

Outbreak Brief #80: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 27 July 2021

Global case count: 194,117,186 cases and 4,163,226 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (20 July 2021), **3,486,084** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **69,355** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of **194,117,186** COVID-19 cases and **4,163,226** related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2.1%) have been reported from 225 countries and territories to the World Health Organization (WHO). The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: **Eastern Mediterranean Region** 10,461,251 (5%), **European Region** 59,115,914 (30%), **Region of the Americas** 76,090,220 (39%), **South-East Asia Region** 37,641,711 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 4,246,682 (2%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (488,918), Brazil (328,086), Indonesia (283,000), India (267,033) and the United Kingdom (263,973). For more detailed information on cases and deaths reported outside of Africa, refer to the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

As of 9 a.m. East African Time (EAT) 27 July 2021, a total of 6,507,319 COVID-19 cases and 165,294 deaths (**CFR: 2.5%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3% of all cases and 4% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-four (44%) AU Member States are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Fifty-three (96%) AU Member States are reporting community transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Fifty-four (98%) AU Member States have experienced at least a second wave, 31 (56%) have experienced the third wave, and two countries (Algeria and Tunisia) have experienced the fourth wave of COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by AU region from 15 February 2020 to 27 July 2021. More information on the COVID-19 situation in Africa is available on the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).

¹ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.7>

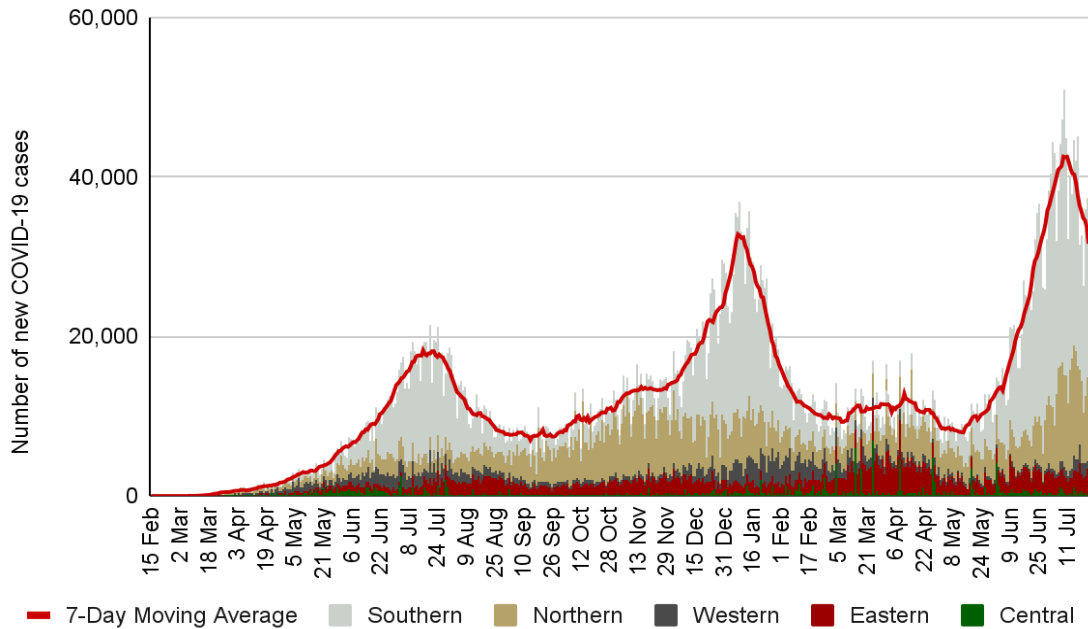


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 27 July 2021².

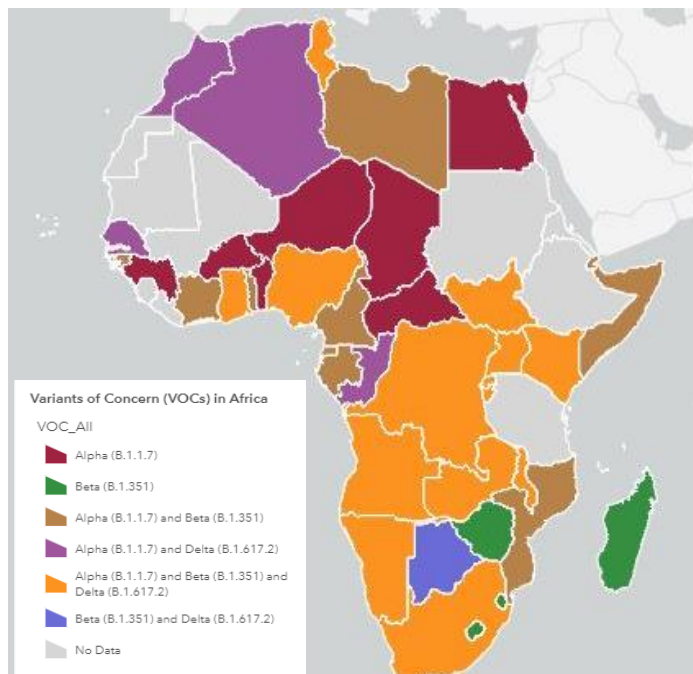


Figure 2: SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern³ reported in African Union Member States, as of 21 July 2021.

As of 21 July 2021, 45 AU Member States (Figure 2) have reported the presence of the Alpha (38 Member States), Beta (32 Member States), and/or Delta (21 Member States) variant of concern (VOC).

The Pathogen Genomics Dashboard provides a breakdown of variant types reported by Member State. More information on SARS-CoV-2 sequencing in Africa is available on the [Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative Dashboard](#).

² The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 27 July 2021

³ Variant of concern: a SARS-CoV-2 virus variant that is associated with one or more of the following: increase in transmissibility or changes in the epidemiology of COVID-19; increase in virulence or change in clinical disease presentation; or decrease in effectiveness of public health and social measures or available diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics.

For Epi week 29 (19 - 25 July 2021), 236,506 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, a 16% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 28. Most new COVID-19 cases reported for this week are from the Southern Region (58%), followed by the Northern (29%), Eastern (7%), Western (5%) and Central (1%) regions. This week, six countries account for 69% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (35%), Tunisia (10%), Morocco (9%), Zimbabwe (6%), Mozambique (5%), and Botswana (4%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (513), Botswana (426), Tunisia (209), Libya (175), Namibia (166) and Eswatini (156). Table 2 summarizes the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by Member State and Region in Africa and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 29.

Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths⁴ reported in Africa for epidemiology week 29 (19 - 25 July 2021).

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 28	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 28
Central Region	202,528 (2,658)	-15%	3,136 (6)	-86%
Burundi	6,128 (326)	68%	8 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	82,064 (0)	-100%	1,334 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	11,135 (19)	-53%	98 (0)	NA*
Chad	4,969 (5)	-50%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	13,117 (67)	-43%	176 (0)	-100%
Democratic Republic of Congo	48,503 (2,147)	6%	1,023 (5)	-85%
Equatorial Guinea	8,863 (15)	-55%	123 (0)	-100%
Gabon	25,325 (65)	-32%	163 (1)	NA*
Sao Tome and Principe	2,424 (14)	-22%	37 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	784,361 (17,267)	-5%	16,653 (374)	-16%
Comoros	4,081 (2)	-94%	147 (0)	-100%

⁴ Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability, thus may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 28	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 28
Djibouti	11,635 (8)	-33%	155 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	6,495 (93)	-21%	33 (3)	200%
Ethiopia	278,543 (847)	36%	4,369 (12)	-14%
Kenya	197,409 (4,651)	16%	3,865 (90)	70%
Madagascar	42,669 (61)	-44%	944 (3)	-63%
Mauritius	3,735 (1,166)	195%	19 (0)	-100%
Rwanda	65,207 (7,885)	-13%	742 (93)	4%
Seychelles	17,747 (513)	-8%	89 (8)	14%
Somalia	15,203 (80)	-8%	789 (8)	100%
South Sudan	10,917 (0)	-100%	117 (0)	NA*
Sudan	37,138 (-202)	-157%	2,776 (-18)	-190%
Tanzania	858 (349)	NA*	29 (8)	NA*
Uganda	92,724 (1,814)	-33%	2,579 (167)	-33%
Northern Region	1,860,393 (68,644)	-23%	52,923 (1,590)	9%
Algeria	162,155 (8,846)	22%	4,063 (125)	23%
Egypt	284,024 (321)	-47%	16,487 (41)	-18%
Libya	236,961 (12,041)	-34%	3,398 (99)	77%
Mauritania	23,755 (1,118)	16%	535 (26)	86%
Morocco	579,272 (21,640)	43%	9,589 (139)	72%
Tunisia	573,394 (24,641)	-47%	18,804 (1,160)	1%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	832 (37)	-10%	47 (0)	-100%
Southern Region	3,123,466 (137,068)	-15%	85,321 (4,426)	7%

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 28	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 28
Angola	41,780 (975)	15%	984 (27)	23%
Botswana	102,124 (10,222)	-13%	1,485 (157)	109%
Eswatini	23,005 (1,873)	54%	752 (40)	100%
Lesotho	12,880 (390)	-33%	363 (18)	80%
Malawi	48,637 (5,167)	21%	1,480 (142)	61%
Mozambique	110,288 (10,876)	3%	1,282 (164)	21%
Namibia	116,964 (4,140)	-30%	2,834 (302)	-41%
South Africa	2,377,823 (82,728)	-17%	69,775 (2,916)	13%
Zambia	192,071 (6,422)	-35%	3,272 (188)	-28%
Zimbabwe	97,894 (14,275)	-10%	3,094 (472)	8%
Western Region	518,848 (10,869)	-7%	6,750 (111)	21%
Benin	8,324 (80)	371%	107 (0)	-100%
Burkina Faso	13,541 (5)	-83%	169 (0)	-100%
Cape Verde	33,577 (275)	-7%	298 (3)	-50%
Côte d'Ivoire	49,592 (396)	-6%	324 (4)	100%
Gambia	7,333 (413)	-30%	208 (18)	260%
Ghana	102,103 (2,129)	14%	823 (5)	-58%
Guinea	24,878 (68)	-90%	197 (2)	-88%
Guinea-Bissau	4,212 (160)	52%	74 (1)	-67%
Liberia	5,396 (0)	-100%	148 (0)	-100%
Mali	14,542 (29)	-42%	530 (0)	-100%
Niger	5,599 (26)	-26%	195 (1)	NA*
Nigeria	171,111 (1,579)	61%	2,132 (5)	67%
Senegal	57,263 (5,167)	-13%	1,281 (61)	135%
Sierra Leone	6,228 (42)	-77%	118 (3)	-40%

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 28	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 28
Togo	15,149 (500)	32%	146 (8)	60%
Total	6,489,596 (236,506)	-16%	164,783 (6,507)	5%

*No new cases/deaths reported in the previous week.

Public Health and Social Measure (PHSM) Highlights

Table 3 below highlights changes in PHSMs for selected countries based on data from the [Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker](#). An up arrow indicates new PHSMs were announced; a horizontal arrow indicates PHSM was extended; a down arrow indicates PHSMs were loosened/expired. Member States are organized by tiers based on current epidemiological data from 17 - 23 July 2021.

Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 17 - 23 July 2021.

Country	PHSM Trend	PHSM Change
Tier 4 (High Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day ≥ 80 and/or positivity rate $\geq 12\%$		
Mozambique	→	Mozambique <u>extended</u> COVID-related restrictions until 17 August amid increasing transmission. Measures include a nationwide nightly curfew, suspension of religious services, a ban on public gatherings and events of more than 15 people indoors and 30 people outdoors, and capacity restrictions on certain businesses.
Tunisia	↑	Amid increasing COVID-19 transmission, authorities in Tunisia have <u>closed</u> some Mediterranean beaches to prevent public gathering. Prayers for Eid al-Adha have also been <u>banned</u> .
Zimbabwe	↑	Zimbabwe <u>imposed</u> stricter capacity limits on government office buildings, allowing only 10% of civil servants to report to the office while the remainder must work from home. Officials have mandated that government workers receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
Tier 3 (Moderate Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to $<12\%$		
Algeria	↑	Officials <u>tightened</u> nightly curfew measures in 24 provinces in Algeria . The curfew was extended for an additional 10 days, until 30 July, and now runs from 23:00-4:00.

Mauritania	↑	Eid al-Adha prayers have been banned in Mauritania to prevent additional COVID-19 transmission.
Morocco	↑	Beginning 23 July, Morocco will tighten COVID-19 restrictions to reduce transmission. Measures include a nightly curfew, bans on funerals and weddings, capacity limits at restaurants and other businesses, and restrictions on inter-city travel for unvaccinated folks.
Tier 2 (Low Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		
Tier 1 (Standard Precautions): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is <3%		
Nigeria	↑	Officials in Nigeria have put six states and the FCT on "red alert" after the emergence of the Delta variant. Recommendations include decentralization of Eid al-Adha prayers to avoid public gatherings, strengthened enforcement of current individual protective measures, and increased vigilance at border posts.

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) hosted Africa CDC's weekly press briefing on Thursday 22 July 2021. He was joined by H.E. Jessye Lapenn, Ambassador and the Head of the United States (US) mission to the African Union (AU) and Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, African Union Special Envoy on COVID-19. They discussed the deliveries of the US vaccine donations to AU Member States, the US AU mission's partnership with Africa CDC in the fight against COVID-19, and COVID-19 vaccine acquisition and distribution in Africa. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. The Africa CDC team in Sierra Leone met with H.E. Dr. Austin Demby, the Minister of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone on Thursday 22 July 2021 to discuss areas of collaboration for COVID-19 response in Sierra Leone.
3. As of 27 July 2021, 51 (93%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 64 million doses have been administered, giving a coverage of 2.5% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 45 million have received the first dose and 19 million have received the second dose. Tanzania, Saharawi Republic, Eritrea, and Burundi are the four AU Member States yet to start the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

Laboratory:

1. Over 58.1 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate⁵ and test per case ratio⁶ are 11.2% and 9, respectively. For Epi week 29, a total of 1,270,258 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 22% compared to Epi week 28 when 1,621,177 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC held a training on antigen testing for 51 participants in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and 68 participants in Nigeria on 19 - 22 July 2021.
3. Africa CDC held the second regional meeting for the COVID-19 Testing Laboratories Certification Program in Accra, Ghana for 20 participants on 19 - 21 July 2021. Twenty participants from 15 AU Member States were trained.
4. Africa CDC commenced the distribution of one million antigen test kits and 300,000 RT-PCR reagents procured through UNICEF to 47 Member States.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. Africa CDC provided 30 oxygen concentrators to Namibia and Sierra Leone as part of the response to the third wave of COVID-19 in these Member States.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC and partners held the first session of the eighth IPC webinar series titled "The role of IPC professionals in a rapid response team for 296 participants in English on Wednesday, 21 July 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT. The French session for 108 participants was held on Thursday 22 July 2021 at 2 pm EAT.
2. Africa CDC and partners will hold the second session of the eighth IPC webinar series titled "Building Back Better: post pandemic resilience and addressing vaccine hesitancy among health workers" on Wednesday 28 July 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session. Register [here](#). The French session will be held on Thursday 29 July 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Access the biweekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update [here](#).
2. Subscribe [here](#) to receive the weekly Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) update and all other products, or visit the [PERC](#) and [Africa CDC website](#).

Recommendations for the Member States

1. Member States should continue to enhance their COVID-19⁷ surveillance efforts to include:

⁵ [Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)

⁶ WHO set 10-30 tests per every confirmed case as a general benchmark of adequate testing.

⁷ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

- a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).⁸
 - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.⁹
 - c. Genomic surveillance¹⁰ to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing¹¹ of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity and enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests¹².
 3. All Member States should notify and routinely share data with WHO and Africa CDC regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and infected healthcare workers for updated information for action. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
 4. Member States should continue to guide the general public about seeking immediate medical care for those who develop severe symptoms (e.g. difficulty breathing).
 5. Member States should put in place or strengthen existing public health and social measures if COVID-19 incidence starts to rise.

Resources for more information

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Adapted Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/adapted-africa-joint-continental-strategy-for-covid-19-pandemic/>
- Africa CDC Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>
- Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) <https://preventepidemics.org/covid19/perc/>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

⁸ Africa CDC Protocol for enhanced surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa: [Protocol for Enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa – Africa CDC](#)

⁹ Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC

¹⁰ Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

¹¹ Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

¹² [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)