## COVID-weekly update: 9-15 August 2020

**Over 21.2 million cases confirmed** and reported, with **over 761 thousand deaths** reported to date (<u>unofficially</u> over 21.7 million cases and over 770 thousand deaths, over 6.5 million active cases and over 14.4 million recovered). The US, India, Brazil and Mexico are reporting the highest daily increases in deaths. India, Brazil, the United States, Colombia are reporting the highest daily increases in new cases.<sup>1</sup> Overall a **2% decrease in newly reported cases globally** has been observed in the past 7 days, while there has been an **increase by 2% in deaths** reported. **Western Pacific region seeing the highest increase in new cases (31% increase) and deaths (27% increase)** in the past 7 days.<sup>2</sup>

Weekly cases per 1 million population (<u>WHO</u>), IFRC Membership Operational updates available on the <u>Go</u> <u>platform</u>



# ECDC Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, as of 5 August 2020



## News/ Political Context

- WHO daily updates for COVID-19 to be rolled into the <u>weekly situational updates</u> and "<u>Rolling</u> <u>updates</u>" for COVID-19. The map functionality (shared above) will continue to have new features
- Americas region still represents over half of reported cases, while Southeast Asia is also observing an
  increase in cases and deaths reported (even with monsoon rains making surveillance more
  challenging), Africa region reporting hospitals being over-run, but overall numbers reported have
  been decreasing primarily due to a decline in South Africa (originally reporting 2/3 of the cases in
  the region).
- Daily confirmed deaths increasing most rapidly in Gambia, Vietnam, Namibia, Uganda, Paraguay.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Official numbers and WHO visualizations available <u>here</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> WHO SitRep #203

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus</u>

- Cases doubling rapidly in Belize (4 days), French Polynesia (5 days), Aruba (7 days), Trinidad and Tobago (8 days), Turks and Caicos Islands (9 days), Gambia (10 days), Papua New Guinea (11 days).<sup>4</sup>
- Africa surpass 1 million cases, with South Africa representing more than half of the cases
   South Africa has seen a steady decline in daily incidence following it's peak on July 20th
- Humanitarian air services have begun for the Pacific region with the first supplies landing in Papua New Guinea
- Hotspots in the US continue to be in California, Florida, and Texas, New York and Georgia.
  - Increased vaccine hesitancy and recent poorly supported treatment recommendations have led to a call for increased transparency in the vaccine trials in the US to ensure the public would be interested in receiving the vaccine as a solution to COVID-19.
- Melbourne, Australia has seen a surge is cases and implemented a curfew from 8PM to 5AM
- In EU & the UK countries<sup>5</sup>
  - Increases in the 14-day COVID-19 case notification rates have been observed in Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom. Rates in these countries have been increasing for between one and 52 days.
  - Overall, 28% of reported COVID-19 cases to date in the EU/EEA and the UK have been hospitalised; among hospitalised patients, 14% required ICU and/or respiratory support, an estimated 24% of hospitalized cases in EU/EEA/UK have died.
  - **Spain** experiencing a resurgence with 3 days of over 5,000 reported cases, with calls for an independent evaluation of the response in Spain needed.<sup>6</sup>
- 4 new cases identified in New Zealand after 100 days of no cases all belonged to a family with no history of travel
- Estimated that nursing home residents account for around 44% of all COVID-19 deaths within the US.<sup>7</sup>
- 86% of Mexicans feel unsafe bringing sick family to the hospital for COVID-19 treatment due to old and failing infrastructure and misinformation. This has contributed to delayed treatment and a 40% mortality rate among Hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Mexico City.<sup>8</sup>
- Southern Nigeria has had success integrating COVID-19 surveillance into ongoing VPD surveillance activity to allow for the continued and even improved surveillance of VPDs such as AFP.<sup>9</sup>
- **Rwanda** initiated pooled testing strategy for COVID-19<sup>10</sup>
- US School reopening: more than 2,000 individuals—including students, teachers, and other staff—across multiple states have been quarantined following exposures at schools, and at least 230 positive cases have been identified.
  - After reopening for a week, Georgia Cherokee county had to quarantine at least 1,193 people

# Updated COVID-19 Case Definitions<sup>11</sup>

#### Suspected COVID-19 case (two suspect case definitions A or B)

A. A person who meets the clinical AND epidemiological criteria: <u>Clinical criteria:</u>

1. Acute onset of fever AND cough;

OR

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Reference to ECDC data using <u>https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> ECDC Country over-view

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Lancet : DOI:<u>https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31713-X</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>DoH</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> El Financiero, NYT

<sup>9 &</sup>lt;u>WHO</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>https://apnews.com/bcbbea9a87e5fb2c75611f4da65d4a06</u>; medRxiv preprint doi:

https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.02.20087924

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> <u>https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.7</u>

2. Acute onset of ANY THREE OR MORE of the following signs or symptoms: fever, cough, general weakness/fatigue1, headache, myalgia, sore throat, coryza, dyspnoea, anorexia/nausea/vomiting, diarrhoea, altered mental status.

### AND

Epidemiological criteria:

1. Residing or working in an area with high risk of transmission of the virus: for example, closed residential settings and humanitarian settings, such as camp and camp-like settings for displaced persons, any time within the 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

2. Residing in or travel to an area with community transmission2 anytime within the 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

3. Working in health setting, including within health facilities and within households, anytime within the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

B. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI: acute respiratory infection with history of fever or measured fever of  $\geq$  38 C°; and cough; with onset within the last 10 days; and who requires hospitalization).

#### Probably COVID-19 case

**A**. A patient who meets clinical criteria above AND is a contact of a probable or confirmed case, or epidemiologically linked to a cluster of cases which has had at least one confirmed case identified within that cluster.

B. A suspected case (described above) with chest imaging showing findings suggestive of COVID-19 disease\*

\* Typical chest imaging findings suggestive of COVID-19 include the following (Manna 2020):

• chest radiography: hazy opacities, often rounded in morphology, with peripheral and lower lung distribution

• chest CT: multiple bilateral ground glass opacities, often rounded in morphology, with peripheral and lower lung distribution

• lung ultrasound: thickened pleural lines, B lines (multifocal, discrete, or confluent), consolidative patterns with or without air bronchograms.

**C**. A person with recent onset of anosmia (loss of smell) or ageusia (loss of taste) in the absence of any other identified cause.

**D**. Death, not otherwise explained, in an adult with respiratory distress preceding death AND who was a contact of a probable or confirmed case or epidemiologically linked to a cluster which has had at least one confirmed case identified within that cluster.

#### **Confirmed COVID-19 case**

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms. See Laboratory testing for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in suspected human cases guidance, for details.

## Recent Research/ Evidence

- New pre-print study found **patients produced aerosols in the absence of aerosol-generating** procedures, with viable virus found in in air as much as 6-17 feet from the hospital bed.<sup>12</sup>
- Available data from the US has shown a **40% increase in the rate of infection among children** in the past two weeks, reporting 0.**6-8.9% of reported cases were hospitalized**.<sup>13</sup>
- In a recent study developed to test the **efficacy of different types of masks** in different environments, fitted N95 and surgical masks worked the best at reducing droplet count, while a fleece face covering was the least effective.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Preprint 4 Aug 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> <u>American Academy of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Association</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Science 7 Aug 2020. Low-cost measurement of facemask efficacy for filtering expelled droplets during speech



- Seroprevalence testing of 46,117 of the 70,000 healthcare workers in NYC took place between April and June, with 13.7% testing seropositive (93.5% of those who previously tested positive through PCR were positive, compared to 10.3 who had not previously received any testing). Seroprevalence results among HCWs has been similar as the rest of NYC around 14%.<sup>15</sup>
- In the Americas risk of cascading effect of an expected high-intensity hurricane season and COVID-19 resurgence. Authors cite the incompatibility of traditional messaging for the pandemic and preparedness for hurricanes. For mitigation, suggested steps include:<sup>16</sup>
  - Slow spread of COVID-19 in Gulf and Atlantic states through NPIs (social distancing, masks, etc.) leading into the hurricane season.
  - Improve messaging and communication so as not to have competing messaging, including clear guidance on safe sheltering practices (including staying in small groups and mask wearing) from coastline.
  - o Rapid sharing of lessons learned throughout the season
- Study shows that with adequate IPC measures, breastfeeding newborns of mothers with COVID-19 is safe, and there are no reports of neonates being infected through breastfeeding in the 22-person study.<sup>17</sup>
- Ongoing study to better understand if genetics play a role in risk of severe COVID-19 disease among young adults<sup>18</sup>
- Disparities in underrepresented ethnic groups in counties that report on racial data were found in 96% of counties reporting COVID-19 race-desegregated data. Black residents were disproportionately represented among the cases.<sup>19</sup>
- Authors assess the early symptoms and **disease progression for COVID-19 differ from influenza** in that COVID-19 cases are more likely to present first with a fever, compared to influenza cases which are more likely to present first with a cough.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> JAMA 6 August 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> JAMA 12 August 2020, Hurricanes & COVID-19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Int Breastfeed J. 8 Aug 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> <u>https://magazine.jhsph.edu/2020/clues-covid-19-severity-may-lie-our-genes</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> MMWR 14 Aug 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Front. Public Health, 13 August 2020 | <u>https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00473</u>



- Case examining PCR testing of skin sample in Switzerland emphasises the use of SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing of skin biopsy samples as an additional diagnostic tool, helping to shed light on the actual prevalence of COVID-19 in the general population, as many of the false negative PCR tests are driven by poor methodology.<sup>21</sup>
- Research investigating the possibility to use an algorithm for **pooling subsamples** that, at low prevalence, uniquely identifies infected individuals in a small number of tests, Using these methods, the **costs of mass testing could be reduced** by a large factor.<sup>22</sup>
- UK seroprevalence survey found age groups 18-24 yo had the highest prevalence with 7.9% compared with older age groups. Seroprevalence was also found to be higher among minority groups 17.3% among back, and 11.9% Asian ethnicity compared to 5% among whites.<sup>23</sup>
- Recent study has shown a significant correlation between SARS-CoV-2 viral load and mortality<sup>24</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Lancet 13 Aug 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> medRxiv preprint doi: <u>https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.02.20087924</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://bmj.com/coronavirus/usage

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Lancet Respiratory Medicine 6 Aug 2020

• Masks found to provide some protection for the wearer as well as a reduce the likelihood and number of particulates in the air, highlighting the argument for universal mask wearing<sup>25</sup>

## **Clinical Trails**

- Companies in **China** including CanSino have done well in clinical trials but are having trouble identifying enough people to get through the full phase III trials.<sup>26</sup>
- **Russia** reported to have released a vaccine<sup>27</sup>, while it is currently not listed as starting Phase 3 clinical trails by WHO. Concerns have also been raised because the vaccine utilizes a human adenovirus base and is administered in a prime-boost formulation which could result in existing antibodies to neutralize the vaccine before immunity is conferred.<sup>28</sup>
- Trials for the use of **nanobodies** derived from llamas to inhibit SARS-CoV-3 spike proteins from binding to ACE2 (smaller than traditional antibody treatments) underway, and may be particularly important for those who cannot receive vaccines. Because of its size, it also has the potential to be delivered through aerosol approaches.<sup>29</sup>
- Clinical trails of Phases 1 and 2 of and inactivated vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 on safety and immunogenicity outcomes shows the vaccine registered as ChiCTR2000031809 demonstrated immunogenicity and had a low rate of adverse reactions, moving into Phase 3 trails.<sup>30</sup>

#### Modeling

- New scenario modelling shows that COVID-19 predicted to push more than 1 million people from their homes across the Sahel, emphasis should be placed on using the model to understand the potential for displacement but must be used alongside close working with at-risk populations to ensure there is the capacity to respond.<sup>31</sup>
- Recent modeling from University of Granada estimates that with current transmission rates, having 20 children in a classroom would involve 808 contacts in 2 days<sup>32</sup>
- Projections for the reproductive number and deaths <u>(ICL weekly projections)</u> Assuming the underlying CFR 1.38% forecasting for the upcoming week (from 9<sup>th</sup> August) based on 53 countries are below:



Current estimates for the **effective reproductive number**  $(R_t)$  shown above.

 Modeling by the London School of Economics and Political Science estimate that in reality around 35,500 people in Syria may be infected by COVID-19.<sup>33</sup> Estimates from end of August range between 101,000 cases and 1.9 million. News reports and regional assessments of all-cause mortality by day

<sup>29</sup> Pre-print 10 Aug 2020

<sup>31</sup> The Guardian 11 Aug 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Journal of General Internal Medicine

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Nature

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> <u>BBC</u>

<sup>28</sup> Clinical Trails

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> JAMA 13 Aug 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> <u>https://elpais.com/educacion/2020-06-17/expertos-de-la-universidad-de-granada-calculan-que-meter-a-20-ninos-en-un-aula-supone-808-contactos-cruzados-en-dos-dias.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> <u>4 Aug 2020</u> LSE

show large increases, especially in Damascus and other urban centers. The writers suggest international Aide be a top priority (above traditional government interventions) given the political situation and that support should not be driven by the low official reports, but estimated much higher infection, and mortality rates.

## **Humanitarian Impacts**

- 2020 is marked by major humanitarian needs, including an estimate prior to COVID-19 that 1 of 45 people in the world would require humanitarian aid. An estimated 80% of Yemenis need humanitarian assistance, and there has been an increase in anti-migration policies during the pandemic.<sup>34</sup>
- 200 HCWs in Zimbabwe have tested positive for COVID-19 adding an extra burden to an already stressed health system. While Zimbabwe has worked to prepare for COVID-19, ongoing challenges including supply chain and capacity are challenged, with students now taking the lead in many clinics.<sup>35</sup>
- Unregulated of biomedical waste during the COVID-19 pandemic can lead to increased risk of COVID-19 infection and environmental health risks.<sup>36</sup>
- Only 57% of world's schools have appropriate hygiene circumstances needed to return safely during COVID-19<sup>37</sup>
- <u>Mapping of COVID in Humanitarian settings</u> available here depicted below showing COVID-19 cases compared to where vaccination campaigns have been postponed

## Guidance Launched or Highlighted This week

Weekly update (official) based on locations with highest case increases – last updated: WHO SitRep #208

- UNESCO published a guide on how to effectively catch-up on learning strategies for missed school.
- <u>UNICEF recommendations on school re-openings</u>
- WHO: Home care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and management of their contacts
- <u>Q&A: Home care and COVID-19 for health workers and administrators</u>
- <u>Q&A: Home care and COVID-19 for families and caregivers</u>
- WHO Emergency Global Supply Chain System (COVID-19)
- <u>Continued efforts for the Measles and rubella elimination campaign in Europe</u> throughout the pandemic
- Continued efforts for the Measles and rubella elimination campaign in Europe throughout the pandemic
- <u>Estimating Mortality from COVID-19 (WHO)</u>
- Brief on the use of <u>environmental surveillance</u> testing waste water for detection of COVID-19 hotspots
- New Guidance released for the surveillance of COVID-19 highlighting IFRC's role in CBS: <u>Public health</u> surveillance for COVID-19: interim guidance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Lancet 15 Aug 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Lancet 15 Aug 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Lancet Global Health 13 Aug 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> UNICEF & WHO: Progress on drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene in schools

## **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

End Coronavirus Visualizations

Center for Humanitarian Health: COVID-19 Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition Literature Reviews

Global Health 5050 Sex desegregated data

Health Map

Imperial College of London

ISARIC COVID-19 resources

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and CSSE

Humanitarian platform for COVID-19

The Lancet

LSHTM COVID-19 mapping tool

New England Journal of Medicine

Next Strain (Phylogeny of SARS-CoV-2)

Our world in Data

PLOS COVID-19

**ProMed** 

<u>WHO</u>

WHO Technical Guidance for COVID-19

**MobLabs** 

MobLabs Domestic and international risk of importing a case

World Meters