

## Outbreak Brief #79: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 20 July 2021

**Global case count: 190,631,102 cases and 4,093,871 deaths**

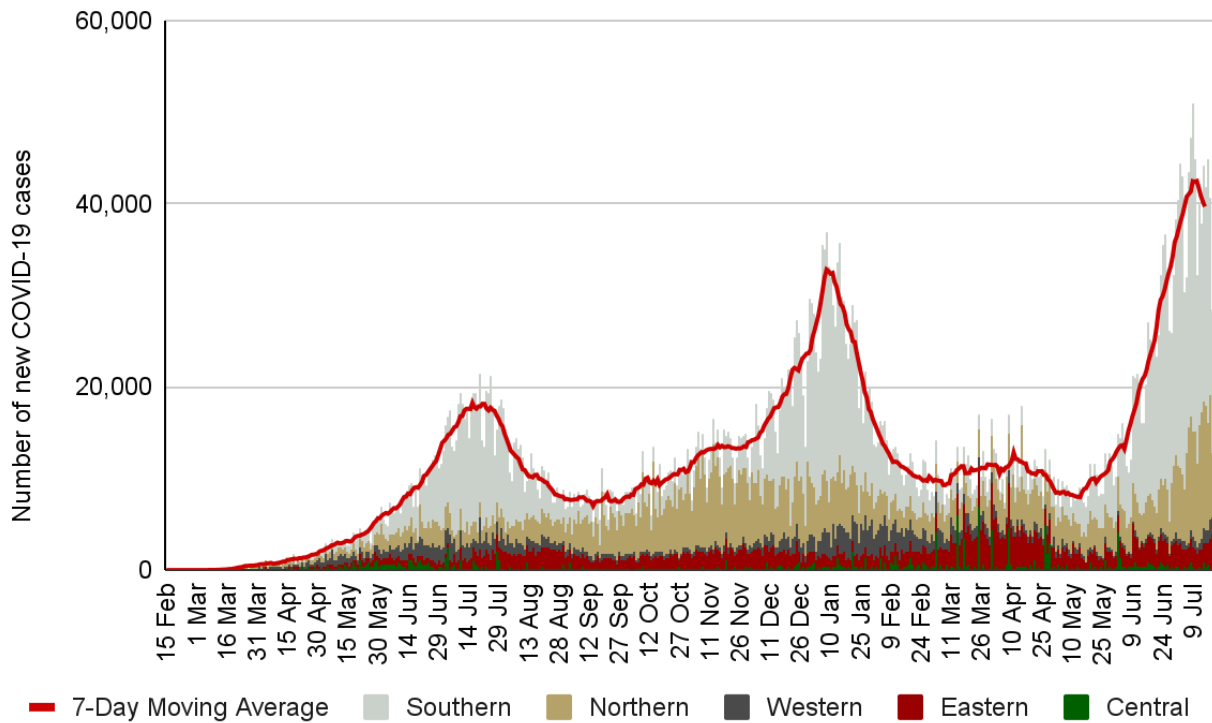
*Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States*

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (13 July 2021), **3,953,921** new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **58,139** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of **190,631,102** COVID-19 cases and **4,093,871** 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** 10,172,760 (5%), **European Region** 58,439,992 (31%), **Region of the Americas** 74,832,520 (39%), **South-East Asia Region** 36,865,283 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 4,000,016 (2%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are Brazil (386,634), Indonesia (344,103), the United Kingdom (312,694), India (269,853) and the United States (189,267). For more detailed information on cases and deaths reported outside of Africa, refer to the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

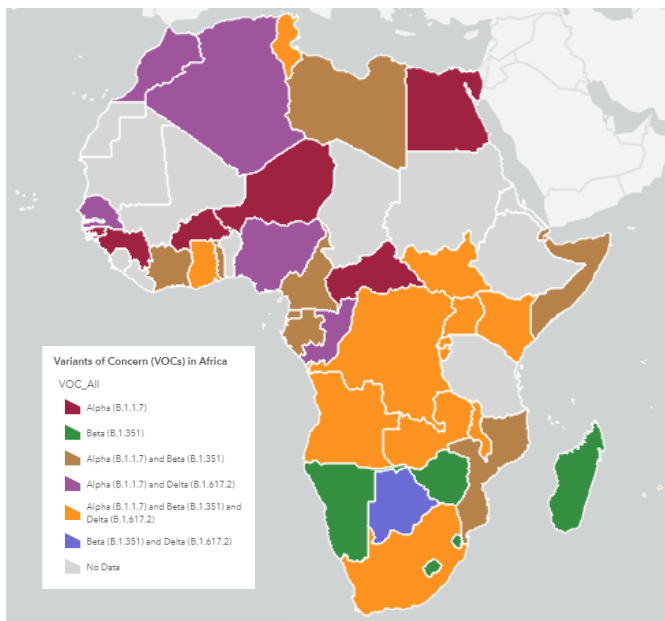
**As of 9 a.m. East African Time (EAT) 20 July 2021**, a total of 6,267,776 COVID-19 cases and 158,697 deaths (**CFR: 2.5%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3% of all cases and 4% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-one (38%) AU Member States are reporting 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, 29 (53%) have experienced a third wave, and two countries (Algeria and Tunisia) have 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 20 July 2021. More information on COVID-19 situation in Africa is available on the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).

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<sup>1</sup> 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 - 20 July 2021<sup>2</sup>.**



<sup>2</sup> The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 20 July 2021

**Figure 2: SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern<sup>3</sup> reported in African Union Member States, as of 20 July 2021.**

As of 16 July 2021, 43 AU Member States (Figure 2) have reported the presence of the Alpha (35 Member States), Beta (32 Member States), and/or Delta (20 Member States) variant of concern (VOC).

The Pathogen Genomics Dashboard provides a breakdown of variant types reported by Member State. More information on SARS-COV-2 sequencing in Africa is available on the [Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative Dashboard](#).

**For Epi week 28 (12 - 18 July 2021)**, 277,952 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 4% decrease in the number of new cases reported when compared to Epi week 27. Most new COVID-19 cases reported for this week are from the Southern Region (58%), followed by the Northern (31%), Eastern (6%), Western (4%) and Central (1%) regions. This week, six countries account for 74% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (36%), Tunisia (16%), Libya (7%), Zimbabwe (6%), Morocco (5%), and Botswana (4%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (555), Botswana (490), Tunisia (376), Libya (263), Namibia (238) and South Africa (168). 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 28.

**Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths<sup>4</sup> reported in Africa for epidemiology week 28 (12 -18 July 2021).**

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 27	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 27
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>198,513 (2,381)</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>3,116 (35)</b>	<b>6%</b>
Burundi	5,802 (194)	100%	8 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	80,858 (0)	NA*	1,324 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	11,102 (26)	136%	98 (0)	NA*
Chad	4,964 (10)	233%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	12,933 (0)	-100%	172 (0)	-100%
Democratic Republic of	46,356 (2,024)	18%	1,018 (34)	55%

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

Congo				
Equatorial Guinea	8,828 (13)	-77%	123 (1)	NA*
Gabon	25,260 (96)	9%	162 (0)	-100%
Sao Tome and Principe	2,410 (18)	13%	37 (0)	NA*
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>766,840 (17,858)</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>16,259 (426)</b>	<b>19%</b>
Comoros	4,079 (33)	No change	147 (1)	NA*
Djibouti	11,627 (12)	20%	155 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	6,402 (118)	-40%	30 (1)	-75%
Ethiopia	277,696 (625)	-2%	4,357 (14)	17%
Kenya	192,758 (4,004)	39%	3,775 (53)	13%
Madagascar	42,608 (109)	-36%	941 (8)	-56%
Mauritius	2,569 (395)	51%	19 (1)	NA*
Rwanda	57,322 (9,078)	60%	649 (89)	-1%
Seychelles	17,234 (555)	-32%	81 (7)	133%
Somalia	15,123 (87)	47%	781 (4)	100%
South Sudan	10,917 (26)	4%	117 (0)	NA*
Sudan	37,340 (354)	28%	2,794 (20)	43%
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*
Uganda	90,656 (2,462)	-32%	2,392 (228)	35%
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>1,789,229 (86,465)</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>51,198 (1,319)</b>	<b>1%</b>
Algeria	153,309 (7,227)	57%	3,938 (102)	26%
Egypt	283,703 (601)	-41%	16,446 (50)	-62%
Libya	224,920 (18,151)	66%	3,281 (38)	27%
Mauritania	22,637 (965)	62%	509 (14)	133%
Morocco	557,632 (15,170)	92%	9,450 (81)	62%
Tunisia	546,233 (44,310)	-19%	17,527 (1,033)	2%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	795 (41)	310%	47 (1)	NA*
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>2,986,398 (160,436)</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>80,895 (4,133)</b>	<b>11%</b>
Angola	40,805 (847)	16%	957 (22)	No change
Botswana	91,902 (11,749)	90%	1,328 (75)	15%

Eswatini	21,132 (1,214)	46%	712 (20)	43%
Lesotho	12,490 (583)	72%	345 (10)	67%
Malawi	43,470 (4,284)	90%	1,338 (88)	110%
Mozambique	99,412 (10,544)	21%	1,118 (136)	74%
Namibia	112,824 (5,945)	-39%	2,532 (513)	44%
South Africa	2,295,095 (99,496)	-25%	66,859 (2,570)	5%
Zambia	185,649 (9,920)	-13%	3,084 (262)	-31%
Zimbabwe	83,619 (15,854)	19%	2,622 (437)	42%
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>507,066 (10,812)</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>6,631 (84)</b>	<b>31%</b>
Benin	8,244 (17)	-39%	107 (2)	100%
Burkina Faso	13,536 (30)	150%	169 (1)	NA*
Cape Verde	33,302 (296)	9%	295 (6)	500%
Côte d'Ivoire	49,196 (420)	98%	320 (2)	-33%
Gambia	6,920 (592)	179%	190 (5)	67%
Ghana	99,160 (1,046)	-18%	815 (9)	No change
Guinea	24,711 (577)	119%	190 (11)	83%
Guinea-Bissau	4,052 (105)	59%	73 (3)	200%
Liberia	5,396 (181)	-39%	148 (4)	-60%
Mali	14,513 (50)	257%	530 (2)	100%
Niger	5,573 (35)	9%	194 (0)	NA*
Nigeria	169,532 (980)	41%	2,127 (3)	No change
Senegal	52,096 (5,921)	146%	1,220 (26)	30%
Sierra Leone	6,186 (183)	-13%	115 (5)	25%
Togo	14,649 (379)	89%	138 (5)	150%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,248,046 (277,952)</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>158,099 (5,997)</b>	<b>9%</b>

\*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 tiers based on current epidemiological data from 10 July - 16 July 2021.

**Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 10 - 16 July 2021.**

Country	PHSM Trend	PHSM Change
<b>Tier 4 (High Alert):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day $\geq 80$ and/or positivity rate $\geq 12\%$		
Libya	↑	Libya <a href="#">imposed</a> multiple new COVID-19 measures to fight the current surge of transmission, including limits on attendance at weddings and funerals, closure of some businesses including cafes, closure of public transportation, and restrictions on services at restaurants. These measures will remain in place for 2 weeks.
Namibia	→	Officials in Namibia <a href="#">announced</a> that current measures to address COVID-19 transmission--including nationwide curfews, compulsory mask-wearing, and limits on public gatherings--will be extended an additional 15 days, until 31 July.
South Africa	↑	COVID-19 restrictions in South Africa have been extended for an additional 2 weeks. Measures include a ban on public gatherings, a nightly curfew, and the prohibition of alcohol sales.
Tunisia	→	Two states in Tunisia-- <a href="#">Grand Tunis</a> and <a href="#">Kasserine Governorate</a> --announced an extension of COVID-19 measures until 31 July and 18 July, respectively. Measures include suspension of weekly markets, a nightly curfew, ban on public gatherings, and suspension of religious services.
Zimbabwe	→	Officials in Zimbabwe <a href="#">announced</a> the extension of COVID-19 measures--including a nightly curfew, bans on public gatherings, and capacity restrictions on public transportation--for an additional 14 days, during which time the country's vaccination campaign will ramp up, with the goal of vaccinating 1 million people during the same 2-week timeframe.
<b>Tier 3 (Moderate Alert):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to <12%		
Mauritius	↓	Mauritius <a href="#">reopened</a> its borders to international travellers, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, as of 15 July. Travellers must have a negative PCR test upon arrival from no longer than 5-7 days prior.
Morocco	↑	Morocco <a href="#">announced</a> it will require travellers from France, Spain, and Portugal to quarantine upon arrival (if they are unvaccinated) due to the high circulation of the Delta variant in those locations. Morocco also <a href="#">extended</a> the nationwide state of health emergency until 10 August, and banned Eid Al-Adha (to be celebrated 21 July) prayers in mosques.
Rwanda	↑	In Kigali, capital city of Rwanda, 8 districts were <a href="#">placed under</a> a 10-day lockdown, during which only essential services (such as food markets and pharmacies) will be permitted to operate. Schools will close during this time, and public transportation will be suspended.
<b>Tier 2 (Low Alert):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		
Algeria	↓/↑	Algeria <a href="#">reopened</a> its border with Niger, which was closed due to COVID-19, in order to restore trade and lessen the economic burden of the pandemic. Travel into and out of Tebessa, a province in Algeria, <a href="#">was also restricted</a> , and additional measures--including take-out only at restaurants and closure of public spaces--were implemented in the region to prevent COVID-19 transmission.
Gambia	↑	The Ministry of Health in The Gambia <a href="#">announced</a> increased enforcement of measures to prevent COVID-19 (social distancing, wearing a facemask, etc.), including a fine of D1000 for violators.

Madagascar	→	The state of emergency in <b>Madagascar</b> was <a href="#">extended</a> by an additional 15 days. Measures include capacity limits on public gatherings, a nightly curfew, and closure of borders.
Tier 1 (Standard Precautions): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is <3%		
Nigeria	↑	In Lagos, <b>Nigeria</b> , officials <a href="#">announced</a> increased enforcement of measures to prevent COVID-19, and warned of fines, imprisonment, and deportation for people who do not comply.

### NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

#### General:

1. Last week, Africa CDC hosted a briefing for Africa Group Permanent Representatives on the status of acquisition and roll-out of COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa on Thursday 15 July 2021.
2. Africa CDC and partners announced the launch of World Mask Week 2021 (July 12 - 18), a global movement to encourage continued mask-wearing to reach the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. More information is available on the [Africa CDC website](#).
3. On July 15, 2021, Africa CDC held a consultation meeting officials of the Cameroon Ministry of Health to discuss implementation of the "Saving Lives & Livelihoods" initiative, with a focus on community engagement, vaccination capacity, human resources and logistics
4. The Africa CDC delegation to Namibia paid a courtesy call to Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia to brief her on their week-long visit in support of Namibia's efforts to contain the COVID19 Pandemic.
5. As of 19 July 2021, 51 (93%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 60.4 million doses have been administered, giving a coverage of 2% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 42.2 million have received the first dose and 18.2 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 56.8 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate and test per case ratio are 11% and 9.1, respectively. For Epi week 28, a total of 1,557,748 new tests were conducted, an increase of 7% compared to Epi week 27 when 1,456,914 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC held a training on antigen testing for 30 participants in Côte D'Ivoire on 12 - 14 July 2021.
3. This week, Africa CDC will hold a training on antigen testing for participants in Kenya, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 12 - 16 July 2021 Overall, over

16,000 have been trained by Africa CDC, African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), WHO and other partners.

### Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

#### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC and partners will hold the first session of the eighth IPC webinar series titled "The role of IPC professionals in a rapid response team on Wednesday, 21 July 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session. Register [here](#). The French session will be held on Thursday 22 July 2021 at 2 pm EAT. Register [here](#).

### 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-19<sup>5</sup> surveillance efforts to include:
  - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).<sup>6</sup>
  - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.<sup>7</sup>
  - c. Genomic surveillance<sup>8</sup> to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing<sup>9</sup> of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity and enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests<sup>10</sup>.
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

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<sup>5</sup> [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

<sup>6</sup> 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](#)

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

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

<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/>

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



infected healthcare workers for updated information for action. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: [AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org](mailto: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/>
- 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>