

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

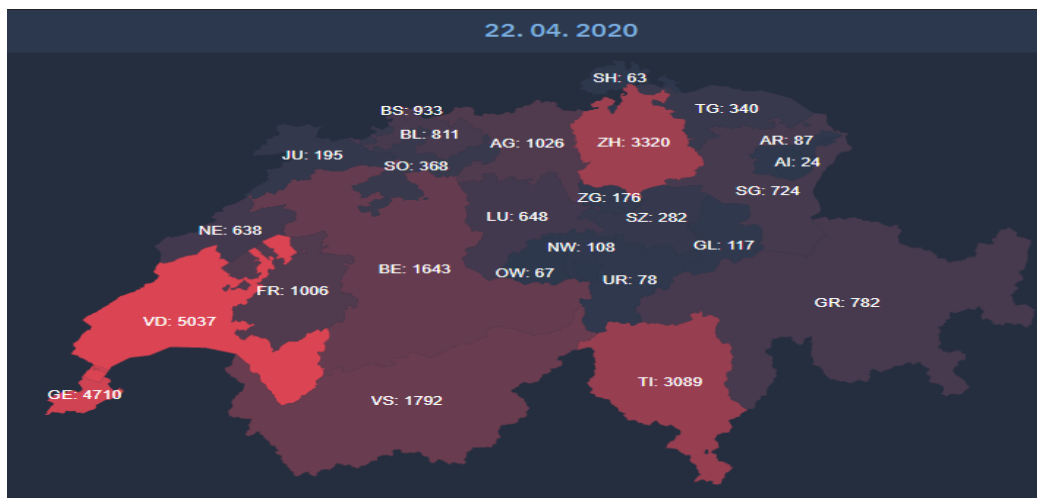
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 181,300 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (46,122) and Italy (25,085). There have been more than 2,598,300 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- Only a tiny proportion of the global population – maybe as few as 2% or 3% – appear to have antibodies in the blood showing they have been infected with Covid-19, according to the WHO, a finding that bodes ill for hopes that herd immunity will ease the exit from lockdown. “Early data suggests that a relatively small percentage of the populations may have been infected,” Tedros said. “Not more than 2%-3%.” Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, an American infectious diseases expert who is the WHO’s technical lead on Covid-19, said they had thought the number of people infected would be higher, but she stressed it was still too early to be sure. “Initially, we see a lower proportion of people with antibodies than we were expecting,” she said. “A lower number of people are infected.”
- On Friday, a study carried out in Santa Clara, California by Stanford University and released as a “pre-print” without peer review, found that 50 to 85 times more people had been infected with the virus than official figures showed. Santa Clara county had 1,094 confirmed cases of Covid-19 at the time the study was carried out, but antibody tests suggest that between 48,000 and 81,000 people had been infected by early April, most of whom did not develop symptoms. But even those high figures mean that within the whole population of the county, only 3% have been infected and have antibodies to the virus.
- A study in the Netherlands of 7,000 blood donors also found that just 3% had antibodies. Dr. Van Kerkhove said they needed to look carefully at the way the studies were being carried out. “A number of studies we are aware of in pre-print have suggested that small proportions of the population [have antibodies],” she said. These were “in single digits, up to 14% in Germany and France”. “It is really important to understand how the studies were done.” “There are a lot of countries that are suggesting using rapid diagnostic serological tests to be able to capture what they think will be a measure of immunity,” she said. “Right now, we have no evidence that the use of a serological test can show that an individual has immunity or is protected from reinfection.”
- South Korean officials say analysis of samples from recovered Covid-19 patients show all had formed neutralizing antibodies, but almost half still showed viral genetic material, Korean Centers for Disease Control (KCDC) Director Dr. Jung Eun-kyeong said at a press briefing Wednesday. She added that these patients are likely not contagious.
- Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis has called on neighboring countries to coordinate their exit from coronavirus lockdowns to avert a post-pandemic economic and social crisis.
- Global carbon emissions are expected to fall 6% this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) says.
- If the UK changes its policy and begins recommending the use of face masks for the public, the government will not be able to promise everybody free masks, Health Secretary Matt Hancock told Parliament today. “We will follow the advice and will listen to what the SAGE [Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies] says on masks. And then we will implement that,” Hancock said.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	46'122	822'976	83'420
Italy	25'085	187'327	54'543
Spain	21'717	208'389	85'915
France	20'796	158'050	39'181
UK	18'100	133'495	N/A
Iran	5'391	85'996	63'113
Belgium	6'262	41'889	9'433
China	4'632	82'788	77'151
Germany	5'127	149'044	99'400
Netherlands	4'054	34'842	N/A
Brazil	2'769	43'592	24'325
Turkey	2'376	98'674	16'477
Switzerland	1'509	28'268	19'400
Sweden	1'937	16'004	550
Canada	1'873	38'967	13'647
Portugal	785	21'982	1'143
Indonesia	635	7'418	913
Austria	510	14'925	11'328
India	652	20'471	3'976
Ireland	730	16'040	9'233
Ecuador	537	10'850	1'262
Romania	508	9'710	2'406
Philippines	446	6'710	693
Mexico	857	9'501	2'627
Algeria	402	2'910	1'204
Denmark	384	7'912	5'087
Poland	426	10'169	1'513
S. Korea	238	10'694	8'277
Peru	484	17'837	6'982
Dominican Republic	260	5'300	581
Russia	513	57'999	4'420
Egypt	264	3'490	870
Czechia	208	7'087	1'989
Japan	281	11'512	1'356
Norway	186	7'275	32
Morocco	149	3'377	398
Hungary	225	2'168	295
Israel	187	14'326	4'961
Colombia	196	4'149	804
Argentina	152	3'144	872
Greece	121	2'408	577
Ukraine	174	6'592	424
Pakistan	212	10'076	2'156
Serbia	134	7'114	1'025
Panama	141	4'821	231
Chile	160	11'296	5'386
Malaysia	93	5'532	3'452
Iraq	83	1'631	1'146
Saudi Arabia	114	12'772	1'812
Luxembourg	78	3'618	670
Finland	149	4'129	2'000
Australia	74	6'649	4'920
Slovenia	79	1'353	205
Bangladesh	120	3'772	92
North Macedonia	56	1'259	272
Thailand	49	2'826	2'352
Bosnia and Herzegovina	53	1'368	460
Moldova	75	2'778	560
San Marino	40	488	62
Bulgaria	49	1'024	174
Tunisia	38	901	170
Belarus	58	7'281	769
Croatia	48	1'950	869
Estonia	44	1'559	184
Andorra	37	723	309
Bolivia	37	609	44
South Africa	58	3'465	1'055

Burkina Faso	38	600	362
Lithuania	38	1'370	357
Honduras	46	510	30
UAE	52	8'238	1'546
Albania	27	634	356
Afghanistan	40	1'176	166
Cuba	40	1'189	341
Lebanon	22	682	130
DRC	25	359	45
Armenia	24	1'473	633
Kazakhstan	19	2'070	515
Cameroon	43	1'163	331
Azerbaijan	20	1'518	907
Niger	20	657	127
Mali	17	293	73
Diamond Princess	13	712	644
Cyprus	13	790	98
Singapore	12	10'141	896
Nigeria	25	782	197
New Zealand	14	1'451	1'036
Channel Islands	24	496	256
Mauritius	9	329	261
Kenya	14	303	74
Venezuela	10	288	122
Sint Maarten	10	68	12
Iceland	10	1'785	1'462
Ghana	9	1'154	99
Uruguay	12	543	324
Guadeloupe	12	148	73
Trinidad and Tobago	8	115	37
Bahamas	9	65	12
Qatar	10	7'141	689
Bahrain	7	2'009	1'026
Jordan	7	428	297
Sri Lanka	7	323	105
Paraguay	9	213	62
Ivory Coast	13	916	303
Taiwan	6	426	236
Martinique	14	164	73
El Salvador	7	237	63
Liberia	8	101	20
Guyana	7	67	9
Latvia	11	761	133
Kyrgyzstan	7	612	254
Guatemala	8	316	24
Congo	6	165	16
Bermuda	5	98	39
Sudan	13	140	8
Uzbekistan	7	1'692	450
Hong Kong	4	1'034	678
Oman	8	1'614	238
Montenegro	5	315	116
Jamaica	6	233	27
Barbados	5	75	25
Myanmar	5	121	7
Kuwait	13	2'248	443
Costa Rica	6	669	150
Malta	3	444	165
Georgia	5	416	107
Mayotte	4	326	125
Ethiopia	3	116	21
Togo	6	88	56
Tanzania	10	284	11
Haiti	4	58	2
Zimbabwe	3	28	2
Slovakia	14	1'244	284
Djibouti	2	974	183
Palestine	4	474	71
Senegal	6	442	253
Isle of Man	15	307	212
Somalia	8	286	4
Zambia	3	74	35

- India's government has introduced an urgent executive order to discourage violence against health workers, according to a government announcement following a cabinet meeting today.
- The director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has warned that another wave of coronavirus next winter could be “even more difficult” than the current outbreak because it would coincide with flu season.
- Trump has announced a 60-day ban on immigrants seeking green cards to live in America permanently, but backed away from plans to stop workers entering the country on a temporary basis.
- Ukraine will extend coronavirus lockdown measures until May 11 after projections show it peaking early next month, the country’s Cabinet of Ministers said today.
- Female medical staff in the UK are struggling to find personal protective equipment (PPE) which fits them correctly, according to the British Medical Association (BMA). Most of the equipment is designed to fit men.



## • 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://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/pa>

## Sources

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