

Outbreak Brief #132: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 26 July 2022

Global count: 566,718,893 cases and 6,375,592 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 25 July 2022, a total of 566,718,893 COVID-19 cases and 6,375,592 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** 18,994,985 (3%), **European Region** 238,567,709 (42%), **Region of the Americas** 168,183,683 (30%), **South-East Asia Region** 59,187,567 (11%) and **Western Pacific Region** 69,360,320 (12%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are Japan, (1,038,139), Germany (552,883), the United States of America (549,747), Italy (514,206) and Republic of Korea (459,485). As of 25 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) 25 July 2022, a total of **11,956,739** COVID-19 cases and **254,857** 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 (73%) 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, 631.4 million doses have been administered on the continent. Of these doses administered, 314.7¹ million people have been partially vaccinated, 283.2 million have been fully vaccinated, and 33.4 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 20.1% of the continental population is fully vaccinated. Eritrea is the only AU MS yet to start COVID-19 vaccination roll out.

¹ Official source has reduced the number of partially vaccinated individuals for Ethiopia.

More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

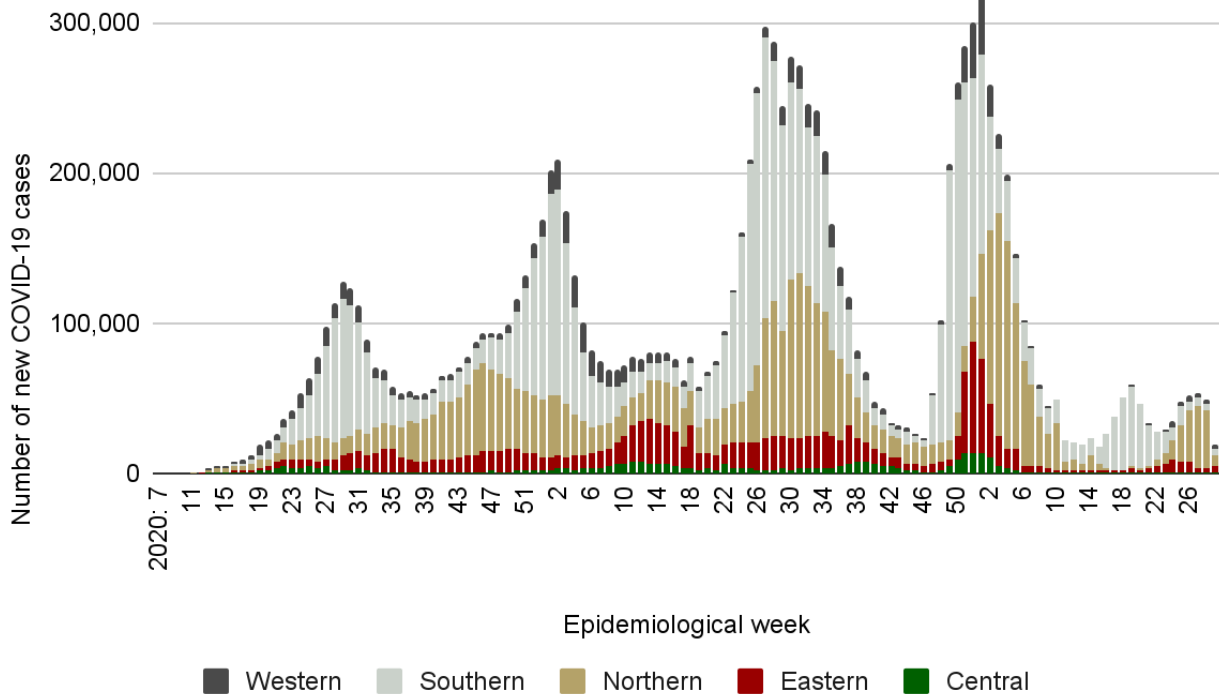


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region and epidemiological week, 15 February 2020 - 24 July 2022.

For Epi week 29 (18 - 24 July 2022), 18,782² new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 62% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to the previous week (28) (Figure 1). The Northern region accounted for 40% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Southern (25%), Eastern (20%), Western (10%) and Central (5%) regions. Cabo Verde (32) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS, followed by Morocco (24).

Last week (week 29), 132 new COVID-19 deaths were reported in Africa, a 44% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 38% of these deaths were reported from the Eastern region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Southern (32%), Northern (25%), Western (4%) and Central (1%) regions. Cumulative COVID-19 case and death totals and new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during week 29 by AU Member State are summarized in Table 1.

² The number of new cases and deaths are updated as Africa CDC receives this information and may not be reflective of the total new cases and deaths as per the date of the outbreak brief report.

More than 311,000 tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting an 81% decrease in the number of tests compared to the previous week. The weekly % test positivity has increased from 3% to 6%, indicating that testing has decreased over the past week. Since February 2020, over 119.1 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 29 (18 - 24 July 2022) by African Union Member States.

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (New cases)	% Change in new cases since week 28	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% Change in new deaths since week 28
Central Region	374,325 (838)	-26%	4,556 (1)	No change
Burundi	44,052 (459)	-27%	15 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	120,154 (0)	NA*	1,930 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	14,717 (0)	NA*	113 (0)	NA*
Chad	7,430 (0)	-100%	193 (0)	NA*
Congo	24,604 (183)	NA*	386 (0)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	92,338 (163)	-33%	1,356 (1)	No change
Equatorial Guinea	16,654 (33)	-86%	183 (0)	NA*
Gabon	48,289 (0)	NA*	306 (0)	NA*
Sao Tome and Principe	6,087 (0)	-100%	74 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,450,342 (3,807)	72%	27,494 (51)	200%
Comoros	8,270 (131)	NA*	160 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	15,690 (0)	NA*	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,892 (68)	NA*	103 (0)	NA*
Ethiopia	491,759 (673)	-6%	7,566 (5)	-44%
Kenya	337,297 (499)	-47%	5,670 (2)	-75%
Madagascar	66,289 (908)	NA*	1,406 (3)	NA*

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (New cases)	% Change in new cases since week 28	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% Change in new deaths since week 28
Mauritius	38,060 (0)	NA*	904 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	126,499 (60)	13%	1,460 (0)	NA*
Seychelles	45,089 (0)	-100%	167 (0)	NA*
Somalia	26,912 (47)	NA*	1,361 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	17,783 (17)	113%	138 (0)	NA*
Sudan	62,874 (250)	NA*	3,909 (0)	NA*
Tanzania	36,520 (1,154)	NA*	841 (41)	NA*
Uganda	167,408 (0)	-100%	3,620 (0)	NA*
Northern Region	3,722,942 (7,590)	-80%	84,165 (33)	-78%
Algeria	266,840 (394)	110%	6,875 (0)	NA*
Egypt	515,667 (0)	NA*	24,624 (0)	NA*
Libya	503,981 (370)	-62%	6,431 (0)	NA*
Mauritania	62,280 (359)	-48%	990 (4)	NA*
Morocco	1,257,764 (6,467)	-31%	16,213 (29)	4%
Tunisia	1,114,370 (0)	-100%	28,942 (0)	-100%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	2,040 (0)	NA*	90 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	5,547,432 (4,606)	-13%	127,243 (42)	-38%
Angola	102,426 (217)	-65%	1,915 (3)	-75%
Botswana	263,950 (0)	NA*	2,739 (0)	NA*
Eswatini	73,256 (14)	-48%	1,417 (0)	NA*
Lesotho	34,214 (36)	89%	704 (0)	-100%
Malawi	87,238 (338)	113%	2,658 (6)	50%
Mozambique	229,375 (355)	-7%	2,215 (0)	-100%
Namibia	169,253 (0)	NA*	4,065 (0)	NA*

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (New cases)	% Change in new cases since week 28	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% Change in new deaths since week 28
South Africa	4,002,133 (2,382)	-4%	101,943 (25)	-40%
Zambia	329,317 (1,077)	-26%	4,015 (2)	-60%
Zimbabwe	256,270 (187)	44%	5,572 (6)	500%
Western Region	861,485 (1,941)	-5%	11,399 (5)	25%
Benin	27,271 (55)	NA*	163 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	21,128 (0)	-100%	387 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	62,072 (127)	-54%	409 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	84,982 (399)	-21%	808 (2)	100%
Gambia	12,045 (17)	-11%	365 (0)	NA*
Ghana	167,215 (0)	NA*	1,456 (0)	NA*
Guinea	37,427 (19)	-51%	781 (0)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	8,412 (10)	400%	171 (0)	NA*
Liberia	7,508 (3)	-40%	294 (0)	NA*
Mali	31,216 (16)	23%	737 (0)	NA*
Niger	9,106 (2)	-75%	311 (0)	-100%
Nigeria	260,339 (854)	40%	3,147 (1)	-50%
Senegal	87,071 (280)	-2%	1,968 (0)	NA*
Sierra Leone	7,728 (6)	50%	125 (0)	NA*
Togo	37,965 (153)	-19%	277 (2)	NA*
Total	11,956,526 (18,782)	-62%	254,857 (132)	-44%

*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 21 July 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](#).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. The second session of the 13th IPC webinar series titled “Back to Basics: Building blocks of IPC Programme” was held on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for 395 participants in English and on Thursday 21 July 2022 at 2 p.m. for 206 participants in French.
 - a. English session recording:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jrxdvoowisw>
 - b. French session recording:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78Q1Qubzxzw>

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC and partners held an advocacy workshop on event-based surveillance (EBS) for 26 surveillance experts from six Northern region MS from 18 - 21 July 2022. The objectives were to raise awareness for the adaptation and implementation of Africa CDC’s EBS resources, share regional experiences and lessons learnt during the implementation of EBS, and develop a road map for strengthening early warning systems in the Northern region using a One Health approach.

Risk communication and community engagement:

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with UNAIDS and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is conducting a three-day training on strengthening response to COVID-19 and HIV at regional and country levels for Northern Africa MS in Tunis, Tunisia from 27 - 29 July 2022. The aim of the training was to strengthen community engagement, rumor management and tackle misinformation

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](#)³ 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-19⁴ surveillance** efforts to include:
 - a. [Community-based surveillance](#)⁵ to detect symptomatic cases early and minimize viral transmission. Where feasible, [rapid antigen tests](#)⁶ and [self-testing](#)⁷ can be used to enhance diagnostic screening efforts.
 - b. [Rapid mortality surveillance](#)⁸ 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](#)⁹ 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)¹⁰ 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/>

³ [Vaccination Advocacy Infographics – Africa CDC](#)

⁴ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

⁵ [Enhanced COVID-19 Surveillance at the Community Level in Africa](#)

⁶ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

⁷ [Interim guidance on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen self-testing to African Union Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁸ [Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁹ [Interim operational guidance on SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance in Africa: An updated guide](#)

¹⁰ [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>