

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

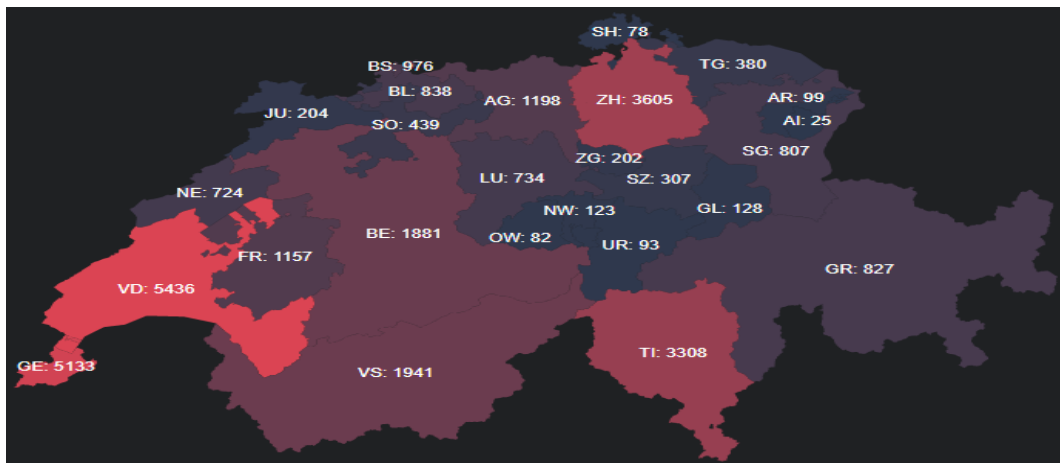
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 358,800 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (102,308) and UK (37,837). There have been more than 5,837,550 global cases in 210 countries and territories.
- The Covid-19 outbreak has been responsible for 159,000 excess deaths in 24 European countries since early March, WHO Europe Director Hans Henri Kluge announced today. Excess deaths is a term used to define the number of deaths which occurred in a given crisis above and beyond what would have been expected under 'normal' conditions. The WHO lists 53 countries in its Europe region. According to Kluge, there have been over two million confirmed Covid-19 cases and over 175,000 confirmed deaths in the European region. Kluge said these death numbers are "above and beyond what we would have expected normally at this time of the year." Case information reported to the WHO has revealed that 94% of all Covid-19 deaths were people over the age of 60 years old, and 59% of those deaths were men. From the total deaths, 97% of the cases had at least one underlying health condition, with cardiovascular disease being the most common. Kluge also gave an update on the current spread of the virus in Europe, saying that in the past 14 days cumulative cases in the region have increased by 15%, with the region still accounting for 38% of cases and 50% of deaths globally.
- The WHO Regional Office for Africa said they are "seeing some rapid increases" in cases during a press briefing today. Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa said, "It took 36 days to reach 1,000 reported cases, and then 62 days to move to 100,000 cases. We are just above 100,000 now." Moeti said it's a mixed bag across the continent, "Compared to two weeks ago, reported cases have tripled in five countries and doubled in 10 countries, noting that most countries still have fewer than 1,000 reported cases." Governments in each country have been working day and night to "procure and replenish essential supplies and equipment," Moeti said and added that this remains one of the biggest challenges of the response.
- South Korea has tightened restrictions in the metropolitan area of Seoul after a spike in infections. Restrictions had been lifted across the country on 6 May after the outbreak appeared to be brought under control. However, officials have recorded the biggest spike in infections in nearly two months, prompting the closure of museums, parks and art galleries in the Seoul area for two weeks from Friday. Half of South Korea's 51 million live in the metropolitan area where restrictions are being tightened.
- Airports and airlines have outlined new safety measures as flights start to ramp up in Switzerland. Face masks are mainly recommended, but are in some cases compulsory, while social distancing measures may increase waiting times once passenger numbers increase. All three airports have installed plexiglass screens and have increased cleaning services, focusing especially on surfaces that could be touched by many people, such as stair handrails and elevator buttons. Disinfectant hand dispensers will be made available for passengers. Floor markings have also been added to aid social distancing. EasyJet, SWISS and Edelweiss will resume some passenger flight routes from Switzerland in June. SWISS plans to operate up to 190 flights from Zurich and Geneva to 41 European destinations, but estimates that by the end of the year services will only be at 50% of pre-crisis levels.

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	1'750'449	102'308	1'157'834
UK	269'127	37'837	N/A
Italy	231'139	33'072	50'966
France	182'913	28'596	87'733
Spain	283'849	27'118	59'773
Brazil	414'661	25'697	222'317
Belgium	57'849	9'388	32'889
Germany	182'150	8'548	10'402
Mexico	78'023	8'597	15'043
Iran	143'849	7'627	23'234
Canada	87'902	6'799	34'638
Netherlands	45'950	5'903	N/A
China	82'995	4'634	73
India	164'936	4'673	90'161
Turkey	159'797	4'431	32'573
Sweden	35'727	4'266	26'490
Russia	379'051	4'142	223'916
Peru	135'905	3'983	75'753
Ecuador	38'103	3'275	16'403
Switzerland	30'796	1'919	577
Ireland	24'803	1'631	1'083
Indonesia	24'538	1'496	16'802
Portugal	31'596	1'369	11'590
Pakistan	61'227	1'260	39'736
Romania	18'791	1'231	4'931
Poland	22'600	1'030	11'010
Philippines	15'588	921	11'069
Japan	16'651	858	1'820
Chile	86'943	890	49'903
Egypt	19'666	816	13'645
Colombia	24'104	803	17'190
Ukraine	22'382	669	13'274
Austria	16'628	668	674
Algeria	8'857	623	3'105
Denmark	11'512	568	764
Bangladesh	40'321	559	31'337
South Africa	25'937	552	11'934
Hungary	3'816	509	1'311
Argentina	13'933	501	8'815
Dominican Republic	15'723	474	6'459
Saudi Arabia	80'185	441	25'191
Czechia	9'103	317	2'409
Panama	11'728	315	4'034
Finland	6'743	313	930
Israel	16'809	281	1'926
Moldova	7'725	282	3'320
Bolivia	7'768	280	6'799
S. Korea	11'344	269	735
UAE	32'532	258	15'589
Nigeria	8'733	254	5'978
Serbia	11'300	241	4'621
Norway	8'406	236	443
Afghanistan	13'036	235	11'592
Belarus	39'858	219	22'979
Morocco	7'636	202	2'325
Honduras	4'640	194	3'940
Sudan	4'346	195	3'402
Kuwait	24'112	185	15'229
Cameroon	5'436	175	3'265
Greece	2'906	175	1'357
Iraq	5'457	179	2'307
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2'462	153	528
Bulgaria	2'477	134	1'378
North Macedonia	2'077	121	470
Malaysia	7'629	115	1'345
Luxembourg	4'008	110	95
Slovenia	1'473	108	9
Australia	7'150	103	467
Croatia	2'245	102	92
Armenia	8'216	113	4'816
Cuba	1'983	82	167
Mali	1'116	70	414
DRC	2'660	69	2'210
Somalia	1'731	67	1'399

Estonia	1'851	66	211
Lithuania	1'656	68	395
Guatemala	4'145	68	3'584
Niger	955	64	95
Chad	715	64	292
Thailand	3'065	57	63
Kenya	1'618	58	1'139
Azerbaijan	4'759	56	1'681
Burkina Faso	845	53	120
Andorra	763	51	36
Yemen	256	53	193
Tunisia	1'068	48	82
Tajikistan	3'563	47	1'842
Sierra Leone	812	45	406
Channel Islands	560	45	3
San Marino	670	42	306
Oman	9'009	40	6'792
Senegal	3'348	39	1'623
Kazakhstan	9'576	37	4'646
El Salvador	2'194	39	1'153
Nicaragua	759	35	354
Ghana	7'303	34	4'857
Haiti	1'320	34	1'264
Albania	1'076	33	220
Qatar	50'914	33	35'482
Ivory Coast	2'556	31	1'223
Slovakia	1'520	28	160
Liberia	269	27	98
Lebanon	1'168	26	443
Isle of Man	336	24	6
Singapore	33'249	23	15'950
Latvia	1'061	24	296
Uruguay	803	22	131
New Zealand	1'504	22	8
Tanzania	509	21	305
Guinea	3'275	20	1'582
Mayotte	1'670	21	334
Djibouti	2'914	20	1'653
Cyprus	941	17	330
Kyrgyzstan	1'594	16	512
Congo	571	19	391
Bahrain	9'977	15	4'667
Sint Maarten	77	15	2
Uzbekistan	3'437	14	729
Gabon	2'319	14	1'674
Martinique	197	14	92
Guadeloupe	161	14	32
Diamond Princess	712	13	48
Togo	395	13	199
Mauritania	292	16	261
Equatorial Guinea	1'043	12	866
Georgia	738	12	153
Sao Tome and Principe	443	12	363
Venezuela	1'245	11	932
Paraguay	884	11	481
Guyana	139	11	61
Bahamas	100	11	43
Iceland	1'805	10	3
Sri Lanka	1'503	10	748
Costa Rica	984	10	335
Mauritius	334	10	2
Jordan	728	9	233
Jamaica	569	9	281
Montenegro	324	9	0
Bermuda	139	9	39
South Sudan	994	10	978
Trinidad and Tobago	116	8	0
Guinea-Bissau	1'195	7	1'146
Zambia	1'057	7	271

- Questions have been raised about a study published in the Lancet that prompted the WHO to halt global trials of the drug hydroxychloroquine. The Lancet said the authors were “investigating urgently” an apparent discrepancy in the data. It comes amid scientists’ concerns that rigorous standards are falling by the wayside in the race to understand the virus.
- The WHO has launched an independent grant-making entity called WHO Foundation that will raise private funds to meet global health challenges.
- “SwissCovid App – The Public Security Test begins today. Help us to improve the security of the SwissCovid app and report your test results to us via the NCSC website https://melani.admin.ch/SwissCovid_en”, tweeted BAG today.
- UN: Virus could push 14 million into hunger in Latin America. The UN World Food Program is warning that at least 14 million people could go hungry in Latin America as the coronavirus pandemic rages on. New projections released late on Wednesday estimate a startling four-fold increase in severe food insecurity.



- **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. The Grants Advisors responsible for the ISPM are Aline Schögler (aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch) and Leah Witton (leah.witton@research.unibe.ch).

Sources

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