

## Outbreak Brief #105: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

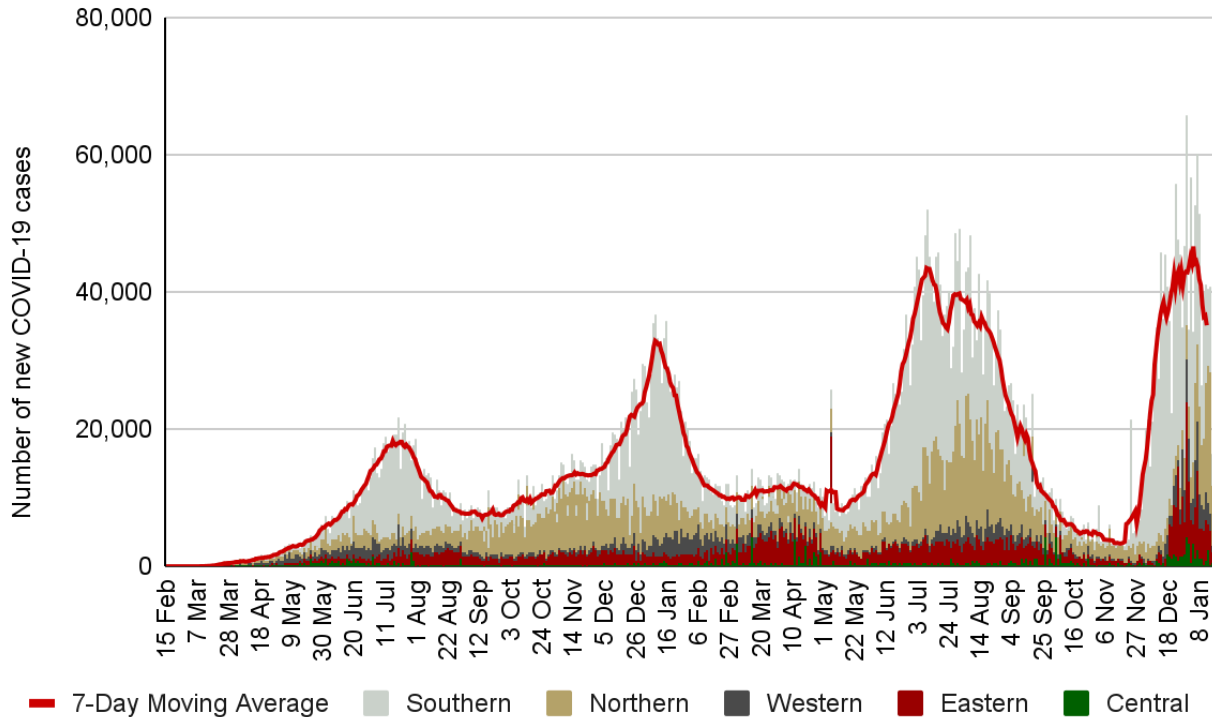
Date of Issue: 18 January 2022

Global case count: 326,233,054 cases and 5,537,312 deaths

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

**Outbreak Update:** As of 17 January 2022, a global total of 326,233,054 COVID-19 cases and 5,537,312 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 1.7%) 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** 15,082,441 (5%), **European Region** 120,007,077 (37%), **Region of the Americas** 119,648,309 (37%), **South-East Asia Region** 47,723,964 (15%) and **Western Pacific Region** 13,280,428 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (5,226,639), France (2,001,038), India (1,672,526), Italy (1,269,976) and Argentina (857,340). 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) 17 January 2022**, a total of **10,354,862** COVID-19 cases and 234,566 deaths (**CFR: 2.3%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 3.2% of all cases and 4.2% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-six (47%) AU MS are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 53 (96%) AU MS have experienced a third wave, 46 (84%) countries have experienced a fourth wave, and eight countries (Algeria, Benin, Congo Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritius, Somalia and Tunisia) 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 17 January 2022. The overall daily number of new cases being reported across the continent is on a downward trend. More information on the 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 - 17 January 2022<sup>1</sup>.**

As of 13 January 2022, 53 AU MS have reported the presence of the Alpha (48 MS), Beta (44), Delta (47), and/or Gamma (6) Variants of Concern (VOC). Thirty-eight MS (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Congo Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, 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 2 (10 - 16 January 2022)**, 246,069 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 21% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 1. The Northern Region accounted for 45% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Southern (30%), Eastern (14%), Western (8%) and Central (3%) regions. The five countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population per day) this week are Seychelles (2,663), Cabo Verde (890), Tunisia (521), Sao Tome and Principe (452) and Botswana (312). This week, 2,759 new deaths were reported, which is a 3% increase in the number of new deaths

<sup>1</sup> The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 17 January 2022.

reported compared to the previous week. **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 2.

**Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths<sup>2</sup> reported in Africa for epidemiological week 2 (10 - 16 January 2022).**

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 1	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 1
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>342,001 (6,936)</b>	<b>-50%</b>	<b>4,355 (115)</b>	<b>67%</b>
Burundi	36,736 (981)	-73%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	111,432 (0)	-100%	1,857 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	13,509 (190)	-77%	109 (3)	NA*
Chad	6,887 (331)	-11%	185 (0)	-100%
Congo	23,244 (1,967)	NA*	371 (2)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	84,197 (1,643)	-30%	1,278 (104)	167%
Equatorial Guinea	15,319 (448)	-61%	178 (1)	-50%
Gabon	45,152 (743)	-58%	297 (2)	-60%
Sao Tome and Principe	5,525 (633)	-35%	66 (3)	-50%
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>1,316,298 (35,959)</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>25,838 (651)</b>	<b>113%</b>
Comoros	7,767 (145)	-80%	159 (1)	NA*
Djibouti	14,900 (723)	59%	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	8,910 (575)	111%	87 (5)	-17%
Ethiopia	457,322 (13,198)	-24%	7,147 (117)	63%
Kenya	317,857 (5,285)	-59%	5,499 (45)	-25%
Madagascar	55,138 (1,726)	-45%	1,169 (52)	-42%

<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 1	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 1
Mauritius	24,903 (639)	-3%	786 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	121,604 (2,988)	-53%	1,390 (17)	-19%
Seychelles	30,364 (1,864)	-50%	141 (7)	NA*
Somalia	24,261 (0)	NA*	1,335 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	16,489 (236)	-77%	136 (0)	-100%
Sudan	51,798 (5,280)	NA*	3,642 (344)	NA*
Tanzania	26,309 (0)	NA*	734 (0)	NA*
Uganda	158,676 (3,300)	-65%	3,424 (63)	15%
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>2,917,751 (110,826)</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>76,174 (530)</b>	<b>22%</b>
Algeria	226,057 (3,900)	30%	6,412 (73)	52%
Egypt	400,076 (7,219)	27%	22,148 (184)	10%
Libya	398,055 (4,072)	10%	5,853 (57)	-17%
Mauritania	54,991 (5,985)	-12%	903 (17)	21%
Morocco	1,048,653 (46,569)	32%	14,976 (65)	16%
Tunisia	788,012 (43,045)	166%	25,803 (133)	62%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,907 (36)	NA*	79 (1)	NA*
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>4,968,683 (73,406)</b>	<b>-44%</b>	<b>117,312 (1,318)</b>	<b>-25%</b>
Angola	93,694 (3,976)	-42%	1,863 (37)	-31%
Botswana	237,678 (5,246)	-49%	2,514 (17)	-62%
Eswatini	67,849 (555)	-45%	1,363 (27)	4%
Lesotho	31,844 (472)	-66%	687 (1)	-92%
Malawi	82,719 (2,732)	-30%	2,466 (53)	26%
Mozambique	219,081 (8,682)	-54%	2,127 (42)	-42%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 1	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 1
Namibia	154,378 (1,552)	-54%	3,821 (95)	34%
South Africa	3,559,230 (33,176)	-38%	93,364 (911)	-26%
Zambia	296,132 (13,228)	-47%	3,860 (48)	-30%
Zimbabwe	226,078 (3,787)	-49%	5,247 (87)	-32%
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>807,350 (18,942)</b>	<b>-52%</b>	<b>10,862 (145)</b>	<b>10%</b>
Benin	26,036 (514)	-12%	162 (1)	NA*
Burkina Faso	20,195 (559)	-44%	339 (6)	NA*
Cape Verde	53,987 (3,737)	-52%	372 (11)	22%
Côte d'Ivoire	79,088 (1,639)	-71%	753 (18)	6%
Gambia	11,122 (0)	-100%	344 (0)	-100%
Ghana	153,514 (508)	-90%	1,343 (7)	-70%
Guinea	35,602 (750)	-58%	730 (28)	100%
Guinea-Bissau	7,034 (321)	50%	152 (3)	NA*
Liberia	7,121 (270)	-40%	287 (0)	NA*
Mali	28,585 (2,850)	-32%	691 (16)	129%
Niger	8,386 (380)	-33%	292 (12)	200%
Nigeria	250,929 (2,617)	-46%	3,103 (26)	-32%
Senegal	82,272 (2,982)	-18%	1,908 (9)	No change
Sierra Leone	7,529 (81)	-76%	125 (1)	-67%
Togo	35,950 (1,734)	-39%	261 (7)	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,352,083 (246,069)</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>234,541 (2,759)</b>	<b>3%</b>

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

## New Africa CDC Response Activities

### General:

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC hosted the Africa CDC weekly press briefing on Thursday 13 January 2022 at 12 p.m. EAT. He provided an update on the COVID-19 situation across the continent, including response efforts and updates on the progress of vaccinations across the continent. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Facebook page](#).
2. As of 17 January 2022, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 347.3 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 203.3 million people are partially vaccinated, 137.4 million are fully vaccinated, and 6.5 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 10.3% 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 92.5 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 11.2% and 9, respectively. For Epi week 2, a total of 1,412,184 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 14% compared to Epi week 1 when 1,636,430 tests were conducted.
2. As part of its Pathogen Genomics Institute (PGI) webinar series, Africa CDC will hold a webinar on Pathogen Genomics in Africa titled “Expanding Pathogen Genomics Capacity in Africa: Lessons from ACEGID” on 19 January 2022 at 2 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).

### 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>

<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](#)

- 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.
  - 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-hotspot-and-phsm-tiers-dashboards/>
- Africa CDC vaccination dashboard: <https://africacdc.org/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>

<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

<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](#)