

Outbreak Brief #112: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 8 March 2022

Global count: 444,958,015 cases and 5,997,663 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 7 March 2022, a global total of 444,958,015 COVID-19 cases and 5,997,663 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 regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: **Eastern Mediterranean Region** 18,062,037 (4%), **European Region** 183,021,306 (41%), **Region of the Americas** 148,106,582 (33%), **South-East Asia Region** 56,169,589 (13%) and **Western Pacific Region** 28,026,880 (6%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are Republic of Korea (1,532,521), Germany (1,124,310), Vietnam (1,113,695), Russia (616,782) and Japan (438,913). 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) 7 March 2022, a total of **11,232,756** COVID-19 cases and **249,686** deaths (CFR: **2.2%**) have been reported by the 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 detection of COVID-19 on the African continent in February 2020, 53 (96%) AU MS have experienced three COVID-19 waves, 47 (72%) countries have experienced four waves, and nine countries (Algeria, Benin, Congo Republic, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritius, Somalia and Tunisia) have experienced five waves. **Figure 1** shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by the AU region from 15 February 2020 to 7 March 2022. Despite a test positivity rate of 11.2%, 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](#).

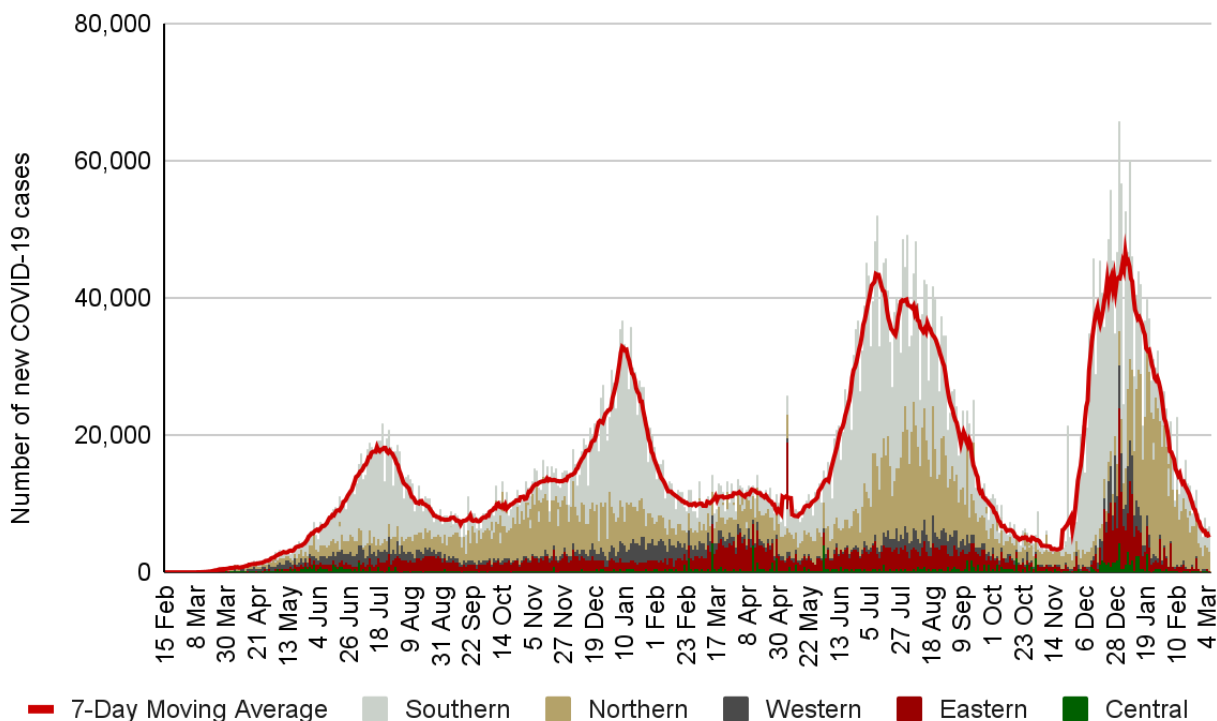


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 7 March 2022¹.

As of 7 March 2022, 53 AU MS have reported the presence of the Alpha (48 MS), Beta (44), Delta (50), Gamma (6), and/or Omicron (43) Variants of Concern (VOC).

The Pathogen Genomics Initiative Dashboard provides a breakdown of variants 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 9 (28 February - 6 March 2022), 44,140 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 25% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 8. The Northern Region accounted for 50% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Southern (40%), Eastern (8%), Western (1%) and Central (1%) regions. The highest number of daily COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population was reported from Seychelles (317), Mauritius (240), Tunisia (97) and Libya (83). This week, 639 new deaths were reported, which is a 62% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 67% of these deaths were reported from the Northern Region, followed by the Southern (25%), Eastern (6%), Western (1%), and Central (1%).

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 9.

¹ The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 7 March 2022.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths² reported in Africa for epidemiological week 9 (28 February - 6 March 2022).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 8	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 8
Central Region	358,799 (392)	-41%	4,515 (5)	-17%
Burundi	38,209 (75)	-35%	15 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	119,322 (82)	-38%	1,926 (3)	No change
Central African Republic	14,320 (0)	-100%	113 (0)	NA*
Chad	7,257 (9)	350%	190 (0)	NA*
Congo	24,020 (53)	-43%	378 (1)	-50%
Democratic Republic of Congo	86,289 (151)	8%	1,335 (0)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	15,889 (5)	-64%	183 (1)	NA*
Gabon	47,559 (16)	-73%	303 (0)	NA*
Sao Tome and Principe	5,934 (1)	-88%	72 (0)	-100%
Eastern Region	1,388,356 (3,458)	-9%	27,134 (42)	-64%
Comoros	8,048 (15)	25%	160 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	15,550 (3)	-40%	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,715 (15)	36%	103 (0)	NA*
Ethiopia	468,966 (292)	-11%	7,476 (16)	-27%
Kenya	323,094 (164)	-28%	5,641 (2)	100%
Madagascar	63,791 (132)	NA*	1,373 (7)	NA*
Mauritius	33,045 (2,187)	142%	786 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	124,819 (60)	-49%	1,459 (2)	No change
Seychelles	39,403 (222)	-47%	163 (3)	200%

² 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 8	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 8
Somalia	26,400 (87)	64%	1,348 (0)	-100%
South Sudan	17,015 (42)	-40%	137 (0)	NA*
Sudan	61,488 (112)	-92%	3,909 (8)	-90%
Tanzania	33,620 (0)	NA*	798 (0)	NA*
Uganda	163,402 (127)	-38%	3,592 (4)	-50%
Northern Region	3,482,741 (21,876)	-34%	82,384 (428)	-43%
Algeria	265,263 (410)	-51%	6,855 (24)	-45%
Egypt	490,969 (8,721)	-32%	24,197 (157)	-45%
Libya	498,453 (4,007)	-48%	6,308 (47)	-22%
Mauritania	58,649 (17)	-19%	980 (1)	-67%
Morocco	1,161,646 (671)	-71%	16,017 (29)	-69%
Tunisia	1,005,804 (8,050)	-15%	27,943 (170)	-35%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,957 (0)	NA*	84 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	5,170,038 (17,286)	-12%	124,337 (158)	-80%
Angola	98,806 (65)	-22%	1,900 (0)	-100%
Botswana	263,950 (0)	-100%	2,619 (0)	-100%
Eswatini	69,298 (173)	18%	1,391 (1)	-50%
Lesotho	32,716 (15)	-85%	697 (0)	-100%
Malawi	85,429 (115)	21%	2,619 (4)	-56%
Mozambique	225,140 (102)	-24%	2,196 (4)	33%
Namibia	157,350 (140)	-20%	4,014 (7)	40%
South Africa	3,684,319 (12,328)	-8%	99,543 (131)	-82%
Zambia	313,821 (1,114)	-26%	3,959 (7)	-22%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 8	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 8
Zimbabwe	239,209 (3,234)	23%	5,399 (4)	-56%
Western Region	832,722 (442)	-73%	11,315 (6)	-82%
Benin	26,575 (8)	NA*	163 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	20,796 (6)	-74%	378 (0)	-100%
Cape Verde	55,895 (9)	-61%	401 (0)	-100%
Côte d'Ivoire	81,556 (78)	-30%	795 (2)	No change
Gambia	11,956 (17)	13%	365 (0)	NA*
Ghana	160,028 (0)	-100%	1,442 (0)	NA*
Guinea	36,429 (15)	-29%	778 (0)	-100%
Guinea-Bissau	8,033 (32)	-66%	167 (0)	-100%
Liberia	7,384 (0)	-100%	294 (0)	-100%
Mali	30,398 (20)	-47%	725 (3)	50%
Niger	8,766 (15)	15%	307 (0)	-100%
Nigeria	254,657 (132)	-43%	3,142 (0)	NA*
Senegal	85,757 (81)	-28%	1,961 (1)	-50%
Sierra Leone	7,665 (0)	-100%	125 (0)	NA*
Togo	36,827 (29)	-43%	272 (0)	-100%
Total	11,232,656 (43,454)	-26%	249,685 (639)	-62%

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

New Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director, Africa CDC and Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, Deputy Director, Africa CDC joined the African Society of Cambridge University "Africa Over Coffee" webinar on 4 March 2022 at 4 p.m. EAT. They discussed the efforts, challenges, and opportunities in strengthening the capacity of Africa's public health institutions, using COVID-19 as a case study.
2. Africa CDC held its first Public Health Grand Rounds for 2022 titled "Omicron and other variants of concern - where are we now?" on 1 March 2022 at 3 p.m. EAT. The recording is available [here](#) (Access Passcode: 97Jr?T8#).
3. As of 7 March 2022, 54 (98%) of the 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 426.5 million doses have been administered. Of the doses administered, 241.7 million people have been partially vaccinated, 171 million have been fully vaccinated, and 13.8 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 13.7% 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 100.3 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate³ and test per case ratio⁴ are 11.2% and 8.9, respectively. For Epi week 9, a total of 999,183 new tests were conducted, an increase of 11% compared to Epi week 8 when 902,042 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC and partners released a new Guidance on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen self-testing to African Union Member States, to complement the existing facility-based testing protocols and improve access to SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic testing, on 1 March 2022. Download [here](#).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. The fourth session of the 11th IPC webinar series titled "Two years into the pandemic: PPE shortage, an unending challenge?" was held on Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for 533 participants in English and on Thursday 3 March 2022 at 2 p.m. for 181 participants in French.
 - a. English session recording: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/VO38ic7qIWedD9eQnBrJfQDpH1PnpTFLtG6g3egkufh9rwAk7G-T9j5sNM8eHxWp.jZYfn3bU6DcUHTGN>
 - b. French session recording: https://zoom.us/rec/share/Wn_anwObFLMGx5N-j7yQdror2jaYir1HswRVyG-Fd_3ZQshXTS5N31y53Pnwn3Cg.b5TtfwdmMHP8gl7J
2. The fifth session of the 11th IPC webinar series titled "IPC programme in schools and non-healthcare settings: Strengthening IPC in communities" will be held on

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.

Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session and on Thursday 10 March 2022 at 2 p.m. for the French session.

- a. English webinar link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OgoayBUjT06Cl14Jui-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
 - b. Rapid mortality surveillance that focuses on collection, analysis and use of all-cause mortality data captured from facility and/or community-based surveillance activities.⁷
 - c. Genomic surveillance⁸ to monitor the presence of variants and the spread and continuous evolution of the virus.
 - d. Community-based surveillance⁹ to detect symptomatic cases early for treatment and to minimize viral transmission.
2. AU Member States should continue to perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity. When possible, enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests¹⁰.
3. All AU Member States should notify and routinely share data with Africa CDC and WHO on confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and infected healthcare workers to support data 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 [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](#)

5. 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.
6. 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://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>