COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update

Data as received by WHO from national authorities, as of 9 May 2021, 10 am CET

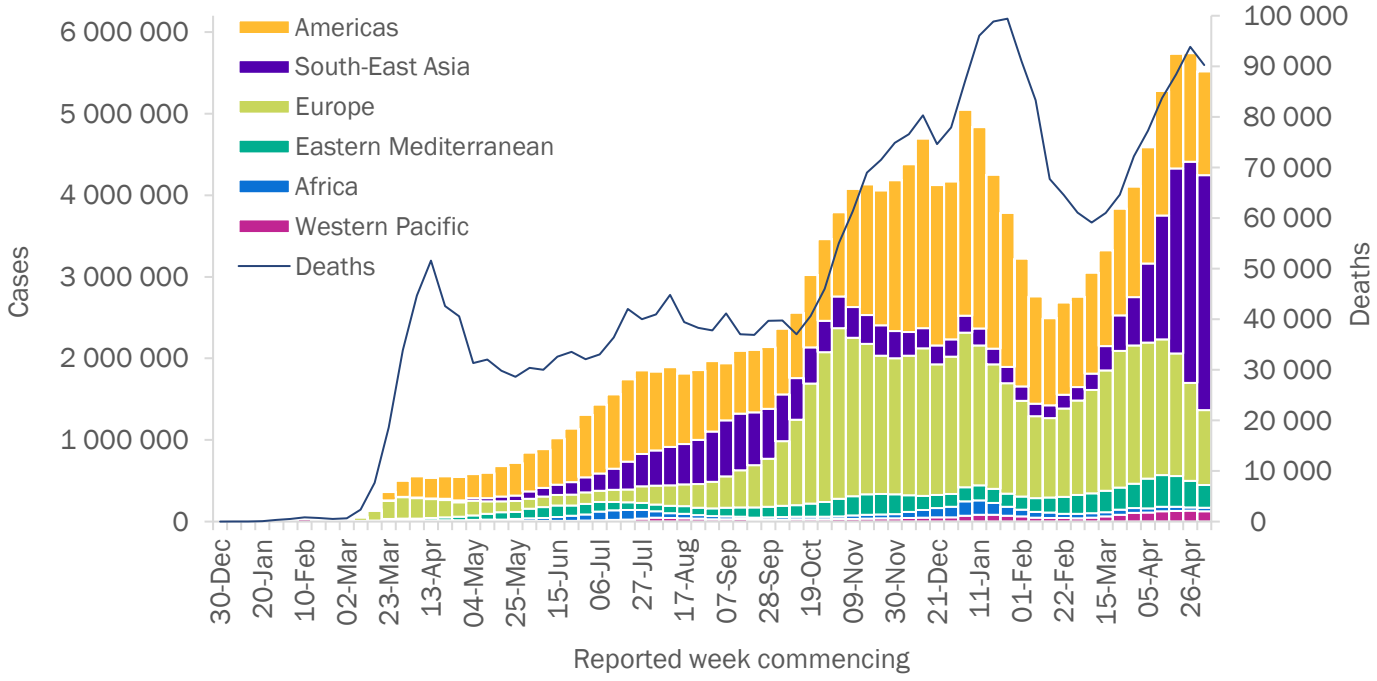
In this edition:

Erratum: SARS-CoV-2 lineage B.1.617 was erroneously listed as B.1.612 in some paragraphs of the previous version. This error has been corrected.

Global overview

The number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths globally decreased slightly this week, with over 5.5 million cases and over 90 000 deaths (Figure 1). Case and death incidence, however, remains at the highest level since the beginning of the pandemic. New weekly cases decreased in the regions of Europe and Eastern Mediterranean, while the South-East Asia Region continued an upward trajectory for 9 weeks and reported a further 6% increase last week (Table 1). Death incidence increased in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions. While India continues to account for 95% of cases and 93% of deaths in the South-East Asia Region, as well as 50% of global cases and 30% of global deaths, worrying trends have been observed in neighbouring countries. In all WHO Regions there are countries which have been showing a sustained upward trend in cases and deaths over several weeks.

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 9 May 2021**



**See *Annex: Data, table and figure notes*

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from India (2 738 957 new cases; 5% increase), Brazil (423 438 new cases; similar to previous week), the United States of America (334 784 new cases; 3% decrease), Turkey (166 733 new cases; 35% decrease), and Argentina (140 771 new cases; 8% decrease).

Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 9 May 2021**

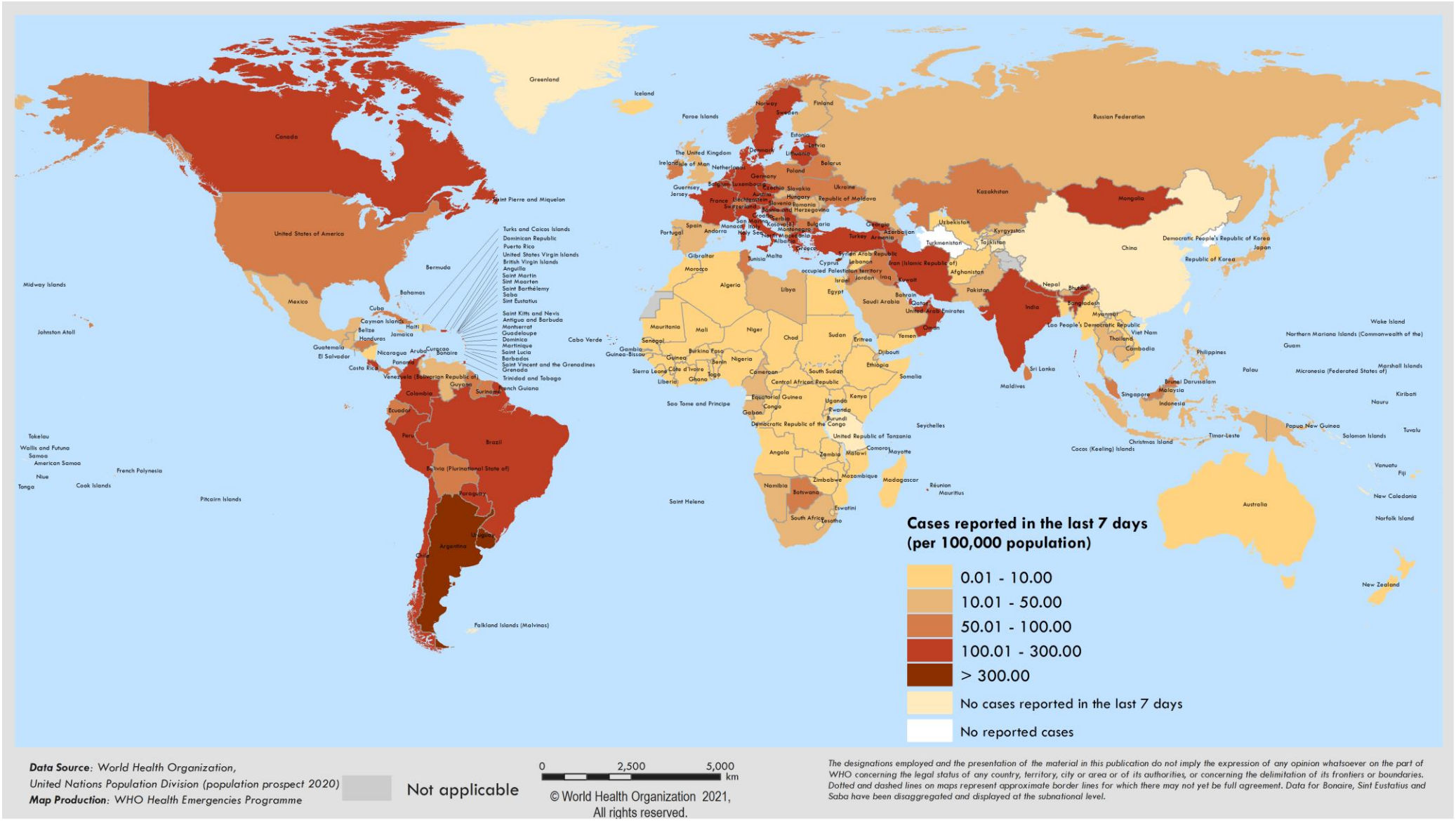
WHO Region	New cases in last 7 days (%)	Change in new cases in last 7 days *	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in last 7 days (%)	Change in new deaths in last 7 days *	Cumulative deaths (%)
Americas	1 272 491 (23%)	-4%	63 554 005 (40%)	33 879 (38%)	-8%	1 551 860 (47%)
Europe	919 119 (17%)	-23%	52 871 662 (34%)	19 056 (21%)	-18%	1 104 629 (34%)
South-East Asia	2 877 410 (52%)	6%	25 552 640 (16%)	28 977 (32%)	15%	309 197 (9%)
Eastern Mediterranean	280 853 (5%)	-13%	9 428 375 (6%)	5 605 (6%)	-13%	189 052 (6%)
Africa	40 656 (1%)	-5%	3 357 846 (2%)	1 034 (1%)	3%	83 904 (3%)
Western Pacific	127 073 (2%)	-4%	2 597 134 (2%)	1 691 (2%)	34%	39 179 (1%)
Global	**5 517 602 (100%)**	**-4%**	**157 362 408 (100%)**	**90 242 (100%)**	**-4%**	**3 277 834 (100%)**

**Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior*
**See *Annex: Data, table and figure notes*

For the latest data and other updates on COVID-19, please see:

- WHO COVID-19 Dashboard
- WHO COVID-19 Weekly Operational Update

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 3 May – 9 May 2021**



**See *Annex: Data, table and figure notes*

Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 variants

WHO, in collaboration with national authorities, institutions and researchers, routinely assesses if variants of SARS-CoV-2 result in changes in transmissibility, clinical presentation and severity, or if they result in changes in public health and social measures (PHSM) implementation by national health authorities. Systems have been established to detect "signals" of potential variants of concern (VOCs) or variants of interest (VOIs) and assess these based on the risk posed to global public health (see also working definitions). National authorities may choose to designate other variants of local interest/concern. Detailed information on currently circulating VOCs and VOIs is available in previously published editions of the Weekly Epidemiological Update. Here we provide information on a newly designated VOC within lineage B.1.617, and provide an update on the geographical distribution, and emerging evidence surrounding phenotypic characteristics of all designated VOIs and VOCs.

Newly designated VOC within lineage B.1.617

In consultation with the WHO SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution Working Group, WHO has determined that viruses within the lineage B.1.617 have been characterized as a VOC. B.1.617 contains three sub-lineages (Table 2), which differ by few but potentially relevant mutations in the spike protein as well as prevalence of detection globally. As of 11 May, over 4500 sequences have been uploaded to GISAID and assigned to B.1.617 from 44 countries in all six WHO regions, and WHO has received reports of detections from five additional countries (Figure 3). Though there may be important differences among the three sublineages, currently available evidence is too limited for VOI/VOC characterization by sublineage. Future delineation of sublineages as VOIs/VOCs may be possible as our understanding by sublineage and relative importance of their epidemiology increases. At the present time, WHO has designated B.1.617 as a VOC based on early evidence of phenotypic impacts compared to other circulating virus variants, namely:

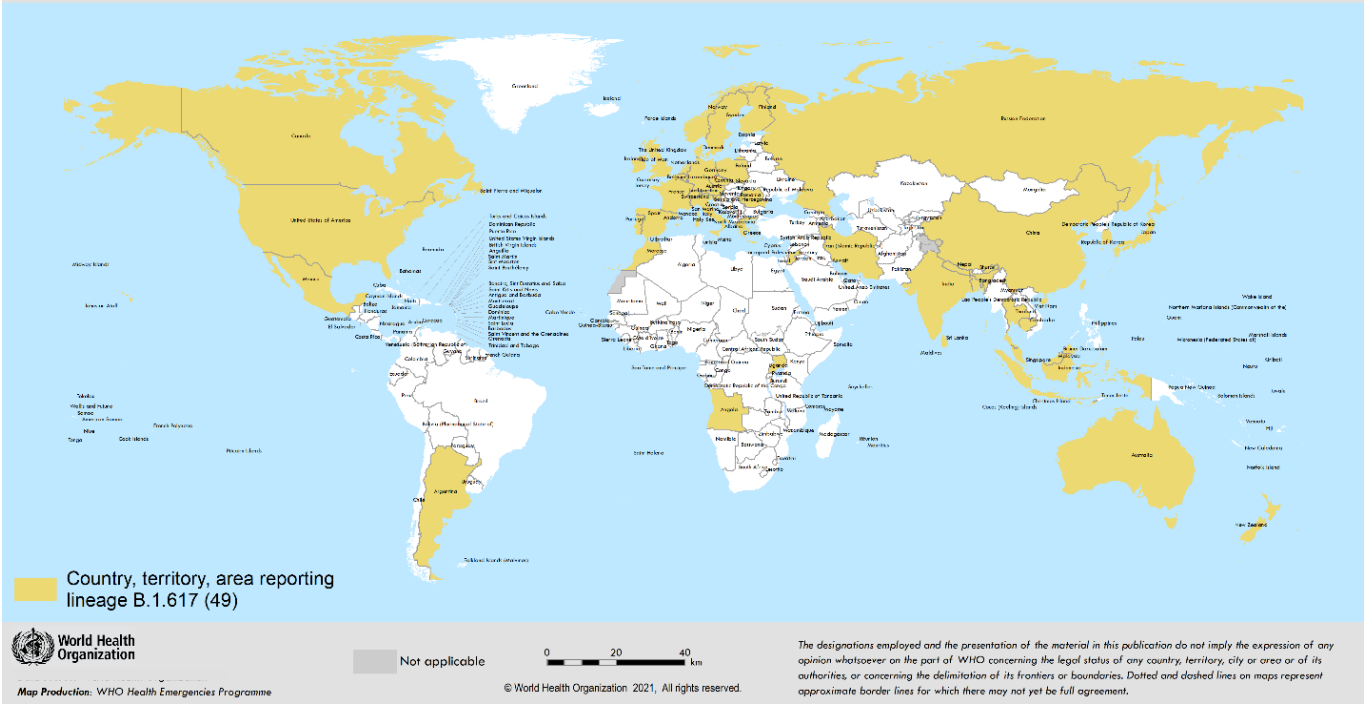
- B.1.617 sublineages appear to have higher rates of transmission, including observed rapid increases in prevalence in multiple countries (moderate evidence available for B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2), and
- Preliminary evidence suggests potential reduced effectiveness of Bamlanivimab, a monoclonal antibody used for COVID-19 treatment, and potentially slightly reduced susceptibility to neutralisation antibodies (limited evidence available for B.1.617.1).

Table 2: Overview of B.1.617 sublineages, as of 11 May 2021

Sublineage	B.1.617.1	B.1.617.2	B.1.617.3
Sequences in GISAID	2001	2507	67
Number of countries reporting detections	34 (in 6 WHO regions)	31 (in 5 WHO regions)	4 (in 3 WHO regions)
Number of lineage-defining spike mutations*	7	8	6
Characteristic spike mutations*	G142D, E154K, L452R, E484Q, D614G, P681R, Q1071H	T19R, G142D, del157/158, L452R, T478K, D614G, P681R, D950N	T19R, L452R, E484Q, D614G, P681R, D950N

**Mutations found in >60% of sequences*

Figure 3. Countries, territories and areas with B.1.617.1, B.1.617.2 or B.1.617.3 sequences uploaded to GISAID and/or reported to WHO as of 11 May 2021*



** Unverified detections based primarily on GISAID, subject to change as WHO validates detection with Member States.*

Viruses in the B.1.617 lineage were first reported in India in October 2020. The resurgence in COVID-19 cases and deaths in India has raised questions on the potential role of B.1.617 and other variants (e.g., B.1.1.7) in circulation. A recent risk assessment of the situation in India conducted by WHO found that resurgence and acceleration of COVID-19 transmission in India had several potential contributing factors, including increase in the proportion of cases of SARS-CoV-2 variants with potentially increased transmissibility; several religious and political mass gathering events which increased social mixing; and, under use of and reduced adherence to public health and social measures (PHSM). The exact contributions of these each of these factors on increased transmission in India are not well understood.

Approximately 0.1% of positive samples in India have been sequenced and uploaded to GISAID to identify SARS-CoV-2 variants. The prevalence of several VOCs including B.1.1.7 and B.1.617 sublineages increased concurrent to the surge in COVID-19 cases reported in India. While B.1.1.7 and B.1.617.1 variants have begun to wane in recent weeks, a marked increase in the proportion of viruses sequenced as B.1.617.2 has been observed over the same period. Since the identification of these variants through late April 2021, B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 accounted for 21% and 7% of sequenced samples from India, respectively.[a]

Preliminary analyses conducted by WHO using sequences submitted to GISAID suggests that B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 have a substantially higher growth rate than other circulating variants in India, suggesting potential increased transmissibility compared. Too few sequences of B.1.617.3 have been detected to date to assess its relative transmissibility.

Other studies suggest that the case numbers increased more rapidly during the most recent surge when variants B.1.1.7 and B.1.617 were circulating, compared to the first surge (June to October 2020).[b] A structural analysis of B.1.617 receptor binding domain (RBD) mutations (L452R and E484Q, along with P681R in the furin cleavage site) suggest that mutations in these variants may result in increased ACE2 binding and rate of S1-S2 cleavage resulting in better transmissibility, and possibly capacity to escape binding and neutralization by some monoclonal antibodies.[c] In a preliminary study on hamsters, infection with B.1.617.1 resulted in increased body weight loss, higher viral load in lungs and pronounced lung lesions as compared to B.1 variants (D614G).[d]

Potential impacts of B.1.617 lineage on effectiveness of vaccines or therapeutics, or reinfection risks, remain uncertain. Preliminary laboratory studies awaiting peer review suggest a limited reduction in neutralisation by antibodies; however, real-world impacts may be limited.[e] One study found a seven-fold reduction in neutralization effectiveness against B.1.617.1 of antibodies generated by vaccination with Moderna - mRNA-1273 and Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty vaccines.[f] A second study also found a reduction in neutralization against virus carrying the E484Q mutation (contained in B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.3) for Pfizer BioNTech - Comirnaty vaccine, similar to that found with the E484K mutation.[g] A third study reviewing a limited sample of convalescent sera of COVID-19 cases (n=17) and sera from recipients of the Bharat - Covaxin vaccine (n=23) concluded that most neutralizing activity against B.1.617 was retained.[e] A fourth study reported an approximately three-fold decrease in neutralization activity by plasma from recipients of Pfizer BioNTech - Comirnaty vaccine (n=15) against B.1.617, and a limited two-fold decrease by convalescent sera from cases with severe COVID-19 (n=15). The same study showed that B.1.617.1 (with additional spike mutations R21T, and Q218H) mediates increased entry into certain human and intestinal cell lines, and was resistant to the monoclonal antibody Bamlanivimab; however, it was efficiently inhibited by Imdevimab and by a cocktail of Casirivimab and Imdevimab.[e]

Outside of India, the United Kingdom has reported the largest number of cases sequenced as B.1.617 sub-lineages, and recently designated B.1.617.2 as a national variant of concern. This follows a recent steep increase in the number of cases sequenced as B.1.617 sublineages, and a national assessment that characterized B.1.617.2 as at least equivalent in terms of transmissibility as VOC B.1.1.7; however, they noted insufficient data to assess the potential for immune escape.[h] As of 5 May, the United Kingdom has reported 520 genomically confirmed B.1.617.2 cases (of which approximately two-thirds were domestically acquired), 261 confirmed B.1.617 cases (without further delineation), and nine confirmed B.1.617.3 cases.[i]

Further robust studies into the phenotypic impacts of these variants, including impacts on epidemiological characteristics (transmissibility, severity, re-infection risk, etc.) and impact on countermeasures, are urgently needed.

References

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[i] Public Health England, 2021. Variants: distribution of cases data https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-variants-genomically-confirmed-case-numbers/variants-distribution-of-cases-data#Variant12

Other VOCs

As surveillance activities to detect SARS-CoV-2 variants are strengthened at local and national levels, including by strategic genomic sequencing, the number of countries/areas/territories (hereafter countries) reporting VOCs and VOIs has continued to increase. Since our last update on 4 May, VOC 202012/01 has been detected in seven additional countries, variant 501Y.V2 in five additional countries, and variant P.1 in four additional countries. As of 11 May, a total 149 countries have reported VOC 202012/01 (Figure 4), 102 countries variant 501Y.V2 (Figure 5), and 60 countries variant P.1 (Figure 6) – see also Annex 2. The information presented here should be interpreted with due consideration of surveillance limitations, including differences in sequencing capacities and prioritization of samples for sequencing between countries.

Table 3: SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest, as of 11 May 2021

PANGO lineage Nextstrain clade GISAID clade	Alternate name	First detected in	Earliest samples	Characteristic spike mutations
Variants of Concern (VOCs)				
B.1.1.7 20I/501Y.V1 GR/501Y.V1	VOC 202012/01†	United Kingdom	Sep 2020	69/70del, 144del, N501Y, A570D, D614G, P681H, T716I, S982A, D1118H
B.1.351 20H/501Y.V2† GH/501Y.V2	VOC 202012/02	South Africa	May 2020	D80A, D215G, 241/243del, K417N, E484K, N501Y, D614G, A701V
B.1.1.28.1, alias P.1† 20J/501Y.V3 GR/501Y.V3	VOC 202101/02	Brazil	Nov 2020	L18F, T20N, P26S, D138Y, R190S, K417T, E484K, N501Y, D614G H655Y, T1027I, V1176F
B.1.617*† - G/452R.V3	-	India	Oct 2020	L452R, D614G, P681R, ± (E484Q, Q107H, T19R, del157/158, T478K, D950N)
Variants of Interest (VOIs)				
B.1.525 20A/S.484K G/484K.V3	-	Multiple countries	Dec 2020	Q52R, A67V, 69/70del, 144del, E484K, D614G, Q677H, F888L
B.1.427/B.1.429 20C/S.452R GH/452R.V1	CAL.20C/L452R	United States of America	Mar 2020	S13I, W152C, L452R, D614G
B.1.1.28.2, alias P.2 20B/S.484K GR	-	Brazil	Apr 2020	E484K, D614G, V1176F
B.1.1.28.3, alias P.3 - -	PHL-B.1.1.28	Philippines	Jan 2021	141/143del, E484K, N501Y, D614G, P681H, E1092K, H1101Y, V1176F
B.1.526 (+E484K/S477N) 20C GH	-	United States of America	Nov 2020	L5F, T95I, D253G, D614G, A701V, + (E484K or S477N)
B.1.616 - GH	-	France	Feb 2021	H66D, G142V, 144del, D215G, V483A, D614G, H655Y, G669S, Q949R, N1187D

†*While work is ongoing to establish standardized nomenclature for key variants, these are the names we will use in this publication.*
** B.1.617 is divided in three sublineages (B.1.617.1, B.1.617.2 and B.1.617.3), which differ in mutations and phenotypic characteristics. Current available data is too limited to make clear distinctions between sublineage at this time.*

Figure 4. Countries, territories and areas reporting SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01, as of 11 May 2021

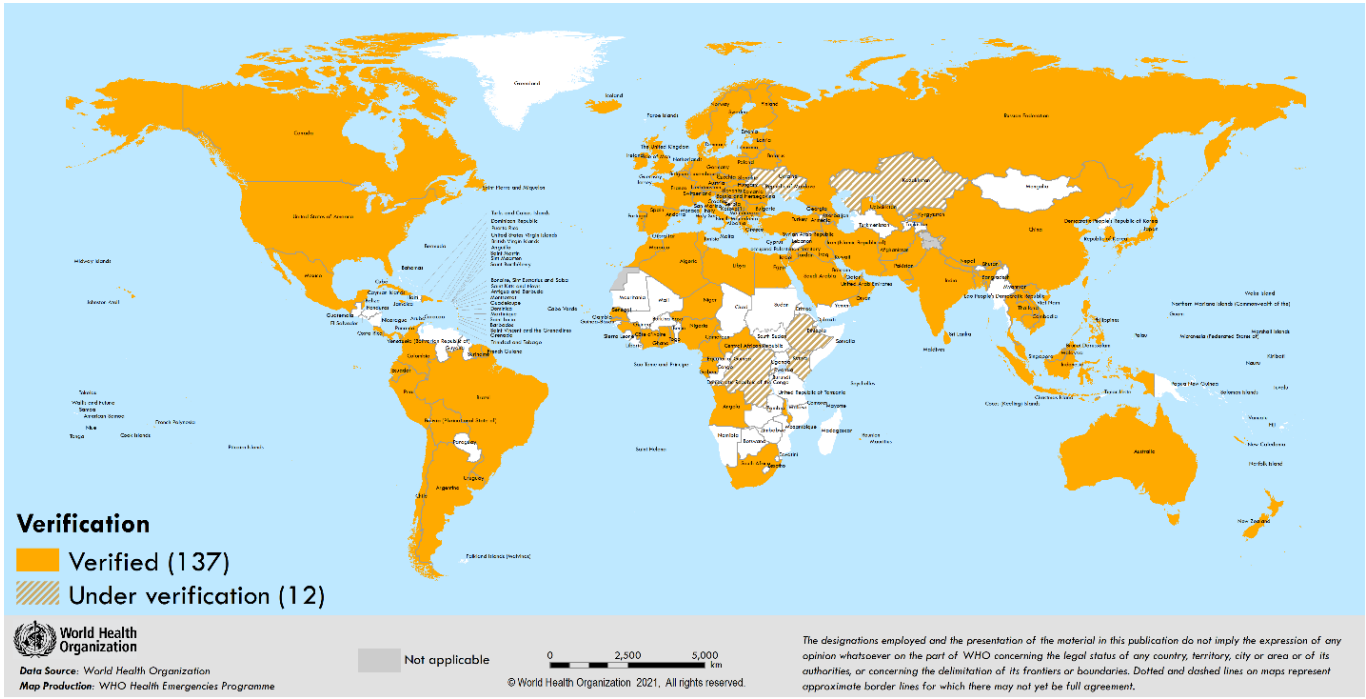


Figure 5. Countries, territories and areas reporting SARS-CoV-2 variant 501Y.V2, as of 11 May 2021

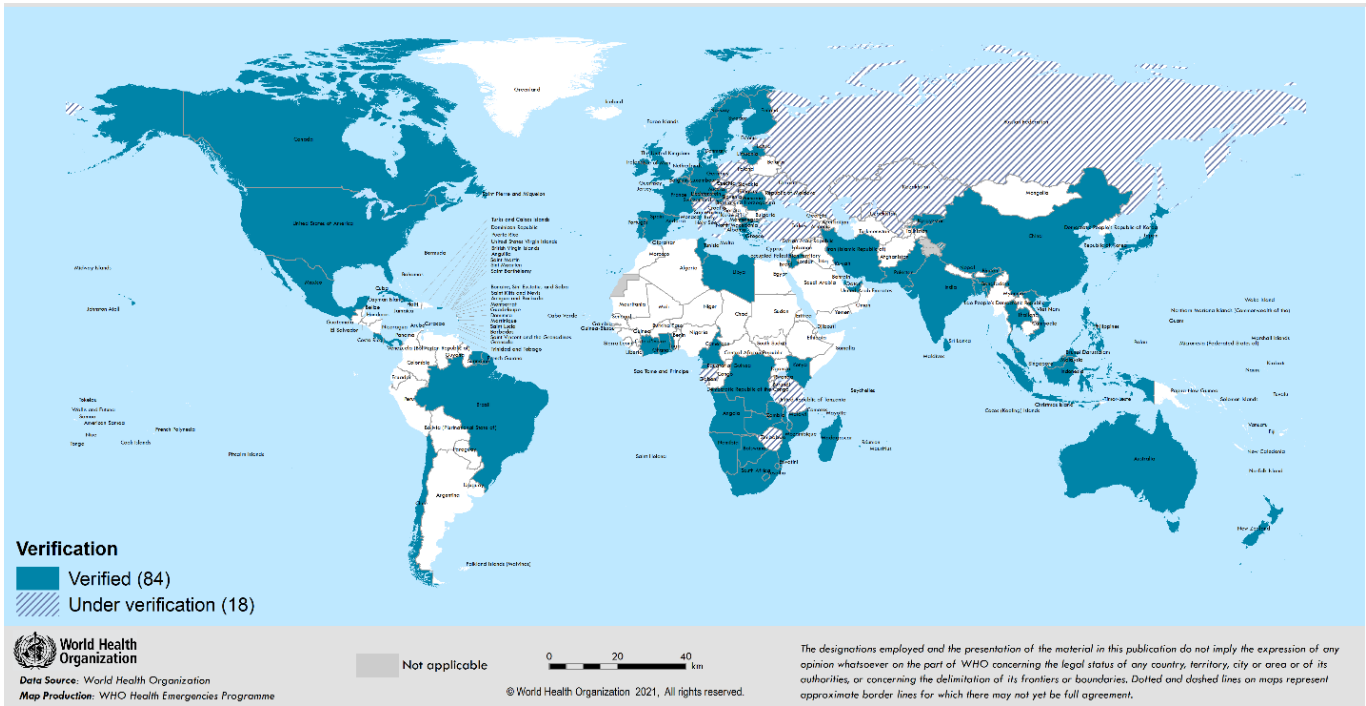
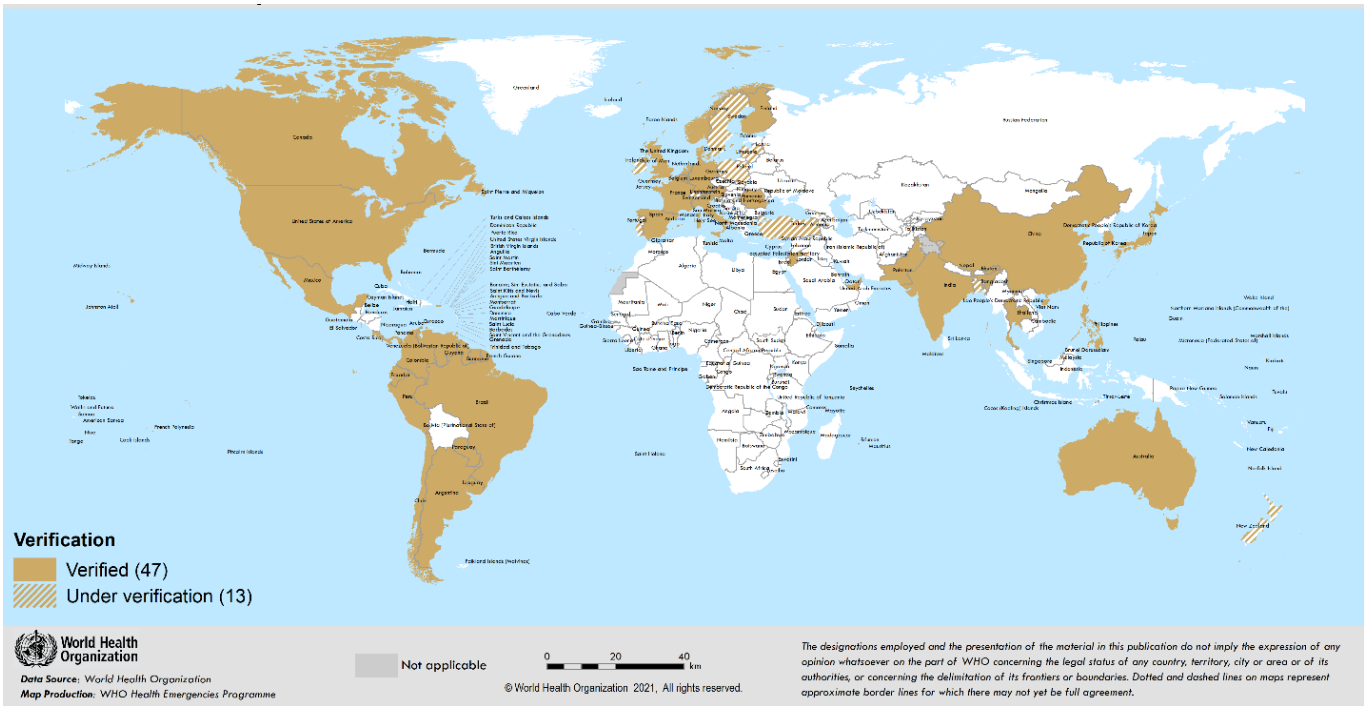


Figure 6. Countries, territories and areas reporting SARS-CoV-2 variant P.1, as of 11 May 2021



Vaccine performance against VOCs

Available evidence on vaccine performance against VOCs has been highlighted in previous editions of the Weekly Epidemiological Update, most recently 27 April, and is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4. Summary of vaccine performance against variants of concern (VOC) relative to ancestral stains

VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7)	501Y.V2 (B.1.351)	P.1 (B.1.1.28.1)
Efficacy/effectiveness against disease or infection		
Protection retained against disease • Severe disease: No/minimal loss: Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty[1-3] • Infection & symptomatic disease: ○ No/minimal loss: AstraZeneca-Vaxzevria, Novavax-Covavax, Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty[2-13] • Asymptomatic infection: ○ No/minimal loss: Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty[2,14] ○ Inconclusive/moderate/substantial loss, limited sample size: AstraZeneca-Vaxzevria[5]	Reduced protection against disease, limited evidence • Severe disease: No/minimal loss: Janssen Ad26.COV 2.5, PfizerBioNTech-Comirnaty[3,35] • Mild-moderate disease: ○ Moderate loss: Janssen-Ad26.COV 2.5, Novavax-Covavax[35,36] ○ Inconclusive/substantial loss, limited sample size: AstraZeneca-Vaxzevria[37] • Infection: Moderate loss: Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty[3] • Asymptomatic infection: No evidence	Limited evidence • No/minimal loss: Sinovac-CoronaVac [44]
Neutralization		
• No/minimal loss: Bharat-Covaxin, Gamaleya-Sputnik V, Moderna-mRNA-1273, Novavax-Covavax, Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty, Beijing CNBG-BBIBP-CorV, Sinovac-CoronaVac[16-35] • Minimal/moderate loss: AstraZeneca-Vaxzevria[5,31]	• Minimal/modest loss: Beijing CNBG-BBIBP-CorV, Sinovac-CoronaVac[39,40] • Minimal to large loss: Moderna-mRNA-1273, Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty[15,16,20-22,24-27,29-32,38,40-43] • Moderate to substantial loss: AstraZeneca-Vaxzevria, Gamaleya-Sputnik V, Novavax-Covavax[22,30,33,42]	• No/Minimal reduction: AstraZeneca-Vaxzevria, Sinovac-CoronaVac[30,45] • Minimal/moderate reduction: Moderna-mRNA-1273, Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty [16,17,24,27,29,30,41,43,45,46]

Since the update on 27 April, two studies from Israel and another from Qatar offer further evidence that Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty vaccine provides similar protection against B.1.1.7 disease as that reported in clinical trials.[47] Both studies from Israel (one published and one preprint) used national surveillance data and found high vaccine effectiveness after the second dose. The published study estimated a vaccine effectiveness of 98.1% (95% CI: 97.6-98.5), 98.0% (97.7-98.3), 97.7% (97.5-97.9), 96.5% (96.3-96.8), and 93.8% (93.3-94.2) against death, hospitalization, symptomatic disease, infection, and asymptomatic infection ≥ 14 days post second dose, respectively, in a setting where B.1.1.7 accounted for 95% of documented SARS-CoV-2 cases.[2] The preprint from Israel reported similar findings.[1]

In addition, the study from Qatar reports effectiveness of the vaccine to be 89.5% (95% CI: 85.9-92.3) against documented B.1.1.7 infection and 100% (95% CI: 81.7-100.0) against documented B.1.1.7 severe disease ≥ 14 days post second dose.[3] The study also evaluated effectiveness of the Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty vaccine against B.1351-specific disease, finding somewhat reduced effectiveness of 75.0% (70.5-78.9%) against B.1.351 infection ≥ 14 days post second dose. However, effectiveness against B.1.351 severe disease ≥ 14 days post second dose was retained: 100% (73.7-100.0).[3]

A study from the United States of America conducted during a period when B.1.1.7 was circulating found that the Janssen - Ad26.COV 2.5 vaccine was 76.7% (95%CI: 30.3-95.3) effective against SARS-CoV-2 infection, similar to clinical trial efficacy findings conducted in a non-B.1.1.7 setting.[47] While this estimate is an average estimate across all circulating viruses during the study, B.1.1.7 was the most predominant variant in the region represented by the vast majority of participants (B.1.1.7 ranged from ~25-70% of sequenced viruses reported by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the study period in this region).[48]

WHO recommendations

Virus evolution is an expected phenomenon, and the more SARS-CoV-2 circulates, the more opportunities it has to evolve. Reducing transmission through established and proven disease control methods such as those outlined in the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, as well as avoiding introductions into animal populations are crucial aspects of the global strategy to reduce the occurrence of mutations that have negative public health implications. PHSM remain critical to curb the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants. Evidence from multiple countries with extensive transmission of VOCs has indicated that the PHSM, including infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in health facilities has been effective in reducing COVID-19 case incidence, which has led to a reduction in hospitalizations and deaths among COVID-19 patients. National and local authorities are encouraged to continue strengthening existing PHSM, IPC and disease control activities. Authorities are also encouraged to strengthen surveillance and sequencing capacities and apply a systematic approach to provide a representative indication of the extent of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 variants based on the local context, and to detect unusual events.

Additional resources

- Working definitions of SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Interest and Variants of Concern
- COVID-19 new variants: Knowledge gaps and research
- COVID-19 Situation Reports from WHO Regional Offices and partners: AFRO, AMRO/PAHO, EMRO, EURO/ECDC, SEARO, WPRO
- Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health
- Considerations for implementing and adjusting PHSM in the context of COVID-19

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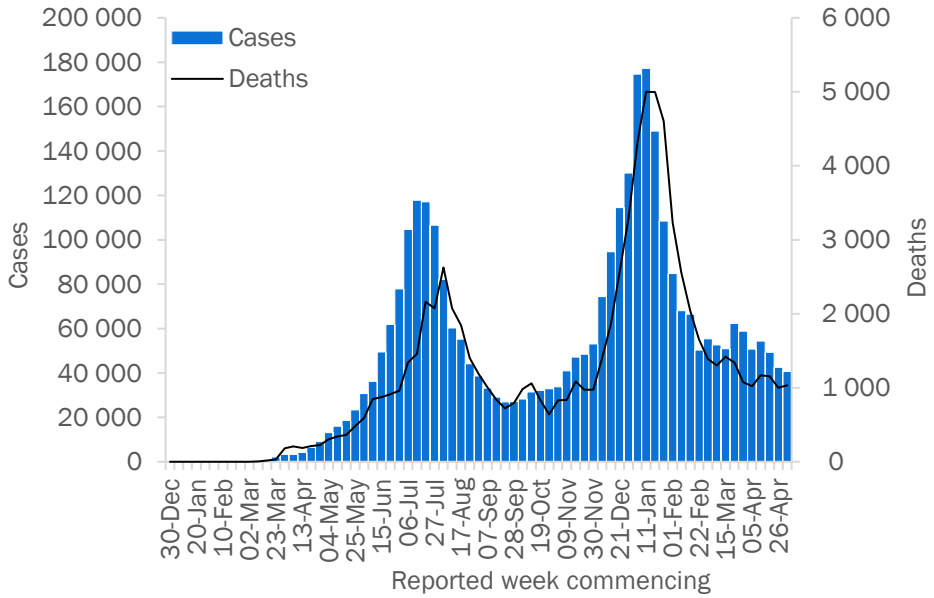
WHO regional overviews

African Region

The African Region reported over 40 000 new cases and over 1000 new deaths, a 5% decrease and 3% increase respectively compared to the previous week. This follows a long-term downward trend in case and death incidence; however, this trend may soon reverse with cases and deaths beginning to climb again in some countries. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from South Africa (11 975 new cases; 20.2 new cases per 100 000 population; a 41% increase), Ethiopia (4155 new cases; 3.6 new cases per 100 000; a 42% decrease), and Cameroon (4126 new cases; 15.5 new cases per 100 000; a 10% decrease).

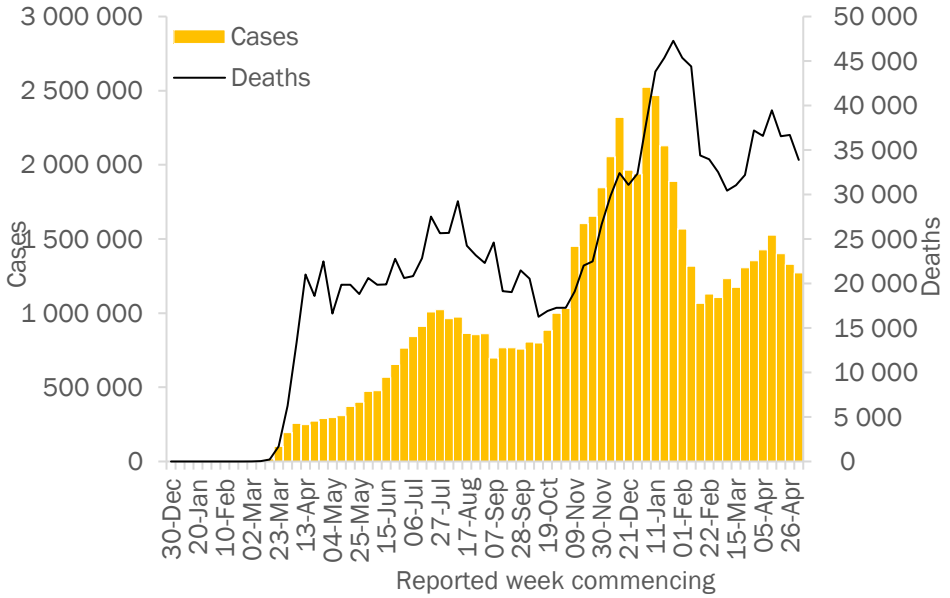
The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from South Africa (318 new deaths; 0.5 new deaths per 100 000 population; a 13% increase), Ethiopia (162 new deaths; 0.1 new deaths per 100 000; a 9% decrease), and Kenya (139 new deaths; 0.3 new deaths per 100 000; a 1% decrease).



Region of the Americas

The Americas reported over 1.2 million new cases and 33 000 new deaths, decreasing by 4% and 8% respectively compared to the previous week. This is the third consecutive week of decreasing case incidence across the region; however, cases and deaths continue to climb in some countries. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Brazil (423 438 new cases; 199.2 new cases per 100 000; similar to previous week), the United States of America (334 784 new cases; 101.1 new cases per 100 000; a 3% decrease), and Argentina (140 771 new cases; 311.5 new cases per 100 000; an 8% decrease).

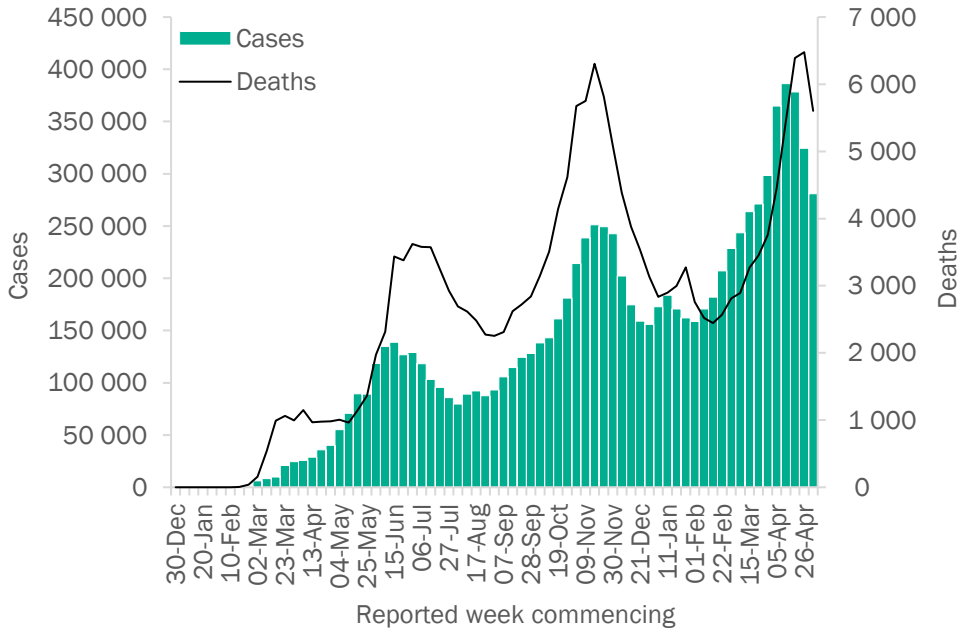
The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Brazil (15 333 new deaths; 7.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 12% decrease), the United States of America (4940 new deaths; 1.5 new deaths per 100 000; a 4% increase), and Colombia (3147 new deaths; 6.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 4% decrease).



Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Eastern Mediterranean Region reported over 280 000 new cases and over 5600 new deaths, both rates decreasing by 13% compared to the previous week. This is the first week a marked decrease in reported deaths has been reported following 11 weeks of rising numbers. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (124 513 new cases; 148.2 new cases per 100 000; a 10% decrease), Iraq (38 192 new cases; 95.0 new cases per 100 000; a 15% decrease), and Pakistan (28 721 new cases; 13.0 new cases per 100 000; a 19% decrease).

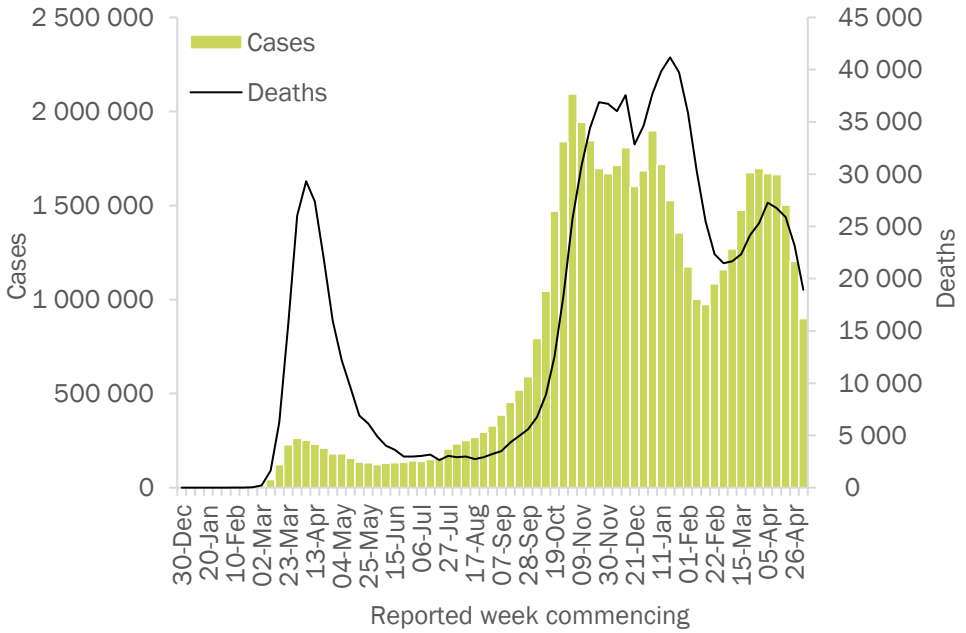
The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (2434 new deaths; 2.9 new deaths per 100 000; an 18% decrease), Pakistan (840 new deaths; 0.4 new deaths per 100 000; a 12% decrease), and Tunisia (542 new deaths; 4.6 new deaths per 100 000; a 6% decrease).



European Region

The European Region reported over 897 000 new cases and just under 19 000 new deaths, a 25% and an 18% decrease respectively compared to the previous week. Cases and deaths in the region have been decreasing for the past month. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Turkey (166 733 new cases; 197.7 new cases per 100 000; a 35% decrease), France (122 487 new cases; 188.3 new cases per 100 000; a 26% decrease), and Germany (103 507 new cases; 124.5 new cases per 100 000; a 20% decrease).

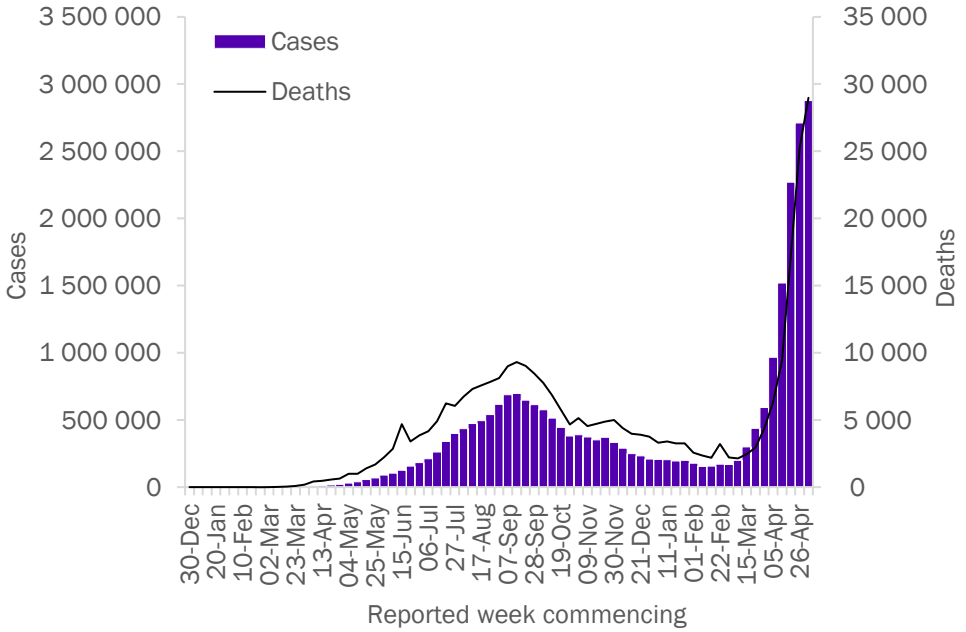
The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Russian Federation (2464 new deaths; 1.7 new deaths per 100 000; a 6% decrease), Turkey (2242 new deaths; 2.7 new deaths per 100 000; a 10% decrease), and Poland (1944 new deaths; 5.1 new deaths per 100 000; a 27% decrease).



South-East Asia Region

The South-East Asia Region reported over 2.8 million new cases and just under 29 000 new deaths, a 6% and a 15% increase respectively compared to the previous week. This marks the ninth consecutive week the incidences of cases and deaths have been increasing in the region. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from India (2 738 957 new cases; 198.5 new cases per 100 000; a 5% increase), Nepal (56 997 new cases; 195.6 new cases per 100 000; a 79% increase), and Indonesia (36 882 new cases; 13.5 new cases per 100 000; a 2% increase).

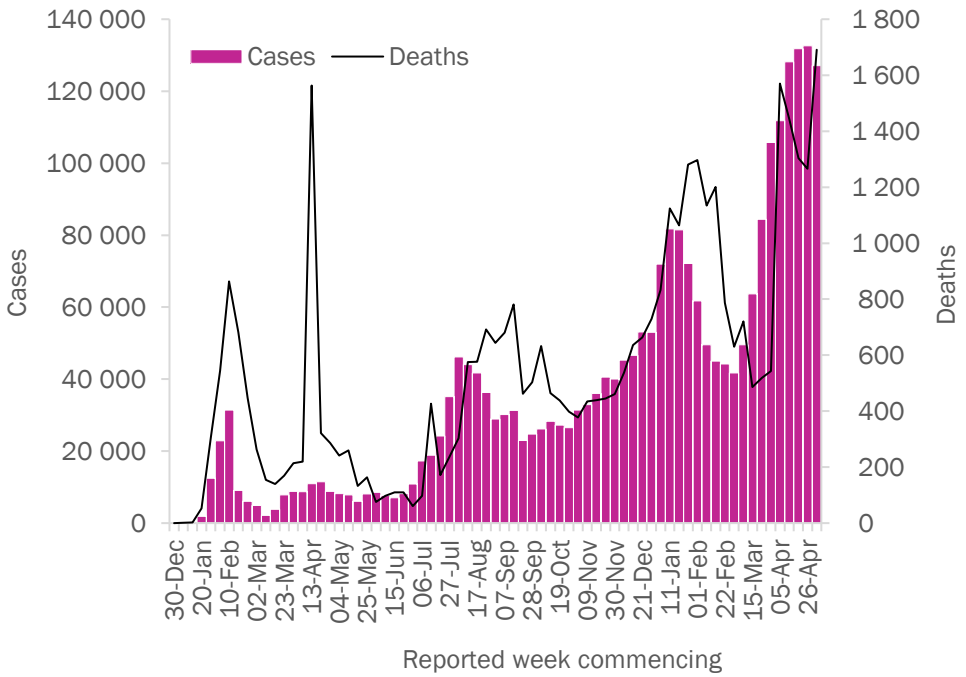
The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from India (26 820 new deaths; 1.9 new deaths per 100 000; a 15% increase), Indonesia (1190 new deaths; 0.4 new deaths per 100 000; a 3% increase), and Bangladesh (368 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 34% decrease).



Western Pacific Region

The Western Pacific Region reported over 127 000 new cases and just under 1700 new deaths, a 4% decrease and a 34% increase respectively compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Philippines (48 197 new cases; 44.0 new cases per 100 000; a 16% decrease), Japan (35 802 new cases; 28.3 new cases per 100 000; a 2% increase), and Malaysia (25 350 new cases; 78.3 new cases per 100 000; a 19% increase).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Philippines (915 new deaths; 0.8 new deaths per 100 000; a 35% increase), Japan (527 new deaths; 0.4 new deaths per 100 000; a 38% increase), and Malaysia (136 new deaths; 0.4 new deaths per 100 000; a 43% increase).



Key weekly updates

WHO Director-General's key messages

Opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 – 7 May 2021:

- The announcement on 5 May by the United States of America that it will support a temporary waiver of intellectual property protections for COVID-19 vaccines is a significant statement of solidarity and support for vaccine equity.
- On 7 May, WHO listed Beijing CNBG (Sinopharm) - BBIBP-CorV COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, making it the sixth vaccine to receive WHO validation for safety, efficacy and quality. The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) has also reviewed the available data, and recommends the vaccine for adults 18 years and older, with a two-dose schedule.
- The WHO Director-General announced the establishment of the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All to identify new ways to shape the global economy, and to build societies that are healthy, inclusive, equitable and sustainable.

Updates and publications

- WHO, Germany launch new global hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence
- Scientific Brief on COVID-19 natural immunity
- WHO's work in health emergencies – Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)
- Estimating COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness against severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) hospitalizations associated with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2: an evaluation using the test-negative design
- The Partnership for Healthy Cities supports COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach in 18 Cities
- Joint Statement on transparency and data integrity International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) and WHO
- WHO calls for better hand hygiene and other infection control practices
- COVID-19 home care bundle for health care workers
- COVID-19 considerations for tuberculosis (TB) care

Technical guidance and other resources

- Technical guidance
- WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard
- Weekly COVID-19 Operational Updates
- WHO COVID-19 case definitions
- COVID-19 Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell Weekly Situational Update
- Research and Development
- Online courses on COVID-19 in official UN languages and in additional national languages
- The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) outlining the support the international community can provide to all countries to prepare and respond to the virus
- Updates from WHO regions:
  - African Region
  - Region of the Americas
  - Eastern Mediterranean Region
  - South-East Asia Region
  - European Region
  - Western Pacific Region
- Recommendations and advice for the public:
  - Protect yourself
  - Questions and answers
  - Travel advice
- EPI-WIN: tailored information for individuals, organizations and communities
- WHO Academy COVID-19 mobile learning app

Annex

Annex 1. COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths reported in the last seven days by countries, territories and areas, and WHO Region, as of 9 May 2021**

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Africa	**40 656**	**3 357 846**	**299.3**	**1 034**	**83 904**	**7.5**	
South Africa	11 975	1 594 817	2 689.0	318	54 724	92.3	Community transmission
Ethiopia	4 155	262 217	228.1	162	3 871	3.4	Community transmission
Cameroon	4 126	74 733	281.5	80	1 144	4.3	Community transmission
Kenya	3 185	163 238	303.6	139	2 883	5.4	Community transmission
Cabo Verde	1 984	26 111	4 696.3	12	232	41.7	Community transmission
Angola	1 662	28 477	86.6	30	630	1.9	Community transmission
Algeria	1 589	123 900	282.5	60	3 321	7.6	Community transmission
Madagascar	1 578	38 874	140.4	62	716	2.6	Community transmission
Botswana	1 483	48 417	2 058.9	22	734	31.2	Community transmission
Namibia	1 239	49 893	1 963.6	40	683	26.9	Community transmission
Seychelles	870	6 811	6 925.5	1	28	28.5	Community transmission
Congo	469	11 147	202.0	4	148	2.7	Community transmission
Uganda	401	42 308	92.5	3	346	0.8	Community transmission
Zambia	387	92 057	500.7	6	1 257	6.8	Community transmission
Guinea	386	22 633	172.3	6	150	1.1	Community transmission
Democratic Republic of the Congo	381	30 285	33.8	4	772	0.9	Community transmission
Rwanda	361	25 586	197.5	3	338	2.6	Community transmission
Gabon	357	23 432	1 052.8	4	143	6.4	Community transmission
Senegal	277	40 665	242.9	8	1 117	6.7	Community transmission
Central African Republic	263	6 674	138.2	5	93	1.9	Community transmission
Ghana	255	92 856	298.8	4	783	2.5	Community transmission

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Mauritania	234	18 636	400.8	1	456	9.8	Community transmission
Côte d'Ivoire	230	46 344	175.7	5	291	1.1	Community transmission
Nigeria	229	165 382	80.2	2	2 065	1.0	Community transmission
Mozambique	201	70 166	224.5	7	821	2.6	Community transmission
Mali	186	14 082	69.5	14	499	2.5	Community transmission
Zimbabwe	154	38 414	258.5	8	1 576	10.6	Community transmission
Togo	149	13 141	158.7	1	124	1.5	Community transmission
Burundi	139	4 177	35.1	0	6	0.1	Community transmission
Niger	91	5 319	22.0	1	192	0.8	Community transmission
Eritrea	71	3 742	105.5	2	12	0.3	Community transmission
Malawi	71	34 166	178.6	5	1 153	6.0	Community transmission
Benin	63	7 884	65.0	1	100	0.8	Community transmission
Burkina Faso	58	13 377	64.0	5	162	0.8	Community transmission
South Sudan	54	10 637	95.0	1	116	1.0	Community transmission
Chad	50	4 874	29.7	1	171	1.0	Community transmission
Lesotho	42	10 773	502.9	3	319	14.9	Community transmission
Mauritius	40	1 246	98.0	1	17	1.3	Clusters of cases
Gambia	31	5 929	245.3	1	175	7.2	Community transmission
Eswatini	19	18 477	1 592.6	0	671	57.8	Community transmission
Liberia	15	2 114	41.8	0	85	1.7	Community transmission
Comoros	14	3 922	451.0	0	146	16.8	Community transmission
Sierra Leone	11	4 068	51.0	0	79	1.0	Community transmission
Sao Tome and Principe	8	2 318	1 057.7	0	35	16.0	Community transmission
Guinea-Bissau	3	3 739	190.0	0	67	3.4	Community transmission
Equatorial Guinea	0	7 694	548.4	0	112	8.0	Community transmission
United Republic of Tanzania	0	509	0.9	0	21	0.0	Pending

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Territories[iii]							
Réunion	1 070	21 451	2 395.9	2	150	16.8	Community transmission
Mayotte	40	20 134	7 380.1	0	170	62.3	Community transmission
Americas	**1 272 491**	**63 554 005**	**6 213.9**	**33 879**	**1 551 860**	**151.7**	
Brazil	423 438	15 082 449	7 095.6	15 333	419 114	197.2	Community transmission
United States of America	334 784	32 337 112	9 769.4	4 940	575 477	173.9	Community transmission
Argentina	140 771	3 118 134	6 899.2	3 007	66 872	148.0	Community transmission
Colombia	108 902	2 968 626	5 834.2	3 147	76 867	151.1	Community transmission
Canada	53 744	1 273 169	3 373.3	310	24 529	65.0	Community transmission
Peru	40 020	1 839 465	5 578.9	2 042	63 519	192.6	Community transmission
Chile	37 221	1 241 976	6 497.0	644	27 101	141.8	Community transmission
Uruguay	17 718	216 146	6 222.3	416	3 032	87.3	Community transmission
Mexico	17 119	2 361 874	1 831.9	1 750	218 657	169.6	Community transmission
Paraguay	15 156	294 233	4 125.2	589	6 974	97.8	Community transmission
Costa Rica	14 495	265 486	5 211.6	134	3 365	66.1	Community transmission
Ecuador	14 332	398 921	2 261.1	413	19 137	108.5	Community transmission
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	10 559	316 153	2 708.4	207	13 182	112.9	Community transmission
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	7 498	205 181	721.6	127	2 263	8.0	Community transmission
Cuba	7 290	114 912	1 014.5	68	722	6.4	Community transmission
Guatemala	6 406	234 883	1 311.1	174	7 717	43.1	Community transmission
Honduras	5 997	218 330	2 204.3	304	5 585	56.4	Community transmission
Dominican Republic	3 739	270 600	2 494.5	36	3 523	32.5	Community transmission
Panama	2 186	366 762	8 500.2	26	6 258	145.0	Community transmission
Trinidad and Tobago	1 896	12 720	908.9	27	196	14.0	Community transmission
El Salvador	1 057	70 255	1 083.1	22	2 150	33.1	Community transmission

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Jamaica	811	46 588	1 573.3	24	803	27.1	Community transmission
Guyana	754	14 037	1 784.6	18	314	39.9	Community transmission
Suriname	570	10 933	1 863.7	10	214	36.5	Clusters of cases
Bahamas	320	10 773	2 739.5	13	212	53.9	Clusters of cases
Saint Lucia	102	4 654	2 534.5	1	75	40.8	Community transmission
Nicaragua	77	5 575	84.2	1	183	2.8	Community transmission
Haiti	70	13 164	115.4	9	263	2.3	Community transmission
Barbados	68	3 931	1 367.9	1	45	15.7	Community transmission
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	48	1 912	1 723.5	1	12	10.8	Community transmission
Belize	18	12 686	3 190.4	0	323	81.2	Community transmission
Antigua and Barbuda	8	1 237	1 263.2	0	32	32.7	Clusters of cases
Dominica	1	175	243.1	0	0	0.0	Clusters of cases
Grenada	0	161	143.1	0	1	0.9	Sporadic cases
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	45	84.6	0	0	0.0	Sporadic cases
Territories[iii]							
Puerto Rico	2 932	134 888	4 715.0	57	2 367	82.7	Community transmission
French Guiana	823	20 366	6 818.6	3	104	34.8	Community transmission
Guadeloupe	795	15 429	3 856.1	8	236	59.0	Community transmission
Martinique	351	11 490	3 061.8	8	87	23.2	Community transmission
Aruba	129	10 737	10 056.6	2	100	93.7	Community transmission
United States Virgin Islands	85	3 210	3 074.0	0	27	25.9	Community transmission
Bermuda	41	2 434	3 908.6	2	30	48.2	Community transmission
Curaçao	41	12 222	7 448.2	5	113	68.9	Community transmission
Saint Martin	28	1 777	4 596.6	0	14	36.2	Community transmission
British Virgin Islands	25	219	724.3	0	1	3.3	Clusters of cases
Sint Maarten	20	2 250	5 247.0	0	27	63.0	Community transmission

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Bonaire	16	1 547	7 396.6	0	16	76.5	Community transmission
Turks and Caicos Islands	12	2 402	6 203.8	0	17	43.9	Clusters of cases
Anguilla	6	99	659.9	0	0	0.0	Clusters of cases
Saint Barthélemy	6	994	10 055.6	0	1	10.1	Clusters of cases
Cayman Islands	5	548	833.8	0	2	3.0	Sporadic cases
Saba	1	7	362.1	0	0	0.0	Sporadic cases
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	0	63	1 808.8	0	0	0.0	Sporadic cases
Montserrat	0	20	400.1	0	1	20.0	No cases
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	0	25	431.4	0	0	0.0	Sporadic cases
Sint Eustatius	0	20	637.1	0	0	0.0	No cases
Eastern Mediterranean	**280 853**	**9 428 375**	**1 290.1**	**5 605**	**189 052**	**25.9**	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	124 513	2 640 670	3 143.9	2 434	74 524	88.7	Community transmission
Iraq	38 192	1 108 558	2 756.1	243	15 741	39.1	Community transmission
Pakistan	28 721	854 240	386.7	840	18 797	8.5	Community transmission
United Arab Emirates	12 497	534 445	5 403.7	19	1 610	16.3	Clusters of cases
Bahrain	9 908	187 905	11 043.0	30	678	39.8	Community transmission
Kuwait	8 806	284 076	6 651.9	66	1 635	38.3	Community transmission
Tunisia	8 778	319 512	2 703.5	542	11 350	96.0	Community transmission
Egypt	7 688	236 272	230.9	443	13 845	13.5	Clusters of cases
Jordan	7 156	719 233	7 049.1	205	9 076	89.0	Community transmission
Saudi Arabia	7 031	425 442	1 222.0	91	7 059	20.3	Community transmission
Oman	6 091	199 344	3 903.6	73	2 083	40.8	Community transmission
Lebanon	4 761	532 269	7 798.3	158	7 460	109.3	Community transmission
Qatar	4 301	210 603	7 309.9	37	502	17.4	Community transmission
Libya	2 189	179 697	2 615.2	34	3 063	44.6	Community transmission
Morocco	2 066	513 628	1 391.5	38	9 064	24.6	Community transmission

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Afghanistan	1 720	61 842	158.9	49	2 686	6.9	Community transmission
Sudan	772	34 826	79.4	80	2 445	5.6	Clusters of cases
Syrian Arab Republic	501	23 319	133.2	50	1 648	9.4	Community transmission
Somalia	500	14 415	90.7	34	747	4.7	Community transmission
Djibouti	214	11 335	1 147.3	4	149	15.1	Community transmission
Yemen	137	6 466	21.7	41	1 271	4.3	Community transmission
Territories[iii]							
occupied Palestinian territory	4 311	330 278	6 474.2	94	3 619	70.9	Community transmission
Europe	**919 119**	**52 871 662**	**5 666.4**	**19 056**	**1 104 629**	**118.4**	
Kosovo [1]	970	106 302		25	2 193		Community transmission
Turkey	166 733	5 016 141	5 947.6	2 242	42 746	50.7	Community transmission
France	122 487	5 676 293	8 727.5	1 550	105 544	162.3	Community transmission
Germany	103 507	3 520 329	4 232.9	1 583	84 775	101.9	Community transmission
Italy	67 304	4 102 921	6 879.3	1 661	122 694	205.7	Clusters of cases
Russian Federation	57 007	4 880 262	3 344.1	2 464	113 326	77.7	Clusters of cases
Netherlands	51 444	1 553 292	8 923.1	151	17 319	99.5	Community transmission
Spain	41 011	3 577 486	7 558.2	252	78 879	166.6	Community transmission
Ukraine	36 330	2 119 510	4 846.4	1 797	46 393	106.1	Community transmission
Poland	29 819	2 833 052	7 463.6	1 944	70 012	184.4	Community transmission
Sweden	28 799	1 007 792	9 758.3	15	14 173	137.2	Community transmission
Belgium	20 793	1 017 482	8 830.4	260	24 554	213.1	Community transmission
Kazakhstan	15 052	396 130	2 109.7	0	4 542	24.2	Clusters of cases
The United Kingdom	14 560	4 433 094	6 530.2	79	127 603	188.0	Community transmission
Greece	14 155	360 577	3 364.0	525	10 978	102.4	Community transmission
Czechia	10 947	1 645 061	15 383.1	324	29 667	277.4	Community transmission
Switzerland	10 276	670 704	7 749.7	36	10 069	116.3	Community transmission

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Georgia	9 474	321 919	8 069.8	130	4 281	107.3	Community transmission
Austria	9 453	626 067	7 033.6	132	10 110	113.6	Community transmission
Croatia	9 321	344 494	8 488.9	287	7 469	184.0	Community transmission
Hungary	8 817	791 709	8 103.9	800	28 602	292.8	Community transmission
Romania	8 682	1 065 254	5 511.2	709	28 903	149.5	Community transmission
Serbia	8 643	699 574	10 099.7	153	6 539	94.4	Community transmission
Lithuania	8 147	257 827	9 227.6	84	4 034	144.4	Community transmission
Belarus	7 692	367 674	3 891.0	70	2 622	27.7	Community transmission
Denmark	6 137	258 182	4 434.0	8	2 497	42.9	Community transmission
Azerbaijan	5 734	326 056	3 215.8	128	4 666	46.0	Clusters of cases
Bulgaria	5 115	409 961	5 897.5	458	16 902	243.1	Clusters of cases
Slovenia	4 414	245 795	11 727.6	15	4 610	220.0	Clusters of cases
Latvia	3 961	123 331	6 465.0	69	2 208	115.7	Community transmission
Norway	2 870	115 410	2 150.1	11	767	14.3	Clusters of cases
Ireland	2 866	252 303	5 082.2	15	4 921	99.1	Community transmission
Cyprus	2 791	69 163	7 788.6	21	334	37.6	Clusters of cases
Uzbekistan	2 754	94 397	282.0	10	662	2.0	Clusters of cases
Estonia	2 441	125 126	9 415.2	33	1 201	90.4	Clusters of cases
Armenia	2 407	219 270	7 399.7	95	4 234	142.9	Community transmission
Slovakia	2 377	385 475	7 062.7	253	12 019	220.2	Clusters of cases
Kyrgyzstan	2 340	98 400	1 508.2	36	1 655	25.4	Clusters of cases
Portugal	2 311	839 258	8 151.4	15	16 991	165.0	Clusters of cases
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2 157	200 989	6 126.2	232	8 811	268.6	Community transmission
Finland	1 465	88 561	1 602.8	8	922	16.7	Community transmission
Republic of Moldova	1 444	252 604	6 261.9	117	5 943	147.3	Community transmission
North Macedonia	1 310	153 891	7 386.6	188	5 079	243.8	Clusters of cases

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Luxembourg	894	68 291	10 907.2	5	802	128.1	Community transmission
Montenegro	647	98 359	15 660.7	35	1 541	245.4	Clusters of cases
Albania	481	131 666	4 575.2	15	2 411	83.8	Clusters of cases
Israel	369	838 887	9 691.9	11	6 376	73.7	Community transmission
Andorra	174	13 406	17 350.7	2	127	164.4	Community transmission
Malta	131	30 438	5 915.3	2	417	81.0	Clusters of cases
Iceland	34	6 506	1 786.7	0	29	8.0	Community transmission
Liechtenstein	27	3 062	7 902.5	1	57	147.1	Sporadic cases
Monaco	22	2 479	6 316.9	0	32	81.5	Sporadic cases
San Marino	13	5 079	14 965.5	0	90	265.2	Community transmission
Holy See	0	26	3 213.8	0	0	0.0	Sporadic cases
Tajikistan	0	13 714	143.8	0	91	1.0	Pending
Territories[iii]							
Faroe Islands	4	668	1 367.0	0	1	2.0	Sporadic cases
Gibraltar	3	4 286	12 721.5	0	94	279.0	Clusters of cases
Isle of Man	3	1 590	1 869.9	0	29	34.1	No cases
Greenland	0	31	54.6	0	0	0.0	No cases
Guernsey	0	822	1 275.1	0	14	21.7	Community transmission
Jersey	0	3 234	3 000.1	0	69	64.0	Community transmission
South-East Asia	**2 877 410**	**25 552 640**	**1 264.1**	**28 977**	**309 197**	**15.3**	
India	2 738 957	22 296 414	1 615.7	26 820	242 362	17.6	Clusters of cases
Nepal	56 997	385 890	1 324.4	334	3 632	12.5	Community transmission
Indonesia	36 882	1 709 762	625.1	1 190	46 842	17.1	Community transmission
Thailand	14 391	83 375	119.4	154	399	0.6	Clusters of cases
Sri Lanka	13 372	123 234	575.5	99	786	3.7	Clusters of cases
Bangladesh	11 543	772 127	468.8	368	11 878	7.2	Community transmission

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Maldives	4 487	34 724	6 423.9	10	83	15.4	Clusters of cases
Timor-Leste	569	2 965	224.9	1	4	0.3	Clusters of cases
Myanmar	116	142 947	262.7	1	3 210	5.9	Clusters of cases
Bhutan	96	1 202	155.8	0	1	0.1	Clusters of cases
Western Pacific	**127 073**	**2 597 134**	**132.2**	**1 691**	**39 179**	**2.0**	
Philippines	48 197	1 094 834	999.1	915	18 269	16.7	Community transmission
Japan	35 802	633 027	500.5	527	10 823	8.6	Clusters of cases
Malaysia	25 350	436 944	1 350.0	136	1 657	5.1	Community transmission
Mongolia	6 731	44 016	1 342.7	45	160	4.9	Clusters of cases
Cambodia	4 717	19 237	115.1	17	120	0.7	Sporadic cases
Republic of Korea	4 069	127 309	248.3	41	1 874	3.7	Clusters of cases
Papua New Guinea	964	12 226	136.6	6	121	1.4	Community transmission
Lao People's Democratic Republic	412	1 233	16.9	0	0	0.0	Sporadic cases
Viet Nam	303	3 245	3.3	0	35	0.0	Clusters of cases
Singapore	152	61 331	1 048.3	0	31	0.5	Sporadic cases
China	147	103 796	7.1	0	4 858	0.3	Clusters of cases
Australia	94	29 906	117.3	0	910	3.6	Clusters of cases
New Zealand	25	2 286	47.4	0	26	0.5	Sporadic cases
Fiji	17	136	15.2	1	3	0.3	Sporadic cases
Brunei Darussalam	3	230	52.6	0	3	0.7	Clusters of cases
Solomon Islands	0	20	2.9	0	0	0.0	No cases
Territories[iii]							
Guam	56	7 813	4 629.2	3	139	82.4	Clusters of cases
French Polynesia	32	18 790	6 689.0	0	141	50.2	Sporadic cases
Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth of the)	1	169	293.6	0	2	3.5	Pending

Reporting Country/Territory/Area[i]	New cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases	Cumulative cases per 100 thousand population	New deaths in last 7 days	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths per 100 thousand population	Transmission classification[ii]
Wallis and Futuna	1	454	4 037.0	0	7	62.2	Sporadic cases
Marshall Islands	0	4	6.8	0	0	0.0	No cases
New Caledonia	0	124	43.4	0	0	0.0	Sporadic cases
Samoa	0	1	0.5	0	0	0.0	No cases
Vanuatu	0	3	1.0	0	0	0.0	No cases
Global	**5 517 602**	**157 362 408**		**90 242**	**3 277 834**		

*See *Annex: Data, table and figure notes*

Annex 2. List of countries/territories/areas reporting variants of concern as of 11 May 2021**

Country/Territory/Area	VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7)	501Y.v2 (B.1.351)	P.1 (B.1.1.28)
Afghanistan	Verified	-	-
Albania	Under verification	-	-
Algeria	Verified	-	-
Angola	Verified	Verified	-
Argentina	Verified	-	Verified
Armenia	Under verification	-	-
Aruba	Verified	Verified	Verified
Australia	Verified	Verified	Verified
Austria	Verified	Verified	Verified
Azerbaijan	Verified	-	-
Bahrain	Verified	Verified	-
Bangladesh	Verified	Verified	Under verification*
Barbados	Verified	-	-
Belarus	Verified	-	-
Belgium	Verified	Verified	Verified
Belize	Verified	-	-
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Verified	-	-
Bonaire	Verified	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Under verification	-	-
Botswana	-	Verified	-
Brazil	Verified	Verified	Verified
Brunei Darussalam	Verified	Verified	-
Bulgaria	Verified	-	-
Cabo Verde	Verified	-	-
Cambodia	Verified	-	-
Cameroon	Verified	Verified	-
Canada	Verified	Verified	Verified
Cayman Islands	Verified	-	-
Central African Republic	Verified*	-	-
Chile	Verified	Verified	Verified
China	Verified	Verified	Verified
Colombia	Verified	-	Verified
Comoros	-	Verified	-
Costa Rica	Verified	Verified	Verified
Côte d'Ivoire	Verified*	Verified*	-
Croatia	Verified	Under verification	-
Cuba	Verified	Verified	-
Curaçao	Verified	-	-
Cyprus	Verified	-	-
Czechia	Verified	Under verification	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Under verification	Verified	-
Denmark	Verified	Verified	Verified
Dominican Republic	Verified	-	-
Ecuador	Verified	-	Verified
Egypt	Verified*	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	Verified*	Verified*	-
Estonia	Verified	Under verification	-
Eswatini	-	Verified	-

Country/Territory/Area	VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7)	501Y.v2 (B.1.351)	P.1 (B.1.1.28)
Ethiopia	Under verification*	-	-
Faroe Islands	-	-	Verified
Finland	Verified	Verified	Verified
France	Verified	Verified	Verified
French Guiana	Verified	Verified	Verified
French Polynesia	Verified	-	Verified
Gabon	Verified	Under verification*	-
Gambia	Verified	-	-
Georgia	Verified	-	-
Germany	Verified	Verified	Verified
Ghana	Verified	Verified	-
Gibraltar	Under verification	-	-
Greece	Verified	Verified	-
Grenada	Verified		-
Guadeloupe	Verified	Verified	-
Guam	Verified*	-	-
Guinea	Verified*	-	-
Guyana	-	-	Verified
Hungary	Verified	Under verification	-
Iceland	Verified	-	-
India	Verified	Verified	Verified
Indonesia	Verified	Verified	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Verified	Verified	-
Iraq	Verified	-	-
Ireland	Verified	Verified	Under verification

Country/Territory/Area	VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7)	501Y.v2 (B.1.351)	P.1 (B.1.1.28)
Israel	Verified	Verified	Under verification
Italy	Verified	Under verification	Verified
Jamaica	Verified	-	-
Japan	Verified	Verified	Verified
Jordan	Verified	Verified	Verified
Kazakhstan	Under verification	Under verification	-
Kenya	Under verification	Verified	-
Kosovo[1]	Verified	-	-
Kuwait	Verified	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	Verified	Verified	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Verified	-	-
Latvia	Verified	Verified	Under verification
Lebanon	Verified	-	-
Lesotho	-	Verified	-
Libya	Verified	Verified	-
Liechtenstein	Verified	-	-
Lithuania	Verified	Verified	Under verification*
Luxembourg	Verified	Verified	Under verification
Madagascar	-	Verified	-
Malawi	Verified	Verified	-
Malaysia	Verified	Verified	-
Malta	Verified	Under verification	Verified

Country/Territory/Area	VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7)	501Y.v2 (B.1.351)	P.1 (B.1.1.28)
Martinique	Verified	Verified	-
Mauritius	Under verification	Verified	-
Mayotte	Verified	Verified	-
Mexico	Verified	Verified	Verified
Monaco	Verified	Under verification	-
Montenegro	Verified	-	-
Morocco	Verified	-	-
Mozambique	-	Verified	-
Namibia	-	Verified	-
Nepal	Verified	-	-
Netherlands	Verified	Verified	Verified
New Caledonia	Verified	-	-
New Zealand	Verified	Verified	Under verification
Niger	Verified	-	-
Nigeria	Verified	-	-
North Macedonia	Verified	Verified	-
Norway	Verified	Verified	Verified
occupied Palestinian territory	Verified	Verified	-
Oman	Verified	-	-
Pakistan	Verified	Verified	Verified
Panama	Verified	Verified	Verified
Paraguay	-	-	Verified
Peru	Verified	-	Verified
Philippines	Verified	Verified	Verified
Poland	Verified	Under verification	Under verification

Country/Territory/Area	VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7)	501Y.v2 (B.1.351)	P.1 (B.1.1.28)
Portugal	Verified	Verified	Under verification
Puerto Rico	Verified	Verified	Verified
Qatar	Verified	Verified	-
Republic of Korea	Verified	Verified	Verified
Republic of Moldova	Under verification	-	-
Réunion	Verified	Verified	Verified
Romania	Verified	Verified	Verified
Russian Federation	Verified	Under verification	-
Rwanda	Under verification	Under verification	-
Saint Barthélemy	Verified	-	-
Saint Lucia	Verified	-	-
Saint Martin	Verified	Verified	-
Saudi Arabia	Verified	-	-
Senegal	Verified	-	-
Serbia	Verified	-	-
Seychelles	-	Verified	-
Singapore	Verified	Verified	Verified*
Sint Maarten	Verified	-	-
Slovakia	Verified	Under verification	-
Slovenia	Verified	Verified	Under verification
South Africa	Verified	Verified	-
Spain	Verified	Verified	Verified
Sri Lanka	Verified	Verified	-
Suriname	Verified	Verified	Verified

Country/Territory/Area	VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7)	501Y.v2 (B.1.351)	P.1 (B.1.1.28)
Sweden	Verified	Verified	Under verification
Switzerland	Verified	Verified	Under verification
Thailand	Verified	Verified	Verified*
Togo	Verified	Verified*	-
Trinidad and Tobago	Verified	-	Verified
Tunisia	Verified	Verified*	-
Turkey	Verified	Under verification	Under verification
Turks and Caicos Islands	Verified	-	-
Ukraine	Under verification	Under verification	-
United Arab Emirates	Verified	Verified	Verified
United Kingdom	Verified	Verified	Verified
United Republic of Tanzania	-	Under verification	-
United States of America	Verified	Verified	Verified
Uruguay	Verified	-	Verified
Uzbekistan	Verified	Under verification	-
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	-	-	Verified
Viet Nam	Verified	Verified	-
Wallis and Futuna	Verified	-	-
Zambia	-	Verified	-
Zimbabwe	-	Under verification	-

*Newly reported in this update.

"Verified" indicates that information for this variant was received by WHO from official sources.

"Under verification" indicates that information for this variant was received by WHO from unofficial sources and will be reviewed as more information become available.

**See *Annex: Data, table and figure notes*

Annex 3. Data, table and figure notes

Data presented are based on official laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case and deaths reported to WHO by country/territories/areas, largely based upon WHO case definitions and surveillance guidance. While steps are taken to ensure accuracy and reliability, all data are subject to continuous verification and change, and caution must be taken when interpreting these data as several factors influence the counts presented, with variable underestimation of true case and death incidence, and variable delays to reflecting these data at global level. Case detection, inclusion criteria, testing strategies, reporting practices, and data cut-off and lag times differ between countries/territories/areas. A small number of countries/territories/areas report combined probable and laboratory-confirmed cases. Differences are to be expected between information products published by WHO, national public health authorities, and other sources. Due to public health authorities conducting data reconciliation exercises which remove large numbers of cases or deaths from their total counts, negative numbers may be displayed in the new cases/deaths columns as appropriate. When additional details become available that allow the subtractions to be suitably apportioned to previous days, graphics will be updated accordingly. A record of historic data adjustment made is available upon request by emailing epi-data-support@who.int. Please specify the country(ies) of interest, time period(s), and purpose of the request/intended usage. Prior situation reports will not be edited; see covid19.who.int for the most up-to-date data. Global totals include 746 cases and 13 deaths reported from international conveyances.

The designations employed, and the presentation of these materials do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Countries, territories and areas are arranged under the administering WHO region. The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by WHO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

[1] All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). In the map, number of cases of Serbia and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244, 1999) have been aggregated for visualization purposes.

[i] Excludes countries, territories, and areas that have never reported a confirmed COVID-19 case (Annex 1), or the detection of a variant of concern (Annex 2).

[ii] Transmission classification is based on a process of country/territory/area self-reporting. Classifications are reviewed on a weekly basis and may be revised as new information becomes available. Differing degrees of transmission may be present within countries/territories/areas. For further information, please see: Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19:

- No (active) cases: No new cases detected for at least 28 days (two times the maximum incubation period), in the presence of a robust surveillance system. This implies a near-zero risk of infection for the general population.
- Imported / Sporadic cases: Cases detected in the past 14 days are all imported, sporadic (e.g., laboratory acquired or zoonotic) or are all linked to imported/sporadic cases, and there are no clear signals of further locally acquired transmission. This implies minimal risk of infection for the general population.

- Clusters of cases: Cases detected in the past 14 days are predominantly limited to well-defined clusters that are not directly linked to imported cases, but which are all linked by time, geographic location and common exposures. It is assumed that there are a number of unidentified cases in the area. This implies a low risk of infection to others in the wider community if exposure to these clusters is avoided.
- Community transmission: Which encompasses a range of levels from low to very high incidence, as described below and informed by a series of indicators described in the aforementioned guidance. As these subcategorizations are not currently collated at the global level, but rather intended for use by national and sub-national public health authorities for local decision-making, community transmission has not been disaggregated in this information product.
    - CT1: Low incidence of locally acquired, widely dispersed cases detected in the past 14 days, with many of the cases not linked to specific clusters; transmission may be focused in certain population sub-groups. Low risk of infection for the general population.
    - CT2: Moderate incidence of locally acquired, widely dispersed cases detected in the past 14 days; transmission less focused in certain population sub-groups. Moderate risk of infection for the general population.
    - CT3: High incidence of locally acquired, widely dispersed cases in the past 14 days; transmission widespread and not focused in population sub-groups. High risk of infection for the general population.
    - CT4: Very high incidence of locally acquired, widely dispersed cases in the past 14 days. Very high risk of infection for the general population.
- Pending: transmission classification has not been reported to WHO.

[iii] "Territories" include territories, areas, overseas dependencies and other jurisdictions of similar status.