

Outbreak Brief #38: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 6 October 2020

35,112,928 cases and 1,035,766 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (29 September 2020), 2,073,499 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 38,834 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 35,112,928 COVID-19 cases and 1,035,766 related deaths (case fatality rate (CFR): 2.9%) have been reported from 217 countries and territories. 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 2,166,560 (6%), European Region 6,269,154 (18%), Region of the Americas 17,101,686 (49%), South-East Asia Region 7,418,537 (21%) and Western Pacific Region 630,372 (2%). 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) 6 October 2020, a total of 1,518,662 COVID-19 cases and 36,921 deaths (CFR: 2.4%) have been reported in 55 African Union Member State Countries. This is 4% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 53,639 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is an increase of 2% compared to the number of new cases (52,713) reported in the 29 September 2020 brief. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Northern region 52% (28,088 cases; 1% increase from previous week), Southern region 25% (13,523; 2% decrease), Eastern region 16% (8,516; 17% increase), Western region 6% (3,083; 3% decrease) and Central region 1% (429; 39% decrease).

Six countries account for approximately 80% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: Morocco (29%), South Africa (20%), Tunisia (11%), Ethiopia (10%), Libya (8%) and Kenya (2%). Countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population) over the past seven days in Africa include: Cabo Verde (103), Libya (67), Tunisia (52), Morocco (43), Namibia (19), South Africa (18) and Eswatini (9). Of the countries actively reporting COVID-19 epidemiologic data, twelve countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 2.9%. These include: Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (7.1%), Chad (7.0%), Sudan (6.1%), Liberia (6.1%), Niger (5.8%), Egypt (5.7%), Mali (4.1%), Algeria (4.0%), Angola (3.6%), Sierra Leone (3.2%), Malawi (3.1%), Gambia (3.2%), Sierra Leone (3.2%) and Malawi (3.1%).

¹ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

² WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

Table 1 highlights the reported cases and deaths from COVID-19 in all countries in Africa. 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 29 February to date. We observed a decline in the daily new cases being reported in Africa during the month of July and August mostly influenced by South Africa. However, since September the curve has remained steady and flat.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries reported in Africa³ as of 6 October 2020, 9am East Africa Time

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since previous brief	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since previous brief	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	58,123 (429)	-39%	1,084 (6)	-14%	
Burundi	514 (29)	164%	1 (0)	NA*	2
Cameroon	20,924 (86)	-79%	420 (2)	No change	3
Central African Republic	4,829 (23)	77%	62 (0)	NA*	3
Chad	1,223 (38)	19%	86 (1)	-75%	3
Congo	5,089 (0)	-100%	89 (0)	NA*	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	10,778 (154)	47%	274 (3)	NA*	3
Equatorial Guinea	5,045 (17)	-35%	83 (0)	NA*	3
Gabon	8,808 (80)	233%	54 (0)	-100%	3
Sao Tome and Principe	913 (2)	-50%	15 (0)	NA*	2
Eastern Region	176,756 (8,516)	17%	3,393 (98)	-30%	
Comoros	487 (9)	13%	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,421 (11)	83%	61 (0)	NA*	2

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (29 September 2020, 9am EAT)

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

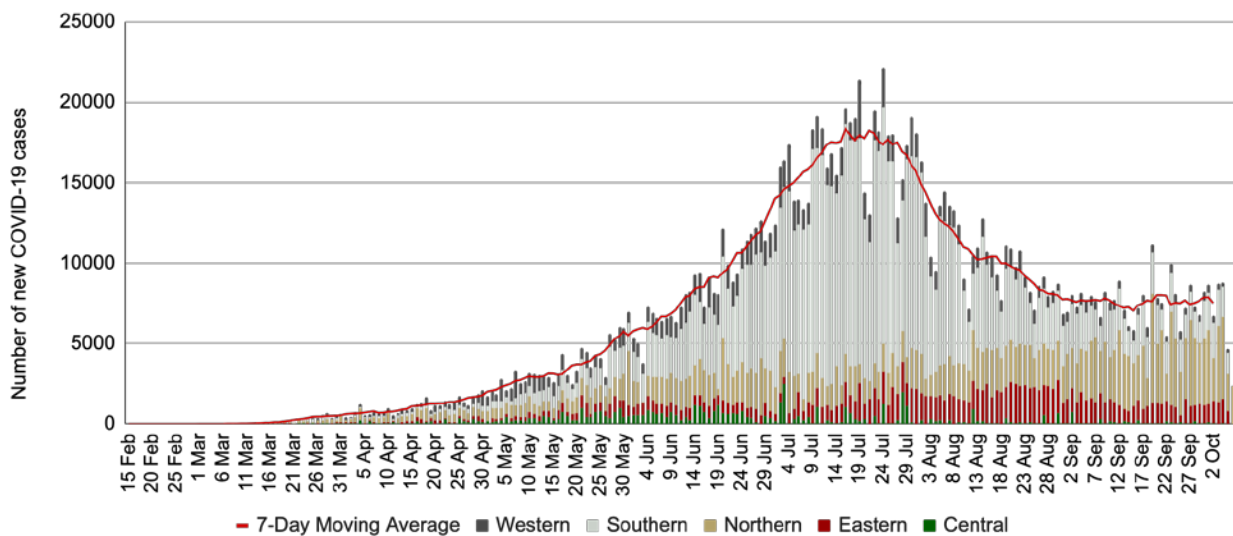
<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing 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

Eritrea	398 (23)	109%	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	79,437 (5,493)	30%	1,230 (53)	-23%	3
Kenya	39,449 (1,281)	18%	735 (35)	-30%	3
Madagascar	16,570 (222)	-19%	233 (4)	No change	3
Mauritius	385 (15)	400%	10 (0)	NA*	1
Rwanda	4,867 (35)	-68%	29 (0)	-100%	2
Seychelles	144 (1)	NA*	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	3,745 (157)	28%	99 (0)	-100%	1
South Sudan	2,726 (34)	-21%	50 (1)	NA*	3
Sudan	13,653 (47)	-8%	836 (0)	NA*	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	8,965 (1,188)	-9%	82 (5)	-64%	2
Northern Region	357,176 (28,088)	1%	11,497 (571)	-33%	
Algeria	52,113 (1,057)	3%	2,062 (47)	-86%	3
Egypt	103,781 (826)	1%	5,990 (89)	-22%	2
Libya	36,809 (4,445)	25%	592 (72)	9%	2
Mauritania	7,520 (56)	-30%	161 (0)	NA*	3
Morocco	134,695 (15,588)	-10%	2,369 (256)	-10%	2
Tunisia	22,230 (6,116)	26%	321 (107)	114%	2
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	28 (0)	-100%	2 (0)	NA*	1
Southern Region	747,754 (13,523)	-2%	18,308 (470)	-28%	
Angola	5,402 (684)	14%	195 (21)	5%	2
Botswana	3,172 (0)	-100%	16 (0)	-100%	2
Eswatini	5,579 (127)	-25%	112 (4)	No change	3
Lesotho	1,683 (118)	-16%	39 (4)	100%	2
Malawi	5,794 (24)	-35%	180 (1)	NA*	3
Mozambique	9,296 (1,008)	-27%	66 (7)	-53%	3
Namibia	11,626 (505)	-15%	123 (2)	-75%	3
South Africa	682,215 (10,546)	8%	17,016 (430)	-28%	3
Zambia	15,089 (429)	-12%	333 (1)	No change	3
Zimbabwe	7,898 (82)	-25%	228 (0)	-100%	3
Western Region	178,853 (3,083)	-3%	2,639 (26)	-21%	
Benin	2,357 (17)	-63%	41 (1)	NA*	3
Burkina Faso	2,184 (156)	18%	59 (2)	100%	3
Cape Verde	6,433 (616)	15%	68 (9)	29%	2

Côte d'Ivoire	19,885 (244)	-22%	120 (0)	-100%	3
Gambia	3,594 (25)	-42%	115 (4)	33%	3
Ghana	46,829 (347)	-17%	303 (2)	-50%	3
Guinea	10,800 (202)	-20%	67 (1)	No change	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,362 (38)	81%	39 (0)	NA*	3
Liberia	1,354 (12)	100%	82 (0)	NA*	3
Mali	3,189 (99)	50%	131 (1)	-50%	3
Niger	1,200 (4)	-43%	69 (0)	NA*	2
Nigeria	59,465 (1,005)	-2%	1,113 (2)	-82%	3
Senegal	15,068 (149)	-18%	312 (3)	-57%	3
Sierra Leone	2,269 (54)	15%	72 (0)	NA*	3
Togo	1,864 (115)	44%	48 (1)	-83%	3
Total	1,518,662 (53,639)	2%	36,921 (1,171)	-30%	

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

Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 6 October 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General:

1. Africa CDC held its weekly COVID-19 press briefing on Thursday, 1 October 2020. The African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohammed, announced the Trusted Travel Portal which is an initiative to facilitate safe travel corridors as countries

reopen their borders. It is part of the Africa CDC and African Union campaign “Saving Lives, Economies and Livelihood. The recording for this press brief session is available on the Africa CDC [Facebook page](#).

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. The Africa CDC Case Management TWG held the 23rd clinical webinar titled “Clinical characteristics, treatment regimen and duration of hospitalization among COVID-19 patients in Ghana” on Thursday, 1 October 2020. There were over 200 participants on the webinar and on the Institute for Workforce Development (IWD) Facebook page. The recording can be accessed here: <https://www.africacdc.training/courses/ccop>
2. Africa CDC is supporting implementation of a COVID-19 vaccine perception study in 10 Member States. Data collection has been completed in Ethiopia and Niger.

Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)

1. Last week, the IPC TWG held a webinar titled “Safe surgery during COVID-19 and maternal health” on Wednesday, 30 September 2020. Approximately 400 participants attended. The French session for this webinar will be held on Friday, 9 October 2020 at 2pm EAT. Registration is available at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_efU30YZxRcOqKaxwclltYw.
2. This week, the IPC TWG’s webinar will focus on “Health worker infection, patient safety and safety in the workplace”. The English session will be held on Wednesday, 7 October 2020 at 1pm EAT. Registration available at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IIC9yfl9QDSyFQmvo61tOw

Laboratory:

1. Over 15 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date with a positivity rate of 9.8% and test per case ratio of 10.3. In the past week, 525,226 new SARS-CoV 2 tests were reported, which is an increase of 3.5% from last week.
2. Africa CDC jointly with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners will be holding a high-level virtual launch of Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative on Monday 12 October 2020 from 5-7pm EAT. Please register here for the launch event: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_l8BTdv1ASC6EYYdtTilfEQ

Risk Communication:

1. Africa CDC has collaborated with Facebook and Access Challenge to implement two campaigns on social media platforms to raise awareness on hand and respiratory hygiene and testing, as well as dispel COVID-19 rumors. Jointly these campaigns have reached over 147 million people.

Surveillance

1. The Africa CDC Surveillance TWG held a webinar titled “Demo and training on Africa Digital Platform on Safe Public Health Corridor for Travel”, on Wednesday, 30 September 2020 at 4pm EAT for both the English and French sessions. Over 200 participants from 41 Member States attended.

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 Member States:

1. All Member States should continue to enhance their surveillance⁵ to include COVID-19⁶ and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁷. 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.⁸
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.

⁵Africa 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/>

⁶WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

⁷WHO 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/

⁸Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

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/>

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>