

# Journal of Public Health in Africa (JPHIA)

## Call for Papers for a Special Edition on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Africa

**Submission Deadline: 31 August 2020**

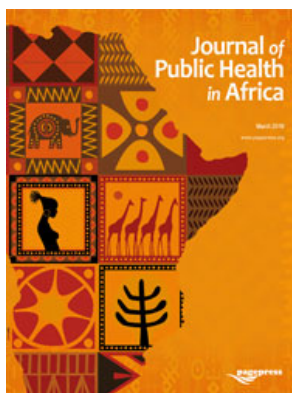
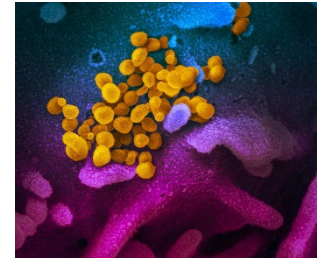


**Editors-in-Chief**

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### Background

In early December 2019, one death and 41 hospitalizations with common symptoms but unknown etiology were reported in the Chinese city of Wuhan, population 10 million.(1) By 7 January 2020 – only a month later – Chinese authorities had identified the cause as a novel coronavirus, later named COVID-19, and released its genetic sequence to the world for the development of diagnostic kits.(2) On 21 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) released its first situation report on COVID-19 with 282 cases, mostly in China, but one each in Japan, Korea and Thailand.(2) Three weeks later, when the WHO released its first COVID-19 situation report, there were over 45 000 cases in China and nearly 400 outside China.(3) As of mid-April 2020, COVID-19 had spread to 180 countries around the world with over 2 million cases and 140 000 deaths.(4) This includes 52 African Union Member States with over 17 000 cases and over 900 deaths on the continent.(5)



Novel disease outbreaks are not unfamiliar to Africa, although a disease imported to the continent rather than *from* it maybe. Regardless of origin, mounting an effective public health response to a highly contagious pathogen in resource-limited settings presents unique challenges for African nations. As the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated recently, ‘Africa needs a unified continent-wide strategy for preparedness and response’.(6) The Africa Taskforce for Coronavirus Preparedness and Response (AFTCOR), a collaboration between Africa CDC, WHO, and other partners, is developing such a strategy in partnership with African countries. JPHIA is seeking articles addressing various aspects related to implementation of the strategy and dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak as related to public health in Africa.

- Infection prevention and control
- Animal reservoirs, pathogenesis
- Epidemiology, surveillance
- Clinical spectrum, treatment
- Diagnostics, laboratory capacity
- Supply chain management
- Risk communication and community mobilization
- Access to testing and treatment
- Impacts on healthcare facilities and workers
- Impact on health security and socio-economic well-being in Africa

### Submission

Submit your papers online at: <https://www.publichealthinafrica.org/>

On the first submission screen, type “For COVID-19 Supplement” the Comments to the Editors box and suggest 2 reviewers for your paper.

For questions, please contact: [bethanie.rammer@publichealthinafrica.org](mailto:bethanie.rammer@publichealthinafrica.org)

#### References

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