

Outbreak Brief #109: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 15 February 2022

Global count: 410,522,545 cases and 5,811,307 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 14 February 2022, a global total of 410,522,545 COVID-19 cases and 5,811,307 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 1.4%) 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** 17,277,590 (4%), **European Region** 165,259,813 (40%), **Region of the Americas** 143,190,545 (35%), **South-East Asia Region** 54,369,299 (13%) and **Western Pacific Region** 19,090,038 (5%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are Russia (1,331,942), Germany (1,303,2690), the United States (1,164,098), Brazil (952,470) and France (910,301). 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) 14 February 2022, a total of 11,041,901 COVID-19 cases and 244,446 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. Thirty-four (60%) 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, 47 (72%) countries have experienced a fourth wave, and nine countries (Algeria, Benin, Congo Republic, Egypt, 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 14 February 2022. Despite a test positivity rate of 11.3%, the overall daily reported number of new cases 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](#).

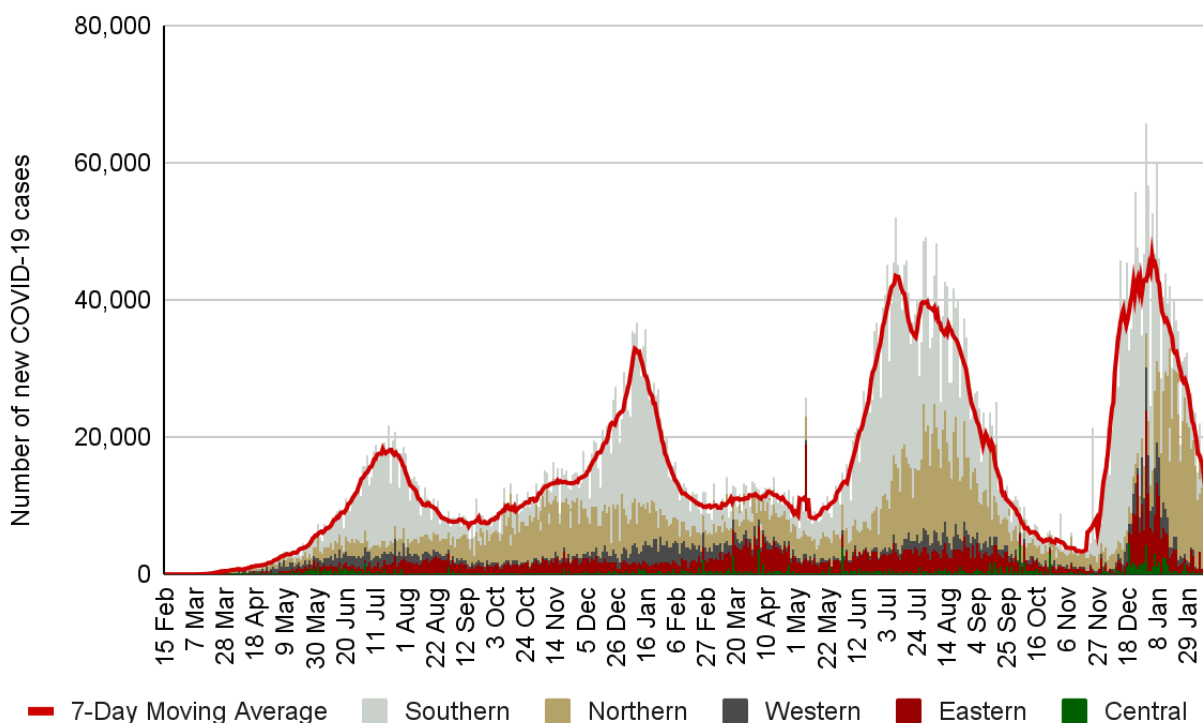


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 14 February 2022¹.

As of 14 February 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). Forty MS (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, 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 6 (7 February - 13 February 2022), 99,488 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 32% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 5. The Northern Region accounted for 68% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Southern (26%), Eastern (4%), Western (1%) and Central (1%) regions. The highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population per day) was reported from Libya (417), Tunisia (261), Botswana (198) and Mauritius (157). This week, 2,572 new deaths were reported, which is a 6% increase in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. **Table 1**

¹ The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 14 February 2022.

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 6.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths² reported in Africa for epidemiological week 6 (7 - 13 February 2022).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 5	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 5
Central Region	356,885 (505)	-77%	4,479 (4)	-92%
Burundi	37,902 (146)	-49%	15 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	118,675 (0)	-100%	1,915 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	14,187 (23)	-57%	113 (0)	-100%
Chad	7,223 (9)	-85%	190 (0)	NA*
Congo	23,860 (155)	198%	375 (4)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	85,833 (91)	-57%	1,316 (0)	-100%
Equatorial Guinea	15,859 (9)	-81%	182 (0)	NA*
Gabon	47,426 (64)	-85%	302 (0)	-100%
Sao Tome and Principe	5,920 (8)	-70%	71 (0)	-100%
Eastern Region	1,375,974 (4,195)	-72%	26,914 (161)	-43%
Comoros	8,005 (41)	-69%	160 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	15,534 (10)	-86%	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,668 (31)	-72%	103 (3)	50%
Ethiopia	467,498 (959)	-40%	7,424 (61)	91%
Kenya	322,473 (377)	-47%	5,631 (10)	-74%
Madagascar	62,844 (0)	-100%	1,335 (0)	-100%
Mauritius	28,292 (1,427)	34%	786 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	124,561 (157)	-27%	1,450 (9)	200%
Seychelles	38,120 (0)	-100%	157 (0)	-100%
Somalia	26,260 (193)	-89%	1,345 (10)	NA*

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

South Sudan	16,897 (46)	-19%	137 (0)	NA*
Sudan	59,631 (507)	-87%	3,831 (55)	-50%
Tanzania	33,436 (0)	NA*	792 (0)	NA*
Uganda	162,755 (447)	-17%	3,574 (13)	-61%
Northern Region	3,371,172 (67,862)	-30%	80,143 (1,150)	5%
Algeria	260,723 (3,125)	-54%	6,703 (63)	-15%
Egypt	454,592 (14,941)	-6%	23,349 (413)	24%
Libya	473,114 (20,164)	-13%	6,135 (55)	-13%
Mauritania	58,569 (111)	-57%	972 (5)	-64%
Morocco	1,155,165 (7,922)	-45%	15,781 (188)	-3%
Tunisia	967,052 (21,599)	-39%	27,119 (426)	1%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,957 (0)	NA*	84 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	5,109,493 (25,787)	-13%	121,664 (1,239)	35%
Angola	98,541 (177)	-39%	1,898 (2)	100%
Botswana	260,491 (3,324)	-20%	2,603 (10)	-17%
Eswatini	68,795 (242)	15%	1,383 (5)	67%
Lesotho	32,434 (70)	-39%	696 (1)	-50%
Malawi	85,025 (230)	-39%	2,596 (26)	117%
Mozambique	224,703 (364)	-31%	2,189 (6)	-54%
Namibia	156,810 (367)	-33%	3,995 (15)	15%
South Africa	3,641,811 (17,849)	-11%	96,993 (1,158)	42%
Zambia	309,502 (2,185)	-9%	3,937 (4)	-78%
Zimbabwe	231,381 (979)	-1%	5,374 (12)	-59%
Western Region	828,256 (1,139)	-58%	11,245 (18)	-75%
Benin	26,552 (54)	13%	163 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	20,721 (36)	No change	375 (0)	-100%
Cape Verde	55,840 (38)	-64%	400 (2)	No change
Côte d'Ivoire	81,118 (198)	-12%	789 (3)	50%
Gambia	11,911 (0)	-100%	365 (0)	-100%
Ghana	157,862 (0)	-100%	1,423 (0)	-100%
Guinea	36,329 (59)	-43%	763 (0)	-100%

Guinea-Bissau	7,849 (77)	-59%	164 (6)	200%
Liberia	7,358 (12)	-84%	290 (0)	NA*
Mali	30,265 (53)	-68%	716 (1)	-75%
Niger	8,711 (25)	-32%	303 (1)	-75%
Nigeria	254,016 (295)	-57%	3,141 (2)	-50%
Senegal	85,412 (206)	-24%	1,957 (1)	-92%
Sierra Leone	7,652 (24)	380%	125 (0)	NA*
Togo	36,660 (62)	-42%	271 (2)	100%
Total	11,041,780 (99,488)	-32%	244,445 (2,572)	6%

*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 10 February 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 on vaccination uptake. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Africa CDC's Southern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre (SA-RCC) commemorated Africa CDC's 5th Anniversary with the title "History and Five Years Journey" on Friday, February 11, 2022, at 2 p.m. EAT. The guest speakers - Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, Deputy Director of Africa CDC, Sylvia T. Masebo, Honorable Minister of Health, Zambia and Ms. Tsakani Furumele, Chairperson, SA-RCC Regional Technical Advisory Committee discussed Africa CDC's outbreak response, operationalization, reflections on regional accomplishments, priorities and next steps. Recording [here](#)
3. As of 13 February 2022, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 411.2 million doses have been administered. Of the doses administered, 231.4 million people are partially vaccinated, 169.1 million have been fully vaccinated, and 10.6 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 12.6% 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 97.3 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 8.8, respectively. For Epi week 6, a total of 959,187 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 13% compared to Epi week 5 when 1,103,261 tests were conducted.
2. As part of its PGI webinar series, Africa CDC will hold a webinar on Pathogen Genomics in Africa titled “Genomic surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance in Nigeria” on 16 February 2022 at 2 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) and WHO AFRO held the first session of the 11th IPC webinar series titled “IPC measures and lessons learned from COVID-19” on 9 February 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for 425 participants in English and Thursday 10 February 2022 at 11 a.m. EAT for 117 participants in French.
 - a. English session recording: https://youtu.be/MEs_Qxa6niY
 - b. French session recording: https://youtu.be/d_PVL4GIS1w
2. The second session of the 11th IPC webinar series titled “Improving knowledge of healthcare workers in building confidence and influencing the decision of the patients” will be held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session and on Thursday 17 February 2022 at 2 p.m. for the French session.
 - a. English webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0goayBUjT06Cl14Jui-u7w
 - b. French webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_05T4ZY9rQviu9o4T5b1heQ

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

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](#)

- 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 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.
 6. AU Member States should continue to organize and implement COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, with a focus on increasing demand and addressing misinformation and false rumors.

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://africacdccovid.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>

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](#)