

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

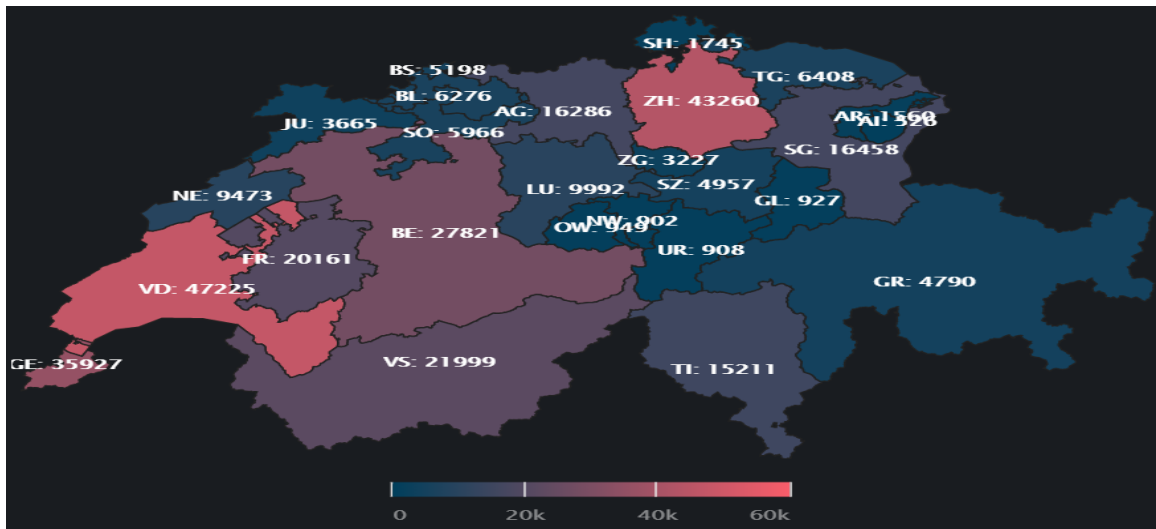
27.11.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 1,443,603 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (269,692) and Brazil (171,564). There have been more than 61,575,844 global cases in 210 countries and territories. [1]
- The British government has announced a “*significant first step*” in getting the AstraZeneca vaccine “*approved for deployment*,” formally referring the company’s experimental vaccine candidate to the medicines regulator for assessment. The British-Swedish drugmaker is developing the vaccine in conjunction with the UK's Oxford University. If it gains regulatory approval, the UK will be one of the first countries in the world to receive it, according to the country's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). AstraZeneca expects to have up to 4 million doses ready for the UK by the end of the year, with 40 million more by the end of March, it added. [2]
- The US Food and Drug Administration has posted to Twitter more details about an upcoming meeting of its outside advisory committee to discuss Pfizer and BioNTech's emergency use authorization application for a coronavirus vaccine candidate. The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee will meet on Dec. 10. "Starting Friday, the public will be able to submit comments to the public docket for this meeting, and those comments will be reviewed by the FDA," the agency tweeted on Wednesday. "Although the VRBPAC members provide advice to the agency, which may include advice on the safety and effectiveness data submitted in the EUA request, final decisions on whether to authorize the vaccine for emergency use are made by the FDA." [3]
- Switzerland’s pandemic strategic has been criticised by a WHO expert who has witnessed a lack of support for some people infected by Covid-19 in the country. David Nabarro, special envoy to the WHO Director-General on Covid-19, says a “*half-hearted*” Europe as a whole is far behind Asia in controlling the spread of the pandemic. Switzerland is among the countries that relaxed too soon and failed to adequately prepare for a second wave. The problem lies with inadequate support structures in local communities, which can better give people vital information, monitor the population and act quickly he said. “*The reaction in Europe was insufficient. There was a failure to build the necessary infrastructure in the summer months after getting the first wave under control. And now there is a second wave. If the necessary infrastructure is not built now, there will be a third wave, early next year*”, Nabarro said. [4]
- Spanish Health Minister Salvador Illa has given more details of the vaccination campaign against Covid-19 that will begin in the country in January next year. The Spanish government had created fifteen population categories to establish who would have precedence in receiving a vaccine. The health minister confirmed that at the top of the list would be the elderly and people with disabilities who live in residences and the staff who care for them. Also in the first phase would be health workers. He estimated that 2.5 million people would be vaccinated in the first phase. [2]
- Weeks after Denmark slaughtered 17 million mink to curb the spread of a mutated strain of coronavirus and buried them in shallow pits, its government has said it wants to dig them back up and burn them instead. The decision comes after hundreds of dead mink, tipped into trenches at a military site in western Denmark, began emerging from the grave. The “zombie mink”, as they were dubbed by newspapers, were pushed out of the ground by what authorities say is gas from their decomposition. [5]

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	269,692	13,266,819	7,852,415
Brazil	171,564	6,209,404	5,528,599
India	135,906	9,325,786	8,733,073
Mexico	104,242	1,078,594	803,581
UK	57,031	1,574,562	N/A
Italy	53,677	1,538,217	696,647
France	50,957	2,183,660	158,236
Iran	47,095	922,397	640,065
Spain	44,374	1,637,844	N/A
Russia	38,558	2,215,533	1,712,174
Argentina	37,941	1,399,431	1,226,662
Colombia	36,019	1,280,487	1,181,753
Peru	35,785	956,347	887,019
South Africa	21,289	778,571	716,444
Indonesia	16,521	522,581	437,456
Belgium	16,219	567,532	36,912
Poland	16,147	958,416	516,636
Germany	15,911	1,013,582	696,100
Chile	15,278	547,223	522,259
Ecuador	13,316	188,138	164,009
Turkey	13,014	503,738	388,771
Iraq	12,167	547,215	476,297
Ukraine	11,909	693,407	326,238
Canada	11,819	354,952	282,374
Romania	10,884	457,848	326,657
Netherlands	9,267	508,866	N/A
Bolivia	8,939	144,390	120,720
Philippines	8,255	425,918	387,616
Pakistan	7,897	389,311	335,881
Czechia	7,779	511,520	431,874
Sweden	6,681	243,129	N/A
Egypt	6,596	114,475	102,268
Bangladesh	6,544	458,711	373,676
Saudi Arabia	5,857	356,691	345,622
Morocco	5,619	340,684	289,808
China	4,634	86,495	81,558
Switzerland	4,558	318,290	222,100
Hungary	4,364	198,440	52,126
Portugal	4,276	285,838	199,446
Guatemala	4,141	121,132	109,619
Bulgaria	3,529	136,628	44,875
Tunisia	3,034	92,475	67,453
Panama	3,018	160,287	140,976
Honduras	2,892	106,681	47,354
Austria	2,886	270,992	203,251
Israel	2,839	333,802	321,346
Jordan	2,570	207,601	140,400
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,542	85,431	50,001
Algeria	2,372	80,168	51,946
Dominican Republic	2,324	141,777	113,817
Moldova	2,250	104,140	91,797
Greece	2,102	101,287	9,989
Armenia	2,090	132,346	105,149
Japan	2,051	139,491	118,135
Ireland	2,036	71,494	23,364
Kazakhstan	1,990	129,213	115,384
Myanmar	1,865	86,633	65,972
Afghanistan	1,740	45,839	36,295
Paraguay	1,704	79,517	56,510
Ethiopia	1,686	108,438	67,506
Costa Rica	1,679	135,742	83,273
North Macedonia	1,630	58,608	36,064
Croatia	1,600	119,706	95,698
Nepal	1,435	229,343	209,435
Kenya	1,427	80,102	53,526
Serbia	1,423	155,994	31,536
Oman	1,391	122,579	113,856
Slovenia	1,293	72,674	51,121
Azerbaijan	1,291	109,813	69,931
Kyrgyzstan	1,256	71,548	62,946
Sudan	1,215	16,864	9,964
Nigeria	1,169	66,974	62,585

Georgia	1,161	123,470	102,270
Libya	1,153	81,273	52,299
Belarus	1,136	131,633	110,152
El Salvador	1,102	38,405	35,078
Lebanon	974	122,200	72,152
Australia	907	27,873	25,570
Venezuela	884	101,215	96,072
Kuwait	874	141,876	135,303
Denmark	816	76,718	60,312
Slovakia	771	103,106	59,285
Albania	771	36,245	17,755
Palestine	689	80,429	61,960
Yemen	612	2,137	1,484
Uzbekistan	607	72,513	69,780
UAE	567	165,250	152,708
S. Korea	516	32,887	27,103
Lithuania	471	56,095	13,514
Montenegro	469	33,316	21,721
Cameroon	437	24,022	22,177
Syria	399	7,542	3,330
Finland	393	23,766	16,800
Zambia	357	17,569	16,845
Malaysia	350	61,861	50,204
Bahrain	341	86,347	84,510
Angola	341	14,920	7,617
DRC	333	12,470	11,495
Senegal	332	15,981	15,569
Norway	328	34,942	20,956
Ghana	323	51,225	50,127
Luxembourg	294	32,873	23,404
Zimbabwe	274	9,623	8,397
Madagascar	251	17,341	16,657
Jamaica	250	10,600	5,829
Qatar	237	138,250	135,370
Haiti	232	9,256	7,925
Uganda	191	19,115	8,840
Latvia	190	15,808	1,719
Malawi	185	6,024	5,453
Mauritania	171	8,288	7,652
Bahamas	163	7,482	5,789
Nicaragua	160	5,784	4,225
Guadeloupe	149	8,344	2,242
Guyana	149	5,276	4,252
Mali	148	4,505	3,076
Namibia	147	14,155	13,355
Cuba	133	8,110	7,525
Ivory Coast	131	21,199	20,852
Belize	131	5,515	3,021
Mozambique	128	15,506	13,631
Malta	128	9,501	7,297
Gambia	123	3,728	3,588
Eswatini	120	6,329	5,929
Suriname	117	5,307	5,185
Trinidad and Tobago	116	6,570	5,680
Somalia	113	4,451	3,417
Hong Kong	108	6,040	5,313
Cabo Verde	105	10,570	9,956
Estonia	104	11,323	6,710
Chad	101	1,661	1,496
Sri Lanka	99	22,279	16,226
Congo	93	5,632	4,988
Tajikistan	86	12,044	11,437
Equatorial Guinea	85	5,146	5,005
Liberia	83	1,591	1,340
Guinea	76	13,006	11,943
Andorra	76	6,534	5,649
Uruguay	74	5,117	4,021
Sierra Leone	74	2,409	1,831
French Polynesia	72	13,883	4,842
French Guiana	70	11,138	9,995
Niger	70	1,443	1,182

- Germany reached a grim milestone Friday when it logged its one millionth coronavirus case. This comes after Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that the country's coronavirus restrictions and partial national lockdown would last until December 20 and could be extended into 2021. *"It is up to us. We are not powerless,"* she said on Thursday in the German Bundestag. In the past 24 hours, data released by the Robert Koch Institute shows 22,806 new recorded cases, bringing Germany's total number of coronavirus cases to 1,006,394. Germany has also recorded its highest single day death toll since the start of the pandemic. In the past 24 hours, 426 virus-related deaths occurred. [5]
- The progression in new cases in November continues to slow in Switzerland. The seven-day average of new positive daily cases stands at 3,902 - 20% less than the previous week. Bed occupancy in intensive care units has generally stabilised. But the situation remains tense in some cantons. The death toll has surged in Switzerland, but is comparable with France and Spain, say health officials. Doctors warn that not enough people are getting tested. The positivity rate for PCR tests (20%) suggests that there are many undiscovered cases. Public health authorities have advised the public against oom-pah brass bands this Christmas. *"Singing together and playing wind instruments can increase the risk of infection. Listen to Christmas music on your stereo instead,"* the federal office of public health said of the bands, usually a common sight at Christmas events and parties across Switzerland. *"It is better to greet others from a distance and to forego hugs and kisses,"* the office added. [4]



Cases in Switzerland. [6]

• 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 Schöglger (aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch) and Leah Witton (leah.witton@research.unibe.ch).

Sources

[1] <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

[2] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/nov/27/coronavirus-live-news-us-sees-muted-thanksgiving-day-as-hospitalisations-soar>

[3] https://twitter.com/US_FDA

[4] <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/in-depth/coronavirus>

[5] <https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-11-27-20-intl/index.html>

[6] <https://www.corona-data.ch/>