

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

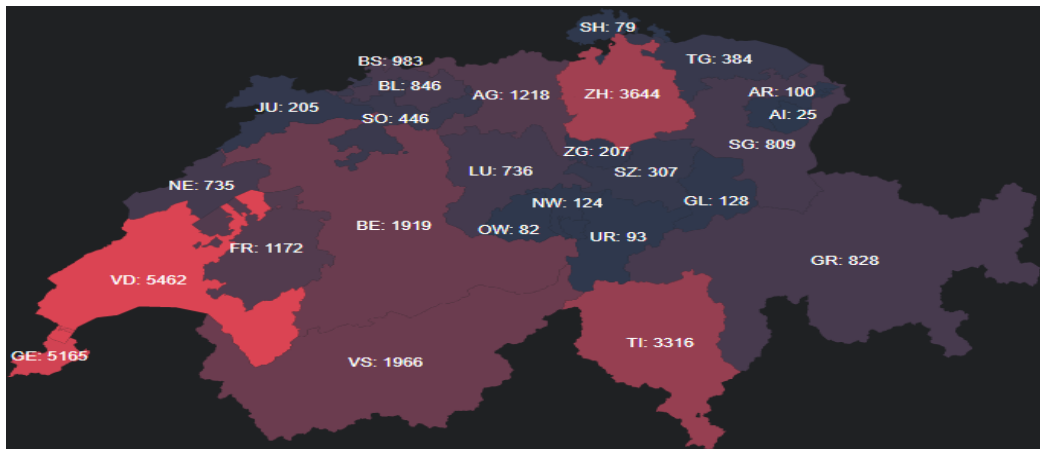
10.06.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 415,400 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (114,400) and UK (41,128). There have been more than 7,379,800 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus today addressed the confusing comments that a WHO official made earlier this week about the asymptomatic spread of novel coronavirus. *"Since early February, we have said that asymptomatic people can transmit Covid-19, but that we need more research to establish the extent of asymptomatic transmission. That research is ongoing." But here is what we do know — that finding, isolating and testing people with symptoms, and tracing and quarantining their contacts, is the most critical way to stop transmission. This is a new virus and we're all learning all the time. Communicating complex science in real time about a new virus is not always easy, but we believe it's part of our duty to the world. And we can always do better. We welcome constructive debate. That's how science advances,"* Tedros said during a briefing today.
- The US government will fund and conduct key studies on three experimental coronavirus vaccines – those developed by Moderna, Oxford University/AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Anthony Fauci said today. Phase three trials, which typically involve tens of thousands of people and measure whether a vaccine is safe and effective, will begin with Moderna in July, then Oxford/AstraZeneca in August and Johnson & Johnson in September.
- Singapore approves key antiviral drug. The city state's health authority has approved use of remdesivir to be used to treat some coronavirus patients. The drug is the only one shown to work against the disease. The authority said the conditional approval would allow specialists to administer the drug to virus patients who require supplemental oxygen and more intensive breathing support. Those with levels of oxygen saturation below 94% are also eligible for treatment. "Although the data on [remdesivir's] efficacy and safety is very limited at this point, Singapore's Health Sciences Authority (HAS) has expedited the review of remdesivir given the urgent public health need during the coronavirus pandemic," the spokesperson added.
- The Chinese government has removed pangolin scales from its 2020 list of approved ingredients used in traditional Chinese medicine, a move campaigners describe as a "critical step" towards saving the world's most trafficked mammal. According to Chinese state-run media, the latest edition of Chinese Pharmacopoeia -- an official government compendium of drugs covering traditional Chinese and Western medicines no longer includes pangolin scales on the list of approved ingredients, owing to "wild resources exhaustion." The latest move to protect pangolins comes in the wake of new research that suggests pangolins kept in wildlife markets across China may have helped incubate the novel coronavirus before it spread to humans. According to a team of researchers from Duke University and Los Alamos National Laboratory, the virus swapped genes repeatedly with similar strains infecting bats, pangolins and a possible third species prior to jumping to humans. The researchers concluded that although it was too soon to blame pangolins for the pandemic, it was clear that people must reduce their contact with wild animals that can transmit new infections.

| Countries              | Deaths  | Cases   | Recovered |
|------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| USA                    | 114,407 | 789,423 | 2,053,132 |
| UK                     | 41,128  | N/A     | 290,143   |
| Brazil                 | 38,701  | 325,602 | 747,561   |
| Italy                  | 34,114  | 169,939 | 235,763   |
| France                 | 29,296  | 71,506  | 154,591   |
| Spain                  | 27,136  | N/A     | 289,046   |
| Mexico                 | 14,649  | 90,748  | 124,301   |
| Belgium                | 9,629   | 16,392  | 59,569    |
| Germany                | 8,840   | 170,700 | 186,866   |
| Iran                   | 8,506   | 140,590 | 177,938   |
| Canada                 | 7,908   | 56,122  | 96,904    |
| India                  | 7,996   | 140,033 | 284,754   |
| Netherlands            | 6,042   | N/A     | 48,087    |
| Russia                 | 6,358   | 252,783 | 493,657   |
| Peru                   | 5,738   | 92,929  | 203,736   |
| Sweden                 | 4,795   | N/A     | 46,814    |
| Turkey                 | 4,729   | 144,598 | 172,114   |
| China                  | 4,634   | 78,357  | 83,046    |
| Ecuador                | 3,690   | 21,020  | 43,917    |
| Chile                  | 2,283   | 95,631  | 142,759   |
| Pakistan               | 2,255   | 36,308  | 113,702   |
| Switzerland            | 1,936   | 28,700  | 31,011    |
| Indonesia              | 1,959   | 12,129  | 34,316    |
| Ireland                | 1,691   | 22,698  | 25,215    |
| Portugal               | 1,497   | 21,742  | 35,600    |
| Romania                | 1,360   | 15,103  | 20,945    |
| Colombia               | 1,372   | 16,534  | 42,078    |
| Egypt                  | 1,306   | 9,786   | 36,829    |
| Poland                 | 1,206   | 13,411  | 27,842    |
| Philippines            | 1,027   | 4,895   | 23,732    |
| South Africa           | 1,162   | 29,006  | 52,991    |
| Bangladesh             | 1,012   | 15,900  | 74,865    |
| Japan                  | 916     | 15,213  | 17,210    |
| Ukraine                | 833     | 12,769  | 28,381    |
| Saudi Arabia           | 819     | 77,954  | 112,288   |
| Algeria                | 732     | 7,074   | 10,484    |
| Austria                | 673     | 15,910  | 17,005    |
| Argentina              | 717     | 7,991   | 24,761    |
| Denmark                | 593     | 10,904  | 12,016    |
| Hungary                | 551     | 2,355   | 4,027     |
| Dominican Republic     | 550     | 12,318  | 20,808    |
| Bolivia                | 487     | 2,190   | 14,644    |
| Panama                 | 403     | 10,561  | 17,233    |
| Iraq                   | 426     | 6,214   | 15,414    |
| Afghanistan            | 405     | 3,013   | 22,142    |
| Sudan                  | 389     | 2,127   | 6,427     |
| Nigeria                | 365     | 4,206   | 13,464    |
| Moldova                | 371     | 5,930   | 10,321    |
| Czechia                | 330     | 7,111   | 9,787     |
| Finland                | 324     | 5,800   | 7,040     |
| Israel                 | 299     | 15,168  | 18,268    |
| Belarus                | 288     | 25,667  | 51,066    |
| UAE                    | 283     | 22,740  | 39,904    |
| S. Korea               | 276     | 10,611  | 11,902    |
| Kuwait                 | 275     | 23,288  | 33,823    |
| Honduras               | 271     | 787     | 6,935     |
| Guatemala              | 289     | 1,413   | 7,866     |
| Serbia                 | 251     | 11,348  | 12,031    |
| Norway                 | 239     | 8,138   | 8,588     |
| Cameroon               | 212     | 4,836   | 8,681     |
| Armenia                | 227     | 5,226   | 14,103    |
| Morocco                | 210     | 7,496   | 8,455     |
| Greece                 | 183     | 1,374   | 3,068     |
| Bulgaria               | 167     | 1,623   | 2,889     |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 161     | 2,063   | 2,775     |
| North Macedonia        | 164     | 1,664   | 3,364     |
| Malaysia               | 118     | 7,014   | 8,338     |
| Yemen                  | 127     | 23      | 524       |
| Luxembourg             | 110     | 3,904   | 4,049     |
| Slovenia               | 109     | 1,359   | 1,488     |
| Croatia                | 106     | 2,130   | 2,249     |
| Australia              | 102     | 6,744   | 7,276     |
| Azerbaijan             | 102     | 4,720   | 8,530     |

|                       |    |        |        |
|-----------------------|----|--------|--------|
| Mali                  | 96 | 948    | 1,667  |
| DRC                   | 96 | 565    | 4,390  |
| Kenya                 | 89 | 1,048  | 3,094  |
| Somalia               | 85 | 506    | 2,452  |
| Cuba                  | 83 | 1,886  | 2,211  |
| Oman                  | 84 | 5,640  | 18,887 |
| Lithuania             | 74 | 1,369  | 1,733  |
| Estonia               | 69 | 1,690  | 1,958  |
| Chad                  | 71 | 706    | 844    |
| Niger                 | 65 | 871    | 974    |
| Thailand              | 58 | 2,981  | 3,125  |
| Qatar                 | 66 | 49,413 | 73,595 |
| Kazakhstan            | 61 | 8,138  | 13,319 |
| El Salvador           | 60 | 1,438  | 3,274  |
| Mauritania            | 61 | 139    | 1,162  |
| Burkina Faso          | 53 | 765    | 891    |
| Haiti                 | 56 | 24     | 3,662  |
| Andorra               | 51 | 759    | 852    |
| Senegal               | 52 | 2,885  | 4,640  |
| Tunisia               | 49 | 983    | 1,087  |
| Sierra Leone          | 50 | 637    | 1,062  |
| Tajikistan            | 48 | 2,947  | 4,763  |
| Nicaragua             | 55 | 953    | 1,464  |
| Channel Islands       | 48 | 512    | 565    |
| Ghana                 | 48 | 3,755  | 10,201 |
| San Marino            | 42 | 496    | 691    |
| Ivory Coast           | 38 | 2,045  | 3,995  |
| Albania               | 34 | 980    | 1,341  |
| Djibouti              | 34 | 2,260  | 4,373  |
| Lebanon               | 30 | 832    | 1,388  |
| Liberia               | 31 | 199    | 383    |
| Slovakia              | 28 | 1,404  | 1,533  |
| Ethiopia              | 35 | 401    | 2,506  |
| Bahrain               | 30 | 11,109 | 16,200 |
| Latvia                | 26 | 794    | 1,092  |
| Singapore             | 25 | 26,532 | 38,965 |
| Mayotte               | 28 | 1,654  | 2,226  |
| Isle of Man           | 24 | 312    | 336    |
| Guinea                | 23 | 2,942  | 4,258  |
| Kyrgyzstan            | 26 | 1,572  | 2,093  |
| Uruguay               | 23 | 754    | 846    |
| Venezuela             | 23 | 487    | 2,632  |
| New Zealand           | 22 | 1,482  | 1,504  |
| Congo                 | 24 | 221    | 728    |
| Gabon                 | 21 | 956    | 3,294  |
| Tanzania              | 21 | 183    | 509    |
| South Sudan           | 19 | 15     | 1,604  |
| Uzbekistan            | 18 | 3,504  | 4,591  |
| Cyprus                | 18 | 807    | 972    |
| Sint Maarten          | 15 | 61     | 77     |
| Nepal                 | 15 | 674    | 4,364  |
| Martinique            | 14 | 98     | 202    |
| Guadeloupe            | 14 | 144    | 164    |
| Georgia               | 13 | 690    | 827    |
| Diamond Princess      | 13 | 651    | 712    |
| Togo                  | 13 | 260    | 501    |
| Guinea-Bissau         | 12 | 153    | 1,389  |
| Equatorial Guinea     | 12 | 200    | 1,306  |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 12 | 135    | 611    |
| Guyana                | 12 | 86     | 156    |
| Sri Lanka             | 11 | 1,122  | 1,868  |
| Paraguay              | 11 | 604    | 1,187  |
| Bahamas               | 11 | 64     | 103    |
| Iceland               | 10 | 1,794  | 1,807  |
| Costa Rica            | 11 | 717    | 1,375  |
| Zambia                | 10 | 912    | 1,200  |
| Jamaica               | 10 | 405    | 605    |
| Mauritius             | 10 | 324    | 337    |
| Madagascar            | 10 | 296    | 1,162  |

- A fully transparent surgical mask that filters out germs but allows facial expressions to be seen has been developed by Swiss scientists. Caregivers should be able to wear them from the summer of 2021. “For some segments of the population – like children, the elderly and the hearing impaired – the [current] masks are a major obstacle to communication,” said the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA) in a statement. Along with researchers at the Swiss EPFL, EMPA has been working for two years on a completely transparent surgical mask. They have now finalized a biomass-based material to manufacture the so-called HelloMasks and have created a start-up called HMCARE, based on the Biotech campus in Geneva, to market them.
- The WHO has taken the unusual step of urging Pakistan to return to lockdown, suggesting the country implement restrictions in a cycle of two weeks on, two weeks off.
- Saudi Arabia recorded 3,717 new coronavirus cases and 36 new deaths, the country's Health Ministry said today; the highest daily number of infections, according to government statistics.
- A factory in Siberia is recalling its flagship ventilator model from all Russian hospitals after two machines caught fire in coronavirus hospitals a month ago, state media reported.
- Germany extends travel warning. The country has advised its citizens to avoid non-essential travel until August 31. EU countries, Schengen members and the UK are exempt from the warning.



## • Funding opportunity for researchers

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](mailto:grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch). The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schögler

([aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch](mailto:aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch)) and Leah Witton ([leah.witton@research.unibe.ch](mailto:leah.witton@research.unibe.ch)).

## Sources

<https://twitter.com/WHO>

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.corona-data.ch/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-06-10-20-intl/index.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/jun/10/coronavirus-live-news>