

Outbreak Brief #39: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 13 October 2020

37,428,586 cases and 1,075,298 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (6 October 2020), 2,315,658 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 39,532 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 37,428,586 COVID-19 cases and 1,075,298 related deaths (case fatality rate (CFR): 2.9%) have been reported from 217 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 2,268,446 (6%), European Region 7,010,687 (19%), Region of the Americas 17,912,705 (48%), South-East Asia Region 7,987,606 (21%) and Western Pacific Region 656,178 (2%). Among the affected locations, India, the United States, Brazil, France, and the United Kingdom are reporting the highest number of new cases over the past week. For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports.²

As of 9 am East African Time (EAT) 13 October 2020, a total of 1,584,484 COVID-19 cases and 38,597 deaths (CFR: 2.4%) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This is 4% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 65,822 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 23% increase in the number of new cases reported when compared to the 6 October 2020 brief. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases by AU region is as follows: 52% from the Northern region (38,260 cases; 36% increase from previous week), 25% from the Southern region (14,567; 8% increase), 16% from the Eastern region (9,232; 8% increase), 6% from the Western region (3,117; 1% increase) and 1% from the Central region (646; 51% increase).

Six countries account for approximately 85% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: Morocco (29%), South Africa (17%), Tunisia (16%), Libya (11%), Ethiopia (9%), and Kenya (3%). Countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population) over the past seven days in Africa include: Cabo Verde (120), Libya (106), Tunisia (88), Morocco (52), South Africa (19), Botswana (14) and Namibia (14). Of the countries actively reporting COVID-19 epidemiologic data, twelve countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 2.9%. These include: Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (7.1%), Chad (7.0%), Sudan

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>

(6.1%), Liberia (6%), Niger (5.8%), Egypt (5.7%), Mali (4.0%), Algeria (4.0%), Angola (3.4%), Gambia (3.2%), Sierra Leone (3.1%) and Malawi (3.1%).

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. Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported by day and region from 29 February to date. We observed a decline in the daily new cases being reported in Africa during the month of July and August mostly influenced by South Africa. During September the curve remained steady and flat, however there has been a slight increase in the number of new cases being reported mainly from the Northern region in recent weeks.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries reported in Africa³ as of 13 October 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	58,769 (646)	51%	1,098 (14)	133%	
Burundi	525 (11)	-62%	1 (0)	NA*	2
Cameroon	21,203 (279)	224%	423 (3)	50%	3
Central African Republic	4,854 (25)	9%	62 (0)	NA*	3
Chad	1,308 (85)	124%	92 (6)	500%	3
Congo	5,156 (67)	NA*	92 (3)	NA*	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	10,868 (90)	-42%	276 (2)	-33%	3
Equatorial Guinea	5,066 (21)	24%	83 (0)	NA*	3
Gabon	8,860 (52)	-35%	54 (0)	NA*	3

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (6 October 2020, 9am EAT)

⁴ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

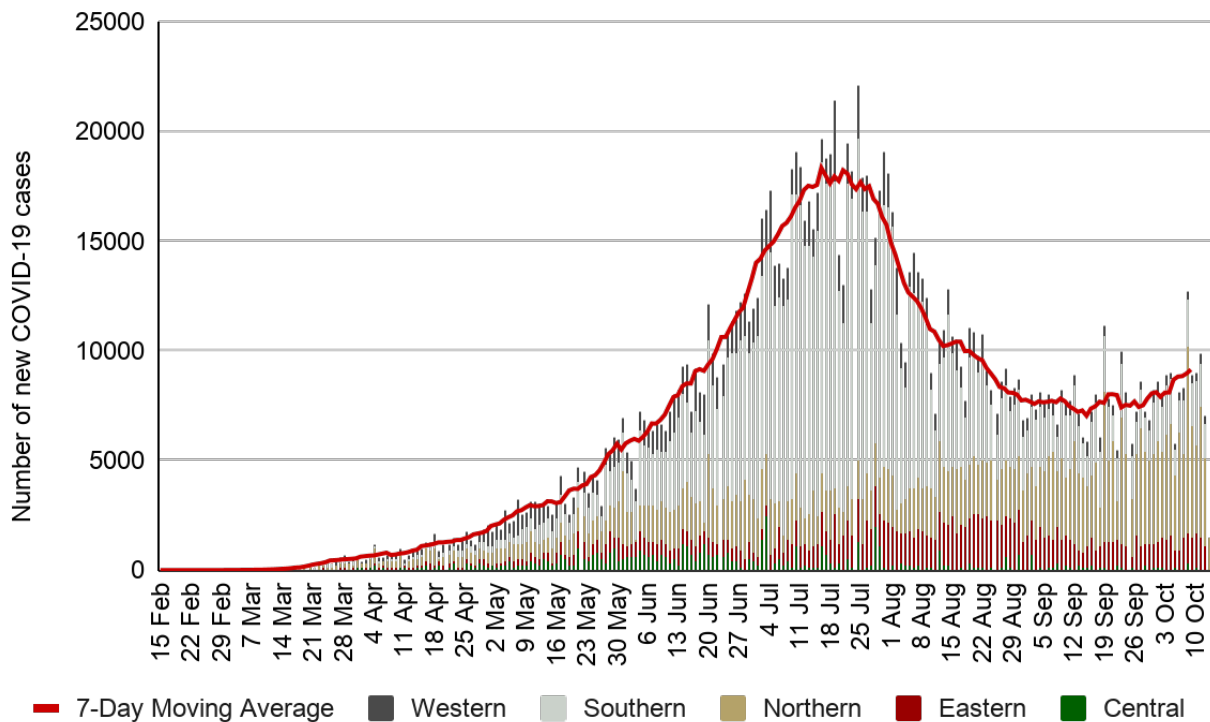
<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing 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

Sao Tome and Principe	929 (16)	700%	15 (0)	NA*	2
Eastern Region	185,988 (9,232)	8%	3,530 (137)	40%	
Comoros	495 (8)	-11%	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,426 (5)	-55%	61 (0)	NA*	2
Eritrea	414 (16)	-30%	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	85,136 (5,699)	4%	1,301 (71)	34%	3
Kenya	41,619 (2,170)	69%	777 (42)	20%	3
Madagascar	16,726 (156)	-30%	237 (4)	No change	3
Mauritius	404 (19)	27%	10 (0)	NA*	1
Rwanda	4,905 (38)	9%	32 (3)	NA*	2
Seychelles	148 (4)	300%	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	3,864 (119)	-24%	99 (0)	NA*	1
South Sudan	2,787 (61)	79%	55 (5)	400%	3
Sudan	13,691 (38)	-19%	836 (0)	NA*	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	9,864 (899)	-24%	94 (12)	140%	2
Northern Region	395,436 (38,260)	36%	12,088 (591)	4%	
Algeria	53,068 (955)	-10%	2,103 (41)	-13%	3
Egypt	104,648 (867)	5%	6,062 (72)	-19%	2
Libya	43,821 (7,012)	58%	644 (52)	-28%	2
Mauritania	7,554 (34)	-39%	163 (2)	NA*	3
Morocco	153,761 (19,066)	22%	2,636 (267)	4%	2
Tunisia	32,556 (10,326)	69%	478 (157)	47%	2
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	28 (0)	NA*	2 (0)	NA*	1
Southern Region	762,321 (14,567)	8%	19,213 (905)	93%	
Angola	6,488 (1,086)	59%	219 (24)	14%	2
Botswana	3,515 (343)	NA*	20 (4)	NA*	2
Eswatini	5,683 (104)	-18%	113 (1)	-75%	3

Lesotho	1,805 (122)	3%	42 (3)	-25%	2
Malawi	5,824 (30)	25%	180 (0)	-100%	3
Mozambique	10,088 (792)	-21%	72 (6)	-14%	3
Namibia	11,989 (363)	-28%	129 (6)	200%	3
South Africa	693,359 (11,144)	6%	17,863 (847)	97%	3
Zambia	15,549 (460)	7%	345 (12)	1100%	3
Zimbabwe	8,021 (123)	50%	230 (2)	NA*	3
Western Region	181,970 (3,117)	1%	2,668 (29)	12%	
Benin	2,411 (54)	218%	41 (0)	-100%	3
Burkina Faso	2,294 (110)	-29%	63 (4)	100%	3
Cape Verde	7,155 (722)	17%	75 (7)	-22%	2
Côte d'Ivoire	20,155 (270)	11%	120 (0)	NA*	3
Gambia	3,632 (38)	52%	117 (2)	-50%	3
Ghana	47,030 (201)	-42%	308 (5)	150%	3
Guinea	11,062 (262)	30%	70 (3)	200%	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,385 (23)	-39%	40 (1)	NA*	3
Liberia	1,371 (17)	42%	82 (0)	NA*	3
Mali	3,296 (107)	8%	132 (1)	No change	3
Niger	1,202 (2)	-50%	69 (0)	NA*	2
Nigeria	60,430 (965)	-4%	1,115 (2)	No change	3
Senegal	15,292 (224)	50%	315 (3)	No change	3
Sierra Leone	2,306 (37)	-31%	72 (0)	NA*	3
Togo	1,949 (85)	-26%	49 (1)	No change	3
Total	1,584,484 (65,822)	23%	38,597 (1,676)	43%	

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

Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 13 October 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General:

1. The African Union Commission and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in collaboration with partners, launched the Africa against COVID-19: Saving Lives, Economies and Livelihoods campaign on 8 October 2020 to promote hassle-free travel across Africa. Africa CDC also inaugurated preventing the cross-border spread of COVID-19 infection. African Union and Africa CDC provided this Trusted Travel platform as a COVID-19 Pass tool to simplify verification of public health documentation for travelers during exit and entry across borders. Link: <https://africacdc.org/trusted-travel/>
2. Africa CDC on 8 October 2020, through the Africa Union, received a donation of 1.4 million testing kits from the government of Germany to support the response to COVID-19 pandemic in the continent.
3. Africa CDC held its 31st weekly press briefings on Thursday 8 October 2020 at 11 am EAT. The speaker for the week was Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC. The recording for this press brief session is available on the Africa CDC Facebook page. Link: <https://web.facebook.com/watch/?v=757691255074767&extid=gyiQO5GcQdC8XNaY>

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. The Africa CDC Case Management TWG held the 24th clinical webinar titled “Health worker infection, patient safety and safety in the workplace” on Thursday, 8 October 2020. There were over 208 participants on the webinar and 271+ participants on the Institute for Workforce Development (IWD) Facebook page. The recording can be accessed here: <https://www.africacdc.training/courses/ccop>

Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

1. This week, the IPC TWG will hold a webinar titled “Perspectives of Hand Hygiene Practices in Africa during the COVID-19 Response”. The English session will be on Wednesday, 14 October 2020 at 1 pm EAT. The French session will be on Friday, 16 October 2020 at 2pm EAT. Registration is available at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_efU30YZxRcOqKaxwclltYw.

Laboratory:

1. Over 16 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date with a positivity rate of 9.5% and test per case ratio of 10.5, which is an increase of 4.4% from last week.
2. Africa CDC laboratory TWG will hold a virtual launch of "Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative: Strengthening Laboratory Networks & Surveillance Systems" on Monday 12 October 2020 at 5 - 7 pm EAT Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3lbLwv5>

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Access the weekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update which is published every other 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;

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/

- 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 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/>