

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

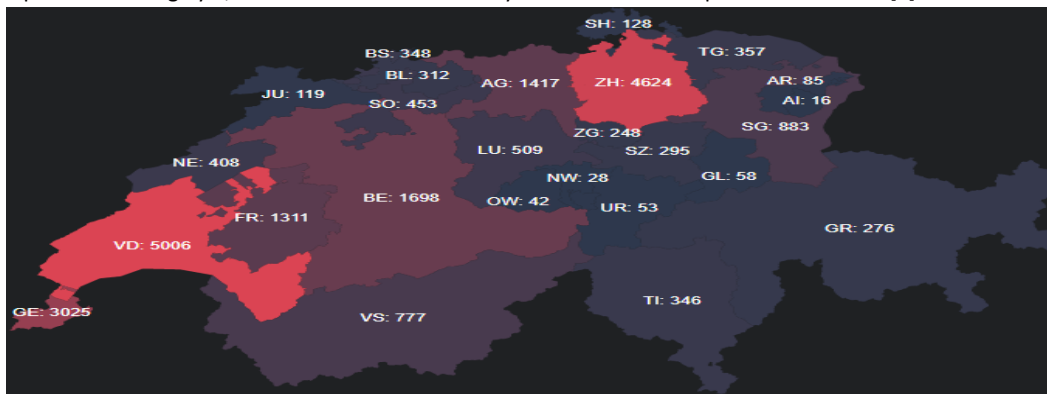
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 1,029,177 worldwide, with the highest number of deaths in USA (212,869) and Brazil (144,767). There have been more than 34,579,033 global cases in 210 countries and territories. [1]
- Last week WHO issued the first Emergency Use Listing for a quality antigen based rapid diagnostic test and they expect other rapid tests to follow. *"I'm pleased to announce that thanks to an agreement between WHO and partners here today and others, a substantial proportion of these rapid tests – 120 million – will be made available to low- and middle-income countries. These tests provide reliable results in approximately 15 to 30 minutes, rather than hours or days at a lower price with less sophisticated equipment. This will enable the expansion of testing, particularly in hard-to-reach areas that do not have lab facilities or enough trained health workers to carry out PCR tests. This is a vital addition to their testing capacity and is especially important in areas of high transmission"*, said Dr. Tedros, WHO General-Director, during a media briefing on Monday. *"The quicker COVID-19 can be diagnosed, the quicker action can be taken to treat and isolate those with the virus and trace their contacts"*, he added. [2]
- The number of new positive cases has increased in recent weeks in Switzerland. The positivity rate today is 4.84%, with 11'415 tests. Compared to last Friday, 7.5% fewer people were tested and the positivity increased by 60.8%. In addition, a group of health experts has recommended shortening the quarantine period from ten days to six or seven for people entering Switzerland from Covid-19 risk countries. Their report has been sent to the government for the final say. Plus, concerts, football matches, conferences and other large-scale public and private events of more than 1,000 people can take place in Switzerland from Thursday. But the organisers have to meet strict Covid-19 rules to ensure the public's safety. [3]
- Wuhan's citizens are now suing the local government. Since Covid-19 first emerged at a Wuhan wet market nearly 10 months ago, more than 1 million people have died and life has been irrevocably changed the world over. In Wuhan, once the "ground zero" of the pandemic, a new fight has emerged. A group of citizens are now suing the government for what they say was the fatal decision to hide the true danger of the virus in its earliest days. [4]
- Yet parts of India have led the world in one aspect of the pandemic response: contact tracing — the labor intensive, time-sensitive, painstaking work of identifying people who were exposed to a known infected person. Extensive contact tracing in two southern Indian states offers the strongest evidence yet that a few super- spreader individuals are responsible for a disproportionate share of new coronavirus infections, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal Science. It also suggests that children are more efficient transmitters of the virus than widely believed. A team of Indian and U. S. researchers examined data from 575,071 individuals who were tested after coming into contact with 84,965 people with confirmed cases of COVID- 19. That's an average of seven contacts per case, and a cohort more than 10 times larger than in a previous study from South Korea that mapped how the virus was transmitted. *"It's the largest epidemiological study anywhere on COVID by far,"* said the lead author, Ramanan Laxminarayan of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy in New Delhi. [4]
- Madrid's regional authorities will shortly put the Spanish capital and nine nearby towns under partial lockdown, with immediate effect. With 859 cases per 100,000 people, the Madrid region is the worst Covid-19 hotspot in Europe. [5]
- One in 500 people in England and Wales likely have coronavirus, according to the latest estimates from the UK's Office for National Statistics. Friday's report shows "clear evidence of an increase" in recent weeks, with a combined total of 123,000 cases reported from 18 to 24 September in both nations -- equivalent to 0.21% of both populations. [5]
- Turkey's health minister on Wednesday appeared to acknowledge that the government did not publish the full number of daily positive COVID-19 cases but only those who are symptomatic. The official number of daily coronavirus cases in Turkey have begun to decline in recent days after rising over the past several weeks. During a weekly news conference, health minister said the number of daily new COVID-19 *"patients,"* which he defined as those who are symptomatic, was more important than the number of new *"cases,"* which include those who do not show symptoms. *"Not all cases are patients because there are those who show no symptoms at all even though their tests come back positive. These create the vast majority,"* he said. [6]
- Restaurateurs and their staff in France stood in front of their restaurants wearing black arm-bands today, urging the French government not to order tighter restrictions to halt the spread of the coronavirus. On Thursday Health Minister said the Paris region was set to be placed on maximum COVID-19 alert from as soon as Monday as cases rise. Restaurant owners fear new closures could force them out of business. Bars and restaurants in the French capital must close by 10 pm under current coronavirus restrictions. [7]

Countries	Deaths	Cases	Recovered
USA	212'869	7'505'074	4'750'176
Brazil	144'767	4'849'229	4'212'772
India	99'837	6'399'329	5'353'120
Mexico	78'078	748'315	537'475
UK	42'268	467'146	N/A
Italy	35'941	319'908	229'970
Peru	32'535	818'297	690'528
France	32'019	577'505	96'797
Spain	31'973	778'607	N/A
Iran	26'567	464'596	385'264
Colombia	26'196	835'339	751'691
Russia	21'077	1'194'643	970'296
Argentina	20'288	765'002	603'140
South Africa	16'866	676'084	609'584
Chile	12'867	466'590	439'607
Ecuador	11'433	138'584	112'296
Indonesia	10'972	295'499	221'340
Belgium	10'023	121'059	19'521
Germany	9'590	297'046	259'500
Canada	9'402	162'320	137'318
Iraq	9'298	372'259	299'804
Turkey	8'262	320'070	281'151
Bolivia	8'001	135'716	96'165
Pakistan	6'499	313'431	298'055
Netherlands	6'428	127'922	N/A
Egypt	5'946	103'317	96'855
Sweden	5'895	94'283	N/A
Philippines	5'616	316'678	254'617
Bangladesh	5'305	366'383	278'627
Romania	4'915	132'001	105'582
Saudi Arabia	4'823	335'578	320'348
China	4'634	85'424	80'601
Ukraine	4'261	217'661	96'591
Guatemala	3'267	93'090	81'466
Poland	2'570	95'773	71'353
Panama	2'387	113'342	89'903
Honduras	2'380	77'598	28'517
Morocco	2'229	126'044	104'136
Dominican Republic	2'108	112'728	88'205
Switzerland	2'075	54'384	45'800
Portugal	1'983	77'284	49'359
Ireland	1'806	36'597	23'364
Algeria	1'741	51'690	36'282
Kazakhstan	1'725	108'044	103'028
Israel	1'633	258'920	185'122
Japan	1'578	84'215	77'219
Afghanistan	1'458	39'290	32'842
Moldova	1'344	55'016	40'002
Ethiopia	1'205	76'098	31'430
Nigeria	1'112	59'001	50'452
Kyrgyzstan	1'065	47'056	43'137
Armenia	966	51'382	44'406
Oman	935	98'585	88'528
Costa Rica	917	76'828	39'843
Australia	890	27'109	24'788
Bosnia and Herzegovina	871	27'975	21'108
Paraguay	869	41'799	25'167
El Salvador	848	29'175	23'930
Belarus	844	79'421	74'982
Sudan	836	13'653	6'764
Bulgaria	832	21'096	14'787
Austria	803	46'374	37'186
Hungary	798	28'631	6'349
Serbia	751	33'735	31'536
North Macedonia	749	18'363	15'164
Kenya	725	38'923	25'114
Czechia	678	74'255	34'186
Denmark	652	28'932	21'824
Venezuela	635	76'029	66'245

Kuwait	615	106'087	97'898
Azerbaijan	594	40'453	38'217
Yemen	587	2'039	1'297
Libya	570	35'717	20'334
Nepal	520	82'450	60'696
Uzbekistan	472	57'454	53'955
UAE	424	96'529	86'071
Cameroon	418	20'838	19'440
S. Korea	416	23'952	21'733
Greece	398	19'346	9'989
Albania	389	13'965	8'342
Lebanon	374	40'882	18'103
Myanmar	353	15'525	4'378
Finland	345	10'244	8'100
Zambia	333	14'830	13'980
Palestine	321	40'766	32'944
Senegal	312	15'051	12'694
Ghana	301	46'656	45'942
Croatia	291	17'160	15'423
Norway	274	14'149	11'190
DRC	272	10'729	10'183
Tunisia	271	19'721	5'032
Bahrain	255	71'374	65'550
Madagascar	232	16'493	15'467
Haiti	229	8'781	6'907
Zimbabwe	228	7'850	6'312
Qatar	215	126'164	123'108
Syria	202	4'247	1'117
Angola	185	5'114	2'082
Malawi	179	5'779	4'514
Montenegro	170	10'987	7'397
Mauritania	161	7'505	7'138
Slovenia	154	6'103	4'041
Nicaragua	151	5'170	2'913
Malaysia	136	11'771	10'095
Mali	131	3'131	2'460
Luxembourg	125	8'709	7'428
Namibia	123	11'373	9'083
Cuba	122	5'670	4'922
Ivory Coast	120	19'755	19'320
Jamaica	116	6'704	2'112
Gambia	113	3'584	2'216
Eswatini	111	5'500	5'000
Hong Kong	105	5'105	4'842
Suriname	105	4'891	4'702
Somalia	99	3'593	3'001
Bahamas	96	4'220	2'290
Lithuania	93	4'956	2'466
Congo	89	5'089	3'887
Chad	85	1'203	1'067
Equatorial Guinea	83	5'045	4'879
Guyana	82	2'929	1'760
Liberia	82	1'343	1'221
Jordan	79	13'650	4'752
Uganda	79	8'491	4'470
Tajikistan	77	9'852	8'661
Trinidad and Tobago	76	4'613	2'729
Sierra Leone	72	2'238	1'695
Niger	69	1'197	1'114
French Guiana	67	9'966	9'613
Guinea	66	10'652	9'996
Estonia	66	3'507	2'675
Mozambique	62	8'888	5'573
CAR	62	4'829	1'914
Cabo Verde	61	6'126	5'338
Djibouti	61	5'417	5'346
Thailand	59	3'575	3'384
Burkina Faso	58	2'088	1'363
Guadeloupe	57	5'528	2'199
Slovakia	54	11'617	4'756
Gabon	54	8'766	8'005
Andorra	53	2'050	1'432

- Frontline health care workers and those who provide health care facility services should be the first to get vaccinated with any eventual coronavirus vaccine, followed by people at high risk of severe illness because of underlying health conditions, experts advising the federal government said Friday. Next should come older adults living in congregate settings, like nursing homes, a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee said in a final report. But local leaders should also make sure to give priority to vulnerable communities, the independent committee, formed at the request of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said. That change was added after criticism over the group's draft report issued last month, which did not mention minority communities hit hardest by the pandemic. But instead of placing specific minority groups into the proposed phases, the final report notes that *"equity is a crosscutting consideration."* [7]
- Russia began vaccinating members of the general public seen at high risk of coronavirus infection earlier this month, while separately launching a large-scale trial. So far about 400 people have received the jabs under that scheme, the health ministry said this week. The government last month published a list of jobs considered high risk, which included health workers, journalists and teachers. With hundreds of potential Covid-19 vaccines in various stages of development around the world, Russia was the first country to license its vaccine for public use and alongside China has been deploying the shots before full efficacy trials are complete. [7]
- Denmark will cull around 1 million minks after finding further coronavirus infections among the animals at farms that breed them for their fur. Fresh cases have been registered at 41 Danish mink farms and another 20 were believed affected, totaling up to 1 million minks, environment and food Minister Mogens Jensen said at a press briefing on Thursday evening. [5]
- Tunisia recorded 1,308 new confirmed coronavirus cases on Wednesday, a record since the start of the pandemic, the Tunisian health ministry said on Friday. The rise prompted the government to impose a night curfew in two coastal areas amid fears that hospitals will be unable to cope because of the shortage of intensive care beds. The total number of cases has jumped to about 20,000 compared with roughly 1,000 cases before the country's borders were reopened on 27 June. [7]



Newly reported cases since 01.06 in Switzerland. [8]

• Funding opportunity for researchers

PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe) Fast Track Call for Proposals

- <https://prace-ri.eu/prace-support-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19-pandemic/>

The US Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program - a call for proposals on COVID-19

- <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/ProgramFY.htm?programFYId=256400>

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 Schöglér (aline.schoegler@research.unibe.ch) and Leah Witton (leah.witton@research.unibe.ch).

Sources

- [1] <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>
- [2] <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/news>
- [3] <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/in-depth/coronavirus>
- [4] <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/covid-19-news>
- [5] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/oct/02/coronavirus-live-news-paris-faces-being-placed-on-maximum-alert-as-india-nears-100000-deaths>
- [6] <https://uk.reuters.com/article/instant-article/idUKKBN26L3HM>
- [7] <https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-10-02-20-intl/index.html>
- [8] <https://www.corona-data.ch/>