

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

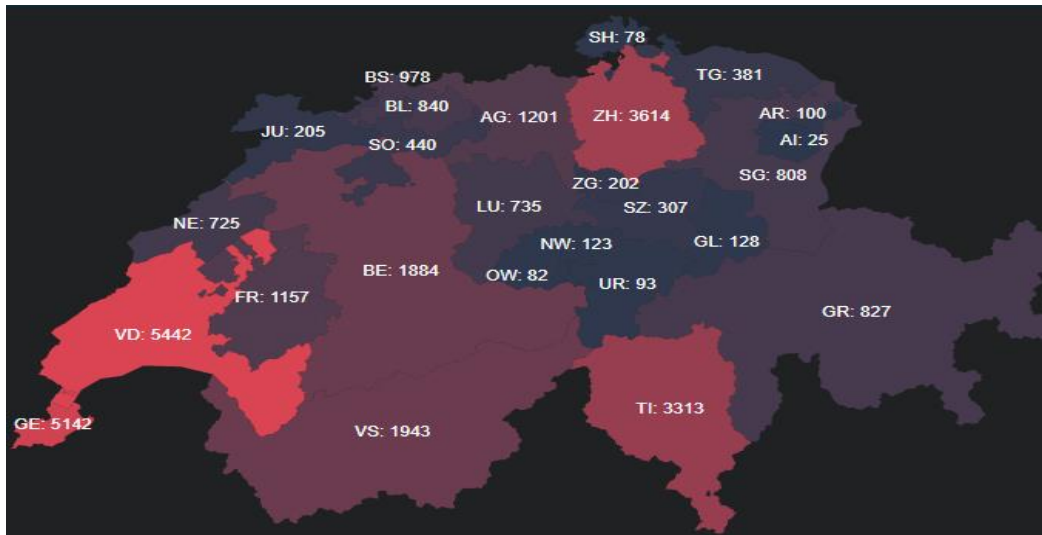
29.05.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 363,890 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (103,669) and UK (38,161). There have been more than 5,962,550 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- WHO and Costa Rica launch landmark COVID-19 Technology Access Pool. Thirty countries and multiple international partners and institutions have signed up to support the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) an initiative aimed at making vaccines, tests, treatments and other health technologies to fight COVID-19 accessible to all. The Pool was first proposed in March by President Carlos Alvarado of Costa Rica, who joined WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus today at the official launch of the initiative. *“The COVID-19 Technology Access Pool will ensure the latest and best science benefits all of humanity. Vaccines, tests, diagnostics, treatments and other key tools in the coronavirus response must be made universally available as global public goods”*, said President Alvarado of Costa Rica.
- Authorities have released the source code of the SwissCovid app to the public to allow experts and hackers to detect any risks to privacy before the official launch. The source code of the decentralised contact tracing app DP-3T, developed by the two Swiss federal institutes of technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) and Lausanne (EPFL) was released for public testing yesterday. The National Cybersecurity Centre (NCSC) will receive the test reports sent by the public via an online form. It will review the submissions, set priorities based on the severity of the problems detected and make the necessary adjustments. The results will be updated daily and made available on the NCSC website. The Swiss proximity tracking system is currently being tested in a pilot phase by selected groups. If parliament gives its approval to the legal basis, the application can be launched immediately.
- Healthcare professionals should closely monitor Covid-19 patients who are receiving malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, given the serious side-effects associated with the medicine, the European health regulator said today. Several EU countries have paused trials of the drug in patients infected by the new coronavirus over safety concerns, the European Medicines Agency said, the drug’s benefits have not been established for the illness. The WHO suspended testing the drug in Covid-19 patients last week.
- Monkeys mobbed an Indian health worker and took coronavirus test blood samples, spreading fears that the animals could spread the pandemic in the local area. After making off with the three samples earlier this week in Meerut, the monkeys scampered up nearby trees and one then tried to chew its plunder. The sample boxes were later recovered and had not been damaged, Meerut Medical college superintendent Dheeraj Raj told today, after footage of the encounter went viral on social media. *“They were still intact and we don’t think there is any risk of contamination or spread,”* Raj said. He added that the three people whose samples were stolen were retested for the virus.
- Health authorities in South Africa say the country has a backlog of nearly 100,000 unprocessed coronavirus tests, as it and other countries on the continent face difficulties in obtaining essential supplies. *“This challenge is caused by the limited availability of test kits globally,”* the health ministry said in a statement. Priority is given to processing tests from patients admitted to hospitals and health workers, it said. South Africa has conducted more tests for the virus than any other country in Africa — more than 655,000 — and has the most confirmed cases with 27,403.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	103'669	1'775'525	1'170'468
UK	38'161	271'222	N/A
Italy	33'229	232'248	46'175
France	28'662	186'238	90'385
Spain	27'121	285'644	61'565
Brazil	26'764	438'812	218'867
Belgium	9'430	58'061	32'949
Germany	8'577	182'711	10'034
Mexico	9'044	81'400	15'718
Iran	7'677	146'668	24'060
Canada	6'877	88'512	34'795
Netherlands	5'931	46'126	N/A
China	4'634	82'995	70
India	4'971	172'569	85'992
Turkey	4'489	162'120	31'668
Sweden	4'350	36'476	27'155
Russia	4'374	387'623	223'992
Peru	4'099	141'779	78'238
Ecuador	3'313	38'471	16'733
Switzerland	1'919	30'828	609
Ireland	1'639	24'841	1'113
Indonesia	1'520	25'216	17'204
Portugal	1'383	31'946	11'652
Pakistan	1'317	64'028	40'406
Romania	1'248	18'982	4'905
Poland	1'051	23'155	11'412
Philippines	942	16'634	11'972
Japan	867	16'683	1'669
Chile	944	90'638	51'096
Egypt	845	20'793	14'589
Colombia	822	25'366	17'879
Ukraine	679	22'811	13'198
Austria	668	16'655	640
Algeria	638	9'134	3'219
Denmark	568	11'593	785
Bangladesh	582	42'844	33'247
South Africa	577	27'403	12'456
Hungary	517	3'841	1'300
Argentina	510	14'702	9'404
Dominican Republic	488	16'531	6'777
Saudi Arabia	458	81'766	24'295
Czechia	319	9'180	2'363
Panama	320	12'131	4'432
Finland	314	6'776	962
Israel	284	16'887	1'876
Moldova	288	7'896	3'330
Bolivia	293	8'387	7'356
S. Korea	269	11'402	770
UAE	260	33'170	15'813
Nigeria	259	8'915	6'064
Serbia	242	11'354	4'588
Norway	236	8'422	459
Afghanistan	246	13'659	12'154
Belarus	224	40'764	23'150
Morocco	202	7'697	2'272
Honduras	196	4'752	4'037
Sudan	233	4'521	3'472
Kuwait	194	25'184	15'717
Cameroon	175	5'436	3'265
Greece	175	2'909	1'360
Iraq	185	5'873	2'644
Bosnia and Herzegovina	153	2'485	529
Bulgaria	136	2'485	1'333
North Macedonia	126	2'129	487
Malaysia	115	7'732	1'382
Luxembourg	110	4'012	87
Slovenia	108	1'473	8
Australia	103	7'173	488
Croatia	103	2'245	83
Armenia	120	8'676	5'259
Cuba	82	2'005	163
Mali	73	1'226	484
DRC	69	2'833	2'364
Somalia	72	1'828	1'446
Estonia	67	1'859	182

Lithuania	68	1'662	378
Guatemala	80	4'348	3'703
Niger	64	955	88
Chad	65	726	248
Thailand	57	3'076	74
Kenya	62	1'745	1'245
Azerbaijan	58	4'989	1'806
Burkina Faso	53	847	75
Andorra	51	764	29
Yemen	65	283	207
Tunisia	48	1'071	77
Tajikistan	47	3'686	1'870
Sierra Leone	45	829	398
Channel Islands	45	560	3
San Marino	42	671	285
Oman	40	9'820	7'384
Senegal	41	3'429	1'650
Kazakhstan	37	9'932	4'838
El Salvador	42	2'278	1'221
Nicaragua	35	759	354
Ghana	34	7'616	5'161
Haiti	35	1'443	1'386
Albania	33	1'099	215
Qatar	36	52'907	32'267
Ivory Coast	32	2'641	1'283
Slovakia	28	1'520	154
Liberia	27	273	100
Lebanon	26	1'172	441
Isle of Man	24	336	3
Singapore	23	33'860	14'206
Latvia	24	1'064	295
Uruguay	22	811	135
New Zealand	22	1'504	1
Tanzania	21	509	305
Guinea	22	3'553	1'581
Mayotte	21	1'699	293
Djibouti	20	2'914	1'653
Cyprus	17	941	140
Kyrgyzstan	16	1'662	558
Congo	19	571	391
Bahrain	15	10'352	4'846
Sint Maarten	15	77	2
Uzbekistan	14	3'468	726
Gabon	14	2'431	1'749
Martinique	14	197	92
Guadeloupe	14	161	32
Diamond Princess	13	712	48
Togo	13	422	212
Mauritania	19	346	312
Equatorial Guinea	12	1'306	1'094
Georgia	12	746	158
Sao Tome and Principe	12	458	378
Venezuela	11	1'325	1'012
Paraguay	11	900	487
Guyana	11	150	72
Bahamas	11	101	43
Iceland	10	1'805	1
Sri Lanka	10	1'548	784
Costa Rica	10	1'000	344
Mauritius	10	335	3
Jordan	9	730	214
Jamaica	9	569	276
Montenegro	9	324	0
Bermuda	9	140	39
South Sudan	10	994	978
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	0
Guinea-Bissau	8	1'195	1'145
Zambia	7	1'057	271

- Spain, Turkey, France, Britain and Brazil have all announced plans to at least partially lift lockdowns and resume businesses. Restrictions are also easing in Asian countries like the Philippines and Japan.
- More than 500 schools closed again Friday to students after briefly reopening, as South Korea moves to stamp out a resurgence of the coronavirus in the capital, Seoul, and its surrounding metropolitan area. Parks, art galleries, museums and theaters operated by the government in the Seoul metropolitan area have also been closed to the public for the next two weeks.
- Wearing face masks will no longer be mandatory in shops in Austria from mid-June, the government has announced. Covering the mouth and nose will only be mandatory on public transport, in health facilities including pharmacies, and in places where social distancing rules are hard to keep, such as hairdressers.
- A flight carrying 12 tons of humanitarian aid is scheduled to land in Venezuela on Friday, to assist the sanction-hit country in its response to the Covid-19 outbreak, the UN's aid agency said. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the UN's office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA) has arranged for more than 100 tons of aid to Venezuela.



- **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).

Sources

<https://twitter.com/WHO>

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.corona-data.ch/>

https://www.melani.admin.ch/melani/en/home/public-security-test/reporting_form.html

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/29/coronavirus-latest-at-a-glance>

<https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-05-29-20-intl/index.html>