

Outbreak Brief #16: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 05 May 2020

3,438,403 cases and 239,587 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (28 April 2020), 558,891 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 40,877 new deaths have been reported globally. This is a 19% increase in cases reported between 28 April - 5 May 2020 compared to a 24% increase in cases reported between 21-28 April 2020. To date, a total of 3,438,403 COVID-19 cases and 239,587 (CFR: 6.9%) related deaths have been reported worldwide. This week two new countries² including one from Africa, are reporting cases, and two new countries are reporting deaths³ for the first time. Worldwide, a total of 215 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 191,423 (6%), European Region 1,543,875 (45%), Region of the Americas 1,433,756 (42%), South-East Asia Region 67,673 (2%) and Western Pacific Region 153,485 (4%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports⁴.

As of 9 am EAT 05 May 2020, a total of 47,118 COVID-19 cases and 1,843 (CFR: 4%) deaths have been reported in 53 African countries. Since the last brief, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased by 42% (13,845 cases). The five countries in Africa with the highest cumulative number of cases (proportion of reported cases in Africa) are South Africa (7,220; 15%), Egypt (6,813; 14%), Morocco (5,053; 11%), Algeria (4,648; 10%) and Nigeria (2,802; 6%). When population is taken into consideration, Djibouti (113), Sao Tome and Principe (73), Cabo Verde (31), Mauritius (26), and Equatorial Guinea (22) are reporting the most cases per 100,000 population within the continent. Seven countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 6.9%. Out of these, the case fatality rates for countries with 100 cases or more are: Liberia (11%), Algeria (10%), Chad (9%), and Togo (7%). See Table 1 for the full list of countries in Africa reporting cases, deaths, and COVID-19 recoveries in addition to the

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 Comoros, Tajikistan

³ Comoros, Maldives

⁴ WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

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 Africa⁵ 28 April-5 May 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁶
Central Region	4,118 (1,097)	129 (28)	1,231	
Burundi	19 (4)	1 (0)	7	2
Cameroon	2,104 (348)	64 (6)	953	2
Central African Republic	94 (44)	-	10	2
Chad	117 (71)	10 (10)	39	2
Congo	236 (29)	10 (2)	26	2
DRC	705 (234)	34 (4)	90	2
Equatorial Guinea	315 (57)	1 (0)	9	2
Gabon	367 (156)	6 (3)	93	3
Sao Tome and Principe	161 (154)	3 (3)	4	1
Eastern Region	4,609 (1,230)	132 (48)	1,882	
Comoros	4 (4)	1(1)	0	1

⁵ New numbers reported since last weekly report (28 April 2020, 9am EAT)

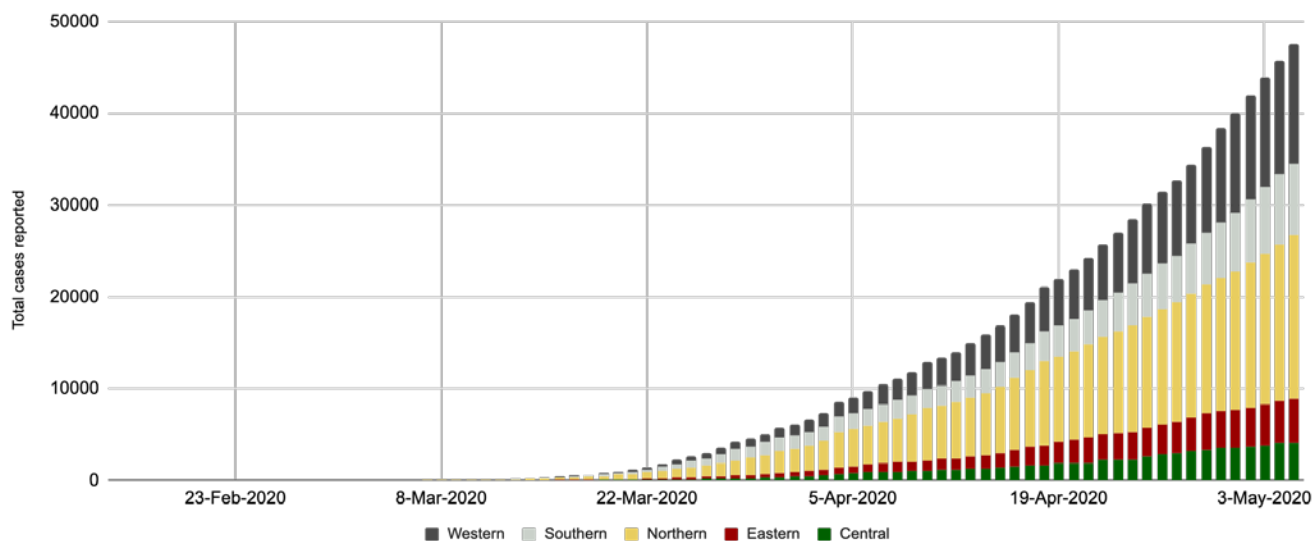
⁶ Phases defined according to Africa CDC’s Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

<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

Djibouti	1,116 (81)	2 (0)	713	2
Eritrea	39 (0)	-	26	2
Ethiopia	140 (16)	3 (0)	91	3
Kenya	490 (127)	24 (10)	173	2
Madagascar	151 (23)	-	99	2
Mauritius	334 (0)	10 (1)	316	3
Rwanda	261 (54)	-	128	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	6	2
Somalia	756 (276)	35 (9)	61	2
South Sudan	52 (47)	-	2	2
Sudan	678 (403)	41 (19)	61	2
Tanzania	480 (181)	16 (8)	167	2
Uganda	97 (18)	-	55	3
Northern Region	17,703 (4,249)	1,127 (154)	5,717	
Algeria	4,648 (1,131)	465 (33)	1,998	3
Egypt	6,813 (2,031)	436 (99)	1,632	2
Libya	63 (2)	3 (1)	22	2
Mauritania	8 (1)	1 (0)	6	2
Morocco	5,053 (933)	179 (17)	1,653	2
Tunisia	1,118 (151)	43 (4)	406	3
Southern Region	7,697 (2,544)	152 (48)	2,896	
Angola	30 (5)	2 (0)	11	1
Botswana	23 (1)	1 (0)	8	2
Eswatini	116 (51)	1 (0)	12	2

Malawi	41 (5)	3 (0)	9	2
Mozambique	80 (4)	-	19	2
Namibia	16 (0)	-	8	2
South Africa	7,220 (2,427)	138 (48)	2,746	3
Zambia	137 (48)	3 (0)	78	2
Zimbabwe	34 (3)	4 (0)	5	2
Western Region	12,991 (4,725)	303 (98)	3,861	
Benin	96 (32)	2 (1)	50	2
Burkina Faso	672 (37)	46 (4)	545	3
Cape Verde	175 (66)	2 (1)	37	2
Côte d'Ivoire	1,432 (282)	17 (3)	693	2
Gambia	17 (7)	1 (0)	9	1
Ghana	2,719 (1,169)	18 (7)	294	2
Guinea	1,710 (547)	9 (2)	450	3
Guinea-Bissau	292 (219)	2(1)	25	2
Liberia	166 (33)	18 (2)	58	2
Mali	580 (172)	29 (6)	223	2
Niger	755 (54)	37 (8)	534	2
Nigeria	2,802 (1,465)	93 (53)	417	3
Senegal	1,271 (536)	11 (2)	415	3
Sierra Leone	178 (79)	9 (5)	37	2
Togo	126 (27)	9 (3)	74	2
Total	47,118 (13,845)	1,843 (376)	15,587	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 17 Feb - 5 May 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General

1. Africa CDC is hosting a webinar titled *“COVID-19 in Africa & Africans in Diaspora United”* on 5 May 2020 10am EST
2. Member states and partners are invited to attend a webinar on evidence and data-informed risk communications. The webinar will explore how the Partnership for Evidence-based Response against COVID-19 (PERC) can support risk communications efforts, identify approaches for refining messaging based on data, and discuss insights on risk communications lessons and challenges. With Amanda McLelland and Nandita Murutkula from Vital Strategies, and Dr Hana Rohan from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 7 May 2020, 17:00 EAT/16:00 CAT/15:00 WAT/14:00 GMT/10:00 EDT. The session will be in English language only; a French language session will take place the following week. Register here: https://vitalstrategies.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JlWc8zACQECfAgdImIY42w. The final report is available here: <https://preventepidemics.org/coronavirus/perc/>

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

3. Africa CDC held a Clinical Community of Practice webinar on Treatment experiences in Shanghai and Wuhan for all clinicians from across the continent (> 300 Participants) on 30 April 2020.
4. Two experts from the US CDC were recruited to join the Clinical Community of Practice to provide remote support to Member States.
5. This week's Clinical Community of Practice webinar titled *“Isolation and Cohorting for COVID-19”* will be led by Dr. Alice Simniceanu, World Health Organization (WHO) and Professor Sade Ogunshola, Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) on Thursday 7 May 2020 1pm EAT

Laboratory:

6. Africa CDC hosted a video conference training on SARS-CoV-2 sequencing using the ONT platforms for all member states with 40 participants on 29 April 2020.
7. Africa CDC held a webinar on the turnaround time of test results for COVID-19 Sharing experience and recommendations for all Member States with 300 participants on 29 April 2020.

Surveillance:

8. Africa CDC held a webinar on *“Data Use for Action: Analysis, and Interpretation of surveillance data to inform policy decisions”* for 30 member states and more than 100 participants on 29 April 2020.
9. The next weekly surveillance webinar on *“Leveraging SAR/ILI surveillance framework for COVID-19 pandemic response and beyond: Sharing South Africa’s experience and lessons learnt”* will be held on Wednesday 6 May 2020 4pm EAT.

Risk Communication

10. The 9th COVID-19 continental update press briefing with the Africa CDC director and journalists was held on 30 April 2020. The next press briefing will be held on Thursday, 7 May 2020 at 10am EAT.
11. Africa CDC finalized discussions with Facebook on their support: offering their Workplace platform for free to Africa CDC along with advertisement credits worth \$100,000 USD and staff support for COVID-19 campaigns.
12. Africa CDC held discussions with several partners to support fundraising campaigns for the African Union COVID-19 Fund, including DMI, Pandemic Action Network, Access Challenge, IWD, Novetta, Trace TV, CNN, and BBC.

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should enhance their surveillance⁷ to include COVID-19⁸ and for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁹. Examples of enhanced surveillance include:
 - 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.
3. Member States should perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.¹⁰
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. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

⁷ 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/>

⁸ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

⁹ WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$) 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/

¹⁰ Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>