

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

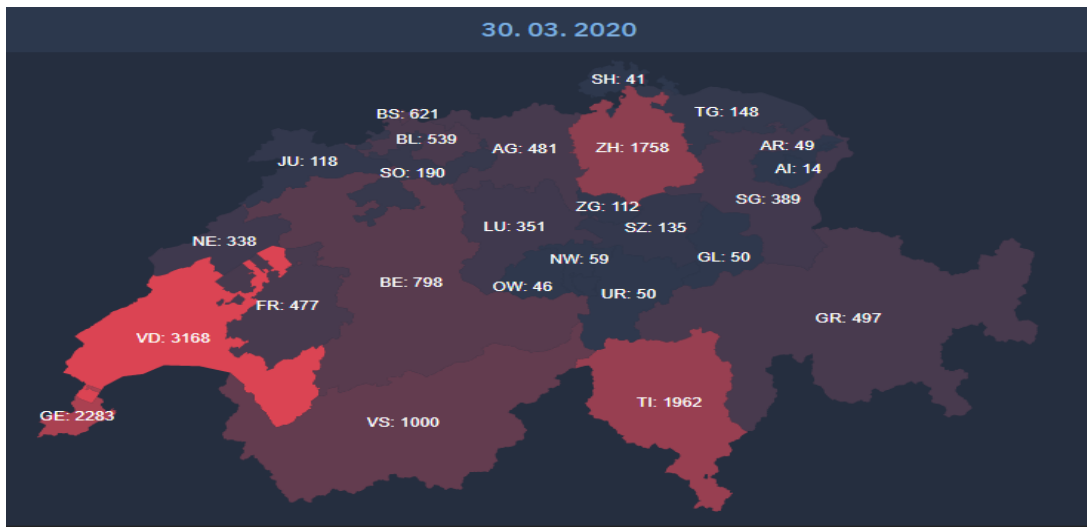
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 35,350 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (10,779) and Spain (7,340). There have been more than 743,300 global cases in 201 countries.
- COVID19 press conference from the WHO starts with the director-general Dr. Tedros pointing out that corona is “*straining health systems in many countries*”. Says previous outbreaks have shown that when health systems are overwhelmed, deaths from other causes “*increase dramatically*”.
- “*Coming together is the only option we have to defeat this virus.*,” the WHO director-general Dr Tedros has said that while scientific and health tools are essential in overcoming the coronavirus pandemic, “so are humility and kindness.”
- New research has shed light on a crucial biological mechanism that may have helped the coronavirus to infect humans and spread rapidly around the world. A detailed analysis of the virus’s structure shows that the club-like “spikes” that it uses to establish infections latch on to human cells about four times more strongly than those on the related Sars coronavirus, which killed hundreds of people in a 2002 epidemic. The finding suggests that coronavirus particles that are inhaled through the nose or mouth have a high chance of attaching to cells in the upper respiratory tract, meaning that relatively few are needed for an infection to gain a foothold.
- The coronavirus is spreading rapidly across Europe, with the worst affected countries still Italy, Spain and Germany. With more than 97,000 cases of the virus, Italy is likely to soon become the second country in the world to break the 100,000, after the United States.
- In Italy, 61 doctors who caught the coronavirus have died, the Italian Association of Doctors said Monday. In all, 8,358 health workers have tested positive for coronavirus, according to the Italian National Institute of Health. Out of the 61 deceased doctors, 40 were working in Lombardy, the Italian region worst-hit by coronavirus.
- The first test results for various coronavirus treatments will be made available later this week, the French Minister of Research Frédérique Vidal said today. The clinical trials of four possible treatments began a week ago, and involve more than 3,000 volunteers across Europe. According to France’s National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), the trials are analyzing the efficacy and tolerance of therapeutic options for patients within a controlled timeframe.
- Pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson announced on Monday that it plans to initiate human clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate by September, and anticipates the first batches of the vaccine could be available for emergency use by early next year.
- Germany has almost twice as many vacant intensive care (ICU) beds as Italy’s entire number of ICU beds, the country’s health minister Jens Spahn said in an interview with Germany’s public broadcaster ZDF. “*Around half of Germany’s intensive care beds are vacant over the whole of Germany. We are preparing ourselves as best we can for what might happen next,*” Spahn said.
- Asymptomatic people may be infecting others in China despite officials saying the risk of this is low, it has emerged. As China relaxes lockdown measures and people return to work, authorities are concerned about the possibility that asymptomatic carriers will continue spreading the virus.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
USA	145'099	2'608	4'574
Italy	97'689	10'779	13'030
Spain	85'195	7'340	16'780
China	81'470	3'304	75'700
Germany	63'929	560	9'211
Iran	41'495	2'757	13'911
France	40'174	2'606	7'202
UK	19'522	1'415	135
Switzerland	15'526	333	1'823
Belgium	11'899	513	1'527
Netherlands	11'750	864	250
S. Korea	9'661	158	5'228
Austria	9'454	108	636
Turkey	9'217	131	105
Canada	6'671	67	1'014
Portugal	6'408	140	43
Norway	4'436	31	12
Brazil	4'362	141	120
Israel	4'347	16	134
Australia	4'245	18	244
Sweden	4'028	146	16
Czechia	2'896	17	11
Malaysia	2'626	37	479
Ireland	2'615	46	5
Denmark	2'577	77	1
Chile	2'449	8	156
Luxembourg	1'988	22	40
Poland	1'984	26	7
Romania	1'952	46	206
Ecuador	1'924	58	3
Japan	1'866	54	424
Russia	1'836	9	66
Pakistan	1'650	20	29
Philippines	1'546	78	42
Thailand	1'524	9	229
Saudi Arabia	1'453	8	115
Indonesia	1'414	122	75
Finland	1'352	13	10
South Africa	1'280	2	31
Greece	1'212	43	52
Iceland	1'086	2	157
India	1'071	29	100
Mexico	993	20	35
Panama	989	24	4
Dominican Republic	901	42	4
Singapore	879	3	228
Peru	852	18	16
Argentina	820	22	228
Croatia	790	6	67
Serbia	785	16	42
Slovenia	756	11	10
Estonia	715	3	20
Diamond Princess	712	10	603
Colombia	702	10	10
Hong Kong	642	4	118
Qatar	634	1	48
UAE	611	5	61
Egypt	609	40	132
New Zealand	589	1	63
Iraq	547	42	143
Morocco	516	29	14
Bahrain	515	4	279
Algeria	511	31	31
Lithuania	484	7	1
Armenia	482	3	30
Ukraine	480	11	6
Hungary	447	15	34
Lebanon	446	11	35
Latvia	376	0	1
Bulgaria	359	8	17
Bosnia and Herzegovina	354	8	17
Slovakia	336	0	7
Andorra	334	6	6
Costa Rica	314	2	3
Tunisia	312	8	2
Uruguay	310	1	0
Taiwan	306	5	39
Kazakhstan	302	1	21
North Macedonia	285	7	12
Azerbaijan	273	4	26
Kuwait	266	0	72
Moldova	263	2	13
Jordan	259	4	18
San Marino	230	25	13
Cyprus	230	7	15
Albania	223	11	44
Burkina Faso	222	12	23
Vietnam	203	0	55
Réunion	183	0	1
Oman	179	0	29
Cuba	170	4	4
Faeroe Islands	168	0	70
Ivory Coast	165	1	4
Senegal	162	0	27
Malta	156	0	2
Ghana	152	5	2
Belarus	152	0	32

Uzbekistan	149	2	7
Afghanistan	145	4	2
Channel Islands	141	2	0
Cameroon	139	6	5
Honduras	139	3	3
Venezuela	129	3	39
Mauritius	128	3	0
Brunei	127	1	38
Sri Lanka	122	2	15
Palestine	115	1	18
Nigeria	111	1	3
Cambodia	107	0	21
Guadeloupe	106	4	17
Georgia	100	0	18
Bolivia	97	4	0
Kyrgyzstan	94	0	3
Martinique	93	1	0
Montenegro	91	1	0
Trinidad and Tobago	82	3	1
Mayotte	82	0	10
DRC	81	8	2
Rwanda	70	0	0
Gibraltar	65	0	14
Paraguay	64	3	1
Liechtenstein	62	0	0
Kenya	50	1	1
Aruba	50	0	1
Bangladesh	49	5	19
Isle of Man	49	0	0
Monaco	46	1	1
French Guiana	43	0	6
Madagascar	39	0	0
Macao	38	0	10
Guatemala	36	1	10
Jamaica	36	1	2
French Polynesia	35	0	0
Zambia	35	0	0
Barbados	33	0	0
Uganda	33	0	0
Togo	30	1	1
El Salvador	30	0	0
Mali	25	2	0
Ethiopia	23	0	4
Niger	22	3	0
Bermuda	22	0	2
Congo	19	0	0
Tanzania	19	0	1
Djibouti	18	0	0
Maldives	17	0	13
Guinea	16	0	0
Saint Martin	15	1	2
Haiti	15	0	1
New Caledonia	15	0	0
Bahamas	14	0	1
Myanmar	14	0	0
Cayman Islands	12	1	0
Equatorial Guinea	12	0	0
Eritrea	12	0	0
Mongolia	12	0	2
Curaçao	11	1	2
Dominica	11	0	0
Namibia	11	0	2
Greenland	10	0	2
Syria	9	1	0
Grenada	9	0	0
Saint Lucia	9	0	1
Eswatini	9	0	0
Guyana	8	1	0
Guinea-Bissau	8	0	0
Laos	8	0	0
Libya	8	0	0
Mozambique	8	0	0
Seychelles	8	0	0
Suriname	8	0	0
Angola	7	2	0
Gabon	7	1	0
Zimbabwe	7	1	0
Antigua and Barbuda	7	0	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	7	0	0
Sudan	6	2	0
Cabo Verde	6	1	0
Benin	6	0	0
Vatican City	6	0	0
St. Barth	6	0	1
Sint Maarten	6	0	0
Nepal	5	0	1
Chad	5	0	0
Fiji	5	0	0
Mauritania	5	0	2
Montserrat	5	0	0
Turks and Caicos	5	0	0
Gambia	4	1	0
Nicaragua	4	1	0
Bhutan	4	0	0
CAR	3	0	0
Liberia	3	0	0
Somalia	3	0	0
MS Zaandam	2	0	0
Anguilla	2	0	0
Belize	2	0	0
British Virgin Islands	2	0	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0
St. Vincent Grenadines	1	0	1
Timor-Leste	1	0	0

- The US now has the most confirmed cases worldwide — more than 139,700 and more than 2,400 deaths. President Trump extended social distancing guidelines to April 30.
- There have been another 812 deaths in Spain from coronavirus, according to data from the past 24 hours. The numbers, released by the Spanish Health Ministry, show a smaller increase in daily fatalities than previously seen in the past two days.
- The UK Department of Health announced today that 22,141 people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK. The government also published its UK death toll as 1,408.
- The UK could remain under coronavirus emergency measures for as long as six months, a top health official has said — even as one expert said there were early signs that the outbreak was slowing in Britain.
- British researchers have redesigned a breathing aid so that it can be used to treat people with coronavirus-related breathing problems -- and keep them out of intensive care beds. The machines are normally used to treat patients with sleep apnea. According to University College London, the design process took less than two weeks and has been approved for use by the UK's National Health Service (NHS).



Funding opportunities for researchers

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) - Call Open on Therapeutics and Diagnostics Combatting Coronavirus Infection

- https://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=499&tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=1168&no_cache=1&user_id=51472&job_id=4718

Wellcome Trust:

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

Sources

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- <https://www.nau.ch/politik/bundeshaus/coronavirus-chefbeamte-uber-aktuelle-lage-in-der-schweiz-65686141>
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