

Outbreak Brief #98: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 30 November 2021

Global case count: 260,789,592 cases and 5,200,361 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (23 November 2021), **3,876,613** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including 48,347 new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 260,789,592 COVID-19 cases and 5,200,361 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** 14,289,423 (5%), **European Region** 86,446,525 (33%), **Region of the Americas** 96,650,725 (37%), **South-East Asia Region** 44,543,649 (17%) and **Western Pacific Region** 10,196,936 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (432,469), Germany (405,475), the United Kingdom (301,423), the Russian Federation (237,394) and France (202,295). For more detailed information on cases and deaths reported outside of Africa, refer to the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

As of 6 p.m. East African Time (EAT) 29 November 2021, a total of 8,638,595 COVID-19 cases and 222,827 deaths (**CFR: 2.6%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 3.3% 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 29 November 2021. The overall daily number of new cases being reported across the continent is on an upward trend. 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>

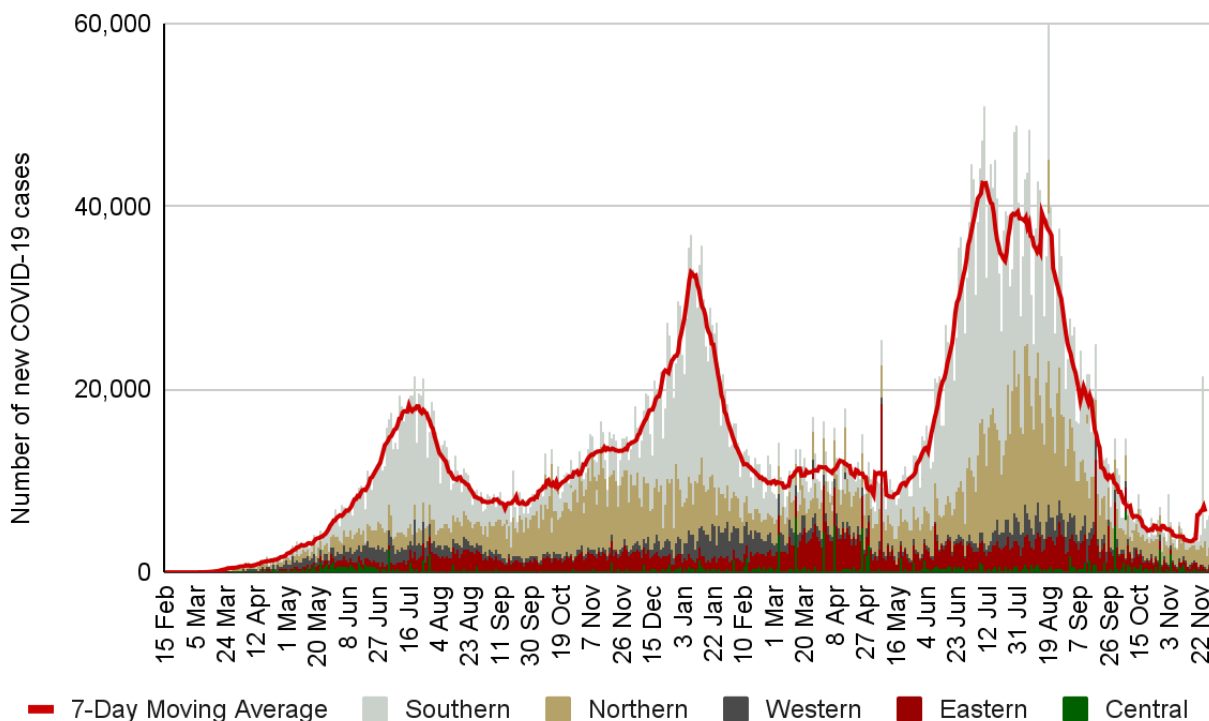


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 29 November 2021².

As of 24 November 2021, 51 AU MS have reported the presence of the Alpha (45 MS), Beta (41), Delta (43), and/or Gamma (2) Variants of Concern (VOC). On 25 November 2021, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in South Africa announced the detection of a new VOC, currently labelled as Omicron or lineage B.1.1.529^{3,4}. The detection of this new variant coincides with a sudden increase in cases in the Gauteng province over recent days and is accordingly being closely monitored by the health authorities in South Africa. It is unclear how transmissible or virulent this variant is, but preliminary evidence suggests there is an increased risk of reinfection, as compared to other VOCs⁴. Further, this recent discovery provides evidence that the virus is continuing to evolve unabated and that the continent will face additional waves of the pandemic as a result. As of 29 November 2021, in addition to South Africa, Botswana has reported the presence of this new VOC⁵.

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](#).

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 29 November 2021.

³ [New COVID-19 variant detected in South Africa - NICD](#)

⁴ [Classification of Omicron \(B.1.1.529\): SARS-CoV-2 Variant of Concern](#)

⁵ <https://twitter.com/BWGovernment/status/1464184386912501764?t=Avke-qpRhs8pqUBuqUSCRw&s=08>

For Epi week 47 (22 - 28 November 2021), 52,154 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is an 105% increase in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 46. The Southern Region accounted for 65% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Northern (23%), Eastern (7%), Western (3%) and Central (2%) regions. This week, four countries accounted for 81% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (60%), Egypt (12%), Libya (7%) and Mauritius (2%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population per day) this week are Seychelles (523), Mauritius (123), Libya (79) and South Africa (76). 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 47.

Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths⁶ reported in Africa for epidemiological week 47 (22 - 28 November 2021).

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 46	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 46
Central Region	275,843 (579)	-65%	4,049 (17)	-67%
Burundi	20,386 (54)	-45%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	106,794 (0)	-100%	1,791 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	11,757 (30)	-51%	101 (0)	NA*
Chad	5,107 (0)	NA*	175 (0)	NA*
Congo	18,905 (68)	-77%	354 (5)	-72%
Democratic Republic of Congo	58,277 (218)	21%	1,107 (4)	-20%
Equatorial Guinea	13,588 (69)	15%	172 (3)	200%
Gabon	37,298 (140)	-62%	279 (5)	-17%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,731 (0)	NA*	56 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,070,043 (4,318)	-12%	23,606 (106)	-46%
Comoros	4,498 (41)	-33%	149 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	13,504 (3)	-50%	186 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	7,318 (143)	19%	60 (7)	250%

⁶ 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 46	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 46
Ethiopia	371,262 (1,062)	-23%	6,740 (58)	-2%
Kenya	254,951 (322)	-3%	5,333 (5)	-58%
Madagascar	44,072 (400)	6%	967 (3)	NA*
Mauritius	21,325 (1,253)	132%	148 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	98,487 (91)	-40%	1,345 (4)	100%
Seychelles	23,197 (366)	85%	125 (0)	-100%
Somalia	22,969 (0)	-100%	1,324 (0)	-100%
South Sudan	12,755 (126)	223%	133 (0)	NA*
Sudan	41,959 (401)	-64%	3,114 (27)	-71%
Tanzania	26,261 (0)	-100%	730 (0)	-100%
Uganda	127,485 (110)	-71%	3,252 (2)	-78%
Northern Region	2,646,605 (13,241)	7%	72,881 (542)	-12%
Algeria	210,152 (1,200)	22%	6,058 (37)	3%
Egypt	356,718 (6,321)	-2%	20,347 (414)	-5%
Libya	372,209 (3,817)	21%	5,445 (55)	-34%
Mauritania	39,178 (531)	3%	831 (13)	18%
Morocco	949,732 (809)	16%	14,774 (13)	-28%
Tunisia	716,861 (563)	-3%	25,357 (10)	-69%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,755 (0)	NA*	69 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	3,976,677 (32,748)	551%	112,048 (241)	121%
Angola	65,144 (120)	8%	1,733 (3)	No change
Botswana	195,068 (416)	-20%	2,418 (2)	NA*
Eswatini	46,538 (51)	240%	1,248 (0)	-100%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 46	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 46
Lesotho	21,779 (48)	20%	662 (0)	-100%
Malawi	61,897 (34)	70%	2,305 (1)	-50%
Mozambique	151,524 (36)	-41%	1,940 (2)	No change
Namibia	129,187 (82)	82%	3,573 (4)	-20%
South Africa	2,961,406 (31,544)	704%	89,797 (223)	148%
Zambia	210,143 (73)	-16%	3,667 (0)	-100%
Zimbabwe	133,991 (344)	65%	4,705 (6)	200%
Western Region	669,597 (1,268)	-16%	10,245 (32)	-30%
Benin	24,850 (4)	-69%	161 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	15,711 (0)	-100%	281 (0)	-100%
Cape Verde	38,362 (35)	13%	350 (1)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	61,708 (117)	46%	704 (2)	NA*
Gambia	9,989 (0)	-100%	342 (0)	-100%
Ghana	130,920 (0)	-100%	1,209 (0)	-100%
Guinea	30,770 (23)	-28%	681 (0)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	6,440 (6)	-81%	146 (0)	-100%
Liberia	5,821 (3)	NA*	287 (0)	NA*
Mali	17,339 (393)	40%	605 (13)	86%
Niger	6,958 (122)	-15%	254 (12)	20%
Nigeria	214,092 (503)	14%	2,976 (2)	-67%
Senegal	73,987 (19)	36%	1,885 (2)	No change
Sierra Leone	6,400 (0)	NA*	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	26,250 (43)	-12%	243 (0)	NA*
Total	8,638,765 (52,154)	105%	222,829 (938)	-8%

*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 25 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](#).
1. As of 28 November 2021, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 227.4 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 136.7 million have received the first dose and 90.7 million have received the second dose. Overall, 6.8% 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 82.2 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate⁷ and test per case ratio⁸ are 10.5% and 9.5, respectively. For Epi week 47, a total of 1,011,682 new tests were conducted, an increase of 24% compared to Epi week 46 when 818,815 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC will conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT) on antigen testing in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 6 - 10 December 2021.
3. Africa CDC in collaboration with Global Health Systems Solutions (GHSS), conducted the step-down training on antigen testing for 94 participants in Burkina Faso from 15 to 24 November 2021.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC held an IPC webinar on “Waste Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic” on 24 November 2021 for 967 participants in English and 25 November 2021 for 337 participants in French. Recordings are available here:
 - a. English session:
https://zoom.us/rec/share/q_8pIP0I7Jj2BmSTKWO3mUBVCTL0XP8y2NHHmMQ_I84YxGTID69zY1AhCnEbU3F.XyVsQD_4_XNhQZnH
 - b. French session:
https://zoom.us/rec/share/82Q4PM2VsOmiI2VPGIAhJ5NlktqXq6anukdpns1E26Yg_nd0lf_JGvzsBMjvXks.UV2N1vivu-FB48Cd
2. This week, Africa CDC is holding an IPC webinar on “Risk Assessment and Management in Healthcare Facilities” in English on 1 December 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT and in French on 2 December 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT.
 - a. English webinar link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jlSdAr8EQEeXMpq06fpNoA

⁷ [Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)

⁸ 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

Surveillance

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with Health Information Systems Program, South Africa (HISP-SA) conducted a training on Event Management System for the Africa CDC Event-based Surveillance (EBS) analysts from 15 - 26 November 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya.

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-19⁹ surveillance efforts to include:
 - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).¹⁰
 - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility and/or community-based surveillance.¹¹
 - c. Genomic surveillance¹² 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 tests¹³.
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.

⁹ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

¹⁰ 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](#)

¹¹ Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC

¹² Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

¹³ [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/>
- 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>