

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

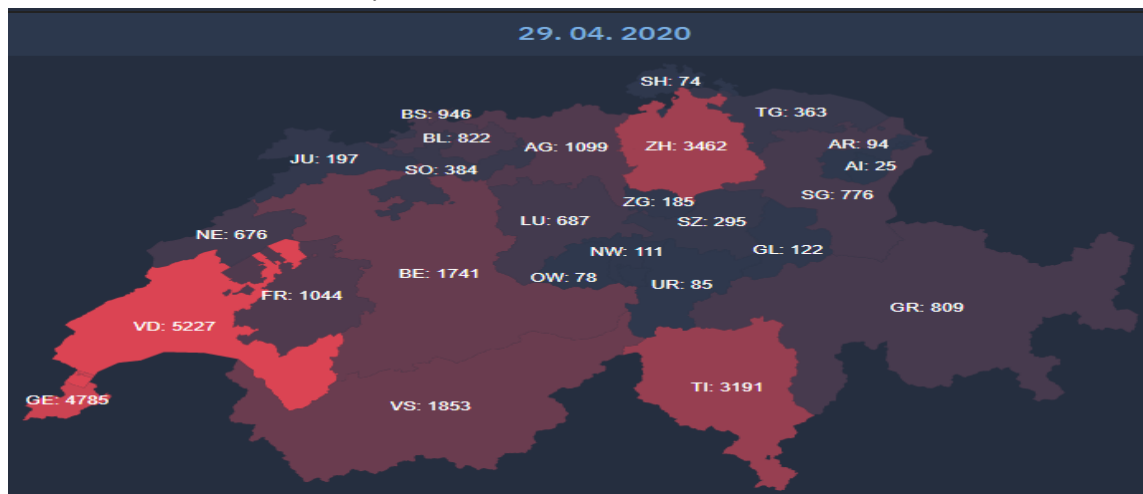
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 220,700 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (60,111) and Italy (27,682). There have been more than 3,179,530 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- *“In the three months since the Emergency Committee last met, WHO has worked day in, day out to sound the alarm, support countries and save lives. We’ve worked with countries to help them prepare and respond. We’ve brought countries together to share experiences and lessons learned. We’ve brought together thousands of experts to analyze the evolving evidence and distil it into guidance. We’ve convened researchers to identify priorities, from all over the world. We’ve launched a large international trial to find answers fast about which drugs are the most effective”,* said WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros during the press conference today. *“We’ve brought together a consortium of countries and partners to accelerate the development and equitable distribution of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics. We’ve shipped millions of test kits and tons of protective gear all around the world, focusing on those countries who need our support most. We’ve trained more than 2 million health workers – to be exact, 2.3 million health workers around the world. We don’t think that’s enough; we will train more,”* added Dr. Tedros.
- A German company working with US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has begun human trials of a potential Covid-19 vaccine that could supply millions by the end of the year, according to the two firms. Pfizer says it will begin testing the experimental vaccine in the United States as early as next week, and says a vaccine could be ready for emergency use in the fall, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. Mainz-based BioNTech reported that the first cohort of participants had been given doses of the potential vaccine, BNT162, in a Phase 1/2 clinical study in Germany. No information on the results is currently available. BioNTech said around 200 healthy volunteers aged 18 to 55 years old would be given doses ranging from 1µg (microgram) to 100µg to find the optimal dose for further studies. "In addition, the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine will be investigated," added the biotech company.
- Treating coronavirus patients with the antiviral drug remdesivir showed no “significant clinical benefits” in the first randomised trial of its kind, according to research released on Wednesday. In a study among more than 200 Covid-19 patients in Wuhan, China, published in The Lancet, doctors found no positive effects of administering the drug compared with a control group of adults. The findings were released after US pharmaceutical giant Gilead, which makes remdesivir, said a separate large-scale trial with the drug had showed positive results. *“Unfortunately, our trial found that while safe and adequately tolerated, remdesivir did not provide significant benefits over placebo,”* said Bin Cao from China-Japan Friendship Hospital and Capital Medical University in China, who led the research. *“This is not the outcome we hoped for.”*
- New Zealand, Australia and several European countries including Portugal, France, and Greece have loosened, or put forward plans, to ease some of their toughest coronavirus restrictions.
- Deaths from the Covid-19 epidemic in Italy increased by 323 on Wednesday, compared to 382 the day before, the Civil Protection Agency said, while the daily tally of new infections stood at 2,086, broadly stable from 2,091 on Tuesday.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	60'111		1'046'052
Italy	27'682		203'591
Spain	24'275		236'899
France	23'660		165'911
UK	21'678		161'145
Iran	5'957		93'657
Belgium	7'501		47'859
China	4'633		82'858
Germany	6'374		160'479
Netherlands	4'711		38'802
Brazil	5'083		73'235
Turkey	3'081		117'589
Switzerland	1'703		29'407
Sweden	2'462		20'302
Canada	2'904		50'373
Portugal	973		24'505
Indonesia	784		9'771
Austria	580		15'402
India	1'008		31'787
Ireland	1'159		19'877
Ecuador	871		24'258
Romania	685		11'978
Philippines	558		8'212
Mexico	1'569		16'752
Algeria	444		3'848
Denmark	443		9'008
Poland	624		12'640
S. Korea	246		10'761
Peru	854		31'190
Dominican Republic	293		6'652
Russia	972		99'399
Egypt	380		5'268
Czechia	227		7'563
Japan	394		13'736
Norway	207		7'680
Morocco	168		4'321
Hungary	300		2'727
Israel	212		15'782
Colombia	269		5'949
Argentina	207		4'127
Greece	139		2'576
Ukraine	250		9'866
Pakistan	335		15'289
Serbia	173		8'724
Panama	176		6'200
Chile	216		14'885
Malaysia	100		5'945
Iraq	90		1'928
Saudi Arabia	157		21'402
Luxembourg	89		3'769
Finland	206		4'906
Australia	89		6'746
Slovenia	89		1'418
Bangladesh	163		7'103
North Macedonia	73		1'442
Thailand	54		2'947
Bosnia and Herzegovina	65		1'677
Moldova	107		3'771
San Marino	41		563
Bulgaria	64		1'447
Tunisia	40		975
Belarus	84		13'181
Croatia	67		2'062
Estonia	50		1'666
Andorra	41		743
Bolivia	55		1'053
South Africa	93		4'996
Burkina Faso	42		638
Lithuania	45		1'375
Honduras	66		738
UAE	89		11'380
Albania	30		766
Afghanistan	60		1'939
Cuba	58		1'467

Lebanon	24	721	150
DRC	30	491	59
Armenia	30	1'932	900
Kazakhstan	25	3'138	819
Cameroon	59	1'806	915
Azerbaijan	23	1'766	1'267
Niger	31	709	403
Mali	25	482	129
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
Cyprus	15	843	148
Singapore	14	15'641	1'188
Nigeria	44	1'532	255
New Zealand	19	1'474	1'229
Channel Islands	36	530	352
Mauritius	10	334	306
Kenya	14	384	129
Venezuela	10	329	142
Sint Maarten	13	75	33
Iceland	10	1'797	1'656
Ghana	16	1'671	188
Uruguay	15	625	394
Guadeloupe	12	149	82
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	68
Bahamas	11	80	23
Qatar	10	12'564	1'243
Bahrain	8	2'811	1'310
Jordan	8	451	356
Sri Lanka	7	627	136
Paraguay	9	239	102
Ivory Coast	14	1'183	525
Taiwan	6	429	311
Martinique	14	175	83
El Salvador	9	377	106
Liberia	16	141	45
Guyana	8	74	15
Latvia	15	849	348
Kyrgyzstan	8	729	437
Guatemala	16	557	62
Congo	8	207	19
Bermuda	6	110	44
Sudan	28	375	32
Uzbekistan	8	1'969	1'066
Hong Kong	4	1'038	830
Oman	10	2'274	364
Montenegro	7	322	203
Jamaica	7	381	29
Barbados	6	80	39
Myanmar	6	150	27
Kuwait	24	3'740	1'389
Costa Rica	6	705	306
Malta	4	463	339
Georgia	6	517	178
Mayotte	4	460	235
Ethiopia	3	130	58
Togo	7	109	64
Tanzania	16	480	167
Haiti	6	76	8
Zimbabwe	4	32	5
Slovakia	22	1'391	484
Djibouti	2	1'077	599
Palestine	2	344	71
Senegal	9	882	315
Isle of Man	21	313	252
Somalia	28	582	20
Zambia	3	97	54
Saint Martin	3	38	24
Syria	3	43	21
Antigua and Barbuda	3	24	11
Angola	2	27	6
Belize	2	18	9
Malawi	3	36	5

- The Swiss government will further loosen coronavirus-related restrictions as of May 11. Shops, cultural and sports institutions, and restaurants will be allowed to open at that date, Switzerland's Federal President Simonetta Sommaruga said at a press conference in Bern. Primary and secondary schools can also open as of May 11, Alain Berset from the federal council said at the press conference. Border restrictions will be eased and public transport will also ramp up at this time. A third phase of loosening restrictions will happen June 8, under the condition that the coronavirus spread is under control.
- The official UK Covid-19 death toll has increased by 4,419 after the government included deaths outside hospital for the first time. From yesterday, total of 26,097 patients had died in hospitals, care homes and the wider community after testing positive for coronavirus in the UK, according to Public Health England. The change comes after weeks of criticism of the way that the UK had been reporting its coronavirus death toll, which made effective comparisons with other European countries impossible.
- Germany is advising against all international trips until at least June 14, the country's foreign minister Heiko Maas announced Wednesday.



- **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](mailto:grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch). The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schögler ([aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch](mailto:aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch)) and Leah Witton ([leah.witton@research.unibe.ch](mailto:leah.witton@research.unibe.ch)).

### Sources

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