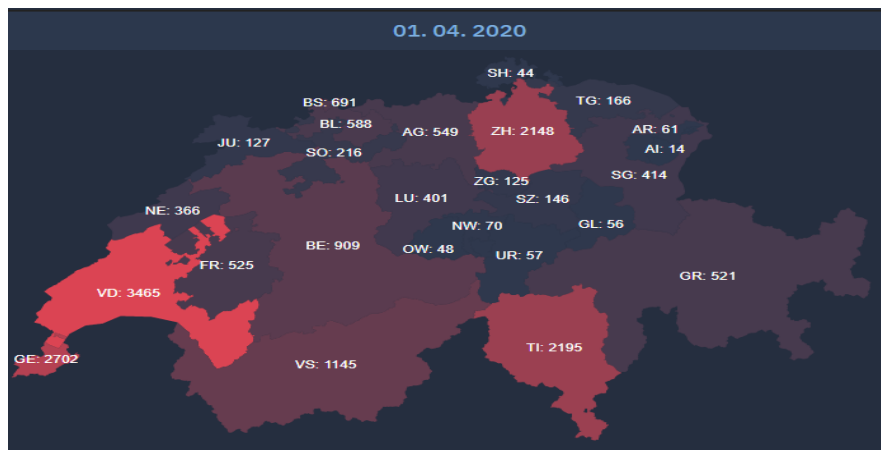# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
01.04.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 44,200 worldwide, with the vast majority in Italy (13,155) and Spain (9,053). There have been more than 903,700 global cases in 205 countries.

- A large-scale study has found that early interventions, such as social distancing and severe restrictions on peoples' movement, have been critical in restraining the spread of coronavirus and have already saved tens of thousands of lives across Europe. Scientists at Imperial College London studied interventions in 11 European countries, and concluded that they "have together had a substantial impact on transmission." They estimate "that interventions across all 11 countries will have averted 59,000 deaths up to 31 March."

- Two new viewpoint papers published in the Journal of the American Heart Association today turn a spotlight on how certain blood pressure medications may be associated with more severe Covid-19 infections — but still, it is important that patients continue taking their medications as prescribed, they say. The papers focus on the types of drugs known as ACE inhibitors or ACEIs and angiotensin receptor blockers or ARBs, which "upregulate" an enzyme called ACE2. It turns out that the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19 enters the body's cells through ACE2. Therefore, there has been some speculation that heart and blood pressure medications that influence ACE2 could put patients at increased risk of severe Covid-19 infections.

- The partnership with Rakuten Viber gives WHO the potential to reach over 1 billion people in their local language directly through their mobile phones. "*WHO's aim is to reach as many people as possible with reliable health information through innovative digital technology. Information is powerful and can help save lives during this pandemic,*" said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

- The coronavirus pandemic is the "greatest test" the world has faced since the United Nations was formed in the wake of World War II, said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

- Count criteria changes: China is now including asymptomatic cases in its official count starting Wednesday. The move comes amid growing public concern over asymptomatic cases, of which 1,367 were under medical observation in China by the end of Tuesday.

- A group of European experts said on Wednesday they would soon launch technology for smartphones to help trace people who had come into contact with those infected with coronavirus, helping the health authorities act swiftly to halt its spread. The European initiative, called Pan-European Privacy Preserving Proximity Tracing (PEPP-PT https://www.pepp-pt.org), follows the successful use of smartphones in some Asian countries to track the spread of the virus and enforce quarantine orders, although their methods would have violated strict EU data protection rules.

- Switzerland is contributing to a European digital platform that promises to combat the spread of pandemics by better identifying people at risk of viral infection. According to the scientists behind the platform, the system alerts anyone who has been in contact with an infected person without compromising the data privacy of individuals.

- Japan remains on the brink of an emergency as the numbers of coronavirus infections continues to increase, the country's chief cabinet secretary said.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
USA	200'269	4'394	8'698
Italy	110'574	13'155	16'847
Spain	102'136	9'053	22'647
China	81'554	3'312	76'238
Germany	75'754	848	18'700
France	52'128	3'523	9'444
Iran	47'593	3'036	15'473
UK	29'474	2'352	135
Switzerland	17'137	461	2'967
Belgium	13'964	828	2'132
Netherlands	13'614	1'173	250
Turkey	13'531	214	243
Austria	10'585	146	1'436
S. Korea	9'887	165	5'567
Canada	9'017	108	1'445
Portugal	8'251	187	43
Brazil	5'916	206	127
Israel	5'591	23	226
Sweden	4'947	239	16
Australia	4'864	21	345
Norway	4'828	43	13
Czechia	3'508	39	61
Ireland	3'447	85	5
Denmark	3'092	104	1
Chile	3'031	16	234
Malaysia	2'908	45	645
Russia	2'777	24	190
Ecuador	2'748	93	58
Romania	2'460	86	252
Poland	2'420	36	7
Luxembourg	2'319	29	80
Philippines	2'311	96	50
Japan	2'178	57	472
Pakistan	2'071	26	82
Thailand	1'771	12	416
Saudi Arabia	1'720	16	264
Indonesia	1'677	157	103
India	1'637	45	148
Finland	1'446	17	10
Greece	1'415	50	52
South Africa	1'380	5	50
Dominican Republic	1'284	57	9
Iceland	1'220	2	225
Mexico	1'215	29	35
Panama	1'181	30	9
Peru	1'065	30	394
Serbia	1'060	28	42
Argentina	1'054	28	248
Singapore	1'000	3	245
Croatia	963	6	73
Colombia	906	16	31
Algeria	847	58	46
Slovenia	841	15	10
Qatar	781	2	62
Estonia	779	5	33
Hong Kong	765	4	147
Diamond Princess	712	11	603
Egypt	710	46	157
New Zealand	708	1	83
Iraq	694	50	170
Ukraine	669	17	10
UAE	664	6	61
Morocco	638	37	26
Lithuania	581	8	7
Armenia	571	3	31
Bahrain	567	4	337
Hungary	525	20	40
Lebanon	479	14	43
Bosnia and Herzegovina	457	13	19
Latvia	446	0	1
Moldova	423	5	23
Bulgaria	422	9	20
Slovakia	400	1	3
Tunisia	394	10	5
Andorra	390	14	10
Kazakhstan	380	3	26
Azerbaijan	359	5	26
North Macedonia	354	11	17
Costa Rica	347	2	4
Uruguay	338	2	41
Taiwan	329	5	45
Cyprus	320	9	28
Kuwait	317	0	80
Réunion	281	0	40
Jordan	274	5	30
Burkina Faso	261	14	32
Albania	259	15	67
San Marino	236	26	13
Cameroon	233	6	10
Vietnam	218	0	63
Cuba	212	6	12
Oman	210	1	34
Afghanistan	196	4	5
Ghana	195	5	31
Senegal	190	1	45
Malta	188	0	2
Ivory Coast	179	1	7

Uzbekistan	173	2	12
Faeroe Islands	173	0	75
Honduras	172	10	3
Channel Islands	172	3	0
Belarus	163	2	53
Mauritius	158	5	0
Nigeria	151	2	9
Sri Lanka	146	2	21
Venezuela	143	3	41
Palestine	134	1	18
Brunei	131	1	52
Martinique	128	3	27
Montenegro	123	2	0
Georgia	117	0	23
Bolivia	115	7	1
Guadeloupe	114	4	22
Kyrgyzstan	111	0	3
DRC	109	9	3
Cambodia	109	0	25
Mayotte	94	1	10
Trinidad and Tobago	89	5	1
Kenya	81	1	3
Rwanda	75	0	0
Paraguay	69	3	1
Gibraltar	69	0	34
Liechtenstein	68	0	0
Isle of Man	65	0	0
Madagascar	57	0	0
Monaco	55	1	2
Aruba	55	0	1
Bangladesh	54	6	25
French Guiana	51	0	15
Uganda	44	0	0
Macao	41	0	10
Guatemala	39	1	12
Jamaica	38	2	2
French Polynesia	37	0	0
Togo	36	2	10
Zambia	36	0	0
Niger	34	3	0
Barbados	34	0	0
Djibouti	33	0	0
El Salvador	32	1	0
Bermuda	32	0	10
Mali	31	3	0
Guinea	30	0	0
Ethiopia	29	0	2
Tanzania	20	1	1
Congo	19	0	0
Maldives	19	0	13
Gabon	18	1	0
Sint Maarten	16	1	6
Haiti	16	0	1
New Caledonia	16	0	0
Myanmar	15	1	0
Saint Martin	15	1	2
Bahamas	15	0	1
Equatorial Guinea	15	0	1
Eritrea	15	0	0
Cayman Islands	14	1	0
Mongolia	14	0	2
Namibia	14	0	2
Saint Lucia	13	0	1
Guyana	12	2	0
Dominica	12	0	0
Curaçao	11	1	3
Syria	10	2	0
Greenland	10	0	2
Laos	10	0	0
Libya	10	0	1
Mozambique	10	0	0
Seychelles	10	0	0
Suriname	10	0	0
Benin	9	0	1
Grenada	9	0	0
Eswatini	9	0	0
Zimbabwe	8	1	0
Guinea-Bissau	8	0	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	8	0	0
Angola	7	2	1
Sudan	7	2	2
Antigua and Barbuda	7	0	0
Chad	7	0	0
Cabo Verde	6	1	0
Mauritania	6	1	2
Vatican City	6	0	0
Liberia	6	0	0
St. Barth	6	0	1
Turks and Caicos	6	0	0
Nicaragua	5	1	0
Nepal	5	0	1
Fiji	5	0	0
Montserrat	5	0	0
Somalia	5	0	1
Botswana	4	1	0
Gambia	4	1	0
Bhutan	4	0	0
Belize	3	0	0
British Virgin Islands	3	0	0
CAR	3	0	0
MS Zaandam	2	0	0
Anguilla	2	0	0
Burundi	2	0	0
Caribbean Netherlands	2	0	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0
St. Vincent Grenadines	1	0	1
Sierra Leone	1	0	0
Timor-Leste	1	0	0

- The Dutch government is working to expand Covid-19 testing for all medical workers and non-hospitalized patients who display symptoms.
- The AAO-HNS proposal is based on "rapidly accumulating" anecdotal evidence that such symptoms – in the absence of other symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 – have sometimes preceded a COVID-19 diagnosis. "Anosmia, in particular, has been seen in patients ultimately testing positive for the coronavirus with no other symptoms ... anosmia, hyposmia, and dysgeusia in the absence of other respiratory disease such as allergic rhinitis, acute rhinosinusitis, or chronic rhinosinusitis should alert physicians to the possibility of COVID-19 infection and warrant serious consideration for self-isolation and testing of these individuals," the AAO-HNS said in a statement on the proposal.
- Doubt has been cast over India's claim that it has no community transmission of coronavirus after the country reported its biggest daily rise in number of cases so far, connected to a religious gathering held in Delhi two weeks ago. India reported a record increase of 386 cases in the past 24 hours.
- Britain is planning to open a 4,000-bed field hospital, in what could be the biggest intensive care unit in the country, as cases continue to rise.
- German chancellor Angela Merkel announced today that the federal government and Germany's sixteen states have agreed to extend the country's social distancing measures until April 19 to curb the spread of coronavirus.

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

Wellcome Trust:

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

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