

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

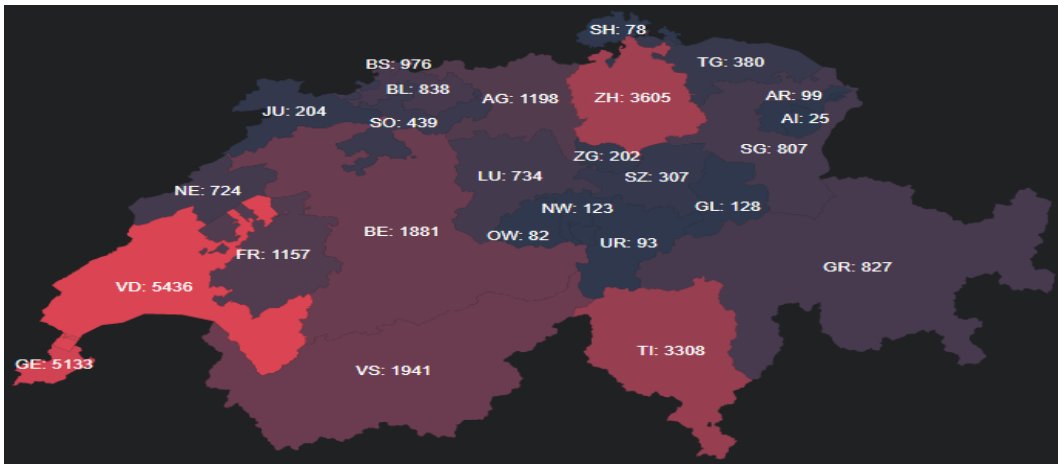
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 354,200 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (101,130) and UK (37,460). There have been more than 5,734,830 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The Swiss government has announced a significant relaxation of restrictions and as of *June 19* an end to the "extraordinary situation" to deal with the coronavirus crisis. It said this was made possible by the low number of new infections in recent weeks. Interior Minister Alain Berset, who holds the health portfolio, said they were now around only 20 per day. An end to the extraordinary situation means powers will be handed back to the cantons. Simonetta Sommaruga, who holds the rotating presidency this year, told a press conference today that parliament would also be responsible for deciding on coronavirus restrictions. Free movement of people will be restored throughout the Schengen area by *July 6*, Justice Minister Karin Keller-Sutter told the press conference. Borders with Germany, Austria and France will be open for tourism and professional visits from *June 15*, she said. As of *May 30*, spontaneous gatherings of up to 30 people such as football matches and picnics will be allowed. Public events gathering up to 300 people and all leisure and tourism activities can resume on *June 6*. Rules are also being eased for restaurants. Table numbers will no longer be limited to four, but if there are more people, guests must leave a contact in case tracing becomes necessary.
- The Americas have emerged as the new center of the coronavirus pandemic, the WHO has said, as a US study forecast deaths surging in Brazil and other Latin American countries through August. *"Now is not the time for countries to ease restrictions,"* Carissa Etienne, WHO director for the Americas and head of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), said via videoconference. *"Our region has become the epicenter of the Covid-19 pandemic,"* Etienne said, as other PAHO directors warned there are "very tough" weeks ahead for the region and Brazil has a long way to go before it will see the pandemic end. Also of concern to WHO officials are accelerating outbreaks in Peru, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.
- There have now been 118,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus across the 54 nations of Africa, according to the World Health Organization's regional office for the continent. So far, about 48,000 people in Africa who have tested positive for the virus have recovered, while 3,500 have died.
- In South Korea, a total of 259 coronavirus cases have now been linked to a cluster in Seoul's entertainment district of Itaewon, known for its nightclubs and bars. It may also have given rise to a second cluster, which authorities are now racing to contain. The nightclub cluster emerged on May 9, after an infected person visited multiple clubs. In the following weeks, authorities tested tens of thousands of people who were in either in the area or may have been indirectly exposed.
- Switzerland is to contribute CHF879 million (\$907 million) to help fight poverty, promote sustainable development and deal with the health, social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on the world's poorest countries. This money will go to the International Development Association (IDA/World Bank) and the African Development Fund (ADF), the government said in a statement today.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	101'130	1'733'863	481'955
UK	37'460	267'240	N/A
Italy	33'072	231'139	147'101
France	28'530	182'722	65'879
Spain	27'117	283'339	196'958
Brazil	24'600	394'507	158'593
Belgium	9'364	57'592	15'465
Germany	8'498	181'530	162'800
Mexico	8'134	74'560	52'219
Iran	7'564	141'591	111'176
Canada	6'671	86'939	45'753
Netherlands	5'871	45'768	N/A
China	4'634	82'993	78'280
India	4'523	157'484	67'285
Turkey	4'397	158'762	121'507
Sweden	4'220	35'088	4'971
Russia	3'968	370'680	142'208
Peru	3'788	129'751	52'906
Ecuador	3'203	37'355	18'003
Switzerland	1'917	30'776	28'200
Ireland	1'615	24'735	21'060
Indonesia	1'473	23'851	6'057
Portugal	1'356	31'292	18'349
Pakistan	1'225	59'151	19'142
Romania	1'223	18'594	12'162
Poland	1'028	22'473	10'330
Philippines	904	15'049	3'506
Japan	846	16'623	13'810
Chile	841	82'289	33'540
Egypt	797	18'756	5'027
Colombia	776	23'003	5'511
Ukraine	658	21'905	7'995
Austria	645	16'591	15'228
Algeria	623	8'857	5'129
Denmark	565	11'480	10'106
Bangladesh	544	38'292	7'925
South Africa	524	24'264	12'741
Hungary	505	3'793	1'856
Argentina	492	13'228	4'349
Dominican Republic	474	15'723	8'790
Saudi Arabia	425	78'541	51'022
Czechia	317	9'069	6'361
Panama	313	11'447	6'379
Finland	313	6'692	5'100
Israel	281	16'771	14'486
Moldova	274	7'537	3'884
Bolivia	274	7'136	677
S. Korea	269	11'265	10'295
UAE	253	31'086	15'982
Nigeria	249	8'344	2'385
Serbia	240	11'275	6'277
Norway	235	8'391	7'727
Afghanistan	227	12'456	1'138
Belarus	214	38'956	15'923
Morocco	202	7'584	4'969
Honduras	188	4'401	493
Sudan	184	4'146	588
Kuwait	175	23'267	7'946
Cameroon	175	5'436	1'996
Greece	173	2'903	1'374
Iraq	169	4'848	2'852
Bosnia and Herzegovina	151	2'435	1'744
Bulgaria	133	2'460	912
North Macedonia	119	2'039	1'470
Malaysia	115	7'619	6'083
Luxembourg	110	4'001	3'791
Slovenia	108	1'471	1'354
Australia	103	7'139	6'566
Croatia	101	2'244	2'047
Armenia	98	7'774	3'255
Cuba	82	1'974	1'724
Mali	70	1'116	632
DRC	68	2'546	365
Somalia	67	1'711	253

Estonia	66	1'840	1'561
Lithuania	66	1'647	1'184
Guatemala	63	3'954	289
Niger	63	952	796
Chad	62	700	303
Thailand	57	3'054	2'931
Kenya	55	1'471	408
Azerbaijan	54	4'568	2'897
Burkina Faso	53	845	672
Andorra	51	763	676
Yemen	49	249	10
Tunisia	48	1'051	929
Tajikistan	47	3'424	1'575
Sierra Leone	45	782	297
Channel Islands	45	559	512
San Marino	42	667	294
Oman	38	8'373	2'177
Senegal	38	3'253	1'586
Kazakhstan	37	9'304	4'746
El Salvador	37	2'109	873
Nicaragua	35	759	370
Ghana	34	7'117	2'317
Haiti	33	1'174	22
Albania	33	1'050	812
Qatar	30	48'947	13'283
Ivory Coast	30	2'477	1'286
Slovakia	28	1'515	1'327
Liberia	27	266	144
Lebanon	26	1'161	692
Isle of Man	24	336	306
Singapore	23	32'876	17'276
Latvia	23	1'057	741
Uruguay	22	789	638
New Zealand	21	1'504	1'462
Tanzania	21	509	183
Guinea	20	3'275	1'673
Mayotte	20	1'634	894
Djibouti	18	2'697	1'185
Cyprus	17	939	594
Kyrgyzstan	16	1'520	1'043
Congo	16	487	147
Bahrain	15	9'633	5'142
Sint Maarten	15	77	60
Uzbekistan	14	3'355	2'668
Gabon	14	2'238	593
Martinique	14	197	91
Guadeloupe	14	161	115
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Togo	13	391	177
Mauritania	13	268	15
Equatorial Guinea	12	1'043	165
Georgia	12	735	557
Sao Tome and Principe	12	441	68
Venezuela	11	1'211	302
Paraguay	11	877	382
Guyana	11	139	62
Bahamas	11	100	46
Iceland	10	1'805	1'792
Sri Lanka	10	1'453	732
Costa Rica	10	956	634
Mauritius	10	334	322
Jordan	9	718	586
Jamaica	9	564	267
Montenegro	9	324	315
Bermuda	9	139	91
South Sudan	8	806	6
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	108
Guinea-Bissau	7	1'178	42
Zambia	7	1'057	779

- Swiss hospitals and start-ups test disinfecting robots. Self-driving disinfecting robots with a UV-C lamp tower are currently being tested in hospitals, but the process could be applied to other closed environments. Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) is a disinfection method that uses short-wavelength ultraviolet (UV-C) light to kill or inactivate micro-organisms by disrupting their DNA. As the light is dangerous to humans too, the robot only works in uninhabited environments. In order to save energy, the Swiss start up Rovenso is working on a robot that detects places frequently touched by people, which it then targets with its UV-C light. This option could interest closed environments that don't need a thorough disinfection, like offices or other work areas. Prototypes are currently being tested, but orders haven't increased, as hospitals and workplaces are still busy fighting the coronavirus.
- New Zealand reached a milestone in its battle against coronavirus today; for the first time since the pandemic prompted a total lockdown, there are no patients in hospitals being treated for Covid-19.



- **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).

Sources

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