

Outbreak Brief #127: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 21 June 2022

Global count: 545,656,563 cases and 6,315,804 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 20 June 2022, a total of 545,656,563 COVID-19 cases and 6,315,804 deaths (case fatality ratio [CFR]: 1.2%) have been reported globally by 232 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** 18,528,660 (3%), **European Region** 224,131,653 (41%), **Region of the Americas** 169,558,244 (31%), **South-East Asia Region** 58,356,239 (11%) and **Western Pacific Region** 62,892,484 (12%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are the United States of America (441,928), China (406,482), Germany (345,910), France (229,470) and Italy (225,785). As of 20 June 2022, over 4.7 billion people (59% 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) 20 June 2022, a total of **11,731,495** COVID-19 cases and **253,772** 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, 17 MS have experienced five waves, and two MS (Kenya and Mauritius) have experienced a sixth wave.

Fifty-three MS have reported COVID-19 cases infected with the Alpha (50 MS), Beta (45), Delta (50), Gamma (3) and Omicron (49) variants of concern (VOC). Additionally, 22 MS have detected the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant, while six MS detected the Omicron BA.4 and five MS detected the Omicron 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, 592.4 million doses have been administered on the continent. Of these doses administered, 317.9 million people have been partially vaccinated, 248.4 million have been fully vaccinated, and 26 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 17.7% 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](#).

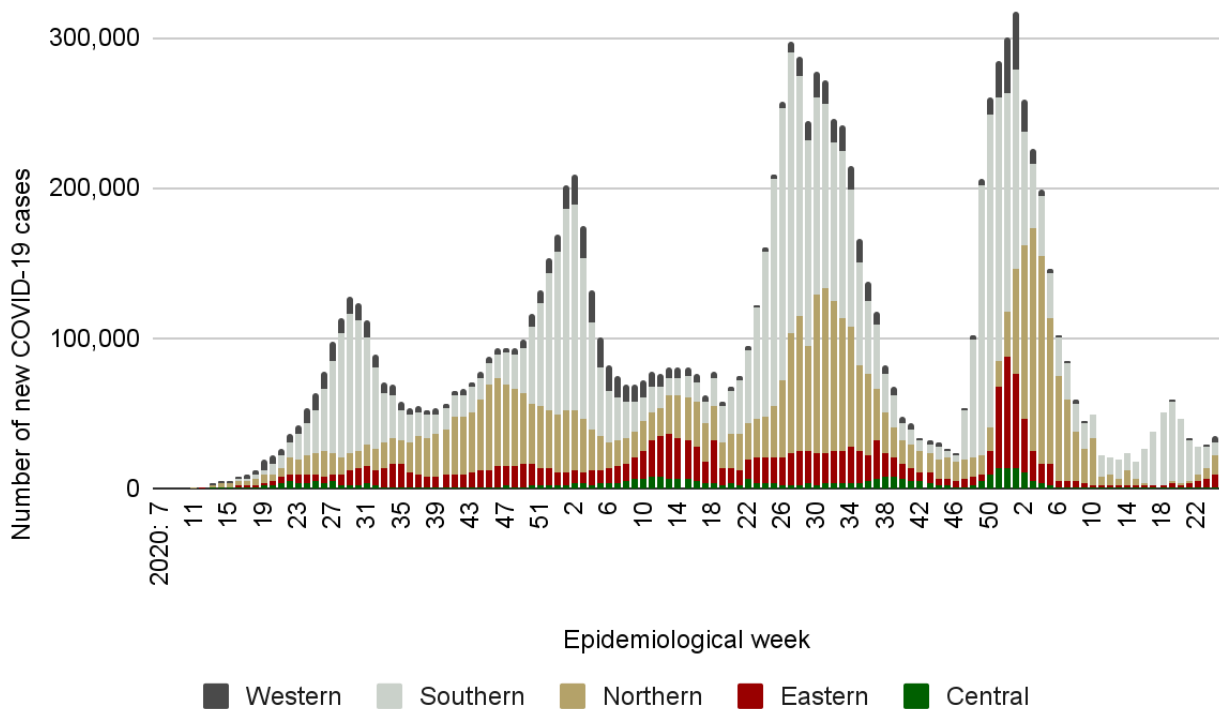


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region and epidemiological week, 15 February 2020 - 19 June 2022.

For Epi week 24 (13 - 19 June 2022), 32,120 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 10% increase in the number of new cases reported compared to the previous week (23) (Figure 1). The Northern region accounted for 33% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Southern (28%), Eastern (27%), Western (10%) and Central (2%) regions. Seychelles (313) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS, followed by Cabo Verde (268) and Morocco (39).

Last week, 181 new COVID-19 deaths were reported in Africa, a 11% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 84% of these deaths were reported from the Southern region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Eastern (6%), Western (6%), Northern (3%), and Central (1%), regions. Cumulative COVID-19 case and death totals and new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during week 24 by AU Member State are summarized in Table 1.

More than 350,000 tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting a 21% decrease in the number of tests compared to the previous week. The weekly % test positivity has increased from 7% to 9%, indicating that testing has decreased over the past week. Since February 2020, over 109.9 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 24 (13 - 19 June 2022) by African Union Member States.

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 23	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 23
Central Region	369,208 (567)	-31%	4,546 (1)	-75%
Burundi	42,398 (68)	-17%	15 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	120,002 (0)	NA*	1,930 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	14,532 (0)	-100%	113 (0)	NA*
Chad	7,420 (0)	-100%	193 (0)	NA*
Congo	24,128 (0)	NA*	385 (0)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	91,025 (462)	-27%	1,350 (1)	-75%
Equatorial Guinea	15,951 (6)	-71%	183 (0)	NA*
Gabon	47,742 (31)	-9%	304 (0)	NA*
Sao Tome and Principe	6,010 (0)	-100%	73 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,427,146 (8,673)	42%	27,364 (12)	1100%
Comoros	8,131 (5)	NA*	160 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	15,690 (15)	NA*	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,777 (12)	NA*	103 (0)	NA*
Ethiopia	484,138 (5,175)	31%	7,523 (7)	600%
Kenya	329,353 (2,208)	39%	5,651 (0)	NA*
Madagascar	64,552 (0)	-100%	1,395 (0)	NA*
Mauritius	38,060 (0)	NA*	904 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	125,489 (80)	-39%	1,459 (0)	NA*
Seychelles	44,363 (218)	NA*	167 (0)	NA*
Somalia	26,748 (183)	NA*	1,361 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	17,683 (57)	NA*	138 (0)	NA*
Sudan	62,475 (101)	NA*	3,909 (0)	NA*
Tanzania	35,354 (0)	NA*	800 (0)	NA*

Uganda	165,333 (619)	165%	3,605 (5)	NA*
Northern Region	3,575,519 (10,500)	63%	83,743 (5)	-44%
Algeria	265,976 (51)	82%	6,875 (0)	NA*
Egypt	515,667 (0)	NA*	24,624 (0)	NA*
Libya	502,110 (0)	-100%	6,430 (0)	NA*
Mauritania	59,310 (63)	31%	982 (0)	NA*
Morocco	1,185,990 (10,386)	92%	16,087 (5)	150%
Tunisia	1,044,426 (0)	-100%	28,655 (0)	-100%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	2,040 (0)	NA*	90 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	5,513,713 (9,002)	-36%	126,748 (152)	-19%
Angola	99,839 (0)	NA*	1,900 (0)	NA*
Botswana	263,950 (0)	NA*	2,709 (12)	NA*
Eswatini	73,006 (115)	-43%	1,415 (5)	NA*
Lesotho	33,938 (12)	-92%	699 (0)	NA*
Malawi	86,204 (97)	1%	2,644 (2)	NA*
Mozambique	227,127 (664)	34%	2,208 (3)	200%
Namibia	165,884 (377)	-53%	4,056 (7)	-22%
South Africa	3,984,646 (6,056)	-42%	101,589 (105)	-37%
Zambia	324,288 (1,005)	-7%	3,994 (5)	400%
Zimbabwe	254,831 (676)	-11%	5,534 (13)	44%
Western Region	845,850 (3,378)	82%	11,368 (11)	450%
Benin	26,952 (0)	NA*	163 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	21,044 (145)	NA*	387 (3)	NA*
Cape Verde	58,176 (1,080)	113%	402 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	82,724 (237)	30%	802 (3)	NA*
Gambia	12,002 (0)	NA*	365 (0)	NA*
Ghana	164,164 (1,518)	114%	1,448 (3)	NA*
Guinea	37,089 (68)	-54%	780 (0)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	8,307 (1)	-96%	171 (0)	NA*
Liberia	7,489 (30)	900%	294 (0)	NA*
Mali	31,137 (12)	-20%	736 (1)	NA*

Niger	9,031 (0)	NA*	310 (0)	NA*
Nigeria	256,573 (169)	-5%	3,144 (0)	-100%
Senegal	86,227 (63)	117%	1,968 (1)	No change
Sierra Leone	7,688 (4)	100%	125 (0)	NA*
Togo	37,247 (51)	-22%	273 (0)	NA*
Total	11,731,436 (32,120)	10%	253,769 (181)	-11%

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

New Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. Ahmed E. Ogwell Ouma, Acting Director of Africa CDC, hosted the Africa CDC weekly press briefing on Thursday 16 June 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 and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) are holding the first virtual meeting of the COMESA Committee on health, from 20 - 21 June 2022, at 9 am EAT. The meeting aims to establish the committee on health, review the report on the operationalization of the COMESA Health Desk and provide an update on initiatives for local manufacturing of pharmaceuticals. Register [here](#).
3. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation are holding an Implementation Kick-Off Workshop for the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Programme partners from 21 - 22 June 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective of the workshop is to discuss the engagement model with partners during the implementation phase, along with other relevant information required to kick-off full-scale implementation.

Laboratory:

1. As part of the PGI webinar series, Africa CDC will hold a webinar on Pathogen Genomics in Africa titled “Insights on Variant Antigens in Livestock Trypanosomes and Potential for Vaccination” on 22 June 2022 at 2 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Robert Koch Institute, the International Institute for Infectious Diseases and the Southern Africa Development Community, held a three-day workshop on event-based surveillance (EBS) in Botswana for Southern Africa Member States, from 8 - 10 June 2022. The objectives of the workshop were to equip the EBS focal points with techniques of artificial intelligence (AI), tools and approaches of EBS and facilitate the establishment of an EBS community of practice with the southern Africa region
2. Africa CDC and the Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria are holding a stakeholder orientation workshop on mortality surveillance from 20 - 22 June 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria.

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](#)¹ 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.
3. AU Member States should continue to **enhance COVID-19² surveillance** efforts to include:
 - a. [Community-based surveillance](#)³ to detect symptomatic cases early and minimize viral transmission. Where feasible, [rapid antigen tests](#)⁴ and [self-testing](#)⁵ can be used to enhance diagnostic screening efforts.
 - b. [Rapid mortality surveillance](#)⁶ 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](#)⁷ 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)⁸ 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.

Resources for more information

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>

¹ [Vaccination Advocacy Infographics – Africa CDC](#)

² [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

³ [Enhanced COVID-19 Surveillance at the Community Level in Africa](#)

⁴ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

⁵ [Interim guidance on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen self-testing to African Union Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁶ [Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁷ [Interim operational guidance on SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance in Africa: An updated guide](#)

⁸ [Protocol for Enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa – Africa CDC](#)

- 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>