

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

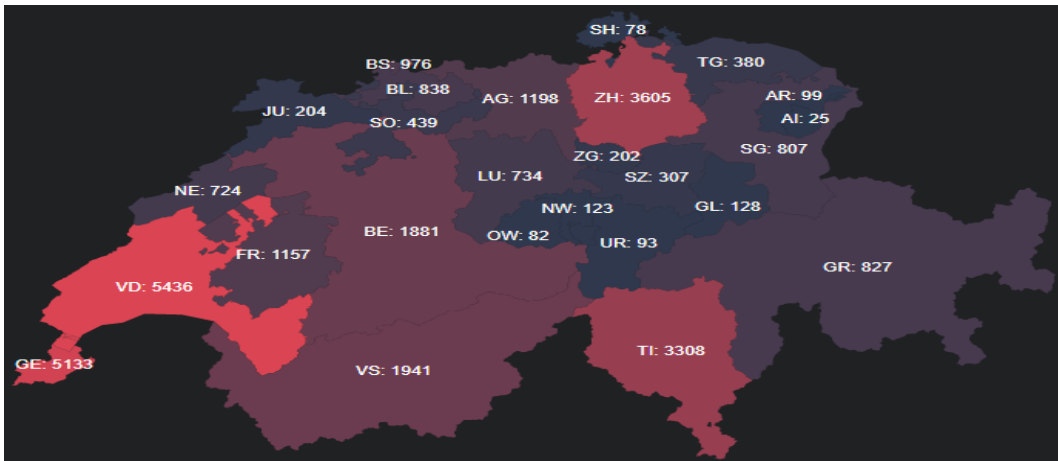
28.05.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 358,800 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (102,308) and UK (37,837). There have been more than 5,837,550 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The Covid-19 outbreak has been responsible for 159,000 excess deaths in 24 European countries since early March, WHO Europe Director Hans Henri Kluge announced today. Excess deaths is a term used to define the number of deaths which occurred in a given crisis above and beyond what would have been expected under 'normal' conditions. The WHO lists 53 countries in its Europe region. According to Kluge, there have been over two million confirmed Covid-19 cases and over 175,000 confirmed deaths in the European region. Kluge said these death numbers are "above and beyond what we would have expected normally at this time of the year." Case information reported to the WHO has revealed that 94% of all Covid-19 deaths were people over the age of 60 years old, and 59% of those deaths were men. From the total deaths, 97% of the cases had at least one underlying health condition, with cardiovascular disease being the most common. Kluge also gave an update on the current spread of the virus in Europe, saying that in the past 14 days cumulative cases in the region have increased by 15%, with the region still accounting for 38% of cases and 50% of deaths globally.
- The WHO Regional Office for Africa said they are "seeing some rapid increases" in cases during a press briefing today. Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa said, "It took 36 days to reach 1,000 reported cases, and then 62 days to move to 100,000 cases. We are just above 100,000 now." Moeti said it's a mixed bag across the continent, "Compared to two weeks ago, reported cases have tripled in five countries and doubled in 10 countries, noting that most countries still have fewer than 1,000 reported cases." Governments in each country have been working day and night to "procure and replenish essential supplies and equipment," Moeti said and added that this remains one of the biggest challenges of the response.
- South Korea has tightened restrictions in the metropolitan area of Seoul after a spike in infections. Restrictions had been lifted across the country on 6 May after the outbreak appeared to be brought under control. However, officials have recorded the biggest spike in infections in nearly two months, prompting the closure of museums, parks and art galleries in the Seoul area for two weeks from Friday. Half of South Korea's 51 million live in the metropolitan area where restrictions are being tightened.
- Airports and airlines have outlined new safety measures as flights start to ramp up in Switzerland. Face masks are mainly recommended, but are in some cases compulsory, while social distancing measures may increase waiting times once passenger numbers increase. All three airports have installed plexiglass screens and have increased cleaning services, focusing especially on surfaces that could be touched by many people, such as stair handrails and elevator buttons. Disinfectant hand dispensers will be made available for passengers. Floor markings have also been added to aid social distancing. EasyJet, SWISS and Edelweiss will resume some passenger flight routes from Switzerland in June. SWISS plans to operate up to 190 flights from Zurich and Geneva to 41 European destinations, but estimates that by the end of the year services will only be at 50% of pre-crisis levels.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	102'308	1'750'449	1'157'834
UK	37'837	269'127	N/A
Italy	33'072	231'139	50'966
France	28'596	182'913	87'733
Spain	27'118	283'849	59'773
Brazil	25'697	414'661	222'317
Belgium	9'388	57'849	32'889
Germany	8'548	182'150	10'402
Mexico	8'597	78'023	15'043
Iran	7'627	143'849	23'234
Canada	6'799	87'902	34'638
Netherlands	5'903	45'950	N/A
China	4'634	82'995	73
India	4'673	164'936	90'161
Turkey	4'431	159'797	32'573
Sweden	4'266	35'727	26'490
Russia	4'142	379'051	223'916
Peru	3'983	135'905	75'753
Ecuador	3'275	38'103	16'403
Switzerland	1'919	30'796	577
Ireland	1'631	24'803	1'083
Indonesia	1'496	24'538	16'802
Portugal	1'369	31'596	11'590
Pakistan	1'260	61'227	39'736
Romania	1'231	18'791	4'931
Poland	1'030	22'600	11'010
Philippines	921	15'588	11'069
Japan	858	16'651	1'820
Chile	890	86'943	49'903
Egypt	816	19'666	13'645
Colombia	803	24'104	17'190
Ukraine	669	22'382	13'274
Austria	668	16'628	674
Algeria	623	8'857	3'105
Denmark	568	11'512	764
Bangladesh	559	40'321	31'337
South Africa	552	25'937	11'934
Hungary	509	3'816	1'311
Argentina	501	13'933	8'815
Dominican Republic	474	15'723	6'459
Saudi Arabia	441	80'185	25'191
Czechia	317	9'103	2'409
Panama	315	11'728	4'034
Finland	313	6'743	930
Israel	281	16'809	1'926
Moldova	282	7'725	3'320
Bolivia	280	7'768	6'799
S. Korea	269	11'344	735
UAE	258	32'532	15'589
Nigeria	254	8'733	5'978
Serbia	241	11'300	4'621
Norway	236	8'406	443
Afghanistan	235	13'036	11'592
Belarus	219	39'858	22'979
Morocco	202	7'636	2'325
Honduras	194	4'640	3'940
Sudan	195	4'346	3'402
Kuwait	185	24'112	15'229
Cameroon	175	5'436	3'265
Greece	175	2'906	1'357
Iraq	179	5'457	2'307
Bosnia and Herzegovina	153	2'462	528
Bulgaria	134	2'477	1'378
North Macedonia	121	2'077	470
Malaysia	115	7'629	1'345
Luxembourg	110	4'008	95
Slovenia	108	1'473	9
Australia	103	7'150	467
Croatia	102	2'245	92
Armenia	113	8'216	4'816
Cuba	82	1'983	167
Mali	70	1'116	414
DRC	69	2'660	2'210
Somalia	67	1'731	1'399

Estonia	66	1'851	211
Lithuania	68	1'656	395
Guatemala	68	4'145	3'584
Niger	64	955	95
Chad	64	715	292
Thailand	57	3'065	63
Kenya	58	1'618	1'139
Azerbaijan	56	4'759	1'681
Burkina Faso	53	845	120
Andorra	51	763	36
Yemen	53	256	193
Tunisia	48	1'068	82
Tajikistan	47	3'563	1'842
Sierra Leone	45	812	406
Channel Islands	45	560	3
San Marino	42	670	306
Oman	40	9'009	6'792
Senegal	39	3'348	1'623
Kazakhstan	37	9'576	4'646
El Salvador	39	2'194	1'153
Nicaragua	35	759	354
Ghana	34	7'303	4'857
Haiti	34	1'320	1'264
Albania	33	1'076	220
Qatar	33	50'914	35'482
Ivory Coast	31	2'556	1'223
Slovakia	28	1'520	160
Liberia	27	269	98
Lebanon	26	1'168	443
Isle of Man	24	336	6
Singapore	23	33'249	15'950
Latvia	24	1'061	296
Uruguay	22	803	131
New Zealand	22	1'504	8
Tanzania	21	509	305
Guinea	20	3'275	1'582
Mayotte	21	1'670	334
Djibouti	20	2'914	1'653
Cyprus	17	941	330
Kyrgyzstan	16	1'594	512
Congo	19	571	391
Bahrain	15	9'977	4'667
Sint Maarten	15	77	2
Uzbekistan	14	3'437	729
Gabon	14	2'319	1'674
Martinique	14	197	92
Guadeloupe	14	161	32
Diamond Princess	13	712	48
Togo	13	395	199
Mauritania	16	292	261
Equatorial Guinea	12	1'043	866
Georgia	12	738	153
Sao Tome and Principe	12	443	363
Venezuela	11	1'245	932
Paraguay	11	884	481
Guyana	11	139	61
Bahamas	11	100	43
Iceland	10	1'805	3
Sri Lanka	10	1'503	748
Costa Rica	10	984	335
Mauritius	10	334	2
Jordan	9	728	233
Jamaica	9	569	281
Montenegro	9	324	0
Bermuda	9	139	39
South Sudan	10	994	978
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	0
Guinea-Bissau	7	1'195	1'146
Zambia	7	1'057	271

- Questions have been raised about a study published in the Lancet that prompted the WHO to halt global trials of the drug hydroxychloroquine. The Lancet said the authors were “investigating urgently” an apparent discrepancy in the data. It comes amid scientists’ concerns that rigorous standards are falling by the wayside in the race to understand the virus.
- The WHO has launched an independent grant-making entity called WHO Foundation that will raise private funds to meet global health challenges.
- “SwissCovid App – The Public Security Test begins today. Help us to improve the security of the SwissCovid app and report your test results to us via the NCSC website https://melani.admin.ch/SwissCovid_en”, tweeted BAG today.
- UN: Virus could push 14 million into hunger in Latin America. The UN World Food Program is warning that at least 14 million people could go hungry in Latin America as the coronavirus pandemic rages on. New projections released late on Wednesday estimate a startling four-fold increase in severe food insecurity.



- **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: grantoffice@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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