

Outbreak Brief #116: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 5 April 2022

Global count: 489,603,022 cases and 6,151,510 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 4 April 2022, a total of 489,603,022 COVID-19 cases and 6,151,510 deaths (case fatality ratio [CFR]: 1.3%) have been reported globally by 227 countries and territories to the World Health Organization (WHO). The distribution of cumulative cases (percentage of global cases) from the WHO regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: **Eastern Mediterranean Region** 18,281,515 (4%), **European Region** 204,071,645 (42%), **Region of the Americas** 150,921,301 (31%), **South-East Asia Region** 57,223,740 (12%) and **Western Pacific Region** 47,381,046 (10%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are Republic of Korea (1,998,532), Germany (1,344,898), France (951,176), Vietnam (806,855), and Italy (481,092). 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) 4 April 2022, a total of **11,349,939** COVID-19 cases and **251,371** deaths (CFR: **2.2%**) have been reported by the 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 2.4% of all cases and 4.1% of all deaths reported globally. Thirty-five (64%) 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 have experienced five waves. One country (Mauritius) has experienced a sixth wave. **Figure 1** shows the number of new COVID-19 cases reported by the AU MS from 15 February 2020 to 4 April 2022. The daily reported number of new cases across the continent is starting to trend upward. More than 595,000 tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting a 30% decrease in the number of tests compared to the previous week. More information on the COVID-19 situation in Africa is available on the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).

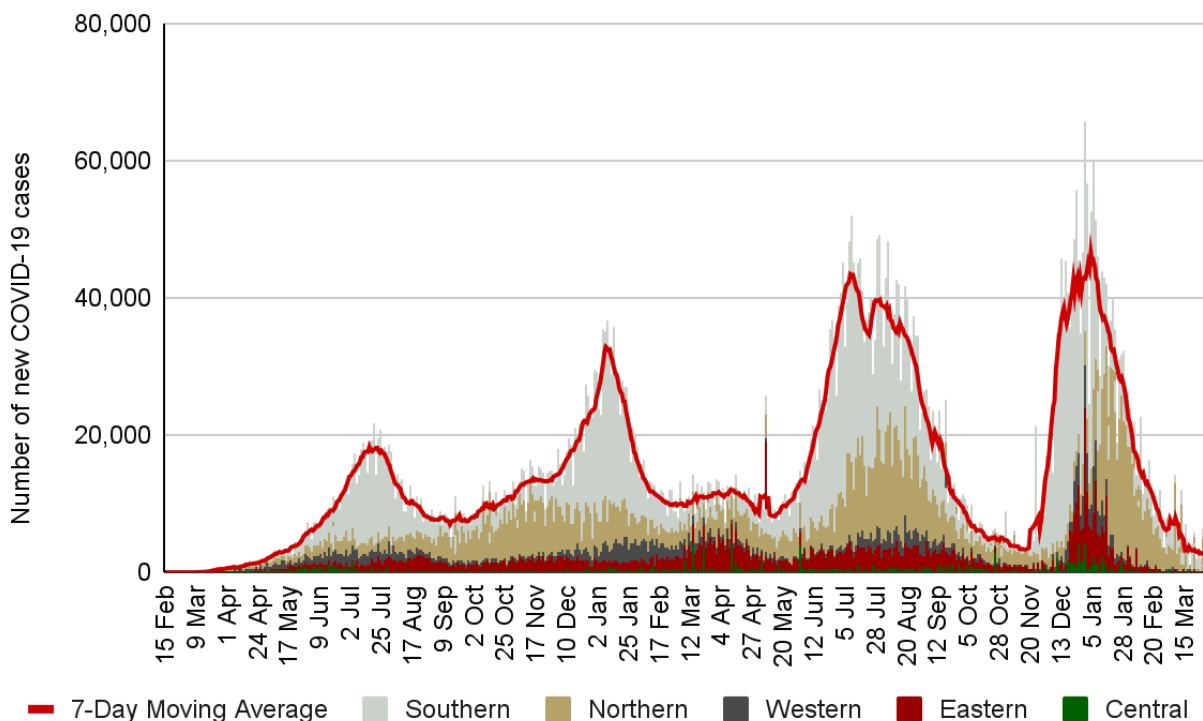


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 4 April 2022¹.

As of 31 March 2022, 53 AU MS have reported the presence of the Alpha (48 MS), Beta (45), Delta (50), Gamma (6), Omicron (46) variants of concern (VOC). Additionally, 16 MS are reporting the presence of the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant.

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 13 (28 March - 3 April 2022), 23,036 new COVID-19 cases were reported, reflecting an 11% increase in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 12. The Southern Region accounted for 52% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Northern (40%), Eastern (5%), Western (2%) and Central (1%) regions. Seychelles (303) and Mauritius (129) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS, followed by Tunisia (26), South Africa (24) and Eswatini (21). This week, 415 new deaths were reported, which is a 100% increase in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 73% of these deaths were reported from the Northern Region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Southern (21%), Eastern (4%), Western (1%) and Central (1%) regions.

¹ The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 4 April 2022.

Table 1 summarizes the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths totals reported by MS and AU region in Africa, and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 13.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths² reported in Africa for epidemiological week 13 (28 March - 3 April 2022).

| Country by AU Region | Cumulative number of cases (new cases) | % change in new cases since week 12 | Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths) | % change in new deaths since week 12 |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Central Region | 360,247 (300) | -4% | 4,527 (1) | -80% |
| Burundi | 38,575 (85) | -28% | 15 (0) | NA* |
| Cameroon | 119,544 (0) | NA* | 1,927 (0) | NA* |
| Central African Republic | 14,344 (0) | NA* | 113 (0) | NA* |
| Chad | 7,310 (2) | -91% | 191 (0) | -100% |
| Congo | 24,071 (9) | 200% | 385 (1) | No change |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 86,872 (105) | -33% | 1,337 (0) | -100% |
| Equatorial Guinea | 16,000 (97) | 2325% | 183 (0) | NA* |
| Gabon | 47,586 (2) | -33% | 303 (0) | NA* |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 5,945 (0) | -100% | 73 (0) | -100% |
| Eastern Region | 1,395,870 (1,161) | -40% | 27,321 (20) | 186% |
| Comoros | 8,093 (10) | 67% | 160 (0) | NA* |
| Djibouti | 15,590 (10) | 43% | 189 (0) | NA* |
| Eritrea | 9,728 (2) | -33% | 103 (0) | NA* |
| Ethiopia | 469,819 (198) | 19% | 7,504 (12) | 300% |
| Kenya | 323,454 (80) | -6% | 5,648 (1) | NA* |
| Madagascar | 63,970 (42) | -28% | 1,387 (7) | 133% |
| Mauritius | 36,481 (261) | -71% | 904 (0) | NA* |
| Rwanda | 124,964 (18) | -61% | 1,459 (0) | NA* |

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 12 | Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths) | % change in new deaths since week 12 |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Seychelles | 40,421 (212) | -53% | 164 (0) | -100% |
| Somalia | 26,410 (0) | NA* | 1,361 (0) | NA* |
| South Sudan | 17,278 (56) | -34% | 138 (0) | NA* |
| Sudan | 61,929 (205) | NA* | 3,909 (0) | NA* |
| Tanzania | 33,797 (0) | -100% | 800 (0) | NA* |
| Uganda | 163,936 (67) | -34% | 3,595 (0) | NA* |
| Northern Region | 3,536,543 (9,179) | 19% | 83,219 (302) | 228% |
| Algeria | 265,562 (0) | -100% | 6,872 (0) | -100% |
| Egypt | 509,177 (8,288) | 75% | 24,473 (112) | 56% |
| Libya | 501,738 (179) | -66% | 6,419 (27) | 80% |
| Mauritania | 58,670 (4) | No change | 982 (1) | NA* |
| Morocco | 1,163,472 (708) | 165% | 16,060 (4) | No change |
| Tunisia | 1,035,884 (0) | -100% | 28,323 (158) | NA* |
| Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic | 2,040 (0) | NA* | 90 (0) | NA* |
| Southern Region | 5,220,648 (11,926) | 15% | 124,969 (89) | -13% |
| Angola | 99,194 (79) | -21% | 1,900 (0) | NA* |
| Botswana | 263,950 (0) | NA* | 2,676 (0) | NA* |
| Eswatini | 69,851 (187) | 67% | 1,394 (1) | No change |
| Lesotho | 32,910 (14) | -13% | 697 (0) | NA* |
| Malawi | 85,664 (54) | 10% | 2,626 (0) | NA* |
| Mozambique | 225,266 (27) | -7% | 2,200 (0) | NA* |
| Namibia | 157,646 (31) | -66% | 4,019 (0) | -100% |
| South Africa | 3,722,954 (10,691) | 33% | 100,050 (85) | 1% |

| Country by AU Region | Cumulative number of cases (new cases) | % change in new cases since week 12 | Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths) | % change in new deaths since week 12 |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Zambia | 317,031 (481) | -27% | 3,967 (1) | -67% |
| Zimbabwe | 246,182 (362) | -72% | 5,440 (2) | -82% |
| Western Region | 835,865 (470) | -1% | 11,333 (3) | 50% |
| Benin | 26,952 (0) | NA* | 163 (0) | NA* |
| Burkina Faso | 20,858 (36) | 300% | 381 (0) | -100% |
| Cape Verde | 55,960 (11) | -50% | 401 (0) | NA* |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 81,761 (48) | -4% | 796 (0) | NA* |
| Gambia | 11,988 (2) | -75% | 365 (0) | NA* |
| Ghana | 160,971 (46) | -16% | 1,445 (0) | NA* |
| Guinea | 36,512 (20) | 25% | 778 (0) | NA* |
| Guinea-Bissau | 8,151 (20) | 11% | 170 (1) | NA* |
| Liberia | 7,400 (3) | NA* | 294 (0) | NA* |
| Mali | 30,495 (23) | 21% | 728 (1) | NA* |
| Niger | 8,811 (10) | 43% | 308 (0) | NA* |
| Nigeria | 255,468 (172) | -11% | 3,142 (0) | NA* |
| Senegal | 85,919 (51) | 24% | 1,965 (1) | NA* |
| Sierra Leone | 7,674 (0) | NA* | 125 (0) | NA* |
| Togo | 36,945 (28) | -20% | 272 (0) | NA* |
| Total | 11,349,173 (23,036) | 11% | 251,369 (415) | 100% |

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

New Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. The African Union, acting through Africa CDC, and the Commonwealth of Australia announced a collaboration on interoperability of digital COVID-19 vaccine certificates. More information is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Africa CDC and partners held a webinar titled “Global Call to Action: End the COVID-19 Crisis and Prevent the Next Pandemic” on 29 March 2022 at 3 p.m. EAT. Watch [here](#).
3. As of 5 April 2022, 54 (98%) of the 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 505.3 million doses have been administered. Of the doses administered, 276.2 million people have been partially vaccinated, 211.3 million have been fully vaccinated, and 17.7 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 15.8% 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 103.3 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate³ and test per case ratio⁴ are 11% and 9.1, respectively. During Epi week 13, a total of 595,594 tests were conducted, a decrease of 30% from the 844,788 tests conducted during Epi week 12.
2. As part of the PGI webinar series, Africa CDC will hold a webinar on Pathogen Genomics in Africa titled “Real-time Genomic Surveillance for Public Health Response” on 13 April 2022 at 4 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. The first session of the 12th IPC webinar series titled “Misinformation and miscommunication during COVID-19 Pandemic: the role of Africa CDC in Risk Communication on the continent” will be held on Wednesday 6 April 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session and on Thursday 7 April 2022 at 2 p.m. for the French session.
 - a. English webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f-t7sPdsR36vRYpIh0U3w
 - b. French webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KREVIaM3QBGluzIfDtIVng

Surveillance

1. Africa CDC and partners are holding a technical training on mortality surveillance for 21 MS in Kampala, Uganda from 4 - 8 April 2022.

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.

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Subscribe [here](#) to receive the 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. To meet the 70% global vaccination coverage rates, AU Member States should continue to **organize and implement COVID-19 vaccination campaigns**, with a focus on increasing [eligibility](#)⁵ and demand, while addressing misinformation.
2. To **ensure public health and social measure (PHSM) implementation** is both targeted and informed by the current COVID-19 situation, AU Member States should put in place a [tiered PHSM system](#)⁶.
3. AU Member States should continue to **enhance COVID-19⁷ surveillance** efforts to include:
 - a. [Community-based surveillance](#)⁸ to detect symptomatic cases early and minimize viral transmission. Where feasible, [rapid antigen tests](#)⁹ and [self-testing](#)¹⁰ can be used to enhance diagnostic screening efforts.
 - b. [Rapid mortality surveillance](#)¹¹ that focuses on collection, analysis and use of all-cause mortality data captured from facility and/or community-based surveillance activities to improve knowledge of COVID-19 related outcomes.
 - c. [Genomic surveillance](#)¹² to monitor the presence of variants and the spread and continuous evolution of the virus.
 - d. [Syndromic surveillance](#) for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)¹³ to monitor COVID-19 trends in comparison to other respiratory pathogens.
4. AU Member States are encouraged to:
 - a. Continue contact tracing activities where feasible based on the current epidemiological situation and country capacity.
 - b. Guide the general public about seeking immediate medical care for individuals who develop severe symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. difficulty breathing).
 - c. Engage social scientists to help inform and enhance vaccination campaigns and PHSM implementation.
5. 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

⁵ [Vaccination Advocacy Infographics – Africa CDC](#)

⁶ [COVID-19 Tiered Public Health and Social Measure Framework for Africa](#)

⁷ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

⁸ [Enhanced COVID-19 Surveillance at the Community Level in Africa](#)

⁹ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

¹⁰ [Interim guidance on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen self-testing to African Union Member States – Africa CDC](#)

¹¹ [Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC](#)

¹² [Interim operational guidance on SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance in Africa: An updated guide](#)

¹³ [Protocol for Enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa – Africa CDC](#)

healthcare workers to support data for action. Notify Africa CDC by emailing:
AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.

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-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>