

Outbreak Brief #124: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 31 May 2022

Global count: 525,785,569 cases and 6,286,064 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 30 May 2022, a total of 525,785,569 COVID-19 cases and 6,286,064 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** 18,438,634 (4%), **European Region** 220,613,553 (42%), **Region of the Americas** 156,560,448 (30%), **South-East Asia Region** 58,122,050 (11%) and **Western Pacific Region** 59,957,888 (11%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are China (573,360), the United States of America (597,113), Australia (268,608), Japan (192,931) and Germany (157,184). As of 27 May 2022, over 4.6 billion people (58% of the global population) have been fully vaccinated. 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) 30 May 2022, a total of **11,640,858** COVID-19 cases and **253,214** deaths (CFR: 2.2%) have been reported by the 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 2% of all cases and 4% of all deaths reported globally. Thirty six (65%) 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%) MS have experienced four waves, 14 MS have experienced five waves, and one MS (Mauritius) has experienced a sixth wave.

Fifty-three MS have reported COVID-19 cases infected with the Alpha (49 MS), Beta (45), Delta (50), Gamma (3) and 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. More information on SARS-COV-2 sequencing and the breakdown of variants reported by AU MS is available on the [Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative Dashboard](#).

Fifty-four (98%) MS are currently providing COVID-19 vaccination to the general population. Cumulatively, 573 million doses have been administered on the continent. Of these doses administered, 310 million people have been partially vaccinated, 239.4 million have been fully vaccinated, and 23.5 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 17.1% of the continental population is fully vaccinated. Eritrea is the only AU MS yet to start COVID-19 vaccination roll out. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine](#)

[dashboard.](#)

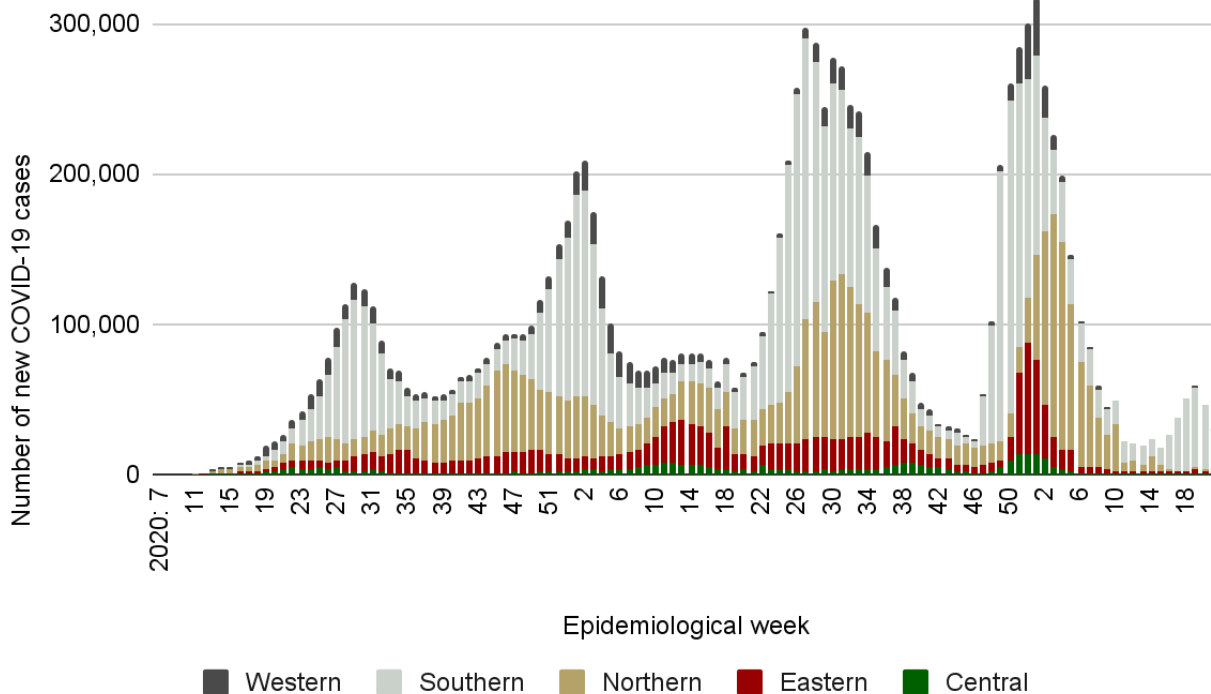


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region and epidemiological week, 15 February 2020 - 29 May 2022.

For Epi week 21 (23 - 29 May 2022), 32,726 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 30% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to the previous week (20) (Figure 1). The Southern region accounted for 85% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Eastern (7%), Northern (4%), Central (3%) regions and Western (1%) region. Seychelles (708) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS, followed by South Africa (52) and Namibia (47).

Last week, 232 new COVID-19 deaths were reported in Africa, an 18% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 99% of these deaths were reported from the Southern region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Northern (0.4%), Eastern (0.3%) and Western (0.3%) regions. There were no deaths reported from the Central regions. Cumulative COVID-19 case and death totals and new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during week 20 by AU Member State are summarized in Table 1.

More than 378 thousand tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting a 77% decrease¹ in the number of tests compared to the previous week. The weekly % test positivity has increased

¹ Mauritius reported over 900,000 new tests on 30 May 2022.

from 3% to 22%, indicating that testing has decreased over the past week. Since February 2020, over 108.6 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted in Africa. **For more information on the COVID-19 situation in Africa**, please see the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).

Table 1: Number and percentage change of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths reported in Africa since February 2020 and for Epidemiological Week 21 (23 - 29 May 2022) by African Union Member States.

| Country by AU Region | Cumulative number of cases (new cases) | % change in new cases since week 20 | Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths) | % change in new deaths since week 20 |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Central Region | 366,587 (1,015) | 32% | 4,534 (0) | -100% |
| Burundi | 42,034 (137) | 3325% | 15 (0) | -100% |
| Cameroon | 119,947 (0) | NA* | 1,930 (0) | NA* |
| Central African Republic | 14,373 (0) | -100% | 113 (0) | NA* |
| Chad | 7,417 (2) | -89% | 193 (0) | NA* |
| Congo | 24,052 (0) | -100% | 385 (0) | NA* |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 89,202 (828) | 23% | 1,338 (0) | -100% |
| Equatorial Guinea | 15,921 (11) | NA* | 183 (0) | NA* |
| Gabon | 47,650 (28) | -58% | 304 (0) | NA* |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 5,991 (9) | NA* | 73 (0) | NA* |
| Eastern Region | 1,407,872 (2,309) | 691% | 27,345 (1) | -83% |
| Comoros | 8,108 (0) | -100% | 160 (0) | -100% |
| Djibouti | 15,655 (0) | NA* | 189 (0) | NA* |
| Eritrea | 9,757 (3) | NA* | 103 (0) | NA* |
| Ethiopia | 472,346 (973) | 8745% | 7,513 (1) | NA* |
| Kenya | 324,768 (526) | 1714% | 5,651 (0) | NA* |
| Madagascar | 64,314 (118) | 69% | 1,393 (0) | NA* |
| Mauritius | 38,060 (105) | NA* | 904 (0) | -100% |
| Rwanda | 125,207 (0) | -100% | 1,459 (0) | NA* |
| Seychelles | 43,729 (494) | 12250% | 167 (0) | NA* |
| Somalia | 26,535 (50) | 4% | 1,361 (0) | NA* |

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|--|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| South Sudan | 17,573 (0) | NA* | 138 (0) | NA* |
| Sudan | 62,251 (40) | NA* | 3,909 (0) | NA* |
| Tanzania | 35,354 (0) | -100% | 800 (0) | NA* |
| Uganda | 164,215 (0) | -100% | 3,598 (0) | NA* |
| Northern Region | 3,555,075 (1,386) | -43% | 83,770 (1) | -67% |
| Algeria | 265,873 (22) | -77% | 6,875 (0) | NA* |
| Egypt | 515,667 (0) | NA* | 24,624 (0) | NA* |
| Libya | 502,016 (0) | NA* | 6,485 (0) | NA* |
| Mauritania | 59,123 (98) | 42% | 982 (0) | NA* |
| Morocco | 1,167,894 (1,266) | NA* | 16,076 (1) | NA* |
| Tunisia | 1,042,462 (0) | -100% | 28,638 (0) | -100% |
| Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic | 2,040 (0) | -100% | 90 (0) | NA* |
| Southern Region | 5,472,095 (27,551) | -34% | 126,212 (229) | 14% |
| Angola | 99,800 (273) | -99% | 1,900 (0) | -100% |
| Botswana | 263,950 (0) | -100% | 2,695 (0) | -100% |
| Eswatini | 72,397 (247) | -83% | 1,407 (3) | -75% |
| Lesotho | 33,562 (92) | 67% | 699 (1) | NA* |
| Malawi | 85,973 (44) | -68% | 2,640 (2) | NA* |
| Mozambique | 225,701 (124) | 63% | 2,203 (0) | NA* |
| Namibia | 163,089 (868) | 67% | 4,035 (3) | 50% |
| South Africa | 3,953,967 (24,095) | 2793% | 101,146 (213) | 5225% |
| Zambia | 321,564 (418) | 429% | 3,986 (1) | -50% |
| Zimbabwe | 252,092 (1,390) | 544% | 5,501 (6) | 200% |
| Western Region | 839,257 (465) | -70% | 11,354 (1) | -80% |
| Benin | 26,952 (0) | -100% | 163 (0) | -100% |
| Burkina Faso | 20,899 (0) | -100% | 384 (0) | NA* |
| Cape Verde | 56,294 (117) | 54% | 402 (1) | NA* |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 82,193 (125) | 205% | 799 (0) | -100% |
| Gambia | 12,002 (0) | -100% | 365 (0) | NA* |
| Ghana | 161,370 (0) | -100% | 1,445 (0) | NA* |
| Guinea | 36,802 (39) | 70% | 780 (0) | NA* |

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|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Guinea-Bissau | 8,260 (14) | -96% | 171 (0) | NA* |
| Liberia | 7,455 (0) | -100% | 294 (0) | -100% |
| Mali | 31,096 (40) | -83% | 734 (0) | NA* |
| Niger | 9,031 (0) | -100% | 310 (0) | NA* |
| Nigeria | 256,028 (56) | -50% | 3,143 (0) | NA* |
| Senegal | 86,108 (35) | 3% | 1,966 (0) | NA* |
| Sierra Leone | 7,682 (0) | NA* | 125 (0) | NA* |
| Togo | 37,085 (39) | 63% | 273 (0) | NA* |
| Total | 11,640,886 (32,726) | -30% | 253,215 (232) | -17% |

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

New Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. Ahmed E. Ogwel Ouma, Acting Director of Africa CDC, hosted the Africa CDC weekly press briefing on Thursday 26 May 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's Acting Director, Dr. Ahmed E. Ogwel Ouma paid a courtesy call to Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director General of the World Health Organization on 27 May 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. During his visit, they discussed strengthening the partnership between Africa CDC and WHO, especially in pandemic preparedness and response.

Laboratory:

1. As part of its PGI webinar series, Africa CDC will hold a webinar on Pathogen Genomics in Africa titled "CoV-Spectrum and Lightweight API for Sequences (LAPIS): public resources for genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2" on 31 May 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).

Surveillance

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders from the One Health sector in The Gambia, are holding a workshop on Event-based Surveillance from 23 May - 3 June 2022 in Banjul, The Gambia. The ministries will work together to develop EBS guidelines and training modules using the One Health approach, with support from Africa CDC.

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](#)² and demand needed to achieve 70% vaccine 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 measures (PHSM) approach. This approach will ensure that measures are targeted and informed by the current COVID-19 situation.

² [Infographie sur la promotion de la vaccination - Africa CDC](#)

3. AU Member States should continue to **enhance COVID-19³ surveillance** efforts to include:
 - a. [Community-based surveillance](#)⁴ to detect symptomatic cases early and minimize viral transmission. Where feasible, [rapid antigen tests](#)⁵ and [self-testing](#)⁶ can be used to enhance diagnostic screening efforts.
 - b. [Rapid mortality surveillance](#)⁷ 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](#)⁸ 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)⁹ 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. Inform the general public about the importance of 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.

³ [OMS COVID-19 Définition de cas](#)

⁴ [Surveillance renforcée de la COVID-19 au niveau communautaire en Afrique](#)

⁵ [Directives provisoires sur l'utilisation des tests rapides d'antigènes pour la réponse au COVID-19 - Africa CDC](#)

⁶ [Directives provisoires sur l'auto dépistage de l'antigène rapide COVID-19 à l'intention des Etats membres de l'Union Africaine - Africa CDC](#)

⁷ [Révéler le bilan du COVID-19 : Un paquet technique pour les Etats membres de l'UA - Africa CDC](#)

⁸ [Guide opérationnel provisoire sur la surveillance génomique du SRAS-COV-2 en Afrique: Un guide actualisé](#)

⁹ [Protocole de surveillance renforcée des maladies respiratoires aiguës sévères et des syndromes grippaux pour la COVID-19 en Afrique – Africa CDC](#)

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>