

Outbreak Brief #122: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 17 May 2022

Global count: 518,879,315 cases and 6,265,568 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: As of 13 May 2022, a total of 518,879,315 COVID-19 cases and 6,265,568 deaths (case fatality ratio [CFR]: 1.2%) have been reported globally by 227 countries and territories to the World Health Organization (WHO). The distribution of cumulative cases (percentage of global cases) from the WHO regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: **Eastern Mediterranean Region** 18,409,461 (4%), **European Region** 218,268,130 (42%), **Region of the Americas** 154,826,856 (30%), **South-East Asia Region** 58,024,697 (11%) and **Western Pacific Region** 57,347,191 (11%). In the last seven days, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases are the United States of America (597,113), China (414,117), Germany (365,432), Japan (273,523) and Italy (258,875). As of 15 May 2022, over 4.6 billion people (58% of the global population) have been fully vaccinated. 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) 16 May 2022, a total of **11,559,637** COVID-19 cases and **252,641** deaths (CFR: **2.2%**) have been reported by the 55 African Union (AU) Member States (MS). This represents 2% of all cases and 4% of all deaths reported globally. Forty (73%) AU MS are reporting CFRs higher than the global CFR. Since the detection of COVID-19 on the African continent (in February 2020), 53 (96%) AU MS have experienced three distinct COVID-19 waves, 47 (72%) MS have experienced four waves, 13 MS have experienced five waves, and one MS (Mauritius) has experienced a sixth wave.

Fifty-three MS have reported COVID-19 cases infected with the Alpha (49 MS), Beta (45), Delta (50), Gamma (3), Omicron (48) variants of concern (VOC). Additionally, 16 MS have detected the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant and two MS (Botswana and South Africa) have detected the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants. More information on SARS-COV-2 sequencing and the breakdown of variants reported by AU MS is available on the [Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative Dashboard](#).

Fifty-four (98%) MS are currently providing COVID-19 vaccination to the general population. Cumulatively, 562.5 million doses have been administered on the continent. Of these doses administered, 306 million people have been partially vaccinated, 233.8 million have been fully vaccinated, and 22.5 million have received a booster dose. Overall, 17.3% of the continental population is fully vaccinated. Eritrea is the only AU MS yet to start COVID-19 vaccination roll out. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

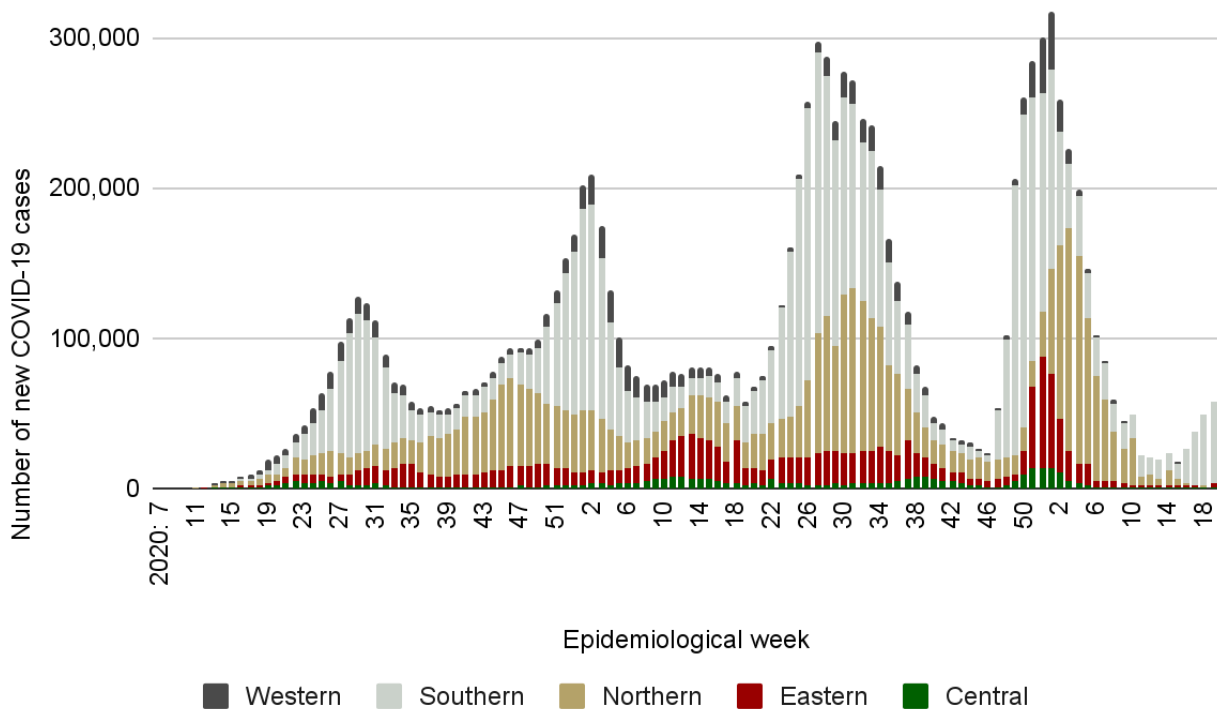


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported in Africa by African Union region and epidemiological week, 15 February 2020 - 15 May 2022.

For Epi week 19 (9 - 15 May 2022), 57,831 new COVID-19 cases were reported, which is a 16% increase in the number of new cases reported compared to the previous week (18) (Figure 1). The Southern region accounted for 93% of the new COVID-19 cases reported this week, followed by the Eastern (4%), Northern (1%), Western (1%) and Central (1%) regions. The increase in the number of new cases reported weekly was primarily driven by an increase in cases in South Africa. Seychelles (565) had the highest number of new daily COVID-19 cases per 1 million population among all MS, followed by South Africa (118), Eswatini (73) and Namibia (57).

Last week, 251 new COVID-19 deaths were reported in Africa, which is a 27% increase in the number of new deaths reported compared to the previous week. Approximately 98% of these deaths were reported from the Southern region. The remaining deaths were reported from the Western (1%), Eastern (0.4%) and Northern (0.4%) regions. There were no deaths reported from the Central region. Cumulative COVID-19 case and death totals and new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during week 19 by AU Member State are summarized in Table 1.

More than 440,000 tests were conducted during the past week, reflecting a 13% decrease in the number of tests compared to the previous week. The weekly % test positivity has increased from 10% to 13%. Since February 2020, over 106.4 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted in Africa. **For more information on the COVID-19 situation in Africa,** please see the Africa CDC [daily dashboard](#) and [hotspot dashboard](#).

Table 1: Number and percentage change of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths reported in Africa since February 2020 and for Epidemiological Week 19 (9 - 15 May 2022) by African Union Member State.

Country by AU Region	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	% change in new cases since week 18	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	% change in new deaths since week 18
Central Region	364,021 (565)	90%	4,531 (0)	NA*
Burundi	41,235 (499)	718%	15 (0)	NA*
Cameroon	119,780 (0)	NA*	1,927 (0)	NA*
Central African Republic	14,365 (1)	-50%	113 (0)	NA*
Chad	7,414 (0)	-100%	193 (0)	NA*
Congo	24,041 (0)	NA*	385 (0)	NA*
Democratic Republic of Congo	87,698 (65)	-70%	1,338 (0)	NA*
Equatorial Guinea	15,910 (0)	-100%	183 (0)	NA*
Gabon	47,608 (0)	-100%	304 (0)	NA*
Sao Tome and Principe	5,970 (0)	-100%	73 (0)	NA*
Eastern Region	1,404,543 (2,408)	198%	27,340 (1)	-75%
Comoros	8,108 (2)	NA*	160 (0)	NA*
Djibouti	15,631 (0)	NA*	189 (0)	NA*
Eritrea	9,745 (8)	167%	103 (0)	NA*
Ethiopia	470,949 (209)	31%	7,510 (0)	NA*
Kenya	324,026 (126)	17%	5,649 (0)	NA*
Madagascar	64,196 (0)	-100%	1,393 (0)	-100%
Mauritius	37,886 (88)	-18%	904 (0)	NA*
Rwanda	125,137 (64)	237%	1,459 (0)	NA*
Seychelles	43,235 (394)	34%	167 (1)	NA*
Somalia	26,485 (0)	NA*	1,361 (0)	NA*
South Sudan	17,525 (35)	21%	138 (0)	NA*
Sudan	62,117 (0)	NA*	3,909 (0)	NA*
Tanzania	35,354 (1,482)	NA*	800 (0)	NA*

Uganda	164,149 (0)	-100%	3,598 (0)	-100%
Northern Region	3,551,313 (676)	-30%	83,643 (1)	-93%
Algeria	265,816 (18)	-83%	6,875 (0)	-100%
Egypt	515,658 (0)	-100%	24,620 (0)	-100%
Libya	501,954 (0)	-100%	6,430 (0)	NA*
Mauritania	58,853 (110)	100%	982 (0)	NA*
Morocco	1,165,795 (548)	100%	16,071 (1)	No change
Tunisia	1,041,197 (0)	-100%	28,575 (0)	-100%
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	2,040 (0)	NA*	90 (0)	NA*
Southern Region	5,401,495 (53,712)	13%	125,778 (247)	38%
Angola	99,194 (0)	NA*	1,900 (0)	NA*
Botswana	263,950 (0)	NA*	2,690 (0)	NA*
Eswatini	71,705 (603)	36%	1,403 (3)	No change
Lesotho	33,305 (90)	15%	698 (0)	-100%
Malawi	85,888 (77)	235%	2,636 (2)	NA*
Mozambique	225,498 (72)	80%	2,201 (0)	NA*
Namibia	160,273 (1,054)	158%	4,029 (2)	No change
South Africa	3,891,793 (50,405)	10%	100,755 (232)	45%
Zambia	320,627 (501)	27%	3,983 (1)	-83%
Zimbabwe	249,262 (910)	60%	5,483 (7)	No change
Western Region	838,206 (470)	42%	11,349 (2)	100%
Benin	26,952 (0)	NA*	163 (0)	NA*
Burkina Faso	20,858 (0)	NA*	381 (0)	NA*
Cape Verde	56,115 (40)	-15%	401 (0)	NA*
Côte d'Ivoire	81,992 (18)	6%	799 (0)	NA*
Gambia	11,999 (4)	NA*	365 (0)	NA*
Ghana	161,310 (39)	-29%	1,445 (0)	NA*
Guinea	36,687 (148)	NA*	780 (1)	NA*
Guinea-Bissau	8,222 (9)	-18%	171 (0)	NA*
Liberia	7,451 (17)	NA*	294 (0)	NA*
Mali	31,004 (67)	-29%	733 (0)	-100%
Niger	9,013 (27)	-37%	310 (1)	NA*
Nigeria	255,859 (57)	58%	3,143 (0)	NA*

Senegal	86,039 (27)	145%	1,966 (0)	NA*
Sierra Leone	7,682 (0)	-100%	125 (0)	NA*
Togo	37,023 (17)	13%	273 (0)	NA*
Total	11,559,578 (57,831)	16%	252,641 (251)	27%

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

New Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC, hosted the Africa CDC weekly press briefing on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 12 p.m. EAT. He provided an update on the COVID-19 situation across the continent, including response efforts and progress on increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Africa CDC published a policy brief on the “Epidemiological and Economic impact of COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out Scenarios in Africa”. Download [here](#)

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. The sixth session of the 12th IPC webinar series titled “*IPC Considerations for Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs)*” was held on Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 1 p.m. EAT for 484 participants in English and on Thursday 12 May 2022, at 2 p.m. EAT for 140 participants in French.
 - a. English session [recording](#)
 - b. French session [recording](#)

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Subscribe [here](#) to receive the 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 organize and implement COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, with a focus on increasing [eligibility](#)¹ and demand needed to achieve 70% vaccine coverage. Member States should also address vaccine misinformation with effective community-based risk communication and vaccine promotion activities.
2. AU Member States are encouraged to implement a tiered public health and social measures (PHSM) approach. This approach will ensure that measures are targeted and informed by the current COVID-19 situation.
3. AU Member States should continue to **enhance COVID-19² surveillance** efforts to include:

¹ [Vaccination Advocacy Infographics – Africa CDC](#)

² [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

- a. [Community-based surveillance](#)³ to detect symptomatic cases early and minimize viral transmission. Where feasible, [rapid antigen tests](#)⁴ and [self-testing](#)⁵ can be used to enhance diagnostic screening efforts.
 - b. [Rapid mortality surveillance](#)⁶ that focuses on collection, analysis and use of all-cause mortality data captured from facility and/or community-based surveillance activities to improve knowledge of COVID-19 related outcomes.
 - c. [Genomic surveillance](#)⁷ to monitor the presence of variants and the spread and continuous evolution of the virus.
 - d. [Syndromic surveillance](#) for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁸ to monitor COVID-19 trends in comparison to other respiratory pathogens.
4. AU Member States are encouraged to:
- a. Continue contact tracing activities where feasible based on the current epidemiological situation and country capacity.
 - b. Inform the general public about the importance of seeking immediate medical care for individuals who develop severe symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. difficulty breathing).
 - c. Engage social scientists to help inform and enhance vaccination campaigns and PHSM implementation.
5. All AU Member States should notify and routinely share data with Africa CDC and WHO on confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and infected healthcare workers to support data for action. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.

³ [Enhanced COVID-19 Surveillance at the Community Level in Africa](#)

⁴ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

⁵ [Interim guidance on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen self-testing to African Union Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁶ [Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for AU Member States – Africa CDC](#)

⁷ [Interim operational guidance on SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance in Africa: An updated guide](#)

⁸ [Protocol for Enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa – 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://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>