

Outbreak Brief #86: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 7 September 2021

Global case count: 220,626,513 cases and 4,566,532 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (2 September 2021), **4,286,128** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **67,875** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 220,626,513 COVID-19 cases and 4,566,532 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** 12,693,957 (6%), **European Region** 66,154,347 (30%), **Region of the Americas** 85,057,030 (39%), **South-East Asia Region** 41,712,424 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 7,011,485 (3%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (1,016,553), India (289,682), the United Kingdom (246,703), the Islamic Republic of Iran (202,443) and Turkey (151,173). 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) 7 September 2021, a total of 7,926,999 COVID-19 cases and 200,045 deaths (CFR: **2.5%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3.6% of all cases and 4.4% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-two (40%) AU Member States are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 54 (98%) AU Member States have experienced at least a second wave, 42 (76%) have experienced a third wave, and six countries (Algeria, Benin, Kenya, Mauritius, Somalia and Tunisia) have experienced a fourth wave of COVID-19 cases. Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by AU region from 15 February 2020 to 7 September 2021. The overall daily number of new cases being reported across the continent has continued to decline. 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>

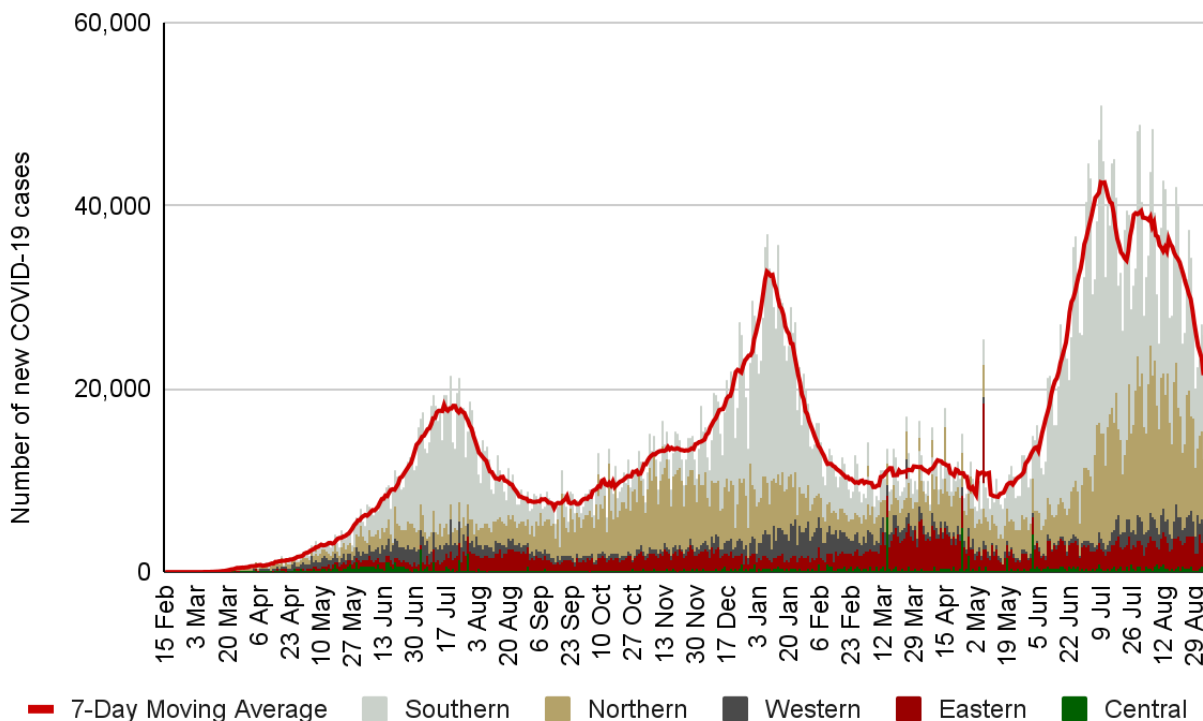


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 7 September 2021².

As of 2 September 2021, 51 AU Member States have reported the presence of the Alpha (43 Member States), Beta (37 Member States), Delta (35 Member States), and/or Gamma (1 Member State) 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 35 (30 August - 5 September 2021), 163,284 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 23% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 34. The Southern Region accounted for 42% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Northern (35%), Eastern (12%), Western (9%) and Central (2%) regions. This week, seven countries accounted for 77% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (34%), Morocco (19%), Tunisia (7%), Libya (6%), Ethiopia (5%), Botswana (3%) and Kenya (3%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (546), Libya (219), Libya (135), Cabo Verde (117), Eswatini (112), Mauritius (103), Tunisia (95) and South Africa (93). Table 2 summarises the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 7 September 2021

reported by Member State and Region in Africa and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 35.

Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths³ reported in Africa for epidemiological week 35 (30 August - 5 September 2021).

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 34	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 34
Central Region	221,907 (3,288)	24%	3,218 (17)	89%
Burundi	13,070 (541)	-55%	10 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	84,210 (785)	NA*	1,357 (7)	NA*
Central African Republic	11,308 (2)	-94%	100 (0)	-100%
Chad	4,996 (5)	-17%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	13,630 (42)	-56%	183 (0)	-100%
Democratic Republic of Congo	55,992 (947)	7%	1,061 (2)	-50%
Equatorial Guinea	9,939 (613)	167%	129 (6)	NA*
Gabon	26,079 (260)	71%	167 (2)	NA*
Sao Tome and Principe	2,683 (93)	41%	37 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	924,236 (20,084)	-13%	19,059 (291)	-28%
Comoros	4,086 (24)	100%	147 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	11,777 (36)	-20%	157 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	6,648 (8)	-56%	38 (1)	NA*
Ethiopia	314,984 (8,867)	-14%	4,763 (119)	43%
Kenya	240,172 (5,220)	-12%	4,786 (76)	-64%
Madagascar	42,884 (22)	47%	957 (2)	NA*
Mauritius	11,750 (1,339)	-48%	21 (0)	NA*

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 34	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 34
Rwanda	89,377 (3,155)	-2%	1,124 (50)	-6%
Seychelles	20,323 (546)	41%	108 (4)	33%
Somalia	17,832 (530)	3%	1,002 (39)	-13%
South Sudan	11,500 (97)	4%	120 (0)	NA*
Sudan	37,886 (240)	1163%	2,826 (0)	-100%
Tanzania	16,970 (0)	NA*	50 (0)	NA*
Uganda	98,047 (0)	NA*	2,960 (0)	NA*
Northern Region	2,400,102 (57,211)	-28%	64,275 (1,473)	-18%
Algeria	198,004 (2,842)	-21%	5,420 (211)	3%
Egypt	290,027 (2,128)	38%	16,789 (68)	36%
Libya	316,797 (9,326)	-12%	4,343 (130)	-5%
Mauritania	34,297 (988)	-34%	737 (32)	No change
Morocco	884,085 (30,712)	-28%	13,073 (636)	-1%
Tunisia	675,191 (11,157)	-44%	23,846 (395)	-46%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,701 (58)	41%	67 (1)	No change
Southern Region	3,756,376 (68,531)	-25%	104,144 (2,222)	-19%
Angola	48,656 (1,488)	22%	1,270 (69)	44%
Botswana	162,186 (5,259)	-14%	2,309 (48)	-47%
Eswatini	44,176 (1,348)	-43%	1,145 (64)	-17%
Lesotho	14,395 (0)	-100%	403 (0)	-100%
Malawi	60,821 (476)	-46%	2,210 (49)	-44%
Mozambique	147,923 (2,060)	-33%	1,878 (27)	-47%

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 34	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 34
Namibia	125,610 (710)	-32%	3,412 (40)	48%
South Africa	2,819,945 (55,014)	-26%	83,419 (1,824)	-16%
Zambia	207,114 (1,063)	-29%	3,616 (20)	-9%
Zimbabwe	125,550 (1,113)	-38%	4,482 (81)	-47%
Western Region	614,628 (14,170)	-7%	8,941 (597)	37%
Benin	16,946 (3,580)	166%	135 (7)	133%
Burkina Faso	13,841 (79)	61%	171 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	35,928 (701)	43%	315 (6)	20%
Côte d'Ivoire	56,855 (1,747)	19%	467 (37)	6%
Gambia	9,789 (91)	-65%	328 (9)	-61%
Ghana	121,307 (1,304)	-63%	1,069 (22)	-61%
Guinea	29,864 (363)	-48%	639 (302)	1213%
Guinea-Bissau	5,902 (136)	-45%	121 (4)	-71%
Liberia	5,740 (12)	-94%	283 (38)	NA*
Mali	14,939 (85)	-12%	542 (3)	No change
Niger	5,882 (39)	-47%	199 (1)	-50%
Nigeria	195,511 (4,166)	-4%	2,552 (98)	-47%
Senegal	73,188 (479)	-39%	1,803 (54)	-31%
Sierra Leone	6,374 (7)	-42%	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	22,562 (1,381)	-12%	196 (16)	100%
Total	7,917,249 (163,284)	-23%	199,637 (4,600)	-15%

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

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) hosted the Africa CDC's weekly press briefing on Thursday 2 September 2021. He was joined by Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, African Union (AU) Special Envoy on COVID-19 and Coordinator, Africa Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT). They provided an update on the status of the AVAT COVID-19 vaccine delivery process across the continent. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Facebook page](#).
2. The African Union (AU), through Africa CDC worked with AVAT to secure 12,000 doses of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 single shot vaccines for the AU Commission staff, AU Embassies' staff and their dependents.
3. African Union Member States continue to receive their first allocation of Johnson & Johnson vaccines through the AVAT initiative. In the past week, Ethiopia received 108,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccine. Overall, 1,718,900 vaccine doses have been delivered in twelve countries.
4. Africa CDC held its webinar series on Pathogen Genomic Surveillance in Africa titled "How SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance informed the COVID-19 Response in South Africa " on Wednesday, 1 September 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT.
5. As of 5 September 2021, 53 (95%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 108.9 million doses have been administered, giving coverage of 4.1% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 67.5 million have received the first dose and 38.4 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:

1. Over 67.7 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate⁴ and test per case ratio⁵ are 11.7% and 8.6, respectively. For Epi week 35, a total of 1,428,275 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 7% compared to Epi week 34 when 1,540,271 tests were conducted.
2. On 3 September 2021, Africa CDC through the Southern Regional Collaborating Centre (RCC) handed over 1,537 Ag-RDTs for SARS-CoV-2 to the National Public Health Institute in Zambia.

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.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with WHO AFRO AND UNICEF held a joint virtual training titled “Safe School Reopening. Country Experience - Uganda” on Friday, 3 September 2021 at 10 a.m. EAT. The training was attended by 150 participants.

Surveillance:

1. For the past six weeks, Africa CDC supported the Ministry of Health, Lesotho in strengthening its Event-Based Surveillance and health information systems while also providing technical support in enhancing COVID-19 vaccine roll out nationwide.
2. Africa CDC, through the Southern Africa RCC will host an ECHO session titled “COVID-19 Tiered Public Health and Social Measures Framework” on 8 September 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT. The session will discuss the Framework and how officials can use indicators of disease spread to guide appropriate tiers of COVID-19 preventive measures. Register [here](#).
3. Africa CDC, through the Eastern Africa RCC will host an ECHO session titled “COVID-19 Tiered Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM) Framework” on 9 September 2021 at 1pm EAT. The session will discuss the newly developed PHSM Framework for Africa and associated dashboard. Register [here](#).

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Access the biweekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update [here](#).
2. 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 includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility and/or community-based surveillance.⁸
 - c. Genomic surveillance⁹ to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.

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

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/>
- Africa CDC HotSpot and PHSM Tiers dashboards: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19-hotspot-and-phsm-tiers-dashboards/>
- Africa CDC vaccination dashboard: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19-vaccination/>
- Africa CDC pathogen genomics dashboard: <https://africacdc.org/institutes/africa-pathogen-genomics-initiative/>
- 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>

¹⁰Africa 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](#)