

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

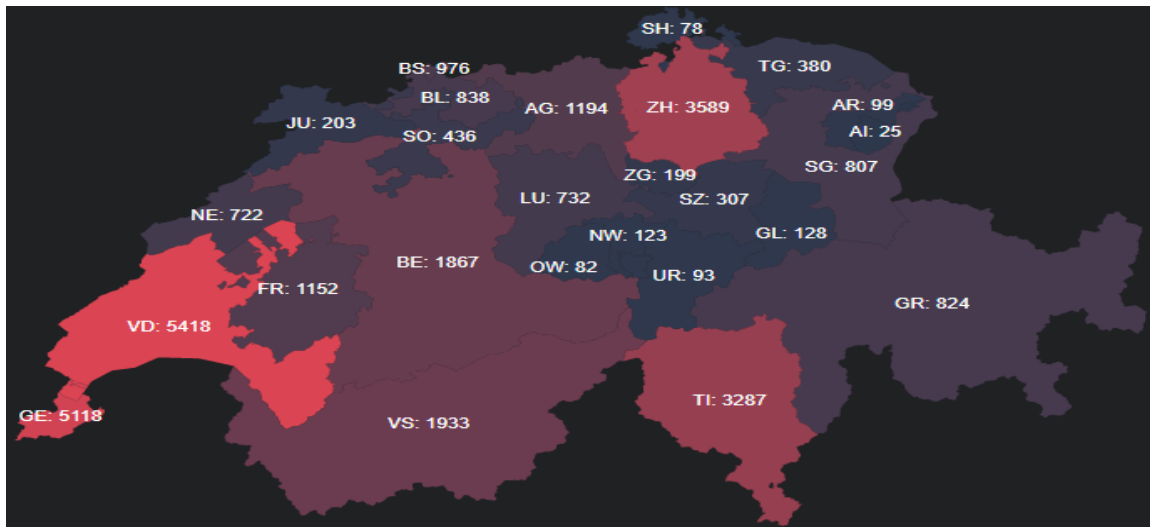
### 20.05.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 326,000 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (93,840) and UK (35,340). There have been more than 5,030,000 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The Swiss government has adopted the legal foundation for the coronavirus contact tracing app, sending it to parliament for a vote. If approved, the app will be available before the end of June. The new contact tracing app will be called SwissCovid, according to the government, which on Wednesday announced that it was proposing amending the Epidemics Act to allow the Federal Office of Public Health to operate the proximity tracing system. Parliament will now vote on the proposal during its June session. The contact tracing app is intended to contain the spread of the coronavirus by alerting users when they have been in contact with infected people. ETH Zurich and EPFL in Lausanne have developed the app and have been piloting it since mid-May. The app, which people can voluntarily download and use, employs Bluetooth technology to allow smartphones to communicate with each other anonymously.
- Dutch authorities believe that a mink may have infected a human with Covid-19, and are instituting mandatory testing at all mink farms in the Netherlands. "On the basis of new research results from the ongoing research into Covid-19 infections at mink farms, it is plausible that an infection took place from mink to human," the Dutch government said in a statement late Tuesday night. "It also appears from this research that minks can have Covid-19 without displaying symptoms." The government said that antibody testing of minks will be expanded to "all mink farms in the Netherlands and will become mandatory." The government also said it believes that cats may be playing a role in the spread of the virus between farms. "Ongoing research shows the viruses at two of the infected farms are very similar," the statement said. Covid-19 was found in three of 11 cats at one mink farm, it said.
- People in Spain are now required to wear face masks in public spaces when a minimum two-meter (about 6.5 feet) distance can't be guaranteed, the Health Ministry announced in a decree today. The rule applies to all people over the age of six, in both indoor and outdoor spaces. People who have respiratory problems or disabilities incompatible with masks are exempt. "Any type of mask" is allowed as long as it covers the nose and mouth, though the ministry recommended "hygienic and surgical" masks.
- Growing evidence suggests that Covid-19 infection, like with other illnesses, is related to prolonged time exposed to the virus. The longer you stay in an environment that may contain the virus, the higher the risk of getting sick. Erin Bromage, a comparative immunologist and professor of biology, summed it up with a short and sweet equation:  $\text{Successful Infection} = \text{Exposure to Virus} \times \text{Time}$ . The main idea is that people get infected when they are exposed to a certain amount of viral particles. That viral threshold can be reached by an infected person's sneeze or cough, which releases a large number of viral particles into the air. But an infected person talking or even just breathing still releases some virus into the air, and over a long period of time in an enclosed space, that could still infect others.
- India recorded 5,611 new coronavirus cases today -- its biggest one-day jump since the pandemic started. Daily case numbers have been climbing steadily all month, and surged this past weekend, with 10,000 new cases within two days.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	93'847	1'576'007	361'771
UK	35'341	248'818	N/A
Italy	32'169	226'699	129'401
France	28'022	180'809	62'563
Spain	27'778	278'803	196'958
Brazil	18'121	275'087	106'794
Belgium	9'150	55'983	14'847
Germany	8'213	178'170	156'900
Iran	7'183	126'949	98'808
Netherlands	5'748	44'447	N/A
Canada	5'956	79'503	40'342
China	4'634	82'965	78'244
Mexico	5'666	54'346	37'325
Turkey	4'222	152'587	113'987
Sweden	3'831	31'523	4'971
India	3'426	111'601	43'070
Ecuador	2'839	34'151	3'457
Russia	2'972	308'705	85'392
Peru	2'914	99'483	36'524
Switzerland	1'892	30'658	27'700
Ireland	1'561	24'251	19'470
Portugal	1'263	29'660	6'452
Romania	1'144	17'387	10'356
Indonesia	1'242	19'189	4'575
Poland	962	19'739	8'183
Philippines	842	13'221	2'932
Pakistan	985	45'898	13'101
Japan	768	16'367	11'564
Austria	633	16'353	14'882
Egypt	680	14'229	3'994
Denmark	554	11'117	9'536
Algeria	568	7'542	3'968
Colombia	613	16'935	4'050
Ukraine	564	19'230	5'955
Hungary	470	3'598	1'454
Dominican Republic	446	13'477	7'142
Chile	509	49'579	21'507
Argentina	394	8'809	2'933
Czechia	303	8'683	5'731
Finland	304	6'443	5'000
Saudi Arabia	339	62'545	33'478
Bangladesh	386	26'738	5'207
Israel	278	16'659	13'435
S. Korea	263	11'110	10'066
Panama	281	9'867	6'194
Norway	234	8'267	32
Serbia	235	10'833	5'067
South Africa	312	17'200	7'960
UAE	227	25'063	10'791
Moldova	228	6'553	2'953
Morocco	194	7'048	4'037
Nigeria	192	6'401	1'734
Greece	166	2'850	1'374
Belarus	179	32'426	11'415
Bolivia	189	4'481	533
Afghanistan	187	8'145	930
Cameroon	140	3'529	1'567
Honduras	147	2'955	349
Bosnia and Herzegovina	136	2'338	1'557
Iraq	134	3'724	2'438
Malaysia	114	7'009	5'706
Luxembourg	109	3'958	3'718
Slovenia	105	1'468	1'340
Bulgaria	116	2'292	684
Australia	100	7'079	6'444
North Macedonia	110	1'858	1'367
Croatia	96	2'234	1'978
Sudan	111	2'728	286
Kuwait	124	17'568	4'885
Cuba	79	1'887	1'538
Estonia	64	1'794	956
Thailand	56	3'034	2'888

Lithuania	60	1'577	1'049
Somalia	59	1'502	178
Burkina Faso	52	809	661
DRC	61	1'731	302
Armenia	67	5'271	2'419
Niger	55	914	734
Andorra	51	761	628
Tunisia	47	1'044	826
Mali	53	901	529
Channel Islands	44	555	479
Kenya	50	1'029	366
Chad	56	545	139
San Marino	41	656	220
Azerbaijan	43	3'631	2'253
Kazakhstan	35	6'969	3'649
Albania	31	964	758
Guatemala	43	2'133	155
Tajikistan	41	1'936	641
Slovakia	28	1'496	1'231
Lebanon	26	961	251
Sierra Leone	34	570	205
Ghana	31	6'096	1'773
Ivory Coast	28	2'153	1'050
Senegal	30	2'714	1'186
Isle of Man	24	336	302
Singapore	22	29'364	11'207
New Zealand	21	1'503	1'447
Tanzania	21	509	183
El Salvador	31	1'571	531
Liberia	23	238	128
Latvia	21	1'016	694
Uruguay	20	738	579
Haiti	22	596	21
Oman	29	6'043	1'661
Cyprus	17	922	516
Sint Maarten	15	77	54
Qatar	16	37'097	6'600
Guinea	18	2'863	1'525
Mayotte	19	1'475	894
Martinique	14	192	91
Diamond Princess	13	712	651
Guadeloupe	13	155	109
Kyrgyzstan	14	1'270	910
Georgia	12	713	475
Yemen	28	167	5
Uzbekistan	13	2'927	2'369
Paraguay	11	829	230
Congo	15	420	132
Togo	12	338	107
Bahamas	11	96	43
Bahrain	12	7'843	3'334
Iceland	10	1'803	1'789
Venezuela	10	749	253
Mauritius	10	332	322
Guyana	10	125	46
Gabon	12	1'502	318
Sri Lanka	9	1'027	584
Jordan	9	649	417
Jamaica	9	520	145
Montenegro	9	324	312
Costa Rica	10	882	577
Bermuda	9	125	78
Trinidad and Tobago	8	116	107
Nicaragua	17	254	199
Zambia	7	832	197
Taiwan	7	440	402
Barbados	7	90	68
Equatorial Guinea	7	825	22
Malta	6	584	465
Sao Tome and Principe	8	251	4
Myanmar	6	193	104

- India and Bangladesh are preparing for Cyclone Amphan, which is expected to make landfall today. But evacuation efforts are being complicated by the pandemic, with authorities struggling to keep people safe from both the storm and the virus.
- Wuhan conducted 856,128 coronavirus tests on May 19, up from 467,847 tests on May 18, the city's Municipal Health Commission said. The city has now conducted 2,178,581 coronavirus tests since May 12. Wuhan started conducting city-wide coronavirus testing on its citizens last week after health officials detected several new locally transmitted cases.
- In South Korea, 193 coronavirus cases have been linked to a Seoul nightclub cluster, Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip said today. The cluster, which was identified on May 9, is concentrated in the capital city's entertainment district of Itaewon. The cases are believed to have begun after an infected 29-year-old went to several different clubs in the area, according to Seoul officials. Authorities used credit card records, cell phone data, and other methods to track down all the people who had visited Itaewon, and asked them all to be tested.



- **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](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

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