

Outbreak Brief #46: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 1 December 2020

62,371,727 cases and 1,440,543 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (24 November 2020), 3,935,585 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 55,074 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 62,371,727 COVID-19 cases and 1,440,543 related deaths (case fatality rate (CFR): 2.4%) have been reported from 221 countries and territories. This week, no new country or territory reported its first case. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases) from the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 3,404,686 (5%), European Region 18,660,855 (30%), Region of the Americas 26,451,915 (42%), South-East Asia Region 10,788,704 (17%) and Western Pacific Region 881,603 (1%). Among the affected locations, the United States has reported more than one million new cases each week for the last three consecutive weeks. For the last week, India and Brazil have reported over 200,000 new cases each. For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports.²

As of 9 am East African Time (EAT) 1 December 2020, a total of 2,170,843 COVID-19 cases and 51,915 deaths (CFR: 2.4%) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This is 3.5% of all cases reported globally. The majority (84%) of Member States continue to report community transmission. Of the countries actively reporting COVID-19 epidemiologic data, seventeen countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 2.3%, these include Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (7.1%), Sudan (7.0%), Chad (6.0%), Egypt (5.7%), Liberia (5.2%), Niger (4.6%), Tunisia (3.3%), Gambia (3.3%), Mali (3.2%), Malawi (3.1%), Sierra Leone (3.1%), Algeria (3%), Zimbabwe (2.8%), Democratic Republic of Congo (2.6%), Somalia (2.5%) and Burkina Faso (2.4%).

For Epi week 48 (23 - 29 November), 92,752 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 1% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 47. The majority of new COVID-19 cases being reported for this week are from the Northern region (55%) followed by the Southern (25%), Eastern (15%), Western (4%) and Central (1%) regions. Countries reporting the

¹ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.7>

² WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>

highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week include Morocco (79), Cabo Verde (71), Libya (66), Tunisia (64), and South Africa (35).

Table 1 highlights the reported cases and deaths from COVID-19 in all countries in Africa for Epi week 47. In addition, the table reports the current phase of the epidemic for each country. Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported by day and region from 15 February to date. Cases have steadily continued to increase through the month of October and November. However, over the past two weeks, the number of new cases reported each week does appear to be leveling off. This week, six countries account for about 80% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: Morocco (31%), South Africa (22%), Tunisia (8%), Algeria (8%), Kenya (6%), and Libya (5%).

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries³ reported in Africa for Epi week 48 (23- 29 November 2020)

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since Epi week 47	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since Epi week 47	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	65,283 (1,377)	-13%	1,190 (8)	-33%	
Burundi	681 (19)	-44%	1 (0)	NA*	3
Cameroon	24,117 (589)	-30%	437 (2)	No change	3
Central African Republic	4,918 (7)	-36%	63 (0)	NA*	3
Chad	1,688 (40)	-11%	101 (0)	NA*	3
Congo	5,774 (142)	21%	94 (2)	NA*	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	12,772 (494)	13%	333 (4)	-50%	3

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

⁴ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing number of imported cases, increased local spread but all cases linked to known transmission chains, outbreak clusters with a known common exposure; **Phase 3 (Advancing outbreak)**: localized outbreaks start to merge, one or more cases or deaths occur outside known transmission, multiple generations in transmission chains, cases are detected among severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) case with no known exposure; **Phase 4 (Large outbreak with nationwide transmission)**: widespread sustained community transmission, multiple generation transmission chains can be identified but most cases occurring outside of chains, community-wide transmission throughout all or nearly all of the country.

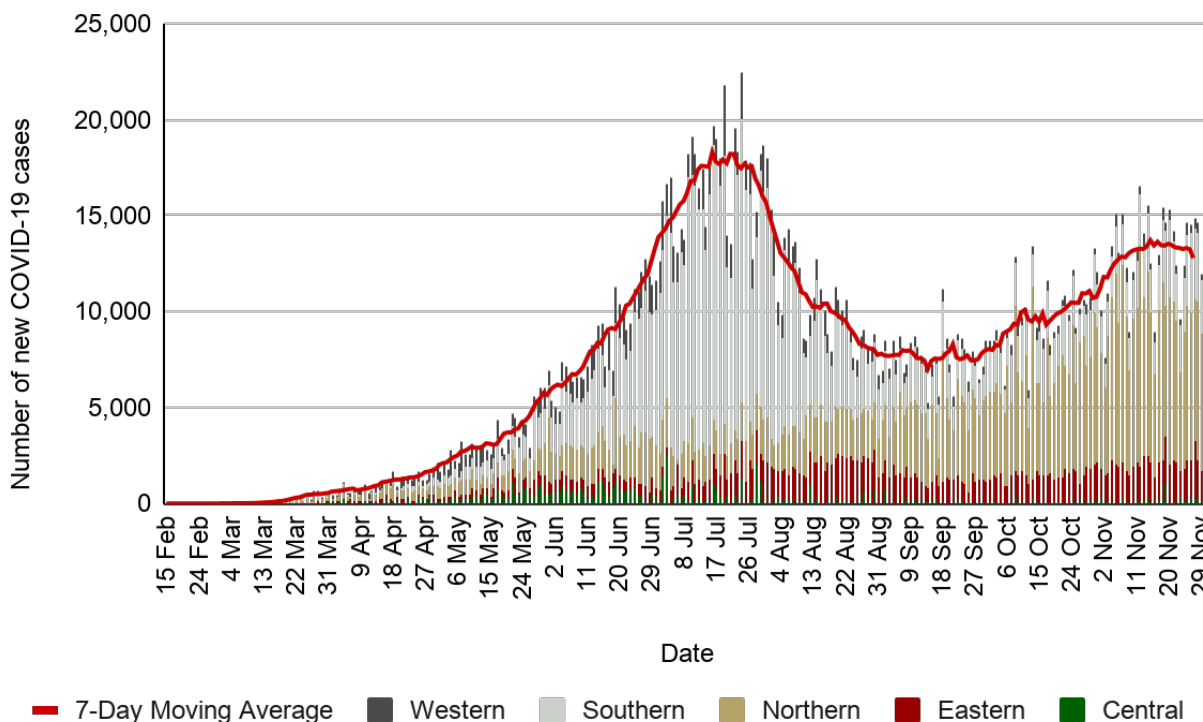
Equatorial Guinea	5,153 (16)	No change	85 (0)	NA*	3
Gabon	9,191 (60)	-13%	59 (0)	-100%	3
Sao Tome and Principe	989 (10)	-29%	17 (0)	-100%	3
Eastern Region	269,673 (13,618)	-3%	5,174 (203)	-19%	
Comoros	611 (15)	-12%	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,677 (9)	-53%	61 (0)	NA*	2
Eritrea	577 (26)	-55%	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	109,534 (3,749)	22%	1,700 (53)	-32%	3
Kenya	83,316 (5,944)	-17%	1,452 (72)	-35%	3
Madagascar	17,341 (0)	-100%	251 (0)	-100%	3
Mauritius	501 (7)	-56%	10 (0)	NA*	2
Rwanda	5,919 (254)	21%	48 (1)	-50%	2
Seychelles	173 (7)	17%	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	4,451 (6)	-96%	113 (0)	-100%	1
South Sudan	3,109 (45)	-6%	61 (1)	No change	3
Sudan	17,810 (1,379)	0%	1,249 (47)	74%	3
Tanzania ⁵	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	20,145 (2,177)	12%	201 (29)	7%	3
Northern Region	739,202 (51,066)	-5%	19,397 (1,182)	-8%	
Algeria	82,221 (7,359)	2%	2,393 (136)	53%	3
Egypt	115,541 (2,514)	11%	6,636 (88)	-7%	2
Libya	82,809 (4,372)	6%	1,183 (81)	5%	3
Mauritania	8,549 (419)	138%	175 (6)	50%	3
Morocco	353,803 (28,862)	-9%	5,789 (473)	-12%	2
Tunisia	96,251 (7,540)	-9%	3,219 (398)	-16%	3
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	28 (0)	NA*	2 (0)	NA*	1

⁵ Last report received 7-May-2020.

Southern Region	884,857 (23,237)	11%	23,118 (605)	-15%	
Angola	15,103 (610)	-41%	346 (9)	-40%	3
Botswana	9,992 (398)	-71%	31 (0)	-100%	3
Eswatini	6,410 (191)	54%	121 (1)	No change	3
Lesotho	2,109 (23)	-49%	44 (0)	NA*	3
Malawi	6,025 (22)	-42%	185 (0)	NA*	3
Mozambique	15,613 (576)	-2%	130 (6)	-45%	3
Namibia	14,345 (480)	34%	151 (7)	17%	3
South Africa	787,702 (20,023)	20%	21,477 (574)	-13%	3
Zambia	17,608 (184)	-39%	357 (0)	-100%	3
Zimbabwe	9,950 (730)	87%	276 (8)	-27%	3
Western Region	205,419 (3,454)	-7%	2,861 (19)	6%	
Benin	2,974 (58)	81%	43 (0)	NA*	3
Burkina Faso	2,856 (121)	29%	68 (0)	NA*	3
Cape Verde	10,700 (424)	-7%	105 (1)	No change	3
Côte d'Ivoire	21,310 (172)	6%	131 (0)	-100%	3
Gambia	3,734 (8)	-67%	123 (0)	-100%	3
Ghana	51,667 (442)	-42%	323 (0)	NA*	3
Guinea	13,097 (256)	18%	76 (1)	NA*	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,422 (1)	-50%	43 (0)	NA*	3
Liberia	1,595 (44)	13%	83 (1)	NA*	3
Mali	4,688 (433)	22%	152 (7)	75%	3
Niger	1,516 (148)	143%	70 (0)	NA*	3
Nigeria	67,412 (1,029)	-17%	1,173 (6)	50%	3
Senegal	16,075 (193)	117%	333 (3)	50%	3
Sierra Leone	2,411 (6)	-57%	74 (0)	NA*	3
Togo	2,962 (119)	-29%	64 (0)	-100%	3
Total	2,164,434 (92,752)	-1%	51,740 (2,017)	-11%	

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

Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 1 December 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General:

1. Africa CDC Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOCs) and COVID-19 Management will hold its weekly PHEOC webinar series on Multisectoral Coordination, titled “Multisectoral Coordination Framework for Preparedness” on Thursday, 3 December 2020 at 3 pm EAT. Registration link: bit.ly/3jxGzv9

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. The Africa CDC Case Management Technical Working Group (TWG) held its 32 clinical webinar series titled “Diabetes Mellitus and COVID-19” on Thursday, 26 November 2020 and over 200 participants attended. The recording can be accessed here: [CCOP | Africa CDC Institute](#)
2. The Africa CDC Case Management TWG held its sixth Mental Health Aspects of COVID-19 session titled “Mental impact of COVID-19 and quarantine: Secondary prevention and the role of resilience.” on Thursday, 26 November 2020 for over 100 participants. The recording can be accessed here: [Webinar Series on Mental Health Aspects of COVID-19](#)

3. The Africa CDC Case Management TWG has facilitated the distribution of dexamethasone tablets to 37 Member States and distribution is ongoing. This week the Central African Republic, Liberia and Sierra Leone received mechanical ventilators and oxygen concentrators donated by the Wellcome Trust.
4. A training of trainers in case management was conducted for 30 clinicians in Burundi between 23-25 November 2020

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. The Africa CDC Infection Prevention and Control TWG has published interim guidance on [Promoting mask-wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic: A policymaker's guide](#), which draws on scientific evidence from the COVID-19 pandemic and from prior public health research on behaviour change.
2. The Africa CDC Infection Prevention and Control TWG has facilitated Step down training in Ghana and Nigeria for 60 participants between 25-27 November 2020.

Laboratory:

1. Over 22 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date with a positivity rate of 9.8% and test per case ratio of 10.2 and 2.3% increase from the last week
2. A total of 11.4 million tests have been committed by partners, of which procurement for 2.7 million tests is underway. Delivery of 679,500 tests to Member States was finalized this week.
3. Sequencing reagents procured through funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation were delivered to Ethiopia and Egypt. The procurement of sequencing equipment for Zimbabwe, Malawi and Morocco has been finalized and processes for shipment of these equipment to the respective countries have been initiated.
4. Training of Trainers (TOT) on antigen rapid diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 took place in Lusaka, Zambia. The TOT training was attended by 24 Member States and partners: African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), WHO-AFRO, African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET).
5. Training of Trainers (TOT) on laboratory biosafety and biosecurity was conducted in Zimbabwe for 23 participants between 23-29 November 2020.

Surveillance

1. Seven Africa CDC and Regional Collaborating Center surveillance staff were trained on DHIS-2 basics and an event management system for event-based surveillance from 24-28 November 2020 by Health Information Systems Program (HISP) based in South Africa.

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Access the weekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update which is published every other week on Tuesdays at <https://africacdc.org/resources/> or at the WHO AFRO link:
https://afrolib.afro.who.int/pmb/opac_css/doc_num.php?explnum_id=7728

Recommendations for the Member States:

1. All Member States should continue to enhance their surveillance⁶ to include COVID-19⁷ and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁸. 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 perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.⁹
3. Member states should notify and routinely share with WHO and Africa CDC data regarding suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and healthcare workers infected to continually inform these and other updates. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
4. Member states should continue to 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/>
- Multimedia: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19-multimedia/>
- Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

⁶Africa 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/>

⁷WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.7>

⁸WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) 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/

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

Other Resources

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus disease 2019 (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>