

COVID-19 Weekly Update August 30th – September 5th 2020

Over 26.7 million cases confirmed and reported, with over 876 thousand deaths reported to date ([unofficially](#) over 27.3 million cases and over 887 thousand deaths, over 7 million active cases (*an increase from the previous week*) and over 19.3 million recovered). India, Brazil the US and Mexico are reporting the highest daily incidences in death, with India reporting over 1,000 deaths/ day. India, Brazil the United States, and Argentina are reporting the highest daily increases in new cases.¹ WHO reports **1% increase in the number of cases** and **3% decrease in the number of deaths** compared to the previous week (17 to 23 August)

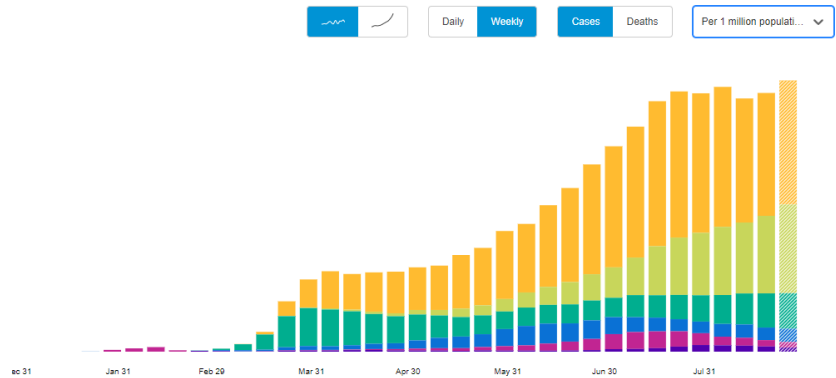
Weekly cases per 1 million population ([WHO](#)), IFRC Membership Operational updates available on the [Go platform](#)

Situation by WHO Region

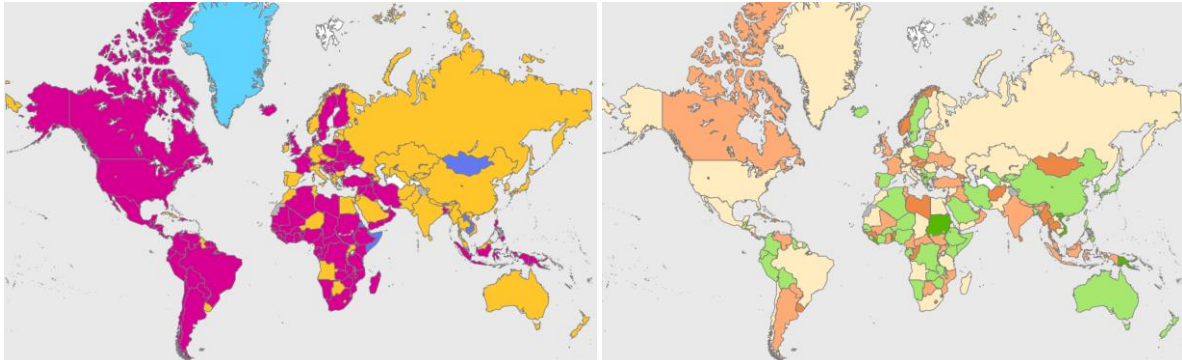
Americas	347,436.04
Europe	327,205.4
Eastern Mediterranean	163,116.92
Africa	72,724.16
Western Pacific	28,640.33
South-East Asia	23,431.03

confirmed cases per 1 million population

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



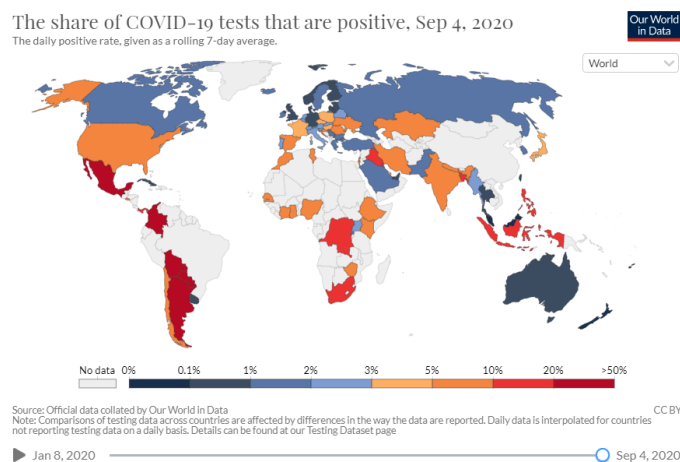
Below Left Map by Transmission Classification (Pink=Community Transmission, Yellow= Clusters, Purple= Sporadic Cases, Blue= No cases)



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

The share of COVID-19 tests that are positive, Sep 4, 2020

The daily positive rate, given as a rolling 7-day average.

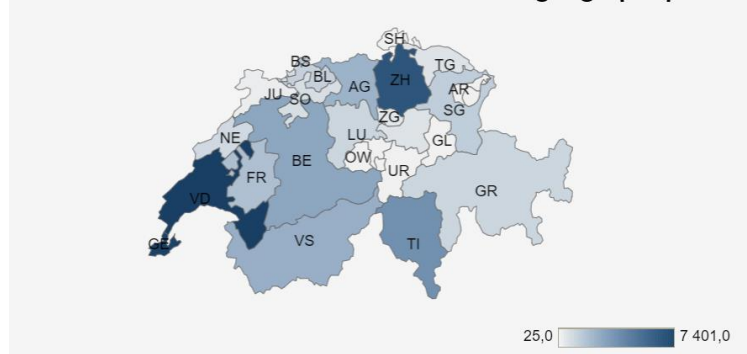


¹ Official numbers and WHO visualizations available [here](#)

News / Political Context

- **Case fatality ratio** has been declining to 3.3. from its peak in mid-April (around 7.3%). Europe continues to report the highest case fatality ratio, but is decreasing the most rapidly
 - **Yemen is reporting the highest case fatality ratio at 29%**
 - Iran and Egypt have both been reporting increasing fatality ratio trends
- Countries with **highest reported Per capita daily increases** (change in average incidence):
- Daily confirmed deaths increasing most rapidly in **Trinidad and Tobago, Botswana, Turks and Caicos Islands, Aruba, Guam, Jamaica.**²
- Cases doubling rapidly in **Myanmar** (8 days), **British Virgin Islands** (9 days), **French Polynesia** (11 days), **Trinidad and Tobago** (12 days).³
- **90% of countries surveyed have reported disruptions in health services** due to COVID-19, with LMIC reporting the greatest challenges. Majority of disruptions reported in:
 - Outreach and immunization 70%
 - Facility-based surveys 68%
 - Family planning 66% elective surgery
 - Disruptions to training
 - 69% non-communicable disease - 61% mental health disorder - 55% cancer - 46% malaria - 42% tuberculosis - 32% HIV antiretrovirals
- **European Region:**
 - Incidence of cases and deaths continues to rise throughout the region
 - **Highest number of new cases** reported in **Spain, Russia, France** and the **Ukraine**.
 - Spain and France seeing increases in cases likely tied to holiday season
 - Italy seeing an 85% increase in cases compared to the previous week
 - 88% of all deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Europe are over the age of 65
 - **Switzerland:** Geneva currently experiencing the highest incidence rate of COVID-19 in Switzerland with an estimated 96 cases per 100,000 population
 - Age groups experiencing the highest burden at this time are 20-60 years of age
 - Map as of 2 September 2020⁴

Cas confirmés en laboratoire : distribution géographique



- **Asia Pacific Region:**
 - Southeast Asia has shown the greatest increase in new cases in the past week, primarily driven by testing and confirmed cases in India.
 - India seeing a 9% increase in cases, but the increase in reported cases is also driven by an increase in testing across the country
 - Gradual increases in cases in Indonesia where, raising a concern over schools re-opening since 40% of people 60 and older live in multi-generational households
 - Japan seeing a decrease in cases over the last week,
 - The Philippines seeing majority of cases from the capital region

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

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

⁴ <https://covid-19-schweiz.bagapps.ch/fr-1.html>

- **Africa Region**
 - Compared to the other regions, new reported cases have continued to decline over the past week
- **Americas Region**
 - Regionally, the Americas continues to be the highest burden of COVID-19 globally, accounting for over 50% of new cases
 - Moderate decline and stabilization are being observed in the US and Brazil, while increasing trends are being seen in Peru, Mexico, Colombia and Argentina – mostly driven by larger group gatherings
- **MENA Region**
 - Compared to other regions, reported new cases have declined compared to the week before
 - Cases have been increasing the most in Iraq, Iran, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.
 - Iraq has been seeing a high increase in cases in the Kurdistan region
 - Concerned about high levels of COVID-19 cases among migrant workers in Saudi Arabia and poor conditions in migrant detention centers
- 40 international EMT missions since the beginning of COVID-19
- 15% of specimens tested for influenza through traditional surveillance systems have been reported as COVID-19 positive
- More than 30 national and state governments have developed and released proximity or notification applications for COVID-19 utilizing the Google and Apple framework and Bluetooth technology – many more looking to begin implementation
- EU and Japan recently joined to support **COVAX initiative**, aiming to pool resources so that lower-income countries can better compete with high income countries for vaccination doses once available

Recent Research/ Evidence

- In a US study the use of **antibiotics were used in more than 50% of patients with COVID-19** within the first 2 days of admission – many expected bacterial co-infection, but the prevalence of community-onset bacterial infection post-infection were ultimately very low.⁵
- Study looking at admitted patients to ICU in New Delhi India found multi-drug resistant *Candida auris* infections (fungal infection) among COVID-19 patients, highlighting the risk of hospital-acquired multi-drug resistant infections in the context of COVID-19.⁶
- [Pre-print](#) studies of the **long-term effects of COVID-19** have found damage to cardiac cells—cardiomyocytes which may be related to prolonged experiences of shortness of breath and potential longer-term cardiac problems as those who recovered from COVID-19 get older – more research is needed on the long-term effects.
- In community treatment center in Korea, **viral shedding of COVID-19** was found to be similar among both asymptomatic and symptomatic patients.⁷
- A study of **antibodies** of over 30,000 people in Iceland indicates that antiviral antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 did not decline within 4 months after diagnosis. The risk of death from infection was estimated at 0.3% and 44% of persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 were not diagnosed by qPCR.⁸
- **Reinfection** of individuals with different strains of SARS-CoV-2 show the complexities of COVID-19 and implications for need to continue examining the need for PCR tests even after recovered from infection. It also highlights that “immunity passports” do not make sense. The implications for vaccine are still unclear – it is possible that immunity may only last so long and re-vaccination will be required, it is also possible that the vaccine may have a stronger immune effect (as in HPV for example)
 - Interesting [“Reinfection tracker”](#)
 - Original [SSRN pre-print](#) article discussing reinfection of an immunocompromised 25 year old in the US

⁵ Clinical Infectious Disease [21 Aug 2020](#)

⁶ [CDC Emerging Infectious Disease](#)

⁷ [JAMA 6 Aug 2020](#)

⁸ [NEJM 1 Sep 2020](#)

- Useful [discussion](#) on key points and questions following recent article
- A recent report shows that **75% of countries have seen a disruption in NCD services** during the COVID-19 response– which leave a group already vulnerable to serious disease from COVID-19 at greater risk, also highlighting the burden NCDs play on health system.⁹

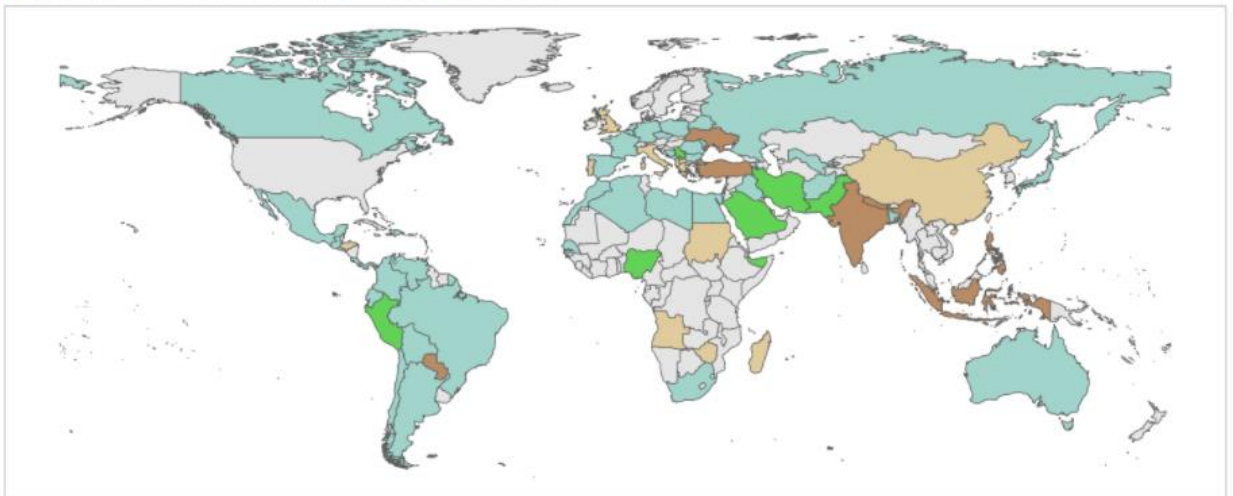
Clinical Trails

- **Novavax** Inc. published data from clinical trials Phase 1 testing the safety of the vaccine meaning it will progress to Phase 2 trials. Those receiving a second dose produced elevated antibody levels compared to those who received a single dose.¹⁰
 - Novavax began screening to include participants in the mid-stage trials in **South Africa** on August 17th – including the inclusion of 240 medically stable **HIV positive** patients. This is an important step towards testing the safety and effectiveness among populations on the continent.¹¹
- **Results of open, non-randomized vaccine trial Phase ½ trials** in Russia that consisted of 76 participants published in [the Lancet](#). No placebo was included in the study which took place over 42 days and monitored for vaccine safety and efficacy.
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Modeling

- **Projections for the reproductive number and deaths** ([ICL weekly projections](#)) Assuming the underlying CFR 1.38% forecasting for the upcoming week (from 30th August) based on 53 countries are below:

■ Declining ■ Stable/Growing Slowly ■ Growing ■ Unclear Trend



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

Humanitarian Impacts

- 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-19.¹²
- Reports that **COVID-19 is exacerbating violence against healthcare workers** with over 600 reported cases of violence, harassment or stigma in relation to COVID-19 against healthcare workers.¹³

⁹ [Lancet 5 September 2020](#)

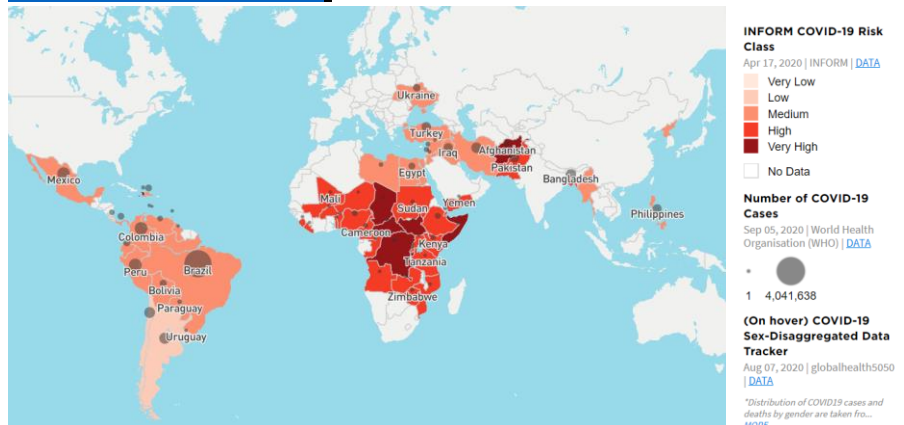
¹⁰ [NEJM 2 Sep 2020](#)

¹¹ [Lancet 4 Sep 2020](#)

¹² [The New Humanitarian](#)

¹³ [Lancet Sep 5 2020](#)

- [Mapping of COVID in Humanitarian settings](#) available here depicted below showing COVID-19 cases compared to where vaccination campaigns have been postponed
- [INFORM COVID-19 Risk index:](#)



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
- [WHO Guidance on hotels and other accommodation facilities](#)
- [WHO Measures for cargo and ships](#)
- [Pulse survey on continuity of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic: interim report, 27 August 2020](#)
- [WHO Guidance for conducting a country COVID-19 intra-action review \(IAR\)](#)
- Open WHO learning platform: <https://openwho.org/>
- Updated Corticosteroids for COVID-19 use [guidance](#)

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](#)