

Outbreak Brief #131: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 19 July 2022

Global count: 559,212,270 cases and 6,360,228 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 18 July 2022, a total of 559,212,270 COVID-19 cases and 6,360,228 deaths (case fatality ratio [CFR]: 1.1%) 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** 18,856,365 (3%), **European Region** 235,534,653 (42%), **Region of the Americas** 166,308,661 (30%), **South-East Asia Region** 58,991,272 (11%) and **Western Pacific Region** 67,145,142 (12%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are Italy (706,358), France (647,241), Japan (611,795), Germany (589,240), and the United States of America (543,663). As of 18 July 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) 18 July 2022, a total of **11,908,801** COVID-19 cases and **254,601** 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. Forty (76%) 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, 48 (87%) MS have experienced four waves, 25 MS have experienced five waves, and three MS (Kenya, Mauritius and Tunisia) have experienced a sixth wave.

Fifty-three MS have reported COVID-19 cases infected with the Alpha (50 MS), Beta (45), Delta (51), Gamma (3) and Omicron (50) variants of concern (VOC). Additionally, 26 MS have detected the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant, while eleven MS detected the Omicron BA.4 and ten 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, 627.4 million doses have been administered on the continent. Of these doses administered, 318.4 million people have been partially vaccinated, 276.8 million have been fully vaccinated, and 32.6 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 19.7% 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](#).

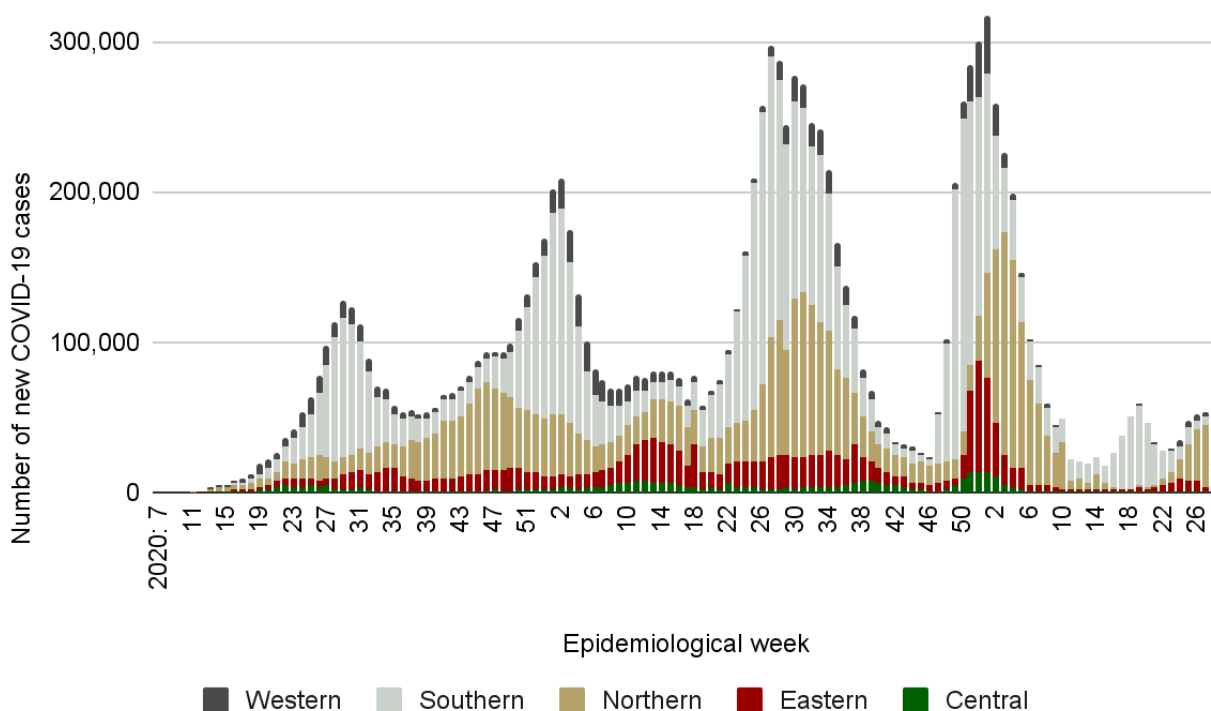


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region and epidemiological week, 15 February 2020 - 17 July 2022.

For Epi week 28 (11 - 17 July 2022), 20,281 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 62% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to the previous week (27) (Figure 1). The Northern region accounted for 50% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Southern (26%), Eastern (11%), Western (8%) and Central (5%) regions. Seychelles (128) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS, followed by Cabo Verde (63).

Last week (week 27), 113 new COVID-19 deaths were reported in Africa, a 49% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 58% of these deaths were reported from the Southern region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Northern (25%), Eastern (15%) and Western (2%) regions. There were no deaths reported from the Central region. Cumulative COVID-19 case and death totals and new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during week 28 by AU Member State are summarized in Table 1.

More than 1.5 million tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting a 74% decrease in the number of tests compared to the previous week. The weekly % test positivity has increased from 0.9% to 1.3%, indicating that testing has decreased over the past week. Since February 2020, over 118.7 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 28 (11 - 17 July 2022) by African Union Member States.

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (New cases)	% Change in new cases since week 27	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% Change in new deaths since week 27
Central Region	373,336 (1,060)	4%	4,554 (0)	-100%
Burundi	43,593 (630)	396%	15 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	120,068 (0)	NA*	1,930 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	14,717 (0)	-100%	113 (0)	NA*
Chad	7,430 (4)	NA*	193 (0)	NA*
Congo	24,421 (0)	NA*	386 (0)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	92,155 (225)	18%	1,354 (0)	-100%
Equatorial Guinea	16,584 (201)	-32%	183 (0)	NA*
Gabon	48,289 (0)	-100%	306 (0)	-100%
Sao Tome and Principe	6,079 (0)	-100%	74 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,446,535 (2,218)	-21%	27,443 (17)	-15%
Comoros	8,139 (0)	NA*	160 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	15,690 (0)	NA*	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,824 (0)	-100%	103 (0)	NA*
Ethiopia	491,086 (716)	-30%	7,561 (9)	-18%
Kenya	336,798 (937)	-34%	5,668 (8)	100%
Madagascar	65,381 (0)	NA*	1,403 (0)	-100%
Mauritius	38,060 (0)	NA*	904 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	126,439 (53)	-57%	1,460 (0)	NA*
Seychelles	45,089 (89)	-42%	167 (0)	NA*
Somalia	26,865 (0)	NA*	1,361 (0)	NA*

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (New cases)	% Change in new cases since week 27	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% Change in new deaths since week 27
South Sudan	17,766 (8)	-78%	138 (0)	NA*
Sudan	62,624 (0)	NA*	3,909 (0)	NA*
Tanzania	35,366 (0)	NA*	800 (0)	NA*
Uganda	167,408 (415)	NA*	3,620 (0)	NA*
Northern Region	3,687,043 (10,205)	-75%	84,013 (28)	-76%
Algeria	266,446 (188)	46%	6,875 (0)	NA*
Egypt	515,667 (0)	NA*	24,624 (0)	NA*
Libya	502,642 (0)	-100%	6,431 (0)	-100%
Mauritania	61,921 (687)	-30%	986 (0)	-100%
Morocco	1,251,297 (9,330)	-49%	16,184 (28)	-30%
Tunisia	1,087,030 (0)	-100%	28,823 (0)	-100%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	2,040 (0)	NA*	90 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	5,542,822 (5,268)	-20%	127,199 (66)	-13%
Angola	102,209 (628)	NA*	1,912 (12)	NA*
Botswana	263,950 (0)	NA*	2,739 (0)	NA*
Eswatini	73,242 (27)	-66%	1,417 (0)	-100%
Lesotho	34,174 (15)	-12%	702 (0)	NA*
Malawi	86,900 (159)	-4%	2,652 (4)	100%
Mozambique	229,020 (381)	-16%	2,215 (2)	100%
Namibia	169,253 (0)	-100%	4,065 (0)	NA*
South Africa	3,999,751 (2,482)	25%	101,918 (42)	-34%
Zambia	328,240 (1,446)	134%	4,013 (5)	400%
Zimbabwe	256,083 (130)	-43%	5,566 (1)	-86%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (New cases)	% Change in new cases since week 27	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% Change in new deaths since week 27
Western Region	859,034 (1,530)	-42%	11,392 (2)	-71%
Benin	27,216 (0)	-100%	163 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	21,128 (84)	NA*	387 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	61,922 (253)	-55%	409 (0)	-100%
Côte d'Ivoire	84,583 (504)	20%	806 (1)	NA*
Gambia	12,028 (19)	171%	365 (0)	NA*
Ghana	167,215 (0)	-100%	1,456 (0)	-100%
Guinea	37,399 (30)	67%	781 (0)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	8,402 (2)	-94%	171 (0)	NA*
Liberia	7,505 (5)	67%	294 (0)	NA*
Mali	31,200 (13)	No change	737 (0)	NA*
Niger	9,104 (8)	-88%	311 (1)	NA*
Nigeria	259,007 (133)	-76%	3,144 (0)	NA*
Senegal	86,791 (287)	104%	1,968 (0)	NA*
Sierra Leone	7,722 (4)	-75%	125 (0)	NA*
Togo	37,812 (188)	32%	275 (0)	NA*
Total	11,908,770 (20,281)	-62%	254,601 (113)	-49%

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

New Africa CDC Response Activities Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. The second session of the 13th IPC webinar series titled “Back to Basics: Building blocks of IPC Programme” will be held on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session and on Thursday 21 July 2022 at 2 p.m. for the French session.
 - a. English webinar link:
https://echo.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wzrRD4BuTb-TjIOv797dXw
 - b. French webinar link:
https://echo.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YZxeLefTCu20sKvxt4BXw

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC is holding a regional advocacy workshop for coordinated Event-based Surveillance (EBS) for 26 participants in Tunis, Tunisia from 18 - 22 July 2022. The objective is to raise awareness and advocate for the adaptation and implementation of Africa CDC EBS tools.

Risk communication and community engagement:

1. Africa CDC will hold a capacity building workshop for media professionals in the Central Africa region on risk communication and community engagement strategies for vaccination against COVID-19 from 21-22 July 2022, in Kinshasa, DR Congo.

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:

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

² [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

- 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/>
- 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/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/>

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](#)

- WHO Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>