

Outbreak Brief #19: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 26 May 2020

5,308,641 cases and 342,151 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (19 May 2020), 686,640 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 27,174 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 5,308,641 COVID-19 cases and 342,151 (CFR: 6.5%) related deaths have been reported worldwide. Worldwide, a total of 215 countries and territories have reported COVID-19 cases. No new country or territory is reporting cases for the first time and two new countries (Central African Republic, Mozambique) and one territory (Reunion) are reporting deaths for the first time this week. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases %) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 394,318(7%), European Region 2,025,176 (38%), Region of the Americas 2,395,295 (45%), South-East Asia Region 201,207 (4%) and Western Pacific Region 175,260 (3%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports².

As of 9 am EAT 26 May 2020, a total of 115,346 COVID-19 cases and 3,471 (CFR: 3%) deaths have been reported in 54 African countries. This is about 2% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief (19 May 2020), 27,164 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 31% increase in new cases reported compared to what was reported in the previous week (13 to 19 May 2020). The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 28% (7,533), Northern region 27% (7,259), Western region 18% (4,965), Eastern region 14% (3,905), and Central region 13% (3,502). Six countries account for 67% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: Algeria (5%), Cameroon (5%), Egypt (19%), Nigeria (7%), Sudan (5%), and South Africa(26%). When population is taken into consideration, Djibouti (250), Sao Tome and Principe (118), Gabon (96), Cabo Verde (64), and Guinea Bissau (60) are reporting the most cumulative COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population within the continent. Five countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 6.5%. Out of these, the case fatality rates for countries with 100 cases or more are: Liberia (10%), Chad (9%), Algeria (7%) and Niger (6.5%). See Table 1 for the full list of countries in Africa reporting cases, deaths, and COVID-19 recoveries in addition to the epidemic phase in each country. Africa

¹ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

² WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

CDC is working with all affected countries and is mobilizing laboratory, surveillance, and other response support where requested.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported in Africa³ 19-26 May 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	12,167 (3,502)	343 (49)	3,226	
Burundi	42 (0)	1 (0)	20	2
Cameroon	4,890 (1,361)	165 (25)	1,865	3
Central African Republic	652 (286)	1 (1)	22	2
Chad	687 (168)	61 (8)	244	3
Congo	487 (96)	16 (1)	147	2
DRC	2,297 (668)	67 (6)	337	3
Equatorial Guinea	719 (197)	7 (1)	22	3
Gabon	2,135 (703)	14 (3)	562	3
Sao Tome and Principe	258 (23)	11 (4)	7	1
Eastern Region	12,809 (3,905)	349 (88)	3,409	
Comoros	87 (76)	1 (0)	21	1
Djibouti	2,468 (950)	14 (7)	1,079	2

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (19 May 2020, 9am)

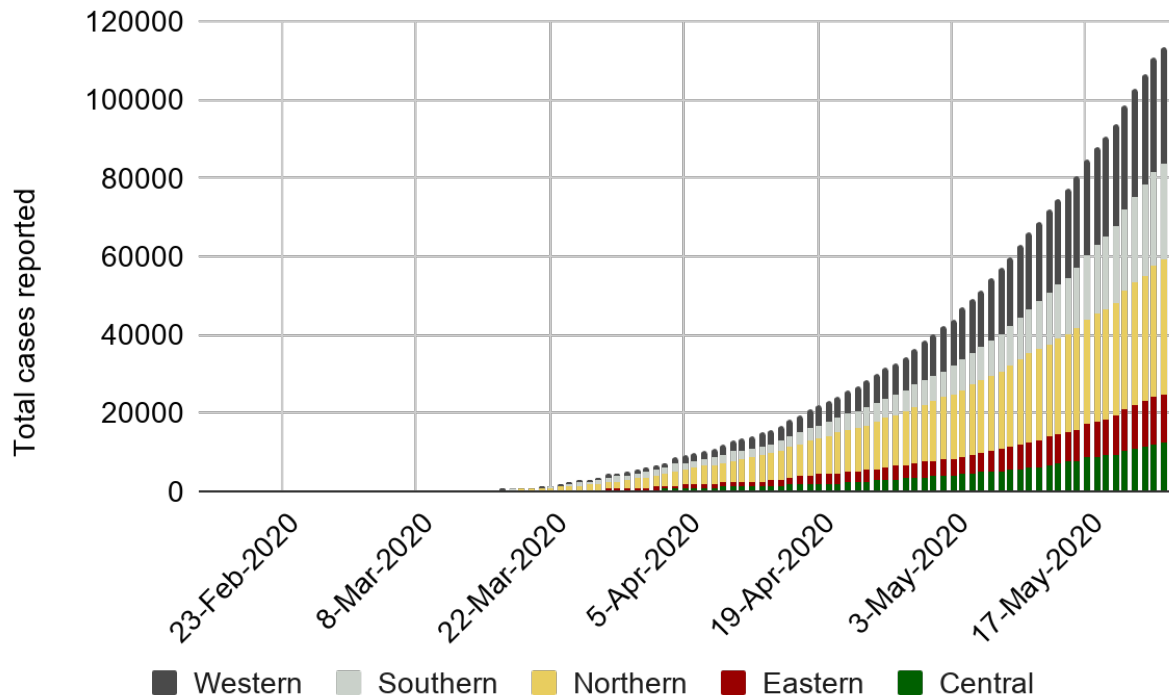
⁴ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing number of imported cases, increased local spread but all cases linked to known transmission chains, outbreak clusters with a known common exposure; **Phase 3 (Advancing outbreak)**: localized outbreaks start to merge, one or more cases or deaths occur outside known transmission, multiple generations in transmission chains, cases are detected among severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) case with no known exposure; **Phase 4 (Large outbreak with nationwide transmission)**: widespread sustained community transmission, multiple generation transmission chains can be identified but most cases occurring outside of chains, community-wide transmission throughout all or nearly all of the country

Eritrea	39 (0)	-	39	2
Ethiopia	655 (303)	5 (0)	159	3
Kenya	1,286 (374)	52 (2)	402	3
Madagascar	542 (210)	2 (1)	147	2
Mauritius	334 (2)	10 (0)	322	3
Rwanda	336 (39)	-	238	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	11	2
Somalia	1,689 (234)	66 (9)	235	2
South Sudan	655 (370)	8 (4)	6	2
Sudan	3,976 (1,385)	170 (65)	503	2
Tanzania	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	222 (-38)	-	69	3
Northern Region	35,365 (7,259)	1,649 (204)	15,395	
Algeria	8,503 (1,302)	609 (54)	4,747	3
Egypt	17,967 (5,203)	783 (138)	4,900	2
Libya	75 (10)	3 (0)	40	2
Mauritania	237 (156)	6 (2)	15	2
Morocco	7,532 (580)	200 (8)	4,774	2
Tunisia	1,051 (8)	48 (2)	919	3
Southern Region	25,285 (7,533)	504 (199)	12,597	
Angola	70 (20)	4 (2)	18	1
Botswana	35 (10)	1 (0)	19	2
Eswatini	256 (51)	2 (0)	158	2

Lesotho	2 (1)	-	-	1
Malawi	101 (31)	4 (1)	37	2
Mozambique	209 (64)	1 (1)	71	2
Namibia	21 (5)	-	14	2
South Africa	23,615 (7,1824)	481 (195)	11,917	3
Zambia	920 (159)	7 (0)	336	3
Zimbabwe	56 (10)	4 (0)	27	2
Western Region	29,720 (4,965)	626 (99)	11,799	
Benin	191 (-148)	3 (1)	84	3
Burkina Faso	841 (45)	52 (1)	690	3
Cape Verde	390 (62)	3 (0)	155	2
Côte d'Ivoire	2,423 (304)	30 (2)	1,257	3
Gambia	25 (1)	1 (0)	17	1
Ghana	6,808 (1,073)	32 (3)	2,070	3
Guinea	3,275 (479)	20 (4)	1,673	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,173 (135)	6 (0)	42	3
Liberia	265 (36)	26 (4)	141	3
Mali	1,059 (185)	67 (15)	604	3
Niger	951 (42)	62 (7)	786	3
Nigeria	8,068 (1,893)	233 (42)	2,311	3
Senegal	3,130 (5,868)	36 (10)	1,515	3
Sierra Leone	735 (216)	42 (9)	293	2
Togo	386 (56)	13 (1)	161	3
Total	115,346 (27,164)	3,471 (639)	46,426	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 23 Feb - 26 May 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General

1. Released the [“COVID-19 Guidance for Educational Settings”](#) and [“COVID-19 Guidance for the Transportation Sector”](#) this week.
2. Developed “Guidance on Easing of Lockdowns”, to be released this week.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

3. The eleventh webinar on Clinical Community of Practice entitled “Children and Young People’s Care During COVID-19 and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome” was held on 21 May 2020 at 1:30pm EAT and attended by 322 clinicians from all 55 Member States.
4. Africa CDC held midweek office hours for the Clinical Community of Practice (CCoP) on Wednesday 20 May 2020 to discuss COVID-19 vaccines and immunity and clinical experiences in the field with clinicians from across the continent.
5. Developed “Guidance for the Continuation of Essential Health Services during COVID-19 Pandemic”, to be released this week.
6. Developed a health advisory on the “Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children and Adolescents Temporally Related to COVID-19”, to be released this week.

7. Africa CDC distributed 300 ventilators donated by the Jack Ma Foundation to Member States on 19 May 2020.

Infection Prevention and Control

8. Africa CDC is supporting Member States to conduct training for infection prevention and control whereby Zimbabwe completed in country training last week, Cameroon is scheduled to complete this week while South Sudan will commence in country training at the beginning of June.

Laboratory:

9. Distribution of laboratory supplies, equipment and reagents to Member States from Jack Ma Foundation (extraction, detection, VTMs and swabs), Illumina (pathogen genomics equipment and reagents for 10 Member States) and TIB Molbiol (PCR detection kits for 149,000 tests) was completed last week.
10. Africa CDC has initiated procurement for GeneXpert cartridges for 14,400 tests.
11. Hosted two webinars titled “*Key considerations for expanding COVID-19 PCR diagnostic capacity to the subnational level: Ethiopia experience*” on Thursday 22 May at 3pm EAT and “*Procurement and supply chain for COVID-19 diagnostics*” on Wednesday 20 May at 4pm EAT in collaboration with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) and International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP). More than 380 and 450 participants respectively. The next webinar to discuss “*Face mask during COVID-19*” will be held on 26 May 2020. Registration link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiScI3lzx>
12. Africa CDC worked with the African Taskforce for COVID-19 Response (AFTCOR) Laboratory TWG to develop a draft document on quality assurance for COVID-19 testing and biobanking.

Surveillance:

13. Africa CDC held its 6th surveillance webinar entitled “*Leveraging the DHIS-2 platform for COVID-19 surveillance data use*” on Wednesday, 20 May 2020 at 4pm EAT for more than 635 participants from 48 AU Member States. The french version was held on Friday, 22 May 2020 at 4pm EAT.
14. Africa CDC will hold its 7th surveillance webinar titled “*Introducing the Go.Data platform for COVID-19 surveillance*” on Wednesday 27 May 2020 at 4pm EAT. The french version will be held on Friday 29 May 2020 at 4pm EAT. Registration for this webinar can be done at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RbXV0-NSRCSdgahWD7I30w.
15. The Africa CDC AFTCOR Surveillance TWG met and agreed that Africa CDC and WHO should work on joint technical guidelines that go to the African Union Member States for the implementation of different surveillance strategies.

Risk Communication

16. The 12th COVID-19 continental update press briefing with the Africa CDC director and journalists was held on 21 May 2020. The next press briefing will be held on Thursday, 28 May 2020 at 10am EAT.

17. Africa CDC has launched campaigns focusing on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and testing in partnership with Facebook as well as on countering COVID-19 myths and rumours in partnership with Access Challenge.
18. The second risk communication webinar focusing on countering rumours in reporting COVID-19 for journalists was held last week.

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should enhance their surveillance⁵ to include COVID-19⁶ and for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁷. Examples of enhanced surveillance include:
 - a. Adding questions about travel, contact history, and testing for coronaviruses to existing influenza surveillance systems;
 - b. Notifying healthcare facilities to immediately inform local public health officials about persons who meet the case definition for COVID-19, SARI and/or have recent travel to a country with local transmission or history of contact with a case.
2. Member States should continue to enhance surveillance at the borders to screen incoming travelers for severe respiratory illness and a history of recent travel to affected countries or territories reporting local or community transmission.
3. Member States should perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.⁸
4. Notify WHO and Africa CDC immediately if suspected or confirmed cases of infection with novel coronavirus are identified. Africa CDC should be notified by emailing AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
5. Provide guidance to the general public about seeking immediate medical care and informing healthcare providers about recent travel or contact history in anyone who develops symptoms of severe respiratory illness.

Resources for more information:

Africa CDC Resources

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Multimedia: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19-multimedia/>
- Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

⁵Africa CDC Protocol for enhanced surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa: <https://africacdc.org/download/protocol-for-enhanced-severe-acute-respiratory-illness-and-influenza-like-illness-surveillance-for-covid-19-in-africa/>

⁶WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

⁷WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$) and cough with symptom onset within the last 10 days that requires hospitalization. https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/ili_sari_surveillance_case_definition/en/

⁸Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

Other Resources

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>