

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Daily Update: 23 March 2020



Situational analysis

Source: WHO data 22 March 2020

Region*	Confirmed cases***		Deaths***	
	New	Total	New	Total
Globally**	26 069	292 142	1 600	12 784
Western Pacific	750	94 787	12	3 438
European Region	22 752	151 293	1 426	7 426
South East Asia	278	1 257	7	45
Eastern Med	1 314	23 669	130	1 596
Americas	808	19 685	17	252
Africa**	167	739	8	20

*Region: As per WHO classification

**Madagascar, Angola, Eritrea and Uganda all reported cases for the first time.



Spread

Forbes has provided a report to show that COVID-19 erupted 82 days ago and the total number of cases crossed 300 000 yesterday. It took 66 days to reach the first 100 000 cases, 12 days for the second 100 000 and 4 days for the next 100 000 cases. On the negative side: the virus keeps spreading to more people and countries. On the positive side: there is an increase in testing and quarantine is happening quicker.



South Africa:

According to the latest statement by the Minister of Health, 274 cases are confirmed. Latest updates are available on www.sacoronavirus.co.za

The address by the President Ramaphosa will take place on Monday, 23 March 2020.

Today's insight recommends that we change our perspective on how we analyse the outbreak. There is a shift in the thinking that we should rather track the number of deaths each day rather than the current status in the world such as lack of testing facilities, number of people not showing symptoms, etc. Death by coronavirus is 'unmistakable and occurs by sudden respiratory distress.' It is seen as easily identifiable. Cases are distorted because testing is still coming online. Increasing caseloads can demonstrate spread - or effective medical response. Median time from infection to symptoms is 5 days. When death occurs, it does so 14 days after the first symptoms - so on average $5 + 14 = 19$ days.

The takeout is do not panic when cases go up as this is mostly due to more effective screening. Do continue to self-isolate, stay 6 feet from people and handwash. The rule of thumb seems to be if the 'doubling time' of deaths slow to more than 3 days, a country is starting to bend the curve.

SOUTH AFRICA NEWS

- [Column by Cyril Ramaphosa: Coronavirus puts South Africa to the test](#)
- [SA state's response to Covid-19 gets a huge thumbs-up](#)
- [As Covid-19 cases climb to 274, can SA defiance give way to discipline](#)
- [SAA suspends all international operations](#)
- [Coronavirus: Government to provide relief for struggling small businesses](#)

GLOBAL NEWS

- [German Chancellor Angela Merkel is in quarantine at home after coming into contact with a doctor who tested positive for coronavirus](#)
- [Morgan Stanley sees the US economy plunging 30 % in the second quarter. The Fed's Bullard said that US unemployment rate may hit 30 % in the second quarter.](#)
- [Companies also continuing their battle to save jobs with the Virgin companies the latest to announce that they have invested \\$250 million to save jobs](#)
- Countries are continuing to implement measures to try and curtail public movement.
- Italy banned any movement inside the country.
- [Greece is imposing a national lockdown from 6 am on March 23.](#)
- [The UAE has stopped granting visas on arrival and has forbidden foreigners who are legal residents but are outside the country from returning.](#)
- [Germany is banning public gatherings of more than two people](#)
- India has extended total lock down
- [Companies are stepping up and Facebook is the latest to announced that it has donated its emergency reserve of 720 000 masks to provide health workers with more protective gear.](#)
- Apple have been working to help source supplies for healthcare providers - they are literally using their supply chain knowledge to fight the shortages.
- [The saga of the Olympic Games rages on. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that Tokyo must consider postponing the Olympics if safety cannot be guaranteed](#) Canada announced that it would not send its team to the Olympics and Paralympics in the summer of 2020. The Australian Olympic Committee said its athletes should prepare for a Tokyo Olympics in the northern summer of 2021.

For more information or updates, please email mediaq@southafrica.net

