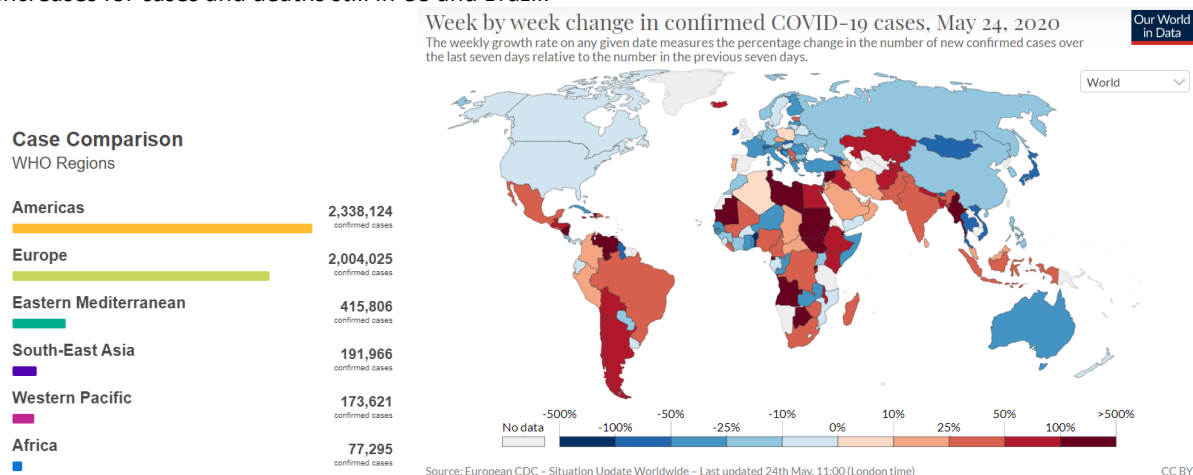


COVID-19 Update, Epi-week 17-23 May 2020

Over 5.2 million cases confirmed and reported, with over 337,000 deaths reported to date (unofficially over 5.4 million cases and over 345,000 deaths, over 2.8 million active cases (increase) and over 2.2 million recovered). Countries with the highest number of cases include the USA, Brazil and Russia. Highest daily increases for cases and deaths still in US and Brazil.¹



News/ Political Context

- Daily confirmed deaths increasing most rapidly in **Nicaragua, Djibouti, Yemen, Guinea-Bissau, and Mauritania**.²
- Cases doubling rapidly in **Nicaragua** (2 days), **Comoros** (2 days), **Mauritania** (4 days), **Haiti** (7 days), **South Sudan** (7 days), **Nepal** (7 days).³
- Worry about potential second wave in China as restrictions ease and case numbers rise again
- Japan has agreed to contribute to over 2.7 million USD to 9 countries in Americas to improve PH information, surveillance and control measures
- [73rd World Health Assembly](#) opened with a focus on COVID-19 and adopted a draft resolution for COVID-19
- **Johns Hopkins** Released large [Contact Tracing Course on Coursera](#) last week to train US contact trainers and open to general public
- **Russia's** low death rate for COVID-19 raising concern that deaths are listed under a different cause given that all-cause mortality in Moscow rose in April by 1855 compared to the same time period last year.⁴ High number of healthcare workers also being reported unofficially.
- New Case reporting card developed for suspected cases of **multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS)** in children and adolescents ([WHO](#)). Preliminary case definition can be found in the link.
 - Notably the condition has been reported less in Asian countries than in the Americas and Europe
- A \$10 million contribution from the WHO Solidarity Response Fund will support UNHCR's work on needs risk communication and community engagement around hygiene practices; provision of hygiene and medical supplies and the establishment of isolation units in countries such as Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, South Sudan and Uganda. The funds will also support global preparedness activities.⁵
- More than a third of infections in **Afghanistan** have been among doctors and other healthcare workers

¹ Official numbers and WHO visualizations available [here](#), WHO Europe Epi Week of May 4th-10th ([WHO Weekly Epi Report](#))

² <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

³ Reference to ECDC data using <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

⁴ [BMJ news 14 May 2020](#)

⁵ [WHO SitRep #123](#)

- England and Wales see 20,000 excess deaths in care homes⁶
- Some countries reporting challenges in enforcing social distancing measures during the Eid-al Fitr holiday. Important to watch in the next 2 weeks for increasing cases pockets in locations where large gatherings took place over the holiday.

Recent Research/ Evidence

- Globally males and patients in the 60+ age group represent higher proportions of cases requiring ICU admission
- Halving time remains around twice as long as the doubling time in countries who have already experienced the peak
- Risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 are associated with socioeconomic barriers including deprivation, as well as population density, ethnicity and chronic kidney disease⁷
- Additional evidence emerging to support previous studies showing severe **Kawasaki-like disease**, including another Lancet article last week on reports of a higher incidence of the syndrome at the Italian epicenter of SARS-CoV-2 epidemic in an observational study.⁸
- Recent small study of two breast-feeding mothers and infants found one of two COVID-19 positive women **detected SARS-CoV-2 RNA in breast milk** for 4 consecutive days and mild symptoms in the infant (who tested positive), but still limited evidence on whether infection occurred through breastmilk or other transmission modes. Current protocol is to encourage COVID-19 mothers to breastfeed, but more research is needed to better understand risk factors and transmission routes during breastfeeding.⁹ This could have major implications for global feeding practices and nutrition in neonates globally.
- Circumstantial evidence of the impact of vitamin D deficiencies and COVID-19 poorer outcomes – likely linked both to increased immune and decreased inflammatory response to viruses. Additional research ongoing into nutrition and COVID-19 outcomes.¹⁰
- Call for physicians, doctors and medical organizations not to overlook known and proven supportive-care treatment for COVID-19 treatment as research is ongoing for vaccine candidates and novel treatments.¹¹
- Recent double-blind randomized study showed **Remdesivir was superior to placebo** in shortening the time to recovery in adults hospitalized with Covid-19 and evidence of lower respiratory tract infection.¹²
- **IHME** estimates that globally **2.02 billion people lack access to handwashing** with available soap and water, with more than **50% of this population in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania** having access to handwashing in 2019, showing a major need to 1. Increase access to handwashing in these countries, and 2. Develop alternative strategies for combating the spread of COVID-19 in these countries in the meantime.¹³
- Increasing evidence that the use of cloth masks are effective in reducing the contamination of air and surfaces in public places.¹⁴

Clinical Trails

- A multinational registry analysis of the use of **hydroxychloroquine of chloroquine with or without a macrolide** for treatment in 671 hospitals in 6 countries found that both hydroxychloroquine and

⁶ [Lancet 23 May 2020](#)

⁷ [Lancet 15 May 2020](#)

⁸ [Lancet 13 May 2020](#). An outbreak of severe Kawasaki-like disease at the Italian epicentre of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic: an observational cohort study

⁹ [Lancet 21 May 2020](#). Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in human breastmilk

¹⁰ [Lancet 20 May 2020](#). Vit D and COVID-19

¹¹ [Lancet 21 May 2020](#)

¹² [NEJM 22 May 2020](#). Remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19 – preliminary report

¹³ [IHME 15 May 2020](#). Global Access to Handwashing: Implications for COVID-19 Control in Low-Income Countries

¹⁴ [Annals of Internal Medicine 22 May 2020](#)

chloroquine (with or without macrolide) were **associated with increased mortality in the hospital** after accounting for confounding variables. Mortality in control group (9.3%), hydroxychloroquine (18%), hydroxychloroquine with a macrolide (23.8%), chloroquine (16.4%), chloroquine with a macrolide (22.2%).¹⁵

Modeling

- **ICL modeling of the COVID-19 epidemic in the US estimates** that the epidemic is not experienced evenly throughout the US¹⁶ with an overall 4.1% of the population having been infected to date (and in locations hardest hit less than 25% of the population has been infected – including New York with an estimated 16.6% have been infected). As of May 17th, a **strong association is found between the initial reproductive number and population density and date of when 10 cumulative deaths occurred.**¹⁷
 - If relationship between mobility and mortality remains constant, mortality is expected to double over the next 2 months as social restrictions become more relaxed.
 - Weekly mortality trends suggest the highest R_t are found in Afghanistan (2.72), Chile (2.67), Bulgaria (1.77%), Kuwait (1.74%), and Bangladesh (1.65%).¹⁸
- Recent **modeling from ICL** shows that **probability of death from COVID-19 increases with poverty, with access to healthcare** being the most significant driver followed by access to water and sanitation. Risk factors affiliated with disadvantaged groups compounded risk of death in the model, with the poorest quintile 32% increase in probability of death compared to the wealthiest quintile (4.5% increase).¹⁹
- Using the lives saved tool (**LiST**) to estimate **excess maternal and child deaths** during COVID-19 across 118 countries, researchers from Johns Hopkins found running several scenarios that it is possible to see an excess of 9.8-44.7% children under 5 deaths each month, and 3-38.6% excess maternal deaths per month. Increased wasting prevalence alone was estimated to account for 18-23% of additional child deaths^{20,21}

Humanitarian Impacts

- **IDMC** produced an interactive map and portal examining the overlap of **coronavirus risk** (from INFORM index) and **new displacements**. High attention should be paid to locations such as Afghanistan, DRC, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and smaller island countries such as Vanuatu and Fiji.²²

¹⁵ [The Lancet 22 May 2020](#). Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine with or without a macrolide for treatment of COVID-19: a multinational registry analysis

¹⁶ [Atlantic 20 May 2020: America's Patchwork Pandemic Is Fraying Even Further](#)

¹⁷ [ICL Report # 23](#)

¹⁸ [ICL Weekly short-term forecast of COVID-19 deaths](#)

¹⁹ [ICL Report #22](#)

²⁰ Avoiding indirect effects of COVID-19 on maternal and child health. [Lancet 12 May 2020](#).

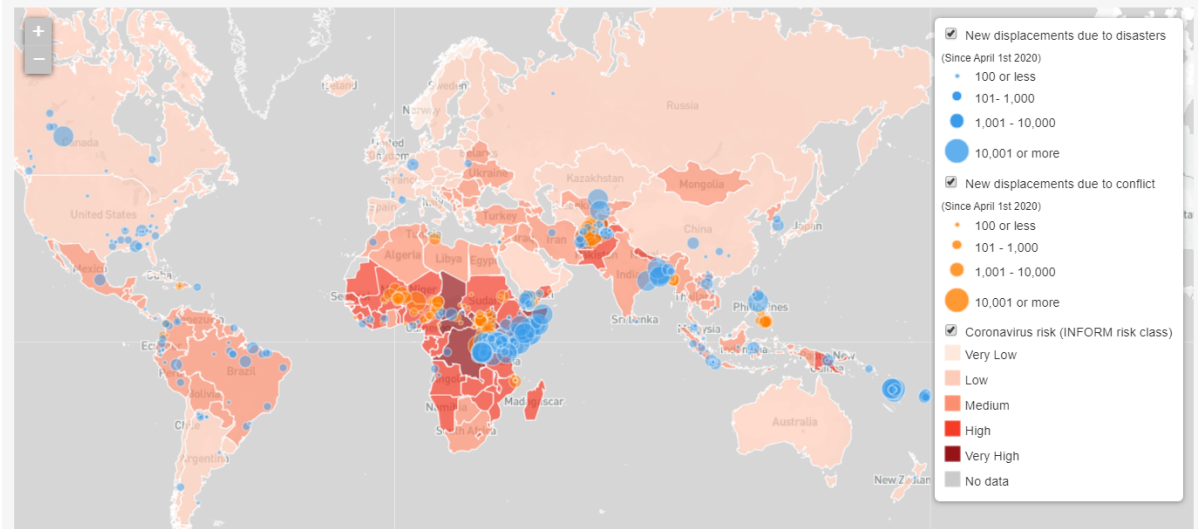
²¹ Early estimates of the indirect effects of the COVID-19. [Lancet 12 May 2020](#)

²² [IDMC COVID-19 risk and new displacements](#)

CORONAVIRUS RISK AND NEW DISPLACEMENTS

Browse the interactive map to see: 1) which countries/territories are most at risk from the health and humanitarian impacts of COVID-19, and 2) new displacements in these countries/territories since April 1, 2020.

The risk data comes from the [INFORM COVID-19 Risk Index](#) and the displacement data is aggregated by IDMC.



- **Parallel disasters** raising concerns for COVID-19 including recent flooding and worries over cholera in Somalia
- **Increased risk of food insecurity** in Sub Saharan Africa in COVID-19 pandemic²³
- Major concerns over the refugees in Cox's Bazar – Bangladesh currently quarantined 28 Rohingya refugees on a nearby island known to be vulnerable to cyclones and flooding due to fear they had been infected²⁴
- Development of a [humanitarian platform for COVID-19](#) by Johns Hopkins, LSHTM & Geneva Center for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action – designed for collecting evidence and lessons learned from actors on the ground.
- High daily case increases of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, with reports of significant drops in care-seeking behavior
- Shielding approach for urban settings in LIC and LMIC developed through LSHTM and available [here](#). Includes criteria such as age, NCDs, HIV/ AIDS, TB, Measles, Pregnancy, other immune-deficiencies, and other chronic infections as recommended for shielding.
- [Mapping of COVID in Humanitarian settings available here](#)

Guidance Launched or Highlighted This week

- WHO updated [surveillance strategies for human infection](#)
- WHO [Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19](#)
- [UNICEF Framework for re-opening schools](#)
- [UNICEF and WHO guidance on immunization in the context of COVID-19](#)
- [Overview of social and public health measures globally](#)
- [IPC Research protocol – perceptions of healthcare workers](#)
- [Guidance on the transport and repatriation of human remains by air \(WHO, CDC, IATA, ICAO\)](#)
- [Monitoring and Evaluation Framework developed for preparedness and response to COVID-19 \(WHO\)](#)
- [Updates to Operational planning guidance to support country preparedness and response](#)
- [Interim guidance on Framework for decision-making: implementation of mass vaccination campaigns in the context of COVID-19](#)
- [WHO published interim guidance on Controlling the spread of COVID-19 at ground crossings](#)

²³ [Chatham House webinar](#)

²⁴ [Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, NPR report](#)

Weekly update (official) based on locations with highest case increases – last updated: [WHO SitRep #124](#)

Americas Region Country	Daily change in new reported cases (decreasing shown in blue, increasing in red)						
	Sunday 17-May	Monday 18-May	Tuesday 19-May	Wednesday 20-May	Thursday 21-May	Friday 22-May	Saturday 23-May
United States	27 090	22 813	45 251	13 227	24 417	23 310	22 787
Brazil	15 305	14 919	7 938	13 140	17 408	19 951	18 508
Peru	3 891	4 046	3 732	2 660	4 550	4 537	4 749
Canada	1 164	1 211	1 102	1 193	1 003	1 053	1 210
Mexico	2 437	2 112	2 075	2 414	2 713	2 248	2 973
Chile	4 388	2 353	2 278	0	7 558	0	8 240

Still seeing major increases in Dominican Republic and Haiti

European Region Country	Daily change in new reported cases (decreasing shown in blue, increasing in red)						
	Sunday 17-May	Monday 18-May	Tuesday 19-May	Wednesday 20-May	Thursday 21-May	Friday 22-May	Saturday 23-May
Russia	9 709	8 926	9 263	8 764	8 849	8 894	9 434
UK	3 450	3 534	2 711	2 412	-525	2 615	3 287
Spain	515	652	256	431	518	482	1 787
Italy	875	675	451	813	665	642	652
Germany	583	342	513	797	745	460	638
Turkey	1 610	1 368	1 158	1 022	972	961	952

MENA Region Country	Daily change in new reported cases (decreasing shown in blue, increasing in red)						
	Sunday 17-May	Monday 18-May	Tuesday 19-May	Wednesday 20-May	Thursday 21-May	Friday 22-May	Saturday 23-May
Iran	1 757	1 806	2 294	2 111	2 346	2 392	2 311
Saudi Arabia	2 840	2 736	5 102	2 509	2 691	2 532	2 642
Qatar	1 547	1 632	3 002	1 637	1 491	1 554	1 830
UAE	796	731	1 705	892	941	894	994
Kuwait	942	1 048	1 914	1 073	804	1 041	955
Egypt	491	510	535	720	745	774	783

Once again seeing increasing trends in the region, and in particular Iran

Asia Pacific Region Country	Daily change in new reported cases (decreasing shown in blue, increasing in red)						
	Sunday 17-May	Monday 18-May	Tuesday 19-May	Wednesday 20-May	Thursday 21-May	Friday 22-May	Saturday 23-May
India	4 987	5 242	4 970	5 611	5 609	6 088	6 654
Bangladesh	930	1 273	1 602	1 251	1 617	1 773	1 694
Pakistan	1 352	1 974	1 841	1 218	2 907	2 603	1 743
Indonesia	529	489	496	486	693	973	634
Singapore	465	682	305	451	570	448	614
Philippines	214	208	205	224	279	213	163
Afghanistan	233	437	583	490	531	540	650

Timeline for Western Pacific available [here](#). China NOT reporting on asymptomatic positive cases

Africa Region Country	Daily change in new reported cases (decreasing shown in blue, increasing in red)						
	Sunday 17-May	Monday 18-May	Tuesday 19-May	Wednesday 20-May	Thursday 21-May	Friday 22-May	Saturday 23-May
South Africa	831	1 160	918	767	803	1 134	988
Ghana	97	0	0	361	0	173	217
Nigeria	171	338	216	226	276	339	245
Cameroon	0	0	482	0	204	555	112
Guinea	127	69	69	67	64	140	47
Senegal	119	51	64	73	97	101	94
Côte d'Ivoire	44	48	10	34	78	70	40

Useful Sources

Some additional sources – such as specific journal articles are shared as a foot note and saved to the “Evidence” folder in Teams.

[ALNAP launched COVID-19 response portal](#)

[BMJ COVID-19 resources](#)

[European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)

[Health Map](#)

[Imperial College of London](#)

[ISARIC COVID-19 resources](#)

[Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and CSSE](#)

[The Lancet](#)

[LSHTM COVID-19 mapping tool](#)

[New England Journal of Medicine](#)

[Next Strain \(Phylogeny of SARS-CoV-2\)](#)

[Our world in Data](#)

[ProMed](#)

[WHO](#)

[MobLabs](#)

[MobLabs Domestic and international risk of importing a case](#)

[World Meters](#)