

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

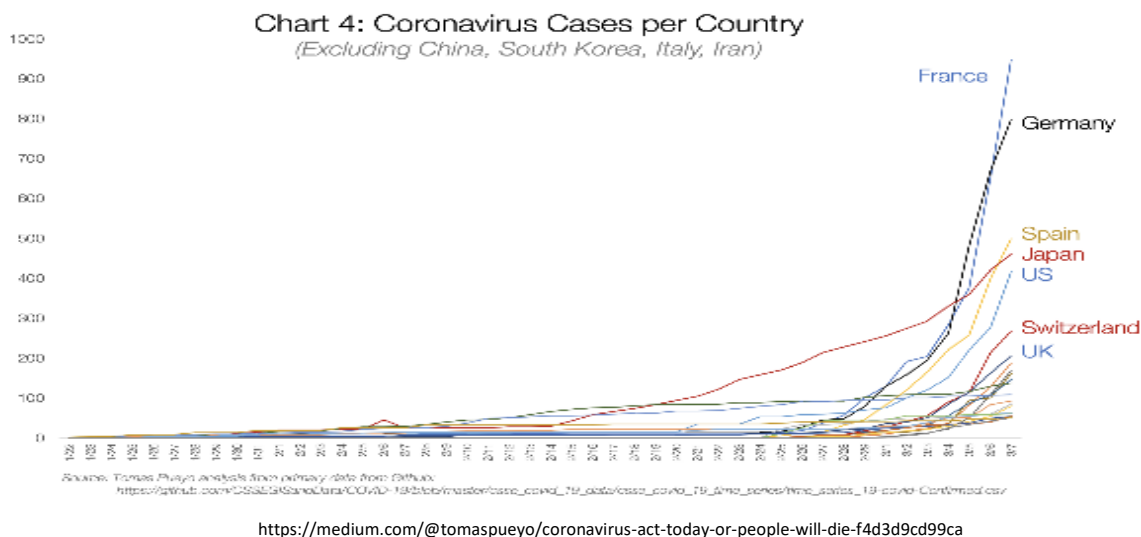
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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 4,200 worldwide, with the vast majority in mainland China. There have been more than 115,000 global cases.
- China's Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, will allow businesses to gradually come back online and will resume some public transportation services, after a significant drop in new cases reported daily. Hubei's capital Wuhan and other virus-hit cities were put under lockdown on January 23 and this is the first sign of those restrictions lifting.
- In Italy, town squares are empty, schools are closed, public events canceled, and people are staying home, under lockdown measures implemented Monday across the entire country. Experts say these measures may help slow the spread of the virus as Italy's healthcare system creaks under the weight of the outbreak. But it has also led to desperation and tragedy, like the case of an Italian woman stuck at home with the body of her husband, who died of the virus, because of strict quarantine protocols.
- Italy recorded its highest one-day death toll since the outbreak began, with 168 deaths recorded in 24 hours.
- In a speech earlier this week, the Director General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, reiterated that different countries are facing "different scenarios," with each requiring a tailored response. "It's not about containment or mitigation -- which is a false dichotomy. It's about both," said Tedros.
- Since the outbreak began in Italy in late February, it has spread across the continent, reaching every EU country. Of the 11 countries with most infections outside China, six are in Europe: Italy, Germany, Spain, France, the UK, and the Netherlands.
- In sharp contrast, the US is only now introducing harsher measures to halt the virus' spread: universities are closing, employees are working from home, and local governments are encouraging social distancing.
- The number of confirmed Covid-19 sufferers has continued to increase in the canton of Zurich. The youngest newly infected person is a one-year-old boy, as the Health Directorate tweeted. The Basel government wants to support companies suffering economically from the consequences of the corona virus with a support program.
- Turkish Health Minister early on March 11 announced the first confirmed coronavirus case in the country. The patient is a male Turkish citizen and has been placed in quarantine.
- Jamaica has confirmed its first case of coronavirus in the capital of Kingston. The patient is a Jamaican woman that was in the UK recently but arrived back on the island on March 4. She has been in isolation since Sunday.
- South Korea, which had seen a drop in cases earlier this week, reported an uptick of 242 new cases today.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
China	80'790	3'158	61'611
Italy	10'149	631	1'004
Iran	9'000	354	2'959
S. Korea	7'755	66	288
Spain	2'182	49	183
France	1'784	33	12
Germany	1'656	3	25
USA	1'016	31	15
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	696	7	325
Switzerland	652	4	3
Japan	587	12	102
Netherlands	503	5	0
Sweden	477	0	1
UK	456	6	18
Norway	456	0	1
Denmark	340	0	1
Belgium	314	3	1
Austria	206	0	4
Bahrain	189	0	30
Singapore	178	0	96
Malaysia	149	0	26
Australia	127	3	24
Hong Kong	126	3	60
Canada	97	1	9
Greece	90	0	0
Iceland	85	0	1
Israel	76	0	4
UAE	74	0	17
Kuwait	72	0	2
Iraq	71	7	15
Czech	67	0	0
San Marino	62	2	0
India	62	0	4
Lebanon	61	2	1
Egypt	60	1	27
Thailand	59	1	34
Finland	59	0	1
Portugal	59	0	0
Slovenia	57	0	0
Philippines	49	1	2
Taiwan	48	1	17
Vietnam	38	0	16
Romania	36	0	6
Brazil	35	0	0
Indonesia	34	1	2
Ireland	34	0	0
Palestine	30	0	0
Poland	27	0	0
Qatar	24	0	0
Georgia	23	0	0
Saudi Arabia	21	0	1
Algeria	20	0	0
Russia	20	0	3
Argentina	19	1	0
Pakistan	19	0	2
Oman	18	0	9
Ecuador	17	0	0
Chile	17	0	0
Croatia	16	0	0
Estonia	13	0	0

Costa Rica	13	0	0
Hungary	13	0	0
South Africa	13	0	0
Albania	12	1	0
Serbia	12	0	0
Azerbaijan	11	0	3
Brunei	11	0	0
Peru	11	0	0
Macao	10	0	10
Latvia	10	0	1
Slovakia	10	0	0
Belarus	9	0	3
Colombia	9	0	0
Panama	8	1	0
Mexico	8	0	4
Maldives	8	0	0
Afghanistan	7	0	0
Luxembourg	7	0	0
North Macedonia	7	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	0	0
Tunisia	6	0	0
Bulgaria	6	0	0
Cyprus	6	0	0
Malta	6	0	0
Morocco	5	1	0
Dominican Republic	5	0	0
New Zealand	5	0	0
French Guiana	5	0	0
Paraguay	5	0	0
Senegal	4	0	1
Cambodia	3	0	1
Lithuania	3	0	0
Bangladesh	3	0	0
Martinique	3	0	0
Moldova	3	0	0
Nigeria	2	0	0
Sri Lanka	2	0	1
Bolivia	2	0	0
Burkina Faso	2	0	0
Cameroon	2	0	0
Channel Islands	2	0	0
Faeroe Islands	2	0	0
Honduras	2	0	0
Saint Martin	2	0	0
Andorra	1	0	0
Armenia	1	0	0
Jordan	1	0	0
Monaco	1	0	0
Nepal	1	0	1
Ukraine	1	0	0
Bhutan	1	0	0
DRC	1	0	0
Gibraltar	1	0	1
Vatican City	1	0	0
Jamaica	1	0	0
Liechtenstein	1	0	0
Mongolia	1	0	0
Reunion	1	0	0
St. Barth	1	0	0
Togo	1	0	0
Turkey	1	0	0

- Indonesia, which only reported its first case of the virus earlier this month, confirmed its first death from the virus today and now has 27 cases.
- Belgium has recorded its first death as a result of Covid-19. A 90-year old man from Brussels has died.
- Bahrain evacuates 165 citizens from Iran and 77 test positive for coronavirus.
- Poland is to shut all schools from Monday in a bid to halt the spread of the coronavirus, after 25 cases were confirmed in the country.
- Mongolia, which announced its first case yesterday, is shutting borders with neighboring Russia.



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%5bttn_news%5d=1168&no_cache=1&user_id=51472&job_id=4718

SNF - Special call for research into coronaviruses

- <http://www.snf.ch/en/researchinFocus/newsroom/Pages/news-200306-call-special-call-on-coronaviruses.aspx>

Wellcome Trust:

- <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/epidemic-preparedness-covid-19>

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