

Outbreak Brief #95: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 9 November 2021

Global case count: 249,704,201 cases and 5,048,062 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (2 November 2021), **1,236,838** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including 20,879 new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 249,704,201 COVID-19 cases and 5,048,062 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** 14,040,623 (6%), **European Region** 78,989,789 (31%), **Region of the Americas** 94,357,477 (38%), **South-East Asia Region** 44,140,455 (18%) and **Western Pacific Region** 9,606,573 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (510,968), the Russian Federation (280,803), the United Kingdom (244,280), Turkey (198,691) and Germany (175,338). 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) 9 November 2021, a total of 8,548,064 COVID-19 cases and 219,787 deaths (**CFR: 2.6%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3.4% 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, 46 (84%) have experienced a third wave and nine countries (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, 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 9 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>

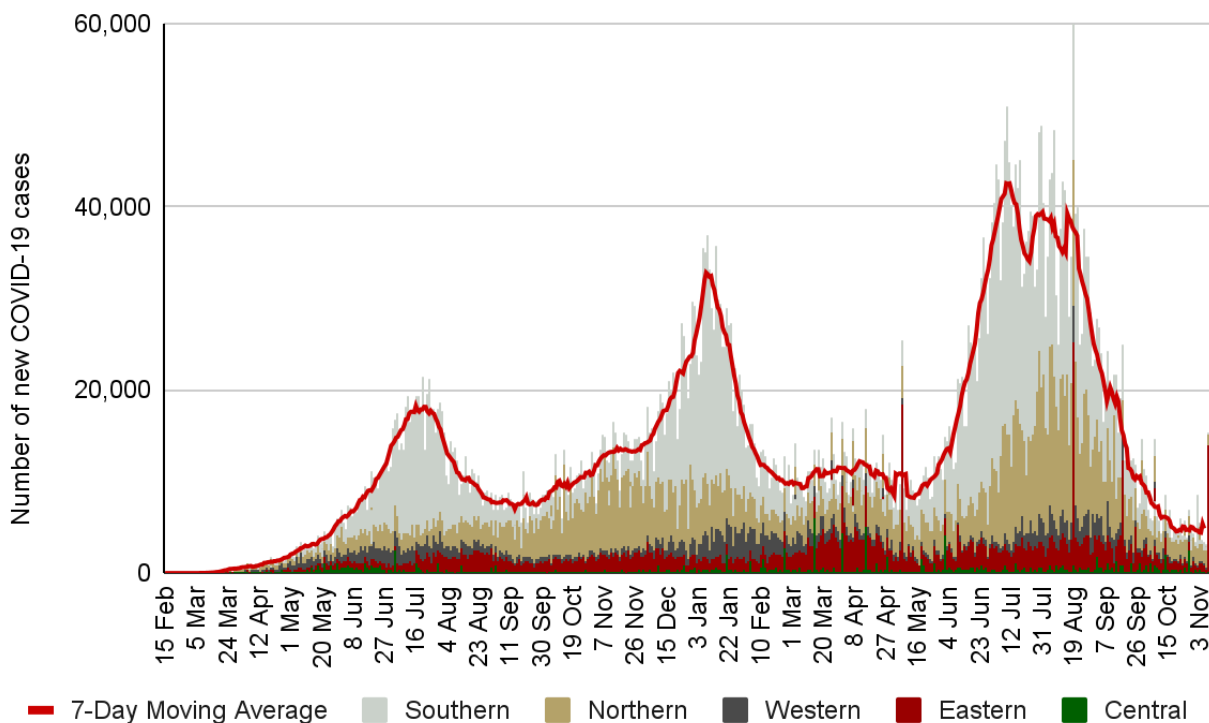


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 9 November 2021².

As of 4 November 2021, 51 AU Member States have reported the presence of the Alpha (45 Member States), Beta (41 Member States), Delta (42 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 44 (1 - 7 November 2021), 30,928 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 5% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 43. The Northern Region accounted for 42% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Southern (28%), Eastern (15%), Central (9%) and Western (6%) regions. This week, six countries accounted for 72% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Egypt (21%), Botswana (20%), Libya (12%), Ethiopia (7%), Cameroon (6%) and South Africa (6%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 9 November 2021.

19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Botswana (257), Seychelles (67), Mauritius (59) and Libya (54). 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 44.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths³ reported in Africa for epidemiological week 44 (1 - 7 November 2021).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 43	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 43
Central Region	270,054 (2,680)	-43%	3,874 (57)	-61%
Burundi	20,136 (97)	-2%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	104,348 (1,849)	-16%	1,731 (45)	-48%
Central African Republic	11,614 (35)	-17%	100 (0)	NA*
Chad	5,107 (38)	NA*	175 (1)	NA*
Congo	17,670 (0)	-100%	278 (0)	-100%
Democratic Republic of Congo	57,661 (75)	-36%	1,098 (0)	-100%
Equatorial Guinea	13,459 (82)	-61%	168 (1)	-75%
Gabon	36,330 (489)	-61%	254 (10)	-50%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,729 (15)	-12%	56 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,055,841 (4,627)	-23%	23,167 (163)	-12%
Comoros	4,321 (62)	15%	147 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	13,491 (13)	-52%	186 (5)	NA*
Eritrea	6,943 (109)	160%	45 (0)	NA*
Ethiopia	367,210 (2,043)	-28%	6,542 (83)	-18%
Kenya	253,833 (523)	-14%	5,312 (31)	29%

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 43	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 43
Madagascar	43,294 (137)	-32%	964 (0)	NA*
Mauritius	18,541 (771)	22%	148 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	98,078 (255)	-54%	1,336 (5)	-55%
Seychelles	22,301 (67)	-46%	119 (4)	NA*
Somalia	22,693 (228)	-43%	1,294 (25)	-17%
South Sudan	12,448 (121)	256%	133 (0)	-100%
Sudan	40,084 (0)	NA*	2,990 (0)	NA*
Tanzania	26,034 (0)	NA*	724 (0)	NA*
Uganda	126,570 (298)	-38%	3,227 (10)	-41%
Northern Region	2,606,556 (13,127)	-6%	71,103 (632)	0%
Algeria	207,156 (704)	12%	5,945 (25)	-17%
Egypt	337,485 (6,468)	1%	19,076 (425)	16%
Libya	361,709 (3,745)	0%	5,218 (96)	2%
Mauritania	37,703 (383)	5%	801 (4)	-20%
Morocco	947,396 (1,251)	-33%	14,713 (45)	-20%
Tunisia	713,352 (576)	-37%	25,281 (37)	-56%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,755 (0)	NA*	69 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	3,935,407 (8,784)	74%	111,512 (194)	-34%
Angola	64,574 (141)	-75%	1,720 (10)	-23%
Botswana	193,449 (6,168)	376%	2,409 (2)	-60%
Eswatini	46,457 (36)	-3%	1,244 (2)	100%
Lesotho	21,685 (50)	4%	659 (1)	-50%
Malawi	61,815 (19)	-51%	2,302 (1)	-80%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 43	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 43
Mozambique	151,368 (76)	13%	1,934 (4)	100%
Namibia	129,014 (76)	-15%	3,563 (9)	125%
South Africa	2,923,956 (1,840)	-26%	89,332 (155)	-38%
Zambia	209,902 (168)	68%	3,664 (3)	50%
Zimbabwe	133,187 (210)	-36%	4,685 (7)	-22%
Western Region	664,844 (1,710)	-43%	10,025 (52)	2%
Benin	24,804 (55)	-71%	161 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	15,274 (171)	-45%	231 (10)	43%
Cape Verde	38,256 (41)	-45%	349 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	61,421 (124)	4%	699 (4)	-20%
Gambia	9,973 (8)	-11%	341 (1)	No change
Ghana	130,391 (0)	-100%	1,188 (0)	-100%
Guinea	30,709 (42)	68%	679 (1)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	6,158 (16)	45%	143 (2)	NA*
Liberia	5,815 (3)	200%	287 (0)	NA*
Mali	16,371 (298)	32%	576 (13)	160%
Niger	6,511 (145)	29%	221 (8)	33%
Nigeria	212,713 (752)	-50%	2,906 (10)	-29%
Senegal	73,935 (18)	-25%	1,880 (2)	NA*
Sierra Leone	6,399 (2)	NA*	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	26,114 (35)	-60%	243 (1)	NA*
Total	8,532,702 (30,928)	-5%	219,681 (1,098)	-16%

*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 4 November 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. Last week, Africa CDC [designated](#) the Institut Pasteur, Casablanca, Morocco and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, Kigali to serve as part of a network of Centres of Excellence (CoE) for COVID-19 vaccination.
3. Last week, Africa CDC held the inaugural One Health virtual conference from 1-3 November 2021. Check out the poster presentations and the recordings [here](#).
4. As of 8 November 2021, 54 (98%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 202.2 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 121.9 million have received the first dose and 80.3 million have received the second dose. Overall, 6% 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, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo received 624,000, 79,200 and 475,200 doses of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccine respectively. Overall, 12,695,600 vaccine doses have been delivered to thirty countries.

Laboratory:

1. Over 79.4 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 9.3, respectively. For Epi week 44, a total of 995,219 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 58% compared to Epi week 43 when 2,350,716 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Center for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI) and Pathogen Genomics Institute (PGI) held a training on genomic sequencing for 15 participants from 14 Member States from 25 October - 5 November 2021, at Institut Pasteur, Dakar, Senegal.

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 the Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) and WHO AFRO held an IPC step-down training on COVID-19 and Ebola for 30 participants in English, from 2 - 4 November 2021 in Malawi.
2. Africa CDC is holding an IPC training of trainers in Namibia for 30 participants in English, from 9 – 11 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.
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.

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

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

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>