

## Outbreak Brief #103: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

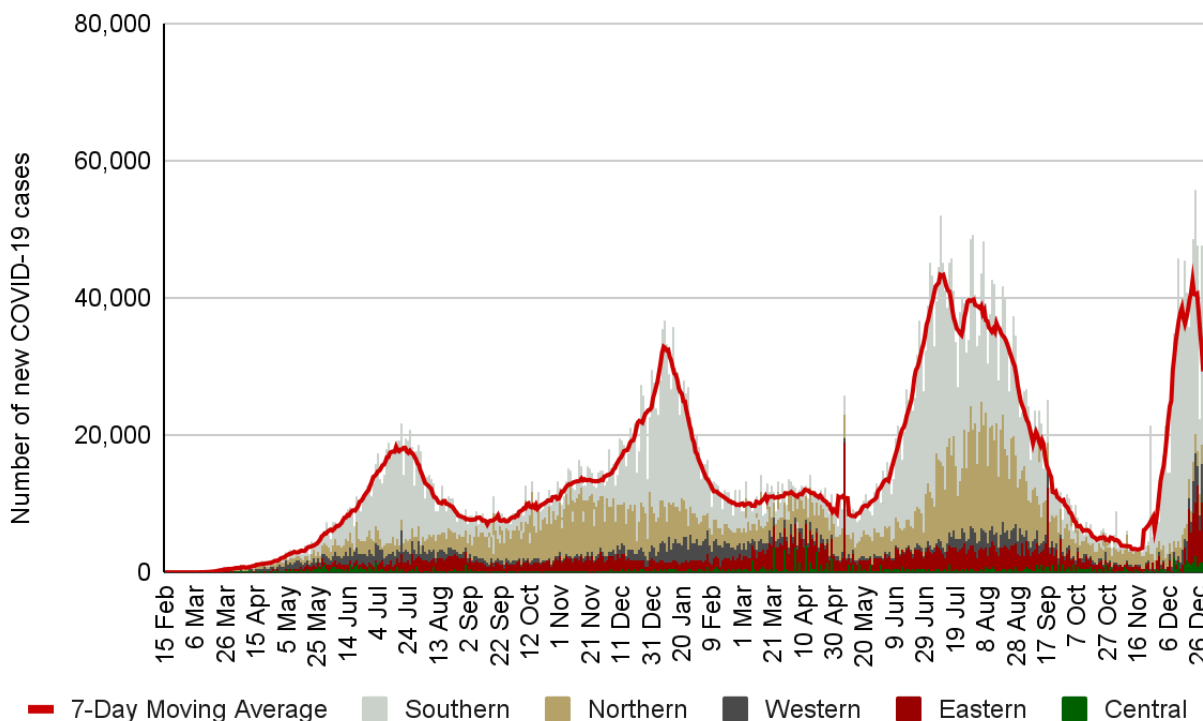
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**Global case count: 281,991,589 cases and 5,412,647 deaths**

*Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States*

**Outbreak Update:** As of 29 December 2021, a global total of 279,089,404 COVID-19 cases and 5,412,647 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2%) have been reported by 226 countries and territories to the World Health Organization (WHO). The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: **Eastern Mediterranean Region** 14,590,441 (5%), **European Region** 99,133,183 (35%), **Region of the Americas** 102,287,397 (36%), **South-East Asia Region** 44,933,587 (16%) and **Western Pacific Region** 11,166,630 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (1,646,613), the United Kingdom (615,425), France (600,652), Spain (383,197) and Italy (320,269). For more detailed information on cases and deaths reported outside of Africa, refer to the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

**As of 6 p.m. East African Time (EAT) 3 January 2022**, a total of **9,781,838** COVID-19 cases and 229,101 deaths (**CFR: 2.4%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 3.4% of all cases and 4.2% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-seven (49%) AU MS are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 52 (95%) AU MS have experienced a third wave, 42 (76%) countries have experienced a fourth wave, and five countries (Algeria, Kenya, Mauritius, Congo Republic and Somalia) are experiencing a fifth wave of COVID-19 cases. **Figure 1** shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by the AU region from 15 February 2020 to 3 January 2022. The overall daily number of new cases being reported across the continent is on an upward trend. More information on COVID-19 situation in Africa is available on the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).



**Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 3 January 2022<sup>1</sup>.**

As of 3 January 2022, 51 AU MS have reported the presence of the Alpha (48 MS), Beta (44), Delta (46), and/or Gamma (6) Variants of Concern (VOC). Twenty-nine MS (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo Republic, DR Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) have reported the presence of the Omicron VOC).

The Pathogen Genomics initiative Dashboard provides a breakdown of variant types reported by AU Member States. More information on SARS-COV-2 sequencing in Africa is available on the [Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative Dashboard](#).

**For Epi week 52 (27 December 2021 - 3 January 2022)**, 280,638 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 1% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 51. The Southern Region accounted for 49% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Eastern (26%), Western (11%), Northern (10%) and Central (4%) regions. This week, eight countries accounted for 65% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (21%), Ethiopia (10%), Zambia (9%), Mozambique (7%), Kenya (6%), Uganda (4%), Morocco (4%) and Zimbabwe (4%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population per day) this week are Cabo Verde (807), Seychelles (770), Botswana (418), Eswatini

<sup>1</sup> The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 3 January 2022.

(214), Zambia (206), Namibia (193), Comoros (176), South Africa (131), Gabon (123), Lesotho (106), Rwanda (102) and Sao Tome and Principe (99). **Table 1** summarizes the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by MS and AU geographic Region in Africa, and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 52.

**Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths<sup>2</sup> reported in Africa for epidemiological week 52 (27 December 2021- 2 January 2022).**

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 51	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 51
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>317,346 (10,474)</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>4,164 (2)</b>	<b>-90%</b>
Burundi	29,907 (2,908)	-33%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	108,676 (0)	-100%	1,841 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	12,268 (0)	-100%	101 (0)	NA*
Chad	6,183 (0)	NA*	184 (0)	NA*
Congo	21,277 (1,188)	98%	369 (2)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	79,630 (4,271)	-19%	1,135 (0)	-100%
Equatorial Guinea	13,710 (80)	567%	175 (0)	NA*
Gabon	41,798 (1,888)	-13%	288 (0)	-100%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,897 (139)	504%	57 (0)	NA*
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>1,223,501 (73,037)</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>24,856 (205)</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Comoros	6,907 (1,178)	12%	158 (5)	150%
Djibouti	13,723 (151)	308%	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	8,063 (177)	2%	76 (3)	-63%
Ethiopia	426,656 (27,960)	25%	6,958 (60)	88%
Kenya	299,732 (17,178)	-9%	5,394 (33)	313%

<sup>2</sup> Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability, thus may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 51	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 51
Madagascar	50,249 (2,954)	97%	1,027 (0)	-100%
Mauritius	23,602 (394)	72%	762 (76)	NA*
Rwanda	112,212 (10,228)	273%	1,352 (2)	-50%
Seychelles	24,788 (539)	937%	134 (3)	NA*
Somalia	23,537 (0)	-100%	1,333 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	15,242 (967)	46%	135 (2)	NA*
Sudan	46,518 (439)	147%	3,298 (0)	-100%
Tanzania	26,309 (0)	NA*	734 (0)	NA*
Uganda	145,963 (10,872)	88%	3,306 (21)	91%
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>2,735,692 (29,567)</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>75,206 (390)</b>	<b>-13%</b>
Algeria	219,159 (2,522)	40%	6,291 (53)	10%
Egypt	387,159 (5,816)	-3%	21,797 (189)	-23%
Libya	390,284 (4,005)	2%	5,727 (62)	7%
Mauritania	42,182 (1,678)	344%	872 (10)	43%
Morocco	966,777 (10,658)	233%	14,855 (27)	50%
Tunisia	728,260 (4,838)	102%	25,586 (48)	-29%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,871 (50)	NA*	78 (1)	NA*
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>4,754,866 (136,432)</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>114,222 (770)</b>	<b>10%</b>
Angola	76,787 (3,090)	-60%	1,756 (3)	-80%
Botswana	219,509 (7,027)	101%	2,444 (5)	-58%
Eswatini	66,286 (1,843)	-58%	1,310 (33)	106%
Lesotho	29,756 (1,561)	-40%	671 (6)	NA*
Malawi	76,066 (5,059)	-19%	2,371 (39)	86%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 51	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 51
Mozambique	191,722 (20,220)	83%	2,012 (44)	175%
Namibia	149,478 (3,381)	-49%	3,655 (44)	57%
South Africa	3,472,436 (58,896)	-44%	91,228 (414)	-11%
Zambia	257,948 (24,828)	49%	3,743 (41)	78%
Zimbabwe	214,878 (10,527)	-9%	5,032 (141)	36%
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>742,628 (31,128)</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>10,560 (75)</b>	<b>6%</b>
Benin	24,935 (0)	-100%	161 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	17,632 (592)	NA*	318 (1)	NA*
Cape Verde	42,463 (3,391)	602%	352 (1)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	71,815 (8,423)	562%	718 (11)	1000%
Gambia	10,136 (0)	-100%	342 (0)	NA*
Ghana	145,052 (6,095)	32%	1,303 (23)	109%
Guinea	32,448 (1,210)	185%	688 (4)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	6,484 (18)	80%	149 (0)	NA*
Liberia	6,278 (349)	2585%	287 (0)	NA*
Mali	21,549 (1,470)	90%	668 (14)	-7%
Niger	7,438 (167)	132%	276 (2)	No change
Nigeria	243,450 (5,889)	-57%	3,039 (17)	-54%
Senegal	75,671 (1,259)	450%	1,890 (0)	-100%
Sierra Leone	7,114 (370)	55%	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	30,163 (1,895)	19%	248 (2)	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,774,033 (280,638)</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>229,008 (1,442)</b>	<b>-1%</b>

\*No new cases/deaths reported in the previous week.

## NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

### General:

1. As of 3 January 2022, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 319.9 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 188.7 million people are partially vaccinated, 126.6 million are fully vaccinated, and 4.6 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 9.5% of the continental population is fully vaccinated. Eritrea is the only AU MS yet to start COVID-19 vaccine roll out. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

### Laboratory:

1. Over 89 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate<sup>3</sup> and test per case ratio<sup>4</sup> are 10.9% and 9.1, respectively. For Epi week 52, a total of 1,271,085 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 17% compared to Epi week 51 when 1,528,716 tests were conducted.

### Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Subscribe [here](#) to receive the weekly Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) update and all other products, or visit the [PERC](#) and [Africa CDC websites](#).
2. Access the latest PERC report on “Responding to COVID-19 in Africa: Finding the Balance (Part IV) and Calls to Action” [here](#).

### Recommendations for the Member States

1. AU Member States should continue to enhance their COVID-19<sup>5</sup> surveillance efforts to include:
  - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).<sup>6</sup>
  - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility and/or community-based surveillance.<sup>7</sup>
  - c. Genomic surveillance<sup>8</sup> to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.

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<sup>3</sup> [Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)

<sup>4</sup> WHO set 10-30 tests per every confirmed case as a general benchmark of adequate testing.

<sup>5</sup> [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

<sup>6</sup> Africa CDC Protocol for enhanced surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa: [Protocol for Enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa – Africa CDC](#)

<sup>7</sup> Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC

<sup>8</sup> Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

- d. Community-based surveillance<sup>9</sup> to detect symptomatic cases early for treatment and to avert viral transmission.
2. AU Member States should continue to perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity as well as enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests<sup>10</sup>.
3. All AU Member States should notify and routinely share data with WHO and Africa CDC regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and infected healthcare workers for updated information for action. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: [AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org](mailto:AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org).
4. AU Member States should continue to guide the general public about seeking immediate medical care for those who develop severe symptoms (e.g. difficulty breathing).
5. AU Member States should put in place or strengthen existing public health and social measures if COVID-19 incidence starts to rise.

#### Resources for more information

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Adapted Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/adapted-africa-joint-continental-strategy-for-covid-19-pandemic/>
- Africa CDC Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>
- Africa CDC Hotspot and PHSM Tiers dashboards: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-hotspots/>
- Africa CDC vaccination dashboard: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination/>
- Africa CDC pathogen genomics dashboard: <https://africacdc.org/institutes/africa-pathogen-genomics-initiative/>
- Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) <https://preventepidemics.org/covid19/perc/>
- WHO Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

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<sup>9</sup> [Enhanced COVID-19 Surveillance at the Community Level in Africa](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)