

Outbreak Brief #78: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 13 July 2021

Global case count: 186,677,181 cases and 4,035,732 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (6 July 2021), **3,084,363** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **55,658** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of **186,677,181** COVID-19 cases and **4,035,732** related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2.2%) have been reported from 225 countries and territories to the World Health Organization (WHO). The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: **Eastern Mediterranean Region** 9,894,703 (5%), **European Region** 57,023,572 (31%), **Region of the Americas** 73,876,425 (40%), **South-East Asia Region** 36,038,117 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 3,803,525 (2%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are Brazil (326,978), India (289,147), Indonesia (253,801), the United Kingdom (217,811) and the Russian Federation (173,179). For more detailed information on cases and deaths reported outside of Africa, refer to the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

As of 9 a.m. East African Time (EAT) 13 July 2021, a total of 5,989,544 COVID-19 cases and 152,4671 deaths (**CFR: 2.6%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3% of all cases and 4% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-one (38%) AU Member States are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Fifty-three (96%) AU Member States are reporting community transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Fifty-three (96%) AU Member States have experienced at least a second wave, 23 (42%) have experienced a third wave, and one country (Tunisia) has experienced a fourth wave of COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by AU region from 15 February 2020 to 13 July 2021. The number of new cases being registered by day in the ongoing third wave is higher than what was reported at the peak of the second wave. During the second wave daily incidence peaked at 28 cases per 1 million population while during the ongoing third wave this has increased slightly to 33 cases per 1 million population. More information on COVID-19 situation in Africa is available on the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).

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

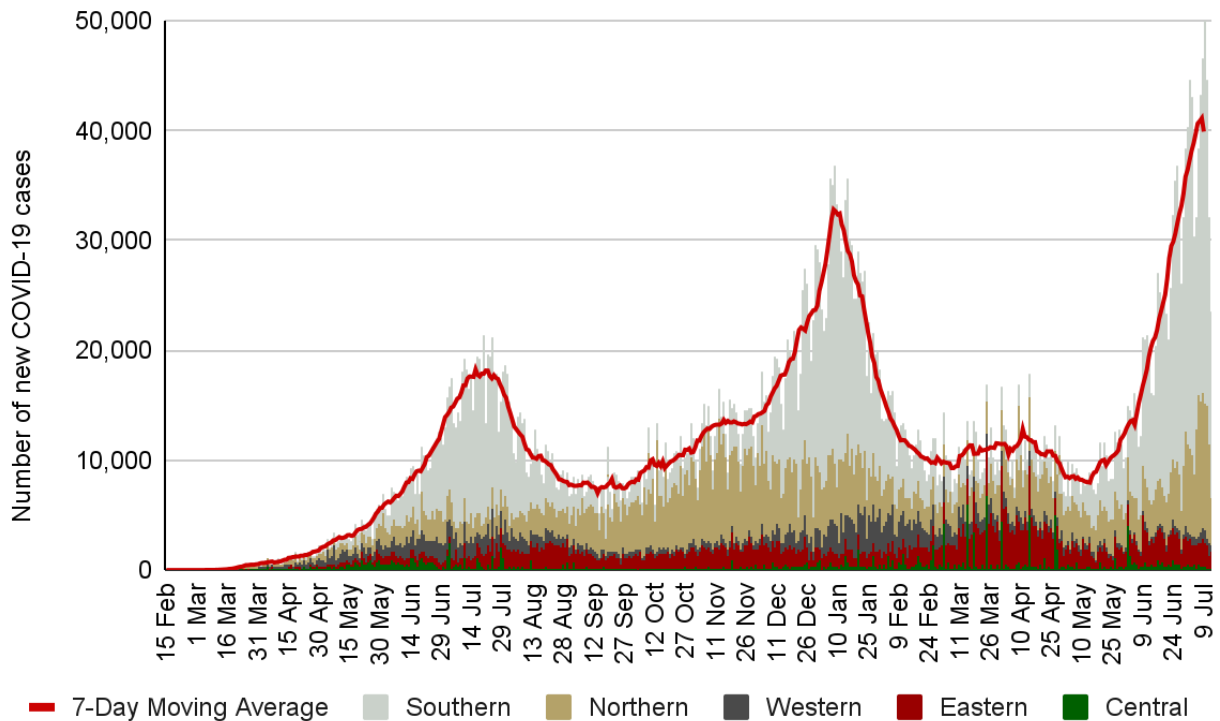


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 13 July 2021².

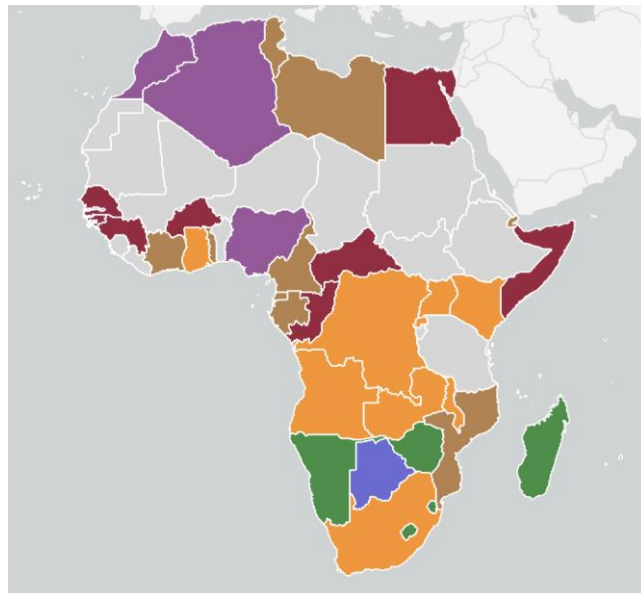
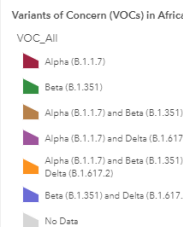


Figure 2: SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern³ reported in African Union Member States, as of 13 July 2021.

As of 6 July 2021, 39 AU Member States (Figure 2) have reported the presence of the Alpha (32 Member States), Beta (29 Member States), and/or Delta (15 Member States) variant of concern (VOC).



Genomics Dashboard provides a summary of variant types reported by African Union Member States. More information on SARS-CoV-2 in Africa is available on the [Africa CDC Genomics Initiative Dashboard](#).

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 13 July 2021

³ Variant of concern: a SARS-CoV-2 virus variant that is associated with one or more of the following: increase in transmissibility or changes in the epidemiology of COVID-19; increase in virulence or change in clinical disease presentation; or decrease in effectiveness of public health and social measures or available diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics.

For Epi week 27 (5 - 11 July 2021), 287,939 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 13% increase in the number of new cases reported when compared to Epi week 26. Most new COVID-19 cases reported for this week are from the Southern Region (65%), followed by the Northern (28%), Eastern (5%), Western (2%) and Central (1%) regions. This week, six countries account for 78% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (46%), Tunisia (19%), Zimbabwe (5%), Zambia (4%), and Libya (4%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (822), Tunisia (464), Namibia (392), Botswana (257) and South Africa (224). Table 2 summarizes the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by Member State and Region in Africa and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 27.

Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths⁴ reported in Africa for epidemiology week 27 (5 - 11 July 2021).

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 26	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 26
Central Region	195,678 (1,980)	-20%	3,073 (25)	-47%
Burundi	5,608 (97)	-20%	8 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	80,858 (0)	NA*	1,324 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	11,070 (5)	-29%	98 (0)	NA*
Chad	4,954 (3)	NA*	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	12,485 (0)	NA*	164 (0)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	44,332 (1,715)	-21%	984 (22)	-52%
Equatorial Guinea	8,815 (56)	56%	122 (0)	-100%
Gabon	25,164 (88)	-25%	162 (3)	NA*
Sao Tome and Principe	2,392 (16)	45%	37 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	748,517 (14,209)	-13%	15,798 (324)	-72%
Comoros	4,046 (33)	22%	146 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	11,615 (10)	150%	155 (0)	NA*

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

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 26	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 26
Eritrea	6,284 (196)	-36%	29 (4)	No change
Ethiopia	277,071 (636)	27%	4,343 (12)	-29%
Kenya	188,754 (2,886)	-12%	3,722 (47)	-41%
Madagascar	42,499 (170)	26%	933 (18)	200%
Mauritius	2,174 (261)	328%	18 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	48,244 (5,659)	-5%	560 (90)	80%
Seychelles	16,679 (822)	11%	74 (3)	-63%
Somalia	15,036 (59)	-31%	777 (2)	NA*
South Sudan	10,891 (25)	-54%	117 (0)	-100%
Sudan	36,959 (250)	85%	2,774 (14)	40%
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*
Uganda	87,756 (3,202)	-37%	2,129 (134)	-86%
Northern Region	1,702,764 (79,856)	56%	49,879 (1,311)	25%
Algeria	146,082 (4,611)	53%	3,836 (81)	31%
Egypt	283,102 (1,020)	-40%	16,396 (132)	-23%
Libya	206,769 (10,945)	260%	3,243 (30)	36%
Mauritania	21,672 (596)	35%	495 (6)	100%
Morocco	542,462 (7,912)	62%	9,369 (50)	19%
Tunisia	501,923 (54,762)	43%	16,494 (1,012)	36%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	754 (10)	NA*	46 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	2,825,958 (186,283)	4%	76,762 (3,719)	30%
Angola	39,958 (728)	8%	935 (22)	-8%
Botswana	80,153 (6,176)	44%	1,253 (65)	3%
Eswatini	19,918 (834)	1602%	692 (14)	NA*
Lesotho	11,903 (335)	2%	335 (6)	NA*

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 26	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 26
Malawi	39,186 (2,260)	74%	1,250 (42)	62%
Mozambique	88,868 (8,717)	74%	982 (78)	117%
Namibia	106,879 (9,792)	-6%	2,019 (357)	75%
South Africa	2,195,599 (132,703)	-1%	64,289 (2,449)	26%
Zambia	175,729 (11,447)	-27%	2,822 (379)	-10%
Zimbabwe	67,765 (13,291)	65%	2,185 (307)	116%
Western Region	495,679 (5,611)	12%	6,542 (59)	16%
Benin	8,227 (28)	-3%	105 (1)	NA*
Burkina Faso	13,506 (12)	-25%	168 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	33,006 (271)	-25%	289 (1)	-50%
Côte d'Ivoire	48,776 (212)	-43%	318 (3)	No change
Gambia	6,282 (166)	253%	185 (3)	200%
Ghana	97,585 (739)	-21%	801 (4)	NA*
Guinea	24,134 (263)	123%	179 (6)	50%
Guinea-Bissau	3,947 (66)	89%	70 (1)	NA*
Liberia	5,215 (297)	-74%	144 (10)	-9%
Mali	14,463 (14)	-56%	528 (1)	-50%
Niger	5,538 (32)	14%	194 (0)	-100%
Nigeria	168,552 (693)	77%	2,124 (3)	50%
Senegal	46,175 (2,407)	179%	1,194 (20)	100%
Sierra Leone	6,003 (210)	-49%	110 (4)	-67%
Togo	14,270 (201)	-13%	133 (2)	-33%
Total	5,968,596 (287,939)	13%	152,054 (5,438)	6%

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

Public Health and Social Measure (PHSM) Highlights

Table 3 below highlights changes in PHSMs for selected countries based on data from the [Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker](#). An up arrow indicates new PHSMs were announced; a horizontal arrow indicates PHSM was extended; a down arrow indicates PHSMs were loosened/expired. Member States are organized by tier level based on epidemiological data from epidemiology week 26 (25 June- 2 July 2021).

Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 3 - 9 July 2021.

Country	PHSM Trend	PHSM Change
Tier 4 (High Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day ≥ 80 and/or positivity rate $\geq 12\%$		
Zimbabwe	↑	Authorities in Zimbabwe announced tighter restrictions given the surge in cases in rural areas, which will be enforced through punitive measures.
Tier 3 (Moderate Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to $<12\%$		
Rwanda	↑	Rwanda announced stricter restrictions due to an intense surge of COVID-19 cases. The nationwide curfew from 6pm to 4am will remain in place. New restrictions in hotspots include bans on all public and private gatherings; school closures; and closures of bars and restaurants.
Kenya	→	COVID-19 preventative measures were extended for an additional 60 days in Kenya . Measures include a nightly curfew, a ban on public gatherings, and capacity limitations for religious services.
Sierra Leone	↑	According to the new directive , a nationwide curfew will be in place July 5-August 4 2021 In addition, all gatherings, including for worship are restricted, and restaurants and bars will also close at 9:00pm..
Libya	↑	Libya closes its border with Tunisia amid a surge in COVID-19 cases driven by the Delta variant.
Tier 2 (Low Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		
Guinea-Bissau	↓	Authorities in Guinea-Bissau extended the nationwide state of alert until 8 July, which includes measures such as mandatory use of facemasks in public, capacity restrictions for funeral services, and closure of nightclubs and gyms.
Tier 1 (Standard Precautions): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is $<3\%$		
Sao Tome & Principe	↑	Authorities have extended the country's state of calamity nationwide through at least 31 July in response to the spread of COVID-19. Travel restrictions, as well as gatherings on restrictions and commerce, are in place.
Nigeria	↓	Nigeria relaxes travel restrictions in some states.

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), hosted Africa CDC's weekly press briefing on Thursday, 8 July 2021. He was joined by Mr. Ralph Mupita, Chief Executive Officer for MTN Group, to jointly launch the [One More Push initiative](#). This initiative aims at reinforcing the importance of continued mask-wearing, driving vaccine safety and influencing vaccine acceptance. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. As of 13 July 2021, 51 (93%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 55.9 million doses have been administered, giving a coverage of 2% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 39.5 million have received the first dose and 16.4 million have received the second dose. Tanzania, Saharawi Republic, Eritrea, and Burundi are the four AU Member States yet to start the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

Laboratory:

1. Over 55 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate and test per case ratio are 10.8% and 9.2, respectively. For Epi week 27, a total of 1,415,684 new tests were conducted, an increase of 6% compared to Epi week 26 when 1,341,133 tests were conducted.
2. The Africa CDC [Biosafety & Biosecurity Initiative 2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#) is now available. The Strategic Plan is based on the objectives of the Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative and lists six priorities identified during regional consultations held between 2019-2021. The Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative aims to strengthen the biosafety and biosecurity systems and capacities of AU MS to ensure compliance with international requirements and regulations.
3. Africa CDC TWG held a regional meeting for the COVID-19 Testing Laboratories Certification Program in Harare, Zimbabwe from July 5-7, 2021. This meeting had 17 participants from 15 AU Member States (Botswana, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) were trained.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. In collaboration with Project HOPE and WAHO, Africa CDC trained 140 frontline healthcare workers on the various aspects of the COVID-19 vaccines. Participants included healthcare workers from ECOWAS member states and South Sudan. Link to training recording is available [here](#):
2. Africa CDC supported Zambia, Namibia and Liberia with 30 oxygen concentrators to support the management of COVID-19 cases.

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Access the biweekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update [here](#).
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-19⁵ surveillance efforts to include:
 - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).⁶
 - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.⁷
 - c. Genomic surveillance⁸ to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing⁹ of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity and enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests¹⁰.
3. All Member States should notify and routinely share data with WHO and Africa CDC regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and infected healthcare workers for updated information for action. 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 (e.g. difficulty breathing).
5. Member States should put in place or strengthen existing public health and social measures if COVID-19 incidence starts to rise.

Resources for more information

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Adapted Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/adapted-africa-joint-continental-strategy-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

⁵ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

⁶ 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](#)

⁷ Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC

⁸ Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

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

¹⁰ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

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