

## Outbreak Brief #90: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 5 October 2021

**Global case count: 234,704,277 cases and 4,800,846 deaths**

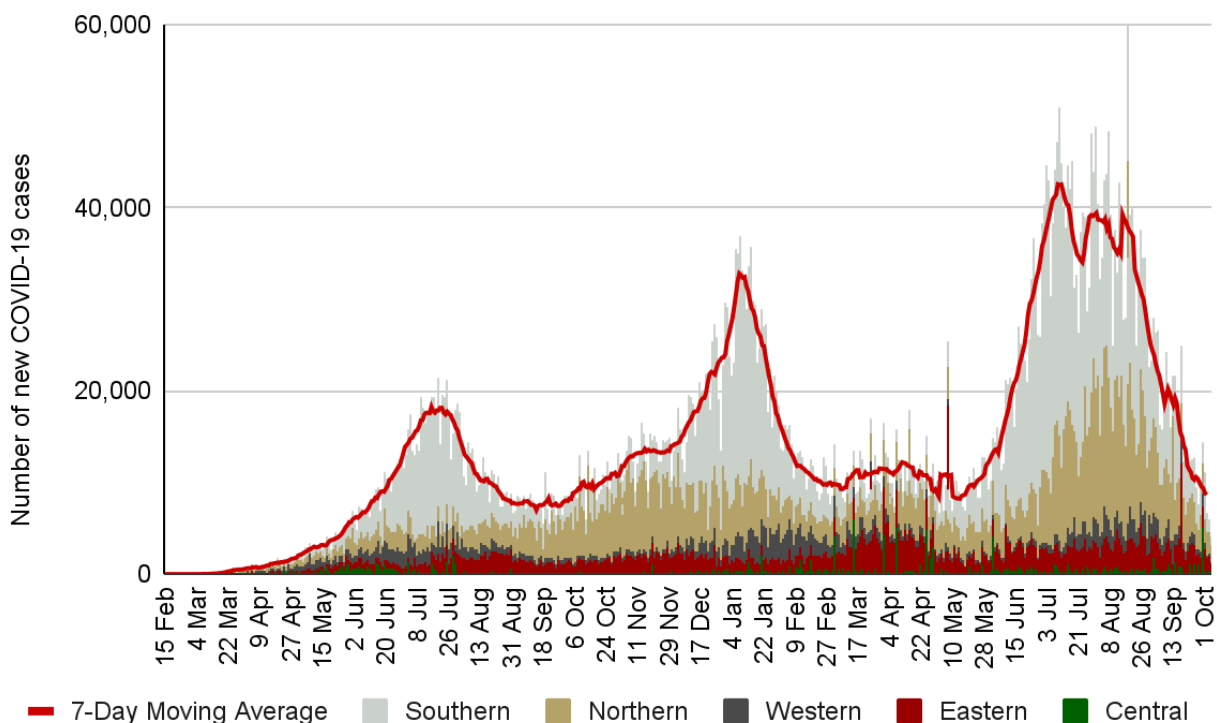
*Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States*

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (28 September 2021), **3,043,020** new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **53,202** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of 234,704,277 COVID-19 cases and 4,800,846 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2%) 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** 13,483,966 (6%), **European Region** 70,673,085 (30%), **Region of the Americas** 90,379,175 (39%), **South-East Asia Region** 43,156,488 (18%) and **Western Pacific Region** 8,647,273 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (644,530), The United Kingdom (236,450), Turkey (198,767), the Russian Federation (159,174) and India (155,916). 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) 5 October 2021**, a total of 8,343,967 COVID-19 cases and 212,484 deaths (CFR: **2.5%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3.6% of all cases and 4.4% of all deaths reported globally. Twenty-seven (49%) AU Member States are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 54 (98%) AU Member States have experienced at least a second wave, 44 (80%) have experienced a third wave and seven countries (Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Somalia and Tunisia) have experienced a fourth wave of COVID-19 cases. Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by AU region from 15 February 2020 to 5 October 2021. The overall daily number of new cases being reported across the continent has continued to decline. More information on COVID-19 situation in Africa is available on the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).

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<sup>1</sup> 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 - 5 October 2021<sup>2</sup>.**

As of 29 September 2021, 51 AU Member States have reported the presence of the Alpha (45 Member States), Beta (38 Member States), Delta (40 Member States), and/or Gamma (2 Member State) Variants 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](#).

**For Epi week 39 (27 September - 3 October 2021), 65,614 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 16% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 38. The Southern Region accounted for 31% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Northern (30%), Eastern (20%), Central (13%) and Western (6%) regions. This week, seven countries accounted for 60% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (14%), Ethiopia (11%), Morocco (9%), Egypt (8%), Libya (7%), Angola (6%) and Lesotho (5%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (313), Lesotho (145), Sao Tome and Principe (99) and Gabon (88). Table 1 summarises 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 39.**

<sup>2</sup> The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 5 October 2021.

**Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths<sup>3</sup> reported in Africa for epidemiological week 39 (27 September - 3 October 2021).**

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 38	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 38
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>245,751 (8,198)</b>	<b>107%</b>	<b>3,430 (85)</b>	<b>215%</b>
Burundi	18,271 (766)	-1%	14 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	92,303 (4,120)	NA*	1,459 (48)	NA*
Central African Republic	11,371 (0)	-100%	100 (0)	NA*
Chad	5,044 (11)	175%	174 (0)	NA*
Congo	14,561 (317)	38%	199 (6)	200%
Democratic Republic of Congo	57,076 (129)	-69%	1,087 (3)	-73%
Equatorial Guinea	12,532 (726)	-2%	150 (8)	60%
Gabon	31,058 (1,932)	30%	194 (16)	433%
Sao Tome and Principe	3,535 (197)	-34%	53 (4)	-33%
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>1,018,403 (12,985)</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>21,624 (464)</b>	<b>-9%</b>
Comoros	4,155 (27)	23%	147 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	12,922 (669)	214%	171 (9)	200%
Eritrea	6,722 (28)	22%	42 (2)	NA*
Ethiopia	348,669 (6,955)	-21%	5,722 (321)	18%
Kenya	250,114 (1,653)	-14%	5,140 (38)	-66%
Madagascar	43,597 (27)	-96%	960 (2)	100%
Mauritius	14,108 (423)	-16%	21 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	95,791 (994)	-31%	1,259 (37)	No change

<sup>3</sup> 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 38	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 38
Seychelles	21,570 (313)	0%	115 (0)	-100%
Somalia	20,577 (854)	19%	1,137 (34)	-15%
South Sudan	12,010 (62)	-54%	130 (2)	-71%
Sudan	38,283 (82)	-45%	2,899 (0)	-100%
Tanzania	25,846 (199)	NA*	719 (5)	NA*
Uganda	124,039 (699)	-25%	3,162 (14)	-22%
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>2,534,591 (19,918)</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>68,080 (701)</b>	<b>-22%</b>
Algeria	203,789 (1,017)	-11%	5,822 (45)	-42%
Egypt	306,798 (5,173)	10%	17,436 (249)	15%
Libya	342,558 (4,668)	-20%	4,702 (85)	-15%
Mauritania	36,163 (304)	-23%	778 (10)	400%
Morocco	935,332 (6,027)	-37%	14,339 (172)	-33%
Tunisia	708,203 (2,729)	-42%	24,934 (140)	-42%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,748 (0)	-100%	69 (0)	-100%
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>3,892,565 (20,467)</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>109,594 (1,130)</b>	<b>2%</b>
Angola	58,943 (3,822)	42%	1,577 (76)	-31%
Botswana	179,220 (1,170)	-73%	2,368 (1)	-92%
Eswatini	46,047 (277)	-29%	1,224 (12)	-29%
Lesotho	21,363 (3,043)	808%	650 (247)	NA*
Malawi	61,612 (103)	-29%	2,284 (8)	-47%
Mozambique	150,804 (274)	-46%	1,918 (9)	50%
Namibia	127,862 (489)	3%	3,517 (23)	No change

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 38	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 38
South Africa	2,906,422 (9,479)	-34%	87,780 (728)	-17%
Zambia	209,163 (306)	-21%	3,649 (3)	-63%
Zimbabwe	131,129 (1,504)	-11%	4,627 (23)	-38%
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>649,335 (4,046)</b>	<b>-39%</b>	<b>9,605 (131)</b>	<b>1%</b>
Benin	23,890 (635)	114%	159 (5)	NA*
Burkina Faso	14,341 (142)	-3%	187 (6)	-33%
Cape Verde	37,658 (210)	-38%	342 (8)	100%
Côte d'Ivoire	60,424 (545)	-41%	640 (40)	18%
Gambia	9,935 (5)	-88%	338 (3)	No change
Ghana	127,482 (140)	-88%	1,156 (4)	-69%
Guinea	30,445 (63)	-43%	672 (3)	-73%
Guinea-Bissau	6,112 (9)	-61%	135 (0)	-100%
Liberia	5,799 (0)	-100%	286 (0)	-100%
Mali	15,287 (124)	31%	549 (2)	No change
Niger	6,042 (62)	244%	203 (2)	NA*
Nigeria	206,138 (1,682)	-37%	2,723 (45)	96%
Senegal	73,800 (58)	-40%	1,860 (5)	-50%
Sierra Leone	6,396 (3)	200%	121 (0)	NA*
Togo	25,586 (368)	-41%	234 (8)	-38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,340,645 (65,614)</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>212,333 (2,511)</b>	<b>-6%</b>

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

## **NEW Africa CDC Response Activities**

### **General:**

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with the Government of Kenya launched its Eastern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre (EA-RCC) in Nairobi, Kenya on Friday, 1 October 2021, at 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. EAT. The theme of the event was “Ensuring effective preparedness and response to current public health threats in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic and beyond”.
2. As of 2 October 2021, 53 (95%) out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 151.1 million doses have been administered, giving a coverage of 5.6% of the continental population. Of the doses administered, 92 million have received the first dose and 59.1 million have received the second dose. Eritrea and Burundi are the two 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 72.8 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate<sup>4</sup> and test per case ratio<sup>5</sup> are 11.4% and 8.7, respectively. For Epi week 39, a total of 1,030,595 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 16% compared to Epi week 38 when 1,230,496 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC held its Pathogen Genomic Institute (PGI) webinar series on Pathogen Genomic Surveillance in Africa titled “Enabling Data Sharing for Public Health: Lessons from the VirusSeq Data Portal in Canada” on Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT.
3. Africa CDC in collaboration with Global Health Systems Solution (GHSS) will conduct a training on Antigen testing in Bamako, Mali on 11 - 18 October 2021.

### **Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:**

#### *Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)*

1. Africa CDC held the third session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Impact of COVID-19 and IPC on Emergency Management Team, Laboratory and Other Services” in English on Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for 723 participants. The recording can be accessed [here](#).
2. The third session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Impact of COVID-19 and IPC on Emergency Management Team, Laboratory and other services” in French was held on Thursday 30 September 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT for 110 participants. The recording can be accessed [here](#).

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<sup>4</sup> [Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)

<sup>5</sup> WHO set 10-30 tests per every confirmed case as a general benchmark of adequate testing.



3. Africa CDC will hold the fourth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection, Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices” on Wednesday 6 October 2021 at 1 p.m. EAT for the English language session. Register [here](#).
4. The fourth session of the ninth IPC webinar series titled “Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection, Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices” will be held on Thursday, 7 October 2021 at 2 p.m. EAT for the French language session. 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-19<sup>6</sup> surveillance efforts to include:
  - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).<sup>7</sup>
  - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility and/or community-based surveillance.<sup>8</sup>
  - c. Genomic surveillance<sup>9</sup> to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity as well as enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests<sup>10</sup>.
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](mailto: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.

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<sup>6</sup> [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

<sup>7</sup> 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](#)

<sup>8</sup> Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC

<sup>9</sup> Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

<sup>10</sup> [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

### 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/>
- Africa CDC HotSpot and PHSM Tiers dashboards: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-hotspots/>
- Africa CDC vaccination dashboard: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19-vaccination/>
- Africa CDC pathogen genomics dashboard: <https://africacdc.org/institutes/africa-pathogen-genomics-initiative/>
- 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>