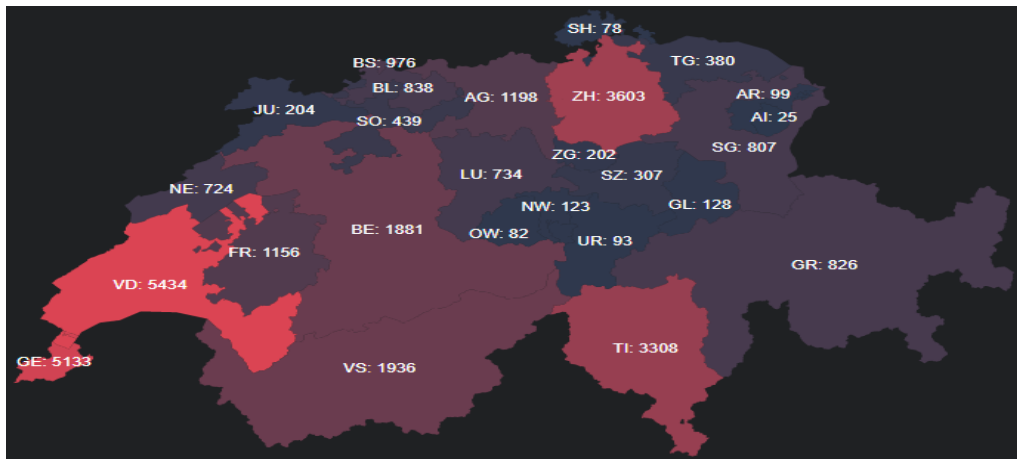# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
26.05.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 349,200 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (100,004) and UK (37,048). There have been more than 5,636,900 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- China says Wuhan tested 6.5 million in 9 days: Wuhan conducted more than 6.5 million Covid-19 tests in nine days, according to state media -- a drastic move by authorities to prevent a second wave of infections.
- OpenWHO is WHO's new interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. OpenWHO enables the Organization and its key partners to transfer life-saving knowledge to large numbers of frontline responders. Now it provides trainings for COVID-19 as well. Here is the link https://openwho.org/channels/covid-19
- Selected coronavirus patients within the UK National Health Service (NHS) will soon be able to gain access to a "cutting edge" drug to speed up their recovery, the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) said Tuesday. The government is working with manufacturer Gilead Sciences to supply remdesivir to the NHS, according to the DHSC statement.
- Children under the age of two should not wear masks because they can make breathing difficult and increase the risk of choking, a Japan medical group has said, launching an urgent appeal to parents as the country reopens from the coronavirus crisis.
- WHO warns of 'second peak' in areas where Covid-19 is declining. Countries where coronavirus infections are declining could still face an "immediate second peak" if they let up too soon on measures to contain the outbreak, the World Health Organization said. The WHO emergencies chief, Dr Mike Ryan, told an online briefing: "We cannot make assumptions that just because the disease is on the way down now it is going to keep going down."
- The team developing Switzerland's coronavirus contact-tracing app says it has become the first to have launched a product incorporating a technology provided by Apple and Google. Members of the Swiss army, hospital workers and civil servants can now install the SwissCovid app ahead of a planned wider rollout. Automated contact tracing involves using smartphones to detect when two people are close to each other for long enough that there is a significant risk of contagion, so that one can be warned if the other is later diagnosed with having the disease.
- The French doctor Didier Raoult has dismissed a study suggesting the drug he hails as a miracle treatment for coronavirus is ineffective at best and possibly life-threatening at worst. The World Health Organization has suspended testing the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine in Covid-19 patients due to safety concerns. The WHO's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, cited a paper published last week in the Lancet that showed people taking hydroxychloroquine were at higher risk of death and heart problems than those who were not taking it. But Raoult dismissed the concerns: "Nothing will change what I have seen with my own eyes," he said. "I've no idea if elsewhere, hydroxychloroquine kills, but here it's saving people."

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	100,004	1,712,626	467,962
UK	37,048	265,227	N/A
Italy	32,955	230,555	144,658
France	28,432	182,942	65,199
Spain	26,837	282,480	196,958
Brazil	23,606	377,711	153,833
Belgium	9,334	57,455	15,320
Germany	8,449	181,094	162,000
Mexico	7,633	71,105	49,890
Iran	7,508	139,511	109,437
Canada	6,566	85,997	44,898
Netherlands	5,856	45,578	N/A
China	4,634	82,992	78,277
Turkey	4,369	157,814	120,015
India	4,349	150,600	63,811
Sweden	4,125	34,440	4,971
Russia	3,807	362,342	131,129
Peru	3,629	123,979	50,949
Ecuador	3,203	37,355	18,003
Switzerland	1,915	30,761	28,200
Ireland	1,606	24,698	21,060
Indonesia	1,418	23,165	5,877
Portugal	1,342	31,007	18,096
Romania	1,210	18,429	11,874
Pakistan	1,197	57,705	18,314
Poland	1,024	22,074	10,020
Philippines	886	14,669	3,412
Japan	830	16,581	13,612
Chile	806	77,961	30,915
Egypt	783	17,967	4,900
Colombia	750	21,981	5,265
Ukraine	644	21,584	7,575
Austria	643	16,557	15,182
Algeria	617	8,697	4,918
Denmark	563	11,428	10,044
Bangladesh	522	36,751	7,579
Hungary	499	3,771	1,836
South Africa	481	23,615	11,917
Argentina	471	12,628	4,167
Dominican Republic	468	15,264	8,534
Saudi Arabia	411	76,726	48,450
Czechia	317	9,034	6,263
Finland	312	6,628	5,100
Panama	310	11,183	6,279
Israel	281	16,743	14,362
S. Korea	269	11,225	10,275
Moldova	267	7,305	3,884
Bolivia	261	6,660	647
UAE	253	31,086	15,982
Serbia	239	11,227	6,067
Norway	235	8,374	7,727
Nigeria	233	8,068	2,311
Afghanistan	220	11,831	1,128
Belarus	208	38,059	15,086
Morocco	202	7,556	4,841
Honduras	182	4,189	473
Greece	173	2,892	1,374
Kuwait	172	22,575	7,306
Cameroon	171	5,044	1,917
Sudan	170	3,976	503
Iraq	169	4,848	2,852
Bosnia and Herzegovina	149	2,416	1,721
Bulgaria	130	2,443	880
North Macedonia	116	2,014	1,453
Malaysia	115	7,604	6,041
Luxembourg	110	3,995	3,783
Slovenia	108	1,469	1,346
Australia	102	7,133	6,553
Croatia	101	2,244	2,046
Armenia	91	7,402	3,220
Cuba	82	1,963	1,709

Mali	70	1,077	617
DRC	68	2,403	340
Somalia	67	1,711	253
Estonia	65	1,834	1,552
Lithuania	65	1,639	1,165
Niger	62	951	786
Chad	61	687	244
Guatemala	59	3,760	274
Thailand	57	3,045	2,929
Azerbaijan	52	4,403	2,819
Kenya	52	1,348	405
Burkina Faso	52	832	672
Andorra	51	763	663
Tunisia	48	1,051	919
Tajikistan	47	3,266	1,417
Channel Islands	45	559	517
Sierra Leone	44	754	297
Yemen	44	233	10
San Marino	42	666	275
Oman	37	8,118	2,067
Senegal	36	3,161	1,565
El Salvador	36	2,042	787
Kazakhstan	35	8,969	4,560
Albania	33	1,029	803
Ghana	32	6,964	2,097
Haiti	31	1,063	22
Ivory Coast	30	2,423	1,257
Qatar	28	47,207	11,844
Slovakia	28	1,513	1,322
Lebanon	26	1,140	689
Liberia	26	266	144
Isle of Man	24	336	306
Singapore	23	32,343	16,444
Latvia	22	1,053	741
Uruguay	22	787	629
New Zealand	21	1,504	1,461
Tanzania	21	509	183
Guinea	20	3,275	1,673
Mayotte	20	1,634	894
Cyprus	17	939	594
Nicaragua	17	279	199
Kyrgyzstan	16	1,468	1,015
Congo	16	487	147
Sint Maarten	15	77	59
Bahrain	14	9,223	4,916
Djibouti	14	2,468	1,079
Gabon	14	2,135	562
Martinique	14	197	91
Guadeloupe	14	161	115
Uzbekistan	13	3,281	2,636
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	386	161
Equatorial Guinea	12	1,043	165
Georgia	12	732	537
Paraguay	11	865	344
Sao Tome and Principe	11	299	4
Guyana	11	137	62
Bahamas	11	100	46
Iceland	10	1,804	1,792
Sri Lanka	10	1,317	712
Venezuela	10	1,177	302
Costa Rica	10	951	628
Mauritius	10	334	322
Jordan	9	718	586
Jamaica	9	556	238
Montenegro	9	324	315
Mauritania	9	262	15

- Three months ago, as the novel coronavirus began to gain a foothold in countries across Europe, officials in the UK said they were still confident that the risk to the British public remained low. By February 25, the WHO said the virus had already killed thousands in China and was spreading through northern Italy, but at the time there were just 13 confirmed cases -- and no deaths -- in the UK. While the government ordered hospitals to prepare for an influx of patients, its advice to some of the country's most vulnerable people -- elderly residents of care or nursing homes -- was that they were "very unlikely" to be infected. By May 1, of the 33,365 total confirmed deaths in England and Wales, at least 12,526 -- or 38% -- were care home residents, according to the latest estimates from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). While the UK government has defended its handling of the issue, care home staff and experts placed at least some of the blame for Europe's highest death toll on the prioritization of hospitals over these facilities. Others have blamed the slow rollout of testing, the government's alleged pursuit of "herd immunity" (which it denies seeking) and its failure to order a lockdown early enough.
- Northern Ireland has become the first of the four UK nations to record zero deaths during the coronavirus crisis, Ireland's Minister for Health Robin Swann said Tuesday. It is the first time no deaths have been recorded in Northern Ireland since March 18.

- **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. The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schögler (aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch) and Leah Witton (leah.witton@research.unibe.ch).

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