

Outbreak Brief #96: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 16 November 2021

Global case count: 253,619,957 cases and 5,105,453 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (9 November 2021), **3,915,756** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including 57,391 new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 253,619,757 COVID-19 cases and 5,105,451 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2%) have been reported by 226 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** 14,140,266 (6%), **European Region** 81,537,428 (32%), **Region of the Americas** 95,227,417 (38%), **South-East Asia Region** 44,309,408 (17%) and **Western Pacific Region** 9,817,769 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (602,327), Germany (285,896), the Russian Federation (270,825), the United Kingdom (270,514), and Turkey (168,954). For more detailed information on cases and deaths reported outside of Africa, refer to the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

As of 5 p.m. East African Time (EAT) 16 November 2021, a total of 8,566,679 COVID-19 cases and 221,113 deaths (**CFR: 2.6%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 3.4% of all cases and 4.4% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-seven (49%) AU MS are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 54 (98%) AU MS have experienced at least a second wave, 46 (84%) have experienced a third wave, nine (16%) countries (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Somalia and Tunisia) have experienced a fourth wave and one country (Mauritius) is experiencing a fifth 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 16 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>

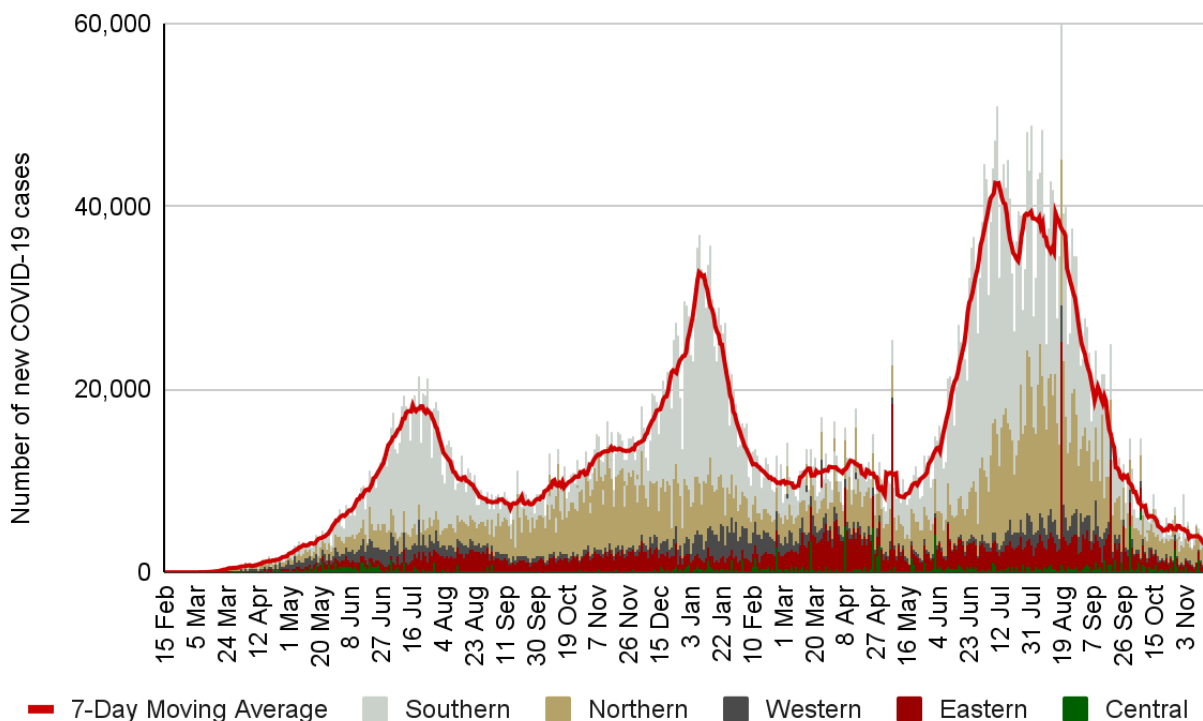


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 16 November 2021².

As of 11 November 2021, 51 AU MS have reported the presence of the Alpha (45 MS), Beta (41), Delta (42), and/or Gamma (2) 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 45 (8 - 14 November 2021), 27,377 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 13% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 44. The Northern Region accounted for 53% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Eastern (17%), Southern (12%), Central (12%) and Western (6%) regions. This week, six countries accounted for 66% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Egypt (24%), Libya (13%), Tunisia (9%), South Africa (7%), Cameroun (7%) and Ethiopia (6%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population per day) this week are Seychelles (474), Mauritius (108) and Libya (73). Table 1 summarises the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by MS and Region in Africa, and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 45.

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 16 November 2021.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths³ reported in Africa for epidemiological week 45 (8 - 14 November 2021).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 44	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 44
Central Region	273,592 (3,264)	10%	3,981 (87)	13%
Burundi	20,234 (98)	1%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	106,190 (1,842)	0%	1,770 (39)	-13%
Central African Republic	11,666 (52)	49%	101 (0)	-100%
Chad	5,107 (0)	-100%	175 (0)	-100%
Congo	18,539 (595)	117%	331 (34)	79%
Democratic Republic of Congo	57,879 (218)	191%	1,098 (0)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	13,459 (0)	-100%	168 (0)	-100%
Gabon	36,787 (457)	-7%	268 (14)	40%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,731 (2)	-87%	56 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,060,827 (4,582)	-2%	23,305 (131)	-20%
Comoros	4,396 (75)	21%	149 (2)	NA*
Djibouti	13,495 (4)	-69%	186 (0)	-100%
Eritrea	7,055 (112)	3%	51 (6)	NA*
Ethiopia	368,822 (1,612)	-21%	6,623 (81)	-2%
Kenya	254,297 (464)	-11%	5,316 (4)	-87%
Madagascar	43,294 (0)	-100%	964 (0)	NA*
Mauritius	19,532 (991)	29%	148 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	98,245 (167)	-35%	1,339 (3)	-40%
Seychelles	22,633 (332)	396%	122 (3)	-25%

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 44	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 44
Somalia	22,837 (144)	-37%	1,313 (19)	-24%
South Sudan	12,590 (142)	17%	133 (0)	NA*
Sudan	40,433 (0)	NA*	2,995 (0)	NA*
Tanzania	26,196 (162)	NA*	725 (0)	NA*
Uganda	127,002 (377)	7%	3,241 (13)	18%
Northern Region	2,620,998 (14,442)	10%	71,725 (622)	-2%
Algeria	207,970 (814)	16%	5,985 (40)	60%
Egypt	343,961 (6,476)	0%	19,499 (423)	0%
Libya	365,237 (3,528)	-6%	5,307 (89)	-7%
Mauritania	38,133 (430)	12%	807 (6)	50%
Morocco	948,226 (830)	-34%	14,743 (30)	-33%
Tunisia	715,716 (2,364)	310%	25,315 (34)	-8%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,755 (0)	NA*	69 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	3,938,895 (3,408)	-62%	111,698 (187)	-3%
Angola	64,913 (259)	17%	1,727 (8)	-11%
Botswana	194,129 (680)	-89%	2,416 (7)	250%
Eswatini	46,472 (15)	-58%	1,245 (1)	-50%
Lesotho	21,691 (6)	-88%	661 (2)	100%
Malawi	61,843 (28)	47%	2,302 (0)	-100%
Mozambique	151,427 (59)	-22%	1,936 (2)	-50%
Namibia	129,060 (46)	-39%	3,564 (1)	-89%
South Africa	2,925,939 (1,983)	8%	89,484 (152)	-2%
Zambia	209,983 (81)	-52%	3,666 (2)	-33%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 44	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 44
Zimbabwe	133,438 (251)	20%	4,697 (12)	71%
Western Region	666,796 (1,681)	-7%	10,167 (121)	66%
Benin	24,833 (29)	-47%	161 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	15,514 (233)	3229%	265 (31)	138%
Cape Verde	38,296 (40)	-2%	349 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	61,511 (90)	-27%	702 (3)	-25%
Gambia	9,980 (1)	-93%	341 (0)	-100%
Ghana	130,710 (61)	-76%	1,207 (1)	-94%
Guinea	30,715 (6)	-86%	681 (2)	100%
Guinea-Bissau	6,402 (244)	1425%	144 (1)	-50%
Liberia	5,818 (3)	No change	287 (0)	NA*
Mali	16,666 (295)	-1%	585 (9)	-31%
Niger	6,692 (181)	25%	232 (11)	38%
Nigeria	213,147 (434)	-42%	2,968 (62)	520%
Senegal	73,954 (19)	6%	1,881 (1)	-50%
Sierra Leone	6,400 (1)	-50%	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	26,158 (44)	26%	243 (0)	-100%
Total	8,561,108 (27,377)	-13%	220,876 (1,148)	1%

*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 11 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.
2. As of 18 November 2021, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 214.4 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 127.6 million have received the first dose

and 86.8 million have received the second dose. Overall, 6.5% of the continental population is fully vaccinated. Eritrea is the only AU MS 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](#).

Laboratory:

1. Over 80.5 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate⁴ and test per case ratio⁵ are 10.7% and 9.4, respectively. For Epi week 45, a total of 933,833 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 10% compared to Epi week 44 when 1,034,233 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Center for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI) held a training on genomic sequencing for 22 participants from 15 MS from 1 - 12 November 2021, at Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Sierra Leone conducted a three-day training of clinicians on clinical care management of COVID-19 from 10 - 12 November 2021.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC held an IPC webinar on "Guidance on Mentorship Programs for IPC Practitioners" on 10 November 2021 for 830 participants and 11 November 2021 for 142 participants. Recordings are available here:
 - a. English session: https://zoom.us/rec/share/Q4uuWlr4AjWYITs7gL3GmyR8NLB_GOrdWjiYcMo uQdzi193WgHayy8H7LW7M2m9J.XMQTj332toRib_jq
 - b. French session: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/iA4K2HtnxH-f9nR9-BtlZwyAaoh9e1Ws-gYVwt0ST3V5JBAi5Mu5REpxvocQ5zk.abLGOC2D3Nv9RBMp>
2. This week, Africa CDC is holding an IPC webinar on "Back to Basics: Importance of standard precautions" in English on 17 November 2021 at 13:00 GMT+3 and in French on 18 November 2021 at 14:00 GMT+3.
 - a. English webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jlSdAr8EQEeXMpq06fpNoA
 - b. French webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NUv6-yEcSlulOEzckwnQQ

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.

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Last week, the Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) launched a fourth round of in depth country-level briefs for 19 AU Member States, which combine multidisciplinary data, including results from phone surveys, to help determine the acceptability, impact and effectiveness of public health and social measures (PHSMs). Subscribe [here](#) to receive PERC updates and all other products, or visit the [PERC](#) and [Africa CDC website](#).

Recommendations for the Member States

1. AU 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. AU 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 AU 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. AU 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. AU 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/>

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 AU 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](#)

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