

Outbreak Brief #17: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 12 May 2020

4,009,315 cases and 278,926 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (05 May 2020), 570,912 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 39,339 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 4,009,315 COVID-19 cases and 278,926 (CFR: 7%) related deaths have been reported worldwide. Worldwide, a total of 215 countries and territories have reported COVID-19 cases and no new country or territory has reported cases or deaths this week. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases %) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 244,923 (6%), European Region 1,731,606 (43%), Region of the Americas 1,702,451 (42%), South-East Asia Region 100,881 (3%) and Western Pacific Region 161,622 (4%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports².

As of 9 am EAT 12 May 2020, a total of 66,373 COVID-19 cases and 2,336 (CFR: 4%) deaths have been reported in 53 African countries. This is about 2% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 19,255 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is about 1.4 times more new cases compared to what was reported between 28 April and 05 May 2020. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Western region 34% (6,575), Northern region 28% (5,319), Southern region 19% (3,679), Eastern region 10% (1,852) and Central region 10% (1,830). Six countries³ account for 66% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief. When population is taken into consideration, Djibouti (124), Sao Tome and Principe (95), Cabo Verde (47), Guinea Bissau (39), and Gabon (36) are reporting the most cumulative COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population within the continent. Six countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 7%. Out of these, the case fatality rates for countries with 100 cases or more are: Liberia (9.5%), Chad (9.3%), and Algeria (8.6%). See Table 1 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

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

³ Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, and South Africa

affected countries and is mobilizing laboratory, surveillance, and other response support where requested.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported in Africa⁴ 5-12 May 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁵
Central Region	5,948 (1,830)	219 (90)	1,880	
Burundi	19 (0)	1 (0)	7	2
Cameroon	2,579 (475)	114 (50)	1,465	2
Central African Republic	179 (85)	-	12	2
Chad	333 (216)	31 (21)	53	2
Congo	287 (51)	11 (1)	53	2
DRC	1,102 (397)	44 (10)	146	2
Equatorial Guinea	439 (124)	4 (3)	13	2
Gabon	802 (435)	9 (3)	127	3
Sao Tome and Principe	208 (47)	5 (2)	4	1
Eastern Region	6,461 (1,852)	199 (67)	2,359	
Comoros	11 (7)	1(0)	0	1

⁴ New numbers reported since last weekly report (05 May 2020, 9am EAT)

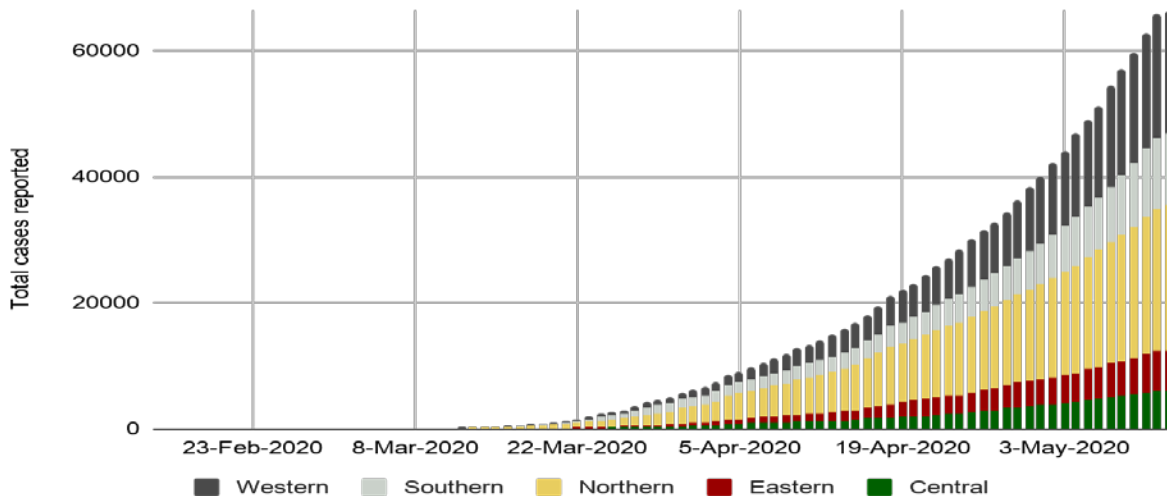
⁵ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

<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

Djibouti	1,227 (111)	3 (1)	872	2
Eritrea	39 (0)	-	38	2
Ethiopia	250 (110)	5 (2)	105	3
Kenya	700 (210)	33 (9)	251	2
Madagascar	186 (35)	-	105	2
Mauritius	332 (-2)	10 (0)	322	3
Rwanda	285 (24)	-	150	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	10	2
Somalia	1,089 (333)	52 (17)	121	2
South Sudan	174 (120)	-	2	2
Sudan	1,526 (848)	74 (33)	161	2
Tanzania	509 (29)	21 (5)	167	2
Uganda	122 (25)	-	55	3
Northern Region	23,022 (5,319)	1,277 (150)	8,561	
Algeria	5,891 (1,243)	507 (42)	2,841	3
Egypt	9,746 (2,933)	533 (97)	2,172	2
Libya	64 (1)	3 (0)	24	2
Mauritania	8 (0)	1 (0)	6	2
Morocco	6,281 (1,228)	188 (9)	2,811	2
Tunisia	1,032 (-86)	45 (2)	707	3
Southern Region	7,697 (3,679)	225 (73)	4,595	
Angola	45 (15)	2 (0)	13	1
Botswana	24 (1)	1 (0)	12	2
Eswatini	116 (59)	2 (1)	28	2

Malawi	57 (16)	3 (0)	14	2
Mozambique	103 (23)	-	34	2
Namibia	16 (0)	-	11	2
South Africa	10,652 (3,432)	206 (68)	4,357	3
Zambia	267 (130)	7 (4)	117	2
Zimbabwe	37 (3)	4 (0)	9	2
Western Region	19,566 (6,575)	416 (113)	5,700	
Benin	319 (223)	2 (0)	62	2
Burkina Faso	760 (88)	50 (4)	585	3
Cape Verde	260 (85)	2 (0)	58	2
Côte d'Ivoire	1,730 (298)	21 (4)	818	2
Gambia	22 (5)	1 (0)	10	1
Ghana	4,700 (1,981)	22 (4)	494	2
Guinea	2,213 (503)	11 (2)	771	3
Guinea-Bissau	761 (469)	3(1)	26	2
Liberia	211 (45)	20 (2)	85	2
Mali	712 (132)	39 (10)	377	2
Niger	832 (77)	46 (9)	637	2
Nigeria	4,641 (1,839)	150 (57)	902	3
Senegal	1,886 (615)	19 (8)	715	3
Sierra Leone	338 (160)	19 (10)	72	2
Togo	181 (55)	11 (2)	89	2
Total	66,373 (19,255)	2,336 (493)	23,095	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 17 Feb - 12 May 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General

1. Africa CDC has oriented and deployed 20 experts in Ethiopia and 15 experts in Nigeria to support COVID-19 response in these countries. Africa CDC is also in the final stages of deploying experts to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

2. A total of 492 people from 46 Member States and 34 from other countries participated in the webinar on “Isolation and Cohorting” held on 6 May 2020. This week's Clinical Community of Practice webinar will be held on Thursday 14 May at 1pm EAT. Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7415840392823/WN_JrxGGP7eSJGDfr3d1h9ZOW.
3. Africa CDC is hosting office hours for the Clinical Community of Practice (CCoP) to discuss various COVID-19 case management scenarios/questions. The last session was held on 6 May 2020 where 40 clinicians participated from 41 member states.

Infection Prevention and Control

4. Africa CDC will host a webinar on Wednesday 13 May 2020 1pm EAT to discuss Environmental Cleaning for COVID-19 led by Molly Patrick from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) and Professor Shaheen Mehtar (ICAN). Other

experts from Africa CDC, ICAN, Public Health England, US CDC, and WHO. will take part in the interactive Q&A session. Registration link https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JJ1a0I7VTva30BioAN3l4g.

Laboratory:

5. Africa CDC hosted a webinar titled “Biosafety and Waste Management” on 7 May 2020 in collaboration with ASLM. This week’s webinar titled “Supply chain for laboratory commodities (who is doing what?)”.
6. Distribution of laboratory supplies, equipment and reagents to Member States from Jack Ma Foundation (extraction, detection, VTMs and swabs), Illumina (pathogen genomics equipment and reagents for 10 Member States) and TIB Molbiol (PCR detection kits for 149,000 tests) will begin this week.

Surveillance:

7. Africa CDC facilitated the weekly surveillance webinar *titled* “Leveraging SAR/ILI surveillance framework for COVID-19 pandemic response and beyond: Sharing South Africa’s experience and lessons learnt” on 6 May 2020 EAT.
8. The next weekly surveillance webinar will be held on Wednesday 13 May 2020 4pm EAT for the English session and Friday 15 May 2020 4pm EAT. This will be a special session with a panel discussion on “Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT): the role of surveillance in identifying cases for targeted testing”. The Director of Africa CDC, Dr. John Nkengasong will be the guest of honor. Registration for this webinar can be done for the English session at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RbXV0-NSRCSDgahWD7I30w and the French session at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s530rbytT4yCBt5o2UKCvw.

Risk Communication

9. The 10th COVID-19 continental update press briefing with the Africa CDC director and journalists was held on 7 May 2020. The next press briefing will be held on Thursday, 14 May 2020 at 10am EAT.

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should enhance their surveillance⁶ to include COVID-19⁷ and for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁸. 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.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. <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>

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 $\geq 38\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) 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/

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