

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

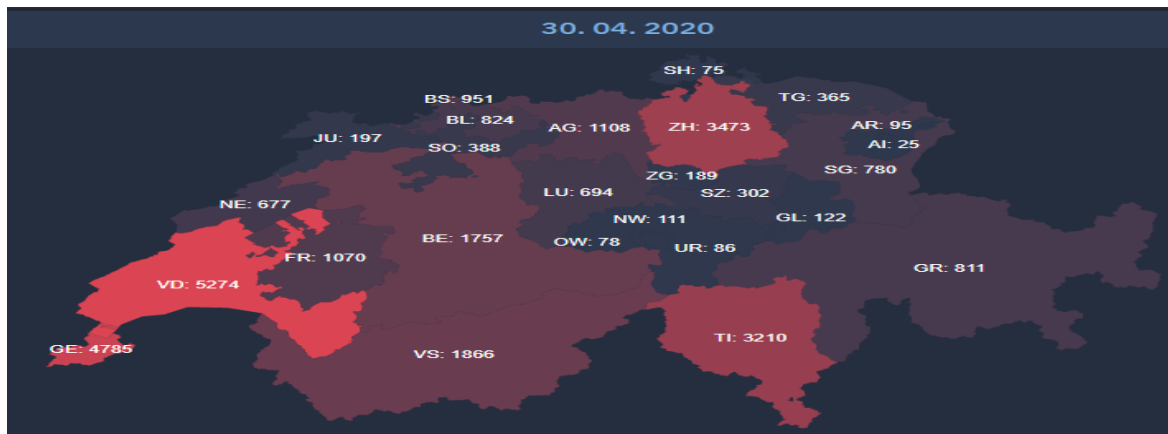
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 231,251 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (62,319) and Italy (27,967). There have been more than 3,271,500 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- WHO officials are investigating a rare inflammatory condition called Kawasaki disease that has emerged as a possible complication of coronavirus infection in young children, officials in Europe said during a media briefing on Thursday. While there have been rare reports of cases in London and other parts of Europe, "only half of these children tested positive for coronavirus," Adam Finn, professor of pediatrics at the University of Bristol and chairman of the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts advising WHO Europe, said during the briefing. *"This may be a late complication of the infection," Finn said, "But all of this is speculation at this point. The size and exact nature of this problem is only just beginning to emerge."* Research into this possible association now continues, Dr. Dorit Nitzan, health emergencies coordinator for WHO's European Region, said during the briefing. *"We are looking together with our clinical network and the pediatricians in the European region and in the Americas for the possible connection or correlation or some kind of association between that type of inflammatory syndrome and Covid-19," Nitzan said today. "We will come out with the results and new news as soon as we have them done."*
- A large-scale new pre-print study has found that a third of coronavirus patients admitted to UK hospitals die, and fewer than half of those put on ventilators survive. The study, called ISARIC4C and led by researchers from the University of Edinburgh, University of Liverpool, and Imperial College London, analyzed data from 16,749 Covid-19 patients in 166 UK hospitals between February 6 and April 18. It found that 49% were discharged, 33% died and 17% continued to receive care at date of reporting. The study also showed that of patients put on a ventilator, 53% died, 20% were discharged, and 27% remained in the hospital. Researchers also found that, along with underlying issues such as lung, heart and kidney disease that are already known to worsen outcomes, being male or obese were also significant factors associated with Covid-19 deaths in UK hospitals. This could be because obese people have a reduced lung function and potentially more inflammation in the fatty tissue under the skin and around internal organs, which could contribute to a possibly life-threatening overreaction of the body's immune system, researchers said.
- WHO officials in Africa have said the Covid-19 outbreak is still increasing across the continent despite widespread efforts at containment. Most African nations are hoping they can drastically slow the spread of the disease to protect very limited facilities. There are more than 34,000 confirmed cases across the continent. The statistics are likely to significantly underestimate the true extent of the spread of the disease. WHO officials warned that such choices could mean consequences in terms of the spread of Covid-19, but said they recognized the challenge of making tough decisions. Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's director for the Africa region, said: We are very concerned about west Africa where we are seeing some community spread in a significant number of countries compared with others.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	62'319	1'075'643	149'686
Italy	27'967	205'463	75'945
UK	26'771	171'253	N/A
Spain	24'543	239'639	137'984
France	24'087	166'420	48'228
Belgium	7'594	48'519	11'576
Germany	6'518	162'123	123'500
Iran	6'028	94'640	75'103
Brazil	5'541	80'246	34'132
Netherlands	4'795	39'316	N/A
China	4'633	82'862	77'610
Turkey	3'174	120'204	48'886
Canada	3'082	52'069	20'936
Sweden	2'586	21'092	1'005
Switzerland	1'737	29'586	23'100
Mexico	1'732	17'799	11'423
Ireland	1'232	20'612	13'386
India	1'151	34'780	9'068
Russia	1'073	106'498	11'619
Portugal	989	25'045	1'519
Peru	943	33'931	10'037
Ecuador	900	24'934	1'558
Indonesia	792	10'118	1'522
Romania	705	12'240	4'017
Poland	644	12'877	3'236
Austria	584	15'452	12'907
Philippines	568	8'488	1'043
Denmark	452	9'158	6'546
Algeria	450	4'006	1'779
Japan	425	13'965	2'368
Egypt	392	5'537	1'381
Pakistan	358	16'117	4'105
Hungary	312	2'775	581
Dominican Republic	301	6'972	1'301
Colombia	278	6'211	1'411
Ukraine	261	10'406	1'238
S. Korea	247	10'765	9'059
Czechia	235	7'642	3'281
Chile	227	16'023	8'580
Israel	219	15'870	8'412
Argentina	214	4'285	1'192
Finland	211	4'995	3'000
Norway	207	7'738	32
Serbia	179	9'009	1'343
Panama	178	6'378	527
Morocco	170	4'423	984
Bangladesh	168	7'667	160
Saudi Arabia	162	22'753	3'163
Greece	140	2'591	1'374
Moldova	116	3'897	1'182
UAE	105	12'481	2'429
South Africa	103	5'350	2'073
Malaysia	102	6'002	4'171
Iraq	92	2'003	1'346
Australia	91	6'753	5'715
Slovenia	91	1'429	233
Luxembourg	90	3'784	3'213
Belarus	89	14'027	2'386
North Macedonia	77	1'465	738
Honduras	71	771	79
Croatia	69	2'076	1'348
Bosnia and Herzegovina	69	1'757	727
Bulgaria	66	1'506	266
Afghanistan	64	2'171	260
Cameroon	61	1'832	934
Cuba	61	1'501	681
Bolivia	59	1'110	117
Thailand	54	2'954	2'684
Estonia	52	1'689	249
Nigeria	51	1'728	307
Lithuania	45	1'385	589
Burkina Faso	43	641	498
Andorra	42	743	423

San Marino	41	569	78
Tunisia	40	980	294
Channel Islands	40	537	386
Armenia	32	2'066	929
Niger	32	713	435
Albania	31	773	470
DRC	31	500	65
Somalia	28	601	31
Sudan	28	375	32
Kuwait	26	4'024	1'539
Kazakhstan	25	3'356	858
Mali	25	482	129
Azerbaijan	24	1'804	1'325
Lebanon	24	725	150
Slovakia	23	1'396	524
Isle of Man	21	315	260
New Zealand	19	1'476	1'241
Ghana	17	2'074	212
Kenya	17	396	144
Guatemala	16	585	65
Tanzania	16	480	167
Liberia	16	141	45
Singapore	15	16'169	1'244
Latvia	15	858	348
Cyprus	15	850	148
Uruguay	15	630	412
Ivory Coast	14	1'238	557
Martinique	14	178	83
Diamond Princess	13	712	645
Sint Maarten	13	75	33
Guadeloupe	12	151	95
Oman	11	2'348	495
Bahamas	11	80	25
Qatar	10	13'409	1'372
Iceland	10	1'797	1'670
Mauritius	10	332	310
Venezuela	10	331	142
Uzbekistan	9	2'017	1'126
Senegal	9	933	334
El Salvador	9	395	118
Paraguay	9	249	111
Congo	9	220	19
Togo	9	116	65
Bahrain	8	3'037	1'495
Kyrgyzstan	8	746	462
Jordan	8	453	362
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	72
Guyana	8	78	18
Guinea	7	1'351	313
Sri Lanka	7	660	139
Jamaica	7	396	29
Montenegro	7	322	214
Sierra Leone	7	124	21
Barbados	7	80	39
Haiti	7	76	8
Costa Rica	6	713	323
Georgia	6	539	184
Taiwan	6	429	322
Myanmar	6	150	27
Bermuda	6	111	48
Hong Kong	4	1'038	846
Mayotte	4	539	235
Malta	4	465	351
Monaco	4	95	64
Zimbabwe	4	40	5
Gabon	3	276	67
Ethiopia	3	131	59
Zambia	3	106	55
Syria	3	43	21
Saint Martin	3	38	24
Malawi	3	37	7

- The Italian government will slowly relax the coronavirus lockdown measures based on how the contagion spreads in different regions of the country, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said today. "Reopening of activities would be based on precise scientific criteria," he said during an address to Parliament. Conte's comments come as 13 out of the 20 Italian regions have asked the government to reopen certain activities, through a joint letter delivered on Wednesday. Lombardy, the region affected most by the coronavirus outbreak, is one of the signatories.
- Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said he expects the Food and Drug Administration to issue an emergency-use authorization for remdesivir soon to treat Covid-19. Fauci said that while the FDA has not made a final decision yet, he projects "it's going to be really quickly." Also, he said he believes Gilead Sciences, the maker of remdesivir, is committed to make the treatment available "as much as they can, as quickly as they can." Yesterday, Fauci was optimistic about the results, saying "The data shows that remdesivir has a clear-cut, significant, positive effect in diminishing the time to recovery." However, the World Health Organization said it's too early to comment on the remdesivir trial results released Wednesday.
- The European Union economy shrank 3.5% in the first quarter of 2020 — the worst quarterly drop since the EU started collecting the data in 1995.



- **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

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