

Outbreak Brief #106: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 25 January 2022

Global case count: 349,597,580 cases and 5,593,012 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 24 January 2022, a global total of 349,597,580 COVID-19 cases and 5,593,012 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 1.6%) have been reported by 227 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** 15,436,751 (4%), **European Region** 131,002,165 (37%), **Region of the Americas** 127,975,395 (37%), **South-East Asia Region** 50,112,782 (14%) and **Western Pacific Region** 14,309,310 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (4,633,796), France (2,467,016), India (2,163,075), Italy (1,216,763) and Brazil (933,452). 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) 24 January 2022, a total of **10,591,594** COVID-19 cases and 237,007 deaths (**CFR: 2.2%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 3% of all cases and 4.2% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-eight (51%) 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 24 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](#).

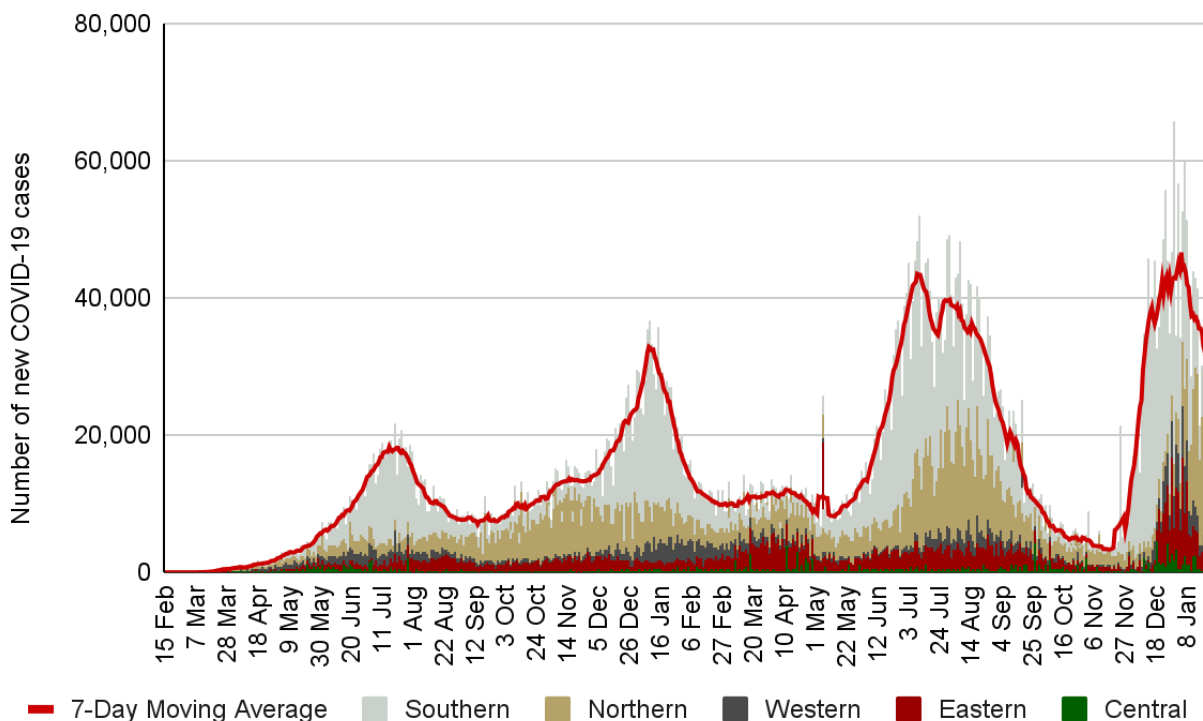


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 24 January 2022¹.

As of 24 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-nine 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, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, 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 3 (17 - 23 January 2022), 224,648 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 13% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 2. The Northern Region accounted for 64% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Southern (19%), Eastern (12%), Western (4%) and Central (1%) regions. The five countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population per day) this week are Seychelles (5,719), Tunisia (750), Botswana (358), Cabo Verde (263), and Sao Tome and Principe (208). This week, 2,290 new deaths were reported, which is a 19% decrease in the number of new deaths

¹ The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 24 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 3.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths² reported in Africa for epidemiological week 3 (17 - 23 January 2022).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 2	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 2
Central Region	347,176 (1,623)	-85%	4,376 (9)	-93%
Burundi	37,042 (257)	-75%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	114,113 (0)	-100%	1,867 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	13,840 (86)	-80%	109 (0)	-100%
Chad	6,887 (0)	-100%	190 (5)	NA*
Congo	23,244 (0)	-100%	371 (0)	-100%
Democratic Republic of Congo	84,635 (353)	-80%	1,278 (0)	-100%
Equatorial Guinea	15,690 (132)	-81%	179 (1)	No change
Gabon	45,909 (504)	-49%	300 (1)	-75%
Sao Tome and Principe	5,816 (291)	-54%	68 (2)	-33%
Eastern Region	1,342,878 (26,580)	-26%	26,119 (286)	-56%
Comoros	7,811 (44)	-70%	159 (0)	-100%
Djibouti	15,311 (411)	-43%	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,332 (422)	-27%	95 (8)	60%
Ethiopia	462,107 (4,785)	-64%	7,244 (97)	-17%
Kenya	320,229 (2,372)	-55%	5,554 (55)	22%
Madagascar	55,827 (689)	-60%	1,169 (0)	-100%
Mauritius	25,381 (478)	-25%	786 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	123,424 (1,820)	-39%	1,406 (16)	-6%
Seychelles	34,367 (4,003)	115%	143 (7)	250%

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

Somalia	24,261 (0)	NA*	1,335 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	16,715 (226)	-4%	137 (1)	NA*
Sudan	55,148 (3,350)	-37%	3,666 (24)	-93%
Tanzania	32,393 (6,084)	NA*	753 (19)	NA*
Uganda	160,572 (1,896)	-43%	3,483 (59)	-6%
Northern Region	3,066,135 (144,479)	26%	76,925 (737)	35%
Algeria	236,670 (10,613)	172%	6,495 (83)	14%
Egypt	410,098 (10,022)	39%	22,368 (220)	20%
Libya	407,758 (9,703)	138%	5,936 (83)	46%
Mauritania	57,384 (2,393)	-60%	927 (24)	41%
Morocco	1,098,413 (49,760)	7%	15,132 (156)	140%
Tunisia	853,905 (61,988)	32%	25,988 (171)	16%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,907 (0)	-100%	79 (0)	-100%
Southern Region	5,014,648 (43,594)	-42%	118,447 (1,112)	-17%
Angola	95,676 (1,982)	-50%	1,884 (21)	-43%
Botswana	245,904 (6,017)	-19%	2,544 (10)	-73%
Eswatini	68,081 (232)	-58%	1,369 (6)	-78%
Lesotho	32,070 (222)	-53%	690 (2)	No change
Malawi	83,823 (1,104)	-60%	2,523 (57)	8%
Mozambique	222,596 (3,515)	-60%	2,157 (30)	-29%
Namibia	155,255 (719)	-58%	3,914 (91)	-6%
South Africa	3,581,359 (22,129)	-33%	94,177 (813)	-11%
Zambia	301,630 (5,498)	-58%	3,895 (35)	-27%
Zimbabwe	228,254 (2,176)	-43%	5,294 (47)	-46%
Western Region	818,607 (8,372)	-61%	11,032 (146)	-12%
Benin	26,368 (332)	-35%	162 (0)	-100%
Burkina Faso	20,514 (265)	-57%	353 (14)	133%
Cape Verde	55,306 (1,106)	-72%	389 (17)	55%
Côte d'Ivoire	80,176 (1,088)	-34%	799 (46)	156%
Gambia	11,572 (0)	NA*	347 (0)	NA*
Ghana	155,665 (423)	-81%	1,370 (6)	-79%

Guinea	35,908 (306)	-59%	730 (0)	-100%
Guinea-Bissau	7,284 (250)	-22%	153 (1)	-67%
Liberia	7,208 (87)	-68%	288 (1)	NA*
Mali	29,677 (1,092)	-62%	705 (14)	-13%
Niger	8,544 (158)	-58%	296 (4)	-67%
Nigeria	252,187 (1,258)	-52%	3,124 (21)	-19%
Senegal	84,295 (1,583)	-54%	1,925 (17)	89%
Sierra Leone	7,590 (61)	-25%	125 (0)	-100%
Togo	36,313 (363)	-79%	266 (5)	-29%
Total	10,589,444 (224,648)	-13%	236,899 (2,290)	-19%

*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 20 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. Africa CDC's Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) Initiative is supporting the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Cameroon by setting up COVID-19 screening, testing, and vaccination facilities for fans to ensure a safe tournament.
3. Africa CDC, during its Africa Taskforce for Coronavirus (AFTCOR) meeting will hold a Medical Scientific Exchange with Johnson & Johnson titled "Overview of Latest Clinical & Scientific Data – J & J COVID-19 Vaccine" on 25 January 2022 at 4 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).
4. Africa CDC will hold a Medical Scientific Presentation by Moderna titled "Overview of Latest Clinical Data – Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Program" on 3 February 2022, at 12 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).
5. As of 24 January 2022, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 363.2 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 212.1 million people are partially vaccinated, 143.7 million are fully vaccinated, and 7.2 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 10.7% 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 94 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate³ and test per case ratio⁴ are 11.3% and 8.9, respectively. For Epi week 3, a total of 1,380,216 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 7% compared to Epi week 2 when 1,484,901 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC in collaboration with Global Health Systems Solutions (GHSS) is conducting a step-down training on antigen testing in Banjul, The Gambia for 90 participants from 24 January - 2 February 2022.

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-19⁵ surveillance efforts to include:
 - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).⁶
 - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility and/or community-based surveillance.⁷
 - c. Genomic surveillance⁸ to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
 - d. Community-based surveillance⁹ 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 tests¹⁰.
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

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

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

⁵ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

⁶ 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](#)

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

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

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

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

infected healthcare workers for updated information for action. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: 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://africadccovid.org/>
- 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>