

Outbreak Brief #82: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 10 August 2021

Global case count: 202,662,062 cases and 4,294,334 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (3 August 2021), **4,390,587** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **66,248** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of **202,662,062** COVID-19 cases and **4,294,334** related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2.1%) 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** 11,245,002 (5%), **European Region** 61,333,662 (30%), **Region of the Americas** 78,718,104 (39%), **South-East Asia Region** 39,271,048 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 4,959,531 (2%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (705,033), India (273,996), Islamic Republic of Iran (255,210), Brazil (233,924) and Indonesia (223,940). 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) 10 August 2021, a total of 7,074,924 COVID-19 cases and 178,160 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-three (42%) AU Member States are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Fifty-four (98%) AU Member States have experienced at least a second wave, 33 (60%) have experienced a third wave, and four countries (Algeria, Kenya, Somalia 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 10 August 2021. The trend is showing fluctuations in the last three weeks with a downward trend for the last few days that is mainly influenced by declining numbers of cases reported from the Southern region. 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>

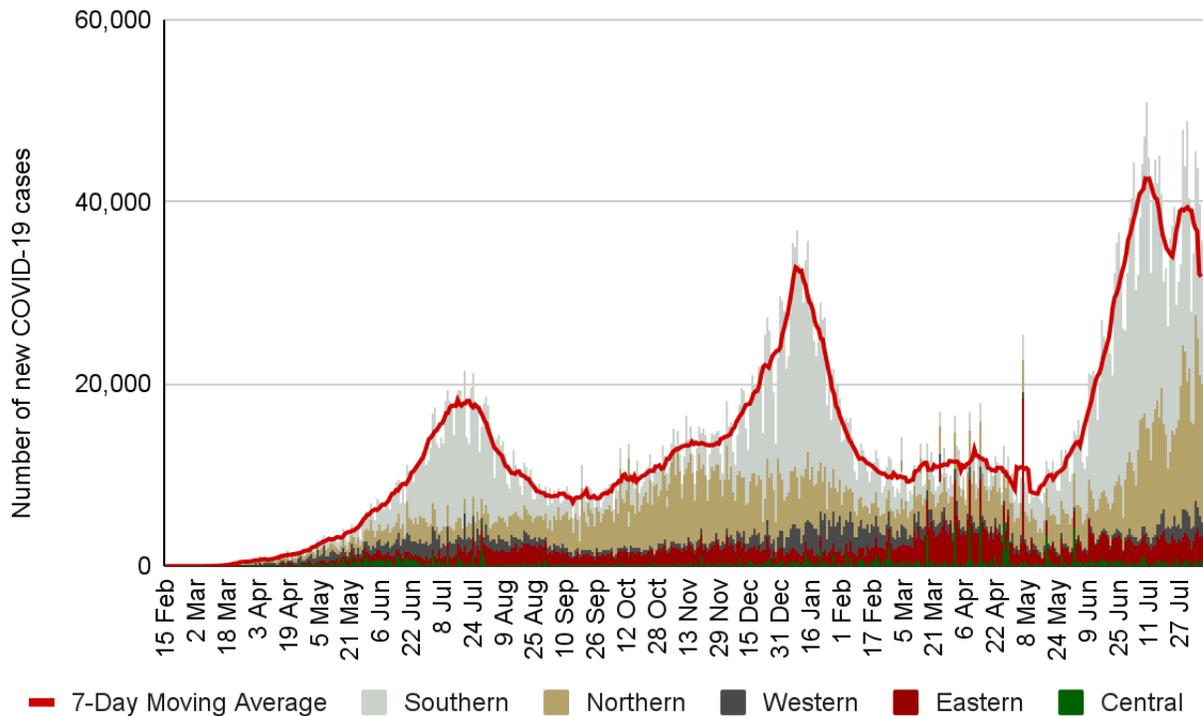


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 10 August 2021².

As of 10 August 2021, 51 AU Member States have reported the presence of the Alpha (42 Member States), Beta (37 Member States), Delta (30 Member States), and/or Gamma (2 Member States) Variants 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 31 (2 - 8 August 2021); 272,902 new COVID-19 cases were reported, a 0.3% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 30. The Southern Region accounted for 45% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Northern (41%), Eastern (7%), Western (5%) and Central (2%) regions. This week, six countries accounted for 73% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (28%), Morocco (24%), Tunisia (7%), Botswana (6%), Libya (5%) and Mozambique (3%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Botswana (648), Eswatini (403), Seychelles (393), Libya (196), Morocco (180), Tunisia (161), and South Africa (130). Table 2 summarises 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 31.

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 10 August 2021

Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths³ reported in Africa for epidemiological week 31 (2 - 8 August 2021).

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 30	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 30
Central Region	210,548 (4,810)	77%	3,169 (14)	-22%
Burundi	8,088 (583)	-37%	10 (1)	No change
Cameroon	82,064 (0)	NA*	1,334 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	13,293 (2,120)	7471%	99 (1)	NA*
Chad	4,978 (5)	25%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	13,257 (0)	-100%	179 (1)	No change
Democratic Republic of Congo	51,985 (1,968)	30%	1,048 (10)	-33%
Equatorial Guinea	8,951 (40)	-17%	123 (0)	NA*
Gabon	25,462 (78)	32%	165 (1)	No change
Sao Tome and Principe	2,470 (16)	-47%	37 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	838,043 (19,727)	11%	17,474 (446)	23%
Comoros	4,081 (0)	NA*	147 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	11,662 (10)	-41%	156 (0)	-100%
Eritrea	6,576 (29)	-44%	35 (0)	-100%
Ethiopia	284,091 (3,526)	74%	4,426 (36)	71%
Kenya	211,828 (8,148)	30%	4,149 (203)	151%
Madagascar	42,781 (41)	-42%	958 (0)	-100%
Mauritius	5,062 (723)	20%	19 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	76,071 (4,745)	-22%	890 (69)	-13%
Seychelles	18,582 (393)	-11%	94 (0)	-100%

³ 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 30	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 30
Somalia	15,865 (409)	62%	850 (37)	54%
South Sudan	11,100 (51)	-61%	120 (1)	-50%
Sudan	37,499 (314)	NA*	2,808 (32)	NA*
Tanzania	16,970 (0)	NA*	29 (0)	NA*
Uganda	95,875 (1,338)	-23%	2,793 (68)	-50%
Northern Region	2,077,503 (110,753)	6%	56,900 (1,824)	-8%
Algeria	181,376 (8,812)	-15%	4,550 (259)	14%
Egypt	284,706 (395)	38%	16,575 (47)	15%
Libya	269,847 (13,519)	-30%	3,750 (171)	-6%
Mauritania	28,197 (2,224)	0%	605 (38)	19%
Morocco	696,282 (66,565)	32%	10,335 (502)	106%
Tunisia	615,776 (19,001)	-13%	21,025 (799)	-36%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,319 (237)	-5%	60 (8)	60%
Southern Region	3,378,753 (123,258)	-7%	92,960 (3,749)	-4%
Angola	43,662 (847)	-18%	1,043 (27)	-16%
Botswana	130,771 (15,551)	19%	1,832 (179)	7%
Eswatini	31,060 (4,840)	51%	861 (63)	37%
Lesotho	13,843 (240)	-67%	390 (13)	-7%
Malawi	55,920 (3,289)	-18%	1,828 (167)	-8%
Mozambique	132,452 (8,911)	-33%	1,613 (151)	-16%
Namibia	121,203 (1,761)	-29%	3,196 (132)	-43%
South Africa	2,533,466 (77,282)	-1%	74,813 (2,622)	9%

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 30	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 30
Zambia	200,049 (3,756)	-11%	3,484 (78)	-42%
Zimbabwe	116,327 (6,781)	-42%	3,900 (317)	-35%
Western Region	550,813 (14,354)	-12%	7,200 (239)	18%
Benin	8,608 (214)	206%	110 (2)	100%
Burkina Faso	13,621 (33)	-30%	169 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	33,976 (154)	-37%	298 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	51,380 (1,102)	61%	341 (11)	83%
Gambia	8,603 (307)	-68%	242 (15)	-21%
Ghana	108,226 (1,792)	-48%	874 (20)	-35%
Guinea	26,969 (977)	25%	260 (26)	-7%
Guinea-Bissau	4,788 (290)	1%	79 (3)	50%
Liberia	5,459 (0)	-100%	148 (0)	NA*
Mali	14,642 (55)	22%	534 (1)	-67%
Niger	5,687 (50)	32%	196 (1)	NA*
Nigeria	178,086 (3,771)	18%	2,187 (38)	124%
Senegal	67,579 (4,577)	-20%	1,482 (115)	34%
Sierra Leone	6,315 (28)	-53%	121 (1)	-50%
Togo	16,874 (1,004)	39%	159 (6)	-14%
Total	7,055,660 (272,902)	0%	177,703 (6,272)	-3%

*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 organised by tiers based on current epidemiological data from 31 July - 6 August 2021.

Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 31 July - 6 August 2021.

Country	PHSM Trend	PHSM Change
Tier 4 (High Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day \geq 80 and/or positivity rate \geq 12%		
Libya	↑	Authorities in Libya are imposing a 24-hour lockdown for 3 days in Tripoli and the surrounding areas to combat the increasing COVID-19 transmission.
Morocco	↑	Morocco tightened restrictions in light of the recent surge. Measures include a nightly curfew (which has been lengthened by 2 hours), restrictions on travel to and from tourist hubs for the unvaccinated (including Casablanca and Marrakech), and capacity limits on gatherings.
Namibia	↓	Namibia loosened some measures, including lifting travel restrictions between regions, permitting public gatherings of up to 50 people, and reopening schools.
Rwanda	↓	The lockdown in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda , was lifted as of 1 August. While travel between regions is permitted to resume, some restrictions remain in place, including school closures and a ban on social gatherings.
Tunisia	↓	The nightly curfew in Tunisia was shortened by 2 hours starting 1 August.
Tier 3 (Moderate Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to <12%		
Algeria	↑	The nightly curfew in Algeria was extended and expanded to additional provinces, for a total of 37 provinces being affected by this measure. Other restrictions also remain in place, including a ban on public gatherings.
Kenya	→	Kenya extended various COVID-19 mitigation measures, including the nightly curfew and a ban on public gatherings and in-person meetings.
Uganda	↓	The lockdown in Uganda lapsed , and some restrictions were lifted, including the resumption of outdoor sports without spectators and the reopening of some businesses. Schools remain closed, as well as bars and places of worship, and a nightly curfew remains in place.
Tier 2 (Low Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		
Guinea	↑	Guinea amended COVID-19 measures, including by tightening the nightly curfew and requiring a vaccination card to enter some locations. Other measures remain in place, including capacity limits at religious services and other ceremonies.

Sao Tome and Principe	→	Officials have extended the national state of calamity in São Tome and Principe until at least 31 st August. Measures still in place include a nightly curfew and capacity limits of up to 150 people at social gatherings.
Tier 1 (Standard Precautions): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is <3%		
Equatorial Guinea	→	Equatorial Guinea extended COVID-19 restrictions, including a nightly curfew and closure of certain venues including bars and nightclubs.
Sierra Leone	→	Authorities in Sierra Leone have extended COVID-19 restrictions until 31 August. Measures include a nightly curfew, suspension of religious gatherings until 15 August, and capacity limits of 50 persons or less at public gatherings and social events.

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 5 August 2021. He was joined by Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, African Union (AU) Special Envoy on COVID-19 and Coordinator, Africa Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) to give an update on the rollout of 400 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot COVID-19 vaccine to AU Member States and the Caribbean. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Through the AVAT initiative, AU Member States have begun receiving their first allocation of Johnson & Johnson vaccines. In the past week, Cameroon received 158,400 doses, Egypt (261,600), Ghana (177,600), Lesotho (108,000) and Togo received 117,600 doses of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccine.
3. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Member States held a webinar titled “Strategies to improve COVID-19 vaccines uptake in COMESA Member States: Lessons Learnt” on 4 - 5 August 2021. The webinar focused on identifying possible reasons behind slow uptake of the vaccines by some COMESA Member States, strengthening strategies to improve COVID-19 vaccine uptake and strengthening experience sharing among COMESA Member States.
4. Africa CDC held its first public health grand rounds for 2021 titled “A New Public Health Order in the 21st Century” on 5 August 2021. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Facebook page](#).
5. Africa CDC held a webinar on Cross Country Learning for Community Health System Strengthening entitled “Surging Frontline Health Workers for Pandemic Preparedness and Response” on 3 - 4 August 2021. The webinar was co-hosted by Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC and H.E. Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, Former President of Liberia to discuss implementation of the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing initiative (PACT) and experience sharing by representatives from six AU Member States. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).

- As of 9 August 2021, 53 (96%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 76.5 million doses have been administered, giving a coverage of 2.9% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 53.7 million have received the first dose and 22.7 million have received the second dose. Eritrea, and Burundi are the two 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:

- Over 61.4 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate⁴ and test per case ratio⁵ are 11.5% and 9, respectively. For Epi week 31, a total of 1,340,928 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 22% compared to Epi week 30 when 1,708,793 tests were conducted.
- Africa CDC distributed 193,000 viral transport media (VTM), 1,300 PCR reagent kits and 646,600 antigen testing kits to 13 AU Member States. Thirty-eight (38) Member States have received testing reagents and supplies.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Africa CDC held the third session of the eighth IPC webinar series titled “Strengthening IPC Programmes to prevent disease outbreaks”. The webinar was attended by 593 participants and delivered in English on Wednesday 4 August 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT.
- Africa CDC held the third session of the eighth IPC webinar series titled “Strengthening IPC Programmes to prevent disease outbreaks” for 138 participants in French, on 5 August 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT.
- The fourth session of the eighth IPC webinar series entitled “IPC - WASH in healthcare facilities” will be held on Wednesday 11 August 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session. Register [here](#).
- Africa CDC will hold the fourth session of the eighth IPC webinar series entitled “Strengthening IPC programmes to prevent disease outbreaks” on Thursday 12 August 2021 for the French session. Register [here](#).

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

- 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](#).

⁴ [Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)

⁵ WHO set 10-30 tests per every confirmed case as a general benchmark of adequate testing.

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 includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.⁸
 - c. Genomic surveillance⁹ to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing¹⁰ of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity as well as enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests¹¹.
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/>
- 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>

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](#)