## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19 01.04.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 44,200 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (13,155) and Spain (9,053). There have been more than 903,700 global cases in 205 countries.
- A large-scale study has found that early interventions, such as social distancing and severe restrictions on peoples' movement, have been critical in restraining the spread of coronavirus and have already saved tens of thousands of lives across Europe. Scientists at Imperial College London studied interventions in 11 European countries, and concluded that they "have together had a substantial impact on transmission." They estimate "that interventions across all 11 countries will have averted 59,000 deaths up to 31 March."
- Two new viewpoint papers published in the Journal of the American Heart Association today turn a spotlight on how certain blood pressure medications may be associated with more severe Covid-19 infections but still, it is important that patients continue taking their medications as prescribed, they say. The papers focus on the types of drugs known as ACE inhibitors or ACEIs and angiotensin receptor blockers or ARBs, which "upregulate" an enzyme called ACE2. It turns out that the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19 enters the body's cells through ACE2. Therefore, there has been some speculation that heart and blood pressure medications that influence ACE2 could put patients at increased risk of severe Covid-19 infections.
- The partnership with Rakuten Viber gives WHO the potential to reach over 1 billion people in their local language directly through their mobile phones. "WHO's aim is to reach as many people as possible with reliable health information through innovative digital technology. Information is powerful and can help save lives during this pandemic," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- The coronavirus pandemic is the "greatest test" the world has faced since the United Nations was formed in the wake of World War II, said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- Count criteria changes: China is now including asymptomatic cases in its official count starting Wednesday. The move comes amid growing public concern over asymptomatic cases, of which 1,367 were under medical observation in China by the end of Tuesday.
- A group of European experts said on Wednesday they would soon launch technology for smartphones to help trace people who had come into contact with those infected with coronavirus, helping the health authorities act swiftly to halt its spread. The European initiative, called Pan-European Privacy Preserving Proximity Tracing (PEPP-PT https://www.pepp-pt.org), follows the successful use of smartphones in some Asian countries to track the spread of the virus and enforce quarantine orders, although their methods would have violated strict EU data protection rules.
- Switzerland is contributing to a European digital platform that promises to combat the spread of
  pandemics by better identifying people at risk of viral infection. According to the scientists behind the
  platform, the system alerts anyone who has been in contact with an infected person without
  compromising the data privacy of individuals.
- Japan remains on the brink of an emergency as the numbers of coronavirus infections continues to increase, the country's chief cabinet secretary said.

Cases	Recovered   4/394   8   13/155   16   16   15   16   16   16   16
Spain         102'136           China         81'554           Germany         75'754           France         52'128           Iran         47'593           UK         29'474           Switzerland         11'137           Belgium         13'644           Netherlands         13'614           Turkey         13'531           Austria         10'585           S. Korea         9'887           Canada         9'017           Portugal         8'251           Brazil         5'916           Israel         5'916           Israel         5'916           Israel         4'846           Norway         4'828           Czechia         3'598           Ireland         3'447           Denmark         3'598           Ireland         3'447           Denmark         3'932           Chile         3'3031           Malaysia         2'98           Russia         2'777           Ecuador         2'748           Romania         2'460           Poland         2'420           Luxembourg <td>9'053</td>	9'053
China         81'554           Germany         75'754           France         52'128           Iran         47'593           UK         29'474           Switzerland         17'137           Belgium         13'964           Netherlands         13'614           Turkey         13'531           Austria         10'585           S. Korea         9'887           Canada         9'017           Portugal         8'251           Brazil         5'916           Israel         5'591           Sweden         4'947           Australia         4'864           Norway         4'828           Czechia         3'508           Ireland         4'4828           Czechia         3'508           Ireland         3'447           Denmark         3'092           Chile         3'3031           Malaysia         2'908           Russia         2'777           Ecuador         2'748           Romania         2'420           Luxembourg         2'319           Philippines         2'31           Ja	3/312 76 848 18 3/523 9 3/036 19 2/352 461 2 828 2 1/173 214 146 1 165 9 108 1 187 206 23 239 211 43 399 21 43 399 85 104 16 45 45 24 49 93 86 36 29 96 57
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UK         29'474           Switzerland         17'137           Belgium         13'964           Netherlands         13'614           Turkey         13'531           Austria         10'585           S. Korea         9'887           Canada         9'017           Portugal         8'251           Brazil         5'916           Israel         5'991           Sweden         4'947           Australia         4'864           Norway         4'828           Czechia         3'598           Ireland         3'347           Denmark         3'992           Chile         3'392           Luxedor         2'777           Ecuador         2'777           Ecuador         2'777           Ecuador         2'420           Luxembourg	2'352 461 2 828 228 21'173 214 146 165 165 5 108 187 206 23 23 239 211 43 39 21 43 39 85 104 166 45 24 93 86 36 29 96 57
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Indonesia	16
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Greece         1'415           South Africa         1'380           Dominican Republic         1'284           Iceland         1'220           Mexico         1'215           Panama         1'181           Peru         1'065           Serbia         1'060           Argentina         1'054           Singapore         1'000           Croatia         963	45
South Africa         1'380           Dominican Republic         1'284           Iceland         1'220           Mexico         1'215           Panama         1'181           Peru         1'065           Serbia         1'060           Argentina         1'054           Singapore         1'000           Croatia         963	17
Dominican Republic   1'284	50
Iceland         1'220           Mexico         1'215           Panama         1'181           Peru         1'065           Serbia         1'060           Argentina         1'054           Singapore         1'000           Croatia         963	5
Mexico         1'215           Panama         1'181           Peru         1'065           Serbia         1'060           Argentina         1'054           Singapore         1'000           Croatia         963	57
Panama     1'181       Peru     1'065       Serbia     1'060       Argentina     1'054       Singapore     1'000       Croatia     963	2
Peru         1'065           Serbia         1'060           Argentina         1'054           Singapore         1'000           Croatia         963	29 30
Serbia         1'060           Argentina         1'054           Singapore         1'000           Croatia         963	30
Argentina         1'054           Singapore         1'000           Croatia         963	28
Singapore         1'000           Croatia         963	28
	3
	6
Colombia 906	16
Algeria 847	58
Slovenia 841 Qatar 781	15 
Estonia 781	5
Hong Kong 765	4
Diamond Princess 712	11
Egypt 710	46
New Zealand 708	1
Iraq 694	50
Ukraine 669	17
UAE 664	6
Morocco 638	37
Lithuania 581	8
Armenia 571	3
Bahrain         567           Hungary         525	20
Hungary         525           Lebanon         479	14
Bosnia and Herzegovina 457	13
Latvia 446	0
Moldova 423	5
Bulgaria 422	9
Slovakia 400 Tunisia 394	10
Tunisia         394           Andorra         390	10
Kazakhstan 380	3
Azerbaijan 359	5
North Macedonia 354	11
Costa Rica 347	2
Uruguay 338	2
Taiwan 329	5
Cyprus 320	9
Kuwait 317	0
Réunion 281	O
Jordan 274	5
Burkina Faso 261	14
Albania 259	15
San Marino 236	26
Cameroon 233	6
Vietnam 218	0
Cuba 212	6
Oman 210	1
Afghanistan 196	
Ghana 195	4
Senegal 190	4 5
Malta 188 Ivory Coast 179	4

Uzbekistan	173	2	12
Faeroe Islands	173	0	75
Honduras	172	10	3
Channel Islands	172	3	0
Belarus	163	2	53
Mauritius	158	5	0
Nigeria	151	2	9
Sri Lanka	146	2	21
Venezuela	143	3	41
Palestine	134	1	18
Brunei	131	1	52
Martinique	128	3	27
Montenegro	123	2	0
Georgia	117	0	23
Bolivia	115	7	1
Guadeloupe	114	4	22
Kyrgyzstan	111	0	3
DRC	109	9	3
Cambodia	109	0	25
Mayotte	94	1	10
Trinidad and Tobago	89	5	10
			3
Kenya Rwanda	81 75	1 0	0
			1
Paraguay	69	3	
Gibraltar	69	0	34
Liechtenstein	68	0	0
Isle of Man	65	0	0
Madagascar	57	0	0
Monaco	55	1	2
Aruba	55	0	1
Bangladesh	54	6	25
French Guiana	51	0	15
Uganda	44	0	0
Macao	41	0	10
Guatemala	39	1	12
Jamaica	38	2	2
French Polynesia	37	0	0
Togo	36	2	10
Zambia	36	0	0
Niger	34	3	О
Barbados	34	0	О
Djibouti	33	0	0
El Salvador	32	1	О
Bermuda	32	0	10
Mali	31	3	0
Guinea	30	0	0
Ethiopia	29	0	2
Tanzania	20	1	1
Congo	19	0	0
Maldives	19	0	13
Gabon	18	1	0
Sint Maarten	16	1	6
Haiti	16	0	1
New Caledonia	16	0	
	15	1	0
Myanmar			
Saint Martin	15	1	2
Bahamas	15	0	1
Equatorial Guinea	15	0	1
Eritrea	15	0	0
Cayman Islands	14	1	О
Mongolia	14	0	2
Namibia	14	0	2
Saint Lucia	13	0	1
Guyana	12	2	0
Dominica	12	0	0
Curação	11	1	3
Syria	10	2	0
Greenland	10	0	2
Laos	10	0	О
Libya	10	0	1
Mozambique	10	0	О
Seychelles	10	0	О
Suriname	10	0	0
Benin	9	0	1
Grenada	9	0	
Eswatini	9	0	О
Zimbabwe	8	1	0
Guinea-Bissau	8	0	О
Saint Kitts and Nevis			0
Angola	8	0	1
	7	2	
Sudan			2
Sudan Antigua and Barbuda	7 7 7	2	
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- The Dutch government is working to expand Covid-19 testing for all medical workers and non-hospitalized patients who display symptoms.
- The AAO-HNS proposal is based on "rapidly accumulating" anecdotal evidence that such symptoms in the absence of other symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 have sometimes preceded a COVID-19 diagnosis. "Anosmia, in particular, has been seen in patients ultimately testing positive for the coronavirus with no other symptoms ... anosmia, hyposmia, and dysgeusia in the absence of other respiratory disease such as allergic rhinitis, acute rhinosinusitis, or chronic rhinosinusitis should alert physicians to the possibility of COVID-19 infection and warrant serious consideration for self-isolation and testing of these individuals," the AAO-HNS said in a statement on the proposal.
- Doubt has been cast over India's claim that it has no community transmission of coronavirus after the country reported its biggest daily rise in number of cases so far, connected to a religious gathering held in Delhi two weeks ago. India reported a record increase of 386 cases in the past 24 hours.
- Britain is planning to open a 4,000-bed field hospital, in what could be the biggest intensive care unit in the country, as cases continue to rise.
- German chancellor Angela Merkel announced today that the federal government and Germany's sixteen states have agreed to extend the country's social distancing measures until April 19 to curb the spread of coronavirus.



## **Funding opportunities for researchers**

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

- <a href="https://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=499&tx">https://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=499&tx</a> ttnews%5btt\_news%5d=1168&no\_cache=1 &user\_id=51472&job\_id=4718

## Wellcome Trust:

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