

Outbreak Brief #134: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 9 August 2022

Global count: 581,266,174 cases and 6,409,922 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 8 August 2022, a total of 581,266,174 COVID-19 cases and 6,409,922 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** 19,102,977 (3%), **European Region** 243,169,399 (42%), **Region of the Americas** 171,555,845 (30%), **South-East Asia Region** 59,565,986 (10%) and **Western Pacific Region** 75,388,997 (13%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are Japan (1,498,719), the Republic of Korea (723,770), Vietnam (569,364), the United States of America (493,448), and Turkey (406,322). As of 7 August 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) 8 August 2022, a total of **12,002,590** COVID-19 cases and **255,176** deaths (CFR: **2.1%**) 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 one (75%) 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, 26 MS have experienced five waves, and five MS (Algeria, Burundi, 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 (52), Gamma (3) and Omicron (50) variants of concern (VOC). Additionally, 26 MS have detected the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant, while fifteen 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, 652 million doses have been administered on the continent. Of these doses administered, 320.6 million people have been partially vaccinated, 295.9 million have been fully vaccinated, and 21.1% 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](#).

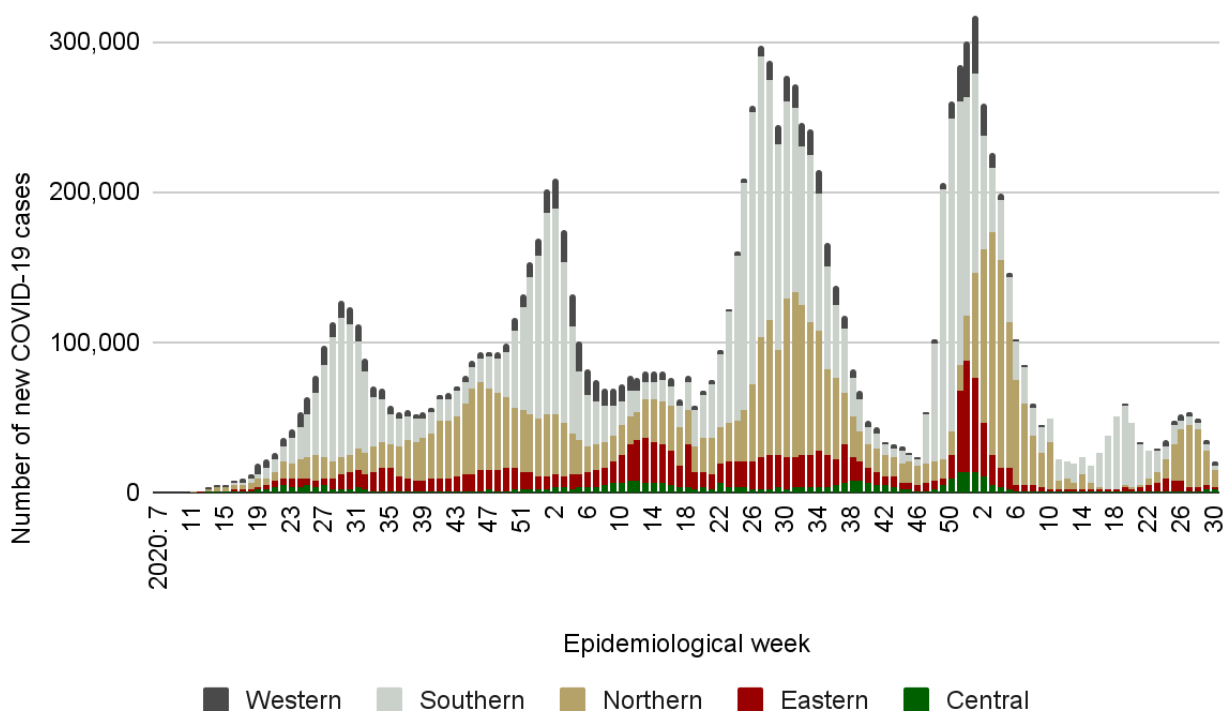


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region and epidemiological week, 15 February 2020 - 7 August 2022.

For Epi week 31 (1 - 7 August 2022)¹, 8,807 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 57% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to the previous week (week 30) (Figure 1). The Northern region accounted for 38% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Western (19%), Southern (15%), Eastern (15%), and Central (13%) regions. Seychelles (616) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS.

Last week (week 31), 51 new COVID-19 deaths were reported in Africa, a 69% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 47% of these deaths were reported from the Northern region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Southern (31%), Western (18%) and Eastern (4%) 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 31 by AU Member State are summarized in Table 1.

More than 476,963 tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting a 19% increase in the number of tests compared to the previous week. The weekly % test positivity has decreased from 10% to 2%. Since February 2020, over 120 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted in Africa.

¹ 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.

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 31 (1 – 8 August 2022) by African Union Member States.

| Country by AU Region | Cumulative number of cases (New cases) | % Change in new cases since week 30 | Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths) | % Change in new deaths since week 30 |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Central Region | 378,410 (1,098) | -43% | 4,559 (0) | -100% |
| Burundi | 47,247 (972) | -31% | 15 (0) | NA* |
| Cameroon | 120,220 (0) | -100% | 1,931 (0) | NA* |
| Central African Republic | 14,788 (8) | -20% | 113 (0) | NA* |
| Chad | 7,437 (0) | -100% | 193 (0) | NA* |
| Congo | 24,775 (0) | -100% | 386 (0) | NA* |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 92,541 (83) | -25% | 1,357 (0) | -100% |
| Equatorial Guinea | 16,776 (35) | -5% | 183 (0) | NA* |
| Gabon | 48,511 (0) | -100% | 306 (0) | NA* |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 6,115 (0) | -100% | 75 (0) | -100% |
| Eastern Region | 1,453,238 (1,290) | -20% | 27,507 (2) | -82% |
| Comoros | 8,270 (0) | NA* | 160 (0) | NA* |
| Djibouti | 15,753 (0) | -100% | 189 (0) | NA* |
| Eritrea | 9,892 (0) | NA* | 103 (0) | NA* |
| Ethiopia | 492,491 (254) | -47% | 7,569 (1) | -50% |
| Kenya | 337,874 (235) | -31% | 5,672 (0) | -100% |
| Madagascar | 66,289 (0) | NA* | 1,406 (0) | NA* |
| Mauritius | 38,060 (0) | NA* | 904 (0) | NA* |
| Rwanda | 126,642 (67) | -12% | 1,460 (0) | NA* |

| Country by AU Region | Cumulative number of cases (New cases) | % Change in new cases since week 30 | Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths) | % Change in new deaths since week 30 |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Seychelles | 45,540 (430) | 1948% | 168 (0) | -100% |
| Somalia | 26,912 (0) | NA* | 1,361 (0) | NA* |
| South Sudan | 17,783 (0) | NA* | 138 (0) | NA* |
| Sudan | 62,874 (0) | NA* | 3,909 (0) | NA* |
| Tanzania | 36,520 (0) | NA* | 841 (0) | NA* |
| Uganda | 168,338 (304) | -51% | 3,627 (1) | -83% |
| Northern Region | 3,751,741 (3,370) | -69% | 84,378 (24) | -73% |
| Algeria | 268,250 (800) | 31% | 6,877 (2) | NA* |
| Egypt | 515,667 (0) | NA* | 24,624 (0) | NA* |
| Libya | 505,805 (808) | -8% | 6,433 (2) | NA* |
| Mauritania | 62,657 (85) | -71% | 992 (0) | -100% |
| Morocco | 1,262,622 (1,644) | -49% | 16,257 (20) | -17% |
| Tunisia | 1,134,660 (0) | -100% | 29,105 (0) | -100% |
| Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic | 2,080 (33) | NA* | 90 (0) | NA* |
| Southern Region | 5,552,906 (1,346) | -67% | 127,311 (16) | -69% |
| Angola | 102,655 (223) | NA* | 1,917 (1) | NA* |
| Botswana | 263,950 (0) | NA* | 2,739 (0) | NA* |
| Eswatini | 73,305 (25) | 4% | 1,419 (2) | NA* |
| Lesotho | 34,245 (9) | -25% | 704 (0) | NA* |
| Malawi | 87,627 (217) | 26% | 2,670 (5) | -29% |
| Mozambique | 229,755 (154) | -32% | 2,216 (1) | NA* |
| Namibia | 169,253 (0) | NA* | 4,065 (0) | NA* |
| South Africa | 4,004,555 (0) | -100% | 101,982 (0) | -100% |
| Zambia | 331,074 (613) | -46% | 4,015 (0) | NA* |

| Country by AU Region | Cumulative number of cases (New cases) | % Change in new cases since week 30 | Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths) | % Change in new deaths since week 30 |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Zimbabwe | 256,487 (105) | -6% | 5,584 (7) | 40% |
| Western Region | 866,269 (1,703) | -8% | 11,421 (9) | -25% |
| Benin | 27,316 (45) | NA* | 163 (0) | NA* |
| Burkina Faso | 21,128 (0) | NA* | 387 (0) | NA* |
| Cape Verde | 62,207 (44) | -48% | 410 (0) | -100% |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 85,745 (382) | 0% | 811 (0) | -100% |
| Gambia | 12,238 (160) | 385% | 368 (0) | -100% |
| Ghana | 168,350 (223) | 86% | 1,458 (1) | NA* |
| Guinea | 37,486 (19) | -50% | 785 (4) | NA* |
| Guinea-Bissau | 8,452 (40) | NA* | 174 (3) | NA* |
| Liberia | 7,548 (10) | -67% | 294 (0) | NA* |
| Mali | 31,236 (8) | -33% | 739 (0) | -100% |
| Niger | 9,125 (19) | NA* | 311 (0) | NA* |
| Nigeria | 261,885 (412) | -42% | 3,147 (0) | NA* |
| Senegal | 87,615 (229) | -27% | 1,968 (0) | NA* |
| Sierra Leone | 7,737 (3) | -50% | 125 (0) | NA* |
| Togo | 38,201 (109) | -14% | 281 (1) | -67% |
| Total | 12,002,564 (8,807) | -57% | 255,176 (51) | -69% |

*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 4 August 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 held a workshop on the COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa Initiative Scalable Models in Lagos, Nigeria from 2 - 5 August 2022. The objectives of the workshop were to share approaches used by partners to scale up COVID-19 Vaccination in Africa with the aim of identifying scalable models applicable to young people and finalize the operational work plan for the COVID-19 Vaccination Bingwa Initiative.
3. Africa CDC held a technical workshop for the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative from 25 - 26 August 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. The objectives were to review challenges identified from early implementation, evaluate and address performance of the program, explore major program risks and define mitigation strategies.
4. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation commenced the in-country implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) initiative in the Republic of Rwanda to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination across the country on 8 August 2022. The target is to reach more than 700,000 citizens, while strengthening the county's cold chain capacity and bolster 21 new COVID-19 vaccination centers in the Northern, Southern and Western parts of the country to ensure COVID-19 vaccine accessibility and equity.

Laboratory

1. Africa CDC and partners released a new Guidance on COVID-19 testing to AU Member States on 3 August 2022. The purpose of this revised testing strategy is to guide AU Member States with a shift from emergency response to routine public health monitoring of COVID-19 on the African continent. Download [here](#)
2. Africa CDC held a regional workshop on Laboratory Quality Management System (LQMS) using the One Health approach during the COVID-19 pandemic from 1 - 5 August 2022 in Accra, Ghana.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. The fourth session of the 13th IPC webinar series titled "Understanding legal framework for IPC-using for advocacy for national programmes" was held on Wednesday 3 August 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for 301 participants in English and on Thursday 4 August 2022 at 2 p.m. for 212 participants in French.
 - a. English session recording:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpXmN_QETaE&t=3s
 - b. Arabic interpretation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2HpD8AwlnY&t=19s>
 - c. French session:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3wTVOhp2ww&t=3s>

d. Portuguese interpretation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJthV6AR2rl&t=7s>

2. The fifth session of the 13th IPC webinar series titled “Healthcare workers’ safety and Point of Care Risk Assessment” will be held on Wednesday 10 August 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session and on Thursday 11 August 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 in collaboration with East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) is conducting an Event-based Surveillance (EBS) Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop from 8 – 12 August 2022, in Chongwe, Zambia. The objective of the workshop is to build capacity for the national team on key components of EBS including community based and health facility EBS, hotlines, media scanning and monitoring and evaluation.
2. Africa CDC is holding a regional advocacy workshop for coordinated EBS for 24 participants in Yaounde, Cameroon from 8 - 11 August 2022. The objective is to raise awareness and advocate for the adaptation and implementation of Africa CDC EBS tool.

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.
3. AU Member States should continue to **enhance COVID-19³ surveillance** efforts to include:

² [Vaccination Advocacy Infographics – Africa CDC](#)

³ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

- 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.

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/>
- 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/>

⁴ [Enhanced COVID-19 Surveillance at the Community Level in Africa](#)

⁵ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

⁶ [Interim guidance on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen self-testing to African Union Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁷ [Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁸ [Interim operational guidance on SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance in Africa: An updated guide](#)

⁹ [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>