

Outbreak Brief #18: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 19 May 2020

4,622,001 cases and 311,916 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (12 May 2020), 612,686 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 32,990 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 4,622,001 COVID-19 cases and 311,916 (CFR: 7%) related deaths have been reported worldwide. Worldwide, a total of 215 countries and territories have reported COVID-19 cases. One country (Lesotho) is reporting cases for the first time and three countries (Madagascar, Nepal, South Sudan) are reporting deaths for the first time this week. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases %) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 312,946 (7%), European Region 1,890,467 (41%), Region of the Americas 2,017,811 (44%), South-East Asia Region 141,593 (3%) and Western Pacific Region 169,227 (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 19 May 2020, a total of 88,172 COVID-19 cases and 2,834 (CFR: 3%) deaths have been reported in 54 African countries. This is about 2% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief (12 May 2020), 21,799 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 32% increase in new cases reported compared to what was reported in the previous week (05 to 12 May 2020). The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 46% (10,055 cases), Western region 24% (5,189), Northern region 23% (5,084), Central region 12% (2,717) and Eastern region 11% (2,433). Six countries³ account for 66% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief. When population is taken into consideration, Djibouti (153), Sao Tome and Principe (107), Cabo Verde (59), Gabon (64) and Guinea Bissau (52) are reporting the most cumulative COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population within the continent. Five 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: Chad (10%), Liberia (10%), and Algeria (8%). 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

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

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 12-19 May 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁵
Central Region	8,665 (2,717)	294 (75)	2,417	
Burundi	42 (13)	1 (0)	20	2
Cameroon	3,529 (950)	140 (26)	1,567	3
Central African Republic	366 (187)	-	18	2
Chad	519 (186)	53 (22)	117	3
Congo	391 (104)	15 (4)	87	2
DRC	1,629 (527)	61 (17)	290	3
Equatorial Guinea	522 (83)	6 (2)	13	3
Gabon	1,432 (630)	11 (2)	301	3
Sao Tome and Principe	235 (27)	7 (2)	4	1
Eastern Region	8,894 (2,433)	263 (64)	2,811	
Comoros	11 (0)	1 (0)	3	1

⁴ New numbers reported since last weekly report (12 May 2020, 9am)

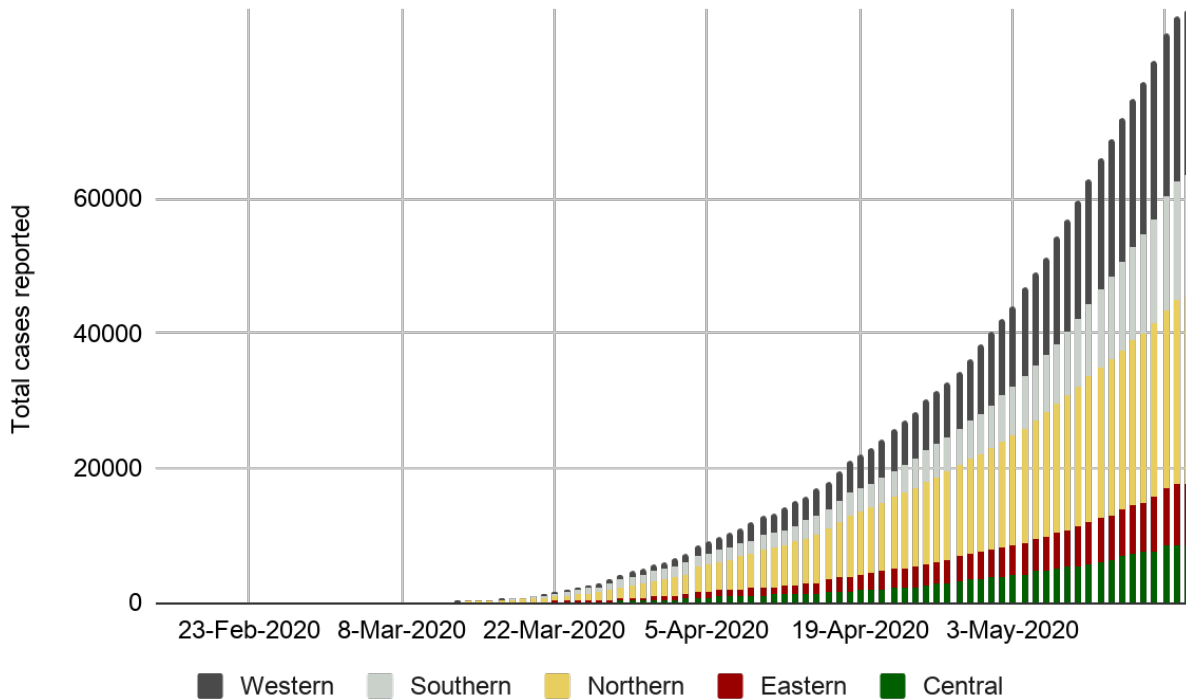
⁵ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

<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)**: localized 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	1,518 (291)	7 (4)	1,018	2
Eritrea	39 (0)	-	39	2
Ethiopia	352 (102)	5 (0)	116	3
Kenya	912 (212)	50 (17)	336	3
Madagascar	332 (136)	1 (1)	119	2
Mauritius	332 (0)	10 (0)	322	3
Rwanda	297 (12)	-	203	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	11	2
Somalia	1,455 (366)	57 (5)	163	2
South Sudan	285 (111)	4 (4)	4	2
Sudan	2,591 (1065)	105 (31)	247	2
Tanzania	509 (0)	21 (0)	167	3
Uganda	260 (138)	-	63	3
Northern Region	28,106 (5,084)	1,445 (168)	11,683	
Algeria	7,201 (1,310)	555 (48)	3,625	3
Egypt	12,764 (3,018)	645 (112)	3,440	2
Libya	65 (1)	3 (0)	35	2
Mauritania	81 (73)	4 (3)	6	2
Morocco	6,952 (371)	192 (4)	3,758	2
Tunisia	1,043 (11)	46 (1)	819	3
Southern Region	17,752 (10,055)	305 (80)	7,701	
Angola	50 (5)	2 (0)	17	1
Botswana	25 (1)	1 (0)	17	2
Eswatini	205 (89)	2 (0)	78	2

Lesotho	1 (1)	-	-	1
Malawi	70 (13)	3 (0)	27	2
Mozambique	145 (42)	-	46	2
Namibia	16 (0)	-	13	2
South Africa	16,433 (5,781)	286 (80)	7,298	3
Zambia	761 (494)	7 (0)	192	3
Zimbabwe	46 (9)	4 (0)	13	2
Western Region	24,213 (5,189)	5,27 (111)	9,251	
Benin	339 (20)	2 (0)	83	3
Burkina Faso	796 (36)	51 (1)	652	3
Cape Verde	328 (68)	3(1)	85	2
Côte d'Ivoire	2,119 (389)	28 (7)	1,040	3
Gambia	24 (2)	1 (0)	13	1
Ghana	5,735 (1,035)	29 (7)	1,754	3
Guinea	2,796 (583)	16 (5)	1,263	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,038 (277)	6 (3)	38	3
Liberia	229 (18)	22 (2)	123	3
Mali	874 (162)	52 (13)	512	3
Niger	909 (77)	55 (9)	714	3
Nigeria	6,175 (1,534)	191 (41)	1,644	3
Senegal	2,544 (658)	26 (7)	1,076	3
Sierra Leone	519 (181)	33 (14)	148	2
Togo	330 (159)	12 (1)	106	3
Total	88,172 (21,799)	2,834 (498)	33,863	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 23 Feb - 19 May 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General

1. In addition to deploying 20 experts (14 epidemiologists, 1 psychosocial and 5 IPC) to Ethiopia and 15 experts (epidemiologists) to Nigeria to support COVID-19 response activities, Africa CDC will deploy experts (29 epidemiologists, 2 IPC, 2 lab, 1 data manager and 1 communication officer) to Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe as of 19 May 2020. Thirty-five additional experts (21 epidemiologists, 9 IPC, 1 logistician, 2 data managers and 2 laboratorians) will be deployed to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Ghana and Sierra Leone from 20 May 2020.
2. Africa CDC held a webinar entitled “Medical and health services support to African Union for COVID-19” on Thursday 14 May 2020 at 12pm EAT for all Africa Union staff.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

3. Held a clinical community of practice webinar entitled “Maintaining Critical Care Services and Maintaining Maternal and Pediatric Services” Thursday 14 May 2020, where 320 participants attended from 54 member states. https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7415840392823/WN_JrxGGP7eSJGDfr3d1h9ZOW.

4. Held midweek office hours on Wednesday 13 May 2020, where 41 clinicians were provided guidance on case management from 45 member states.

Infection Prevention and Control

5. Conducted an English webinar entitled “Environmental Cleaning” on 13 May 2020 1pm EAT for 330 participants from 48 AU Member States and 34 countries outside Africa. The French version was held on 15 May 2020 1pm EAT and 97 participants from 30 AU member states and seven countries outside Africa.
6. Africa CDC will hold a meeting on validation of the Africa CDC Legal Framework on IPC to assist Member States with developing laws to improve IPC in healthcare facilities, from May 19 at 2pm EAT and May 20 at 3 pm EAT.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1mZZrhEaRmG-73pFHW_OXA

Laboratory:

7. Africa CDC distributed laboratory supplies, equipment and reagents to 23 Member States this week from:
 - a. Jack Ma Foundation: extraction and detection kits, viral transport media and swabs
 - b. Illumina: pathogen genomics equipment and reagents
 - c. TIB Molbiol: PCR detection kits for 149,000 tests
 - d. Cepheid: 3,000 COVID-19 GeneXpert cartridges
8. Hosted a webinar entitled “*Best practice in implementing a structures quality assured COVID-19 testing program*” on Thursday 14 May at 2pm EAT in collaboration with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) for more than 620 participants.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83686303865>
9. Africa CDC worked with the African Taskforce for COVID-19 Response (AFTCOR) Laboratory TWG to develop a draft document on quality assurance for COVID-19 testing and bio banking.

Surveillance:

10. Africa CDC held a special English webinar entitled “*The role of surveillance in identifying cases for targeted testing*” on 13 May 2020 at 4pm EAT for 630 participants from 45 AU Member States. The French version was held on 15 May 2020 at 4 pm EAT.
11. Africa CDC will hold its 6th surveillance webinar entitled “*Leveraging the DHIS2 platform for COVID-19 surveillance data use*” on Wednesday, 20 May 2020 at 4pm EAT.
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RbXV0-NSRCSDgahWD7I30w
12. Africa CDC published the revised guidance on community physical distancing during COVID-19 pandemic guide to accommodate the new evidence.
<https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-community-social-distancing-during-covid-19-outbreak/>
13. The Africa CDC AFTCOR Surveillance TWG met and deliberated on:

- a. the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT) surveillance strategy to improve case identification for targeted and effective testing;
- b. Surveillance system strategies in support of countries' efforts towards unlocking/downgrading existing public health and social measures put in place.

Risk Communication

14. The 11th COVID-19 continental update press briefing with the Africa CDC director and journalists was held on 14 May 2020. The next press briefing will be held on Thursday, 22 May 2020 at 10am EAT.
15. Africa CDC inaugurated the Communications Community of Practice and held the first webinar on risk communication for journalists reporting COVID-19. About 60 journalists participated.
16. Africa CDC activated the Facebook Workplace for Africa CDC and began a test run of the platform.

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.

⁶Africa 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/>

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

⁸WHO 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/

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

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/>
- Multimedia: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19-multimedia/>
- 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>