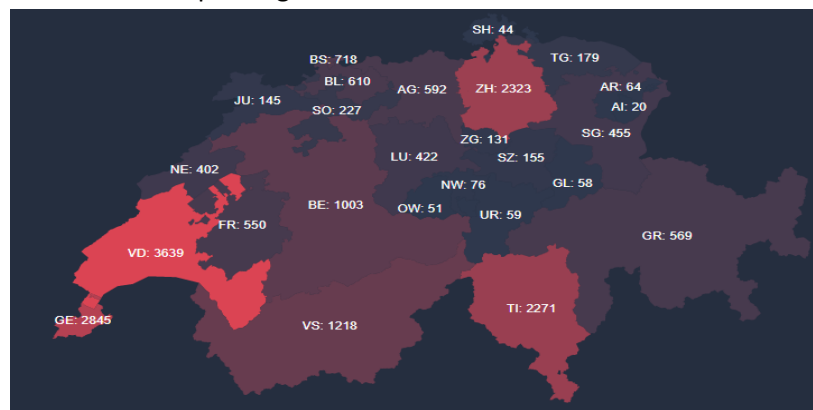# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
02.04.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 51,280 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (13,915) and Spain (10,096). There have been more than 998,700 global cases in 205 countries.
- Today, the Swiss head of infectious diseases Daniel Koch indicated that the peak of the outbreak had not been reached but that the upward progression was not as steep as in previous days. "It is still too early to make a reliable forecast of how things will look in the coming weeks," said Koch, adding that it was "certainly too early" to relax measures."
- Some general practice physicians in England are setting up so-called "hot sites" for people who have symptoms of Covid-19, according to Laura Sharpe, the chief executive of City & Hackney GP Confederation, a membership body for the GP surgeries in the City of London and Hackney borough.
- The idea is to keep people with symptoms, who need to see a doctor, away from those without and therefore to minimize the spread of the virus. "*That is the goal and I am determined we will get ther*e," Hancock said.
- The United Kingdom will test 100,000 people per day for coronavirus by the end of this month, UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced Thursday.
- The WHO published a new Guide to building country essential medicines lists. It highlights the need to choose medicines of proven safety and efficacy for the benefit of all patients. This is one of more than 40 pieces of detailed, evidence-based guidance to guide countries in the response.
- *"This virus, which was unknown to us three months ago, has exposed the weaknesses and inequities in our health systems and societies, our lack of preparedness, and the gaps in our supply chains and other essential systems. We have to prepare our health systems for large numbers of cases, even as we maintain essential health services",* said director-general Dr. Tedros.
- The WHO has recently published guidance on maintaining essential health services while responding to COVID-19. This is one of more than 40 pieces of detailed, evidence-based guidance to guide countries in the response.
- Shenzhen, China permanently banned trading and eating wild animals following the #COVID19 pandemic, with fines starting at $21K. The ban extends to dogs and cats — the first Chinese city to ban eating them — for humanitarian reasons (there is no evidence they spread the virus).
- A 6-week-old baby in Connecticut has died from corona, one of the youngest reported victims worldwide. "*This is absolutely heartbreaking*," wrote the governor. Total U.S. deaths have now surpassed 5,000.
- In the absence of a known efficient therapy and because of the situation of a public health emergency, it made sense to investigate the possible effect of chloroquine/hydroxycholoquine against SARS-CoV-2 since its molecule was previously describes as a potent inhibitor of most coronaviruses, including SARS_CoV-1. Preliminary trials of chloroquine repurposing in the treatment of COVID-19 in China have been encouraging, leading to several new trials.
- Global deaths have doubled in a week. The UN says richer countries must work to support those with weaker health systems, warning of potentially "millions" of deaths in the global South.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
USA	235'281	5'603	10'324
Italy	115'242	13'915	18'278
Spain	110'238	10'096	26'743
China	81'589	3'318	76'408
Germany	83'875	1'066	21'400
France	59'105	4'503	12'428
Iran	50'468	3'160	16'711
UK	33'718	2'921	135
Switzerland	18'475	522	4'013
Belgium	15'348	1'011	2'495
Netherlands	14'697	1'339	250
Turkey	18'135	356	415
Austria	11'076	158	1'749
S. Korea	9'976	169	5'828
Canada	11'068	134	1'891
Portugal	9'034	209	68
Brazil	7'031	252	127
Israel	6'808	34	289
Sweden	5'466	282	103
Australia	5'139	25	345
Norway	5'128	50	32
Czechia	3'805	44	67
Ireland	3'849	98	5
Denmark	3'386	123	1'089
Chile	3'404	18	335
Malaysia	3'116	50	767
Russia	3'548	30	235
Ecuador	3'163	120	58
Romania	2'738	107	267
Poland	2'692	51	56
Luxembourg	2'487	30	80
Philippines	2'633	107	51
Japan	2'384	57	472
Pakistan	2'386	33	107
Thailand	1'875	15	505
Saudi Arabia	1'885	21	328
Indonesia	1'790	170	112
India	2'341	68	177
Finland	1'518	19	300
Greece	1'544	53	61
South Africa	1'462	5	50
Dominican Republic	1'380	60	16
Iceland	1'319	4	284
Mexico	1'378	37	35
Panama	1'317	32	9
Peru	1'414	47	394
Serbia	1'171	31	42
Argentina	1'133	34	256
Singapore	1'049	4	266
Croatia	1'011	7	88
Colombia	1'065	17	39
Algeria	986	63	61
Slovenia	897	17	70
Qatar	835	2	71
Estonia	858	11	45
Hong Kong	802	4	154
Diamond Princess	712	11	619
Egypt	850	52	179
New Zealand	797	1	92
Iraq	772	54	202
Ukraine	804	20	13
UAE	814	8	61
Morocco	691	44	30
Lithuania	649	9	7
Armenia	663	5	33
Bahrain	643	4	381
Hungary	585	21	42
Lebanon	494	16	46
Bosnia and Herzegovina	532	16	20
Latvia	458	0	1
Moldova	505	6	23

Bulgaria	457	10	25
Slovakia	426	1	5
Tunisia	455	14	5
Andorra	428	15	10
Kazakhstan	435	3	27
Azerbaijan	400	5	26
North Macedonia	384	11	17
Costa Rica	375	2	4
Uruguay	350	4	62
Taiwan	339	5	50
Cyprus	356	10	28
Kuwait	342	0	81
Réunion	308	0	40
Jordan	299	5	45
Burkina Faso	288	16	50
Albania	277	16	67
San Marino	236	28	13
Cameroon	284	7	10
Vietnam	227	0	75
Cuba	233	6	13
Oman	231	1	57
Afghanistan	258	4	10
Ghana	204	5	31
Senegal	195	1	55
Malta	196	0	2
Ivory Coast	190	1	9
Uzbekistan	190	2	25
Faeroe Islands	177	0	81
Honduras	219	14	3
Channel Islands	193	3	0
Belarus	304	4	53
Mauritius	169	7	0
Nigeria	174	2	9
Sri Lanka	151	4	21
Venezuela	144	3	43
Palestine	160	1	18
Brunei	133	1	56
Martinique	135	3	27
Montenegro	144	2	0
Georgia	131	0	26
Bolivia	123	8	1
Guadeloupe	125	6	24
Kyrgyzstan	116	0	5
DRC	123	11	3
Cambodia	110	0	34
Mayotte	116	1	10
Trinidad and Tobago	90	5	1
Kenya	110	3	4
Rwanda	82	0	0
Paraguay	77	3	2
Gibraltar	88	0	46
Liechtenstein	75	0	0
Isle of Man	95	1	0
Madagascar	59	0	0
Monaco	60	1	2
Aruba	60	0	1
Bangladesh	56	6	25
French Guiana	51	0	15
Uganda	44	0	0
Macao	41	0	10
Guatemala	47	1	12
Jamaica	44	3	2
French Polynesia	37	0	0
Togo	39	2	17

- Doctors at a public hospital in northern Mexico staged a protest over working conditions on Wednesday after at least 26 members of medical staff fell ill with Covid-19 and one died.
- Continuing a response to the coronavirus pandemic that is becoming the envy of the world, German hospitals have increased their number of intensive care beds to 40,000, the chief of the country's hospital federation said today.
- China, with its experience of Sars at the start of the century and as the apparent source of origin of Covid-19, it is perhaps unsurprising that China is ahead of others on testing. By the end of March it had conducted well over 320,000 tests.
- After Germany, Italy has done the most testing, with about 200,000 tests. These included all 3,000 residents of the town of Vò, near Venice, in a pilot project designed to see if whole-community testing could help slow the spread of the disease.
- Currently, there are no drugs documented to be effective to treat patients with COVID-19 arising from coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infection. However, lopinavir (a protease inhibitor clinically available for HIV-1 infection) has shown in vitro activity against SARS-CoV, and a study of lopinavir plus the protease inhibitor ritonavir demonstrated clinical efficacy for human severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). To evaluate whether lopinavir-ritonavir would be effective for COVID-19, investigators conducted an open-label randomized trial at a single hospital in Wuhan, China, beginning on January 18, 2020
- Italy, Germany and Pakistan have prolonged their lockdowns.

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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