

Outbreak Brief #65: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 13 April 2021

Global case count: 135,661,041 cases and 2,931,062 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (6 April 2021), 4,626,902 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 80,223 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 135,661,041 COVID-19 cases and 2,931,062 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2.2%) have been reported from 225 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 6,905,701 (5%), European Region 47,723,272 (35%), Region of the Americas 58,179,645 (43%), South-East Asia Region 16,358,405 (12%) and Western Pacific Region 2,096,495(2%). Over the last seven days, India, Brazil, Turkey and the United States have each reported more than 300K new cases. While Argentina, Iran, France, Poland, Italy, Germany and Ukraine have each reported more than 100k new cases. 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 April 2021, a total of 4,359,544 COVID-19 cases and 115,970 deaths (CFR: 2.7%) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3.2% of all cases reported globally. The 21 AU Member States reporting case fatality ratios higher than the global case fatality ratio of 2.2% are: Sudan (6.5%), Sahrawi Republic (6%), Egypt (5.9%), Somalia (5%), Liberia (4.2%), Zimbabwe (4.1%), Comoros (3.9%), Niger (3.7%), Eswatini (3.6%), Chad (3.6%), Mali (3.4%), Tunisia (3.4%), South Africa (3.4%), Malawi (3.3%), Gambia (3%), Lesotho (2.9%), Senegal (2.7%), Algeria (2.6%), DR Congo (2.6%), Mauritania (2.5%) and Angola (2.4%).

For Epi week 14 (5 April - 11 April 2021), 78,299 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 3% lower than the number of new cases reported in Epi week 13. The majority of new COVID-19 cases being reported for this week are from the Northern region (35%) followed by the Eastern (34%), Southern (15%), Western (8%) and Central (8%) regions. This week, six countries account for about 64% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Ethiopia (18%), Tunisia (15%), Kenya (9%), South Africa (8%), Libya (7%) and Egypt (7%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Cabo Verde (189), Djibouti (137), Seychelles (100), Tunisia (100), Libya (76), and Botswana (72). Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day from 15 February 2020 to 13 April 2021. Despite daily

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/>

fluctuations in the number of new cases being reported by day, overall the numbers have been steady for the past few weeks.

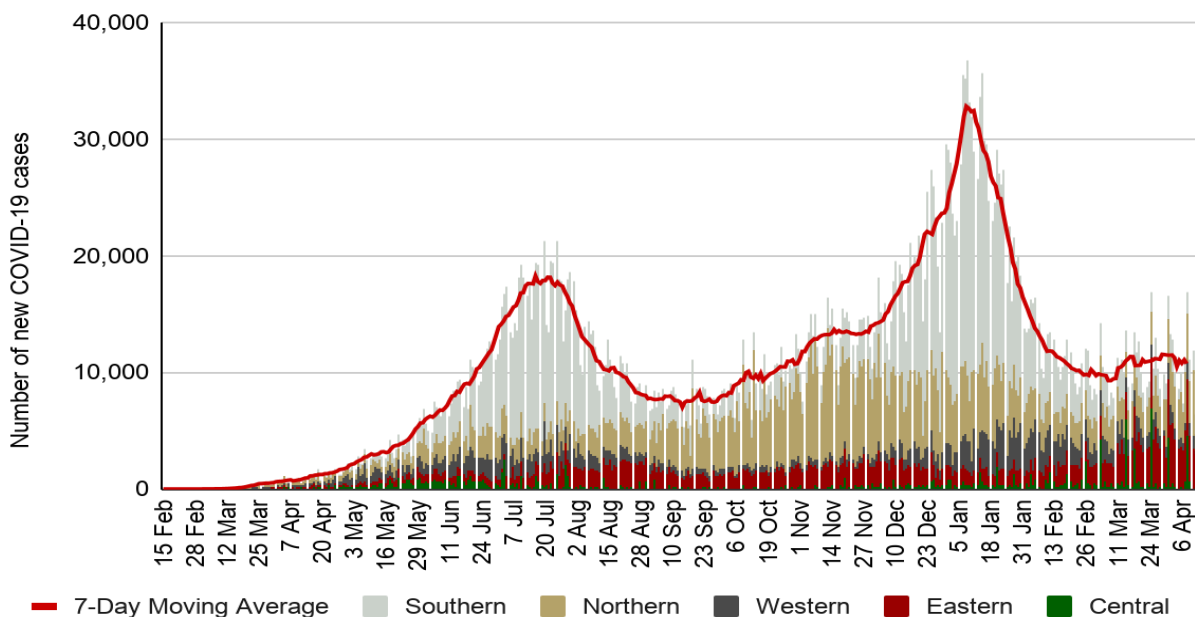


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 13 April 2021.

Currently, the 18 AU Member States reporting the presence of the **B.1.1.7 variant³** are: Algeria, Angola, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia.

Also, the 18 AU Member States reporting the presence of the **B.1.351 variant** are: Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, DR Congo, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

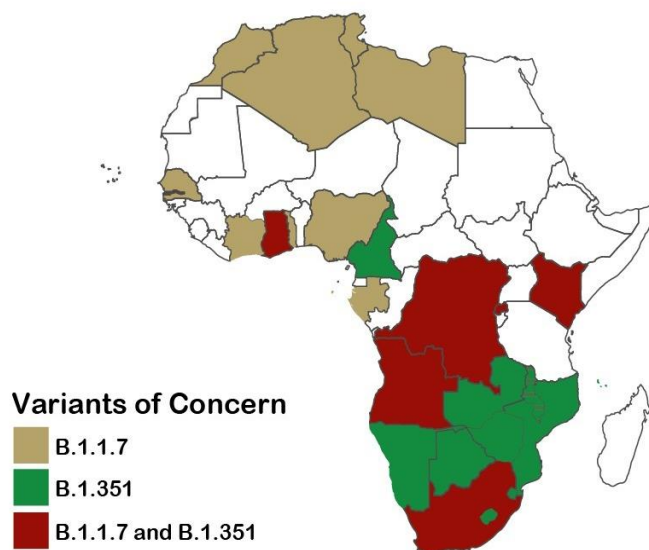


Figure 2: Variants of concern (501Y.V1 and 501Y.V2) reported by African Union Member States as of 13 April

³ Also described as VOC 202012/01

See Figure 2 for the breakdown of variant types reported by Member State.

Fifty-two (95%) of the 55 of AU Member States are experiencing community transmission of the SARS-COV 2 virus. Table 1 lists the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by Member States in Africa, by Region, as well as the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during epi week 13. The table also provides the current epidemic phase for each country.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths⁴ reported in Africa for epi week 14 (5 April 2021 - 11 April 2021)

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 ⁵
Central Region	143,974 (6,178)	6%	2,317 (82)	-19%	
Burundi	3,154 (243)	58%	6 (0)	NA*	3
Cameroon	61,731 (4,394)	29%	919 (68)	-6%	3
Central African Republic	5,637 (284)	84%	75 (2)	-60%	3
Chad	4,636 (41)	-56%	167 (2)	-60%	3
Congo	10,084 (0)	-100%	137 (0)	-100%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	28,611 (257)	-25%	745 (0)	-100%	3
Equatorial Guinea	7,219 (160)	10%	106 (2)	No change	3
Gabon	20,636 (773)	-29%	127 (8)	No change	3
Sao Tome and Principe	2,266 (26)	-7%	35 (0)	-100%	3
Eastern Region	545,157 (26,391)	-11%	9,780 (470)	32%	
Comoros	3,789 (70)	141%	146 (0)	NA*	3

⁴ Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability, thus may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

⁵ 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.

Djibouti	9,876 (1,367)	19%	96 (24)	380%	3
Eritrea	3,447 (113)	-10%	10 (0)	-100%	3
Ethiopia	228,996 (13,807)	-6%	3,174 (211)	30%	3
Kenya	145,670 (6,682)	-24%	2,348 (124)	NA*	3
Madagascar	28,063 (2,354)	30%	500 (41)	-42%	3
Mauritius	1,192 (80)	-55%	14 (2)	No change	3
Rwanda	23,426 (944)	-11%	315 (4)	-60%	3
Seychelles	4,395 (100)	-67%	24 (0)	-100%	3
Somalia	12,406 (623)	-34%	618 (61)	No change	3
South Sudan	10,381 (100)	-44%	114 (1)	-80%	3
Sudan	31,833 (0)	-100%	2,063 (0)	-100%	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	41,174 (151)	70%	337 (2)	NA*	3
Northern Region	1,291,055 (27,582)	9%	37,109 (780)	12%	
Algeria	118,424 (894)	14%	3,130 (25)	No change	3
Egypt	210,489 (5,524)	12%	12,445 (282)	0%	3
Libya	168,676 (5,234)	-11%	2,828 (71)	-32%	3
Mauritania	18,022 (95)	-39%	450 (1)	No change	3
Morocco	502,102 (3,905)	10%	8,900 (50)	-4%	3
Tunisia	272,940 (11,763)	18%	9,332 (339)	45%	3
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	402 (167)	49%	24 (12)	300%	3
Southern Region	1,928,871 (12,084)	-3%	60,775 (460)	-12%	
Angola	23,457 (826)	45%	553 (11)	22%	3
Botswana	43,444 (1,734)	-7%	663 (47)	-57%	3
Eswatini	17,376 (24)	-23%	669 (1)	No change	3
Lesotho	10,707 (0)	-100%	315 (0)	NA*	3
Malawi	33,827 (166)	-8%	1,128 (5)	-44%	3
Mozambique	68,758 (639)	-31%	791 (9)	-50%	3
Namibia	45,527 (737)	-36%	570 (33)	18%	3
South Africa	1,558,458 (6,494)	-1%	53,322 (335)	3%	3
Zambia	90,029 (1,099)	4%	1,226 (6)	-70%	3

Zimbabwe	37,288 (365)	261%	1,538 (13)	160%	3
Western Region	444,474 (6,064)	-13%	5,829 (67)	-43%	
Benin	7,515 (202)	-5%	93 (0)	-100%	3
Burkina Faso	12,979 (162)	30%	152 (2)	-60%	3
Cape Verde	19,005 (1,134)	52%	182 (9)	13%	3
Côte d'Ivoire	45,206 (457)	-71%	263 (8)	-56%	3
Gambia	5,602 (97)	14%	168 (2)	No change	3
Ghana	91,260 (251)	-41%	754 (2)	-78%	3
Guinea	21,032 (526)	-28%	136 (6)	-40%	3
Guinea-Bissau	3,680 (18)	-36%	66 (0)	-100%	3
Liberia	2,042 (0)	NA*	85 (0)	NA*	3
Mali	11,844 (1,343)	113%	408 (16)	23%	3
Niger	5,074 (33)	-39%	189 (1)	-67%	3
Nigeria	163,793 (598)	-1%	2,060 (2)	-80%	3
Senegal	39,431 (407)	-19%	1,078 (15)	-42%	2
Sierra Leone	4,005 (17)	-6%	79 (0)	NA*	2
Togo	12,006 (819)	-34%	116 (4)	-20%	1
Total	4,353,531 (78,299)	-3%	115,810 (1,859)	3%	

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

As of 13 April 2021, 35 African Union Member States have started their COVID-19 vaccination programs targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 13.8 million persons have been vaccinated with the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in these countries. Figure 3 shows the number of persons vaccinated with the first dose against COVID-19.

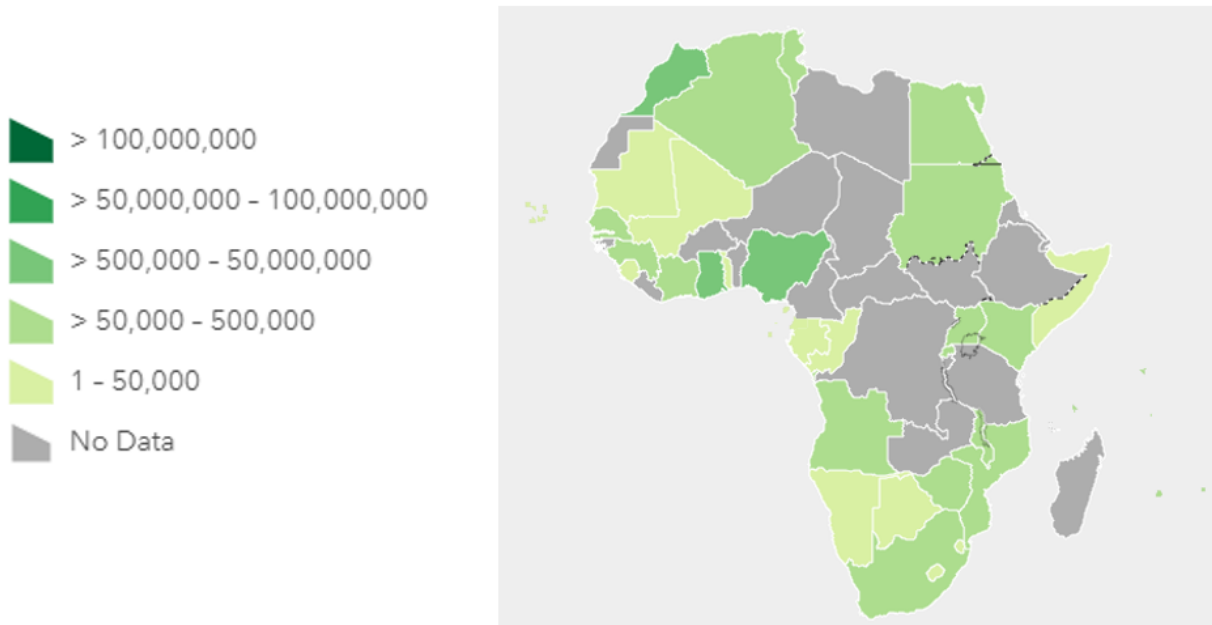


Figure 3: Number of persons vaccinated with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine as of 13 April 2021.

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Africa CDC will host a two-day virtual conference bringing together high level officials from across the continent to discuss the development and manufacture of vaccines on the continent. The theme for this high level conference is “Africa’s Vaccines Manufacturing for Health Security” and it will take place on Monday and Tuesday 12 and 13 April 2021 from 1 pm EAT. Registration link: <https://t.co/A9y97HhsVa?amp=1>. The recording will be available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Thursday, April 8, 2021, Dr. John Nkengasong, the Director of Africa CDC hosted Africa CDC’s weekly press briefing. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Facebook page](#).
3. Africa CDC Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOCs) and COVID-19 Management held its weekly PHEOC webinar series on Incident Management System (IMS), titled “IMS implementation in Saudi Arabia & Cote d'Ivoire” on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 3 pm EAT. The recording can be accessed on the [Africa CDC Facebook page](#).

Laboratory:

1. Over 41.5 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity ratio and test per case ratio are 10.5% and 9.5 respectively. For Epi week 14, 978,787 new tests were conducted. This represents a 12% increase compared to Epi week 13 when 876,382 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC distributed 200,000 PCR extraction kits to 10 Member States (Congo, the DRC, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Sudan, Chad, Central African Republic, Guinea,

Sierra Leone, and South Sudan)

3. Africa CDC supported four (4) Member States with medical equipment. Sudan received 16 oxygen concentrators and 8 mechanical ventilators; Zimbabwe received 12 oxygen concentrators; Malawi received 17 oxygen concentrators and 7 mechanical ventilators, and the Democratic Republic of Congo has received 62 oxygen concentrators.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. Africa CDC case management TWG continued partnering with Project HOPE and Brown University; USA, to provide the second training of trainers on COVID-19 vaccine for 50 frontline health care workers in Ethiopia. The training was held on Wednesday 7 April 2021. Link to [recording](#). Cumulatively, Africa CDC has trained 554 healthcare workers in 25 Member States on the COVID-19 vaccine.

Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC and partners held the 5th session of the sixth IPC webinar series titled “How to set up an IPC programme”. The English session was attended by 675 participants on Wednesday 7 April 2021 and the French session was attended by nearly 100 participants on Friday, 9 April 2021.
2. The postponed French forum for the 4th session of the sixth IPC webinar series titled “Layout and flow for specialised units looking at theatre and how to change behaviour during covid-19” will be held on Friday, April 16 2021 at 11 am GMT (Dakar Time) | 12 pm GMT+1 (Lagos Time) | 1 pm GMT+2 (Cairo and Johannesburg Time) | 2 pm GMT+3 (Nairobi Time). [Register here](#).
3. Africa CDC, Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN), Resolve to Save Lives and WHO-AFRO will host the sixth session of the sixth IPC webinar series. This week's topic is on “Challenges and barriers to implement best practices: lessons learnt”. The English session will be held on Wednesday April 14 2021 at 10 am GMT (Dakar Time) | 11 am GMT+1 (Lagos Time) | 12 noon GMT+2 (Cairo and Johannesburg Time) | 1 pm GMT+3 (Nairobi Time). [Register here](#).

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC Surveillance TWG held its English and French webinar titled “Using Data to find a balance: Insights on the Human impact of COVID-19 Response Measures from 19 AU Member States” on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 4 pm EAT. Recording link: [Here](#) Access Passcode: **D*qgm!1T**
2. This week, Africa CDC surveillance TWG will hold its webinar titled “Africa CDC saving lives, economies and livelihoods: Key recommendations to the continent related to safe opening of borders” on Wednesday 14 April 2021, at 4 pm EAT. [Register here](#)
3. Africa CDC continues to support 17 Member States with the implementation of serosurveys. Data collection has been completed in Sierra Leone, Uganda, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Zambia completed in 7 provinces.

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Access the biweekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update which is published every other week on Tuesdays at <https://africacdc.org/resources/> or the [WHO AFRO link](#). Subscribe [here](#) to receive the weekly Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) update and all other products or visit the [PERC](#) and [Africa CDC website](#).

Recommendations for the Member States

1. Member States should continue to enhance their COVID-19⁶ surveillance efforts to include:
 - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).⁷
 - b. Rapid mortality surveillance that includes the collection, analysis and use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.⁸
 - c. Genomic surveillance⁹ to monitor variant presence and spread as well as the continued evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing¹⁰ of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity and enhance diagnostic screening efforts with the use of rapid antigen tests¹¹.
3. All Member States should notify and routinely share data regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and healthcare workers infected with WHO and Africa CDC to continually inform these and other updates. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
4. Member States should continue to guide the general public about seeking immediate medical care for those who develop severe symptoms (i.e. difficulty breathing).
5. Member States should put in place or strengthen existing public health and social measures as cases start to rise.

Resources for more information

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Africa CDC Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

⁶ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

⁷ Africa CDC Protocol for enhanced surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa: [Protocol for Enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa – Africa CDC](#)

⁸ Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC

⁹ Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

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

¹¹ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

- Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) <https://preventepidemics.org/covid19/perc/>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>