

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

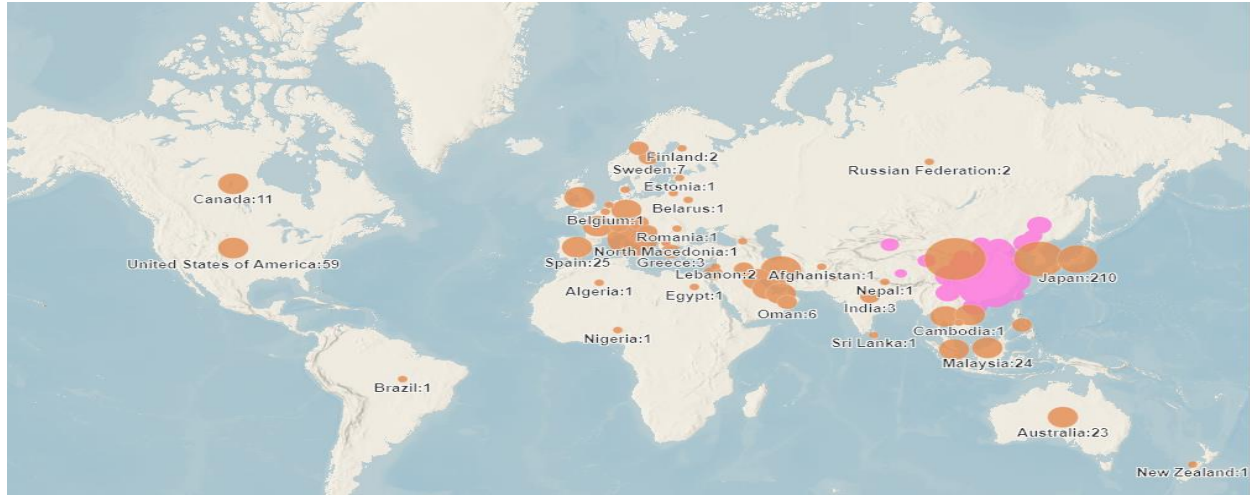
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 2,860 worldwide, with the vast majority in mainland China. There have been more than 83,000 global cases.
- The coronavirus could reach most “if not all countries”, the World Health Organization said on Friday after Nigeria confirmed sub-Saharan Africa’s first case, Reuters is reporting. *“The outbreak is getting bigger,”* Christian Lindmeier, a WHO spokesman, told a Geneva news briefing. *“The scenario of the coronavirus reaching multiple countries, if not all countries around the world, is something we have been looking at and warning against since quite a while.”*
- Nigeria, Mexico, New Zealand, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, the Netherlands have confirmed their first case of coronavirus.
- In Switzerland, infections with the new coronavirus have confirmed in fifteen cases. There have been reports of diseases from the cantons: Ticino, Geneva, Grisons, Aargau, Zurich, Basel-City and Vaud. The Federal Council has categorized the situation in Switzerland as particular in terms of the Epidemics Act. Large-scale events involving more than 1000 people are to be banned. The ban comes into immediate effect and will apply at least until 15 March 2020.
- At least 130 people at the locked-down Tenerife hotel in the Canary Islands will soon be allowed to leave, Canary Islands' regional health minister Teresa Cruz said today.
- Pierpaolo Sileri, Italy's Deputy Health Minister, said the country does not plan on closing its borders as officials work to stop the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.
- Researchers at the Sacco hospital in Milan say they have isolated the Italian strain of the coronavirus, reports Lorenzo Tondo. The scientists say the discovery will help to develop a vaccine and new treatments to contain the virus.
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Robert Redfield said the agency has sent out new coronavirus testing guidance to health care workers on Thursday, after what might be the first US case of community spread of the virus.
- The first autopsy conducted on a Chinese Covid-19 victim has highlighted the damage it causes to the lungs. The pathological features of Covid-19 were found to resemble those seen in **Sars** and **Mers**, which are in the same family of coronavirus. The report, released today, said it said the lung lesions it produced were less pronounced than Sars and there was not enough evidence to say whether damage to other organs was caused by Covid-19 or other causes.
- Prof Jonathan Ball, a professor of molecular virology, has responded to media reports of a dog in Hong Kong being tested “weak positive” for coronavirus. *“There is no evidence that the human novel coronavirus can infect dogs and it would be incredible for a virus to make so many species jumps in such a short space of time,”* he said. *“We have to differentiate between real infection and just detecting the presence of a virus – these are very different – and the fact that the test result was weakly positive would suggest that this is environmental contamination or simply the presence of coronavirus shed from the human contact that has ended up in the dog’s samples.”*

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
Mainland China	78,832	2,788	36,445
South Korea	2,337	13	24
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	705	6	10
Italy	655	17	45
Iran	388	34	73
Japan	226	5	32
Singapore	96	0	62
Hong Kong	93	2	18
Germany	60	0	2
USA	60	0	6
Kuwait	45	0	0
Thailand	41	0	22
France	41	2	11
Bahrain	36	0	0
Taiwan	34	1	5
Spain	33	0	2
Malaysia	25	0	20
Australia	24	0	15
U.K.	19	1	8
U.A.E	19	0	5
Vietnam	16	0	16
Switzerland	15	0	0
Canada	12	0	3
Macao	10	0	6
Iraq	7	0	0
Sweden	7	0	0
Oman	6	0	0
Austria	5	0	0
Croatia	5	0	0
Greece	4	0	0
Israel	4	0	0
Norway	4	0	0
Philippines	3	1	2
India	3	0	3
Lebanon	3	0	0
Romania	3	0	0
Finland	2	0	1
Georgia	2	0	0
Netherlands	2	0	0
Pakistan	2	0	0
Russia	2	0	2
Afghanistan	1	0	0
Algeria	1	0	0
Belarus	1	0	0
Belgium	1	0	1
Brazil	1	0	0
Cambodia	1	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0
Egypt	1	0	1
Estonia	1	0	0
Lithuania	1	0	0
North Macedonia	1	0	0
Nepal	1	0	1
Mexico	2	0	0
New Zealand	1	0	0
Nigeria	1	0	0
San Marino	1	0	0
Azerbaijan	1	0	0
Sri Lanka	1	0	1
Total	83,906	2,869	36,861

- China reported a further drop in new infections on February 28, 2020, as concern mounted about the Covid-19 epidemic expanding to a global pandemic. China's National Health Commission said there were 327 new cases, a reduction in the daily figure which was 433 one day earlier.
- British man infected by coronavirus on Japanese cruise ship has died.
- The Vatican has not said what exactly Francis has come down with, but he was coughing and blowing his nose during Ash Wednesday Mass this week.

How the virus spread around the world



Funding opportunities for researchers

SNF - Special call for research into coronaviruses

- <http://www.snf.ch/en/researchinFocus/newsroom/Pages/news-200227-special-call-for-research-into-coronaviruses.aspx>

Possible funding - The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI):

- <https://www.euresearch.ch/en/euresearch-services/we-inform/newsletter/archive/e-alerts/e-alerts/article/imi-about-to-launch-a-call-on-the-new-coronavirus/>

Wellcome Trust:

- <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/epidemic-preparedness-covid-19>

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease:

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-20-030.html>

Sources

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