

## Outbreak Brief #43: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 10 November 2020

**50,275,774 cases and 1,254,805 deaths**

*Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States*

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (3 November 2020), 3,863,674 new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 61,628 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 50,275,774 COVID-19 cases and 1,254,805 related deaths (case fatality rate (CFR): 2.5%) have been reported from 219 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 2,808,663 (6%), European Region 13,366,839 (27%), Region of the Americas 21,730,622 (43%), South-East Asia Region 9,697,585 (19%) and Western Pacific Region 770,536 (2%). Among the affected locations, the United States, India, and France have reported over 300,000 new cases in the past seven days. For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports.<sup>2</sup>

**As of 9 am East African Time (EAT) 10 November 2020,** a total of 1,891,744 COVID-19 cases and 45,609 deaths (CFR: 2.4%) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This is 4% of all cases reported globally. The majority (75%) of Member States are still reporting community transmission. Of the countries actively reporting COVID-19 epidemiologic data, fifteen countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 2.5%, these include Sudan (7.9%), Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (7.1%), Chad (6.4%), Egypt (5.8%), Liberia (5.6%), Niger (5.5%), Mali (3.7%), Algeria (3.3%), Gambia (3.3%), Sierra Leone (3.1%), Malawi (3.1%), Zimbabwe (3%), Democratic Republic of Congo (2.7%), Tunisia (2.7%), South Africa (2.7%) and Burkina Faso (2.6%).

**For Epi week<sup>3</sup> 45** (2 November - 8 November), 87,393 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 13% increase in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 44. The majority of new COVID-19 cases being reported for this week are from the Northern region (65%) followed by the Southern (17%), Eastern (14%), Western (4%) and Central (1%) regions. Countries

<sup>1</sup> WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.7>

<sup>2</sup> WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>

<sup>3</sup> Starting last week, Africa CDC is introducing a Monday - Sunday Epi week to standardize all weekly trend analysis and comparisons for all future Africa CDC products.

reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population) this week include Morocco (94), Libya (93), Tunisia (89), Cabo Verde (87) and Botswana (45).

Table 1 highlights the reported cases and deaths from COVID-19 in all countries in Africa for Epi week 45. 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 15 February to date. During the month of October, there was a slight increase in the number of new cases being reported, signifying the 2nd wave of cases being reported from the continent. For this week, seven countries account for approximately 86% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Morocco (41%), South Africa (12%), Tunisia (10%), Kenya (8%), Libya (6%), Algeria (5%) and Ethiopia (4%).

**Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries<sup>4</sup> reported in Africa for Epi week 45 (2 November - 8 November 2020)**

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since Epi week 45	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since Epi week 45	Epidemic phase <sup>5</sup>
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>61,528 (713)</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>1,160 (17)</b>	<b>70%</b>	
Burundi	614 (25)	92%	1 (0)	NA*	2
Cameroon	22,421 (318)	5200%	433 (4)	NA*	3
Central African Republic	4,879 (4)	-88%	62 (0)	NA*	3
Chad	1,551 (52)	-76%	99 (1)	-67%	3
Congo	5,379 (31)	-47%	92 (0)	-100%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	11,608 (213)	124%	319 (11)	NA*	3
Equatorial Guinea	5,092 (3)	-99%	83 (0)	-100%	3
Gabon	9,022 (54)	10%	55 (0)	-100%	3

<sup>4</sup> Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability however it may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

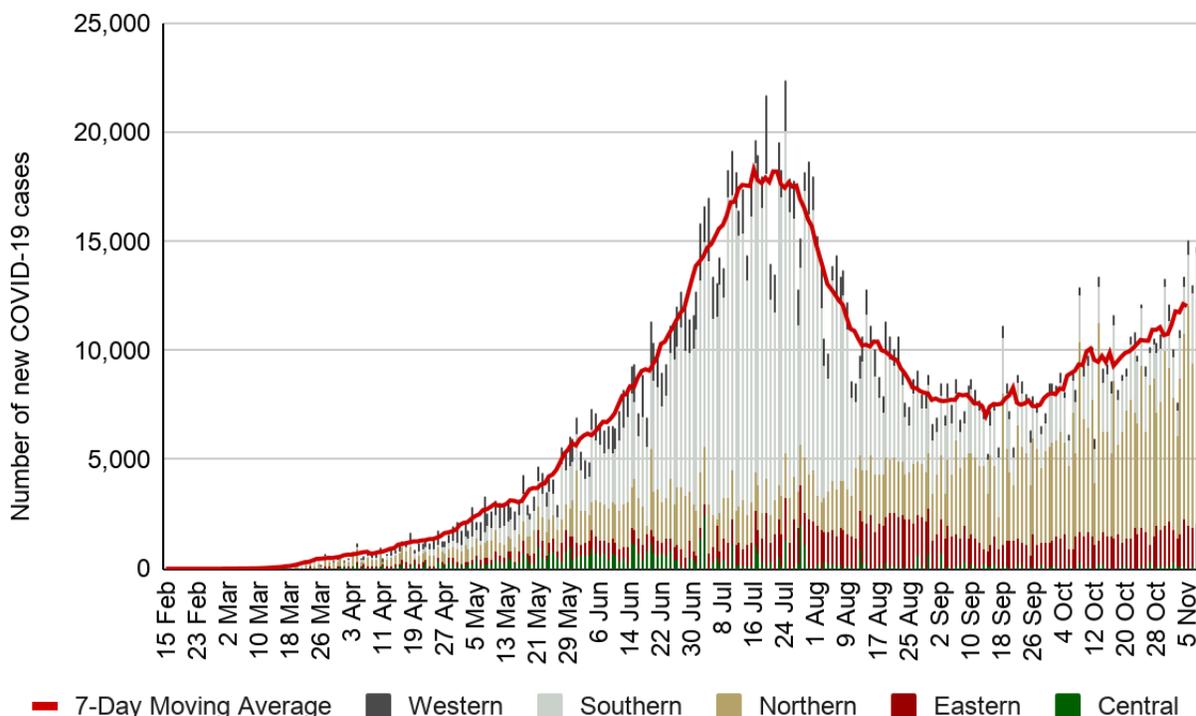
<sup>5</sup> Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response - <https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported 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	962 (13)	44%	16 (1)	NA*	2
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>228,156 (12,233)</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4,432 (451)</b>	<b>153%</b>	
Comoros	563 (18)	NA*	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,608 (45)	5%	61 (0)	-100%	2
Eritrea	491 (28)	-80%	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	99,675 (3,092)	28009%	1,523 (45)	NA*	3
Kenya	62,488 (6,611)	5455%	1,111 (98)	NA*	3
Madagascar	17,223 (112)	5500%	249 (5)	NA*	3
Mauritius	452 (6)	-93%	10 (0)	-100%	1
Rwanda	5,222 (76)	NA*	36 (1)	NA*	2
Seychelles	158 (4)	-86%	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	4,229 (288)	-91%	107 (3)	-94%	1
South Sudan	2,980 (54)	-96%	59 (0)	-100%	3
Sudan	14,155 (289)	28800%	1,116 (279)	NA*	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	-100%	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	14,403 (1,610)	-74%	132 (20)	-82%	2
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>576,487 (56,512)</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>15,706 (1,321)</b>	<b>11%</b>	
Algeria	62,062 (4,120)	NA*	2,035 (71)	NA*	3
Egypt	109,201 (1,465)	22%	6,368 (102)	52%	2
Libya	69,040 (6,133)	15233%	944 (64)	NA*	3
Mauritania	7,806 (103)	-95%	165 (2)	-96%	3
Morocco	256,781 (34,237)	171%	4,272 (510)	-4%	2
Tunisia	71,569 (10,454)	84%	1,920 (572)	624%	3
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	28 (0)	-100%	2 (0)	-100%	1
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>823,931 (14,791)</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>21,323 (439)</b>	<b>-8%</b>	
Angola	12,433 (1,398)	3229%	307 (21)	2000%	3
Botswana	7,835 (1,193)	9077%	27 (3)	200%	3

Eswatini	6,003 (78)	-20%	117 (0)	-100%	3
Lesotho	1,967 (14)	-99%	44 (0)	-100%	2
Malawi	5,951 (19)	-94%	184 (0)	-100%	3
Mozambique	13,768 (780)	-53%	99 (6)	-67%	3
Namibia	13,211 (223)	214%	134 (1)	No change	3
South Africa	737,278 (10,455)	3088%	19,809 (398)	NA*	3
Zambia	16,954 (474)	-96%	349 (0)	-100%	3
Zimbabwe	8,531 (157)	-78%	253 (10)	NA*	3
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>194,360 (3,144)</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>2,791 (20)</b>	<b>-49%</b>	
Benin	2,781 (98)	880%	43 (2)	NA*	3
Burkina Faso	2,569 (69)	1050%	67 (0)	NA*	3
Cape Verde	9,369 (521)	2505%	100 (5)	NA*	3
Côte d'Ivoire	20,832 (116)	480%	126 (0)	NA*	3
Gambia	3,684 (5)	-74%	121 (2)	NA*	3
Ghana	49,202 (559)	1041%	320 (0)	-100%	3
Guinea	12,414 (219)	-11%	74 (1)	-75%	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,413 (0)	-100%	41 (0)	-100%	3
Liberia	1,452 (16)	-87%	82 (0)	NA*	3
Mali	3,706 (141)	-85%	137 (1)	-94%	3
Niger	1,243 (22)	-71%	69 (0)	-100%	2
Nigeria	64,090 (1,126)	140%	1,154 (8)	300%	3
Senegal	15,708 (78)	-89%	326 (1)	-50%	3
Sierra Leone	2,381 (15)	-90%	74 (0)	-100%	3
Togo	2,516 (159)	-65%	57 (0)	-100%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,884,462 (87,393)</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>45,412 (2,248)</b>	<b>18%</b>	

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

**Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 10 November 2020**



**NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:**

**General:**

1. Africa CDC Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOCs) and COVID-19 Management held its weekly PHEOC webinar titled “Sitreps rapid risk assessment, incident action plan” on Thursday 5 November 2020 at 3 pm EAT. This week’s series is Information Management, titled “Information Systems -2” on Thursday, 12 November 2020 at 3 pm EAT. Registration link: [bit.ly/3jxGzv9](https://bit.ly/3jxGzv9)

**Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:**

*Case Management*

1. The Africa CDC Case Management Technical Working Group (TWG) held the 29th clinical webinar series titled “COVID-19 and chronic complications associated with the disease” and the third session in the “Mental Health Aspects of COVID-19” titled “Sleep in the time of COVID-19, practical tips for improving and optimizing sleep”. Over 260 participants attended the clinical webinar while over 155 participated in the mental health webinar series on Thursday, 5 November 2020 at 4 pm EAT. Over 240 participants attended the clinical webinar. The recordings can be accessed here: <https://www.africacdc.training/courses/ccop>

2. This week, the Africa CDC Case Management TWG will hold Mental health aspects of COVID-19 webinar series on Thursday, 12 November 2020 at 4 pm EAT. Topic: “Building resilience in health care workers - an approach to individual and group staff support”. Registration Link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LNL28nAQQvK-rrMLZJ-NKA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LNL28nAQQvK-rrMLZJ-NKA)

#### *Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)*

1. This week, the IPC TWG will hold the session 6 webinars of series 4 titled “IPC for points of entry and transport sectors” in French on Friday, 13 November 2020 at 2 pm EAT Register [here](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IIC9yfL9QDSyFQmvo61tOw):  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IIC9yfL9QDSyFQmvo61tOw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IIC9yfL9QDSyFQmvo61tOw)

#### **Laboratory:**

1. Over 19 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 3.9% from last week.

#### **Surveillance:**

1. Africa CDC surveillance TWG will hold the fourth webinar of its 5-part series on “Demography and COVID-19 in Africa: Evidence and Policy Responses to Safeguard the Demographic Dividend” on Wednesday, 11 November 2020 at 3 pm EAT. This webinar will include real-time French interpretation. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/w4VeWPhUdwqUzSAv6>

#### **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](https://afrolib.afro.who.int/pmb/opac_css/doc_num.php?explnum_id=7728)

### Recommendations for the Member States:

1. All Member States should continue to enhance their surveillance<sup>6</sup> to include COVID-19<sup>7</sup> and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)<sup>8</sup>. 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 perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.<sup>9</sup>
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](mailto: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*

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<sup>6</sup>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/>

<sup>7</sup>WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.7>

<sup>8</sup>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/](https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/ili_sari_surveillance_case_definition/en/)

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

- 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>