

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

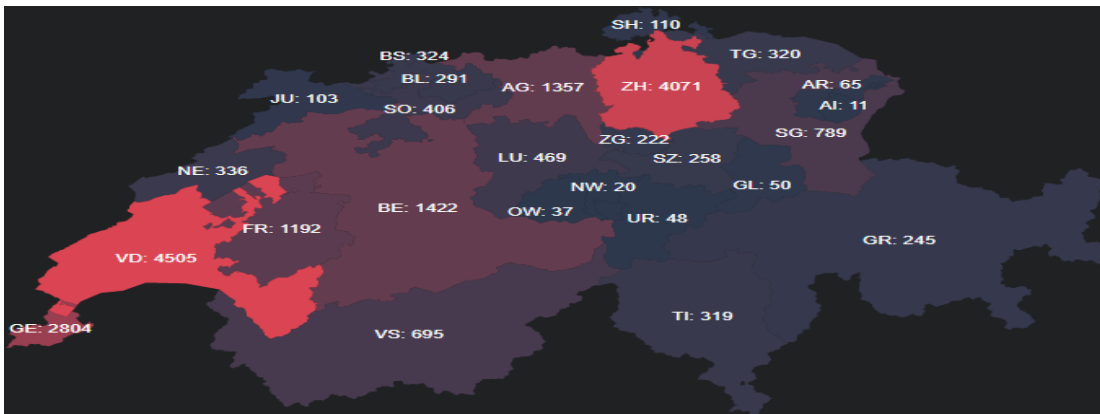
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 989,247 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (207,741) and Brazil (139,883). There have been more than 32,508,532 global cases in 210 countries and territories. [1]
- The weekly number of new recorded coronavirus infections worldwide was last week at its highest level to date, the WHO has announced, as deaths from Covid-19 in Europe increased by more than a quarter week on week. With a new seven-day high of just short of 2 million new cases being recorded by the WHO, the latest tally represents a 6% increase over the previous week as well as “the highest number of reported cases in a single week since the beginning of the epidemic”, the UN health agency said. That figure is skewed by the fact testing has become much more widespread globally over recent months. [2]
- Experts have reiterated the importance of staying highly alert for a possible second COVID-19 epidemic in China, since such outbreaks have been going on for weeks in some European countries. “The pandemic will linger for at least another year before vaccines are available,” said Zhang Wenhong, leader of the Shanghai team of experts in the clinical treatment of novel coronavirus pneumonia cases. China solution will be to ensure 100 percent medical quarantine for confirmed and suspected cases with full support of the public to control a possible second wave. [3]
- Switzerland has confirmed its participation in the WHO’s COVAX initiative (COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility) aimed at ensuring equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines when they are approved. The government confirmed on September 18 its participation in the initiative to secure vaccines for 20% of the population, it said in a press release on Friday. “In order to secure a fair distribution of Covid-19 vaccines across the globe, nations across the world have formed the COVAX initiative and created a pooled procurement mechanism,” it explained. [4]
- While confirmed Covid-19 cases and death rates remain low in many African countries, early results in some communities suggest a higher number of infections than those reported. *“Preliminary analysis suggests that over 80% of cases in Africa are asymptomatic,”* Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa, said during a press briefing Thursday. The swift action of governments on the continent to impose early lockdowns, and the public's general adherence to movement restrictions, created a “window of opportunity” to keep cases low, Moeti said. The panel described probable factors such as a majority youthful population, the frequency with which many Africans spend outdoors and the less movement as potential explanations. Another potential factor that scientists are studying is the level of potential cross-immunity that has developed from exposure to previous coronaviruses. [5]
- British medical officers raised the nation’s COVID-19 alert level Monday, saying the virus is in general circulation and the transmission is high. The chief medical officers of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, saying cases are rising “rapidly and probably exponentially,” raised the alert from three to four, the second highest level, on the advice of the Joint Biosecurity Center. The change came hours after other top British health experts warned the public they must make more sacrifices to control the second wave of the pandemic. [2]

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	207'741	7'194'493	4'440'429
Brazil	139'883	4'659'909	4'023'789
India	92'587	5'843'349	4'779'658
Mexico	75'439	715'457	514'760
UK	41'902	416'363	N/A
Italy	35'801	306'235	222'716
Peru	31'938	788'930	644'345
France	31'511	497'237	94'413
Spain	31'118	704'209	N/A
Iran	25'222	439'882	369'842
Colombia	24'924	790'823	674'961
Russia	20'056	1'136'048	934'146
South Africa	16'283	667'049	595'916
Argentina	14'766	678'266	536'589
Chile	12'527	453'868	428'580
Ecuador	11'213	131'146	102'852
Indonesia	10'218	266'845	196'196
Belgium	9'965	108'768	19'123
Germany	9'522	282'163	249'500
Canada	9'250	149'503	128'990
Iraq	8'867	341'699	273'266
Turkey	7'785	309'790	271'964
Bolivia	7'765	132'618	92'101
Pakistan	6'444	309'015	294'740
Netherlands	6'328	105'918	N/A
Sweden	5'880	90'923	N/A
Egypt	5'835	102'513	92'644
Philippines	5'196	299'361	232'399
Bangladesh	5'093	356'767	267'024
China	4'634	85'322	80'522
Romania	4'633	119'683	96'158
Saudi Arabia	4'625	332'329	315'636
Ukraine	3'827	191'671	85'133
Guatemala	3'186	88'878	77'750
Poland	2'392	84'396	66'740
Panama	2'297	108'726	85'494
Honduras	2'249	73'193	24'580
Dominican Republic	2'087	110'597	84'610
Switzerland	2'064	51'864	42'600
Morocco	1'956	110'099	90'186
Portugal	1'936	72'055	47'003
Ireland	1'797	33'994	23'364
Algeria	1'703	50'579	35'544
Kazakhstan	1'699	107'590	102'360
Japan	1'520	80'041	72'538
Afghanistan	1'451	39'186	32'619
Israel	1'412	217'899	153'574
Moldova	1'252	48'953	36'643
Ethiopia	1'148	71'687	29'461
Nigeria	1'102	57'849	49'098
Kyrgyzstan	1'063	45'932	42'147
Armenia	947	48'643	43'401
Oman	885	95'907	86'765
Australia	869	27'000	24'523
Sudan	836	13'592	6'764
El Salvador	823	28'415	22'643
Bosnia and Herzegovina	808	26'564	19'507
Belarus	807	76'957	73'925
Costa Rica	795	69'459	26'554
Austria	786	41'500	32'301
Bulgaria	785	19'573	14'013
Serbia	746	33'238	31'536
Paraguay	743	36'404	20'502
North Macedonia	721	17'343	14'422
Hungary	718	22'127	4'945
Kenya	669	37'489	24'334
Denmark	647	25'594	19'010

Kuwait	595	102'441	93'562
Yemen	587	2'029	1'255
Azerbaijan	583	39'787	37'392
Venezuela	581	70'406	59'745
Czechia	567	58'374	27'382
Libya	491	31'290	17'508
Nepal	459	70'614	51'866
Uzbekistan	449	54'392	50'879
Cameroon	418	20'712	19'440
UAE	409	89'540	78'819
S. Korea	395	23'455	20'978
Albania	370	12'921	7'239
Greece	369	16'913	9'989
Finland	343	9'484	7'850
Zambia	332	14'515	13'643
Lebanon	329	32'819	14'112
Senegal	304	14'839	11'910
Ghana	299	46'222	45'417
Palestine	278	37'963	27'183
DRC	271	10'578	10'070
Norway	270	13'478	10'371
Croatia	266	15'795	14'303
Bahrain	234	67'701	60'853
Madagascar	228	16'221	14'867
Haiti	227	8'684	6'551
Zimbabwe	227	7'752	6'043
Qatar	212	124'650	121'512
Syria	183	3'966	1'013
Tunisia	180	13'305	5'032
Malawi	179	5'747	4'163
Myanmar	174	9'112	2'381
Angola	162	4'475	1'503
Mauritania	161	7'433	7'052
Montenegro	155	9'962	6'177
Nicaragua	149	5'073	2'913
Slovenia	145	5'007	3'353
Malaysia	133	10'687	9'696
Mali	130	3'041	2'391
Luxembourg	124	8'158	6'910
Ivory Coast	120	19'501	19'003
Namibia	119	10'740	8'482
Cuba	118	5'350	4'658
Gambia	110	3'552	2'012
Eswatini	108	5'375	4'724
Hong Kong	104	5'059	4'765
Suriname	102	4'789	4'578
Somalia	98	3'465	2'877
Congo	89	5'005	3'887
Lithuania	89	4'184	2'298
Bahamas	86	3'699	1'962
Equatorial Guinea	83	5'018	4'530
Liberia	82	1'338	1'221
Chad	82	1'171	1'003
Jamaica	80	5'723	1'496
Tajikistan	74	9'562	8'341
Sierra Leone	72	2'188	1'666
Uganda	71	7'218	3'611
Guyana	71	2'579	1'483
Trinidad and Tobago	69	4'260	2'122
Niger	69	1'194	1'107
Guinea	65	10'434	9'801
French Guiana	65	9'790	9'456
Estonia	64	3'118	2'417
CAR	62	4'804	1'837
Djibouti	61	5'407	5'339
Thailand	59	3'519	3'360
Burkina Faso	56	1'950	1'260
Cabo Verde	55	5'479	4'917
Gabon	54	8'716	7'906
Andorra	53	1'836	1'263

- Russia expects to register a second potential Covid-19 vaccine by 15 October. The vaccine has been developed by Siberia's Vector Institute, which completed early-stage human trials of the vaccine last week. Russia registered its first vaccine candidate, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute, in August. Late-stage trials, involving at least 40,000 people, are ongoing. [6]
- The Covid-19 virus is continuing to mutate throughout the course of the pandemic, with experts believing it is probably becoming more contagious- The new US study analyzed 5,000 genetic sequences of the virus, which has continued to mutate as it has spread through the population. The study did not find that mutations of the virus have made it more lethal or changed its effects, even as it may be becoming easier to catch which noted that public health experts acknowledge all viruses have mutations, most of which are insignificant. David Morens, a virologist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that the new study should not be over-interpreted, but added that the virus could be responding to public health interventions such as social distancing. *"All those things are barriers to transmissibility, or contagion, but as the virus becomes more contagious it statistically is better at getting around those barriers,"* he said. [6]
- The UK joins countries including Belgium, Ireland and Portugal as the latest additions to the Swiss list, which now numbers 59 countries and regions worldwide. Anyone arriving from one of these nations will have to go into quarantine for ten days under Swiss rules. Other countries added include Denmark, The Netherlands, Iceland, Slovenia, Hungary, Morocco and Oman, as well as regions in France and Austria. Taken off the list were Kosovo and San Marino. [5]



Newly reported cases since 01.06 in Switzerland. [7]

• 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>

Anyone submitting to US (NIH, DoD) or EU Horizon 2020 calls can contact the Grants Office for support: grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch. The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schögler (aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch) and Leah Witton (leah.witton@research.unibe.ch).

Sources

- [1] <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>
- [2] <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/covid-19-news/20200923/281629602704772/textview>
- [3] <http://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202009/22/WSSf6924daa31099a23435080b.html>
- [4] <https://www.swissinfo.ch/>
- [5] https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-09-25-20-intl/h_c9a1e7353c647a4637a89cd1a7fbeb65
- [6] <https://www.theguardian.com/>
- [7] <https://www.corona-data.ch/>