

COVID-19 Weekly Update August 16-22nd & 23rd- 29th

Situation Update 16-22nd August

Over 23 million cases confirmed and reported, with over 800 thousand deaths reported to date (unofficially over 23.5 million cases and over 812 thousand deaths, over 6.6 million active cases and over 16 million recovered). The India, Mexico, Brazil, and US, are reporting the highest daily increases in deaths. India, the United States, Brazil, Peru and Colombia, are reporting the highest daily increases in new cases.¹

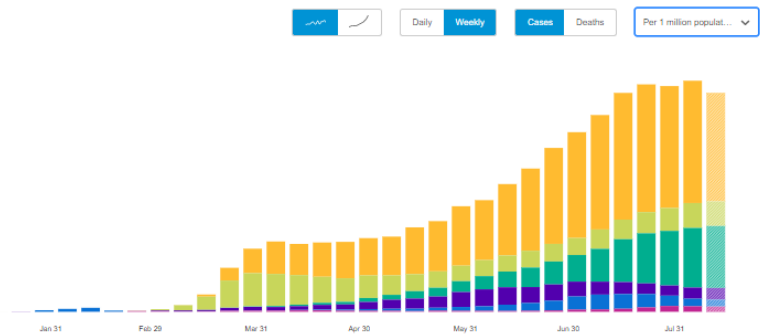
Weekly cases per 1 million population (WHO), IFRC Membership Operational updates available on the [Go platform](#)

Situation by WHO Region

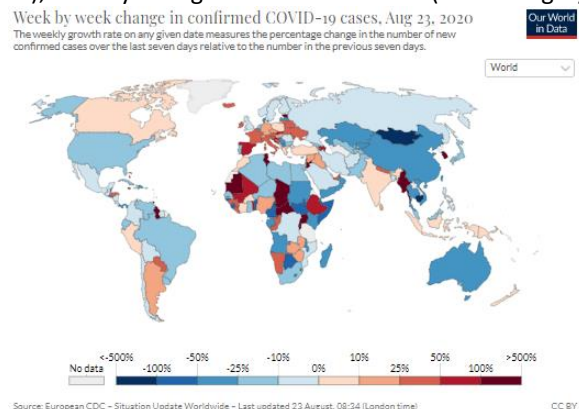
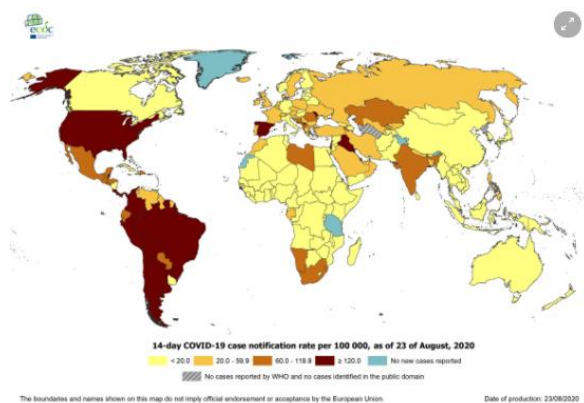
Americas	11,998.36	confirmed cases per 1 million population
Europe	4,250.3	confirmed cases per 1 million population
Eastern Mediterranean	2,482.67	confirmed cases per 1 million population
South-East Asia	1,746.46	confirmed cases per 1 million population
Africa	890.76	confirmed cases per 1 million population
Western Pacific	233.29	confirmed cases per 1 million population

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

cc 31



ECDC Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, as of 23 August 2020 (bottom left); Weekly change in confirmed cases (bottom right)



News / Political Context

- Countries with **highest reported Per capita daily increases** (change in average incidence):
 - **Maldives** (263 per million pop), **Peru** (253 per million pop), **Bahrain** (219 per million pop), **Colombia** (204 per million pop), **Brazil** (179 per million pop).
- Daily confirmed deaths increasing most rapidly in **Belize, Gambia, Aruba, Uganda, Namibia, Paraguay**.²
- Cases doubling rapidly in **British Virgin Islands** (5 days), **Trinidad and Tobago** (8 days), **Belize** (10 days), **Aruba** (11 days), **French Polynesia** (12 days).³
- **European Region:**

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

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

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

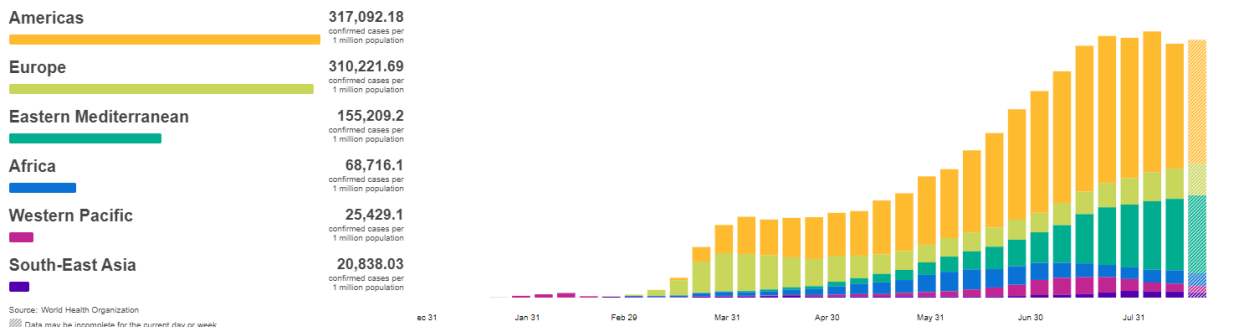
- With Spikes in European countries, many are re-imposing the closing of night clubs and enforced face coverings.
- **Asia Pacific Region:**
 - India's coronavirus deaths pass 50,000
 - Uptick in cases in Seoul, South Korea
- **Africa Region**
 - Ghana plans to re-open borders and airports within the next month
- **Americas Region**
 - **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.
 - **US estimated to have passed second peak around July 24th**, reporting over 1,000 deaths per day for the past 3 weeks with **California, Texas, Florida, New York, Georgia and Illinois** reporting the highest number of cases.
 - Many US territories showing very high incidence including the **US Virgin Islands (332 new daily cases per 1 million pop)** which is the highest incidence globally, Puerto Rico and Guam also reporting high daily incidence.
- **MENA Region**
 - **Lebanon** seeing an increase in case incidence which is complicated by the ongoing response to the Beirut blast – stay home measures reinstated, but challenges exist to follow given many people are at a loss for appropriate shelter solutions.
- Calls for renewed research on patterns of disease transmission between people and animals as more animals test positive for the virus. However, transmission from animals to humans is not likely to be a major source of transmission.
- Northern Hemisphere prepares for upcoming flu season with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks

Situation Update 23-29 August

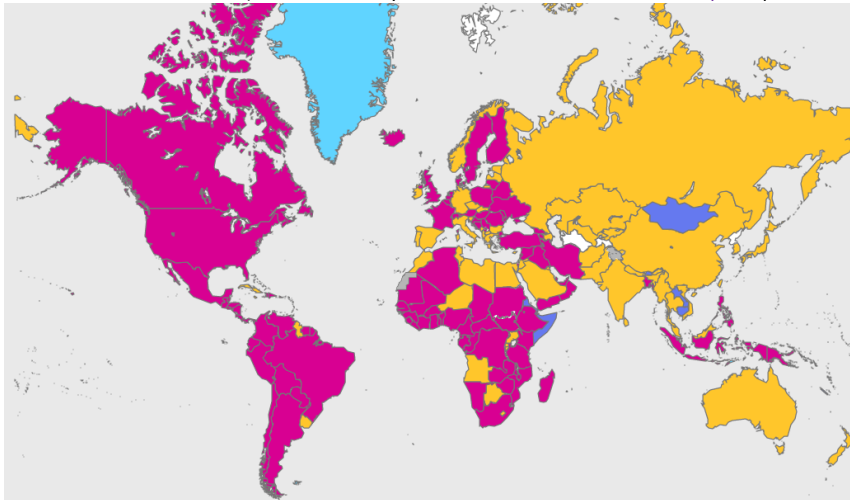
Over **24.8 million cases confirmed** and reported, with **over 838.9 thousand deaths** reported to date (unofficially over 25.2 million cases and over 848 thousand deaths, over 6.8 million active cases and over 17.5 million recovered). The US, India, and Brazil are reporting the highest daily increases in deaths. India, the United States, Brazil Peru, Colombia, and Argentina are reporting the highest daily increases in new cases.⁴

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

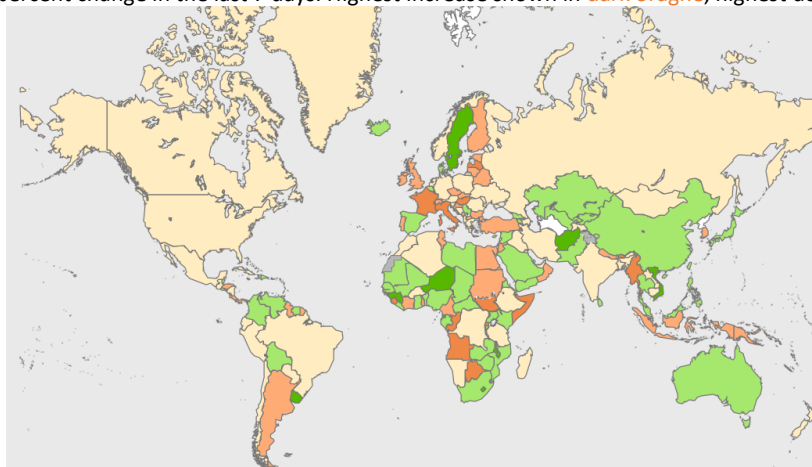
Situation by WHO Region



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



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



⁴ Official numbers and WHO visualizations available [here](#)

News / Political Context

- Countries with **highest reported Per capita daily increases** (change in average incidence):
 - **Maldives** (263 per million pop), Peru (253 per million pop), Bahrain (219 per million pop), Colombia (204 per million pop), Brazil (179 per million pop).
- Daily confirmed deaths increasing most rapidly in **Botswana, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba**.⁵
- Cases doubling rapidly in **Myanmar** (8 days), **French Polynesia** (10 days), **British Virgin Islands** (10 days), **Trinidad and Tobago** (11 days), **Jamaica** (12 days).⁶
- **European Region:**
 - As of August 26th, the 14-day case notification rate was 42 per 100,000, with the rate increasing for the past 38 days.⁷ Rates are highly dependent on testing rates
 - Croatia, France, the Netherlands and Slovenia have reported increases in test positivity for this week compared to last.
 - With Spikes in European countries, many are re-imposing the closing of night clubs and enforced face coverings.
 - ILI and ARI surveillance strategies have reported similar or fewer than the average for the past few years through the same systems.
 - Reported data from 22 countries show 24% of COVID-19 cases are hospitalized, with 12% of hospitalized patients requiring ICU care.
 - Europe: 209 325 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United Kingdom (41 501), Italy (35 483), France (30 635), Spain (29 094) and Russia (17 176).
- **Asia Pacific Region:**
 - India's coronavirus deaths pass 50,000
 - India, Indonesia, Iran concerning, slight decrease in new cases in Pakistan
 - There has been a surge in cases in South Korea, with schools closing until September 11th and additional quarantine measures implemented nation-wide for the next 2 weeks
- **Africa Region**
 - **Ethiopia** seeing a high increase in cases – a trend likely to continue into the next week
 - Laboratory capacity is reportedly overstretched in Ethiopia. There is also a reported lack of testing capacity in Mauritania, particularly for PCR testing. Mali has limited laboratory testing capacity at the regional level.⁸
 - **Ghana** plans to re-open borders and airports within the next month
 - **Kenya** experienced its peak incidence rate in early August, but has extended its current social distancing for an additional 30 days to hopefully continue to drive incidence down.
- **Americas Region**
 - **13% world's population; 50% of cases**
 - **Increasing numbers in Peru, Mexico, Columbia and Argentina**
 - **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.
 - **US estimated to have passed second peak around July 24th**, reporting over 1,000 deaths per day for the past 3 weeks with **California, Texas, Florida, New York, Georgia and Illinois** reporting the highest number of cases.
 - Many US territories showing very high incidence including the **US Virgin Islands (332 new daily cases per 1 million pop)** which is the highest incidence globally, Puerto Rico and Guam also reporting high daily incidence.
 - Testing of sewage for college dormitories allowed University of Arizona to identify 2 positive cases after revealing COVID-19 in the sewage of one dormitory
 -

⁵ <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

⁶ Reference to ECDC data using <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

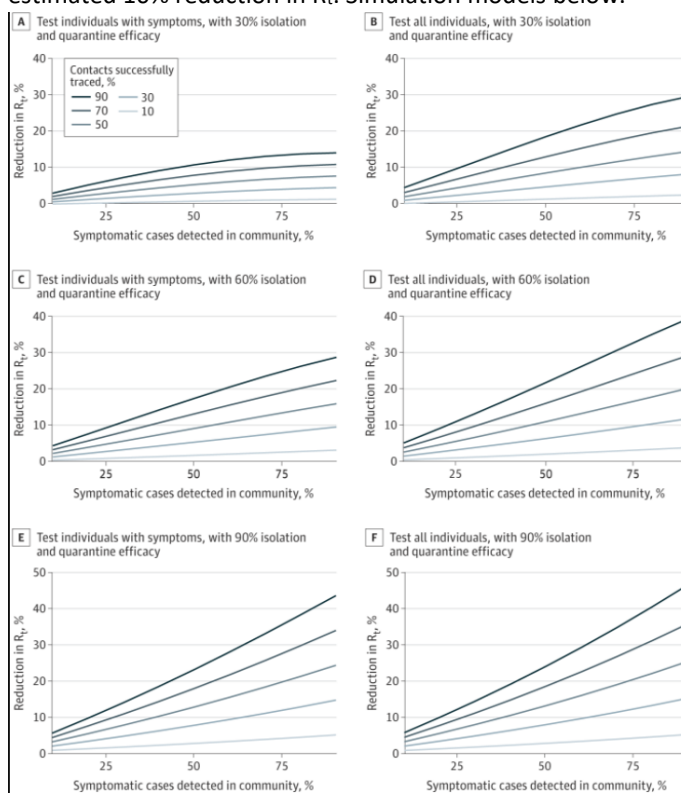
⁷ [ECDC](#)

⁸ [WHO Weekly update](#)

- **MENA Region**
 - **Lebanon** seeing an increase in case incidence which is complicated by the ongoing response to the Beirut blast – stay home measures reinstated, but challenges exist to follow given many people are at a loss for appropriate shelter solutions.
 - **Morocco** also seeing an increase in cases likely to continue into the next week
 - 2000% increase in COVID-19 cases reported in NE Syria reported
- Calls for renewed research on patterns of disease transmission between people and animals as more animals test positive for the virus. However, transmission from animals to humans is not likely to be a major source of transmission.
- Northern Hemisphere prepares for upcoming flu season with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks

Recent Research/ Evidence

- Study on the **impact of Contact Tracing on R_t** has to be paired with strong community case detection and isolation and quarantine measures must be followed. When community detection of symptomatic index cases and tracing of contacts were less than 50% simulations show only an estimated 10% reduction in R_t . Simulation models below.⁹



- Study of **children** hospitalized for SARS-CoV-2 found **only 51% of those infected presented with fever**, and the **majority presented with non-specific symptoms** (9% met criteria for MIS-C). Viral load was highest within the first 2 days of symptoms, and significantly higher than adults, implying children may be a source of transmission of COVID-19.¹⁰
- US CDC has found that **people could continue to test positive for SARS-CoV-2 for up to 3 months following infection**. Studies on immunity are still unclear and ongoing.¹¹
- Recent study in China shows that still more research is needed to understand the implication of neutralizing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 play towards protection of future infection. In the study, 175

⁹ JAMA 21 Aug 2020. [Modeling Contact Tracing Strategies for COVID-19 in the Context of Relaxed Physical Distancing Measures](#)

¹⁰ [Journal of Pediatrics 19 Aug 2020](#). Pediatrics SARS-CoV-2: Clinical Presentation, Infectivity, and Immune Responses

¹¹ [US CDC](#)

patients who recovered from mild illness had **significant variations in neutralizing antibodies**, and 10 had none at all.¹²

- To date, SARS-CoV-2 has not been isolated from breast milk, and there are **no documented cases of transmission of infectious virus to the infant through breast milk**, although more research on this topic will continue.¹³
- **Super-spreading events** defined as events where a person may have more close contacts with others than average. Higher-risk events include those that take place indoors, with poor air circulation and where social distancing cannot be maintained. Emphasis placed on the context of the event rather than the person themselves.¹⁴
- Some researchers suggest a scaled approach to **physical distancing** recommendations given various risk factors¹⁵:

Type and level of group activity	Low occupancy			High occupancy		
	Outdoors and well ventilated	Indoors and well ventilated	Poorly ventilated	Outdoors and well ventilated	Indoors and well ventilated	Poorly ventilated
Wearing face coverings, contact for short time						
Silent	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
Speaking	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
Shouting, singing	Low	Low	High	High	High	High
Wearing face coverings, contact for prolonged time						
Silent	Low	Low	High	Low	High	High
Speaking	Low	High	High	High	High	High
Shouting, singing	Low	High	High	High	High	High
No face coverings, contact for short time						
Silent	Low	Low	High	High	High	High
Speaking	Low	High	High	High	High	High
Shouting, singing	High	High	High	High	High	High
No face coverings, contact for prolonged time						
Silent	Low	High	High	High	High	High
Speaking	High	High	High	High	High	High
Shouting, singing	High	High	High	High	High	High

Risk of transmission
 Low Medium High
 * Borderline case that is highly dependent on quantitative definitions of distancing, number of individuals, and time of exposure

- Expected overall underestimated surveillance of COVID-19. Authors suggest including recovered cases in surveillance methods to increase likelihood to capturing the true impact of COVID-19.¹⁶
- Recent UK study found a strong correlation between COVID-19 incidence in the region and school outbreaks, with **evidence that schools do not drive the transmission rates, rather they follow trends in the local community** (majority of school-related outbreaks were associated with staff rather than students).¹⁷
- In a comparison of the COVID-19 outbreak in NYC to the 1918 influenza outbreak, **relative increases in the early response periods of COVID-19 were substantially greater than the 1918 H1N1 outbreak**¹⁸
- Study of the genetic composition and BCG vaccination status of countries revealed **correlations between BCG- status and HLA genotypes in 28 countries with increased fatality rates**.¹⁹

¹² JAMA 18 Aug 2020 [Evaluating the Association of Clinical Characteristics With Neutralizing Antibody Levels in Patients Who Have Recovered From Mild COVID-19 in Shanghai, China](#)

¹³ [JAMA 19 Aug 2020](#)

¹⁴ Useful examples of super-spreader COVID-19 events shared in [this article](#). LSHTM research can be found [here](#).

¹⁵ [BMJ 25 Aug 2020](#)

¹⁶ [Lancet 27 Aug 2020. Surveillance underestimates true burden](#)

¹⁷ [Public Health England](#) : SARS-CoV-2 infection and transmission in educational settings.

¹⁸ JAMA 13 Aug 2020. [Comparison of Estimated Excess Deaths in New York City During the COVID-19 and 1918 Influenza Pandemics](#)

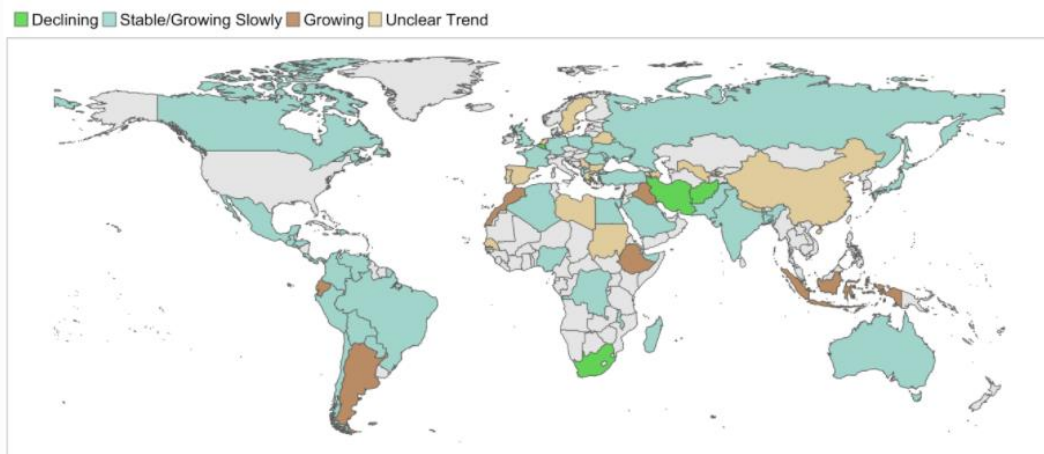
¹⁹ [Journal of Human Genetics](#). 22 July 2020. SARS-CoV-2 genomic variations associated with mortality rate of COVID-19

Clinical Trails

- Hospitalized patients with moderate COVID-19 randomized to a **5-day course of remdesivir** had a statistically significantly better clinical status compared with those randomized to standard care at 11 days after initiation of treatment. Clinical significance is still unclear.²⁰
- Emergency use authorization **Saliva-based diagnostic test** developed by Yale school of public health (US) results released showing an estimated 83-100% agreement with approved testing methodologies. Testing materials to be estimated at \$5 per test. The school plans to make the testing protocol open source. Additional studies underway.²¹
- Argument for **strong clinical trials which need to ensure 50% efficacy to be useful for herd immunity**, unless vaccination trials also include longevity, and ensure it is not harmful (i.e. cause disease enhancement among sub-groups) to make sure roll-out of selected vaccinations does not further harm current vaccine hesitancy. Short-term efficacy for the trials should average between 3-6 months.²²

Modeling

- **Projections for the reproductive number and deaths** ([ICL weekly projections](#)) Assuming the underlying CFR 1.38% forecasting for the upcoming week (from 23rd August) based on 53 countries are below:



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

Humanitarian Impacts

- **Hol Camp & Arisha camps in North, Northeast Syria reporting first confirmed cases of COVID-19**
 - Access to water continues to be unreliable for WASH
- While seeing one of the highest incidence rates in Peru, indigenous populations (33% of the population identify as indigenous), in the Amazon are not receiving the timely response necessary to address the high rates of COVID-19.²³
- 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](#)

- WHO daily updates for COVID-19 to be rolled into the [weekly situational updates](#) and “[Rolling updates](#)” for COVID-19. The map functionality (shared above) will continue to have new features

²⁰ [JAMA 21 Aug 2020](#)

²¹ [FDA News release](#)

²² [The Lancet 27 Aug 2020. Vaccine trials should seek worthwhile efficacy](#)

²³ [The New Humanitarian](#)

- WHO: [Home care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and management of their contacts](#)
- WHO Interactive Timeline available [here](#)
- [Operational considerations for COVID-19 management in the accommodation sector: interim guidance](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Essential Supplies Forecasting Tool](#)
- [Promoting public health measures in response to COVID-19 on cargo ships and fishing vessels](#)

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](#)

[WHO](#)

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

[MobLabs](#)

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

[World Meters](#)