

Outbreak Brief #13: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 14 April 2020

1,773,987 cases and 111,680 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (7 April 2020), 562,026 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 44,014 new deaths have been reported globally. This is a 46% increase in cases reported. To date, a total of 1,773,987 COVID-19 cases and 111,680 (CFR: 6%) related deaths have been reported worldwide. Two new countries and territories² are reporting cases and five new countries and territories³, including four African countries, are reporting deaths for the first time this week. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases %) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 94,995 (5%), European Region 913,349 (52%), Region of the Americas 610,742 (34%), South-East Asia Region 16,883 (1%), and Western Pacific Region 122,138 (7%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports⁴.

As of 9 am EAT 14 April 2020, a total of 15,284 COVID-19 cases and 816 (CFR: 5%) deaths have been reported in 52 African countries. Since the last brief, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased by 52% (5,198 cases). The five countries in Africa with the highest cumulative number of cases (proportion of reported cases in Africa) are South Africa (2,272; 15%), Egypt (2,190; 14%) Algeria (1,914; 13%), Morocco (1,763; 12%) and Cameroon (820; 5%). When population is taken into consideration, Djibouti (30.2), Mauritius(25.5), Seychelles (11.2), Tunisia (6.1), and Morocco (4.8) are reporting the most cases per 100,000 population within the continent. Fifteen countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 6%. See Table 1 for the full list of countries in Africa reporting cases, deaths, and COVID-19 recoveries in addition to transmission type being reported. Africa CDC is working with all affected countries and is mobilizing laboratory, surveillance, and other response support where requested.

¹ Per WHO, effective 17 February 2020, 'confirmed' cases include both laboratory-confirmed and clinically diagnosed (Hubei province, China only).

² Yemen and Saint Pierre and Miquelon

³ Burundi, Djibouti, Malawi, Malta, Slovakia and Somalia

⁴ WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported in Africa⁵ 7-14 April 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Case Fatality Rate (%)
Central Region	1,274 (324)	39 (6)	170	3.1
Burundi	5 (2)	1 (1)	-	20.0
Cameroon	820 (170)	12 (3)	130	1.8
Central African Republic	11 (2)	-	4	0
Chad	23 (14)	-	2	0
Congo	74 (25)	5 (0)	10	4.3
DRC	241 (61)	20 (2)	20	8.3
Equatorial Guinea	21 (5)	-	3	0
Gabon	75 (45)	1 (0)	1	1.3
Sao Tome and Principe	4 (4)	-	-	0
Eastern Region	1,377 (516)	32 (14)	232	2.3
Djibouti	298 (208)	2 (2)	41	0.6
Eritrea	34 (3)	-	-	0
Ethiopia	74 (30)	3 (1)	14	3.5
Kenya	208 (50)	9 (3)	40	4.2
Madagascar	108 (27)	-	21	0
Mauritius	324 (80)	9 (2)	42	2.8
Rwanda	127 (22)	-	25	0
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	-	0

⁵ New numbers reported since last weekly report (7 April 2020)

Somalia	60 (43)	2 (2)	2	3.3
South Sudan	4 (3)	-	-	0
Sudan	29 (17)	4 (2)	5	15.6
Tanzania	46 (22)	3 (2)	7	6.5
Uganda	54 (2)	-	18	0
Northern Region	6,625 (2,138)	619 (252)	1,336	9.3
Algeria	1,914 (491)	293 (120)	591	15.3
Egypt	2,190 (868)	164 (90)	488	7.5
Libya	25 (7)	1 (0)	9	3.8
Mauritania	7 (1)	1 (0)	2	14.3
Morocco	1,763 (643)	126 (46)	203	7.1
Tunisia	726 (130)	34 (12)	43	4.6
Southern Region	2,434 (636)	37 (20)	455	1.5
Angola	19 (3)	2 (0)	2	10.5
Botswana	13 (7)	1 (1)	-	7.7
Eswatini	15 (5)	-	8	0
Malawi	16 (11)	2 (2)	-	12.5
Mozambique	20 (10)	-	2	0
Namibia	16 (5)	-	3	0
South Africa	2,272 (604)	27 (15)	410	1.2
Zambia	45 (6)	2 (1)	30	4.4
Zimbabwe	17 (7)	3 (2)	-	16.7
Western Region	3,574 (1,582)	89 (32)	702	2.5
Benin	35 (9)	1 (1)	5	2.9

Burkina Faso	515 (170)	28 (10)	170	5.7
Cape Verde	10 (4)	1 (0)	1	9.1
Côte d'Ivoire	626 (381)	6 (3)	89	0.9
Gambia	10 (6)	1 (0)	2	11.1
Ghana	566 (279)	8 (3)	4	1.3
Guinea	319 (198)	-	17	0
Guinea-Bissau	40 (22)	-	-	0
Liberia	59 (45)	6 (3)	4	10.2
Mali	126 (79)	10 (5)	26	9.0
Niger	544 (291)	13 (3)	86	2.5
Nigeria	343 (105)	10 (5)	91	3.0
Senegal	291 (64)	2 (0)	178	0.7
Sierra Leone	10 (4)	-	-	0
Togo	77 (19)	3 (2)	29	3.9
Total	15,284 (5,198)	815 (27)	2,895	5.3

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

Surveillance:

1. AFTCOR's weekly surveillance technical working group met on 1 April 2020 to strategize on innovative ways to provide remote technical capacity and improved policy recommendations to Member States, backed up by Member State data, in this era of closed borders and restricted movement.
2. Africa CDC will start holding weekly disease surveillance webinars on priority topics, like early detection and containment of COVID-19 cases, to support technical teams within the AU Member States' ministries and governments. The English and French Webinar were launched on Wednesday (8 April) and Tuesday (14 April), respectively.
3. Africa CDC will host the second weekly disease surveillance webinar on "Understanding the WHO First Few Cases (FFX) protocol and the Case record form ("know your epidemic")" and "How to use Go data" on Wednesday 15 April 2020 for English speaking countries and Friday 17 April 2020 for French speaking countries at (16:00-17:00 hours EAT).

Healthcare Preparedness

1. Africa CDC initiated a continent-wide network of 300 clinicians from across the continent to discuss COVID-19 clinical management and is holding weekly webinars. The next webinar is scheduled for 16 April 2020 to discuss management of frontline healthcare workers.

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should enhance their existing surveillance⁶ to include COVID-19⁷ and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁸ or pneumonia cases. Examples of enhanced surveillance include:
 - a. Adding questions about travel, contact history, and testing for coronaviruses to existing influenza surveillance systems;
 - b. Notifying healthcare facilities to immediately inform local public health officials about persons who meet the case definition for COVID-19, SARI and/or have recent travel to a country with local transmission or history of contact with a case.
2. Member States should continue to enhance surveillance at the borders to screen incoming travelers for severe respiratory illness and a history of recent travel to affected countries or territories reporting local or community transmission. Member States should

⁶ Africa CDC Protocol for enhanced surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa: <https://africacdc.org/download/protocol-for-enhanced-severe-acute-respiratory-illness-and-influenza-like-illness-surveillance-for-covid-19-in-africa/>

⁷ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

⁸ WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$) and cough with symptom onset within the last 10 days that requires hospitalization. https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/ili_sari_surveillance_case_definition/en/

be prepared to expand questions about recent travel to include additional countries as the outbreak evolves.

3. Member States should perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.⁹
4. Notify WHO and Africa CDC immediately if suspected or confirmed cases of infection with novel coronavirus are identified. Africa CDC should be notified by emailing AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
5. Provide guidance to the general public about seeking immediate medical care and informing healthcare providers about recent travel or contact history in anyone who develops symptoms of severe respiratory illness.

Resources for more information:

Africa CDC Resources

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates. <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

Other Resources

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Novel coronavirus overview. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

⁹ Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>