

Outbreak Brief #118: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 19 April 2022

Global count: 500,186,525 cases and 6,190,349 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 14 April 2022, a total of 500,186,525 COVID-19 cases and 6,190,349 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** 18,332,596 (4%), **European Region** 209,507,148 (42%), **Region of the Americas** 151,691,843 (30%), **South-East Asia Region** 57,506,064 (12%) and **Western Pacific Region** 51,151,939 (10%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are Republic of Korea (1,200,700), Germany (916,659), France (901,637), Italy (431,452) and Australia (361,963). 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) 18 April 2022, a total of **11,382,317** COVID-19 cases and **251,763** 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 (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 distinct 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 daily by AU MS from 15 February 2020 to 18 April 2022. The number of new cases reported daily across the continent continues to trend downward. More than 476,028 tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting a 19% 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](#).

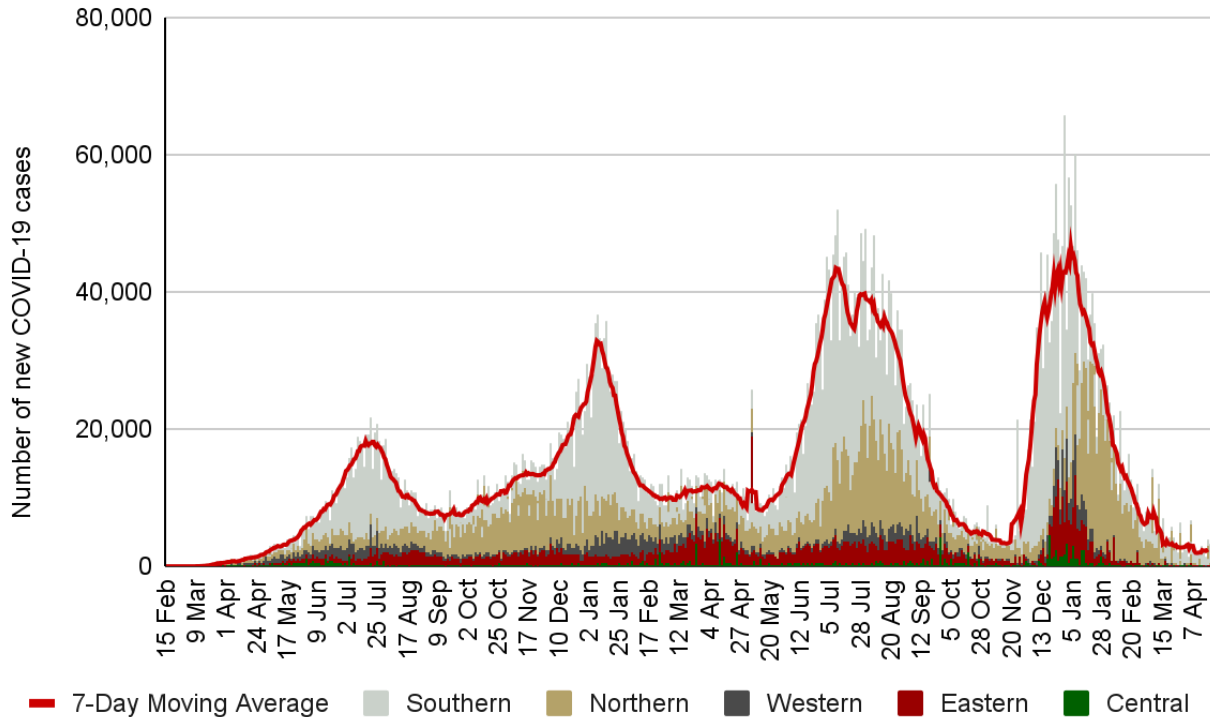


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 18 April 2022¹.

As of 17 April 2022, 53 AU MS have reported the COVID-19 cases infected with the Alpha (49 MS), Beta (45), Delta (50), Gamma (6), Omicron (48) variants of concern (VOC). Additionally, 16 MS have detected the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant and two MS (Botswana and South Africa) have detected 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 15 (11 - 17 April 2022), 15,634 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 25% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 14. The Southern region accounted for 68% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Northern (21%), Eastern (8%), Western (2%) and Central (1%) regions. Seychelles (1,134) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS, followed by South Africa (20), Eswatini (15) and Mauritius (11). This week, 121 new deaths were reported, which is a 62% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 54% of these deaths were reported from the Southern region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Northern (45%), Eastern (1%), and Western (1%) regions. No deaths were reported from the Central region last week. Cumulative COVID-19 case and death

¹ The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 18 April 2022.

totals and new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 15 by AU Member State are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Number and percent change of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths reported in Africa since February 2020 and for Epidemiological Week 15 (11- 17 April 2022) by African Union Member State.

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 14	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 14
Central Region	360,890 (225)	-99%	4,528 (0)	-100%
Burundi	38,801 (138)	-69%	15 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	119,725 (0)	-100%	1,927 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	14,354 (0)	-100%	113 (0)	-100%
Chad	7,378 (0)	-100%	192 (0)	NA*
Congo	24,079 (0)	-100%	385 (0)	-100%
Democratic Republic of Congo	87,105 (82)	52%	1,337 (0)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	15,906 (2)	-100%	183 (0)	-100%
Gabon	47,594 (3)	-75%	303 (0)	NA*
Sao Tome and Principe	5,948 (0)	-100%	73 (0)	-100%
Eastern Region	1,398,972 (1,304)	-30%	27,328 (1)	-96%
Comoros	8,100 (1)	-100%	160 (0)	-100%
Djibouti	15,598 (4)	-93%	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,733 (2)	-100%	103 (0)	-100%
Ethiopia	470,273 (223)	NA*	7,509 (0)	NA*
Kenya	323,614 (73)	3%	5,649 (1)	No change
Madagascar	64,050 (0)	-100%	1,387 (0)	NA*
Mauritius	37,251 (102)	364%	904 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	125,000 (10)	-17%	1,459 (0)	NA*
Seychelles	41,660 (794)	244%	164 (0)	-100%
Somalia	26,471 (0)	-100%	1,361 (0)	-100%
South Sudan	17,369 (16)	NA*	138 (0)	NA*

Sudan	61,987 (0)	NA*	3,909 (0)	NA*
Tanzania	33,815 (0)	-100%	800 (0)	NA*
Uganda	164,051 (79)	2533%	3,596 (0)	NA*
Northern Region	3,543,300 (3,212)	1155%	83,468 (54)	2600%
Algeria	265,691 (0)	-100%	6,874 (0)	NA*
Egypt	511,977 (2,800)	7079%	24,522 (49)	2350%
Libya	501,862 (55)	1000%	6,429 (4)	NA*
Mauritania	58,681 (6)	-90%	982 (0)	NA*
Morocco	1,164,381 (351)	1200%	16,062 (1)	NA*
Tunisia	1,038,668 (0)	-100%	28,509 (0)	NA*
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	2,040 (0)	-100%	90 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	5,242,463 (10,633)	2743%	125,103 (65)	NA*
Angola	99,194 (0)	-100%	1,900 (0)	NA*
Botswana	263,950 (0)	-100%	2,676 (0)	NA*
Eswatini	70,102 (134)	415%	1,395 (0)	NA*
Lesotho	33,104 (94)	3033%	697 (0)	NA*
Malawi	85,728 (25)	1150%	2,631 (3)	NA*
Mozambique	225,329 (36)	-31%	2,200 (0)	NA*
Namibia	158,074 (178)	NA*	4,022 (1)	NA*
South Africa	3,741,230 (9,155)	6128%	100,147 (51)	NA*
Zambia	318,515 (747)	NA*	3,973 (5)	NA*
Zimbabwe	247,237 (264)	13100%	5,462 (5)	NA*
Western Region	836,695 (260)	-92%	11,336 (1)	-99%
Benin	26,952 (0)	-100%	163 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	20,858 (0)	-100%	381 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	55,990 (17)	NA*	401 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	81,861 (33)	-59%	796 (0)	NA*
Gambia	11,994 (4)	-93%	365 (0)	NA*
Ghana	161,101 (15)	-74%	1,445 (0)	NA*
Guinea	36,539 (0)	-100%	779 (0)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	8,178 (5)	NA*	170 (0)	NA*
Liberia	7,402 (2)	NA*	294 (0)	NA*

Mali	30,651 (85)	-97%	729 (0)	-100%
Niger	8,877 (54)	NA*	308 (0)	NA*
Nigeria	255,678 (15)	NA*	3,143 (1)	NA*
Senegal	85,968 (18)	NA*	1,965 (0)	NA*
Sierra Leone	7,681 (4)	NA*	125 (0)	NA*
Togo	36,965 (8)	-70%	272 (0)	-100%
Total	11,382,320 (15,634)	-25%	251,763 (121)	-62%

*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 14 April 2022 at 12 p.m. EAT. He provided an update on the COVID-19 situation across the continent, including response efforts and progress on increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Africa CDC officially launched the Africa regional training and certification program for Biosafety and Biosecurity professionals on 12 April 2022. The program aims to increase capacity and strengthen biosecurity in laboratories across Africa. Recording [here](#).
3. As of 17 April 2022, 54 (98%) of the 55 AU MS are providing COVID-19 vaccination to the general population. Cumulatively, 515.9 million doses have been administered. Of doses administered, 279.6 million people have been partially vaccinated, 217.2 million have been fully vaccinated, and 19.1 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 16.2% 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 104.4 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate² and test per case ratio³ are 11% and 9.1, respectively. During Epi week 15, a total of 476,028 tests were conducted, a decrease of 19% from the 586,041 tests conducted during Epi week 14.

In collaboration with ASLM, Association of Public Health Laboratories, Clinton Health Access Initiative and Global Fund through Stellar Project, Africa CDC held a virtual Extension of Community Healthcare Outcome (ECHO) session on 13 April 2022., The session reviewed and discussed ongoing activities to strengthen COVID-19 diagnostics and laboratory systems in the African region. The session had over 250 participants. Recording [here](#).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. On 13 April 2022, Africa CDC published a policy brief for the Legal Framework on Infection Prevention and Control. The IPC Legal Framework is designed to guide MS in the review and strengthening of laws and policies that support IPC at both national and healthcare facility levels. Download [here](#).
2. The second session of the 12th IPC webinar series titled “Take me to your leader! The role of Management during pandemics” was held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for 421 participants in English and on Thursday 14 April 2022, at 2 p.m. EAT for 144 participants in French.
 - a. English session [recording](#)
 - b. French session [recording](#)

² [Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)

³ WHO set 10-30 tests per every confirmed case as a general benchmark of adequate testing.

3. The third session of the 12th IPC webinar series titled “Waste Management, WASH in IPC: available options for Africa” will be held on Wednesday 20 April 2022, at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session and on Thursday 21 April 2022, at 2 p.m. EAT for the French session.
 - a. English session registration [link](#)
 - b. French session registration [link](#)

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. AU Member States should continue to organize and implement COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, with a focus on increasing [eligibility](#)⁴ and demand aimed at achieving 70% coverage. Member states should also address vaccine misinformation with effective community-based risk communication and vaccine promotion activities.
2. AU Member States are encouraged to implement a tiered public health and social measure (PHSM) approach. This approach will ensure that measures are targeted and informed by the current COVID-19 situation.
3. AU Member States should continue to **enhance COVID-19⁵ surveillance** efforts to include:
 - a. [Community-based surveillance](#)⁶ to detect symptomatic cases early and minimize viral transmission. Where feasible, [rapid antigen tests](#)⁷ and [self-testing](#)⁸ can be used to enhance diagnostic screening efforts.
 - b. [Rapid mortality surveillance](#)⁹ 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](#)¹⁰ 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)¹¹ to monitor COVID-19 trends in comparison to other respiratory pathogens.
4. AU Member States are encouraged to:

⁴ [Vaccination Advocacy Infographics – Africa CDC](#)

⁵ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

⁶ [Enhanced COVID-19 Surveillance at the Community Level in Africa](#)

⁷ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

⁸ [Interim guidance on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen self-testing to African Union Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁹ [Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC](#)

¹⁰ [Interim operational guidance on SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance in Africa: An updated guide](#)

¹¹ [Protocol for Enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa – Africa CDC](#)

- 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://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-hotspot-and-phsm-tiers-dashboards/>
- Africa CDC vaccination dashboard: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/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>