

Outbreak Brief #34: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 8 September 2020

27,038,930 cases and 881,645 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (1 September 2020), 1,912,846 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 37,044 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 27,038,930 COVID-19 cases and 881,645 (case fatality rate (CFR): 3.3%) related deaths have been reported from 215 countries and territories. 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 1,793,315 (7%), European Region 4,508,389 (17%), Region of the Americas 14,117,714 (52%), South-East Asia Region 4,787,009 (18%) and Western Pacific Region 520,750 (2%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports.²

As of 9am East African Time (EAT) 8 September 2020, a total of 1,306,157 COVID-19 cases and 31,494 deaths (CFR: 2.4%) have been reported in 55 African countries. This is 5% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 53,605 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 6% decrease in the number of new cases reported when compared to the 1 September 2020 brief. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 53% (16,929 cases; 16 % decrease change from previous week), Northern region 19% (20,678; 24% increase), Eastern region 11% (10,539; 24% decrease), Western region 13% (4,411; 10% decrease), and Central region 4% (1,048; 35% decrease).

Nine countries account for 81% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: South Africa (22%), Morocco (21%), Ethiopia (14%), Libya (10%), Algeria (4%), Kenya (2%), Nigeria (2%), Namibia (2%), Tunisia (2%) and Egypt (2%). Cabo Verde (65), Libya (65), Namibia (43), Morocco (31), Eswatini (19), South Africa (19), Botswana (12), and Tunisia (11) are reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population) over the past seven days in Africa. Of the countries actively reporting COVID-19 epidemiologic data, eleven countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 3.3%: Chad (8%), Sahrawi Arab

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>

Democratic Republic (8%), Egypt (6%), Liberia (6%), Niger (6%), Sudan (6%), Angola (4%), Burkina Faso (4%), Mali (4%), Sierra Leone (4%), and Algeria (3.4%).

Table 1 highlights the reported cases and deaths from COVID-19 in all countries in Africa. In addition, the table reports the current phase of the epidemic for 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, deaths and recoveries reported in Africa³ as of 8 September 2020, 9am East Africa Time

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since previous brief	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since previous brief	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	55,454 (1,048)	-35%	1,050 (-14)	-137%	
Burundi	466 (21)	40%	1 (0)	NA*	2
Cameroon	19,604 (462)	-4%	414 (3)	No change	3
Central African Republic	4,729 (18)	-44%	62 (0)	-100%	3
Chad	1,040 (27)	4%	79 (2)	100%	3
Congo	4,891 (263)	-59%	83 (-19)	-179%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	10,233 (136)	-47%	260 (0)	-100%	3
Equatorial Guinea	4,985 (44)	193%	83 (0)	NA*	3
Gabon	8,608 (75)	-40%	53 (0)	NA*	3
Sao Tome and Principe	898 (2)	-50%	15 (0)	NA*	2
Eastern Region	144,906 (10,539)	-24%	2,874 (183)	1%	

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (1 September 2020, 9am EAT)

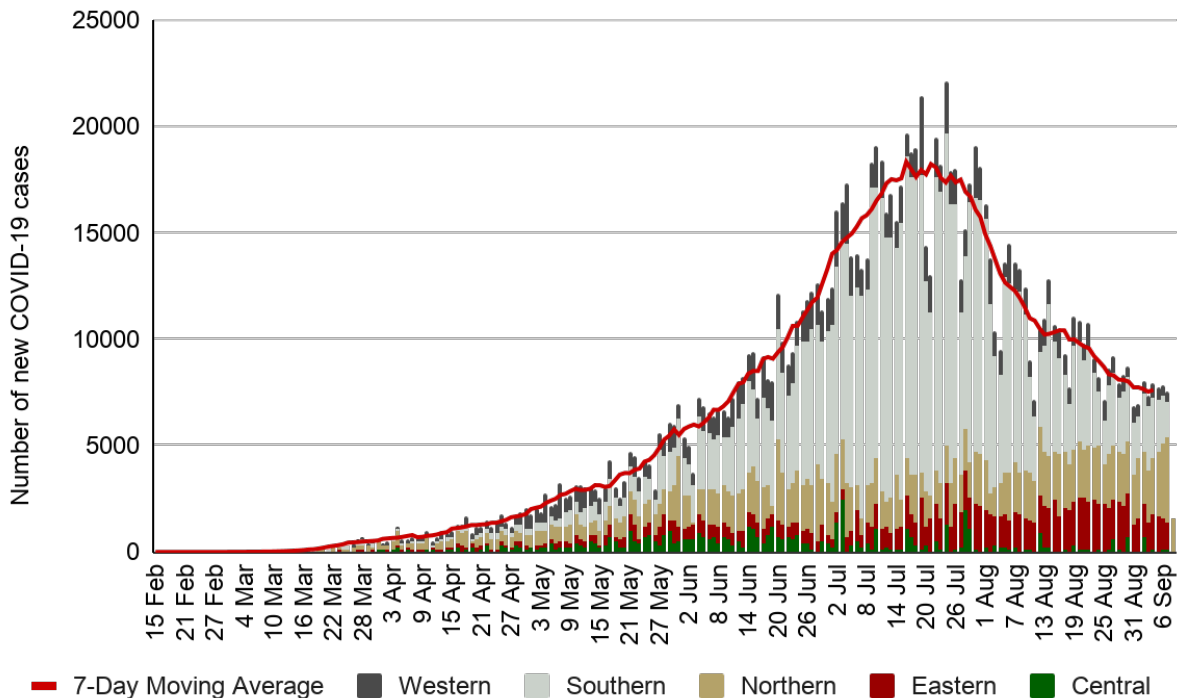
⁴ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response - <https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, 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

Comoros	452 (29)	383%	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,388 (1)	-75%	61 (1)	NA*	2
Eritrea	330 (12)	No change	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	59,648 (7,517)	-25%	933 (124)	6%	3
Kenya	35,205 (1,004)	-39%	599 (22)	-4%	3
Madagascar	15,352 (489)	6%	202 (10)	-29%	3
Mauritius	356 (10)	NA*	10 (0)	NA*	1
Rwanda	4,409 (346)	-54%	19 (3)	50%	2
Seychelles	137 (1)	-75%	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	3,362 (52)	27%	97 (0)	-100%	1
South Sudan	2,545 (26)	73%	48 (1)	NA*	3
Sudan	13,437 (248)	-30%	833 (10)	-9%	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	3,776 (804)	32%	44 (12)	20%	2
Northern Region	251,233 (20,678)	24%	9,042 (500)	4%	
Algeria	46,364 (1,870)	-15%	1,556 (46)	-40%	3
Egypt	100,041 (1,102)	-25%	5,541 (120)	-15%	2
Libya	18,833 (5,177)	96%	296 (64)	94%	2
Mauritania	7,149 (101)	-29%	160 (1)	No change	3
Morocco	73,780 (11,190)	20%	1,394 (253)	14%	2
Tunisia	5,041 (1,238)	36%	93 (16)	167%	2
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	25 (0)	NA*	2 (0)	NA*	1
Southern Region	689,515 (16,929)	-16%	16,056 (909)	-17%	
Angola	2,981 (357)	-11%	120 (13)	86%	2
Botswana	2,002 (369)	14%	8 (2)	-33%	2
Eswatini	4,884 (307)	12%	94 (3)	-50%	3
Lesotho	1,164 (79)	119%	31 (0)	-100%	2
Malawi	5,621 (55)	-63%	176 (1)	-83%	3
Mozambique	4,557 (641)	35%	27 (4)	100%	3

Namibia	8,810 (1,260)	-17%	91 (16)	-16%	3
South Africa	639,362 (12,321)	-21%	15,004 (855)	-14%	3
Zambia	12,836 (739)	-22%	295 (7)	-13%	3
Zimbabwe	7,298 (801)	88%	210 (8)	-83%	3
Western Region	165,049 (4,411)	-10%	2,472 (83)	34%	
Benin	2,194 (49)	-2%	40 (0)	-100%	3
Burkina Faso	1,463 (93)	191%	56 (1)	NA*	3
Cape Verde	4,358 (474)	35%	42 (2)	-33%	2
Côte d'Ivoire	18,701 (634)	13%	119 (2)	-33%	3
Gambia	3,197 (234)	-56%	99 (3)	-75%	3
Ghana	45,012 (714)	6%	283 (7)	-46%	3
Guinea	9,798 (389)	-2%	61 (2)	-60%	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,245 (40)	-29%	38 (4)	300%	3
Liberia	1,311 (7)	-50%	82 (0)	NA*	3
Mali	2,870 (94)	38%	127 (1)	No change	3
Niger	1,178 (2)	-50%	69 (0)	NA*	2
Nigeria	55,160 (1,152)	-21%	1,061 (48)	433%	3
Senegal	14,014 (403)	-33%	291 (7)	-42%	3
Sierra Leone	2,055 (33)	32%	71 (1)	No change	3
Togo	1,493 (93)	-11%	33 (5)	400%	3
Total	1,306,157 (53,605)	-6%	31,494 (1,661)	-10%	

*No new cases/deaths reported in the previous week.

Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 8 September 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General:

1. Africa CDC held its weekly press briefing on COVID-19 Pandemic on Thursday, 3 September 2020 at 11am EAT. The speakers for the week were Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC, and Dr Amadou Sall, Scientific Director of the Institute Pasteur - Dakar, Senegal. Link: <https://business.facebook.com/africacdc/videos/3793033184058775/?v=3793033184058775>
2. Africa CDC in partnership with the International Health Regulations (IHR) Strengthening Project of Public Health England (PHE), on the 1 September 2020 launched a new web-based tool, AVoHC Net, to facilitate rapid deployment and better administration of a standby workforce for public health emergencies across Africa.
3. Africa CDC held its weekly Public Health Emergency operations centers (PHEOCs) webinar titled “effective communication” on Thursday 3 September 2020 at 3pm EAT

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with Project HOPE will conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT) in case management for Northern Africa Member States, the first group will be trained between 21-25 September 2020.

Laboratory:

1. Over 12 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date, with a positivity rate of 10% and test per reported case ratio of 9.5.

Surveillance

1. Africa CDC will hold its 19th surveillance webinar titled “Country experiences in implementing the Public Health Corridor during the resumption of flights”. Ethiopia and Zambia airport authorities are going to share their experiences on Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 4pm EAT. Link: <https://t.co/LIKIweyc6v?amp=1>

Sciences, standards and regulations:

1. Access the weekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update which is published every week on Tuesdays at: <https://africacdc.org/resources/> or at the WHO AFRO link: https://afrolib.afro.who.int/pmb/opac_css/doc_num.php?explnum_id=7728

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should continue to enhance their surveillance⁵ to include COVID-19⁶ and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁷. 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.

⁵Africa 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/>

⁶WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

⁷WHO 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/

2. Member States should perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.⁸
3. Member states should 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 continually inform these and other updates. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
4. Member states should continue to 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>

⁸Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>