

COVID-19 Weekly Update 6-12 September 2020

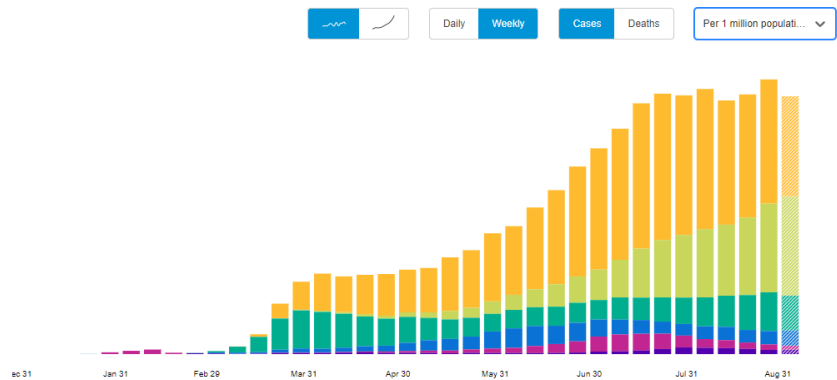
Over 28.5 million cases confirmed and reported, with **over 916.9 thousand deaths** reported to date ([unofficially](#) over 28.9 million cases and over 925 thousand deaths, over 7.1 million active cases (increase from previous week) and over 20.8 million recovered). **India, Brazil, and the US** are reporting the highest daily incidences in death, **with India reporting over 1,000 deaths/ day**. India, the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Spain and France reporting the highest daily increases in new cases, all reporting over 10,000 new cases per day.¹ Weekly global deaths have increased for the past 3 weeks. **Last week's incidence is the highest it has been**, increased from the previous week by 5.7%.

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

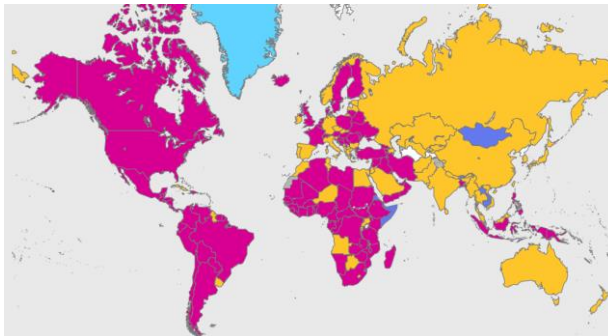
Situation by WHO Region

Americas	378,471.43 confirmed cases per 1 million population
Europe	345,286.71 confirmed cases per 1 million population
Eastern Mediterranean	172,766.88 confirmed cases per 1 million population
Africa	75,460.14 confirmed cases per 1 million population
Western Pacific	31,412.41 confirmed cases per 1 million population
South-East Asia	25,427.44 confirmed cases per 1 million population

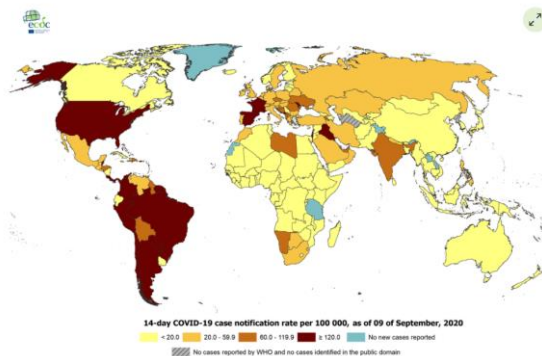
Source: World Health Organization
Data may be incomplete for the current day or week.



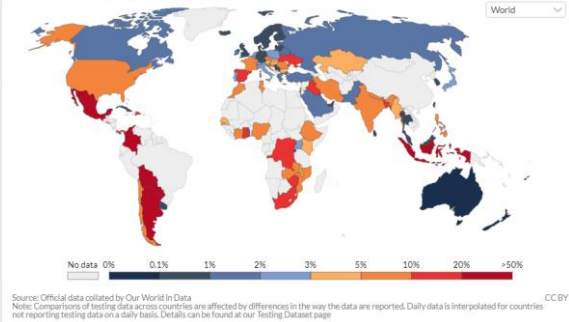
Below Left Map by Transmission Classification (**Pink**=Community Transmission, **Yellow**= Clusters, **Purple**= Sporadic Cases, **Blue**= No cases)



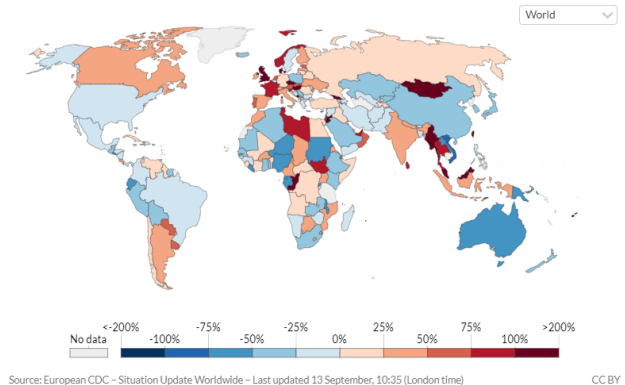
Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, as of 9 September 2020



The share of COVID-19 tests that are positive, Sep 11, 2020
The daily positive rate, given as a rolling 7-day average.



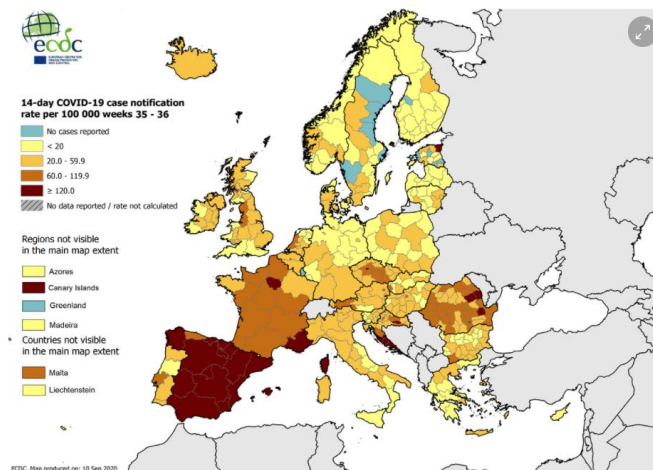
Biweekly change in confirmed COVID-19 cases, Sep 13, 2020
The biweekly growth rate on any given date measures the percentage change in the number of new confirmed cases over the last 14 days relative to the number in the previous 14 days.



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. **Israel**: 457.5
 2. Bahrain: 394.9
 3. Argentina: 271.2
 4. Costa Rica: 260.1
 5. Spain: 230.2
 6. Peru: 221.1
 7. Montenegro: 203.8
 8. Kuwait: 173.3
 9. Panama: 156
 10. Maldives: 122.1
- Daily confirmed deaths increasing most rapidly in **Myanmar, Guam, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Aruba, Botswana, Paraguay, Uganda**.³
- Cases doubling rapidly in **Myanmar** (7 days), **Curacao** (10 days), **French Polynesia** (13 days), **Hungary** (14 days), **British Virgin Islands** (16 days), **Trinidad and Tobago** (16 days).⁴
- **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:**
14-day COVID-19 case notification rate per 100 000, weeks 35-36



- Incidence of cases and deaths continues to rise throughout the region for the past 52 days, with **France and Spain experiencing larger case numbers than in the first wave of the pandemic**
- 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.⁵
- **Highest** number of **new cases** reported in **Spain, Russia, France** and the **Ukraine**.

² Our World in Data [Incidence](#)

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

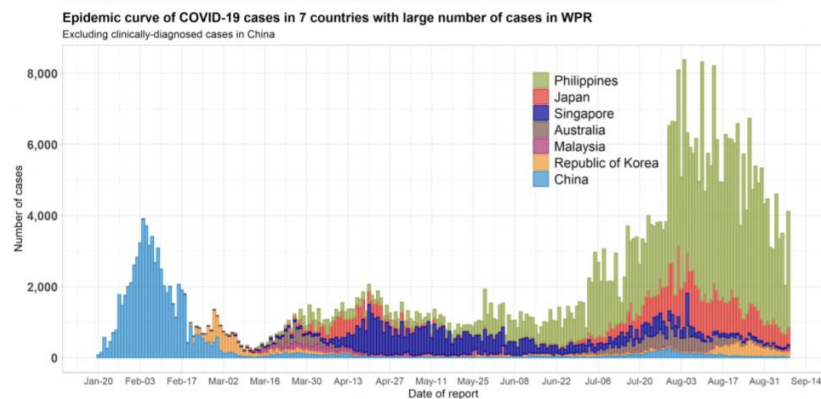
⁴ Reference to ECDC data using <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

⁵ [ECDC](#)

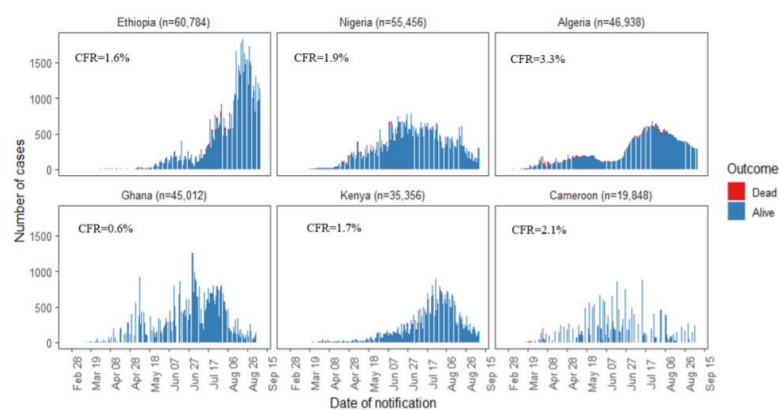
- **UK** incidence has more than doubled since August 22nd and is reporting over 2,000 new cases a day. Reports that there have been challenges for people to access testing throughout the UK
 - Social gatherings decreased from 30 to 6 people
- After more than 3 months of decline, **Russia** has experienced increased incidence since late August.
- **Israel** has experienced more than an 80% increase in incidence compared to the previous week
- **Switzerland**: Geneva & Vaud currently experiencing the highest incidence rate of COVID-19 in Switzerland with an estimated 117.9 and 146.3 cases per 100,000 population respectively
 - Age groups experiencing the highest burden at this time are 20-60 years of age
- **Asia Pacific Region:**
 - **India's** epidemic continues to accelerate and set a new record for daily incidence, passing Brazil for #2 in cumulative cases globally.
 - **Afghanistan** seeing large increase in cases compared to previous epi week
 - **Philippines** experiencing large-scale community transmission

WHO Western Pacific Epidemic Curve for the previous Epi Week

Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with >5 000 cases, covering the period from 2 September to 8 September 2020, as of 9 September 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)



- **Africa Region**
 - Compared to the other regions, new reported cases have continued to decline over the past week, with a 17% reduction in incidence rate compared to reported new cases the previous week.⁶



Epidemic curve, cases and deaths for top 6 reporting countries in the region 25 Feb- 8 Sep 2020⁷

- **Highest increase in reported cases for the reporting period (by %): Burkina Faso (191%), Botswana (148%), Zimbabwe (128%), Lesotho (119%), Ghana (65%), Mali (52%), Uganda**

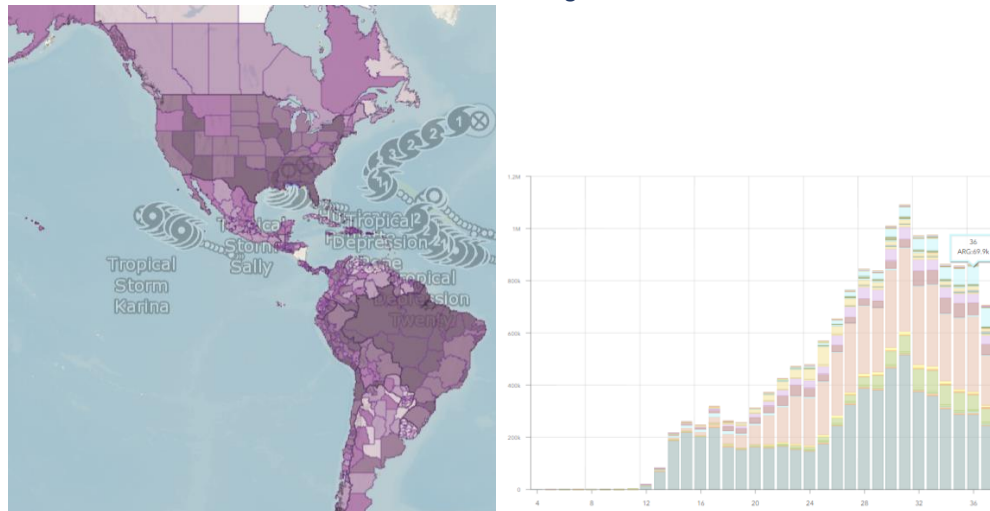
⁶ [WHO AFRO Regional update](#)

⁷ [WHO AFRO SitRep](#)

(41%), **Sierra Leone** (33%), **Chad** (27%), **Central African Republic** (25%) and **Côte d'Ivoire** (25%).

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- **Americas Region**
 - States in the **US** reporting more than 100,000 cases include California, Florida, Texas, New York, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois
 - Recent report estimates that testing capacity in US needs to be at 193 million tests⁸ per month to reduce restrictions. Current testing capacity is at 21 million a month.⁹
 - 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.¹⁰ Outbreaks at schools and Universities across the US can be tracked [here](#).¹⁰
 - Acceleration of cases continues in **Guadeloupe**, with an increase of 35% in the last 3 days¹¹

Incidence of COVID-19 cases and recent storms in the region



New Cases in PAHO region per epidemic week

- **MENA Region**
 - **Bahrain's** daily incidence increased by more than 60% since August 31
 - **WHO EMRO guidelines on returning to school**

Recent Research/ Evidence

- Following re-opening of schools in the US, the American Pediatric Association has found an **increase of 16% of all COVID-19 cases nationally among children**, representing an estimated 9.8% of all reported COVID-19 cases in the US.¹²
- Recent study of **seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 among healthcare workers** found a strong correlation with low seroprevalence among workers who reported not having PPE outages and those who reported wearing a mask during all of their clinical activities for the prior week.¹³

⁸ [Rockefeller Foundation & Duke University](#)

⁹ [Atlantic: Covid tracking project](#)

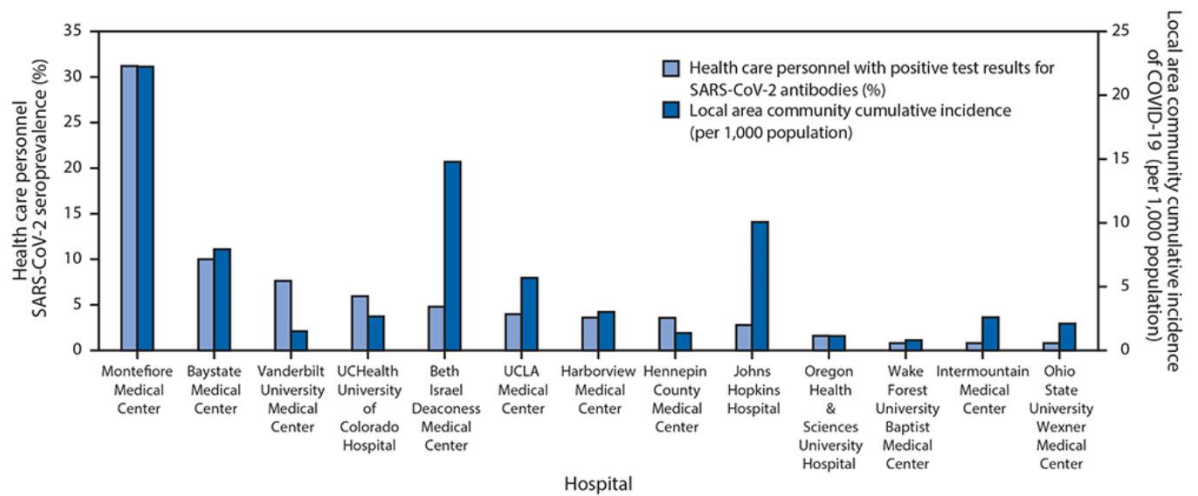
¹⁰ [NYT, JHU Center for Health Security](#)

¹¹ [PAHO](#)

¹² [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

¹³ [CDC MMWR 69](#)

FIGURE. SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence among a convenience sample of frontline health care personnel and local area community cumulative incidence of COVID-19* — 13 academic medical centers, United States, April–June 2020*



- Increasing evidence for a **dose-response with viral load and severe COVID-19 infection**: rate of asymptomatic infection with SARS-CoV-2 was estimated to be 40% by the US CDC in mid-July, but asymptomatic infection rates are reported to be higher than 80% in settings with universal facial masking (following the theory that masking reduces the amount of particles/ virus individuals are exposed to. Evidence from Argentina cruise ship, HCWs in the US, US meatpacking plant, and clinical studies of rodents have all pointed towards **universal masking in reducing COVID-19 infection rates** and the incidence of symptomatic cases.¹⁴
- A living database has been developed to track **NPIs at the national and regional levels in response to COVID-19** for researchers to use for investigation into PH policy and response analysis. Preliminary analysis can be seen [here](#) (until July 10th). Dashboards from HIT-COVID available [here](#).
- [Recent study](#) found that pre-existing comorbidities, high maternal age, and high body mass index seem to be risk factors for severe covid-19. **Preterm birth rates are high in pregnant women with covid-19** than in pregnant women without the disease (BMJ live review- updated with emerging evidence).
- Recent study of **young adults** (ages 18-34) with COVID-19 found 21% required intensive care, 10% required mechanical ventilation, and 2.7% died. Rates lower than older ages, but double of what would be expected for young adults with acute myocardial infarction. Morbid obesity, hypertension, and diabetes were common risk factors.¹⁵
- No statistical differences were found in rates of hospitalization, admission to ICU and use of ventilator in **children** with seasonal flu and COVID-19 in UK study. The writers encourage efforts to suppress seasonal flu this season alongside COVID-19.¹⁶
- Recent study of mobile data in the US found that stay home and physical distancing orders greatly reduced doubling time of COVID-19 once put in place.¹⁷
- Cohort study has found a statistically significant correlation between **vitamin D deficiency** and relative risk of testing positive for COVID-19, highlighting the need for more clinical studies (Vit D has been found in general to reduce the risk of viral respiratory infection, but it's affect specifically on COVID-19 is still unknown).¹⁸

¹⁴ [NEJM 8 Sep 2020](#)

¹⁵ [JAMA 9 Sep 2020](#)

¹⁶ [JAMA 8 Sep 2020](#)

¹⁷ [JAMA 8 Sep 2020](#)

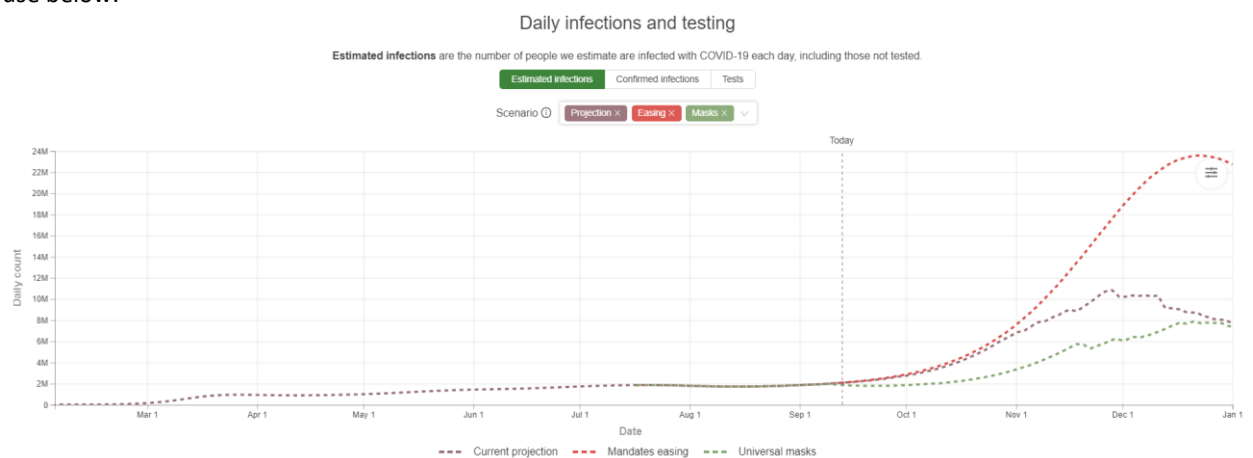
¹⁸ [JAMA 3 Sep 2020](#)

Clinical Trails

- Due to suspected adverse reaction of one trial participant, **AstraZeneca** Covid-19 vaccine study **put on hold**¹⁹
- [Opposition](#) growing among teachers and frontline workers on the distribution and mandatory vaccination campaigns before Phase 3 studies are complete. Results of Phase ½ can be found in [the Lancet](#).
- Chinese vaccination company **SinoVac** announced preliminary results of its **Phase 3 trial of CoronaVac** saying that the vaccine continues to have an acceptable safety profile and more than 90% of study participants have shown antibodies following two doses of the vaccine. The vaccine appears to generate an immune response in older individuals but is not as strong among younger participants. Data has not yet been released.²⁰
 - The candidate has also been offered already to essential workers and employees of the company
- **Nasal spray** vaccine moves on to Phase 1 of human trials in China²¹
- At least 34 vaccines in clinical evaluation (hundreds more in development) globally.
- Ongoing studies to see if BCG vaccine (due to pleiotropic effect) could play a role in training immune response towards COVID as well. Additional studies are recommended throughout flu season to see whether flu vaccine also may have such an effect- especially in elder adults.²²
- Administration of **systemic corticosteroids**, compared with usual care or placebo, was associated with lower 28-day all-cause mortality in critically ill patients with COVID-19.²³

Modeling & Forecasting

- **Projections for the reproductive number and deaths** ([ICL weekly projections](#))
- [IHME projections](#) for daily infections using current trends, easing of mandates and increased mask use below:



Humanitarian Impacts

- **Fire in Moria** refugee & asylum camp displace thousands residents in Greece – reports officials are not letting residents travel due to concerns for COVID-19, raising concerns over COVID-19 spread among affected residents as the first cases in the camp were detected last week²⁴

¹⁹ <https://www.statnews.com/2020/09/08/astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-study-put-on-hold-due-to-suspected-adverse-reaction-in-participant-in-the-u-k/>

²⁰ [Reuters 7 Sep 2020](#)

²¹ ProMed and [https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(20\)31068-0](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(20)31068-0)

²² [NEJM 10 Sep 2020](#)

²³ [JAMA 2 Sep 2020](#)

²⁴ [New Humanitarian](#)

- Added burden of COVID-19 to the health system following devastating locust year and high levels of malnutrition in **Somalia** highlight a worsening humanitarian situation²⁵
- The economic damage and public health disruptions caused by the COVID-19 is tipping these regions into **full-blown famine**, particularly in **Yemen**, **South Sudan**, northeast **Nigeria** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.²⁶
- [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 7 Sep, Operational 9 Sep)

- WHO: [Guidance on the use of Corticosteroids for COVID-19](#)
- WHO: [Infection prevention and control for the safe management of a dead body in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance](#)
- WHO [COVID-19 Partners Platform & Supply Portal](#)
- 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](#)

[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](#)

²⁵ [Guardian](#)

²⁶ [Gavi](#)

[PLOS COVID-19](#)

[ProMed](#)

[WHO](#)

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

[MobLabs](#)

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

[World Meters](#)