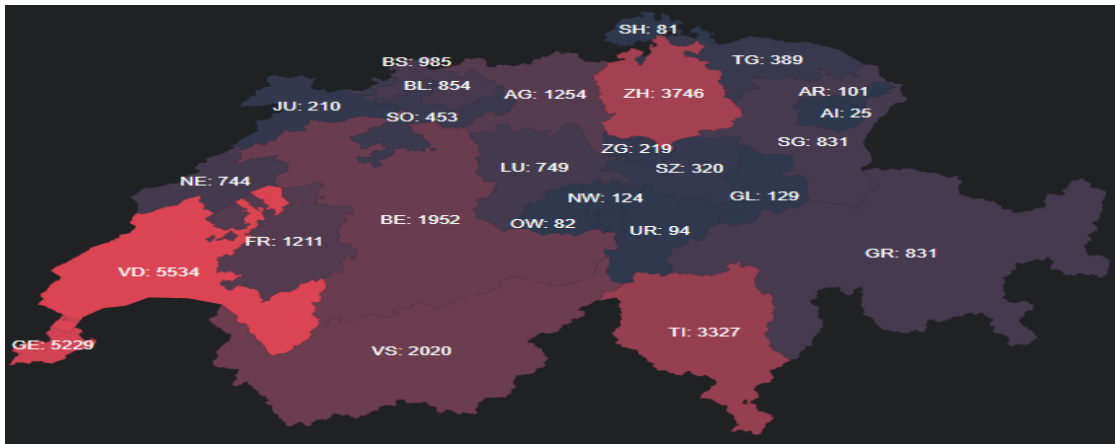# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
26.06.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 493,870 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (126,932) and Brazil (55,304). There have been more than 9,796 ,050 global cases in 210 countries and territories.

- By the end of 2021, the World Health Organization plans to deliver about 2 billion doses of a coronavirus vaccine to people across the globe, WHO officials announced during a virtual media briefing on Friday. One billion of those doses will be purchased for low- and middle-income countries, according to WHO. This new goal is part of WHO's Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator program, which launched in April to bring together governments, health groups, scientists, businesses and philanthropists to support efforts to end the coronavirus pandemic. The program has four pillars focused on Covid-19 tests, treatments, vaccines and health systems. WHO chief scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said during Friday's briefing that "the only way to prevent further spread and transmission" of the coronavirus would be to have an effective and safe vaccine.

- The SwissCovid tracing app for Swiss residents has been downloaded by more than half a million people during its first day of operation. The contact tracing system was officially launched yesterday. *"On Thursday the number of active SwissCovid apps was 570,000 (rounded to nearest 10,000),"* said the Swiss Federal Statistical Office on Friday. The exact number was 566,894.

- Today the number of new Covid-19 infections rose by 58 in Switzerland, the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) said. The number has been gradually rising during the course of the week with 18 cases on Monday, and 44 by Wednesday. Canton Zurich said on Friday that it had seen a rise among the 20-40 age group in particular. It said it was not a dramatic rise, but one that needed to be observed. The number of tests carried out in Switzerland had also risen: it was 48,000 last week (Monday to Sunday), up 13,000 on the previous week, the FOPH said. According to the FOPH, the increase in tests is to do with the easing of test criteria, routine testing of certain patients and cantonal contact tracing.

- Millions of people could die if the coronavirus pandemic sees a second wave of infections, a World Health Organization official warned Friday, adding that the deadly outbreak has so far unfolded much like officials at WHO had anticipated. *"The comparison is with the Spanish Flu, which behaved exactly like Covid: it went down in the summer and fiercely resumed in September and October, creating 50 million deaths during the second wave,"* Dr Ranieri Guerra, WHO assistant director-general for strategic initiatives told Italy's Rai TV. *"The pandemic is behaving as we hypothesized,"* he added. Guerra's remarks come as several countries in Europe – and across the globe – begin to relax national confinement measures, originally introduced to limit the spread of coronavirus.

- Belgium has set up a new system to track mobile phones in order to limit crowding of seaside resorts and beaches that formally open for the summer season on Saturday. Belgium's coastal towns are not seeking to bar tourists from coming, but do want them to use common sense, such as rerouting to a less busy spot or choosing to shop later. The 10 districts along the coast will detect mobile phones on beaches and the nearby dikes and seafronts and display the live information on a website, with codes from dark green for calm to orange for very busy.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	126,932	2,514,822	1,052,880
Brazil	55,304	1,244,419	673,729
UK	43,414	309,360	N/A
Italy	34,708	239,961	187,615
France	29,752	161,348	75,351
Spain	28,338	294,985	N/A
Mexico	25,060	202,951	116,862
India	15,662	506,972	294,988
Iran	10,239	217,724	177,852
Belgium	9,731	61,106	16,918
Germany	9,012	194,013	177,100
Canada	8,507	102,733	65,651
Russia	8,781	620,794	384,152
Peru	8,761	268,602	156,074
Netherlands	6,103	50,005	N/A
Sweden	5,280	65,137	N/A
Turkey	5,065	194,511	167,198
China	4,634	83,462	78,439
Chile	5,068	263,360	223,431
Ecuador	4,343	53,156	26,097
Pakistan	3,962	195,745	84,168
Indonesia	2,683	51,427	21,333
Switzerland	1,962	31,486	29,000
Colombia	2,654	80,599	33,349
Egypt	2,533	61,130	16,338
South Africa	2,292	118,375	59,974
Ireland	1,727	25,405	23,364
Portugal	1,555	40,866	26,633
Romania	1,579	25,697	18,181
Bangladesh	1,661	130,474	53,133
Poland	1,429	33,395	19,218
Saudi Arabia	1,474	174,577	120,471
Philippines	1,224	34,073	9,182
Ukraine	1,086	41,117	18,299
Argentina	1,167	52,457	18,416
Japan	968	18,110	16,320
Iraq	1,559	41,193	18,859
Algeria	885	12,685	9,066
Bolivia	913	28,503	7,338
Austria	698	17,522	16,348
Dominican Republic	712	29,764	16,357
Denmark	604	12,675	11,508
Hungary	578	4,127	2,663
Afghanistan	683	30,451	10,306
Sudan	559	9,084	3,912
Panama	564	29,037	14,800
Nigeria	549	22,614	7,822
Moldova	515	15,776	8,765
Guatemala	623	15,619	2,949
Honduras	426	15,366	1,600
Belarus	373	60,713	42,689
Czechia	346	10,923	7,664
Finland	328	7,191	6,600
Armenia	410	23,247	12,149
Kuwait	341	43,703	33,969
Israel	314	22,800	16,872
UAE	310	46,973	35,469
Cameroon	313	12,592	10,100
S. Korea	282	12,602	11,172
Serbia	265	13,565	12,232
Yemen	288	1,076	386
Norway	249	8,828	8,138
North Macedonia	268	5,758	2,206
Morocco	217	11,465	8,560
Bulgaria	211	4,408	2,370
Greece	191	3,343	1,374
Bosnia and Herzegovina	178	3,935	2,338
Azerbaijan	187	15,369	8,364
Oman	153	36,034	19,482
DRC	149	6,552	900
Malaysia	121	8,606	8,294
Kenya	137	5,533	1,905
Kazakhstan	140	19,750	12,220
Luxembourg	110	4,173	3,968
Slovenia	109	1,558	1,376

Mali	113	2,039	1,383
Croatia	107	2,539	2,150
Australia	104	7,595	6,958
Mauritania	119	3,739	1,225
Qatar	109	92,784	76,072
Somalia	90	2,878	868
El Salvador	133	5,517	3,291
Cuba	85	2,325	2,180
Haiti	96	5,543	512
Senegal	98	6,354	4,193
Lithuania	78	1,808	1,501
Chad	74	865	778
Ethiopia	89	5,425	1,688
Ghana	103	15,834	11,755
Estonia	69	1,986	1,797
Niger	67	1,059	919
Nicaragua	74	2,170	1,238
Thailand	58	3,162	3,040
Bahrain	71	24,081	18,501
Burkina Faso	53	941	830
Andorra	52	855	797
Tajikistan	52	5,747	4,331
Sierra Leone	56	1,354	869
Tunisia	50	1,164	1,023
Ivory Coast	60	8,334	3,487
Channel Islands	47	571	512
Djibouti	52	4,643	4,348
Albania	51	2,269	1,298
San Marino	42	698	656
Liberia	34	684	285
Gabon	40	5,087	2,270
Kyrgyzstan	43	4,204	2,162
South Sudan	36	1,942	224
Equatorial Guinea	32	2,001	515
Lebanon	33	1,697	1,144
Latvia	30	1,112	932
Mayotte	32	2,508	2,218
Venezuela	39	4,563	1,327
Slovakia	28	1,643	1,455
Congo	37	1,087	456
Singapore	26	42,955	36,825
Guinea	29	5,174	3,861
Uruguay	26	907	818
Isle of Man	24	336	312
Nepal	27	11,755	2,698
New Zealand	22	1,520	1,484
Tanzania	21	509	183
Uzbekistan	20	7,228	4,877
CAR	40	3,244	607
Cyprus	19	992	824
Guinea-Bissau	19	1,556	191
Sint Maarten	15	77	62
Georgia	14	919	780
Martinique	14	236	98
Guadeloupe	14	174	157
Madagascar	16	1,922	862
Paraguay	13	1,569	976
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	14	588	394
Costa Rica	12	2,684	1,227
Sao Tome and Principe	13	711	214
Guyana	12	215	108
Sri Lanka	11	2,010	1,619
Zambia	18	1,497	1,223
Benin	14	1,053	292
Bahamas	11	104	84
Iceland	10	1,832	1,813
Jamaica	10	684	526
Libya	18	698	140
Mauritius	10	341	326
Jordan	9	1,104	830
Malta	9	670	632

- Multiple health experts are discussing the possibility of "pool testing" — a method of coronavirus testing that mixes several samples together into a "batch," or pool. Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, said the new approach could drastically expand the nation's knowledge of how and where the virus is spreading. Birx added that there could be opportunities to do five-people pools or greater, which would allow for people to return to schools sand workplaces with the ability to test on a frequent basis.
- EU officials today decide which countries will be subject to travel restrictions after countries reopen their borders to international travel. With high rates of infection and mortality still being recorded in the US and parts of South America, it is expected that visitors from the region may still be subjected to travel restrictions in Europe.
- The number of Covid-19 cases in Latin America reached a total of more than 2 million infections this week, according to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Cases of Covid-19 in Latin America tripled from almost 690,000 on May 23 to more than 2 million as of yesterday, PAHO's director Dr. Carissa Etienne said. This week, Brazil has surpassed 1 million Covid-19 cases, joining the United States as the only other country in the world with cases in the seven digits, PAHO said. Mexico also rose to the fourth country with most cases in the continent. On Thursday, Colombia reported a new record high number of daily Covid-19 deaths. There is now widespread transmission in most of Central America.

- **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

  Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science - Applications are paused
  - https://fastgrants.org/

  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
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