

Outbreak Brief #27: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 21 July 2020

14,363,960 cases and 603,943 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (14 July 2020), 1,577,909 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 37,039 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 14,363,960 COVID-19 cases and 603,943 (CFR: 4.2%) related deaths have been reported from 215 countries and territories. No new country or territory is reporting cases or deaths for the first time this week. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases %) from the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 1,259,922 (9%), European Region 3,079,218 (21%), Region of the Americas 7,584,675 (53%), South-East Asia Region 1,436,141 (10%) and Western Pacific Region 264,306 (2%). 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 21 July 2020, a total of 736,288 COVID-19 cases and 15,418 deaths (CFR: 2.1%) have been reported in 54 African countries. This is 5% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 125,481 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is an increase of 21% compared to the 14 July 2020 report. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 72% (90,203), Northern region 10% (12,020), Western region 9% (11,087), Eastern region 8% (9,474) and Central region 2% (2,697).

Five countries account for 82% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: South Africa (68.4%), Egypt (4.3%) Algeria (3.1%) Nigeria (3.2%) and Kenya (2.8%). South Africa (643), Djibouti (502), Sao Tome and Principe (373), Cabo Verde (345) and Gabon (306) are reporting the most cumulative COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in Africa. Eight countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 4.2%. These are: Chad (8.4%), Liberia (6.3%), Sudan (6.3%), Niger (6.2%), Burkina Faso (5.0%), Egypt (4.9%), Mali (4.9%) and Algeria (4.7%). Out of these countries, the case fatality rate has increased most in Liberia which increased from a CFR of 5% in the past week.

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>

Table 1 highlights the reported cases, deaths, and recoveries from COVID-19 in all countries in Africa. In addition, the table reports the current phase of the epidemic for each. 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 Africa³ 14 - 21 July 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	43,466 (2,697)	859 (23)	26,579	
Burundi	328 (59)	1 (0)	237	2
Cameroon	16,157 (984)	373 (14)	13,728	3
Central African Republic	4,548 (227)	55 (2)	1,400	3
Chad	889 (9)	75 (0)	801	3
Congo	2,851 (629)	50 (3)	666	3
DRC	8,443 (368)	194 (4)	4,335	3
Equatorial Guinea ⁵	3,071 (0)	51(0)	842	3
Gabon	6,433 (407)	46 (0)	4,034	3
Sao Tome and Principe	746 (14)	14 (0)	536	2
Eastern Region	57,031 (9,474)	1,403 (152)	30,814	

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (14 July 2020, 9am EAT)

⁴ 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

⁵ Last report received 2 July 2020

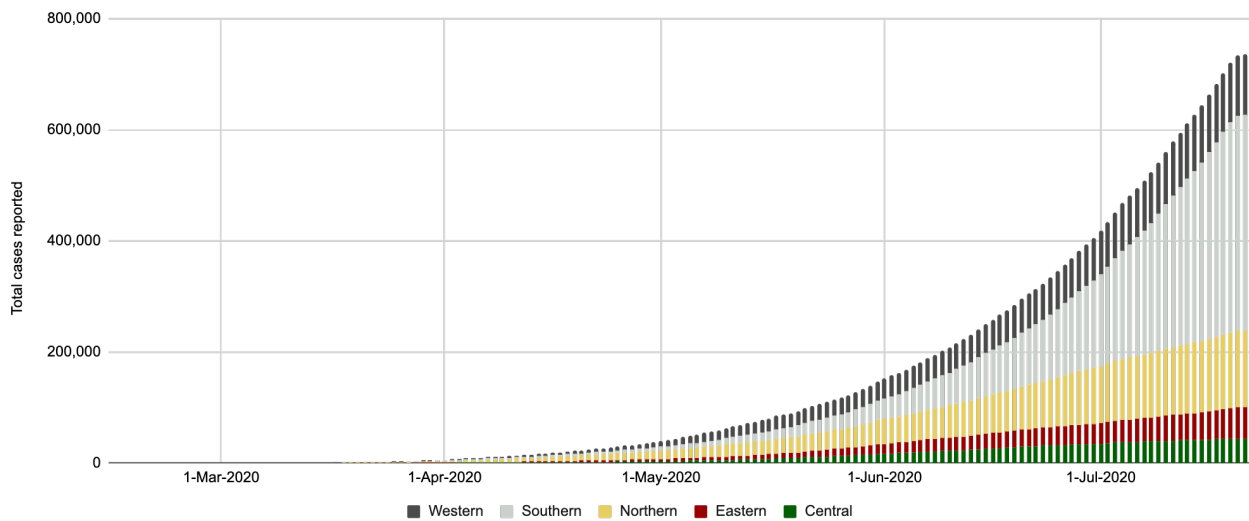
Comoros	334 (17)	7 (0)	313	3
Djibouti	5,020 (43)	56 (0)	4,868	2
Eritrea	251 (19)	0	155	1
Ethiopia	10,511 (2,745)	173 (45)	5,290	3
Kenya	13,771 (3,477)	238 (41)	5,616	3
Madagascar	7,153 (2,073)	62 (25)	3,788	3
Mauritius	343 (1)	10 (0)	332	1
Rwanda	1,629 (251)	5 (1)	838	3
Seychelles	108 (8)	0	11	1
Somalia	3,130 (58)	93 (0)	1,462	1
South Sudan	2,211 (66)	45 (4)	1,185	3
Sudan	10,992 (676)	693 (36)	5,707	3
Tanzania ⁶	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	1,069 (40)	0	1,071	3
Northern Region	138,332 (12,020)	5,960 (522)	65,279	
Algeria	23,084 (3,878)	1,078 (67)	16,051	3
Egypt	88,402 (5,401)	4,352 (417)	28,924	2
Libya	1,980 (468)	49 (9)	441	2
Mauritania	5,923 (568)	155 (8)	3,632	3
Morocco	17,562 (1,626)	276 (21)	15,132	2
Tunisia	1,381 (79)	50 (0)	1,099	1

⁶ Last report received 7 May 2020.

Southern Region	388,019 (90,203)	5,465 (1,133)	199,872	
Angola	749 (224)	29 (3)	221	2
Botswana	522 (100)	1 (0)	48	2
Eswatini /Swaziland	1,826 (437)	23 (3)	850	2
Lesotho	359 (114)	6 (3)	69	2
Malawi	3,045 (615)	64 (25)	1,180	2
Mozambique	1,507 (288)	11 (2)	505	3
Namibia	1,344 (483)	4 (3)	42	2
South Africa	373,628 (85,832)	5,173 (1,001)	194,865	3
Zambia	3,326 (1,431)	128 (86)	1,620	3
Zimbabwe	1,713 (679)	26 (7)	472	2
Western Region	109,440 (11,087)	1,731 (132)	69,354	
Benin	1,602 (224)	31 (5)	782	3
Burkina Faso	1,065 (28)	53 (0)	913	3
Cape Verde	2,071 (349)	21 (2)	1,063	2
Côte d'Ivoire	14,312 (1,440)	92 (8)	8,659	3
Gambia	112 (48)	4 (1)	57	1
Ghana	28,430 (3,442)	153 (14)	24,901	3
Guinea	6,544 (403)	39 (2)	5,511	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,950 (48)	26 (0)	906	3
Liberia	1,107 (83)	70 (19)	547	3

Mali	2,475 (63)	121 (0)	1,851	3
Niger	1,105 (6)	69 (1)	1,014	3
Nigeria	37,225 (4,072)	801 (57)	15,333	3
Senegal	8,948 (750)	170 (20)	6,002	3
Sierra Leone	1,711 (69)	66 (3)	1,261	3
Togo	783 (62)	15 (0)	554	3
Total	736,288 (125,481)	15,418 (1,962)	391,898	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 15 Feb - 21 July 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General:

1. The Permanent Mission of Japan to the African Union donated US\$ 1 million from the Government of Japan to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to support the implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19. It will be used to strengthen the capacity of Africa CDC Regional Collaboration Centres so they can support effective and efficient communication and knowledge exchange on COVID-19 among Member States, as well as to support infection prevention and control activities and improve clinical case management of COVID-19.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. The 19th Clinical Community of Practice webinar on “Home-based care reference guide for COVID-19” was held on Thursday, 16 July 2020. There were over 500 participants in attendance. The materials for this webinar have been uploaded to the Canvas Hub and can be accessed after [registration](#).
2. Africa CDC held midweek office hours to discuss “COVID-19 and Infectious diseases” as well as a “Frontline experience from Cameroon on COVID-19 Epidemiology and case management” on Wednesday 15 July 2020. Over 100 clinicians participated. This week’s midweek and weekend office hours will be held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 and Saturday 25 July 2020 respectively. Registration is available at https://bit.ly/Office_Hour.
3. The 20th webinar on Clinical-Community of Practice titled “Management, diagnostics, treatment, and transmission of COVID-19” will be held on Thursday 23 July 2020, 1:00 PM EAT.

Infection Prevention and Control

1. The 6th session of the Africa CDC's Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Webinar series focusing on "COVID-19 and the transport industry" was attended by 975 participants in both the English and French sessions.
2. This week Africa CDC and Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) will run a refresher course for previously trained IPC experts and Africa CDC field volunteers from Tuesday 21 July to Thursday 23 July 2020.

Laboratory:

1. A total of 7.1 million PCR tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date, up from 6.3 million tests reported last week, with an overall positivity rate of 10.1%.
2. Africa CDC distributed GeneXpert cartridges for SARS-CoV-2 testing to Chad (1,800), Sao Tome (1,500) and Lesotho (1,800). Africa CDC has received enzymes adequate for 120,000 tests and will distribute these to Member States in the upcoming weeks.
3. Africa CDC in collaboration with partners has organized a webinar series on COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance in Africa. This week’s topic is “SARS-CoV-2 introduction and spread in Africa” and will be held on Wednesday 22 July 2020, 2:00 PM EAT. Registration is available on the [Zoom Video Communications Platform](#).

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC held its 12th surveillance webinar titled “Sero-survey studies and their contribution in generating evidence to guide COVID-19 response” on Wednesday 15 July 2020 at 4:00 PM EAT for both the English and French sessions. This was attended by 130 participants.
2. This week’s surveillance webinar titled “Data Visualization and Management for Targeted COVID-19 Response” will be held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 4:00 PM EAT. Registration is available on the [Zoom Video Communications Platform](#).

3. Africa CDC is working with stakeholders to develop a high-level policy recommendation to guide the African Union Member States towards the resumption of travel. The policy will cover necessary public health measures to limit transmission within all the means of transportation (land, marine, and air).

Sciences, standards and regulations

1. The bi-monthly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update can be accessed on the [Africa CDC website](#). The next edition of the Scientific and Public Health Policy Update will be released Tuesday 28 July 2020.

Risk Communication:

1. Africa CDC held its regular weekly press briefings to update the public on the trend of COVID-19 on the continent, Africa CDC response activities and provide clarifications to journalists and relevant stakeholders.
2. Africa CDC held the 9th risk communication webinar entitled *“How COVID-19 is affecting healthcare services provision to young girls in Africa.”*

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 and routinely share with WHO and Africa CDC data regarding suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and healthcare workers infected to

⁷Africa 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/>

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

⁹WHO 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/

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

continually inform these and other updates. 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/>
- 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>