



Short Update 43a COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease 29th of October 2020



GLOBAL



45 101 398

Confirmed cases
30 362 250
recovered
1 182 570 deaths

USA

(new cases/day 89 141)



8 875 853

confirmed cases
3 521 921 recovered
227 750 deaths

India

(new cases/day 49 881)



8 088 851

confirmed cases
7 737 375 recovered
121 090 deaths

Brazil

(new cases/day 28 629)



5 494 376

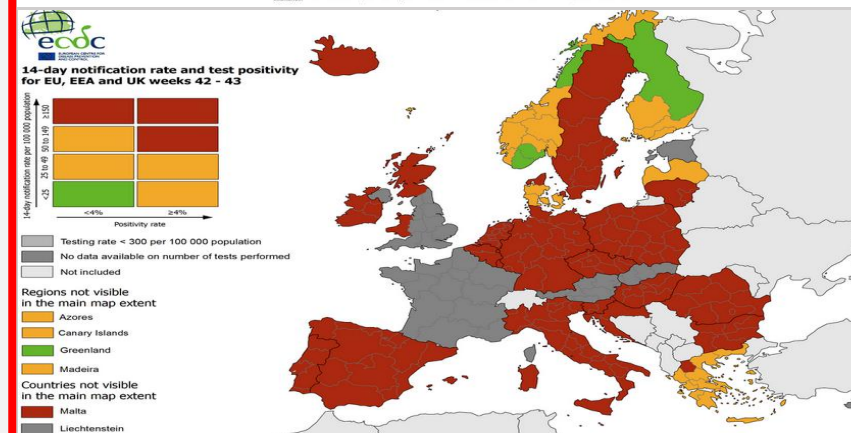
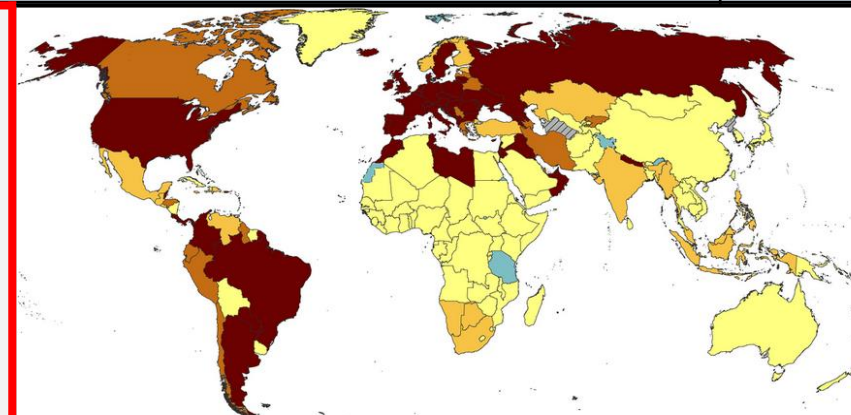
confirmed cases
4 962 574 recovered
158 969 deaths

News:

- Eurostat:** After the economic slump in the Corona crisis, the economy in the euro zone took off again at record speed in the summer. The [gross domestic product](#) rose from July to September by 12.7 percent compared to the previous quarter.
- EU:** In the further course of action against the coronavirus, the [EU is focusing on the new rapid antigen tests](#), which show a result within 15 minutes. These are not as reliable as the predominantly used PCR tests, but they work much more quickly and with the virus now moving too fast to rely on tests that can take days rapid tests can be a benefit.
- EU:** At a [special pandemic summit, 26 EU](#) heads of state and government agreed to work more closely together to combat the second wave of corona. Coordination at the European level should be improved, especially with the new rapid corona tests, quarantine rules, data exchange and the vaccination strategy. Border closings should be avoided if possible.
- WHO:** cooperates with the [free information platform](#) WIKIPEDIA to take action against the "infodemic" related to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. For this purpose, documents are made available royalty-free and can be published directly on the website by independent authors. In this way the serious amount of disinformation should be countered; The series begins with a number of infographics in which the most common rumors and fallacies are analyzed and refuted.
- 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: Smoking and COVID-19
- In the press



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EUROPE



9 812 222

confirmed cases

3 658 200 recovered
271 686 deaths

Russia

(new cases/day 17 418)



1 588 433

confirmed cases

1 193 867 recovered
27 462 deaths

FRANCE

(new cases/day 47 637)



1 282 769

confirmed cases

115 287 recovered
36 020 deaths

SPAIN

(new cases/day 23 829)

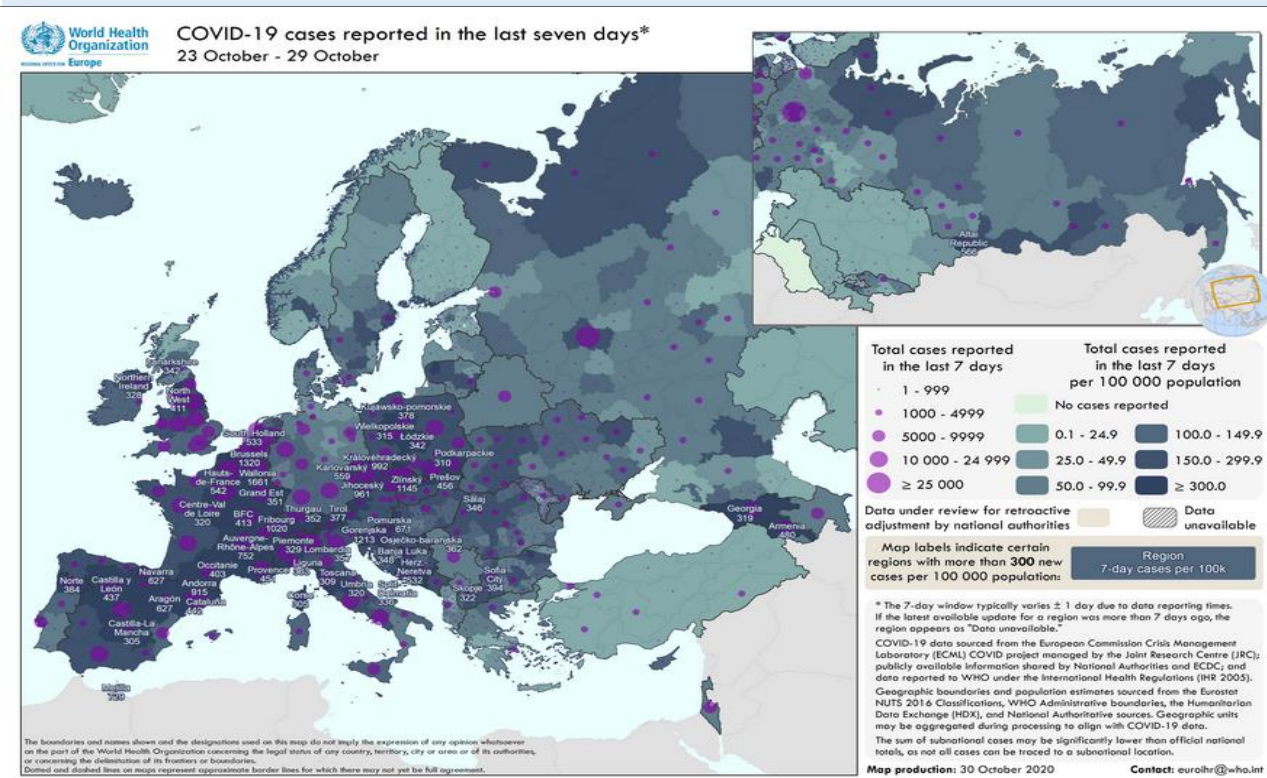


1 160 083

confirmed cases

150 376 recovered
35 639 deaths

Global Situation



SWE: After a significant increase in registered new infections with the coronavirus. The national public health authority announced a voluntary lockdown for Stockholm and other regions of the Scandinavian country. Citizens of the affected areas are advised not to meet people who do not belong to their household, not to go to concerts or other events, and to only make essential purchases, for example in supermarkets and pharmacies.

ESP: Spain is extending the Corona emergency until May 9, 2021. Due to the rapidly increasing number of infections, the so-called state of alarm - the third highest level of emergency - was declared on Sunday and a night curfew was imposed in almost the entire country. Only the Canaries who have recently been successful in the fight against Corona are excluded. This emergency decree was only valid for two weeks and will now be replaced by the new emergency rule after approval by parliament.

ISR: Almost two weeks after the first easing of the second corona lockdown, further simplifications are planned. The primary schools are planned to open to the 1st to 4th grade, with some restrictions. From Sunday on, holiday apartments can be reopened, up to ten people can gather in houses of prayer and up to 20 outside. Street shops are scheduled to reopen in the next week.

DEU: The number of corona infections continues to rise sharply. On Friday morning, the RKI reported a new high for new infections with 18,681 cases. The government agreed on a partial lockdown from Monday November 2nd. Restaurants are to close until the end of November and private meetings are to be limited to a total of 10 persons from max. two households. The cultural and leisure sectors are also to be shut down. Unnecessary trips should be avoided, tourist accommodation is prohibited in November. Schools, daycare centers and shops, on the other hand, should remain open under some conditions. Doctors fear a dramatic situation in Germany's intensive care units in a few weeks. It is expected that the large health care centres will come under maximum load in 14 days. The main problem is the staff, who are infected much more frequently than in March or April due to the rapidly increasing number of infections and are therefore lacking in caring for the patients.

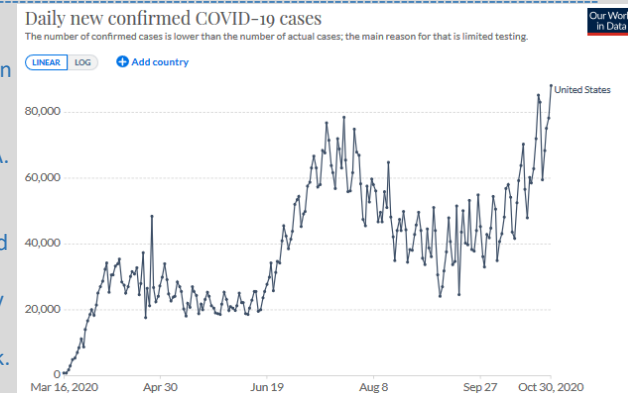
GRC: In the fight against the corona virus, the Greek government has ordered a lockdown for the cities of Thessaloniki, Larisa and Rodopi in central and northern Greece. Schools will remain open, meetings are prohibited and restaurants must remain closed.

POL: The number of daily new infections with the corona virus exceeded the 20,000 mark for the first time on Thursday. Within 24 hours, 20,156 new cases were added, most of them (around 2,633) in the Greater Poland region in the west of the country. Over the same period, 301 people died related to the virus.

MHL: So far one of the few coronavirus-free countries in the world, the Marshall Islands have now reported their first cases of infection. Two employees of a US army garrison on Kwajalein Atoll had tested positive for the virus. They arrived on Tuesday on a military flight from Hawaii. Both people also had contact with the native population.

GBR: Because of the rapidly increasing number of new corona infections, two million more people in England have to adjust to restrictions on public life. The West Yorkshire region is affected, for which the highest level in a three-stage government warning system will apply from Monday. After that, most pubs and some shops will have to close, and people will not be allowed to meet members of other households in their homes. The area with the major cities of Leeds and Bradford joins large parts of northern England where restrictions already apply. Furthermore, a nationwide lockdown should be avoided through regional measures.

USA: For the first time, the threshold of 90,000 new infections was reached within one day. With 91,295 new cases of infection within 24 hours, a record number of new infections with the coronavirus has been recorded. Most recently, the new virus spread rapidly, especially in the north and mid-west of the USA. The Federal Police FBI warned on Thursday night of ongoing attacks with the Ryuk extortion trojan in American hospitals. Such software typically encrypts the contents of computers and demands a ransom with promises to release the data. A worldwide attack of this kind with the WannaCry Trojan in May 2017 also affected the work of British hospitals. IT security experts suspect a Russian group of cyber criminals behind Ryuk.



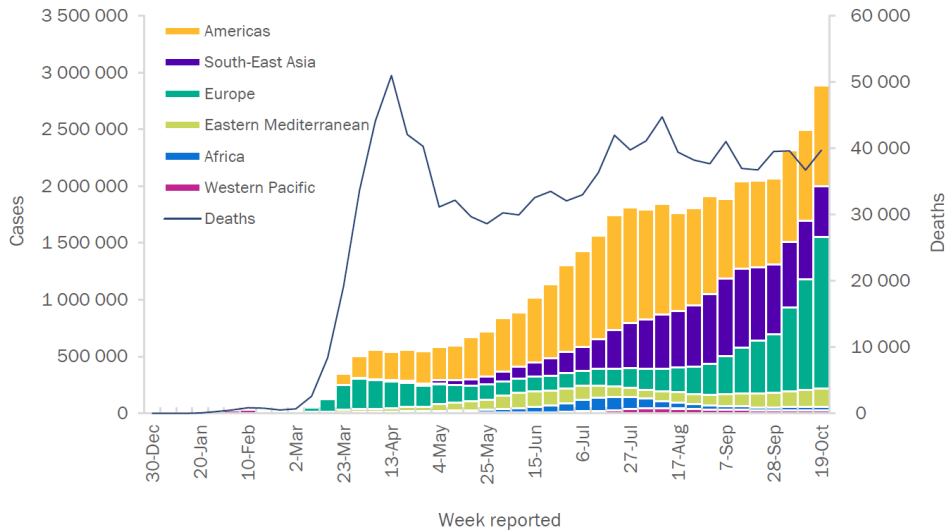
Global Situation

Global epidemiological situation

In the past week the highest number of new COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, amounting to over 2 million new cases in the past 7 days (Figure 1), the shortest intervals for this exponential increase since the start of the pandemic, while the number of new deaths is comparable to previous weeks. As of 25 October, over 42 million cases and 1.1 million deaths have been reported globally, with over 2.8 million new cases and nearly 40,000 new deaths reported over the past week.

For the second consecutive week the **European Region** accounts for the greatest proportion of reported new cases, with over 1.3 million new cases reported this past week – a 33% increase in cases compared to the previous week – contributing nearly half of all new cases reported worldwide this week (46%) (Table 1). Similarly, the number of deaths continues to increase in the region with a 35% increase from last week and accounting for nearly one third of all new deaths globally. Although not as substantial, increases in reported new cases were also observed in the Region of the Americas, Eastern-Mediterranean and African regions.

Figure 1: Number of COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, 30 December 2019 through 25 October 2020**



Declines in cases and deaths continued to be reported in the **South-East Asia** region while the **Western Pacific** region has shown a slight decline in new cases and deaths in the past 7 days.

Despite regional variations the countries reporting the highest number of cases in the past week remain the same as the previous 3 weeks: **India**, the **United States of America**, **France**, **Brazil** and the **United Kingdom**.

Source: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---27-october-2020>

European Region

The number of new cases and deaths reported are increasing exponentially, with 36% and 37% increase in cases and deaths respectively compared to the previous week, the highest percentage increase reported in a single week in the region. Although the number of deaths is gradually increasing, the proportion of deaths to cases remains relatively low, compared to the early phase of the pandemic in the spring. Cases and deaths reported in the last 7 days, accounting for 46% and 30% respectively of the total global number.

France accounted for the greatest number of new cases, over 200,000 cases, reported in the past 7 days.

In the last week, hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and ICU occupancy increased in 21 countries across the region, compared to the previous week, however, current figures represent about 25% of the numbers reported during the peak level early in the pandemic. Based on surveillance data reported, an estimated 18% of reported COVID-19 cases have been hospitalized, with 7% of hospitalized patients requiring ICU and/or respiratory support.

In the **United Kingdom**, new cases have increased by 30% in the past week. The number of hospitalizations in Wales has sharply increased in the last week, increasing the pressure on frontline staff. There was also a steep increase in the number of ICU admissions among COVID-19 cases aged over 65 years old in England.

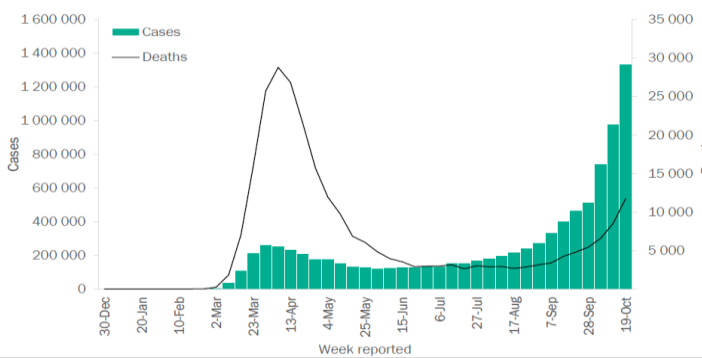
Other countries reporting high hospitalization rates include **Czechia**, where new deaths per 1 million population are currently the highest since the start of the pandemic and hospitals are expected to be at maximum capacity by

Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 25 October 2020**

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 (%)
Europe	1 335 914 (46%)	36%	9 664 042 (22%)	11 733 (30%)	37%	270 972 (23%)
Americas	884 318 (31%)	11%	19 737 794 (46%)	16 918 (43%)	4%	625 973 (54%)
South-East Asia	445 886 (15%)	-13%	8 969 707 (21%)	5 756 (14%)	-16%	140 827 (12%)
Eastern Mediterranean	159 166 (6%)	11%	2 955 552 (7%)	4 035 (10%)	15%	75 133 (6%)
Africa	32 123 (1%)	2%	1 298 315 (3%)	832 (2%)	-21%	29 277 (3%)
Western Pacific	27 197 (1%)	-4%	715 300 (2%)	438 (1%)	-6%	15 314 (1%)
† Other	-	-	741 (<1%)	-	-	13 (<1%)
Global	2 884 604 (100%)	16%	43 341 451 (100%)	39 712 (100%)	8%	1 157 509 (100%)

*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior. Regional percentages rounded to the nearest whole number, global totals may not equal 100%.

Figure 6: Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported weekly by the WHO European Region, as of 25 October 2020**



mid-November and **Italy** where hospitals in Milan are stretched to capacity and temporary clinics have been reopened to manage the burden on the health system.

In the last week, **Slovenia** reported their highest daily increase in the number of new cases, 1,964, the rapid rise in cases has resulted in the health care system being stretched to capacity. To reduce transmission, the country was split into "red" and "orange" zones based on reported case numbers and Public Health and Social Measures were implemented accordingly.

Subject in Focus

Smoking and COVID-19

Tobacco-related illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and other cancers are among the leading causes of death, claiming the lives of five people every minute in a Region where one in four adults is estimated to smoke. The harms of tobacco use are well-established. Tobacco causes 8 million deaths every year from cardiovascular diseases, lung disorders, cancers, diabetes, and hypertension. Smoking tobacco is also a known risk factor for severe disease and death from many respiratory infections.

Therefore COVID-19 brings new risks for tobacco users. A lot of studies highlighting the link between smoking and more severe COVID-19 and death. A [WHO scientific brief](#) also emphasise this correlation.

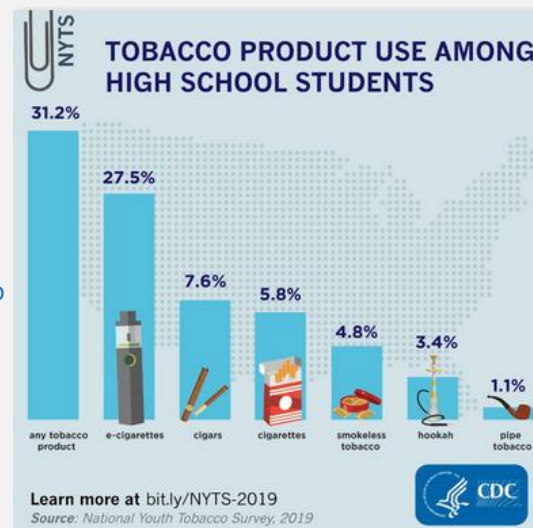
Smokers and vapers may be more vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 in the first place, as the act of smoking involves contact of fingers with the lips, which increases the possibility of transmission of viruses from hand to mouth.

In 2020 the tobacco and related industries have aggressively promoted electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) such as e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products. To be more visual the industry has offered free branded masks and home delivery during quarantine and lobbied for tobacco products to be listed as “essential”.

This leads to the fact, that sales have reportedly increased in some countries in 2020 compared to 2019. Apart from easier access to tobacco and more promotional activity, possible reasons for an increase include stress, physical isolation, uncertainty about the future, rumours about the effect of tobacco and the virus, and rising unemployment, which is associated with increased smoking prevalence.

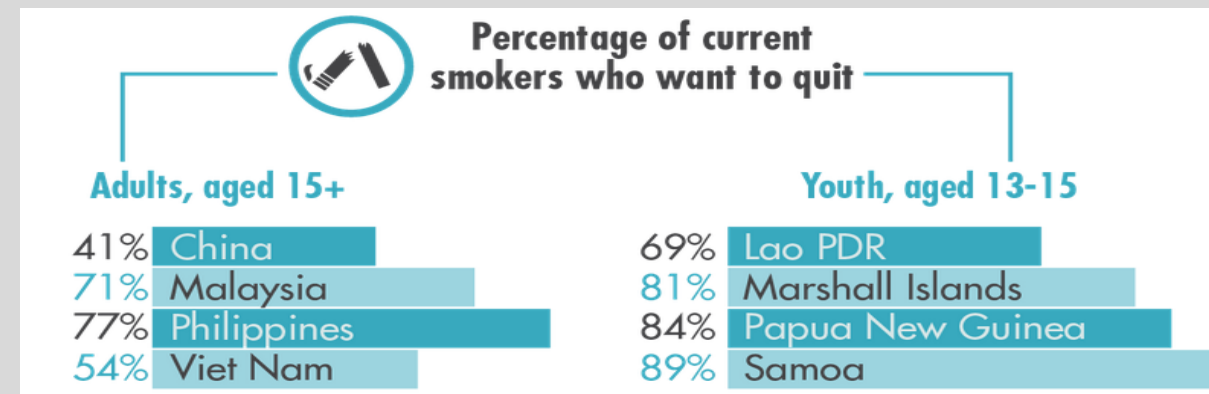
There are multiple factors influencing the use of tobacco products especially in the youth as shown in the national youth tobacco survey from 2019:

- **Tobacco product advertising and promotions:** In 2019, nearly 9 in 10 middle and high school students in the US (22.9 million) reported exposure to tobacco product advertisements or promotions from at least one source.
- **Flavored tobacco products:** Nearly 7 in 10 (4.3 million) US middle and high school students who currently use tobacco reported use of flavored tobacco products in 2019.
- **Curiosity:** more than the half of students (55.3%) said they tried e-cigarettes because “I was curious about them”. Among students who never used e-cigarettes, 39.1% were curious about using e-cigarettes and 37.0% were curious about smoking cigarettes.
- **Misperceptions of harm:** Among all students, perceiving no harm or little harm from intermittent tobacco product use (use on some days but not every day) was 28.2% for e-cigarettes, 16.4% for hookahs, 11.5% for smokeless tobacco products, and 9.5% for cigarettes.



But there have been also some improvements during the crisis. WHO could recognize an encouraging development in some countries which have increased cessation programmes during the pandemic. For example in Japan a new app to incentivize quitting has reinforced measures against second-hand smoke set out in the country’s Health Promotion Law. In Australia and the Philippines, public service announcements encourage people to quit smoking. Australia has increased funding for cessation programmes and extended them. An online community was established in New South Wales, Australia, for former smokers to share their stories and advice on quitting. Three Philippine towns banned smoking or the sale of cigarettes and e-cigarettes during movement restrictions.

Another promising fact is, that even before the pandemic, most tobacco users worldwide wanted to quit, but only 30% had access to the tools such as such as toll-free quit lines, text-messaging cessation programmes and nicotine replacement therapy to help them do so. Additionally due to the focus on the fight against the pandemic previously available programmes may have been suspended.



Example of the outcome of the NYTS in the Western Pacific region

In the end it is very important, that the unique circumstances of the pandemic cannot be allowed to undermine the gains that have been made in tobacco control. Now is the time to support and strengthen smoking cessation measures.

Source:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/smoking-and-covid-19>
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-on-smoking-and-covid-19>
<https://www.who.int/activities/quitting-tobacco>
<https://www.who.int/tobacco/surveillance/gyts/en/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/1205-nyts-2019.html>

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!

26th October 2020

DW

A quirk in human psychology that helps spread COVID-19

<https://www.dw.com/en/human-psychology-quirk-bias-helps-spread-covid19/a-55395870>

29th October 2020

Los Angeles Times

He got a coronavirus vaccine in China but had to keep it secret. Why?

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-10-29/china-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-secret>

27th October 2020

Aljazeera

New study links air pollution to 15 percent of COVID-19 deaths

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/27/new-study-links-air-pollution-15-percent-of-covid-19-deaths>

29th October 2020

The Guardian

Taiwan marks 200 days without domestic Covid-19 infection

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/29/taiwan-domestic-covid-19-infection>

30th October 2020

Aljazeera

African nations downgrade their views on aggressive ratings firms

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2020/10/30/african-nations-downgrade-their-views-on-aggressive-ratings-firms>

29th October 2020

SPIEGEL international

The Challenges We Face Once a Coronavirus Vaccine Is Found

<https://www.spiegel.de/international/zeitgeist/the-challenges-we-face-once-a-coronavirus-vaccine-is-found-a-3f076abd-6b3b-4a45-a619-f03699397ce6>

28th October 2020

South China Morning Post

Coronavirus means less sex – for Chinese, Americans, British, Turkish

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3107296/coronavirus-means-less-sex-chinese-americans-british-turkish>

28th October 2020

The Guardian

EU leaders urged to aid transfer of Covid patients between member states

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/28/eu-leaders-urged-to-work-together-as-covid-cases-rise-in-all-member-states>

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



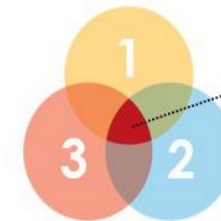
Close-contact settings

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.

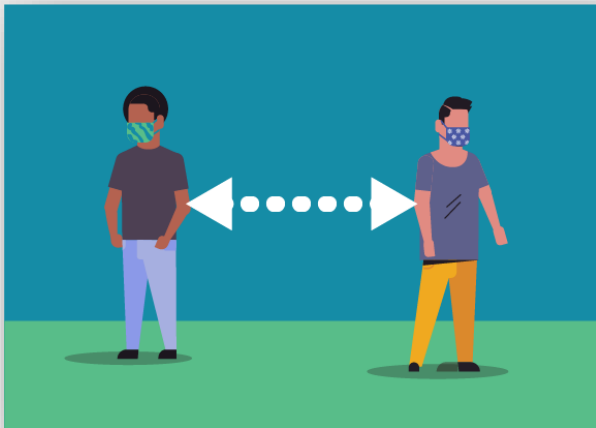
In the case of protective masks with an advertised protective effect in connection with SARS-CoV-2, depending on the intended purpose, a distinction is made between two types:

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:

