



Short Update 54a COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease 29th of January 2021



GLOBAL

101 485 436
Confirmed cases
66 487 600 recovered
2 191 871 deaths

USA

(new cases/day 155 087)
25 663 954
confirmed cases
10 309 980 recovered
431 236 deaths

India

(new cases/day 11 666)
10 720 048
confirmed cases
10 394 352 recovered
154 010 deaths

Brazil

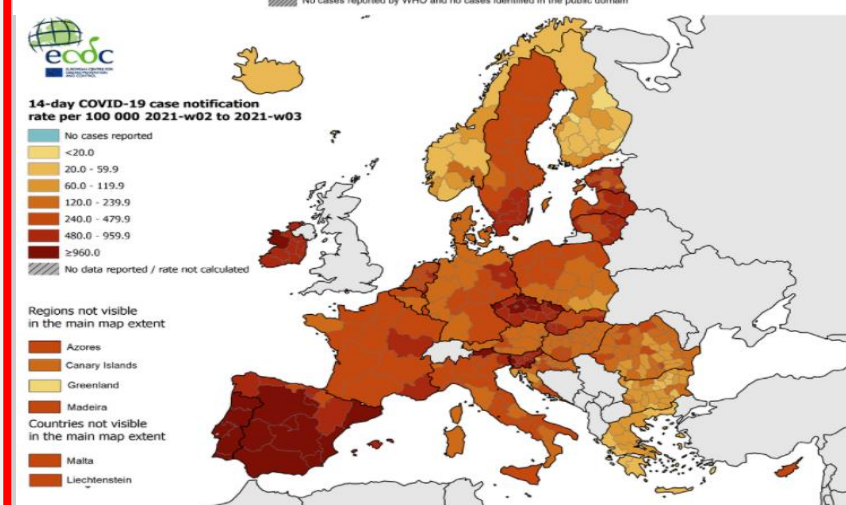
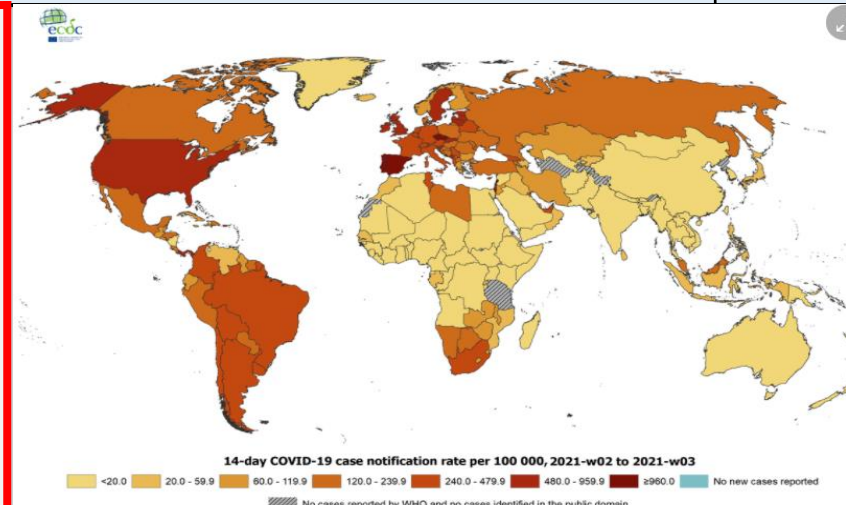
(new cases/day 63 520)
9 058 687
confirmed cases
7 979 513 recovered
221 547 deaths

News:

- WHO:** After a two-week quarantine, a team of WHO experts began its work in Wuhan, China, to investigate the origins of the coronavirus.
- AstraZeneca:** is ready to publish the vaccine contract with the European Union, according to a newspaper report. The in-house lawyers were currently working on a proposal as to which sensitive parts should be blacked out. This should be coordinated with the EU. The publication is planned for Friday.
- BioNTech's** corona vaccine is effective against the main virus mutants from Great Britain and South Africa, according to the company. Initial results from in-vitro tests indicated that developing a new vaccine for these variants is not necessary.
- Novartis:** The Swiss pharmaceutical company wants to help with the production of coronavirus vaccines and tests. According to the company, talks are currently being held with several companies to support them in the manufacture of vaccines and components for testing for COVID-19.
- Regeneron:** According to the US manufacturer, the antibody agent REGN-COV2, which is already used in part to treat COVID-19 diseases, is also effective against the British and South African variants of the coronavirus. However, this applies to the ZAF variant only to a "reduced" extent, as one of the two antibodies contained in the drug, Casirivimab, has only limited effects.
- WHO:** Is supporting the [Solidarity II forum](#). It is a global collaborative forum that promotes the implementation of serological surveys for estimating the exposure to SARS-CoV-2. The Solidarity II network facilitates discussions between public health agencies and academic institutions with three main objectives: 1) sharing cutting edge scientific findings, 2) identifying and bridging research gaps, and 3) creating collaborations to progress the research of serological epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2.
- WHO's** health emergencies online learning platform: [OpenWHO.org](https://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**
- SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern**
- Subject in Focus: A Global Risk Assessment of 2021 and Beyond**
- Timeline COVID-19 infection**
- In the press**



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EUROPE

32 249 908
confirmed cases
17 141 800
recovered
715 947 deaths

Russia

(new cases/day 18 856)
3 752 548
confirmed cases
3 194 825 recovered
70 533 deaths

GBR

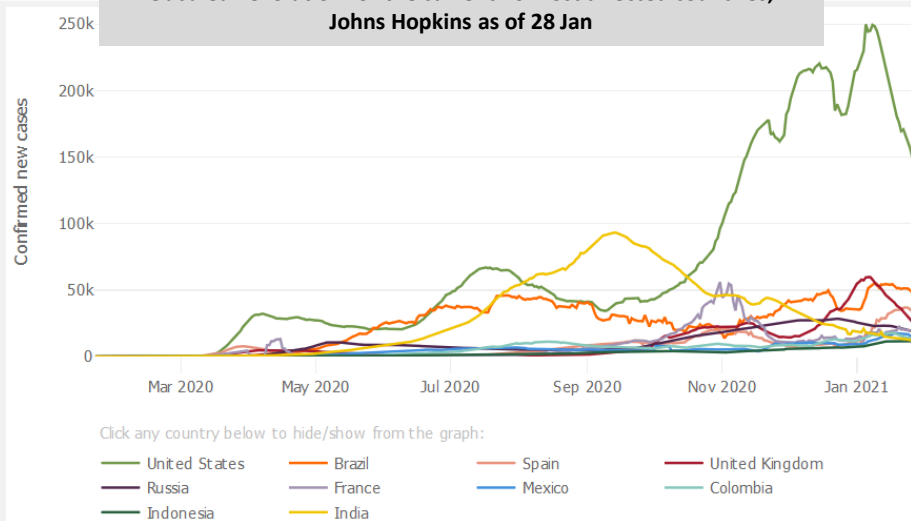
(new cases/day 28 680)
3 743 734
confirmed cases
xx recovered
103 126 deaths

France

(new cases/day xx)
3 106 859
confirmed cases
220 570 recovered
74 456 deaths

Global Situation

Outbreak evolution for the current 10 most affected countries;
Johns Hopkins as of 28 Jan



Click any country below to hide/show from the graph:

- United States
- Brazil
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Russia
- France
- Mexico
- Colombia
- Indonesia
- India

Country reports:

POL: Poland's health minister has announced that the country's shopping malls will reopen on February 1st. The special times for shopping by older people would then also be canceled. In addition, the existing conditions would be extended until February 14th. This also applies to schools where classroom teaching is only possible for the youngest children.

CHE: In the Swiss winter sports resort of Arosa, after the appearance of the new coronavirus variants, it is now compulsory to wear a mask in the entire populated municipality. At least 14 people in the local school were infected with a mutated virus. The authorities did not disclose which of the virus variants it was specifically. In Switzerland, 654 cases of the variant that first appeared in Great Britain had been discovered by the middle of the week. In some cantons, very little material is sequenced. Swiss experts fear that the number of infected people will double every week. PCR mass tests are now to be carried out in Arosa on Friday and Saturday.

FRA: According to the government, ten percent of all cases of infection in France can be traced back to the variant of the corona virus that was first discovered in England. This week, authorities saw an increase in new infections. It is the highest increase in 24 hours since mid-November, when the country was in the second full lockdown. This suggests that current measures are not enough to curb the spread of the more contagious English variant.

ESP: Because of the extremely high number of infections, the government has ordered the border with neighboring Spain to be closed. From Friday, the limit may initially only be crossed in emergency situations for two weeks.

POR: Portugal is one of the countries where a dreaded mutated form of the virus is currently spreading fastest. The federal government is therefore considering an entry ban against the country and for travelers from Great Britain, Brazil and South Africa.

GRC: concern about rising corona numbers is growing. After the government allowed stores to reopen last week, the number of new infections rose from Wednesday to Thursday at 858 cases. Compared to other countries, the number for the approximately eleven million inhabitants of Greece is low, but it has doubled since the shops opened.

DNK: Has extended the lockdown until the end of February. Schools, shops, shopping centers, restaurants, gyms and many other facilities will remain closed due to concerns about the further spread of mutated coronavirus variants. At the same time, the Danish borders remain largely tight for most foreigners. As a rule, only those who can show a valid reason for entry and a negative corona test that is no more than 24 hours old come into the country.

USA: The US economy saw the blackest year since 1946 in 2020. Economic output shrank by 3.5 percent. That was the sharpest decline in economic output since 1946 after the end of World War II.

NZL: According to an Australian think tank, New Zealand has demonstrated the best management of the corona crisis in the world. The Pacific country is followed by the Asian countries Vietnam, Taiwan and Thailand. The Sydney-based Lowy Institute, founded in 2003, had previously analyzed 98 countries with regard to how they were dealing with the pandemic. Specifically, it was about the 36 weeks after the one hundredth case of infection was confirmed in a country. The US ranks 94th, while Brazil brings up the rear. African countries such as Rwanda (6th place) and Togo (15th place) are well ahead of most EU countries.

VNM: Vietnam fears a major corona outbreak in the country for the first time in months. The Ministry of Health announced that 82 new infections were confirmed on Thursday. These are the first local transmissions of the virus after 55 days. 70 infections are said to be related to a large factory in Hai Duong City near Hanoi. One of the people who tested positive had previously traveled around the region and met with around 200 people, according to the authorities. All of them should now be contacted and tested.

THA: More than 100 participants in an illegal party have been arrested on the Thai holiday island of Koh Phangan. Local media reported that they had violated the applicable corona restrictions. Among the detainees are 89 foreigners from different countries and 20 Thais.

CHN: CHN: has warned the US government against "politicizing" the WHO expert mission in Wuhan. The scientists should be able to carry out their investigations into the origin of the corona pandemic "free of political interference". China hoped the US could "respect the facts and science" and "respect the hard work of the international team of experts".

Millions of Chinese are currently seeing their travel plans for the Chinese New Year stopped: At the beginning of the most important travel time of the year, flights and train connections were canceled, especially in Beijing. The health authorities in the capital warned of a "complex COVID-19 situation" and published the "advice" to stay at home. There has not yet been an express order to stay at home. But especially in Beijing, where the Communist Party Congress is due to take place in March, the people are appealed to "avoid unnecessary excursions and meetings".

IND: In the fight against the corona pandemic, India sees itself on the right track: The number of new infections is falling, and vaccinations are also making good progress. Health experts are skeptical, however, and assume a high number of unreported cases.

Global Situation

Global epidemiological situation overview; WHO as of 27 Jan

Globally, 4.1 million new cases were reported in the past week, a decline of 15% from the previous week and the second week of decline after global case incidence peaked in the first week of January 2021. This downward trend is largely attributed to relative reductions in case incidence in several countries that have contributed the highest numbers in recent months, but hides continued upward trends in other countries in the same regions. The ongoing and prolonged high rates of new infections continues to strain health systems in many countries around the world.

All regions reported a decline in new cases except the **Western Pacific Region** which reported a similar incidence to last week. The largest decrease in new cases was reported in the **European Region (by 20%)** followed by the **African Region (decrease of 16%)**.

The **Americas and Europe reported 86%** of all new cases globally in the past week.

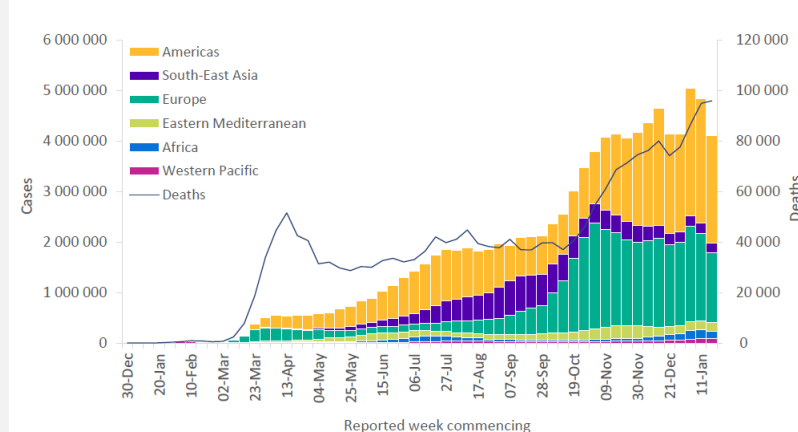
During the same period, around **96 000 deaths** have been reported – a similar number reported as last week.

The **Americas and Eastern Mediterranean region reported an increase in new deaths by 4% and 3%** respectively, whereas **Europe, South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions showed a decrease in new deaths** compared to last week. No change in new deaths was seen for the **African region**.

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

- **United States of America**; reporting 1 259 902 cases, a 20% decrease,
- **Brazil**; reported 360 428 cases, a 5% decrease,
- **GBR**; reported over 260 098 cases, a 24% decrease,
- **Russian Federation**; over 151 191 cases, a 9% decrease, and
- **France**; reported 138 288 cases, a 10% increase.

Figure 1: COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 24 January 2021**



Source: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update--27-january-2021>

Vaccination news:

Africa: According to the health authority Africa CDC, AFRICA has secured 400 million doses of a corona vaccine from Indian production. Parts of Africa are currently seeing a hefty second surge in infections.

NovaVax: A corona vaccine candidate from the US pharmaceutical company Novavax apparently protects 89 percent from COVID-19. This emerges from a preliminary analysis by the company of the third and final test phase for the preparation. According to the British study, the agent also has a weakened effect against variants of the virus that appeared for the first time in Great Britain and South Africa.

BioNTech: has also received the pharmaceutical approval for the production of corona vaccines in its Marburg (DEU) plant. In order to be able to market the vaccine manufactured in Marburg in the EU, approval from the EU Medicines Agency EMA is still required. In the first half of 2021, 250 million cans are to be manufactured in Marburg. The target is a total of 750 million cans for an annual production.

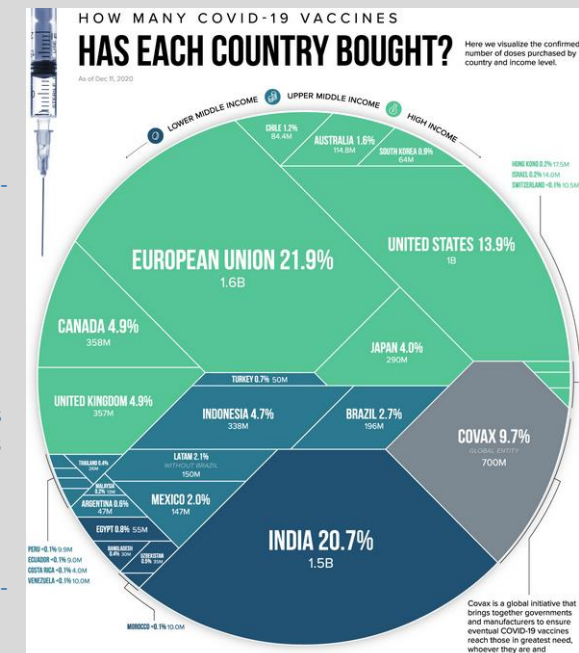
BEL/AstraZeneca: Belgian authorities have inspected an AstraZeneca production site in Belgium at the request of the EU Commission. The background to this is the vaccine dispute with the pharmaceutical company. They wanted to check whether the delivery delays announced by the company were actually related to problems in the Belgian plant.

USA: To speed up the corona vaccination campaign, the US government is now allowing retired doctors and nurses to participate. The exemption applies to everyone whose license has expired in the past five years. In addition, all licensed nurses and doctors are allowed to participate in the vaccination campaign nationwide. All doctors and nurses who want to administer vaccinations must first complete a training course from the US health authority CDC, and are first observed by a licensed colleague. Due to coordination difficulties, only 26 million of the 48 million doses delivered to date have actually been used.

DEU: According to a recommendation by the German Vaccination Commission, the AstraZeneca vaccine, in contrast to the preparations from BioNTech and Moderna, should only be administered to people under 65 years of age.

ISR: expanded its corona vaccination program to people over 35. According to the Ministry of Health, people from this age group would be vaccinated from Friday. Israel has one of the highest infection rates in the world at more than 25 percent and claims to have vaccinated its entire population of around 9.3 million by spring. The high infection rate in Israel, often more than 8,000 new infections per day, is attributed to the behavior of ultra-Orthodox Jews who disregard safety rules and attack police officers who want to enforce them.

GBR: Vaccinated people against the coronavirus in a supermarket for the first time. Trained staff can deliver 240 doses a day in the store near Birmingham.



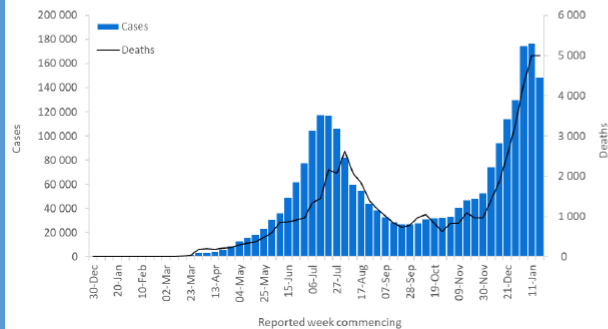
Situation by WHO Region, as of 19th January

Situation by WHO Region

African Region

In the past week, the African Region reported over 148 000 cases and just under 5000 deaths, a 16% decrease in cases and similar number of deaths compared to the previous week. This was the first time since mid-September 2020 that weekly cases decreased. The highest numbers of new cases were reported in South Africa (79 180 new cases; 133.5 new cases per 100 000 population; a 29% decrease), Nigeria (11 659 new cases; 5.7 new cases per 100 000; a 2% increase) and Zambia (8518 new cases; 46.3 new cases per 100 000; a 10% decrease).

The countries reporting the highest number of new deaths in the past week were South Africa (3723 new deaths; 6.3 new deaths per 100 000; a 8% decrease), Zimbabwe (291 new deaths; 2.0 new deaths per 100 000; a 35% decrease) and Malawi (170 new deaths; 0.9 new deaths per 100 000; a 113% increase).



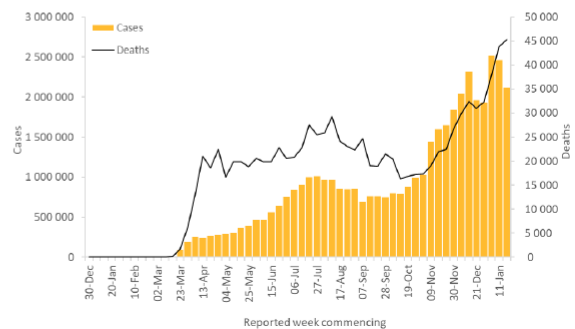
Source:

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---27-january-2021>

Region of the Americas

Over 2.1 million new cases and over 45 000 new deaths were reported in the Region of the Americas this week, a decrease of 14% and an increase of 4% respectively compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the United States of America (1 259 902 new cases; 380.6 new cases per 100 000 population; a 20% decrease), Brazil (360 428 new cases; 169.6 new cases per 100 000; a 5% decrease) and Mexico (122 555 new cases; 95.1 new cases per 100 000; a 20% increase).

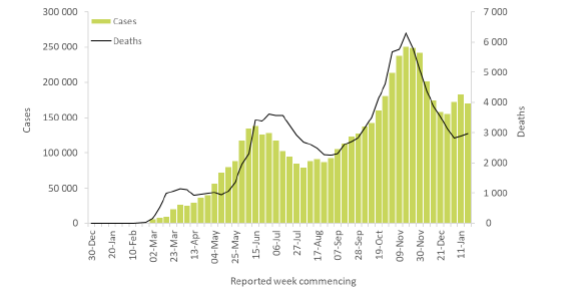
The highest numbers of deaths were reported from the same countries, the United States of America (21 583 new deaths; 6.5 new deaths per 100 000; a 7% decrease), Mexico (8592 new deaths; 6.7 new deaths per 100 000; a 24% increase) and Brazil (6997 new deaths; 3.3 new deaths per 100 000; a 3% increase).



Eastern Mediterranean Region

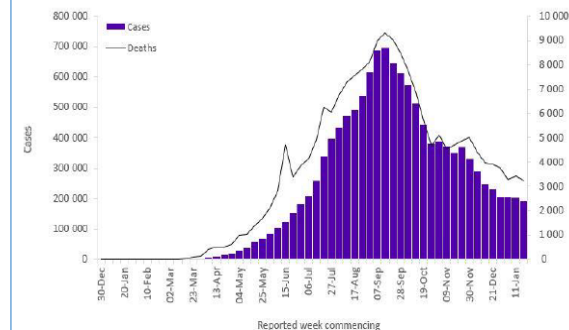
In the past week, the Eastern Mediterranean Region reported over 170 000 new cases, a decrease of 7% compared to last week. The region reported 2980 new deaths, an increase of 3%, the second consecutive weekly increase following a sustained decrease in deaths from 23 November 2020 through the week of 11 January 2021. The three countries reporting the highest numbers of new cases continue to be Iran (42 637 new cases, 50.8 new cases per 100 000 population, a 3% decrease), Lebanon (27 429 new cases, 401.9 new cases per 100 000, 18% decrease) and United Arab Emirates (24 568 new cases, 248.4 new cases per 100 000, 11% increase). These three countries accounted for almost half (55%) of the new weekly cases in the Region.

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported in Iran (577 new deaths, 0.7 new death per 100 000 population, 7% decrease) followed by Tunisia (538 new deaths, 4.6 new death per 100 000, 16% increase) and Lebanon (414 new deaths, 6.1 new death per 100 000, a 50% increase). These countries accounted for almost 51% of deaths reported in the Region.



South-East Asia Region

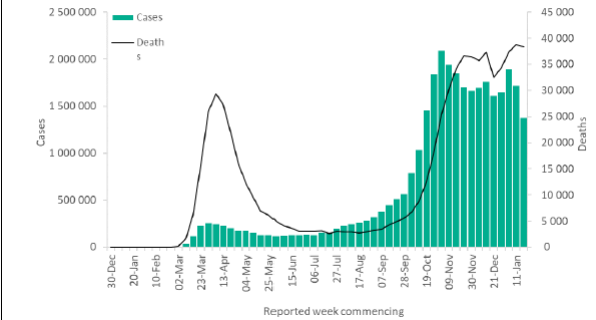
The South-East Asia Region reported a decrease in cases and deaths compared to the previous week following a 3-week plateau in new case and death reports. Just over 194 000 new cases and over 3000 new deaths were reported in the past week, a 5% decrease in both cases and deaths, compared to the previous week. The three countries reporting the highest numbers of new cases and new deaths were India (96 548 new cases; 7 new cases per 100 000, a 10% decrease), Indonesia (80 832 new cases; 29.6 new cases per 100 000; a 3% increase) and Sri Lanka (5274 new cases; 24.6 new cases per 100 000; an 18% increase). The three countries reporting the highest numbers of new deaths this week were Indonesia (1897 new deaths; 0.7 new deaths per 100 000, a 4% increase), India (1065 new deaths; 0.1 new deaths per 100 000, a 17% decrease) and Bangladesh (120 new deaths; 0.1 new deaths per 100 000; a 6% decrease).



European Region

The European Region reported over 1.3 million new cases and over 38 000 new deaths, a decrease of 20% and 1% respectively when compared to the previous week. The three countries reporting the highest numbers of new cases were the United Kingdom (260 098 new cases; 383.1 new cases per 100 000, 24% decrease), the Russian Federation (151 191 new cases, 103.6 new cases per 100 000, 9% decrease) and France (138 288 new cases, 211.9 new cases per 100 000, 10% increase). These three countries accounted for almost 40% of all cases reported in the region.

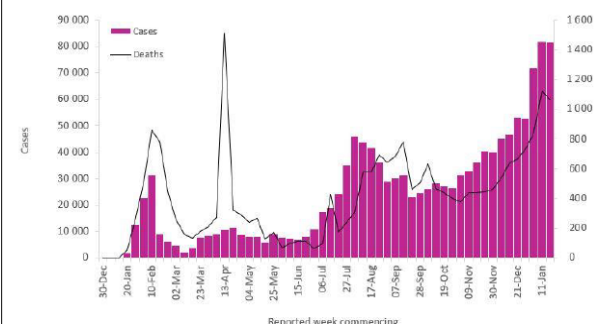
The highest numbers of deaths were reported from the United Kingdom (8739 new deaths; 12.9 new deaths per 100 000, a 13% increase), Germany (5451 new deaths; 6.5 new deaths per 100 000, a 10% decrease) and the Russian Federation (3896 new deaths; 2.7 new deaths per 100 000, a 5% increase).



Western Pacific Region

The Western Pacific Region reported a similar number of new cases (over 81 000 cases) and decrease in new deaths by 5% (over 1000) in the past week compared to the previous week. The three countries reporting the highest numbers of new cases this week were Japan (38 365 new cases; 30.3 new cases per 100 000, a 8% decrease), Malaysia (25 360 new cases; 78.4 new cases per 100 000, a 18% increase) and the Philippines (12 988 new cases; 11.9 new cases per 100 000, a 1% increase).

The three countries reporting the highest numbers of new deaths this week were Japan (573 new deaths; 0.5 new deaths per 100 000, a 27% increase), the Philippines (306 new deaths; 0.3 new deaths per 100 000, a 37% decrease) and the Republic of Korea (100 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100 000, a 19% decrease).



SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern

WHO is working with partners to evaluate available evidence around transmissibility, severity, antibody neutralization capabilities and potential impacts on vaccines of specific mutations, variants of interest and variants of concern. Here we provide an update on ongoing studies, as well as the geographical distribution of three variants of concern as reported by countries, territories and areas (hereafter countries) as of 25 January 2021:

1. Variant VOC 202012/01, lineage B.1.1.7

Since our last update on 19 January, variant VOC 202012/01 has been detected in ten additional countries. As of 25 January, a total of 70 countries across all six WHO regions have reported either imported cases or community transmission of this variant (Figure 3). Local transmission has been reported in several other European countries. In GBR, where this variant was initially identified, the variant has shown to have increased transmissibility compared to previously circulating variants. The UK has also recently shared results from studies suggesting that there is some evidence of an increase in disease severity; however, results are preliminary, and more analyses are required to further corroborate these findings

2. Variant 501Y.V2, lineage B.1.351:

Since the last update on 19 January, 501Y.V2 has been reported from eight additional countries—now totalling 31 countries across five of the six WHO regions. In South Africa, where this variant was initially identified, new weekly cases increased from early November 2020, peaking in early January 2021. In the past two weeks, a decreasing trend has been observed. Recent laboratory studies of a limited number of patients using pseudo virus and live attenuated virus from ZAF have shown that the variant is less susceptible to antibody neutralization. While further investigations are needed to determine whether the variant may escape immune responses acquired from previous infection, these findings raise concerns of increased rates of SARS-CoV-2 re-infection. Until now there is no indication that there is increased risk of re-infection in relation to 501Y.V2 based on observational studies in South Africa.

3. Variant P.1, lineage B.1.1.28:

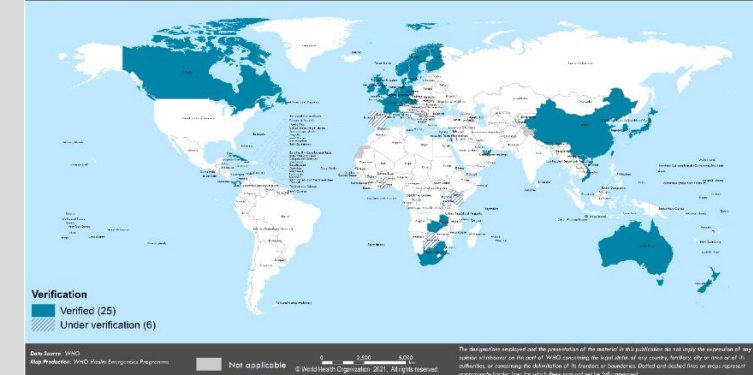
Since our last update, variant P.1 has been reported in six additional countries. To date, this variant is reported in eight countries. Based on the preliminary investigations conducted in Manaus, Amazonas State, there has been an increase in the proportion of cases sequenced as variant P.1, from 52.2% (35/67) in December 2020 to 85.4% (41/48) in January 2021, highlighting ongoing local transmission of this variant and, given the mutations documented, raising similar concerns for potential increases in transmissibility or propensity for re-infection. Further studies are needed to assess if there are changes in transmissibility, severity or antibody neutralizing activity as a result of these new variants.

Source: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---27-january-2021>

Countries/territories/areas reporting VOC 202012/01 variant (situation as of 25 January 2021)



Countries/territories/areas reporting 501Y.V2 variant (situation as of 25 January 2021)



Countries/territories/areas reporting P.1 variant (situation as of 25 January 2021)



Subject in Focus

A Global Risk Assessment of 2021 and Beyond

Risk is all around us. After the events of 2020, it's not surprising that the level and variety of risks we face have become more pronounced than ever.

Every year, the [World Economic Forum](#) analyses the top risks in the world in its Global Risks Report. Risks were identified based on 800+ responses of surveyed leaders across various levels of expertise, organizations, and regional distribution.

According to WEF's risk assessment methodology, all the global risks in 2021 fall into five broad categories; **Economic**; **Environmental**; **Geopolitical**; **Societal** and **Technological**.

Rank	Top Risks by Likelihood	Top Risks by Impact
#1	● Extreme weather	● Infectious diseases
#2	● Climate action failure	● Climate action failure
#3	● Human environmental damage	● Weapons of mass destruction
#4	● Infectious diseases	● Biodiversity loss
#5	● Biodiversity loss	● Natural resource crises
#6	● Digital power concentration	● Human environmental damage
#7	● Digital inequality	● Livelihood crises
#8	● Interstate relations fracture	● Extreme weather
#9	● Cybersecurity failure	● Debt crises
#10	● Livelihood crises	● IT Infrastructure breakdown

Most Interesting New Risks in 2021

Societal Risks

COVID-19 has resulted in a myriad of knock-on societal risks, from youth disillusionment and mental health deterioration to livelihood crises. The first two risks in particular go hand-in-hand, as "pandemics" (youth aged 15-24) are staring down a turbulent future. This generation is more likely to report high distress from disrupted educational and economic prospects.

At the same time, as countries prepare for widespread immunization against COVID-19, another related societal risk is the backlash against science. The WEF identifies vaccines and immunization as subjects susceptible to disinformation and denial of scientific evidence.

Source: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Global_Risks_Report_2021.pdf
<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/visualized-a-global-risk-assessment-of-2021-and-beyond/>

In the face of COVID-19, infectious diseases have now become one of the top societal risks on both metrics of likelihood and impact.

That said, [environmental risks continue](#) to dominate the leader board, accounting for five of the top 10 risks by impact, especially when it comes to climate action failure.

Several countries are off-track in meeting emissions goals set by the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015, while the pandemic has also delayed progress in the shift towards a carbon-neutral economy. Meanwhile, biodiversity loss is occurring at unprecedented rates.

Economic Risks

As monetary stimulus was kicked into high gear to prop up markets and support many closed businesses and quarantined families, the economic outlook seems more fragile than ever. Debt-to-GDP ratios continue to rise across advanced economies—if GDP growth stagnates for too long, a potential debt crisis could see many businesses and major nations default on their debt.

Technological Risks

COVID-19 has raised the alert on various technological risks. Despite the accelerated shift towards remote work and digitalization of entire industries, the reality is that digital inequality leaves those with lower digital literacy behind—worsening existing inequalities.

Big Tech is also bloating even further, growing its digital power concentration. The market share some companies hold in their respective sectors, such as Amazon in online retail, threatens to erode the agency of other players.

Top 10 Risks On the Horizon

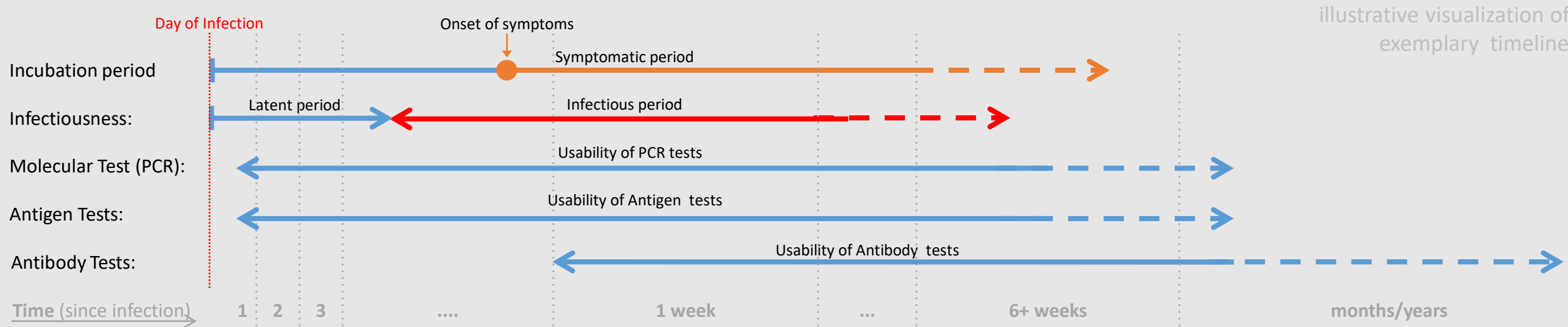
In mid-2020, the WEF attempted to quantify the biggest risks over an [18-month period](#), with a prolonged economic recession emerging on top. In this report's risk assessment, global risks are further classified by how soon their resulting threats are expected to occur.

Rank	Risk	%	Time Horizon
#1	● Weapons of mass destruction	62.7	Long-term (5-10 years)
#2	● Infectious diseases	58	Short-term risks (0-2 years)
#3	● Livelihood crises	55.1	Short-term risks (0-2 years)
#4	● Asset bubble burst	53.3	Medium-term risks (3-5 years)
#5	● IT infrastructure breakdown	53.3	Medium-term risks (3-5 years)
#6	● Price instability	52.9	Medium-term risks (3-5 years)
#7	● Extreme weather events	52.7	Short-term risks (0-2 years)
#8	● Commodity shocks	52.7	Medium-term risks (3-5 years)
#9	● Debt crises	52.3	Medium-term risks (3-5 years)
#10	● State collapse	51.8	Long-term (5-10 years)

Through this perspective, COVID-19 (and its variants) remains high in the next two years as the world scrambles to return to normal.

It's also clear that more economic risks are taking center stage, from an asset bubble burst to price instability that could have a profound effect over the next five years.

Timeline COVID-19 infection



	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:	Not needed but can be repeated after negative test to reduce false negative result.	Positive results are usually accurate but negative 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. presence of SARS-CoV-2)	Active coronavirus infection (i.e. presence of protein fragments of SARS-CoV-2)	If you've been infected by coronavirus in the past
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!

29th January 2021

Aljazeera

WHO team meets Chinese scientists as COVID investigation begins

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/29/who-team-meets-chinese-scientists-as-covid-investigation-begins>

28th January 2021

BBC

COVID-19: No-swab saliva test finds symptomless cases

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55840547>

29th January 2021

DW

Coronavirus: Rapid growth of board games market faces pandemic hurdles

<https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-rapid-growth-of-board-games-market-faces-pandemic-hurdles/a-56370700>

29th January 2021

BBC

COVID-19: 'Less exercise and more TV' than first lockdown

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55843666>

25th January 2021

Aljazeera

Moderna says COVID vaccine works against coronavirus variants

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/25/moderna-plans-to-alter-covid-19-vaccine-to-boost-it-for-variant>

28th January 2021

The Guardian

Scientists liken long COVID symptoms to those of Ebola survivors

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/28/scientists-liken-long-covid-symptoms-to-those-of-ebola-survivors>

21th January 2021

South China Morning Post

China's COVID-19 outbreaks force caution as Lunar New Year travel rush begins

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3119673/chinas-covid-19-outbreaks-force-caution-lunar-new-year-travel>

25th January 2021

The Guardian

COVID-19 has cost global workers \$3.7tn in lost earnings, says ILO

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/jan/25/covid-19-workers-lost-earnings-ilo-job-losses>

29th January 2021

The Guardian

Novavax COVID vaccine shown to be nearly 90% effective in UK trial

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/28/novavax-covid-vaccine-shown-to-be-nearly-90-effective-in-uk-trial>

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



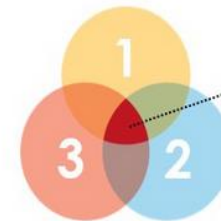
Close-contact settings

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.

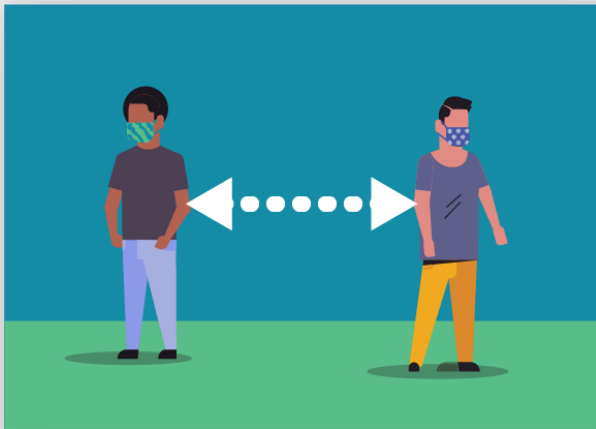
In the case of protective masks with an advertised protective effect in connection with SARS-CoV-2, depending on the intended purpose, a distinction is made between two types:

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:

