

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

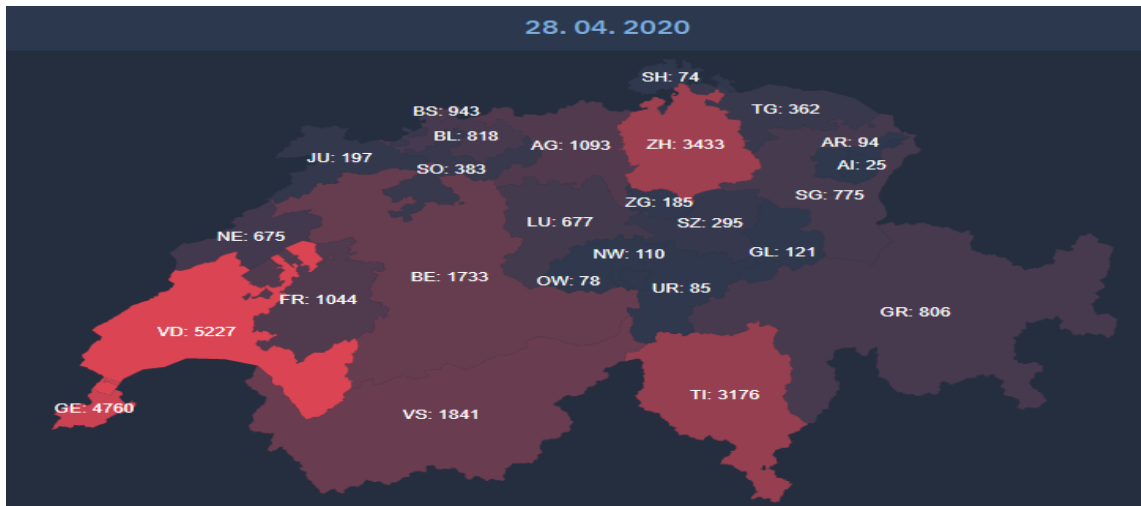
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 213,600 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (57,132) and Italy (27,359). There have been more than 3,099,390 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Pandemic "far from over": The WHO says there are concerns about increasing trends in Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and parts of Asia.
- A vaccine won't be ready until the end of next year under the "most optimistic of scenarios," according to Pasi Penttinen from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). "Vaccine development is a hugely complicated and expensive process," he said.
- A coronavirus contact tracing app has been downloaded more than 2 million times since it was launched in Australia on Sunday. The COVIDSafe app is voluntary and designed to help health authorities trace people who may have come into contact with someone who has Covid-19.
- Clinical studies that are properly conducted are necessary to really determine the benefit of drugs, Novartis boss Vasant Narasimhan told the Reuters news agency on Tuesday. Only a few drugs had met the standards so far, he said. The Swiss pharmaceutical company has initiated a clinical study with the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine. Last month he told the Swiss media that pre-clinical studies in animals as well as the first data from clinical studies showed that hydroxychloroquine kills the coronavirus. While the therapy is not yet available, Narasimhan hinted that the first study results could be available in summer.
- Some children in the UK have died from a rare inflammatory syndrome that researchers believe could be linked to coronavirus, Health Secretary Matt Hancock said. *"It's a new disease that we think may be caused by coronavirus. We're not 100% sure because some of the people who got it hadn't tested positive, so we're doing a lot of research now. But it is something that we're worried about."* Hancock said the National Health Service put out a call over the weekend to hear from doctors who may have seen children with the condition to find out what the situation is. However, he said the number of cases is small.
- The number of coronavirus deaths in England and Wales up to April 17 is 54% higher than the UK government's daily updates for the corresponding period, according to new figures from the Office of National Statistics.
- Dr. Chris Murray, director of the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, said the institute's scientific model had increased its predicted US coronavirus death toll from 60,000 to 74,000. More than 56,000 people have died in the US, more than a quarter of deaths worldwide.
- Governments planning to ease coronavirus lockdown restrictions must take action to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19 in workplaces, the International Labour Organisation said today. In a statement marking international safety and health at work day, the ILO said authorities needed to seek active involvement from and dialogue with employers and workers to ensure people's safety at work.
- Hoping to get a better idea of how many people have previously been infected with the virus, officials in the US have begun asking asymptomatic residents to test for antibodies.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	57'132	1'016'692	139'834
Italy	27'359	201'505	68'941
Spain	23'822	232'128	123'903
France	23'293	165'842	45'513
UK	21'092	157'149	N/A
Iran	5'877	92'584	72'439
Belgium	7'331	47'334	10'943
China	4'633	82'836	77'555
Germany	6'161	159'038	117'400
Netherlands	4'566	38'416	N/A
Brazil	4'674	68'188	31'142
Turkey	2'992	114'653	38'809
Switzerland	1'699	29'264	22'200
Sweden	2'355	19'621	1'005
Canada	2'766	49'025	18'268
Portugal	948	24'322	1'389
Indonesia	773	9'511	1'254
Austria	569	15'357	12'580
India	939	29'451	7'137
Ireland	1'102	19'648	9'233
Ecuador	663	23'240	1'557
Romania	663	11'616	3'404
Philippines	530	7'958	975
Mexico	1'434	15'529	9'086
Algeria	437	3'649	1'651
Denmark	434	8'851	6'121
Poland	596	12'218	2'655
S. Korea	244	10'752	8'854
Peru	782	28'699	8'425
Dominican Republic	286	6'416	1'165
Russia	867	93'558	8'456
Egypt	359	5'042	1'304
Czechia	225	7'486	2'942
Japan	385	13'614	1'899
Norway	206	7'619	32
Morocco	165	4'252	778
Hungary	291	2'649	516
Israel	208	15'589	7'375
Colombia	253	5'597	1'210
Argentina	197	4'003	1'140
Greece	136	2'534	577
Ukraine	239	9'410	992
Pakistan	312	14'514	3'233
Serbia	168	8'497	1'260
Panama	167	6'021	455
Chile	207	14'365	7'710
Malaysia	100	5'851	4'032
Iraq	90	1'928	1'319
Saudi Arabia	152	20'077	2'784
Luxembourg	89	3'741	3'123
Finland	199	4'740	2'800
Australia	84	6'731	5'626
Slovenia	86	1'408	223
Bangladesh	155	6'462	139
North Macedonia	71	1'421	589
Thailand	54	2'938	2'652
Bosnia and Herzegovina	63	1'585	682
Moldova	103	3'638	975
San Marino	41	538	64
Bulgaria	58	1'399	222
Tunisia	39	967	279
Belarus	79	12'208	1'993
Croatia	63	2'047	1'232
Estonia	50	1'660	240
Andorra	40	743	385
Bolivia	53	1'014	98
South Africa	90	4'793	1'473
Burkina Faso	42	635	469
Lithuania	44	1'344	536
Honduras	64	702	79
UAE	89	11'380	2'181
Albania	30	750	431

Afghanistan	58	1'828	228
Cuba	58	1'437	575
Lebanon	24	717	145
DRC	30	471	56
Armenia	30	1'867	866
Kazakhstan	25	3'019	754
Cameroon	58	1'705	805
Azerbaijan	22	1'717	1'221
Niger	29	701	385
Mali	24	424	122
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
Cyprus	15	837	148
Singapore	14	14'951	1'128
Nigeria	40	1'337	255
New Zealand	19	1'472	1'214
Channel Islands	36	530	352
Mauritius	10	334	303
Kenya	14	374	124
Venezuela	10	329	142
Sint Maarten	13	75	33
Iceland	10	1'795	1'624
Ghana	11	1'550	155
Uruguay	15	620	386
Guadeloupe	12	149	82
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	59
Bahamas	11	80	22
Qatar	10	11'921	1'134
Bahrain	8	2'810	1'246
Jordan	8	449	348
Sri Lanka	7	611	134
Paraguay	9	230	95
Ivory Coast	14	1'164	499
Taiwan	6	429	307
Martinique	14	175	77
El Salvador	8	345	97
Liberia	16	141	45
Guyana	8	74	15
Latvia	13	836	267
Kyrgyzstan	8	708	416
Guatemala	15	530	49
Congo	8	207	19
Bermuda	6	110	44
Sudan	25	318	31
Uzbekistan	8	1'939	958
Hong Kong	4	1'038	811
Oman	10	2'131	364
Montenegro	7	321	199
Jamaica	7	364	29
Barbados	6	80	39
Myanmar	5	149	16
Kuwait	23	3'440	1'176
Costa Rica	6	697	287
Malta	4	458	303
Georgia	6	511	156
Mayotte	4	460	235
Ethiopia	3	126	50
Togo	6	99	62
Tanzania	10	299	48
Haiti	6	76	8
Zimbabwe	4	32	5
Slovakia	20	1'384	423
Djibouti	2	1'035	477
Palestine	2	342	83
Senegal	9	823	296
Isle of Man	20	308	248
Somalia	28	528	19
Zambia	3	95	42
Saint Martin	3	38	24
Syria	3	43	19
Antigua and Barbuda	3	24	11
Angola	2	27	6
Belize	2	18	6
Malawi	3	36	4
MS Zaandam	2	9	0
Brunei	1	138	124

- France has announced a detailed map for a “progressive and controlled” exit from its strict lockdown from 11 May, even as official figures in Germany showed the Covid-19 infection rate starting to rise again after restrictions there were eased
- New Zealand is "not out of the woods," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said, as it entered its first day of transitioning to Level 3 from the toughest restrictions of Level 4. Austria's lockdown won't be extended when it ends on Thursday, and Australia's iconic Bondi Beach reopened.
- Hong Kong will start loosening some measures and public services will resume Monday after the city reported no new confirmed cases for the fourth time in eight days.
- Portugal will end its current state of emergency on Saturday, the country’s President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa announced today.



- **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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