

Outbreak Brief #14: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 21 April 2020

2,316,039 cases and 157,896 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (14 April 2020), 542,052 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 46,216 new deaths have been reported globally. This is a 31% increase in cases reported between 14-21 April 2020 compared to a 46% increase in cases reported between 7-14 April 2020. To date, a total of 2,316,039 COVID-19 cases and 157,896 (CFR: 7%) related deaths have been reported worldwide. This week no new countries or territories have reported COVID-19 cases, while two new countries², both African countries, are reporting deaths for the first time. Worldwide, a total of 213 countries and territories have reported COVID-19 cases. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases %) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 121,414 (5%), European Region 1,149,071 (50%), Region of the Americas 858,631 (37%), South-East Asia Region 29,576 (1%) and Western Pacific Region 133,150 (6%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports³.

As of 9 am EAT 21 April 2020, a total of 23,505 COVID-19 cases and 1,158 (CFR: 5%) deaths have been reported in 52 African countries. Since the last brief, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased by 54% (8,221 cases). The five countries in Africa with the highest cumulative number of cases (proportion of reported cases in Africa) are Egypt (3,333; 14%), South Africa (3,300; 14%), Morocco (3,064; 13%), Algeria (2,718; 12%) and Cameroon (1,163; 5%). When population is taken into consideration, Djibouti (85.6), Mauritius (25.8), Cabo Verde (12.1) Seychelles (11.2), Morocco (8.3), Tunisia (7.4), Algeria (6.2), Equatorial Guinea (5.6), and South Africa (5.6) are reporting the most cases per 100,000 population within the continent. Thirteen countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 7%. Out of these, the countries with 100 cases or more, case fatality rates are highest in Algeria (14%), Sudan (11%) Egypt (8%), Democratic Republic of Congo (7%) and Burkina Faso (7%). See Table 1

¹ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

² Eswatini, Guinea

³ WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

for the full list of countries in Africa reporting cases, deaths, and COVID-19 recoveries in addition to the epidemic phase in each country. Africa CDC is working with all affected countries and is mobilizing laboratory, surveillance, and other response support where requested.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported in Africa⁴ 14-21 April 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁵
Central Region	1,912 (638)	75 (36)	384	
Burundi	6 (1)	1 (0)	4	2
Cameroon	1,163 (343)	42 (30)	305	2
Central African Republic	14 (3)	-	10	2
Chad	33 (10)	-	8	2
Congo	143 (69)	6 (1)	11	2
DRC	350 (109)	25 (5)	35	2
Equatorial Guinea	79 (58)	-	4	2
Gabon	120 (45)	1 (0)	7	2
Sao Tome and Principe	4 (0)	-	-	1
Eastern Region	2,542 (1,165)	56 (24)	590	
Djibouti	846 (548)	2 (0)	102	2

⁴ New numbers reported since last weekly report (14 April 2020)

⁵ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing number of imported cases, increased local spread but all cases linked to known transmission chains, outbreak clusters with a known common exposure; **Phase 3 (Advancing outbreak)**: localised outbreaks start to merge, one or more cases or deaths occur outside known transmission, multiple generations in transmission chains, cases are detected among severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) case with no known exposure; **Phase 4 (Large outbreak with nationwide transmission)**: widespread sustained community transmission, multiple generation transmission chains can be identified but most cases occurring outside of chains, community-wide transmission throughout all or nearly all of the country

Eritrea	39 (5)	-	3	2
Ethiopia	111 (37)	3 (0)	16	3
Kenya	281 (73)	14 (5)	69	2
Madagascar	121 (13)	-	41	2
Mauritius	328 (4)	9 (0)	224	2
Rwanda	147 (20)	-	80	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	5	2
Somalia	237 (177)	8 (6)	3	2
South Sudan	4 (0)	-	-	2
Sudan	107 (78)	12 (8)	8	2
Tanzania	254 (208)	8(5)	11	2
Uganda	56 (2)	-	28	3
Northern Region	10,052 (3,427)	817 (198)	2,326	
Algeria	2,718 (804)	384 (91)	1,099	3
Egypt	3,333 (1,143)	250 (86)	821	2
Libya	51 (26)	1 (0)	11	2
Mauritania	7 (0)	1 (0)	2	2
Morocco	3,064 (1,301)	143 (17)	350	2
Tunisia	879 (153)	38 (4)	43	3
Southern Region	3,525 (1,091)	70 (33)	969	
Angola	19 (0)	2 (0)	6	1
Botswana	20 (7)	1 (0)	-	2
Eswatini	24 (9)	1 (1)	8	2
Malawi	17 (1)	2 (0)	3	2

Mozambique	39 (19)	-	8	2
Namibia	16 (0)	-	4	2
South Africa	3,300 (1,028)	58 (31)	903	3
Zambia	65 (20)	3 (1)	35	2
Zimbabwe	25 (8)	3 (0)	2	2
Western Region	5,474 (1,900)	140 (51)	1,564	
Benin	54 (19)	1 (0)	27	2
Burkina Faso	581 (66)	38 (10)	357	2
Cape Verde	67 (57)	1 (0)	1	2
Côte d'Ivoire	879 (253)	10 (4)	287	2
Gambia	10 (1)	1 (0)	2	1
Ghana	1,042 (476)	9 (1)	99	2
Guinea	622 (303)	5 (5)	122	2
Guinea-Bissau	50 (10)	-	-	2
Liberia	99 (40)	8 (2)	7	2
Mali	246 (120)	14 (4)	56	2
Niger	655 (111)	20 (7)	124	2
Nigeria	665 (322)	22 (12)	188	2
Senegal	377 (86)	5 (3)	235	3
Sierra Leone	43 (33)	-	6	2
Togo	84 (7)	6 (3)	53	2
Total	23,505 (8,221)	1,158 (343)	5,833	

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

Laboratory:

1. Africa CDC will host two webinars this week: 1) to train 24 additional laboratory staff on RT-PCR testing for different equipment platforms, featuring major companies and coordinated by ASLM on 23 April 2020; and 2) to provide guidance to Member States on the use of serology testing for COVID-19 diagnosis on 24 April 2020.
2. Africa CDC coordinated the distribution of RNA extraction kits, viral transport media and swabs from the Abiy-Jack Ma Foundation for most Member States.
3. Africa CDC coordinated training on pathogen genomics using the ONT platform for Kenya and is planning online training for additional countries.
4. Africa CDC coordinated the distribution of pathogen genomics equipment and reagents for four countries. Additional machines and reagents are expected to arrive in Addis this week.
5. Africa CDC completed an equipment footprint analysis focused on molecular COVID-19 testing platforms and developed testing projections by country for all Member States.

Surveillance:

1. Support for Member States on selected priority areas on COVID-19 is ongoing. Planning for cascaded training and deployment of experts for surveillance has been completed for 12 countries. Cameroon has started their training on surveillance this week whereby 120 surveillance officers in 4 regions will be trained.
2. Africa CDC will continue conducting its weekly surveillance webinars. This week's topic is on "Essential components of outbreak reporting in the COVID-19 context". The English webinar will be conducted on 22nd April 2020, 16:00hrs – 17:00hrs EAT and the French edition will be conducted on 24th April 2020, 16:00hrs – 17:00hrs EAT.

Healthcare Preparedness

1. Africa CDC has continued facilitating discussions about COVID-19 clinical management amongst a e network of 300 clinicians from across the continent through weekly webinars. The last webinar was held on 16 April 2020 to discuss management of frontline healthcare workers. The next webinar on Wednesday 22 April 2020 will focus on 'COVID-19 in an emergency set up- Experience from the Field and Critical care in the ICU'

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should enhance their surveillance⁶ to include COVID-19⁷ and for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁸ and to carefully review any unusual patterns of SARI or pneumonia cases. Examples of enhanced surveillance include:

⁶ Africa CDC Protocol for enhanced surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa: <https://africacdc.org/download/protocol-for-enhanced-severe-acute-respiratory-illness-and-influenza-like-illness-surveillance-for-covid-19-in-africa/>

⁷ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

⁸ WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of ≥ 38 C°) and cough with symptom onset within the last 10 days that requires hospitalization. https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/ili_sari_surveillance_case_definition/en/

- a. Adding questions about travel, contact history, and testing for coronaviruses to existing influenza surveillance systems;
 - b. Notifying healthcare facilities to immediately inform local public health officials about persons who meet the case definition for COVID-19, SARI and/or have recent travel to a country with local transmission or history of contact with a case.
2. Member States should continue to enhance surveillance at the borders to screen incoming travelers for severe respiratory illness and a history of recent travel to affected countries or territories reporting local or community transmission. Member States should be prepared to expand questions about recent travel to include additional countries as the outbreak evolves.
 3. Member States should perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.⁹
 4. Notify WHO and Africa CDC immediately if suspected or confirmed cases of infection with novel coronavirus are identified. Africa CDC should be notified by emailing AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
 5. Provide guidance to the general public about seeking immediate medical care and informing healthcare providers about recent travel or contact history in anyone who develops symptoms of severe respiratory illness.

Resources for more information:

Africa CDC Resources

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates. <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

Other Resources

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Novel coronavirus overview. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 14 January 2020. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Wuhan, China. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

⁹ Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>