

Outbreak Brief #117: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 12 April 2022

Global count: 496,874,896 cases and 6,178,438 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 11 April 2022, a total of 496,874,896 COVID-19 cases and 6,178,438 deaths (case fatality ratio [CFR]: 1.2%) 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** 18,319,016 (4%), **European Region** 207,759,697 (42%), **Region of the Americas** 151,489,694 (31%), **South-East Asia Region** 57,425,623 (12%) and **Western Pacific Region** 50,130,742 (10%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are Republic of Korea (1,423,332), Germany (1,009,309), France (932,461), Italy (446,233) and Australia (384,673). 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) 11 April 2022, a total of **11,365,225** COVID-19 cases and **251,558** deaths (CFR: **2.2%**) have been reported by the 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 2.3% of all cases and 4.1% of all deaths reported globally. Thirty-five (67%) 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 11 April 2022. The daily reported number of new cases across the continent remains low. More than 545,941 tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting a 12% 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](#).

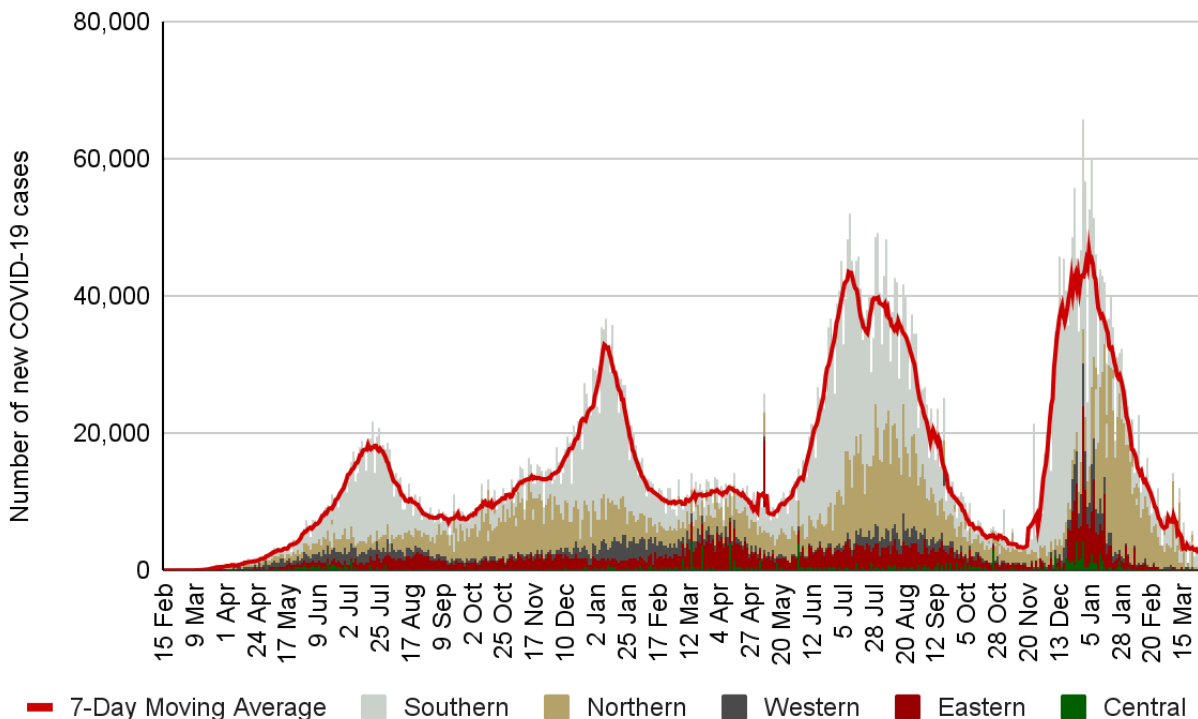


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 11 April 2022¹.

As of 7 April 2022, 53 AU MS have reported the presence of the Alpha (49 MS), Beta (45), Delta (50), Gamma (6), Omicron (48) variants of concern (VOC). Additionally, 16 MS are reporting the presence of the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant and two MS (Botswana and South Africa) are reporting the presence of the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants.

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 14 (4 - 10 April 2022), 18,264 new COVID-19 cases were reported, reflecting a 7% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 13. The Southern Region accounted for 55% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Northern (32%), Eastern (10%), Western (2%) and Central (1%) regions. Seychelles (636) and Mauritius (51) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS, followed by South Africa (20), Tunisia (18) and Eswatini (14). This week, 234 new deaths were reported, which is a 36% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 68% of these deaths were reported from the Northern Region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Southern (29%) and Eastern (3%) Regions. No deaths were reported from the Central and Western Regions last week.

¹ The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 11 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 14.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths² reported in Africa for epidemiological week 14 (4 - 10 April 2022).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 13	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 13
Central Region	360,581 (229)	-54%	4,528 (0)	-100%
Burundi	38,663 (54)	NA*	15 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	119,544 (0)	-100%	1,927 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	14,354 (2)	-50%	113 (0)	NA*
Chad	7,378 (31)	-76%	192 (0)	-100%
Congo	24,079 (8)	-90%	385 (0)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	87,023 (130)	261%	1,337 (0)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	16,001 (1)	NA*	183 (0)	NA*
Gabon	47,591 (3)	-99%	303 (0)	-100%
Sao Tome and Principe	5,948 (0)	-100%	73 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,397,668 (1,798)	-66%	27,327 (6)	-97%
Comoros	8,099 (6)	NA*	160 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	15,594 (4)	NA*	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,731 (3)	-99%	103 (0)	NA*
Ethiopia	470,050 (231)	-11%	7,509 (5)	NA*
Kenya	323,541 (87)	-98%	5,648 (0)	-100%
Madagascar	64,050 (80)	700%	1,387 (0)	NA*
Mauritius	37,149 (668)	NA*	904 (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 13	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 13
Rwanda	124,990 (26)	-38%	1,459 (0)	-100%
Seychelles	40,866 (445)	2125%	164 (0)	NA*
Somalia	26,471 (61)	-70%	1,361 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	17,353 (75)	3650%	138 (0)	NA*
Sudan	61,987 (58)	-40%	3,909 (0)	NA*
Tanzania	33,815 (18)	NA*	800 (0)	NA*
Uganda	163,972 (36)	NA*	3,596 (1)	-99%
Northern Region	3,540,088 (7,260)	-40%	83,414 (243)	167%
Algeria	265,691 (0)	-100%	6,874 (0)	-100%
Egypt	509,177 (3,913)	714%	24,473 (56)	5500%
Libya	501,807 (0)	-100%	6,425 (0)	NA*
Mauritania	58,675 (5)	-97%	982 (0)	-100%
Morocco	1,164,030 (558)	54%	16,061 (1)	-50%
Tunisia	1,038,668 (2,784)	7038%	28,509 (186)	18500%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	2,040 (0)	-100%	90 (0)	-100%
Southern Region	5,231,814 (11,002)	807%	125,038 (68)	1033%
Angola	99,194 (0)	-100%	1,900 (0)	NA*
Botswana	263,950 (0)	-100%	2,676 (0)	-100%
Eswatini	69,968 (117)	-2%	1,395 (1)	NA*
Lesotho	32,994 (38)	-95%	697 (0)	-100%
Malawi	85,703 (39)	-28%	2,628 (2)	NA*
Mozambique	225,293 (27)	-52%	2,200 (0)	NA*
Namibia	157,896 (132)	474%	4,021 (1)	No change

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 13	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 13
South Africa	3,732,075 (9,121)	8268%	100,096 (46)	NA*
Zambia	317,768 (737)	7270%	3,968 (1)	NA*
Zimbabwe	246,973 (791)	1365%	5,457 (17)	NA*
Western Region	836,435 (449)	-38%	11,335 (2)	-88%
Benin	26,952 (0)	-100%	163 (0)	-100%
Burkina Faso	20,858 (0)	-100%	381 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	55,973 (12)	-56%	401 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	81,828 (61)	118%	796 (0)	NA*
Gambia	11,990 (0)	-100%	365 (0)	NA*
Ghana	161,086 (52)	-35%	1,445 (0)	-100%
Guinea	36,539 (27)	2600%	779 (1)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	8,173 (22)	144%	170 (0)	-100%
Liberia	7,400 (0)	-100%	294 (0)	NA*
Mali	30,566 (71)	-68%	729 (1)	NA*
Niger	8,823 (12)	20%	308 (0)	NA*
Nigeria	255,663 (147)	3575%	3,142 (0)	-100%
Senegal	85,950 (31)	72%	1,965 (0)	NA*
Sierra Leone	7,677 (2)	-96%	125 (0)	-100%
Togo	36,957 (12)	1100%	272 (0)	NA*
Total	11,366,586 (20,738)	5%	251,642 (319)	-14%

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

New Africa CDC Response Activities

General

1. Africa CDC held a 2nd Technical Steering Committee meeting for the Regional Investment Financing Project from 4 - 8 April 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia. This meeting focused on strengthening governance and enhancing the role of senior decision-makers. Participants included Member State Ministries of Health and implementing partners. More information is available on the Africa CDC Twitter page.
2. As of 11 April 2022, 54 (98%) of the 55 AU MS are providing COVID-19 vaccination to the general population. Cumulatively, 511.5 million doses have been administered. Of the doses administered, 277.9 million people have been partially vaccinated, 216.2 million have been fully vaccinated, and 17.2 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 15.4% 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 103.9 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 14, a total of 545,941 tests were conducted, a decrease of 12% from the 619,149 tests conducted during Epi week 13.
2. Africa CDC through the Africa PGI partnership officially handed over sequencing equipment on 9 April 2022 to the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana to strengthen national and regional capacity for COVID-19 and other pathogens.
3. Africa CDC is launching the Africa regional training and certification program on biosafety and biosecurity for laboratory professionals on 12 April 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.
4. 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. On 7 April 2022, Africa CDC delivered infection prevention supplies to the Government of Congo to support the COVID-19 and meningitis response activities.
2. The IPC webinar 12th series 1st session on “Improving Risk Communication for COVID-19” in English on Wednesday 6th April 2022 with Portuguese and Arabic interpretation had 351 participants trained and in French on Thursday 7th April 2022 had 138 participants trained.
 - a. English session [recording](#)
 - b. French session [recording](#)

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.

3. The IPC webinar 12th series 2nd session on “Take me to your leader! The role of Management during pandemics” in English, Wednesday 13th April 2022 and in French on 14th April 2022.
 - a. English session registration [link](#)
 - a. French session registration [link](#)

Surveillance

1. Africa CDC held a five- day technical training on mortality surveillance for 21 MS in Kampala, Uganda from 4 - 8 April 2022.

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 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 are encouraged to implement 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.

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](#)

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 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://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>