

Outbreak Brief #44: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 17 November 2020

54,312,364 cases and 1,317,284 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (10 November 2020), 4,036,590 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 62,479 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 54,312,364 COVID-19 cases and 1,317,284 related deaths (case fatality rate (CFR): 2.4%) have been reported from 221 countries and territories. This week, one new territory (Vanuatu) reported its first case. 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 2,995,871 (6%), European Region 15,266,390 (28%), Region of the Americas 23,190,772 (43%), South-East Asia Region 10,057,114 (19%) and Western Pacific Region 803,529 (2%). Among the affected locations, over the last seven days the United States has reported more than one million new cases, while India and France have reported over 200,000 new cases each. 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) 17 November 2020, a total of 1,986,864 COVID-19 cases and 47,647 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 continue to report 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 2.4%, these include Sudan (7.6%), Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (7.1%), Chad (6.3%), Egypt (5.8), Liberia (5.4%), Niger (5.3%), Mali (3.6%), Gambia (3.3%), Algeria (3.1%), Sierra Leone (3.1%), Malawi (3.1%), Zimbabwe (2.9%), Tunisia (2.9%), Democratic Republic of Congo (2.7%), South Africa (2.7%), Burkina Faso (2.6%) and Somalia (2.5%).

For Epi week 46 (9 November - 15 November), 94,831 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is an 8% increase in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 45. The majority of new COVID-19 cases being reported for this week are from the Northern region (64%) followed by the Southern (18%), Eastern (14%), Western (3%) and Central (1%) regions. Countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population) this week include Morocco (99), Tunisia (84), Libya (80), Cabo Verde (76) and South Africa (24).

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

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

Table 1 highlights the reported cases and deaths from COVID-19 in all countries in Africa for Epi week 46. 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. The increase in new cases noted in October, has sustained through November. For this week, five countries account for about 80% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Morocco (38%), South Africa (15%), Tunisia (10%), Kenya (8%), and Algeria (8%).

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries³ reported in Africa for Epi week 46 (9 November - 15 November 2020)

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since Epi week 46	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since Epi week 46	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	62,325 (797)	12%	1,170 (10)	-41%	
Burundi	628 (14)	-44%	1 (0)	NA*	2
Cameroon	22,692 (271)	-15%	433 (0)	-100%	3
Central African Republic	4,900 (21)	425%	63 (1)	NA*	3
Chad	1,603 (52)	No change	101 (2)	100%	3
Congo	5,515 (136)	339%	92 (0)	NA*	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	11,839 (231)	8%	321 (2)	-82%	3
Equatorial Guinea	5,121 (29)	867%	85 (2)	NA*	3
Gabon	9,062 (40)	-26%	58 (3)	NA*	3
Sao Tome and Principe	965 (3)	-77%	16 (0)	-100%	2
Eastern Region	241,659	10%	4,662 (230)	-49%	

³ Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability however it may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

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.

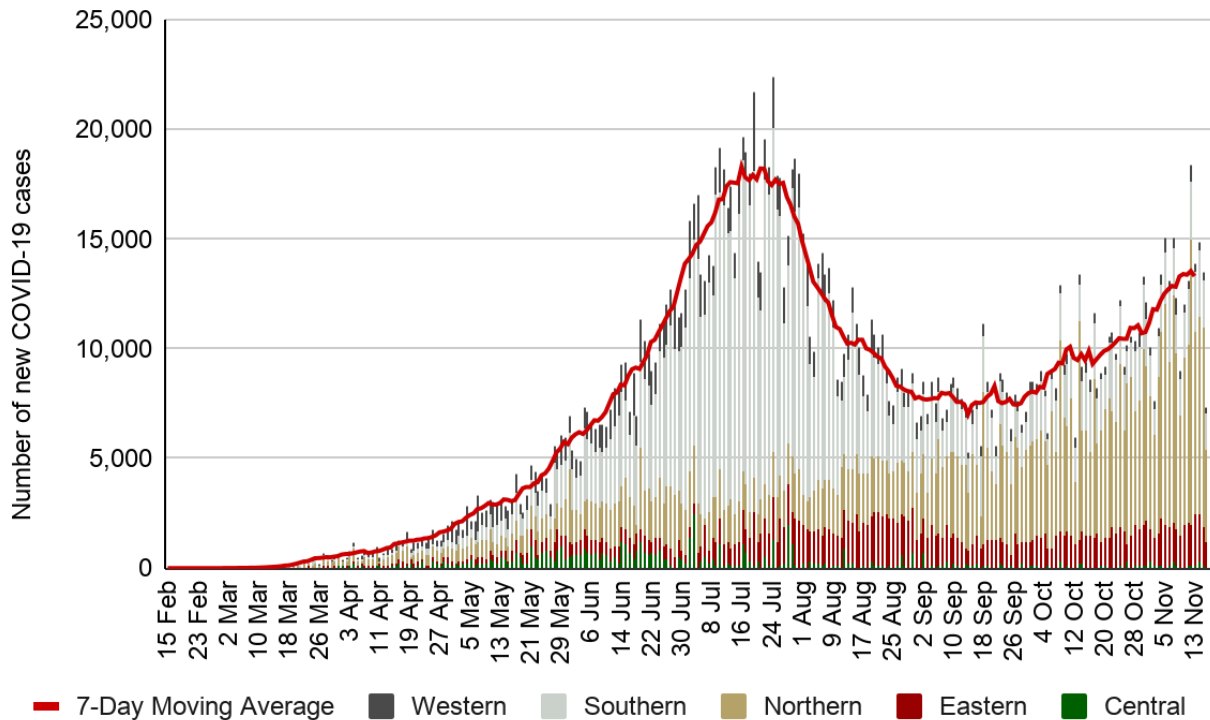
	(13,453)				
Comoros	579 (16)	-11%	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,649 (41)	-9%	61 (0)	NA*	2
Eritrea	493 (2)	-93%	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	102,720 (3,045)	-2%	1,569 (46)	2%	3
Kenya	70,245 (7,757)	17%	1,269 (158)	61%	3
Madagascar	17,310 (87)	-22%	250 (1)	-80%	3
Mauritius	478 (26)	333%	10 (0)	NA*	1
Rwanda	5,455 (233)	207%	45 (9)	800%	2
Seychelles	160 (2)	-50%	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	4,301 (72)	-75%	107 (0)	-100%	1
South Sudan	3,012 (32)	-41%	59 (0)	NA*	3
Sudan	14,728 (523)	54%	1,119 (3)	-99%	3
Tanzania ⁵	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	16,020 (1,617)	0%	145 (13)	-35%	2
Northern Region	636,636 (60,599)	8%	16,981 (1,322)	4%	
Algeria	69,383 (7,321)	78%	2,168 (133)	87%	3
Egypt	110,767 (1,566)	7%	6,453 (85)	-17%	2
Libya	74,324 (5,284)	-14%	1,025 (81)	27%	3
Mauritania	7,954 (148)	44%	165 (0)	-100%	3
Morocco	293,177 (36,396)	6%	4,779 (507)	-1%	2
Tunisia	81,003 (9,884)	-1%	2,389 (516)	-2%	3
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	28 (0)	NA*	2 (0)	NA*	1
Southern Region	840,709 (16,778)	13%	21,799 (476)	8%	
Angola	13,451 (1,018)	-27%	322 (15)	-29%	3
Botswana	8,225 (390)	-67%	27 (0)	-100%	3

⁵ Last report received 7-May-2020.

Eswatini	6,095 (92)	18%	119 (2)	NA*	3
Lesotho	2,041 (74)	429%	44 (0)	NA*	2
Malawi	5,965 (14)	-26%	185 (1)	NA*	3
Mozambique	14,448 (680)	-13%	113 (14)	133%	3
Namibia	13,508 (297)	33%	138 (4)	300%	3
South Africa	751,024 (13,746)	31%	20,241 (432)	9%	3
Zambia	17,123 (169)	-64%	353 (4)	NA*	3
Zimbabwe	8,829 (298)	90%	257 (4)	-60%	3
Western Region	198,170 (3,204)	-15%	2,824 (33)	65%	
Benin	2,884 (103)	5%	43 (0)	-100%	3
Burkina Faso	2,641 (72)	4%	68 (1)	NA*	3
Cape Verde	9,822 (453)	-13%	103 (3)	-40%	3
Côte d'Ivoire	20,976 (144)	24%	128 (2)	NA*	3
Gambia	3,702 (18)	260%	122 (1)	-50%	3
Ghana	50,376 (568)	-51%	323 (3)	NA*	3
Guinea	12,624 (210)	-4%	75 (1)	No change	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,419 (6)	NA*	43 (2)	NA*	3
Liberia	1,512 (60)	275%	82 (0)	NA*	3
Mali	3,900 (194)	38%	141 (4)	300%	3
Niger	1,307 (64)	191%	70 (1)	NA*	2
Nigeria	65,148 (1,058)	-6%	1,163 (9)	13%	3
Senegal	15,793 (85)	9%	328 (2)	100%	3
Sierra Leone	2,391 (10)	-33%	74 (0)	NA*	3
Togo	2,675 (159)	No change	61 (4)	NA*	3
Total	1,979,499 (94,831)	8%	47,436 (2,071)	-6%	

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

Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 17 November 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General:

1. Africa CDC held its weekly COVID-19 press briefing on Thursday, 12 November 2020. The speaker is Dr. John Nkengasong, Director, Africa CDC. The recording for this press brief session is available on the Africa CDC [Facebook page](#).
2. Africa CDC Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOCs) and COVID-19 Management will hold its weekly PHEOC webinar series on Multi sectoral Coordination, titled “Disaster Risk reduction and health emergency risk management” on Thursday, 19 November 2020 at 3 pm EAT. Registration link: bit.ly/3jxGzv9
3. The Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) released two new documents this week: [USING DATA TO FIND A BALANCE: Disruption to essential health services in Africa during COVID-19](#) and the [Biweekly Report \(28 October – 10 November 2020\)](#).

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. The Africa CDC Case Management Technical Working Group (TWG) held the 30th clinical webinar series titled “COVID-19 and mental health nexus” Thursday, 12 November 2020 for over 300 participants. The recording can be accessed here: <https://www.africacdc.training/courses/ccop>

2. The Africa CDC Case Management TWG held the fourth Mental Health Aspects of COVID-19 session titled “Building resilience in health care workers - an approach to individual and group staff support” on Thursday, 12 November 2020 for over 65 participants. The recordings can be accessed here:
<https://www.africacdc.training/courses/ccop>

Laboratory:

1. Over 20.3 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date with a positivity rate of 9.8% and test per case ratio of 10.2, which is an increase of 3% from last week.

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC surveillance TWG will hold the fifth webinar of its 5-part series on “Demography and COVID-19 in Africa: Evidence and Policy Responses to Safeguard the Demographic Dividend” on Wednesday, 18 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

Recommendations for the Member States:

1. All Member States should continue to enhance their surveillance⁶ to include COVID-19⁷ and 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;

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/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.7>

⁸WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) 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.⁹
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>

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