

Outbreak Brief #91: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 12 October 2021

Global case count: 237,331,547 cases and 4,843,139 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (5 October 2021), **2,627,270** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **42,293** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 237,331,547 COVID-19 cases and 4,843,139 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 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** 13,608,333 (6%), **European Region** 72,002,311 (30%), **Region of the Americas** 91,014,944 (38%), **South-East Asia Region** 43,400,964 (18%) and **Western Pacific Region** 8,892,432 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (462,841), The United Kingdom (253,626), Turkey (206,285), the Russian Federation (192,457) and India (136,905). 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) 12 October 2021, a total of 8,392,178 COVID-19 cases and 214,337 deaths (**CFR: 2.5%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3.5% of all cases and 4.4% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-seven (49%) 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, 44 (80%) 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 12 October 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>

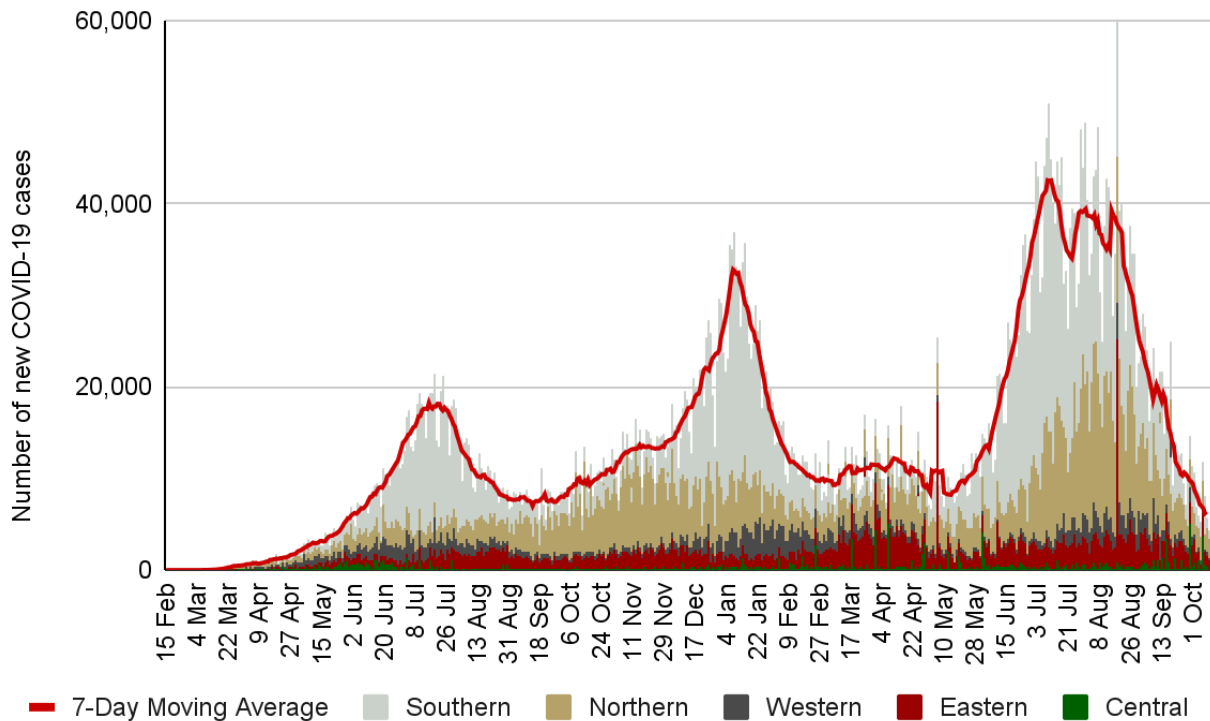


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 12 October 2021².

As of 7 October 2021, 51 AU Member States have reported the presence of the Alpha (45 Member States), Beta (39 Member States), Delta (40 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 40 (4 - 10 October 2021), 47,253 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 30% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 39. The Northern Region accounted for 34% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Southern (23%), Eastern (21%), Central (14%) and Western (7%) regions. This week, six countries accounted for 58% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Ethiopia (12%), Egypt (12%), South Africa (12%), Libya (9%), Morocco (8%), and Angola (5%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (156), Libya (69) and Gabon (61). Table 1 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 40.

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 12 October 2021.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths³ reported in Africa for epidemiological week 40 (4 - 10 October 2021).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 39	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 39
Central Region	252,324 (6,573)	-20%	3,521 (91)	7%
Burundi	19,257 (986)	29%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	95,399 (3,096)	-25%	1,517 (58)	21%
Central African Republic	11,421 (50)	NA*	100 (0)	NA*
Chad	5,059 (15)	36%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	15,051 (490)	55%	213 (14)	133%
Democratic Republic of Congo	57,147 (71)	-45%	1,087 (0)	-100%
Equatorial Guinea	12,786 (254)	-65%	155 (5)	-38%
Gabon	32,576 (1,518)	-21%	205 (11)	-31%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,628 (93)	-53%	56 (3)	-25%
Eastern Region	1,028,655 (10,193)	-22%	22,072 (447)	-4%
Comoros	4,166 (11)	-59%	147 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	13,229 (307)	-54%	177 (6)	-33%
Eritrea	6,755 (33)	18%	43 (1)	-50%
Ethiopia	354,476 (5,807)	-17%	5,990 (268)	-17%
Kenya	251,152 (1,038)	-37%	5,179 (39)	3%
Madagascar	43,610 (13)	-52%	960 (0)	-100%
Mauritius	14,335 (227)	-46%	21 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	96,384 (593)	-40%	1,279 (20)	-46%

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

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 39	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 39
Seychelles	21,726 (156)	-50%	115 (0)	NA*
Somalia	21,269 (692)	-19%	1,180 (43)	26%
South Sudan	12,114 (104)	68%	130 (0)	-100%
Sudan	38,746 (463)	465%	2,951 (52)	NA*
Tanzania	25,957 (111)	-44%	723 (4)	-20%
Uganda	124,736 (638)	-16%	3,177 (14)	-7%
Northern Region	2,551,041 (16,271)	-19%	68,690 (605)	-14%
Algeria	204,597 (808)	-21%	5,853 (31)	-31%
Egypt	312,413 (5,615)	9%	17,695 (259)	4%
Libya	346,813 (4,255)	-9%	4,792 (90)	6%
Mauritania	36,414 (251)	-17%	785 (7)	-30%
Morocco	939,187 (3,855)	-36%	14,457 (118)	-31%
Tunisia	709,866 (1,484)	-49%	25,039 (100)	-31%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,751 (3)	NA*	69 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	3,904,443 (10,901)	-49%	110,229 (629)	-45%
Angola	61,378 (2,435)	-36%	1,622 (45)	-41%
Botswana	181,251 (1,054)	-51%	2,381 (7)	No change
Eswatini	46,276 (229)	-17%	1,227 (3)	-75%
Lesotho	21,460 (97)	-97%	652 (2)	-99%
Malawi	61,676 (64)	-38%	2,290 (6)	-25%
Mozambique	150,985 (181)	-34%	1,922 (4)	-56%
Namibia	128,129 (267)	-45%	3,527 (10)	-57%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 39	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 39
South Africa	2,912,145 (5,723)	-40%	88,317 (537)	-26%
Zambia	209,347 (184)	-40%	3,654 (5)	67%
Zimbabwe	131,796 (667)	-56%	4,637 (10)	-57%
Western Region	653,567 (3,315)	-33%	9,688 (74)	-47%
Benin	24,335 (445)	-30%	159 (0)	-100%
Burkina Faso	14,495 (139)	-11%	195 (4)	-60%
Cape Verde	37,902 (244)	16%	346 (4)	-50%
Côte d'Ivoire	60,818 (394)	-28%	666 (26)	-35%
Gambia	9,939 (0)	-100%	338 (0)	-100%
Ghana	128,368 (0)	-100%	1,158 (0)	-100%
Guinea	30,501 (49)	-30%	675 (0)	-100%
Guinea-Bissau	6,119 (2)	-86%	136 (1)	NA*
Liberia	5,799 (0)	NA*	286 (0)	NA*
Mali	15,471 (184)	48%	553 (4)	100%
Niger	6,115 (73)	18%	204 (1)	-50%
Nigeria	207,694 (1,556)	-7%	2,747 (24)	-47%
Senegal	73,837 (37)	-36%	1,868 (8)	60%
Sierra Leone	6,396 (0)	-100%	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	25,778 (192)	-48%	236 (2)	-75%
Total	8,390,030 (47,253)	-30%	214,200 (1,846)	-27%

*No new cases/deaths reported in the previous week

Public Health and Social Measure (PHSM) Highlights

Table 2 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 6-10 October 2021. Please see the [Africa CDC PHSM Tiers framework](#) for more information.

Table 2: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 6-10 October 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 updated domestic COVID-19 measures; while Level Two restrictions remain in place, until Oct 2021, Licensed bars are allowed to reopen to fully-vaccinated people.
Morocco	↑	Morocco suspended flights from Russia on Oct. 6 2021 citing a rise in cases; other COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.
Tier 3 (Moderate Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to <12%		
Tier 2 (Low Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		
Tier 1 (Standard Precautions): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is <3%		
Tier 0 (No Data Available)		

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 7 October 2021. He provided an update on the COVID-19 situation across the continent, including response efforts and updates on the progress of vaccination across the continent. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Facebook page](#).
2. African Union (AU) Member States continue to receive allocations of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccine through the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) initiative. In the past week, Benin (55,200), Côte d'Ivoire (129,600), Republic of the Congo (55,200), Kenya (252,000), Sierra Leone (55,200), Nigeria, (434,400) and Uganda (196,800) received additional consignments of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Overall, 5.6 million Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses have been delivered in 30 AU Member States.
3. As of 9 October 2021, 53 (95%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 161.6 million doses have been administered, giving a coverage of 6% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 97.2 million (60.1%) have received the first dose and 64.2 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](#).
4. The Deputy Director, Africa CDC, Dr. Ahmed Ogwell will join global, country, civil society and private sector leaders during the 2021 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) themed "Ending the Pandemic: The Road to Inclusive Recovery" on Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 7 p.m. EAT to discuss the need for more equitable access to vaccines for developing countries. [Watch here](#)
5. Africa CDC will continue its public health grand rounds lecture and discussion series on Africa's vaccine manufacturing for health security titled "COVID-19 Vaccine Manufacturing in Africa: Research & Development, Hubs and Talent Development" on 14 October 2021 at 4 p.m. EAT. [Register here](#)

Laboratory:

1. Over 73.8 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate⁴ and test per case ratio⁵ are 11.3% and 8.7, respectively. For Epi week 40, a total of 893,852 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 16% compared to Epi week 39 when 1,063,538 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC will hold its Pathogen Genomic Institute (PGI) webinar series on Pathogen Genomic Surveillance in Africa titled "SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Beyond the Pandemic: The South African Experience" on Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT. [Register here](#)

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 held the fourth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection in the Context of COVID-19” in English on Wednesday 6 October 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for 684 participants. The recording can be accessed [here](#).
2. The fourth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection in the Context of COVID-19” in French was held on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT for 134 participants. The recording can be accessed [here](#).
3. Africa CDC will hold the fifth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices” on Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English language session. Register [here](#).
4. The fourth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices” will be held on Thursday, 14 October 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT for the French language session. Register [here](#).

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC will hold an ECHO session for the Central Regional Collaborating Centre (RCC) titled “COVID-19 Tiered Public Health and Social Measures Framework” in French on Friday 15 October 2021 at 10 a.m. GMT+1. 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 tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity as well as 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/>
- 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>

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