

Outbreak Brief #97: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 23 November 2021

Global case count: 256,912,979 cases and 5,152,014 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (16 November 2021), **3,293,022** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including 46,561 new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 256,912,979 COVID-19 cases and 5,152,014 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** 14,208,525 (6%), **European Region** 83,710,099 (33%), **Region of the Americas** 95,987,918 (37%), **South-East Asia Region** 44,425,519 (17%) and **Western Pacific Region** 9,972,404 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (615,773), Germany (340,509), the United Kingdom (248,393), the Russian Federation (257,745) and Turkey (163,388). 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) 23 November 2021, a total of 8,587,654 COVID-19 cases and 221,947 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, 46 (84%) AU MS have experienced a third wave, eleven (20%) countries (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, 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 23 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>

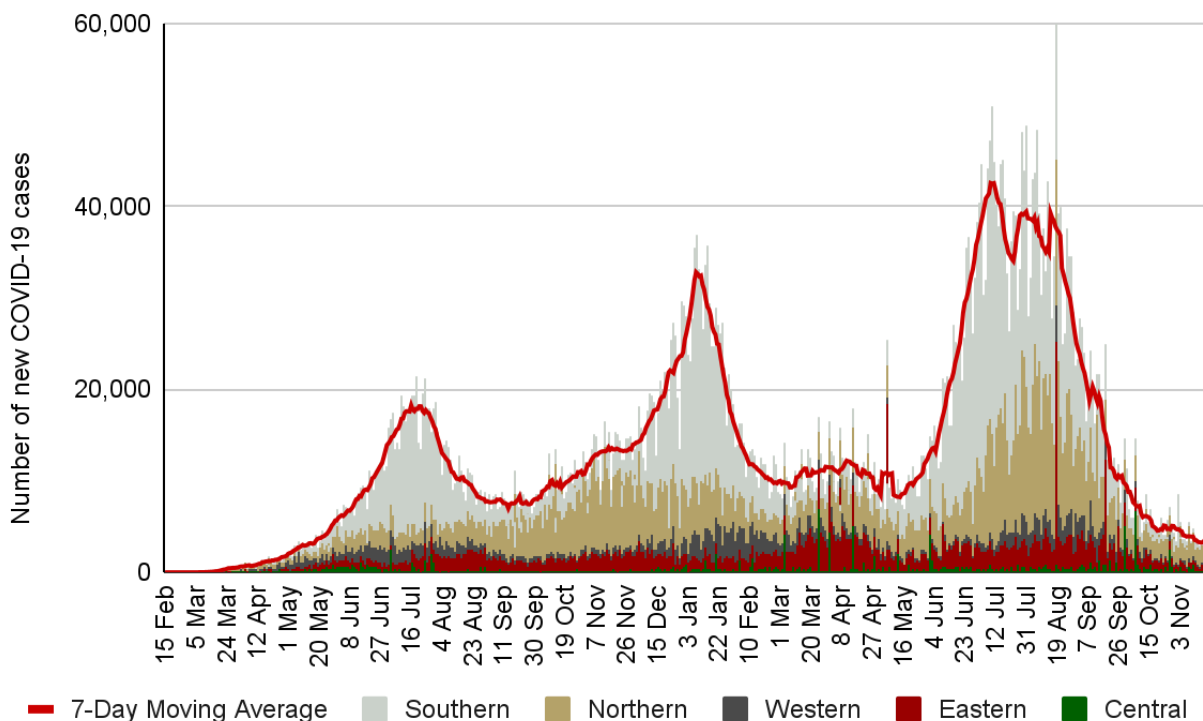


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 23 November 2021².

As of 17 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 46 (15 - 21 November 2021), 24,330 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is an 11% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 45. The Northern Region accounted for 51% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Southern (21%), Eastern (19%), Western (5%) and Central (4%) regions. This week, six countries accounted for 70% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Egypt (26%), South Africa (16%), Libya (13%), Ethiopia (6%), Sudan (5%) and Algeria (4%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population per day) this week are Seychelles (283), Libya (65) and Mauritius (59). 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 46.

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 23 November 2021.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths³ reported in Africa for epidemiological week 46 (15 - 21 November 2021).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 45	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 45
Central Region	274,641 (1,049)	-68%	4,011 (30)	-66%
Burundi	20,332 (98)	No change	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	106,190 (0)	-100%	1,770 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	11,708 (42)	-19%	101 (0)	NA*
Chad	5,107 (0)	NA*	175 (0)	NA*
Congo	18,837 (298)	-50%	349 (18)	-47%
Democratic Republic of Congo	58,059 (180)	-17%	1,103 (5)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	13,519 (60)	NA*	169 (1)	NA*
Gabon	37,158 (371)	-19%	274 (6)	-57%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,731 (0)	-100%	56 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,065,484 (4,657)	2%	23,494 (189)	44%
Comoros	4,457 (61)	-19%	149 (0)	-100%
Djibouti	13,501 (6)	50%	186 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	7,175 (120)	7%	53 (2)	-67%
Ethiopia	370,200 (1,378)	-15%	6,682 (59)	-27%
Kenya	254,629 (332)	-28%	5,328 (12)	200%
Madagascar	43,672 (378)	NA*	964 (0)	NA*
Mauritius	20,072 (540)	-46%	148 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	98,396 (151)	-10%	1,341 (2)	-33%
Seychelles	22,831 (198)	-40%	125 (3)	No change
Country by AU	Cumulative	% change in	Cumulative	% change in

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

Region	number of cases (new cases)	new cases since week 45	number of deaths (new deaths)	new deaths since week 45
Somalia	22,969 (132)	-8%	1,324 (11)	-42%
South Sudan	12,629 (39)	-73%	133 (0)	NA*
Sudan	41,558 (1,125)	NA*	3,087 (92)	NA*
Tanzania	26,196 (0)	-100%	725 (0)	NA*
Uganda	127,199 (197)	-48%	3,249 (8)	-38%
Northern Region	2,633,364 (12,366)	-14%	72,339 (614)	-1%
Algeria	208,952 (982)	21%	6,021 (36)	-10%
Egypt	350,397 (6,436)	-1%	19,933 (434)	3%
Libya	368,392 (3,155)	-11%	5,390 (83)	-7%
Mauritania	38,647 (514)	20%	818 (11)	83%
Morocco	948,923 (697)	-16%	14,761 (18)	-40%
Tunisia	716,298 (582)	-75%	25,347 (32)	-6%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,755 (0)	NA*	69 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	3,943,929 (5,034)	48%	111,807 (109)	-42%
Angola	65,024 (111)	-57%	1,730 (3)	-63%
Botswana	194,652 (523)	-23%	2,416 (0)	-100%
Eswatini	46,487 (15)	No change	1,248 (3)	200%
Lesotho	21,731 (40)	567%	662 (1)	-50%
Malawi	61,863 (20)	-29%	2,304 (2)	NA*
Mozambique	151,488 (61)	3%	1,938 (2)	No change
Namibia	129,105 (45)	-2%	3,569 (5)	400%
South Africa	2,929,862 (3,923)	98%	89,574 (90)	-41%
Zambia	210,070 (87)	7%	3,667 (1)	-50%
Country by AU	Cumulative	% change in	Cumulative	% change in

Region	number of cases (new cases)	new cases since week 45	number of deaths (new deaths)	new deaths since week 45
Zimbabwe	133,647 (209)	-17%	4,699 (2)	-83%
Western Region	668,037 (1,224)	-28%	10,196 (29)	-76%
Benin	24,846 (13)	-55%	161 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	15,514 (0)	-100%	265 (0)	-100%
Cape Verde	38,327 (31)	-23%	349 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	61,591 (80)	-11%	702 (0)	-100%
Gambia	9,988 (8)	700%	342 (1)	NA*
Ghana	130,827 (100)	28%	1,208 (1)	No change
Guinea	30,746 (31)	417%	681 (0)	-100%
Guinea-Bissau	6,434 (32)	-87%	146 (2)	100%
Liberia	5,818 (0)	-100%	287 (0)	NA*
Mali	16,946 (280)	-5%	592 (7)	-22%
Niger	6,836 (144)	-20%	242 (10)	-9%
Nigeria	213,589 (442)	2%	2,974 (6)	-90%
Senegal	73,968 (14)	-26%	1,883 (2)	100%
Sierra Leone	6,400 (0)	-100%	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	26,207 (49)	11%	243 (0)	NA*
Total	8,585,455 (24,330)	-11%	221,847 (971)	-15%

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

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Africa CDC's Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) will hold a meeting to discuss the progress made so far on the partnership from 6 - 7 December 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda. Watch [here](#).
2. Africa CDC's Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOCs) Management will hold a Joint Training and Certification Program titled "Information Systems for Operationalizing the PHEOC". The course will start on 24 November 2021. Register [here](#).

3. Africa CDC in collaboration with Moderna held a medical scientific presentation titled “Overview of Latest Clinical Data - Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Program” on Thursday 18 November 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT.
4. As of 18 November 2021, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 218.9 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 130.5 million have received the first dose and 88.3 million have received the second dose. Overall, 6.6% 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 81 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate⁴ and test per case ratio⁵ are 10.6% and 9.4, respectively. For Epi week 46, a total of 781,172 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 17% compared to Epi week 45 when 941,758 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC and partners are holding a regional consultative workshop on the Implementation of Public Health Pathogen Genomics in the Eastern Africa region from 22 - 24 November 2021 in Nairobi Kenya. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
3. Africa CDC will continue its Pathogen Genomics Institute (PGI) webinar series titled “SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing, and what it tells us about Building Sustainable Pathogen Genomics in Global Public Health” on 24 November 2021 at 3 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC held an IPC webinar on “Impact of COVID-19 on IPC training” on 17 November 2021 for 1,072 participants in English and 18 November 2021 for 350 participants in French. Recordings are available here:
 - a. English session: https://zoom.us/rec/share/l2KAz_yolClb5Gij1xJXqaZTXEFdwPGfXvB7052_jsP-kHT73mmcxKfsy-C2CnSI.SZBqq0vFPhudVxfb
 - b. French session: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/15R3eOJ97WpqyTnZCzvDaRxZJQmWDiKiytSLHTd6-6pazv66hlfZJOMe-5CePDa.UHgZ8Q-GDkAIY782>
2. This week, Africa CDC is holding an IPC webinar on “Monitoring and Evaluation in IPC” in English on 24 November 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT and in French on 25 November 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT.
 - a. English webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jlSdAr8EQEeXMpq06fpNoA

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.

- b. French webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NUv6-yEcSlulOExzcKwnQQ

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. 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 websites](#).

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>