

Outbreak Brief #94: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 2 November 2021

Global case count: 246,594,191 cases and 4,998,784 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (26 October 2021), **3,383,962** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including 57,286 new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 246,594,191 COVID-19 cases and 4,998,784 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** 13,942,323 (6%), **European Region** 76,995,605 (31%), **Region of the Americas** 93,652,790 (38%), **South-East Asia Region** 43,984,655 (18%) and **Western Pacific Region** 9,443,450 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (501,025), The United Kingdom (283,955), the Russian Federation (274,619), Turkey (181,183) and Ukraine (152,199). 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) 2 November 2021, a total of 8,501,503 COVID-19 cases and 218,568 deaths (**CFR: 2.6%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3.4% of all cases and 4.3% 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, 46 (84%) 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 2 November 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>

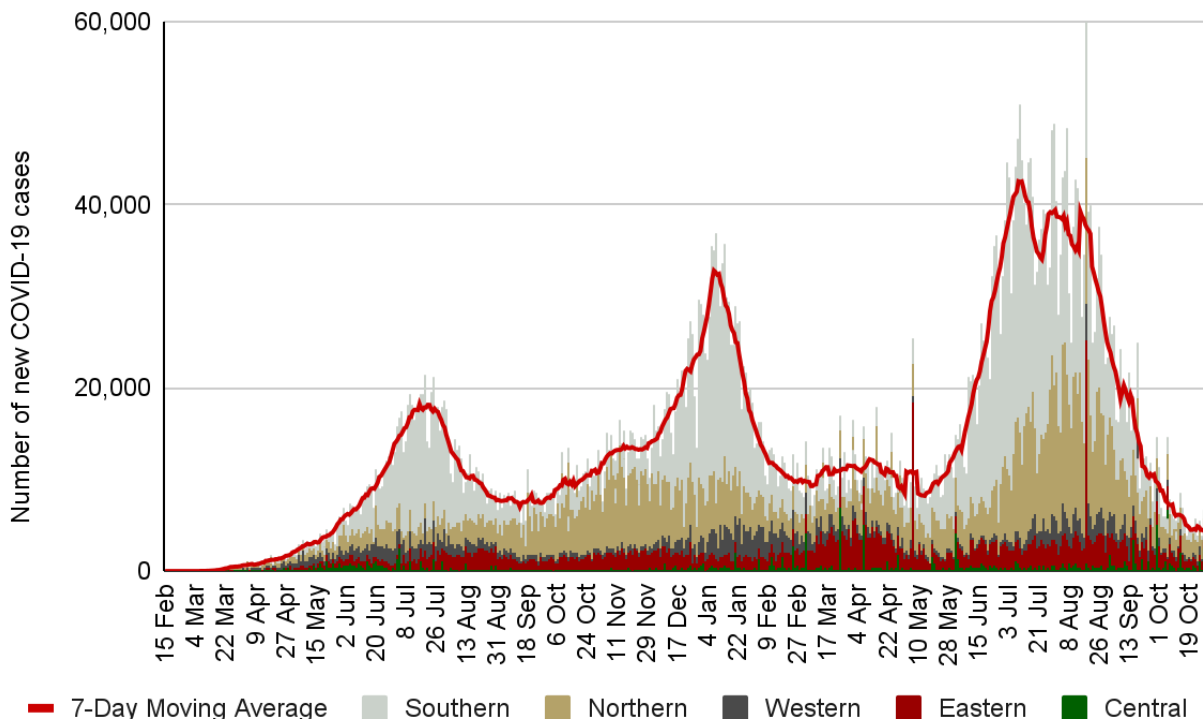


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 2 November 2021².

As of 2 November 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 43 (25 - 31 October 2021), 30,654 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 3% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 42. The Northern Region accounted for 45% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Eastern (17%), Southern (17%), Central (13%) and Western (8%) regions. This week, six countries accounted for 63% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Egypt (21%), Libya (12%), Ethiopia (9%), South Africa (8%), Cameroon (7%) and Morocco (6%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Libya (54), Botswana (53), Mauritius (49) and Gabon (42). Table 1 summarises the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths

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

reported by Member State and Region in Africa, and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 43.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths³ reported in Africa for epidemiological week 43 (25 - 31 October 2021).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 42	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 42
Central Region	266,702 (4,066)	61%	3,792 (121)	278%
Burundi	20,039 (99)	-74%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	102,499 (2,210)	NA*	1,686 (86)	NA*
Central African Republic	11,579 (42)	-18%	100 (0)	NA*
Chad	5,069 (0)	-100%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	17,323 (455)	-50%	258 (9)	-50%
Democratic Republic of Congo	57,586 (117)	-53%	1,098 (7)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	13,368 (202)	38%	167 (4)	-50%
Gabon	35,525 (924)	22%	239 (15)	150%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,714 (17)	-15%	56 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,050,268 (5,229)	-14%	22,941 (154)	-30%
Comoros	4,259 (54)	260%	147 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	13,478 (27)	-51%	181 (0)	-100%
Eritrea	6,834 (42)	133%	45 (0)	NA*
Ethiopia	365,167 (2,832)	-8%	6,459 (101)	-28%
Kenya	253,310 (605)	-10%	5,281 (24)	-29%
Madagascar	42,957 (0)	NA*	964 (0)	NA*
Mauritius	17,770 (631)	22%	148 (0)	-100%

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 42	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 42
Rwanda	97,823 (556)	66%	1,331 (11)	57%
Seychelles	21,991 (0)	-100%	115 (0)	NA*
Somalia	21,998 (0)	NA*	1,208 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	12,327 (34)	-69%	133 (3)	NA*
Sudan	40,084 (0)	-100%	2,990 (0)	-100%
Tanzania	26,034 (0)	NA*	724 (0)	NA*
Uganda	126,236 (448)	-15%	3,215 (15)	No change
Northern Region	2,593,429 (13,923)	2%	70,471 (635)	8%
Algeria	206,452 (630)	18%	5,920 (30)	67%
Egypt	331,017 (6,398)	4%	18,651 (366)	16%
Libya	357,964 (3,749)	5%	5,122 (94)	-24%
Mauritania	37,320 (365)	31%	797 (5)	25%
Morocco	946,145 (1,868)	-13%	14,668 (56)	-18%
Tunisia	712,776 (913)	0%	25,244 (84)	40%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,755 (0)	NA*	69 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	3,926,623 (5,058)	-30%	111,318 (295)	-26%
Angola	64,433 (572)	-47%	1,710 (13)	-63%
Botswana	187,281 (1,296)	-33%	2,407 (5)	-62%
Eswatini	46,421 (37)	76%	1,242 (1)	-88%
Lesotho	21,635 (48)	-16%	658 (2)	100%
Malawi	61,796 (39)	-5%	2,301 (5)	25%
Mozambique	151,292 (67)	-46%	1,930 (2)	No change
Namibia	128,938 (89)	-82%	3,554 (4)	-60%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 42	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 42
South Africa	2,922,116 (2,484)	-18%	89,177 (252)	-19%
Zambia	209,734 (100)	-12%	3,661 (2)	100%
Zimbabwe	132,977 (326)	15%	4,678 (9)	-18%
Western Region	662,510 (2,378)	7%	9,953 (31)	-62%
Benin	24,749 (189)	NA*	161 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	14,793 (0)	-100%	214 (0)	-100%
Cape Verde	38,215 (75)	-18%	349 (0)	-100%
Côte d'Ivoire	61,297 (119)	-15%	695 (5)	-38%
Gambia	9,965 (9)	200%	340 (1)	NA*
Ghana	130,077 (0)	-100%	1,175 (0)	-100%
Guinea	30,667 (25)	-64%	678 (0)	-100%
Guinea-Bissau	6,142 (11)	NA*	141 (0)	NA*
Liberia	5,812 (1)	-88%	287 (0)	-100%
Mali	16,073 (225)	-2%	563 (5)	400%
Niger	6,366 (112)	33%	213 (6)	100%
Nigeria	211,961 (1,501)	29%	2,896 (14)	-69%
Senegal	73,917 (24)	-11%	1,878 (0)	-100%
Sierra Leone	6,397 (0)	-100%	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	26,079 (87)	-6%	242 (0)	-100%
Total	8,499,532 (30,654)	-3%	218,475 (1,236)	-6%

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

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC hosted the Africa CDC weekly press briefing on Thursday 28 October 2021, at 12 p.m. EAT. 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 hosted a high-level meeting with implementing partners of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) Initiative for COVID-19 vaccination in Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 - 30 October 2021. The meeting focused on experience sharing, briefing of partners on reporting obligations, performance management and SLL branding guidelines.
3. The Health Economics Unit at Africa CDC, in collaboration with the Center for Global Development (CGD) and African Health Economics Association (AfHEA) held a virtual discussion titled “Economic and Programmatic Implications for the COVID-19 Roll Out in Africa” on Thursday 28 October 2021 at 2.30 - 4 p.m. EAT. The aim was to discuss the role of modelling and economic evidence to inform COVID-19 vaccine procurement and distribution strategies, and methods for meeting the African Union’s goal of vaccinating 60% of Africa’s population. The recording can be accessed [here](#).
4. As of 1 November 2021, 54 (98%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 188.9 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 114 million have received the first dose and 74.9 million have received the second dose. Overall, 5.8% of the continental population is fully vaccinated. Eritrea is the only AU Member State yet to start COVID-19 vaccine roll out. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).
5. African Union Member States continue to receive allocations of Johnson & Johnson vaccines through the AVAT initiative. In the past week, Botswana and Mozambique received 72,000 and 175,200 doses of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccine respectively. Overall, 11,203,200 vaccine doses have been delivered in twenty-nine countries.

Laboratory:

1. Over 78.4 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate⁴ and test per case ratio⁵ are 10.8% and 9.2,

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.

respectively. For Epi week 43, a total of 2,310,128 new tests were conducted, an increase of 173% compared to Epi week 42 when 816,284 tests were conducted.

2. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Center for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI) and Pathogen Genomics Institute (PGI) will hold a training on genomic sequencing for 13 participants from 12 Member States from 25 October - 5 November 2021, at Institut Pasteur, Dakar, Senegal.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC will hold an IPC step-down training for 30 participants in English, from 2 - 4 November 2021 in Malawi.

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with the East, Central and Southern Africa Community (ECSA-HC) and Southern Africa Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS) will support the Ministry of Health, United Republic of Tanzania in strengthening its Event-Based Surveillance (EBS) system by providing technical support in the development of National EBS guidelines and implementing EBS in Mwanza region, Tanzania from 1 - 12 November 2021.

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](#)