

## Outbreak Brief #107: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

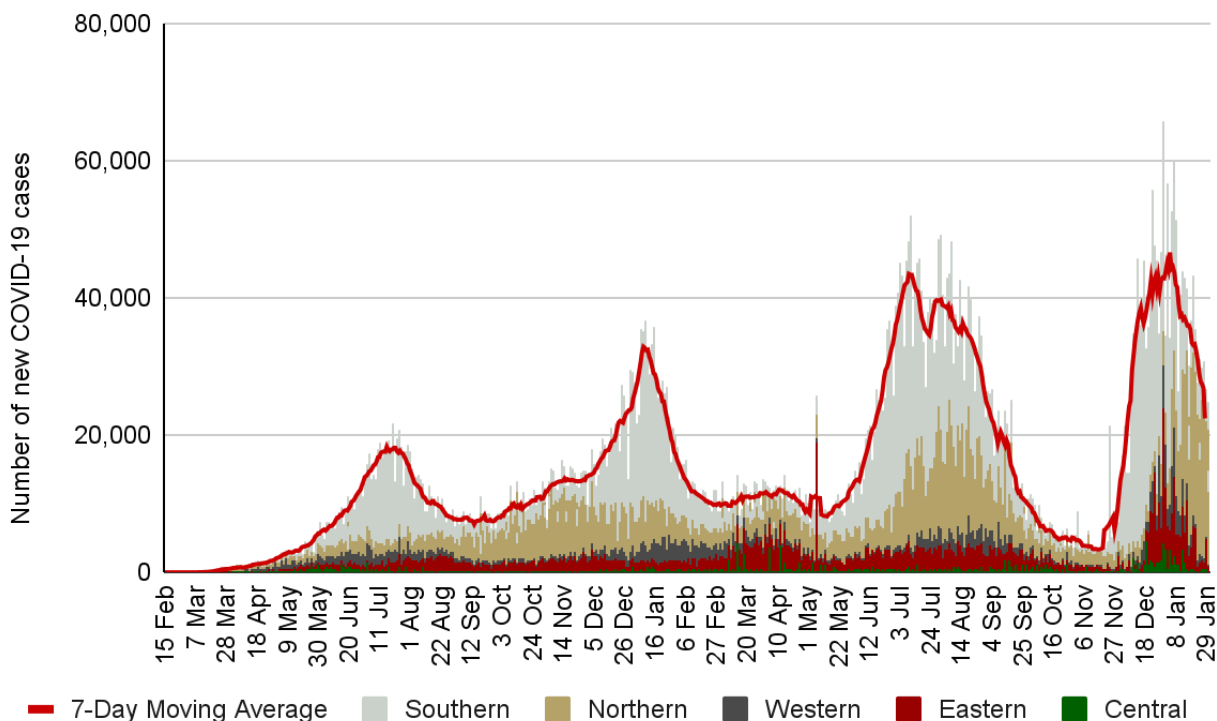
Date of Issue: 1 February 2022

Global case count: 373,180,340 cases and 5,659,292 deaths

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

**Outbreak Update:** As of 31 January 2022, a global total of 373,180,340 COVID-19 cases and 5,659,292 related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 1.5%) have been reported by 227 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** 15,947,365 (4%), **European Region** 143,224,359 (38%), **Region of the Americas** 135,082,663 (36%), **South-East Asia Region** 52,155,418 (14%) and **Western Pacific Region** 15,768,679 (4%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases globally are the United States (3,595,883), France (2,305,238), India (1,759,112), Brazil (1,305,447) and Germany (1,070,693). For more detailed information on cases and deaths reported outside of Africa, refer to the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#).

**As of 6 p.m. East African Time (EAT) 31 January 2022**, a total of **10,785,043** COVID-19 cases and 239,288 deaths (**CFR: 2.2%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 3% of all cases and 4.2% of all deaths reported globally. Thirty-three (60%) AU MS are reporting CFRs higher than the Global CFR. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 53 (96%) AU MS have experienced a third wave, 47 (72%) countries have experienced a fourth wave, and nine countries (Algeria, Benin, Congo Republic, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritius, Somalia and Tunisia) are experiencing a fifth wave of COVID-19 cases. **Figure 1** shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by the AU region from 15 February 2020 to 31 January 2022. The overall daily number of new cases being reported across the continent is on a downward trend. More information on the COVID-19 situation in Africa is available on the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).



**Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 31 January 2022<sup>1</sup>.**

As of 31 January 2022, 53 AU MS have reported the presence of the Alpha (48 MS), Beta (44), Delta (47), and/or Gamma (6) Variants of Concern (VOC). Thirty-nine MS (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) have reported the presence of the Omicron VOC.

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

**For Epi week 4 (24 - 30 January 2022)**, 188,019 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 19% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 3. The Northern Region accounted for 70% of the new COVID-19 cases reported for this week, followed by the Southern (20%), Eastern (7%), Western (2%) and Central (1%) regions. The five countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 1 million population per day) this week are Tunisia (537), Libya (362), Botswana (288), Morocco (119) and Cabo Verde (61). This week, 2,350 new deaths were reported, which is a 1% increase in the number of new deaths reported compared to

<sup>1</sup> The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 31 January 2022.

the previous week. **Table 1** summarizes the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by MS and AU geographic Region in Africa, and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 4.

**Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths<sup>2</sup> reported in Africa for epidemiological week 4 (24 - 30 January 2022).**

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 3	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 3
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>352,713 (5,537)</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>4,396 (6)</b>	<b>-74%</b>
Burundi	37,432 (390)	52%	15 (1)	NA*
Cameroon	116,718 (2,605)	No change	1,880 (0)	-100%
Central African Republic	13,919 (79)	-45%	110 (0)	-100%
Chad	7,073 (186)	17%	190 (0)	-100%
Congo	23,653 (409)	NA*	371 (0)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	85,509 (874)	148%	1,278 (0)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	15,802 (112)	-15%	182 (3)	200%
Gabon	46,722 (813)	3%	301 (1)	No change
Sao Tome and Principe	5,885 (69)	-76%	69 (1)	-50%
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>1,355,886 (13,008)</b>	<b>-51%</b>	<b>26,432 (304)</b>	<b>3%</b>
Comoros	7,832 (21)	-52%	160 (1)	NA*
Djibouti	15,451 (140)	-66%	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,525 (193)	-54%	98 (3)	-63%
Ethiopia	464,930 (2,823)	-41%	7,331 (87)	-10%
Kenya	321,381 (1,152)	-51%	5,583 (29)	-47%
Madagascar	59,319 (3,492)	407%	1,274 (105)	NA*

<sup>2</sup> Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability, thus may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 3	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 3
Mauritius	25,803 (422)	-12%	786 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	124,087 (663)	-64%	1,438 (32)	100%
Seychelles	37,190 (2,823)	-29%	154 (11)	57%
Somalia	24,261 (0)	NA*	1,335 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	16,794 (79)	-65%	137 (0)	-100%
Sudan	55,148 (0)	-100%	3,666 (0)	-100%
Tanzania	32,393 (0)	-100%	753 (0)	-100%
Uganda	161,772 (1,200)	-41%	3,528 (36)	-47%
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>3,200,662 (134,527)</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>77,823 (887)</b>	<b>19%</b>
Algeria	250,774 (14,104)	33%	6,566 (71)	-14%
Egypt	423,688 (13,590)	36%	22,604 (236)	7%
Libya	429,666 (21,908)	126%	6,017 (81)	-2%
Mauritania	58,198 (814)	-66%	953 (26)	8%
Morocco	1,129,140 (30,727)	-38%	15,328 (196)	26%
Tunisia	907,239 (53,334)	-18%	26,271 (272)	49%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	1,957 (50)	NA*	84 (5)	NA*
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>5,051,691 (37,043)</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>119,508 (1,061)</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Angola	98,076 (2,400)	21%	1,895 (11)	-48%
Botswana	250,746 (4,842)	-20%	2,580 (36)	260%
Eswatini	68,342 (261)	13%	1,375 (6)	No change
Lesotho	32,204 (134)	-43%	693 (3)	50%
Malawi	84,420 (597)	-46%	2,558 (35)	-39%
Mozambique	223,811 (1,215)	-65%	2,170 (13)	-57%

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 3	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 3
Namibia	155,899 (644)	-10%	3,967 (53)	-42%
South Africa	3,603,856 (22,497)	2%	95,022 (845)	4%
Zambia	304,922 (3,292)	-40%	3,915 (20)	-43%
Zimbabwe	229,415 (1,161)	-47%	5,333 (39)	-17%
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>823,903 (5,296)</b>	<b>-45%</b>	<b>11,125 (92)</b>	<b>-37%</b>
Benin	26,450 (82)	-75%	163 (1)	NA*
Burkina Faso	20,624 (110)	-58%	366 (13)	-7%
Cape Verde	55,677 (371)	-69%	395 (4)	-79%
Côte d'Ivoire	80,695 (519)	-52%	785 (6)	-77%
Gambia	11,842 (270)	No change	347 (0)	NA*
Ghana	156,920 (1,255)	-1%	1,395 (7)	-71%
Guinea	36,070 (162)	-54%	747 (17)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	7,586 (302)	21%	156 (3)	200%
Liberia	7,254 (46)	-62%	290 (1)	-50%
Mali	30,045 (368)	-66%	711 (6)	-57%
Niger	8,649 (105)	-34%	298 (2)	-50%
Nigeria	253,042 (855)	-32%	3,135 (11)	-48%
Senegal	84,936 (641)	-60%	1,944 (19)	12%
Sierra Leone	7,622 (32)	-50%	125 (0)	NA*
Togo	36,491 (178)	-51%	268 (2)	-60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,784,855 (195,411)</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>239,284 (2,350)</b>	<b>1%</b>

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

### New Africa CDC Response Activities

#### General:

1. Africa CDC held an interactive virtual discussion forum as part of programs marking the celebration of its 5th Anniversary on 31 January 2022 at 5 p.m. EAT. Key topics discussed

include a look at Africa CDC's response to public health issues including outbreaks and pandemic in the past five years, African Union's political leadership in addressing the COVID-19 response and a new public health order for Africa.

2. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC hosted the Africa CDC weekly press briefing on Thursday 27 January 2022 at 12 p.m. EAT. He provided an update on the COVID-19 situation across the continent, including response efforts and updates on the progress of vaccinations across the continent. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Facebook page](#).
3. As of 31 January 2022, 54 (98%) out of 55 AU MS have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, 372.9 million doses have been administered, and of the doses administered, 215.4 million people are partially vaccinated, 147.4 million are fully vaccinated, and 8.2 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 11% of the continental population is fully vaccinated. Eritrea is the only AU MS yet to start COVID-19 vaccine roll out. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

#### Laboratory:

1. Over 95 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate<sup>3</sup> and test per case ratio<sup>4</sup> are 11.3% and 8.8, respectively. For Epi week 4, a total of 1,155,540 new tests were conducted, a decrease of 21% compared to Epi week 3 when 1,402,255 tests were conducted.
2. As part of its Pathogen Genomics Institute (PGI) webinar series, Africa CDC will hold a webinar on Pathogen Genomics in Africa titled "What did we learn from the SARS-CoV-2 Genomes from India" on 2 February 2022 at 2 p.m. EAT. Register [here](#).

#### Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. 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 websites](#).
2. Access the latest PERC report on "Responding to COVID-19 in Africa: Finding the Balance (Part IV) and Calls to Action" [here](#).

#### Recommendations for the Member States

1. AU Member States should continue to enhance their COVID-19<sup>5</sup> surveillance efforts to include:

---

<sup>3</sup> [Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)

<sup>4</sup> WHO set 10-30 tests per every confirmed case as a general benchmark of adequate testing.

<sup>5</sup> [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

- a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).<sup>6</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>7</sup>
  - c. Genomic surveillance<sup>8</sup> to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
  - d. Community-based surveillance<sup>9</sup> to detect symptomatic cases early for treatment and to avert viral transmission.
2. AU 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 AU 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. AU 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. AU 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/>
- Africa CDC Hotspot and PHSM Tiers dashboards: <https://africadccovid.org/>
- 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>

---

<sup>6</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>7</sup> Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC

<sup>8</sup> Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

<sup>9</sup> [Enhanced COVID-19 Surveillance at the Community Level in Africa](#)

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