

## Outbreak Brief #87: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 14 September 2021

Global case count: 224,539,300 cases and 4,628,221 deaths

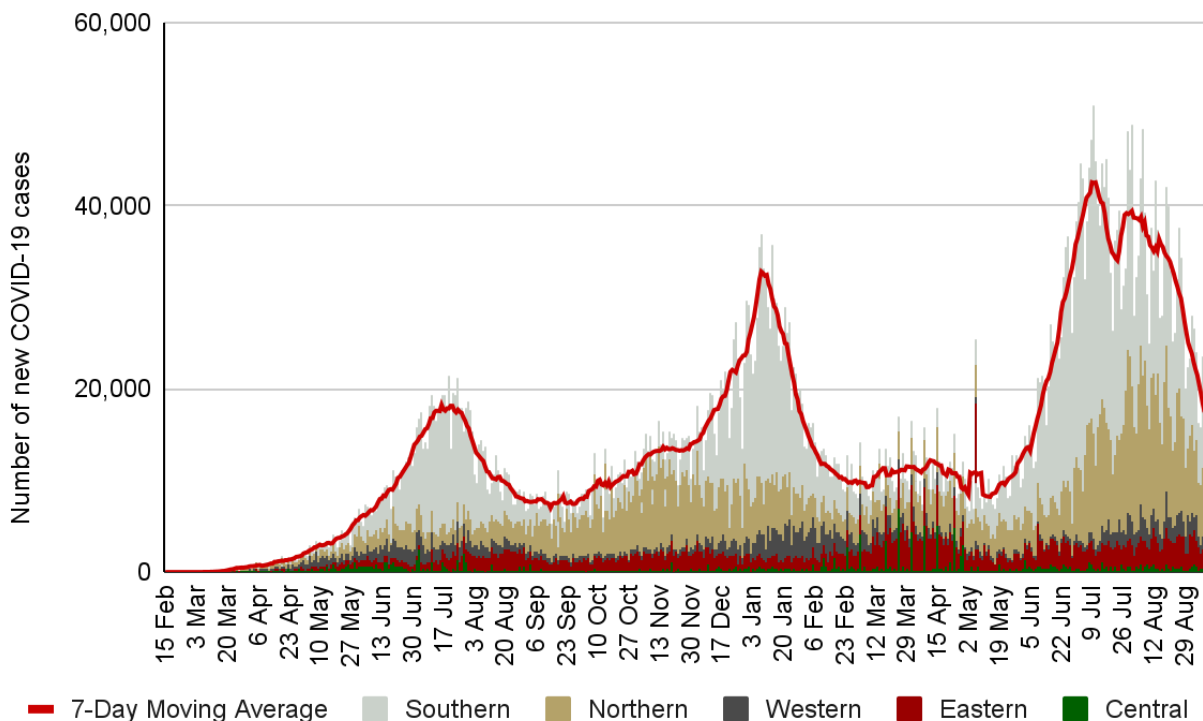
Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (7 September 2021), **3,912,787** new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **61,689** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 224,539,300 COVID-19 cases and 4,628,221 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** 12,960,285 (6%), **European Region** 67,300,263 (30%), **Region of the Americas** 86,505,509 (39%), **South-East Asia Region** 42,155,706 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 7,493,735 (3%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (939,266), the United Kingdom (284,150), India (236,554), the Islamic Republic of Iran (166,379) and Turkey (160,197). 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) 14 September 2021**, a total of 8,052,110 COVID-19 cases and 204,025 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-three (42%) 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, 43 (78%) have experienced a third wave and seven countries (Algeria, Benin, Egypt, 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 14 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](#).

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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 - 14 September 2021<sup>2</sup>.**

As of 8 September 2021, 51 AU Member States have reported the presence of the Alpha (43 Member States), Beta (37 Member States), Delta (36 Member States), and/or Gamma (2 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 36 (6 September - 12 September 2021),** 122,292 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 27% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 35. The Southern Region accounted for 39% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Northern (37%), Eastern (13%), Western (9%) and Central (3%) regions. This week, seven countries accounted for 76% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (31%), Morocco (17%), Tunisia (8%), Ethiopia (7%), Libya (7%), Nigeria (3%) and Kenya (3%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (270), Botswana (144), Libya (122), Cabo Verde (119), Tunisia (85), Sao Tome and Principe (67) and South Africa (65). Table 2 summarises the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths

<sup>2</sup> The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 14 September 2021

reported by Member State and Region in Africa and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 36.

**Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths<sup>3</sup> reported in Africa for epidemiological week 36 (6 - 12 September 2021).**

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 35	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 35
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>226,441 (3,231)</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>3,531 (8)</b>	<b>-98%</b>
Burundi	15,058 (1,482)	42%	12 (0)	-100%
Cameroon	84,920 (0)	-100%	1,357 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	11,309 (0)	-100%	100 (0)	NA*
Chad	5,016 (20)	300%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	13,841 (211)	402%	185 (2)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	56,345 (267)	-74%	1,364 (0)	-100%
Equatorial Guinea	10,498 (559)	-9%	131 (2)	-67%
Gabon	26,638 (559)	115%	169 (2)	No change
Sao Tome and Principe	2,816 (133)	43%	39 (2)	NA*
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>941,150 (15,338)</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>19,628 (342)</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Comoros	4,097 (11)	-54%	147 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	11,860 (83)	131%	157 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	6,655 (7)	-13%	40 (2)	100%
Ethiopia	323,104 (8,120)	-8%	4,929 (166)	39%
Kenya	243,725 (3,553)	-32%	4,906 (120)	58%
Madagascar	42,884 (0)	-100%	957 (0)	-100%
Mauritius	12,427 (677)	-49%	21 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	91,339 (1,962)	-38%	1,155 (31)	-38%
Seychelles	20,593 (270)	-51%	110 (2)	-50%
Somalia	18,373 (541)	2%	1,023 (21)	-46%

<sup>3</sup> Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability, thus may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

South Sudan	11,614 (114)	18%	120 (0)	NA*
Sudan	37,886 (0)	-100%	3,053 (0)	-100%
Tanzania	16,970 (0)	NA*	50 (0)	NA*
Uganda	99,623 (0)	-100%	2,960 (0)	NA*
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>2,445,299 (44,710)</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>65,506 (1,180)</b>	<b>-23%</b>
Algeria	200,096 (2,092)	-26%	5,583 (163)	-23%
Egypt	292,957 (2,930)	38%	16,871 (82)	21%
Libya	325,221 (8,424)	-10%	4,441 (98)	-25%
Mauritania	34,878 (674)	-25%	754 (21)	-25%
Morocco	904,647 (20,562)	-33%	13,546 (473)	-26%
Tunisia	685,799 (10,028)	-15%	24,244 (343)	-24%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,701 (0)	-100%	67 (0)	-100%
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>3,804,411 (47,986)</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>105,863 (1,719)</b>	<b>-23%</b>
Angola	50,446 (1,790)	20%	1,339 (69)	No change
Botswana	165,644 (3,458)	-34%	2,337 (28)	-42%
Eswatini	44,863 (687)	-49%	1,172 (27)	-58%
Lesotho	14,395 (0)	NA*	403 (0)	NA*
Malawi	61,113 (292)	-39%	2,238 (28)	-43%
Mozambique	149,207 (1,284)	-38%	1,892 (14)	-48%
Namibia	126,341 (682)	-10%	3,436 (24)	-40%
South Africa	2,858,195 (38,250)	-30%	84,877 (1,458)	-20%
Zambia	207,938 (824)	-22%	3,631 (15)	-25%
Zimbabwe	126,269 (719)	-35%	4,538 (56)	-31%
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>626,945 (11,027)</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>9,125 (164)</b>	<b>-73%</b>
Benin	19,841 (2,895)	-19%	141 (6)	-14%
Burkina Faso	13,950 (109)	38%	171 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	36,640 (712)	2%	322 (7)	17%
Côte d'Ivoire	57,784 (929)	-47%	506 (39)	5%
Gambia	9,848 (59)	-35%	328 (0)	-100%
Ghana	123,521 (978)	-61%	1,096 (12)	-68%
Guinea	30,047 (170)	-55%	656 (13)	-96%

Guinea-Bissau	6,022 (88)	-48%	125 (3)	-40%
Liberia	5,761 (12)	-43%	283 (0)	-100%
Mali	14,983 (44)	-48%	543 (1)	-67%
Niger	5,922 (40)	3%	199 (0)	-100%
Nigeria	199,151 (3,640)	-13%	2,598 (46)	-53%
Senegal	73,478 (290)	-39%	1,831 (28)	-48%
Sierra Leone	6,379 (5)	-29%	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	23,618 (1,056)	-24%	205 (9)	-44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,044,246 (122,292)</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>203,653 (3,413)</b>	<b>-32%</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 organised by tiers based on current epidemiological data from 3 - 10 September 2021. Please see the [Africa CDC PHSM Tiers framework](#) for more information.

**Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 3 - 10 September 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%		
<b>Botswana</b>	↓	Officials in <b>Botswana</b> have <a href="#">eased</a> some COVID-19 measures. Public gatherings are permitted to resume with protective measures in place, the nightly curfew was shortened by 2 hours, and the ban on the sale of alcohol was lifted.
<b>Eswatini</b>	↓	Schools <a href="#">reopened</a> in <b>Eswatini</b> , although some students had to be turned away at the door in order to maintain the COVID-related capacity limitations of 20 pupils per classroom.
<b>South Africa</b>	↓	<b>South Africa</b> <a href="#">will move</a> to a lockdown level 2 (from level 3), which includes the easing of many restrictions. The nightly curfew will be shortened, the capacity limits on public gatherings will be increased, and the hours during which alcohol sales are permitted will be lengthened.
<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%		

Nigeria	↑	In <b>Nigeria</b> , people living in the southern states of Edo and Ondo will <a href="#">need to show</a> proof of vaccination to access public places such as banks and religious buildings starting in mid-September.
<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%		
Egypt	↓	Schools in <b>Egypt</b> <a href="#">reopened</a> for the new academic year with stringent protective measures in place, including social distancing, improved ventilation, and students will now have hybrid schedules where they only come to in-person classes on certain days.
Zimbabwe	↑/↓	State employees in <b>Zimbabwe</b> have <a href="#">been told</a> to either get vaccinated or resign. <b>Zimbabwe</b> has also <a href="#">eased</a> COVID-19 restrictions from a level 4 alert to a level 2 alert, which now permits public gatherings of up to 100 people and reduces curfew times.
<b>Tier 1 (Standard Precautions):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is <3%		
Congo	→	Officials in <b>Congo</b> <a href="#">extended</a> the health-related state of emergency orders until at least 24 September 2021. Ongoing measures include a ban on public gatherings of 3 or more people, nightly curfews in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, and closure of land and river borders.
Madagascar	↓	<b>Madagascar</b> <a href="#">ended</a> its 17-month state of emergency for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

## 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 weekly press briefing on Thursday 9 September 2021. He provided an update on the COVID-19 situation across the continent, including response efforts and updates on the progress of vaccinations across the continent. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Africa CDC's delegation to Egypt, led by the Africa CDC Deputy Director, Dr. Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, met with H.E Hala Zayed, Egypt's Minister of Health on Thursday 9 September 2021 to discuss partnership in vaccine manufacturing and procurement, as well as support for the Egyptian CDC.
3. On September 7, 2021, Africa CDC, in conjunction with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), the Clinton Health Access Initiative, and Last Mile Health, launched an [e-learning course](#) on COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Testing (Ag RDT).
4. African Union Member States continue to receive their first allocation of Johnson & Johnson vaccines through the AVAT initiative. In the past week, Rwanda received 108,000 doses and Mozambique received 100,800 doses of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccine. Overall, 1,927,700 vaccine doses have been delivered in fourteen countries.
5. Africa CDC and partners will conduct a joint training and certificate program on Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOCs) Management in six weekly sessions from 16 September - 11 November 2021. Participants will be introduced to the PHEOC



handbook, legal framework and supporting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which were recently developed. [Register here.](#)

6. As of 13 September 2021, 53 (95%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 117.9 million doses have been administered, giving a coverage of 4.4% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 72.3 million have received the first dose and 42.6 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 68.8 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate<sup>4</sup> and test per case ratio<sup>5</sup> are 11.7% and 8.6, respectively. For Epi week 36, a total of 1,214,885 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 18% compared to Epi week 35 when 1,476,693 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC will hold a webinar titled “Genomic surveillance for emerging and re-emerging diseases in Africa: Experience from the Democratic Republic of Congo” on Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT. [Register here](#)

#### Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

##### *Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)*

1. The first session of the ninth IPC webinar series “Implementation of IPC programmes: WHO guideline” will continue on Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session. Register [here](#).
2. The first session of the ninth IPC webinar series “Implementation of IPC programmes: WHO guideline” will continue on Thursday 16 September 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for the French session.

#### Risk Communication:

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with partners held a training titled “Role of Journalism in addressing pandemics in Africa” on September 10, 2021. [Access recording](#)

#### 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](#).

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

<sup>5</sup> 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-19<sup>6</sup> surveillance efforts to include:
  - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).<sup>7</sup>
  - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility and/or community-based surveillance.<sup>8</sup>
  - c. Genomic surveillance<sup>9</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>10</sup> of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity as well as enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests<sup>11</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 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/>
- Africa CDC HotSpot and PHSM Tiers dashboards: <https://africadccovid.org/>
- 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/>

<sup>6</sup> [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

<sup>7</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>8</sup> Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC

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

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

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



- WHO Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>