

## Outbreak Brief #92: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 19 October 2021

Global case count: 240,211,143 cases and 4,890,752 deaths

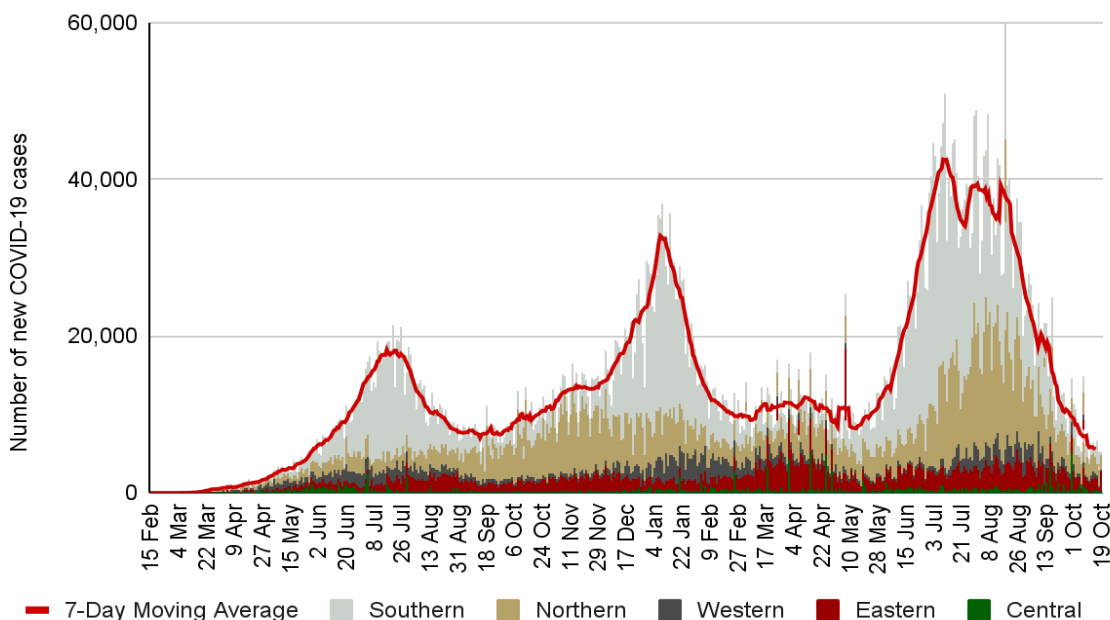
*Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States*

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (12 October 2021), **813,859** new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including 10,641 new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 240,211,143 COVID-19 cases and 4,843,139 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2%) have been reported by 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 13,729,697** (6%), **European Region 73,444,357** (31%), **Region of the Americas 91,875,767** (38%), **South-East Asia Region 43,609,567** (18%) and **Western Pacific Region 9,093,955** (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (397,022), The United Kingdom (294,859), the Russian Federation (222,238), Turkey (209,725) and India (109,708). 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) 19 October 2021**, a total of 8,437,361 COVID-19 cases and 215,760 deaths (CFR: **2.6%**) 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, 45 (82%) 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 the AU region from 15 February 2020 to 19 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](#).

---

<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 - 19 October 2021<sup>2</sup>.**

As of 14 October 2021, 51 AU Member States have reported the presence of the Alpha (45 Member States), Beta (40 Member States), Delta (41 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 41 (11 - 17 October 2021), 39,620** new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 21% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 40. The Northern Region accounted for 37% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Southern (25%), Eastern (22%), Western (10%) and Central (6%) regions. This week, seven countries accounted for 63% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Egypt (15%), Ethiopia (12%), South Africa (11%), Libya (10%), Morocco (7%), Nigeria (4%) and Angola (4%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (128), Botswana (117), Gabon (58) and Libya (55). 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 41.

<sup>2</sup> The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 19 October 2021.

**Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths<sup>3</sup> reported in Africa for epidemiological week 41 (11 - 17 October 2021).**

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 40	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 40
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>257,775 (2,400)</b>	<b>-75%</b>	<b>3,580 (26)</b>	<b>-79%</b>
Burundi	19,555 (298)	-70%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	98,402 (0)	-100%	1,550 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	11,478 (9)	-91%	100 (0)	NA*
Chad	5,067 (8)	-47%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	15,514 (463)	-6%	222 (9)	-36%
Democratic Republic of Congo	57,220 (73)	3%	1,091 (4)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	13,020 (234)	-8%	155 (0)	-100%
Gabon	33,842 (1,266)	-17%	218 (13)	18%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,677 (49)	-47%	56 (0)	-100%
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>1,037,267 (8,540)</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>22,386 (312)</b>	<b>-31%</b>
Comoros	4,190 (24)	118%	147 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	13,396 (167)	-46%	179 (2)	-67%
Eritrea	6,774 (19)	-42%	45 (2)	100%
Ethiopia	359,247 (4,771)	-18%	6,217 (227)	-15%
Kenya	252,033 (881)	-15%	5,223 (44)	13%
Madagascar	43,610 (0)	-100%	960 (0)	NA*
Mauritius	14,833 (498)	119%	21 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	96,933 (549)	-7%	1,284 (5)	-75%
Seychelles	21,854 (128)	-18%	115 (0)	NA*

<sup>3</sup> 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 40	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 40
Somalia	21,799 (530)	-23%	1,180 (0)	-100%
South Sudan	12,184 (70)	-33%	130 (0)	NA*
Sudan	39,119 (373)	-19%	2,976 (25)	-52%
Tanzania	26,034 (77)	-31%	724 (1)	-75%
Uganda	125,261 (453)	-36%	3,185 (6)	-63%
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>2,565,887 (14,846)</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>69,247 (557)</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Algeria	205,286 (689)	-15%	5,872 (19)	-39%
Egypt	318,456 (6,043)	8%	17,970 (275)	6%
Libya	350,628 (3,815)	-10%	4,904 (112)	24%
Mauritania	36,677 (263)	5%	788 (3)	-57%
Morocco	942,132 (2,945)	-24%	14,544 (87)	-26%
Tunisia	710,953 (1,087)	-27%	25,100 (61)	-39%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,755 (4)	33%	69 (0)	NA*
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>3,914,386 (9,943)</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>110,625 (396)</b>	<b>-37%</b>
Angola	62,789 (1,411)	-42%	1,662 (40)	-11%
Botswana	184,051 (2,800)	166%	2,389 (8)	14%
Eswatini	46,363 (87)	-62%	1,233 (6)	100%
Lesotho	21,530 (70)	-28%	655 (3)	50%
Malawi	61,716 (40)	-38%	2,292 (2)	-67%
Mozambique	151,102 (117)	-35%	1,926 (4)	No change
Namibia	128,353 (224)	-16%	3,540 (13)	30%
South Africa	2,916,593 (4,448)	-22%	88,612 (295)	-45%
Zambia	209,521 (174)	-5%	3,658 (4)	-20%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 40	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 40
Zimbabwe	132,368 (572)	-14%	4,658 (21)	110%
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>657,538 (3,891)</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>9,831 (132)</b>	<b>55%</b>
Benin	24,560 (225)	-49%	161 (2)	NA*
Burkina Faso	14,752 (206)	8%	203 (3)	-67%
Cape Verde	38,049 (147)	-40%	347 (1)	-75%
Côte d'Ivoire	61,038 (220)	-44%	682 (16)	-38%
Gambia	9,946 (3)	-25%	339 (0)	-100%
Ghana	129,440 (1,072)	NA*	1,167 (9)	NA*
Guinea	30,572 (46)	-38%	676 (1)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	6,130 (11)	450%	141 (0)	-100%
Liberia	5,803 (4)	NA*	286 (0)	NA*
Mali	15,619 (148)	-20%	557 (4)	No change
Niger	6,170 (55)	-25%	204 (0)	-100%
Nigeria	209,298 (1,604)	3%	2,837 (90)	275%
Senegal	73,866 (29)	-22%	1,871 (3)	-63%
Sierra Leone	6,396 (0)	NA*	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	25,899 (121)	-37%	239 (3)	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,432,853 (39,620)</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>215,669 (1,423)</b>	<b>-25%</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 11 - 18 October 2021. Please see the [Africa CDC PHSM Tiers framework](#) for more information.

**Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 11 - 18 October 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 $\geq 12\%$		
Eswatini	↓	Authorities <a href="#">relax</a> domestic COVID-19 measures; while curfew remains; places of worship, sports activities, social gatherings etc. are permitted capacity limits and restrictions on the sale of alcohol.
Senegal	↓	Authorities <a href="#">ease</a> COVID-19 restrictions; businesses, entertainment venues and public transport are allowed to operate at full capacity, provided people wear masks. International travel has resumed for travelers producing a negative COVID-19 PCR test issued within 5 days of travel.
Rwanda	↑/↓	Gyms and fitness centers are open, private businesses, restaurants, bars and entertainment venues may reopen at full capacity under <a href="#">strict health guidelines</a> and proof of vaccination requirements; public offices remain restricted to operating at 75%; Curfew remains in place but no quarantine on arrival.
Lesotho	↓	Curfew has been <a href="#">reduced</a> to 0:00 - 4:00; restaurants may operate at 50% capacity: entertainment and sports venues may <a href="#">operate</a> at full capacity if patrons show proof of vaccination, facemasks remain mandatory in public spaces.
Namibia	↓	Officials have <a href="#">relaxed</a> certain measures through Nov. 15; the curfew has been suspended and gatherings restrictions have been relaxed; limits for public gatherings increased from 150 - 200 and bars/restaurants are permitted to operate at 50% capacity.
<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%		
<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%		
Guinea-Bissau	→	Authorities <a href="#">extend</a> the state of calamity until Oct. 26.
Sao Tome and Principe	→	Authorities <a href="#">extend</a> COVID-19 measures through Oct 31.
Togo	↓	Domestic measures have <a href="#">eased</a> with bars and places of worship reopening without capacity limits; vaccination campaigns are in full swing with vaccine requirements in place to enter public buildings. Masks remain mandatory and social gatherings continue to be restricted. International travel restrictions remain largely unchanged
<b>Tier 1 (Standard Precautions):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is <3%		
Congo	→	Authorities <a href="#">extend</a> the state of emergency until Nov 1.
<b>Tier 0 (No Data Available)</b>		

## NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

### General:

1. As of 19 October 2021, 53 (95%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 177.5 million doses have been administered, giving a coverage of 6.6% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 103.7 million have received the first dose and 73.8 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](#).
2. Africa CDC held 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. The recording can be accessed [here](#).

### Laboratory:

1. Over 74.8 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 11.3% and 8.9, respectively. For Epi week 41, a total of 930,497 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 10% compared to Epi week 40 when 1,030,267 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC held 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.
3. Africa CDC in collaboration with Global Health Systems Solutions (GHSS) conducted the first round of training on antigen testing in Chad and Mali for 51 participants from 11 - 15 October 2021.
4. Africa CDC in collaboration with Institute Pasteur, Dakar, Senegal will hold a training on pathogen genomics for 13 participants from 12 Member States from 25 October - 5 November 2021.

### Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

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

1. Africa CDC held the fifth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled "Improving Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes during COVID-19" in English on Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for 687 participants. The recording can be accessed [here](#).

---

<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.

2. The fifth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Improving Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes during COVID-19” in French was held on Thursday 14 October 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT for 145 participants. The recording can be accessed [here](#).
3. Africa CDC will hold the sixth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Practical solutions with facility design and traffic flow regulations” on Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English language session. Register [here](#).
4. The sixth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Practical solutions with facility design and traffic flow regulations” will be held on Thursday, 21 October 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT for the French language session. Register [here](#).

#### Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC held an ECHO session for the Central Regional Collaborating Centre (RCC) titled “COVID-19 tiered Public Health and Social Measures framework” for 18 participants in French on Friday 15 October 2021 at 10 a.m. GMT+1.

#### 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-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 of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity as well as 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

---

<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> [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/>
- 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>