

COVID-19 Update week 13- 19 September

Over 30.6 million cases confirmed and reported, with **over 954 thousand deaths** reported to date (unofficially over 31.2 million cases and over 965 thousand deaths, over 7.4 million active cases (increasing) and over 22.8 million recovered). India, Brazil, Mexico, and The US are reporting the highest daily incidences in death, with India reporting over 1,000 deaths/ day in the past 24 hours. India, the United States, Brazil, France, Argentina reporting the highest daily increases, all reporting above 10,000 newly confirmed cases in the past 24 hours.¹ After decreasing for 3 weeks, last week's **global mortality incidence went up by 8.4% compared to the previous week**. Daily incidence is increasing again, primarily driven by India and multiple countries in Europe.

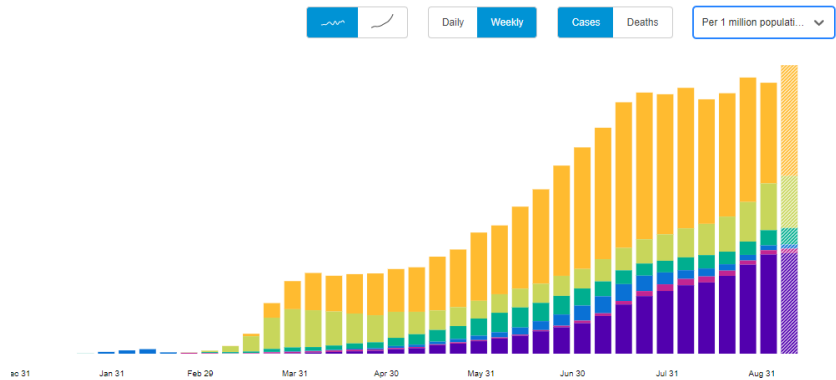
Weekly cases per 1 million population ([WHO](#)), IFRC Membership Operational updates available on the [Go platform](#)

Situation by WHO Region

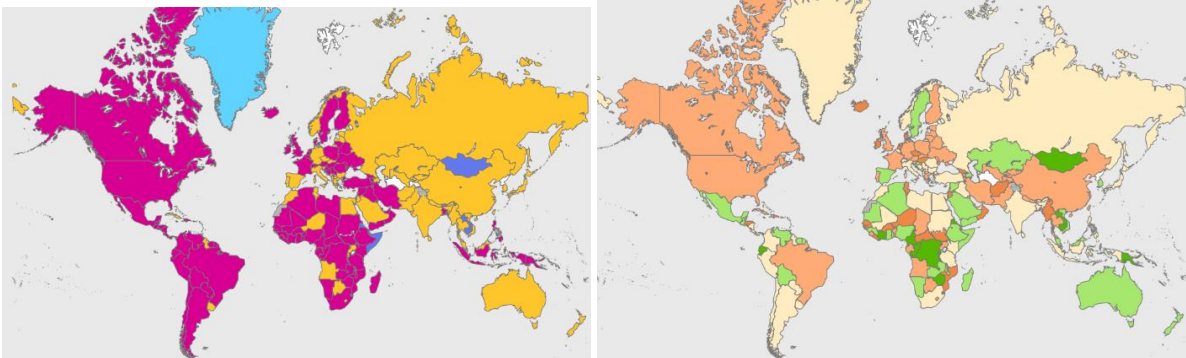
Americas	407,751.61
Europe	377,370.03
Eastern Mediterranean	183,132.48
Africa	79,341.99
Western Pacific	34,287
South-East Asia	27,564.9

confirmed cases per 1 million population

Source: World Health Organization
Data may be incomplete for the current day or week.

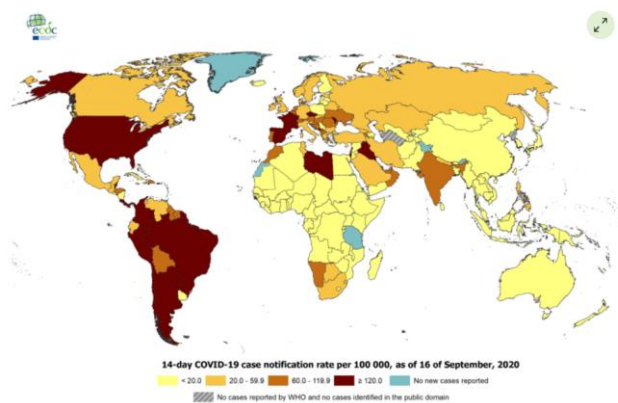


Below Left Map by Transmission Classification (Pink=Community Transmission, Yellow= Clusters, Purple= Sporadic Cases, Blue= No cases)



Above right Map: WHO percent change in the last 7 days. Highest increase shown in dark orange, highest decrease in dark green

Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, as of 16 September 2020



Case numbers	Timeline
1 case to 1 million cases	90 days
1 million to 5 million	48 days
5 million to 10 million	38 days
10 million to 20 million	44 days
20 million to 30 million	37 days

¹ Official numbers and WHO visualizations available [here](#)

News / Political Context

- Countries with **highest reported Per capita daily increases** (change in average incidence)²:
 1. **Spain**: 586
 2. **Israel**: 435
 3. **Bahrain**: 423
 4. **Costa Rica**: 272
 5. **Montenegro**: 299
 6. ***Guam (US protectorate)**: 225
 7. **Argentina**: 200
 8. **Kuwait**: 165
 9. **Maldives**: 129
 10. **Peru**: 228
 11. **Panama**: 106
- Daily confirmed deaths increasing most rapidly in **Myanmar, Guam, Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Jamaica, Paraguay**.³
- Cases doubling rapidly in **Myanmar** (7 days), **Curacao** (10 days), **Hungary** (13 days), **French Polynesia** (15 days), **Tunisia** (15 days), **Trinidad and Tobago** (17 days).⁴
- [OECD released a report](#) on the **Economic Impact of COVID-19** on G20 economies, showing the **G20 economy contracted by 6.9%** from Quarter 1 (4x higher than the recession of 2009). China was the only country to experience growth. India's economy contracted by more than 25%, and the UK's contracted by more than 20%.
- 4 Countries are reporting **test positivity greater than 30%: Argentina** (51.6%), **Mexico** (47.4%), **Oman** (38.9%)*, and **Bolivia** (32.5%), and all of these countries are seeing an increase in reported cases, meaning that they are not reaching sufficient testing capacity.
- **Asia Pacific Region:**
 - **Asia represents 40% of global incidence for COVID-19**
 - **India's** epidemic continues to accelerate and set a new record for daily incidence. India is also reporting more than double the current daily incidence in the US, more than 3 times Brazil's incidence, and more than 8 times that of any other country, and is in a trajectory to soon have the most cumulative cases.
 - Several serological studies suggest even higher rates of COVID-19 throughout communities in India with some suggesting over 50% seropositivity, and one study suggesting 25% of the country population has been infected.⁵
 - **India, Indonesia and Bangladesh** continue to report the highest number of cases, **Maldives** reports the highest number of cases compared with its population
 - **Indonesia** daily incidence has increased by over 80% since August 25th.
 - **Myanmar** continuing to show increasing numbers of COVID-19

² Our World in Data [Incidence](#)

³ <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

⁴ Reference to ECDC data using <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

⁵ [Times of India](#)

Figure 7: Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported weekly by the WHO South-East Asia Region, as of 13 September 2020**

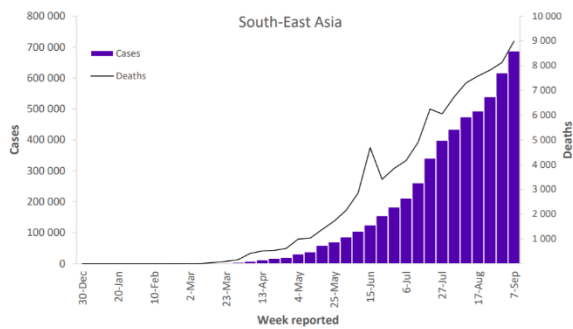
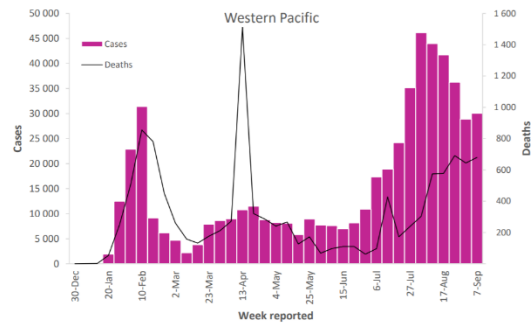


Figure 8: Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported weekly by the WHO Western Pacific Region, data as of 13 September 2020**



• **European Region:**
14-day COVID-19 case notification rate per 100 000, weeks 35-36

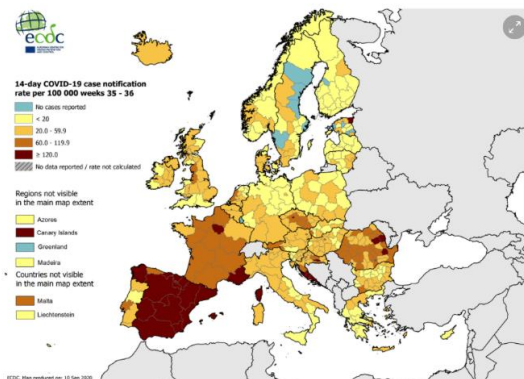
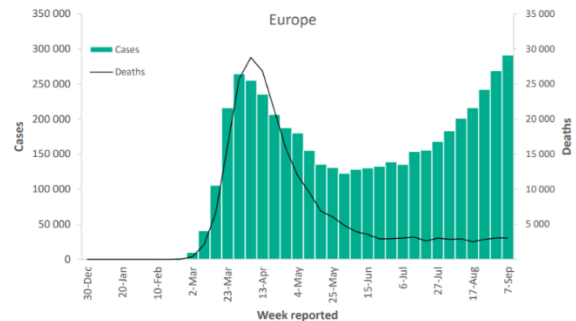


Figure 6: Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported weekly by the WHO European Region, as of 13 September 2020**



- Six countries (Croatia, Czechia, France, Hungary, Romania and Spain) had a weekly test positivity of 3% or higher and three countries (Czechia, France and Hungary) had a **weekly test positivity** that had increased compared to last week.⁶
- **Highest cumulative incidence** of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people in **Romania, Spain and Bulgaria.**⁵
- **Highest daily active cases** reported in **France** (over 283k), **Russia** (over 170k) **Ukraine** (over 88k), **Belgium** (over 67k), **Romania** (over 59k)⁷
- Increases in the 14-day COVID-19 death notification rates compared to those reported seven days ago have been observed in three countries (Croatia, Malta and Spain). Rates in these countries have been increasing for between six and nine days.
- The countries reporting the highest cumulative number of deaths relative to their population are San Marino (1 238 per million population), Belgium (856 per million population) and Andorra (686 per million population).⁸
- **Switzerland:** Geneva & Vaud currently experiencing the highest incidence rate of COVID-19 in Switzerland with an estimated 58 and 86 cases per 100,000 population respectively (as of 17 Sep 2020). *However, these have decreased significantly in the past 7 days.*
- **UK** has struggled to keep up with testing demand as schools re-opened across the country
 - Worries about approaches of universities to expel students from student housing if they are found to be associated with a case or outbreak of COVID-19 as this can disincentivize people to report cases (similar approaches are being seen in other countries including the US)
- **Americas Region**
 - **Brazil's** daily incidence has decreased by a third since September 5.
 - Even as cases have declined over the past week, Americas continue to represent over 50% of new cases globally.

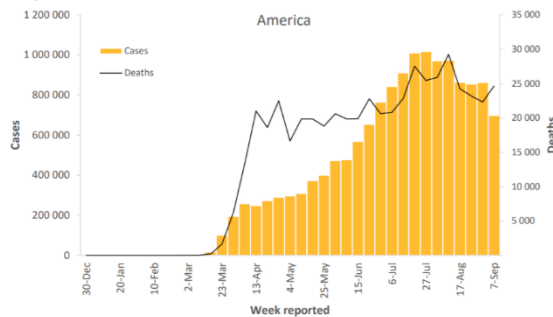
⁶ ECDC

⁷ Worldmeters

⁸ WHO

- **Guadeloupe** has reported the highest increase in cases compared to the previous week in the region
- **Costa Rica** experiencing an increase in the incidence of deaths
- 21 states in the **US** reporting more than 100,000 cases (unchanged from previous week). Highest reporting states include California, Florida, Texas, New York, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois. The **US represents 22% of cumulative cases worldwide**.
 - Test positivity has increased sharply over the past several days as well, up from 4.8% to 6.1%. Testing capacity has also decreased in the US, conducting fewer than 600,000 tests/ day.
 - Following the **re-opening of schools and universities** in the US, counties where college students represent 10% or more of the population are seeing sharp increases in COVID-19 cases since mid-August, while other counties are seeing declines.⁹ Outbreaks at schools and Universities across the US can be tracked [here](#).

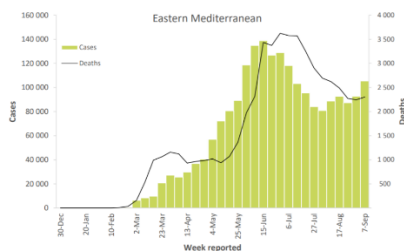
Figure 4: Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported weekly by the WHO Region of the Americas, as of 13 September 2020¹⁰



- **MENA Region**

- Cases in the Region continue to rise, **an increase of 14%** in the past seven days, and currently account for 6% of global cases.
- Increased cases in **Tunisia** and **Jordan** have been linked to cultural celebrations and gatherings (i.e. weddings, etc.)
 - With Jordan experiencing an increase in cases, the first two cases have been identified in a Syrian refugee camp.
- Cases in **Morocco** have reached a peak at approximately 2 000 per day, an increase of 41% in weekly new cases, resulting in 2 288 cases per million population. Highest burden of cases in Casablanca
- In **Libya**, the number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 has more than doubled over the past two weeks, but low testing capacity means the real number is likely higher

Figure 5: Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported weekly by the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region as of 13 September 2020¹¹

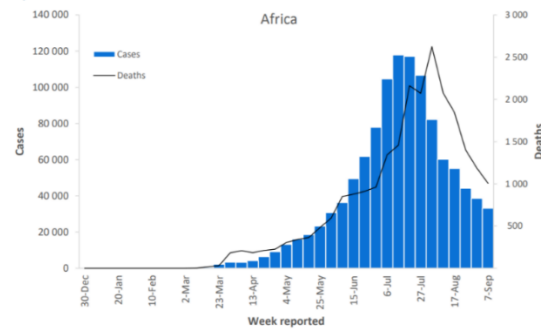


- **Africa Region**

- Reported a decline in new cases (by 14%) compared to the previous week, and the only region to report a decline in deaths (by 15%).
- Disease incidence by 1 million population is highest in Mayotte (12 367 per million).

⁹ [NYT, JHU Center for Health Security](#)

Figure 3: Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported weekly by the WHO African Region, as of 13 September 2020¹⁰



Recent Research/ Evidence

- The [Gates Foundation report](#) notes that, while progress has been made each year since the establishment of the SDGs, that **progress largely stopped in 2020 primarily due to the COVID-19** pandemic. Notably, vaccine coverage has been “set back about 25 years in 25 weeks.” The global recession was also noted as playing a significant role in these reductions – especially among countries with more informal economies. The pandemic has also affected the amount of money governments have towards other priorities. The report indicates that **68 million people in lower-middle-income countries have been forced into poverty** as a result of the pandemic and that an additional 37 million people have been forced into extreme poverty worldwide.
- Recent study published in [CDC MMWR](#) suggests that **pregnant COVID-19 patients may be at elevated risk of pre-term birth**. From March-August, an estimated 25% of hospitalized women aged 15-49 with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection were pregnant, compared to an estimated 5% in the general population (significance levels not estimated through this study).

Clinical Trails

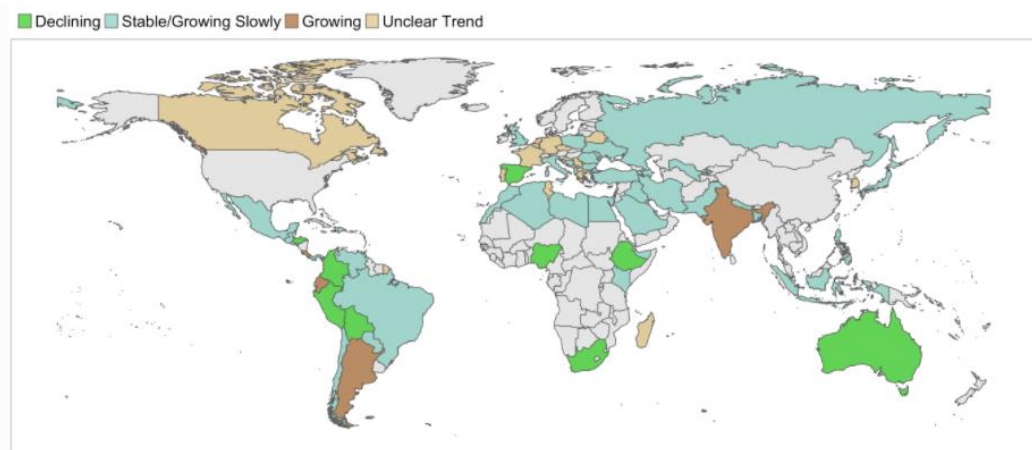
- **AstraZeneca Phase 3** clinical trails have **resumed** in the UK¹⁰
- CEO of **Pfizer** stated that they should be ready to distribute candidate vaccines to the general public in the US by the end of 2020, expanding it’s Phase 3 trial size from 30,000 to 44,000.
- [Many argue](#) that both Pfizer and AstraZeneca should publish more of their data and study design details to gain general public’s trust.
- Risks of espionage targeting vaccine development highlighted as a concern as many countries try to develop their own COVID-19 vaccine opposed to a global strategic approach.¹¹

Modeling & Forecasting

- **Projections for the reproductive number and deaths** ([ICL weekly projections](#))
As of September 14th estimates for the effective reproductive number:
 - Europe: Average of about 1, Highest: France: estimated at 2
 - Asia: Average of about 1, Highest: South Korea 1-1.5
 - Africa: Average of about 1, Highest: Madagascar (around 1)
 - MENA: Highest: Tunisia & Lebanon: Estimated 1-1.5
 - North & Central America: Average of about 1, Highest: Canada & Costa Rica: estimated 1-1.5
 - South America: Average of about 1, Highest: Ecuador: estimated at 1-1.5

¹⁰ [Press Release](#)

¹¹ [Council of Foreign Relations; NYT](#)



- [IHME projections](#) for daily infections using current trends, easing of mandates and increased mask use

Humanitarian Impacts

- **EMT** deployed from Norway to support following fire in Moria refugee & asylum camp Greece
- EMT coordination cell responding after the Beirut blast and to the increase of COVID-19 cases in Lebanon has been extended until mid-November¹²
- Mapping of COVID in Humanitarian settings available here depicted below showing COVID-19 cases compared to where vaccination campaigns have been postponed

Guidance Launched or Highlighted This week

Weekly update [from WHO available here](#) (last updated Epi 14 Sep, Operational 18 Sep)

- Global Preparedness Monitoring Board released new report “[A World in Disorder](#)”
- [WHO Tracking COVID-19: Contact Tracing in the Digital Age](#)
- [US CDC Releases Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making](#)
- WHO: [Antigen-detection in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection using rapid immunoassays](#)
- WHO: [Guidance on the use of Corticosteroids for COVID-19](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) training: Simulation exercise](#)
- Multiple trainings available on <https://openwho.org/>

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](#)

[Atlantic COVID-19 Tracker](#) (US focus)

[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](#)

¹² WHO weekly operations update 18 September 2020

[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](#)

[WHO](#)

[WHO Technical Guidance for COVID-19](#)

[MobLabs](#)

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

[World Meters](#)