



# Short Update 51a COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease 08th of January 2021



## GLOBAL



**88 064 818**  
Confirmed cases  
57 721 600 recovered  
1 889 124 deaths

## USA



(new cases/day 277 507)  
**21 489 877**  
confirmed cases  
8 509 037 recovered  
363 576 deaths

## India



(new cases/day 20 346)  
**10 413 417**  
confirmed cases  
10 037 398 recovered  
150 570 deaths

## Brazil



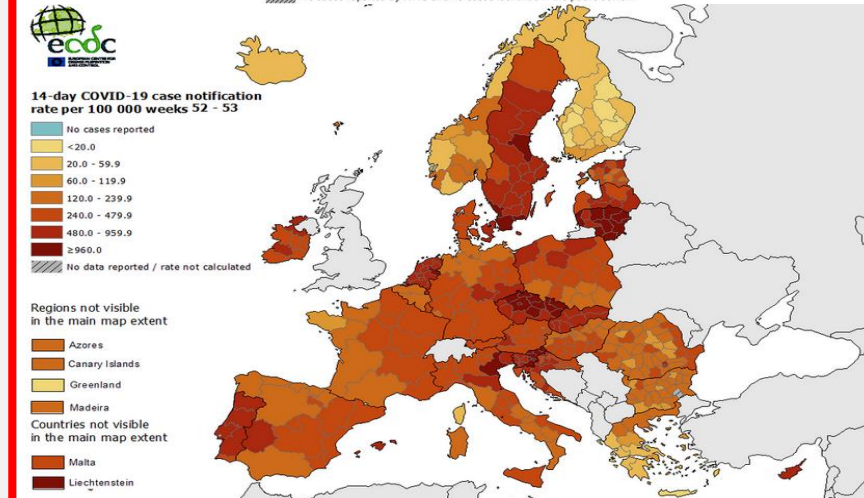
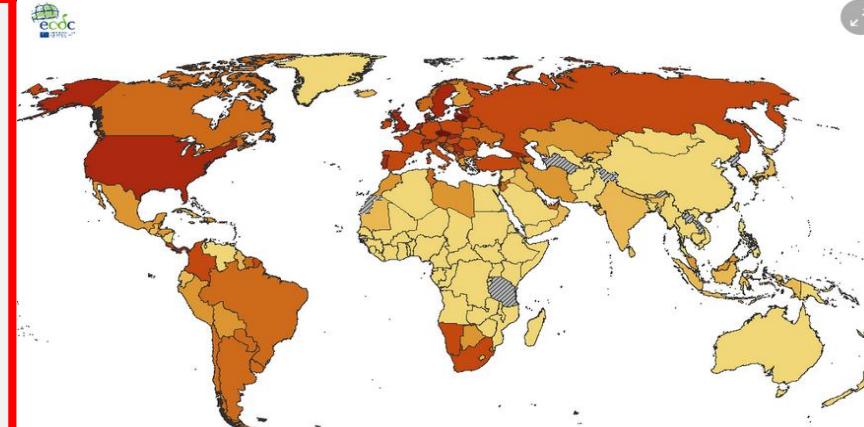
(new cases/day 63 430)  
**7 961 673**  
confirmed cases  
7 081 521 recovered

### News:

- The number of corona deaths registered **worldwide** within one day has reached a new high on Thursday. Around the globe, 15,790 people died within 24 hours of being infected with the corona virus, more than ever before.
- China** continues to delay the entry of experts who are supposed to investigate the origins of the coronavirus on behalf of the WHO. Foreign Office Chinese spokeswoman justified the postponement with necessary preparations.
- EU/EMA:** As a second corona vaccine, the drug from the US manufacturer Moderna is now also approved in the European Union. The EU Commission decided this following the recommendation of the Medicines Agency EMA on Wednesday.
- BioNTech:** According to a new study by the manufacturers, the corona vaccine also protects against the variants of the virus that have emerged in Great Britain and South Africa. So far, 16 different mutations have been tested, none of which had really significant effects.
- WHO:** issues its [first emergency use validation for a COVID-19 vaccine](#) and emphasizes need for equitable global access
- WHO:** With a view to the worldwide release of the Russian vaccine Sputnik V, the WHO is planning its own study with regard to its effectiveness and tolerability.
- ECDC:** Published [vaccination and prioritisation strategies for the EU](#) as well as a first update of the technical report on [COVID-19 in children and the role of school settings in transmission](#) at the end of December 2020.
- CDC:** You will find informations about COVID-19 vaccination in the US using this [link](#).
- WHO's** health emergencies online learning platform: [OpenWHO.org](#).
- Find Articles and other materials about COVID-19 on **our** website [here](#).
- Please use **our** online observation form to report your lessons learned observations as soon as possible [here](#).

### Topics:

- Global situation**
- Subject in Focus:** New SARS-Cov-2 variants of concern and other vaccination news
- Timeline COVID-19 infection**
- In the press**



#### Disclaimer:

This update provided by the NATO Centre of Excellence (NATO MILMED COE) on its website is for general information purposes only and cannot be considered as official recommendation. All national and international laws, regulations, and guidelines as well as military orders supersede this information.

All information is provided in good faith, however, the NATO MILMED COE makes no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability or completeness of any information.

The information published on this website is not intended to substitute professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

The NATO MILMED COE disclaim any liability in connection with the use of this information.

## EUROPE



**27 616 933**  
confirmed cases

**14 348 850**  
recovered  
**589 770** deaths

## Russia

(new cases/day 23 218)



**3 297 833**  
confirmed cases

**2 681 373** recovered  
**459 628** deaths

## GBR

(new cases/day 52 618)



**2 889 419**  
confirmed cases  
**xx** recovered  
**78 508** deaths

## France

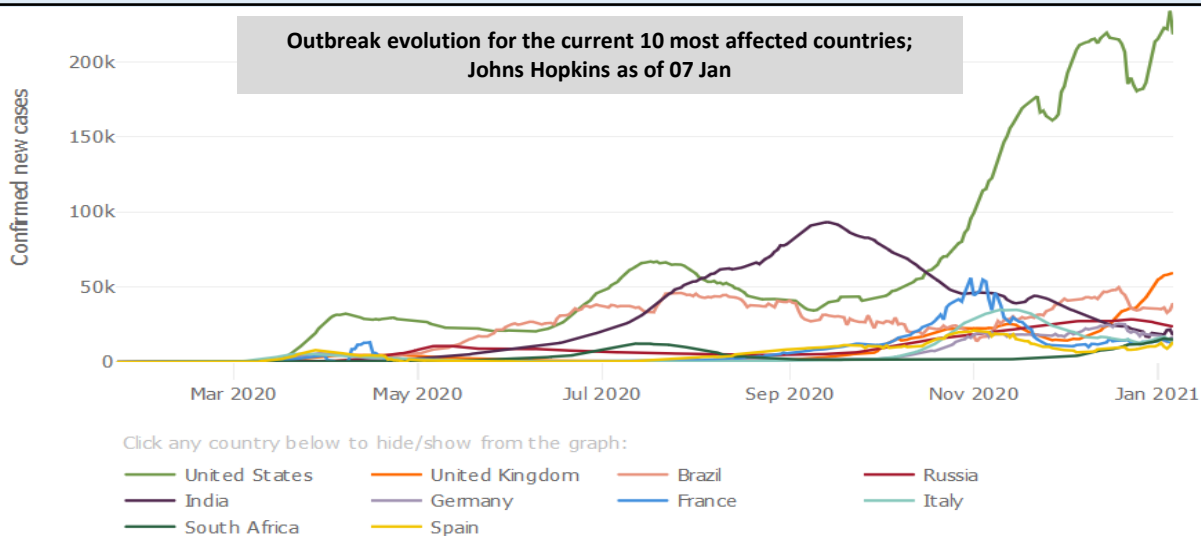
(new cases/day xx)



**2 705 618**  
confirmed cases  
**198 756** recovered  
**66 565** deaths

# Global Situation

Outbreak evolution for the current 10 most affected countries;  
Johns Hopkins as of 07 Jan



**GBR:** The British government will prescribe a negative corona test for all travelers from next week. This must be done within 72 hours before departure. There are exceptions, for example for children under the age of eleven, truck drivers and airline crews. Many of the current new infections are attributed to a new, even more contagious virus variant. A nationwide lockdown has been in effect in England since Wednesday, it is already the third of its kind. People should only leave their houses and apartments to purchase essential goods, go to work or to see a doctor. It is only allowed to stay outdoors for one hour per day for leisure activities like going for a walk or jogging. Schools, fitness and sports facilities are closed, as are many shops. Similar regulations apply in the regions of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Because of the rapidly increasing number of corona patients, hospitals in Great Britain are coming under increasing pressure. Clinics in London in particular are on the verge of overload and could run out of capacity in less than two weeks. Even in the best case scenario, a total of 2,000 beds, including intensive care beds, would be missing in the capital by January 19th.

The UK government has cancelled the GCSE and A-level exams in England for this year. Instead, the performance of students should be rated by their teachers. To support British schools during the new lockdown, the BBC is broadcasting several hours of classes every day. From this Monday onwards, three hours of primary school lessons will be broadcasted every day, plus at least two hours for secondary school students, the broadcaster said. Additionally a million laptops and tablets are to be distributed to schoolchildren whose families cannot afford end devices.

**IRL:** Measures against the spread of the coronavirus are being tightened. Schools have to close and construction sites are not allowed to continue. The measures should apply for at least the next three weeks. This makes the existing lockdown even stricter. Gastronomy and shops are already closed. As a result of the tightening, "click and collect" will be prohibited in future. Only delivery services remain allowed. Travelers coming from the UK or South Africa must present a negative corona test from Saturday onwards. On Thursday, with 7,836 registered corona cases, a maximum number of new infections was reported within one day. The highly contagious variant of the corona virus has also spread further.

**USA:** More than 266.197 new infections within 24 hours have been reported. The number of daily corona deaths rose above the 4,000 mark for the first time.

**California (USA):** The governor of California has announced a one-time payment of \$ 600 for low-income residents of his state. Gavin Newsom said a deferral of evictions will be extended to ease the situation of these people in the corona pandemic.

**CHN:** After more than a hundred coronavirus infections were found in Shijiazhuang, China, the authorities have cordoned off the metropolis. The main access roads to the capital of Hebei Province have been blocked. In addition to the ten motorways, a bus station was also affected by the measures. In addition, all schools in Shijiazhuang have been closed. The 40,000-inhabitant neighborhood is currently the only area in China that is classified as a high-risk area. All Gaocheng residents have been tested for corona.

**JAP:** In Tokyo, the number of new corona infections has risen to a new record level. For the first time, more than 2,000 cases were registered within one day. It was only the day before that the number climbed above the 1,500 mark for the first time. The government wants to decide on the renewed declaration of a state of emergency for the greater Tokyo area today. It is expected to last for around a month, but preparations for the Summer Olympics are set to continue.

## Country reports:

**AFRICA :** According to experts, Africa is currently experiencing a second, far more aggressive wave of corona infections. Around 30,000 new infections are now reported on the continent every day, in mid-July there were around 18,000. However, the number of known cases in Africa is relatively low compared to other parts of the world. However, the test capacities are also limited.

**CZE:** has extended the existing lockdown measures in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic until January 22nd. Currently, a maximum of two people are allowed to meet in public. Shops for non-essential goods, hotels, restaurants and cultural institutions are closed. There is a curfew between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

**POR:** 10,027 new corona cases were registered in Portugal within 24 hours on Thursday - a new high. After easing measures over Christmas, Portugal is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases. In the country with around ten million inhabitants, 513 corona patients are currently being treated in the intensive care units.

**CHE:** plans to extend the lockdown until the end of February. This means that the restaurant, cultural institutions and recreational areas will remain closed. Exceptions for less affected regions will also be overturned.

**DEU:** Has extended the lock down measures until January 31st and tightened them significantly. Meetings are only possible with members of your own household and one additional person at a time, travelers from risk areas must undergo test upon entry (which has to be negative) or present a test not older than 48 hours and must then be quarantined. Schools and kindergartens remain closed. In hot spots with a 7-day incidence of over 200 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants, peoples' freedom of movement is limited to 15 kilometres from the place of residence (except for commute to work and similar important reasons).

# Global Situation

## Global epidemiological situation overview; WHO as of 05 Jan

For the third week in a row over 4 million new cases were reported globally, although this week saw a slight decrease compared to the previous week. However, this and other short-term trends in data should be interpreted with caution owing to the end-of-year holiday season, as numbers may be influenced by presentation, testing and reporting delays. The decrease seen last week in new deaths has been reversed with deaths rising by 3% to 76,000.

The **Region of the Americas** accounted for 47% of all new cases and 42% of all new deaths globally in the past week.

New cases and deaths remained high in the **European Region**, which accounted for 38% and 43% respectively, showing a slight decrease in new cases and a slight increase in new deaths.

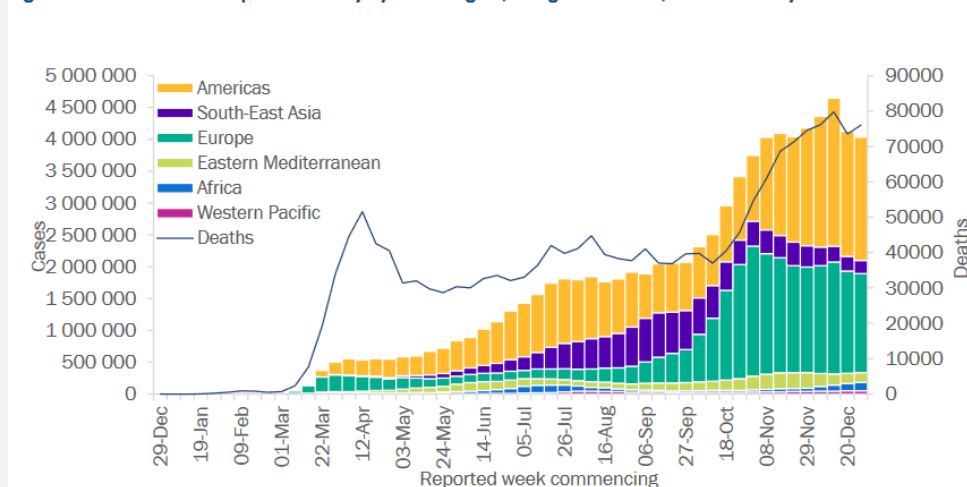
New cases and deaths continue to decline in the **South-East Asia** and **Eastern Mediterranean Regions**.

In the **African Region**, while both new cases and deaths remain low in absolute numbers, for the fourth week in a row, the Region is reporting the largest percentage increase globally in weekly reported case numbers and this week there was a further 13% increase in new cases and 28% increase in new deaths.

In the **Western Pacific Region**, new cases remained comparable to the previous week, but new deaths rose by 10%.

As we welcome the New Year, and look eagerly towards COVID-19 vaccination campaigns worldwide, the current epidemiological situation with near record numbers of new cases and deaths, makes it imperative to continue to adhere to safety measures to prevent further transmission and loss of life.

Figure 1: COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 3 January 2021\*\*



In the past week, the five countries reporting the highest number of cases were:

- **United States of America**; reporting over 1.3 million cases, unchanged from the previous week,
- **GBR**; reported over 343,000 cases, an 36% increase,
- **Brazil**; reported over 252,000 new cases, a 11% decrease,
- **Russian Federation**; over 186,000 new cases, a 7% decrease
- **India**; reported over 136,000 new cases, a 13% decrease and

Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 3 January 2021\*\*

WHO Region	New cases in last 7 days (%)	Change in new cases in last 7 days *	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in last 7 days (%)	Change in new deaths in last 7 days *	Cumulative deaths (%)
Americas	1 935 621 (47%)	-1%	36 337 439 (43%)	32 283 (42%)	3%	872 486 (47%)
Europe	1 553 332 (38%)	-3%	26 885 471 (32%)	32 898 (43%)	3%	588 770 (32%)
South-East Asia	208 592 (5%)	-10%	12 051 014 (14%)	3 756 (4%)	-3%	184 493 (10%)
Eastern Mediterranean	154 695 (3%)	-1%	4 977 852 (5%)	3 057 (4%)	-12%	122 061 (6%)
Africa	130 007 (3%)	13%	1 961 234 (2%)	3 293 (4%)	28%	43 592 (2%)
Western Pacific	52 979 (1%)	0%	1 112 724 (1%)	730 (0%)	10%	20 288 (1%)
<b>Global</b>	<b>4 035 226 (100%)</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>83 326 479 (100%)</b>	<b>76 017 (100%)</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1 831 703 (100%)</b>

## At the turn of the year, the WHO published its goals for 2021:

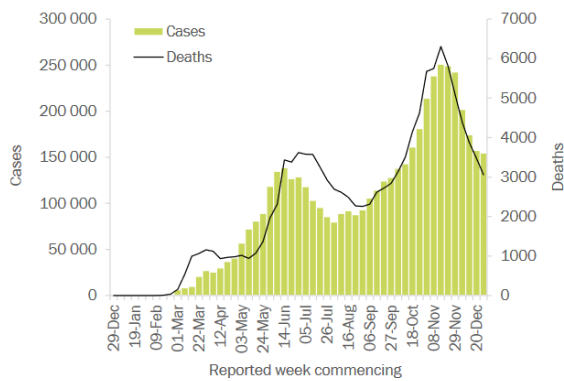
- 1) Better international cooperation, establishment of a bio-database for the exchange of research results.
- 2) Better access to COVID-19 tests and vaccines for low-income countries..
- 3) Strengthening health systems worldwide with a focus on regional care and low-threshold access.
- 4) Remove inequalities, i.e. access to care regardless of income, place of residence, ethnicity, gender, etc.
- 5) Coordination of international research efforts and evidence-based guidelines for ALL diseases.
- 6) Revised 10 year plan to eradicate vaccine-preventable infectious diseases.
- 7) Stepping up the fight against the increasing, globally widespread drug resistance.
- 8) Focus on non-communicable diseases, especially mental illnesses.
- 9) Investigation of the consequences of global climate change and air pollution in the event of pandemic events.
- 10) More solidarity among nation states, authorities and institutions.



# Situation by WHO Region, as of 5<sup>th</sup> January

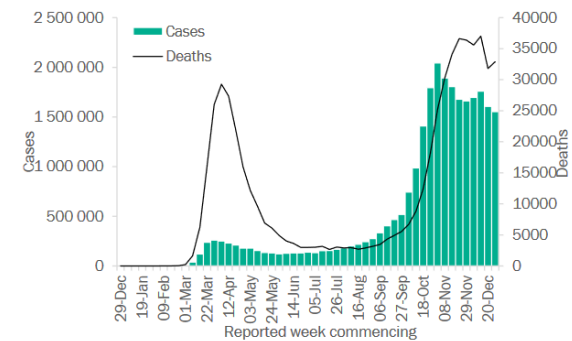
## Eastern Mediterranean Region

In the past week, the Eastern Mediterranean Region reported over 154 000 new cases and over 3000 new deaths, a decrease of 1% and 12%, respectively compared to the previous week. Cases and deaths in the Region decreased for the sixth consecutive week. The highest number of new cases were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (42 511 new cases, 506 new cases per 1 million), Lebanon (16 936 new cases, 2841 new cases per 1 million) and Pakistan (14 880 new cases, 67 new cases per 1 million). These three countries accounted for almost half (48%) of new weekly cases in the Region. The highest number of new deaths were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (864 new deaths; 10 new deaths per 1 million), Pakistan (442 new deaths; 2 new deaths per 1 million) and Egypt (389 new deaths; 4 new deaths per 1 million).



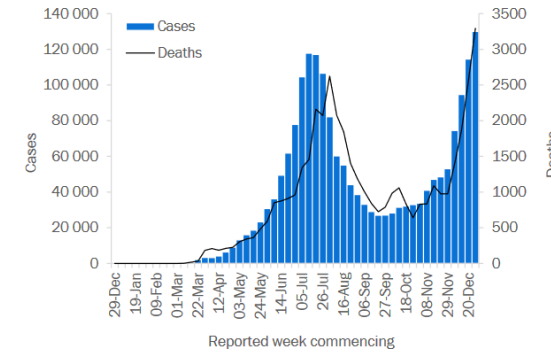
## European Region

The European Region continues to report a large number of cases with over 1.5 million new cases and 3200 new deaths, a 3% decrease and 2% increase compared to the previous week, respectively. New weekly cases have decreased for the past two weeks. The Region reported the highest proportion (43%) of global new deaths among all regions. Last week, the countries reporting the highest number of new cases were the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (343 784 new cases, 5064 new cases per 1 million), the Russian Federation (186 539 new cases; 1278 new cases per 1 million) and Germany (124 808 new cases; 1490 new cases per 1 million). The highest number of deaths were reported from Germany (4494 new deaths; 54 new deaths per 1 million), the United Kingdom (4165 new deaths; 61 new deaths per 1 million) and the Russian Federation (3728 new deaths; 26 new deaths per 1 million).



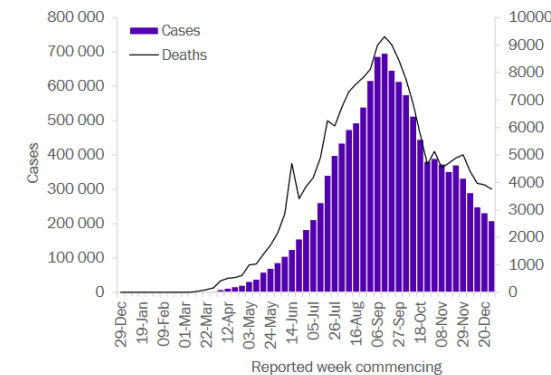
## African Region

In the past week, over 130 000 new cases were reported in the African Region, a 13% increase compared to the previous week, and over 3000 deaths, a 4% increase over the previous week. In the past week, South Africa reported the highest number of new cases (93 978 new cases; 1585 new cases per 1 million population), Nigeria (5587 new cases; 27 new cases per 1 million), Mauritania (3393 new cases, 730 new cases per 1 million) and Namibia (3256 new cases, 1281 new cases per 1 million). The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from South Africa (2654 new deaths; 45 new deaths per 1 million), Mauritania (122 new deaths; 26 new deaths per 1 million) and the Kingdom of Eswatini (64 new deaths; 55 new deaths per 1 million).



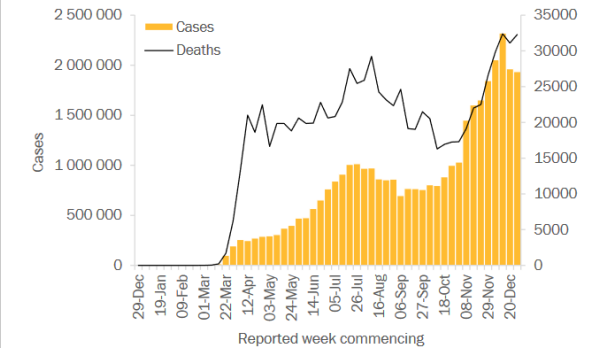
## South-East Asia Region

New cases and deaths in the South-East Region have continued to decrease, a trend observed since early September. Just over 200 000 new cases and 3700 new deaths were reported this week, a 10% and 3% decrease respectively, compared to the previous week. The three countries reporting the highest number of new cases and new deaths were India (136 115 new cases; 99 new cases per 1 million; 1813 new deaths; 1 new death per 1 million), Indonesia (51 636 new cases; 189 new cases per 1 million; 1561 new deaths; 6 new deaths per 1 million) and Bangladesh (7085 new cases; 43 new cases per 1 million; 171 new deaths; 1 new death per 1 million). India has consistently reported the highest number of new cases and deaths since the end of the first week of April 2020.



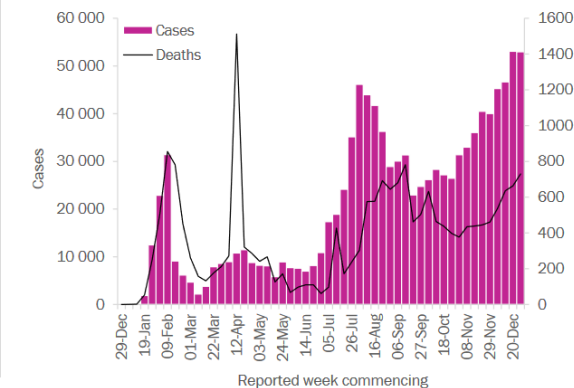
## Region of the Americas

In the Region of the Americas, the number of new weekly cases remained at similar levels to last week with over 1.9 million new cases and 32 000 new deaths reported (a slight fall of 1% and rise of 3% respectively from last week). The highest new case counts were reported in the United States of America (1 325 424 new cases, 4004 new cases per 1 million), Brazil (252 018 new cases; 1186 new cases per 1 million) and Colombia (80 173 new cases, 1576 new cases per 1 million). The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the United States of America (17 239 new deaths; 52 new deaths per 1 million), Brazil (4923 new deaths; 23 new deaths per 1 million) and Mexico (4670 new deaths; 36 new deaths per 1 million).



## Western Pacific Region

In the past week, there has been little change in the number of new cases (just under 53 000) reported in the Western Pacific Region, while new deaths increased by 10% (over 700) compared to the previous week. The plateau in new cases over the past week comes after four weeks of increasing trends. The three countries reporting the highest number of new cases this week were Japan (23 642 new cases; 187 new cases per 1 million), Malaysia (13 473 new cases; 416 new cases per 1 million) and Philippines (7911 new cases; 72 new cases per 1 million). The three countries reporting the greatest number of new deaths this week included Japan (335 new deaths; 3 new deaths per 1 million), Philippines (186 new deaths; 2 new deaths per 1 million) and the Republic of Korea (154 new deaths; 3 new deaths per 1 million).



Source:

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---5-january-2021>

# Subject in Focus:

## New SARS-Cov-2 variants of concern and other vaccination news

Source: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---5-january-2021>  
<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/covid-19-risk-assessment-spread-new-sars-cov-2-variants-eueea>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

### New variants of current concern

The UK has faced a rapid increase in COVID-19 case rates in the South-East, the East and the London area as well as in other parts of the country, which is associated with the emergence of a new SARS-CoV-2 variant, **VOC 202012/01**. As of 26 December 2020, more than 3 000 cases of this new variant, confirmed by genome sequencing, have been reported from the UK. Although it was first reported in early December, the initial cases were retrospectively identified as having emerged in late September. Preliminary analyses indicate that the new variant has increased transmissibility compared to previously circulating variants, but no increase in infection severity has so far been identified.

Since 26 December, a few VOC 202012/01 cases have also been reported in other countries (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong SAR, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, South Korea, Switzerland, Singapore). In total 40 countries across five of the six WHO regions.

In addition South Africa has reported another SARS-CoV-2 variant, designated as **501Y.V2**, which is also of potential concern. This variant was first observed in samples from October, and since then more than 300 cases with the 501Y.V2 variant have been confirmed by whole genome sequencing (WGS) in South Africa, where it is now the dominant form of the virus.

Preliminary results indicate that this variant may have an increased transmissibility. At this stage there is no evidence that 501Y.V2 is associated with higher severity of infection. On 22 December 2020, two geographically separate cases of this new variant 501Y.V2 were detected in the UK. Both are contacts of symptomatic individuals returning from travel to South Africa. On 28 December 2020, one additional case of this new variant was detected in Finland in a returning traveller from South Africa. In total up to date six countries, in two of the six WHO regions have reported cases of 501Y.V2.

We know viruses constantly change through mutation, and so the emergence of new variants is an expected occurrence and not in itself a cause for concern; SARS-CoV-2 is no exception. A diversification of SARS-CoV-2 due to evolution and adaptation processes has been observed globally.

While most emerging mutations will not have a significant impact on the spread of the virus, some mutations or combinations of mutations may provide the virus with a selective advantage, such as increased transmissibility or the ability to evade the host immune response. In such cases, these variants could increase the risk to human health and are considered to be variants of concern.

**ECDC** assessed the risk of the two new variants as well as the risk of spreading in the EU and the increased impact on health systems in the risk assessment of 29th Dec 2020.

### Risks associated with new variants of current concern:

The probability of introduction and further spread in the EU is currently assessed as **high**.

The impact of COVID-19 disease in terms of hospitalisations and deaths is assessed as **high**, particularly for those in older age groups or with co-morbidities.

The overall risk associated with the introduction and further spread of SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01 and 501.V2 is therefore assessed as **high**.

The probability of placing greater pressure on health systems in the coming weeks is considered to be **high**

The impact of this increased pressure on health systems is considered to be **high** even if current public health measures are maintained.

Therefore, the overall risk of an increased impact on health systems in the coming weeks is assessed as **high**.

**Therefore States are recommended to continue to advise their citizens of the need for non-pharmaceutical interventions in accordance with their local epidemiological situation and national policies and, in particular, to consider guidance on the avoidance of non-essential travel and social activities.**

**AstraZeneca's** COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for emergency supply on 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 in the UK, with the first doses being vaccinated this Monday. The Company aims to supply millions of doses in the first quarter as part of an agreement with the government to supply up to 100 million doses in total.

As announced on 23 November 2020, the primary efficacy endpoint of the programme statistical plan, based on the pooling of two dosing regimens, showed that the vaccine is 70.4% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 occurring more than 14 days after receiving two doses of the vaccine. A secondary efficacy endpoint of prevention of severe disease demonstrated no cases of severe infections or hospitalisations in the vaccine group.

A further analysis of the efficacy regimens showed that when the vaccine was given as two full doses, vaccine efficacy was 62.1%, and 90.0% in participants who received a half dose followed by a full dose.

Interim analysis results have been published in The Lancet.

**CureVac/Bayer:** According to German press reports, the Tübingen-based corona vaccine developer CureVac and the pharmaceutical giant Bayer are planning a global partnership to apply for international approvals as quickly as possible. To this end, Bayer will bring its international pharmaceutical network into the partnership, secure supply chains and help with the distribution of the vaccine in the countries. The plan is to produce several hundred million doses of the vaccine as soon as the drug authorities have granted approval. The model is similar to the alliance between the Mainz vaccine developer Biontech and the US pharmaceutical company Pfizer. However, Bayer is apparently not seeking a capital stake in CureVac, according to the preliminary report.

**EU:** Several EU countries have asked Brussels to support neighboring countries to the east in vaccinating against the corona virus. The foreign ministers of 13 eastern and northern member states (Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden) wrote to the EU Commission. In doing so, they call for easier access to vaccines for the eastern partners in order to avoid the spread of the infection from unvaccinated border countries to their own population. The EU is already supporting non-member states in the Balkans as part of its vaccination strategy. The 13 countries are now calling for a similar program for the Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

**SER:** Serbian politicians have been vaccinated with "Sputnik V". The country had started with the Biontech vaccinations on December 24th. By the end of this week, 11,000 people are said to have been vaccinated. These are health care workers and residents of old people's homes. Now the country is planning to use the Sputnik vaccine additionally to Biontec. So far, 2,400 doses of the Russian vaccine have arrived in Serbia. The Balkan country has been negotiating accession to the European Union for six years, but it also maintains a friendly relationship with Russia.

**DEU:** According to a survey, only half of the nursing staff in hospitals are willing to be vaccinated against the coronavirus. The respondents - nurses and doctors - were mainly intensive care staff. Doctors are therefore much more willing to be vaccinated. The non-representative survey took place in December among 2,305 people from the medical sector.

The number of officially reported vaccinations against COVID-19 in Germany increased by more than 46,000 on Thursday compared to the previous day. At least 367,331 people have been vaccinated since the vaccination campaign began in late December. This means that 5 people have been vaccinated against the disease per 1,000 inhabitants nationwide.

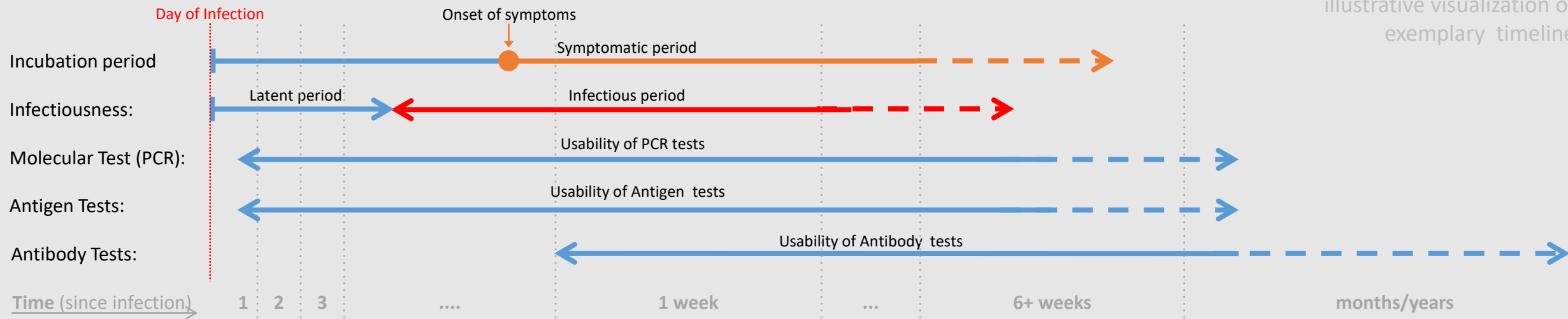
**FRA:** After criticism of the sluggish vaccination start, the French government is now pushing the pace. Government spokesman Gabriel Attal announced that several hundred vaccination centers will be opened in the coming weeks. The number of hospitals offering vaccinations has also tripled.

**ZAF:** South Africa has announced the import of 1.5 million doses of the corona vaccine co-developed by AstraZeneca. They are intended to be administered to health care workers. With this, South Africa announced the purchase of vaccines for the first time.

**AUS:** To prevent the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus variant, international arrivals in New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland will be halved until February 15. The first local case of the corona mutant was detected in a cleaner in a hotel that accommodates foreign visitors during the quarantine.

# Timeline COVID-19 infection

illustrative visualization of exemplary timeline



	Molecular Tests	Antigen Tests	Antibody Tests
Also known as:	RT-PCR	Rapid diagnostic test	Serological test, serology, blood test, serology test
Applicable period:	From infection until at least 6 weeks after being symptom free	From infection until at least 6 weeks after being symptom free	As soon as 1 or 2 weeks after infection
How the sample is taken:	Nasal or throat swab (most tests) Saliva (a few tests)	Nasal or throat swab	Finger stick or blood draw
How long it takes to get results:	Several hours	Fast < 1h	Several hours or days
Is another test needed:	No second test is needed.	Negative results are usually accurate but positive results may need to be confirmed with a molecular test.	Sometimes a second antibody test is needed for accurate results.
What it shows:	Active coronavirus infection (i.e. <b>presence of SARS-CoV-2</b> )	Active coronavirus infection (i.e. <b>presence of protein fragments of SARS-CoV-2</b> )	If you've been <b>infected by coronavirus in the past</b>
What it can't do:	Show if you ever had COVID-19 or were infected with the coronavirus in the past. Show if you are currently infectious.	Definitively rule out active coronavirus infection. Antigen tests are more likely to miss an active coronavirus infection compared to molecular tests. Your health care provider may order a molecular test if your antigen test shows a negative result but you have symptoms of COVID-19.	Diagnose active coronavirus infection at the time of the test or show that you do not have COVID-19

Sources:  
<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/coronavirus-testing-basics>  
<https://www.sciencemediacenter.de/alle-angebote/fact-sheet/details/news/verlauf-von-covid-19-und-kritische-abschnitte-der-infektion/>  
<https://www.apotheken-umschau.de/Coronavirus/Corona-Nachweis-Die-Testverfahren-im-Ueberblick-558071.html#Die-Testverfahren-im-Ueberblick:>

## In the press

This section aims at summarizing trending headlines with regards to COVID-19. The collection does not aim at being comprehensive and we would like to point out that headlines and linked articles are no scientific material and for information purposes only. The headlines and linked articles do not reflect NATO's or NATO MilMed COE FHPB's view. Feedback is welcome!

06<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Aljazeera**

### **'Worst nightmare': Zimbabweans suffer amid rising COVID cases**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/6/worst-nightmare-zimbabweans-suffer-amid-rising-covid-cases>

07<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**BBC**

### **Two more life-saving COVID drugs discovered**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55574662>

04<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**DW**

### **Officials warn of fake COVID-19 vaccines**

<https://www.dw.com/en/officials-warn-of-fake-covid-19-vaccines/a-56123830>

06<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**New York Times**

### **Blood Plasma Reduces Risk of Severe COVID-19 if Given Early**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/06/health/convalescent-plasma-covid.html>

07<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Aljazeera**

### **India to prioritise Sri Lanka when COVID vaccine ready for export**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/7/india-to-prioritise-sri-lanka-when-covid-vaccine-ready-for-export>

05<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**The Guardian**

### **Many 'long COVID' sufferers unable to fully work six months later**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/05/many-long-covid-sufferers-unable-fully-work-six-months-later>

08<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**South China Morning Post**

### **Coronavirus: Chinese steelmaking hub hit, with highway closures reducing output and delivery**

<https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3116824/chinese-steelmaking-hub-hit-coronavirus-highway-closures>

06<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**The Guardian**

### **China stalls WHO mission to investigate origins of coronavirus**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/06/china-stalls-who-mission-to-investigate-origins-of-coronavirus>

07<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**The Guardian**

### **There are so many COVID patients, younger this time. But my hospital is full**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/07/so-many-covid-patients-younger-this-time-hospitals-full>

# The new normal!

## THE NEW NORMAL



**Be a role model.** Show others the importance of cleaning hands, covering coughs and sneezes with a bent elbow, maintaining a distance of at least 1 metre from others and cleaning frequently touched objects and surfaces regularly.

Don't just say it,  
**Do it!**



#StaySafe

In some places, as cases of COVID-19 go down, some control measures are being lifted.

**But this doesn't mean we should go back to the 'old normal'.**

**If we don't stay vigilant and protect ourselves and others, coronavirus cases may go up again.**

If we stop following the key protective measures, coronavirus can come rushing back.

**Now, more than ever, it's important that we all follow our national health authority's advice and be part of helping to prevent coronavirus transmission.**

Wherever you are, you still need to protect yourself against COVID-19.

**Even as restrictions are lifted, consider where you are going and stay safe.**



## Avoid the Three C's



Be aware of different levels of risk in different settings.

There are certain places where COVID-19 spreads more easily:



### Crowded places

with many people nearby



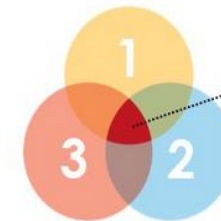
### Close-contact settings

Especially where people have close-range conversations



### Confined and enclosed spaces

with poor ventilation



The risk is higher in places where these factors overlap.

**Even as restrictions are lifted, consider where you are going and #StaySafe by avoiding the Three C's.**

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?



Avoid crowded places and limit time in enclosed spaces



Maintain at least 1m distance from others



When possible, open windows and doors for ventilation



Keep hands clean and cover coughs and sneezes



Wear a mask if requested or if physical distancing is not possible

**If you are unwell, stay home unless to seek urgent medical care.**





# The perfect wave – why masks are still important



## NEW STUDY ON MOUTH NOSE PROTECTION AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

Unfortunately, in the epicenter of the new hot spots areas often enough people are seen who do not adhere to the still valid protective regulations such as social distancing and the correct wearing of a nose and mouth protection. It could be as simple as that - [new studies](#) show that these two measures make a significant contribution to reducing the probability of transmission.

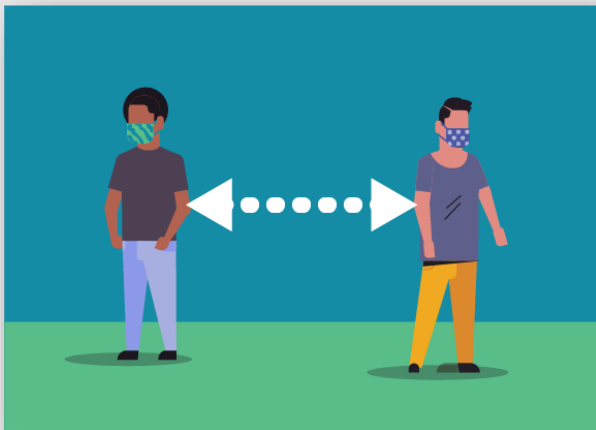
In the case of protective masks with an advertised protective effect in connection with SARS-CoV-2, depending on the intended purpose, a distinction is made between two types:

**Medical face masks (MNS; surgical (surgical) masks);** are primarily used for third-party protection and protect the person against the exposure of potentially infectious droplets of the person wearing the face mask. Corresponding MNS protect the wearer of the mask if the fit is tight, but this is not the primary purpose of MNS. This is e.g. used to prevent droplets from the patient's breathing air from getting into open wounds of a patient. Since, depending on the fit of the medical face mask, the wearer not only breathes in through the filter fleece, but the breathing air is drawn in as a leakage current past the edges of the MNS, medical face masks generally offer the wearer little protection against aerosols containing excitation. However, you can protect the mouth and nose area of the wearer from the direct impact of exhaled droplets from the other person as well as from pathogen transmission through direct contact with the hands.

**Particle-filtering half masks (FFP masks);** are objects of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the context of occupational safety and are intended to protect the wearer of the mask from particles, droplets and aerosols. The design of the particle-filtering half masks is different. There are masks without an exhalation valve and masks with an exhalation valve. Masks without a valve filter both the inhaled air and the exhaled air and therefore offer both internal and external protection, although they are primarily designed for internal protection only. Masks with valves only filter the inhaled air and therefore **offer no external protection!!!**

As a large number of unrecognized people move around in public spaces without symptoms, mouth and nose protection protects other people, thereby reducing the spread of the infection and thus indirectly reducing the risk of becoming infected

	Mouth and nose protection	FFP2/FFP3 mask without valve	FFP2/FFP3 mask with valve
Protects wearer of mask	limited	✓	✓
Protects periphery	✓	✓	✗



Due to the occasion, it should be pointed out again and again, also by executives, that the correct way of wearing the mask is essential to achieve maximum protection. The mask wrong, e.g. for example, wearing it under the nose means accepting a possible infection of others.

FFP2 / 3 masks are still considered deficient equipment and should be kept available for healthcare workers and emergency services.

### When wearing a facemask, don't do the following:

