romania	1,205	18,283	11,630
Pakistan	1,167	56,349	17,482
Poland	1,007	21,631	9,276
Philippines	873	14,319	3,323
Japan	820	16,550	13,413
Egypt	783	17,967	4,900
Colombia	727	21,175	5,016
Austria	641	16,539	15,138
Chile	761	73,997	29,302
Ukraine	623	21,245	7,234
Algeria	609	8,503	4,747
Denmark	563	11,387	9,964
Hungary	491	3,756	1,711
Dominican Republic	460	15,073	8,285
Bangladesh	501	35,585	7,334
Argentina	456	12,076	3,999
South Africa	429	22,583	11,100
Saudi Arabia	399	74,795	45,668
Czechia	317	8,972	6,180
Finland	308	6,599	5,100
Panama	306	10,926	6,279
Israel	280	16,720	14,203
S. Korea	267	11,206	10,226
UAE	245	29,485	15,056
Serbia	239	11,193	5,920
Norway	235	8,360	7,727
Moldova	261	7,147	3,802
Bolivia	250	6,263	629
Nigeria	226	7,839	2,263
Afghanistan	219	11,173	1,097
Morocco	200	7,495	4,737
Belarus	204	37,144	14,449
Greece	172	2,882	1,374
Cameroon	165	4,890	1,865
Honduras	180	3,950	468
Iraq	163	4,632	2,811
Bosnia and Herzegovina	146	2,406	1,696
Kuwait	165	21,967	6,621
Bulgaria	130	2,433	862
Sudan	165	3,820	458
Malaysia	115	7,417	5,979
North Macedonia	113	1,999	1,439
Luxembourg	110	3,993	3,781
Slovenia	107	1,469	1,346
Australia	102	7,118	6,531
Croatia	100	2,244	2,035
Cuba	82	1,947	1,704
Armenia	87	7,113	3,145
Estonia	65	1,824	1,538

DRC	63	2,141	317
Lithuania	63	1,635	1,138
Somalia	66	1,689	235
Mali	67	1,059	604
Niger	61	945	783
Chad	60	675	215
Thailand	57	3,042	2,928
Burkina Faso	52	832	672
Andorra	51	763	663
Kenya	52	1,286	402
Guatemala	58	3,424	258
Tunisia	48	1,051	917
Azerbaijan	51	4,271	2,741
Channel Islands	45	558	517
Tajikistan	46	3,100	1,395
San Marino	42	666	270
Sierra Leone	42	735	293
Kazakhstan	35	8,531	4,515
Senegal	35	3,130	1,515
El Salvador	35	1,983	698
Yemen	44	233	10
Oman	37	7,770	1,933
Ghana	32	6,808	2,070
Albania	32	1,004	795
Ivory Coast	30	2,376	1,219
Slovakia	28	1,511	1,307
Lebanon	26	1,119	688
Haiti	27	958	22
Isle of Man	24	336	303
Liberia	26	265	141
Singapore	23	31,960	15,738
Latvia	22	1,049	712
New Zealand	21	1,504	1,456
Tanzania	21	509	183
Uruguay	22	769	618
Qatar	26	45,465	10,363
Mayotte	20	1,609	894
Guinea	20	3,275	1,673
Cyprus	17	937	594
Nicaragua	17	279	199
Congo	16	487	147
Sint Maarten	15	77	59
Kyrgyzstan	16	1,433	992
Martinique	14	197	91
Uzbekistan	13	3,189	2,607
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Guadeloupe	14	161	115
Bahrain	14	9,171	4,753
Gabon	12	1,934	459
Georgia	12	731	526
Togo	12	381	141
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,043	165
Paraguay	11	862	307
Bahamas	11	100	46
Djibouti	14	2,468	1,079
Iceland	10	1,804	1,791
Costa Rica	10	930	620
Venezuela	10	1,121	262
Mauritius	10	334	322
Guyana	10	135	62
Sri Lanka	10	1,182	695
Jordan	9	711	479
Jamaica	9	552	211
Montenegro	9	324	315
Bermuda	9	133	81
Sao Tome and Principe	11	299	4
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	108
Zambia	7	920	336
Taiwan	7	441	415
Barbados	7	92	70
Guinea-Bissau	6	1,114	42
Malta	6	611	485
Myanmar	6	203	123
Ethiopia	5	655	159

- Spain will lift quarantine measures for arriving international tourists starting July 1, the Spanish government announced today. Major parks and cafe terraces reopened in Madrid for the first time in more than two months as the capital and the surrounding region moved into the second phase of the loosening of lockdown restrictions. The Barcelona metropolitan area and parts of Castilla y León also joined Madrid in the same phase, which allows groups of up to 10 people to meet as long as they maintain physical distancing. Small shops can also open without prior appointments and places of worship can reopen at 30% capacity.
- Critics have accused Swedish authorities of gambling with citizens' lives by not imposing strict stay-at-home measures. Death rates from the virus have been much higher than in Sweden's Nordic neighbours, which did introduce coronavirus lockdowns, but still lower than those of countries such as Spain, Italy and the UK.
- Japan is set to expand its travel ban list to 111 countries effective Wednesday, now including the United States, India, and South Africa, the government ministries said.
- There were 92 new coronavirus deaths in Italy today, the lowest daily rate since early March.
- President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on Sunday that South Africa would reopen the majority of its economy on June 1, while maintaining social distancing and health safety measures.



- **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://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/ProgramFY.htm?programFYid=256400>

A new COVID-19 calls

- <https://intern.unibe.ch/dienstleistungen/forschung/covid/open/>

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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