



# Short Update 26a COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease 3rd of JULY 2020



[info.dhsc@coemed.org](mailto:info.dhsc@coemed.org)

Branch Chief  
Phone: +49 89 1249 4003  
Branch Admin  
Phone: +49 89 1249 4001

## GLOBAL

10 840 659

Confirmed cases  
5 758 754  
recovered  
521 379 deaths

## USA

(new cases/day 44 796)

2 731 716

confirmed cases  
781 697 recovered  
128 571 deaths

## Brazil

(new cases/day 37 160)

1 496 858

confirmed cases  
957 692 recovered  
61 884 deaths

## Russia

(new cases/day 6 726)

660 231

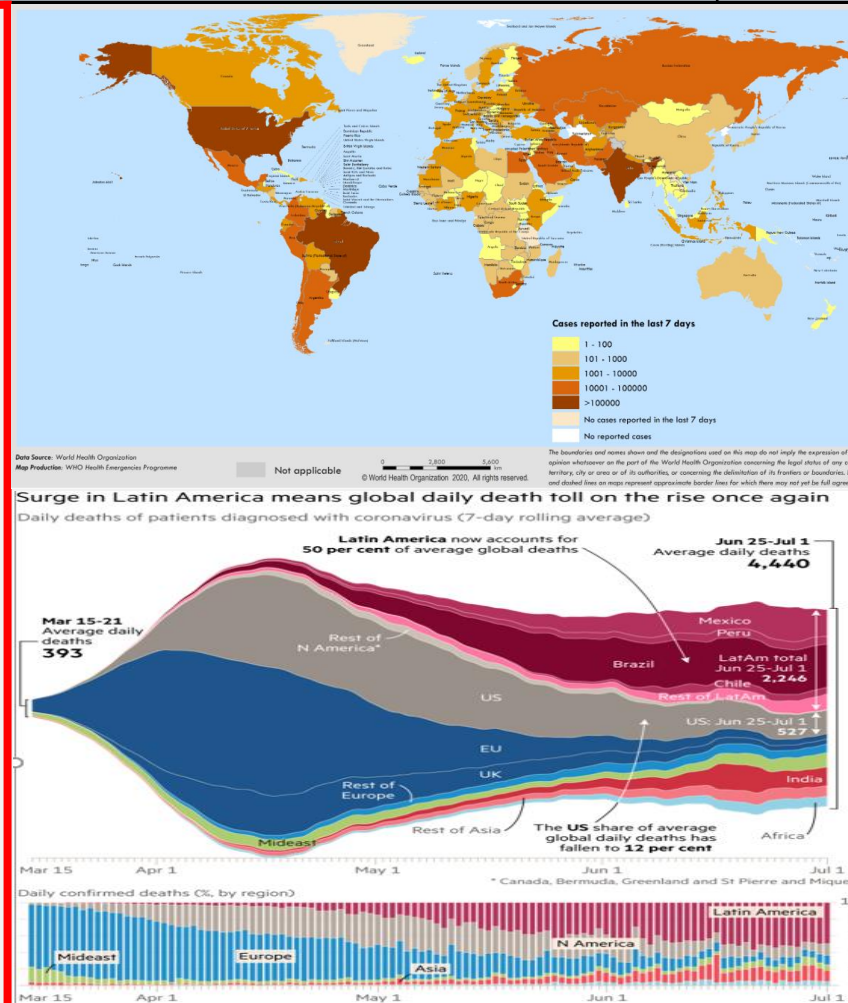
confirmed cases  
428 276 recovered  
9 668 deaths

### News:

- **UNICEF and WHO:** have supported a national immunization campaign in Syria amid the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been about a 5% reduction in vaccination coverage in the first half of 2020, mainly as a result of challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 5-day immunization campaign, implemented by the Syrian Ministry of Health, health workers checked the vaccination status of more than 900,000 children and vaccinated more than 210,100 children.
- **WHO:** has published an update to the scientific brief on smoking and COVID-19, which assesses the available evidence on the risk of smokers being infected by the virus, severity of disease, and deaths among hospitalized COVID-19 patients who smoke. The conclusion remains that smoking appears to be associated with increased severity of disease and death in hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- **WHO:** has published new guidance on infection prevention and control during healthcare when COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed.
- **WHO:** has warned of an accelerated spread of the coronavirus. More than half of all cases of infection registered worldwide were reported last month.
- **EU:** published a summary page on travel and transportation during the coronavirus pandemic and presented guidelines and recommendations to help Member States to gradually lift travel restrictions, with all necessary safety and precautionary means in place.
- **ECDC:** published the guideline "[COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol: Guidance for the management of airline passengers in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)". This should complement the advice of public health authorities and help employers in their duties under the relevant legislation on protection of workers' health and safety.
- 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:

- **Subject in Focus** - Use of gloves in in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- **In the press**
- Time line for **re-opening borders**



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## EUROPE

2 598 638  
confirmed cases

1 520 214 recovered  
197 676 deaths

## UK

(new cases/day 786)

283 757  
confirmed cases

-not reported- recovered  
43 995 deaths

## SPAIN

(new cases/day 374)

250 103  
confirmed cases  
150 376 recovered  
28 368 deaths

## ITALY

(new cases/day 179)

240 961  
confirmed cases

191 083 recovered  
34 818 deaths

# Global Situation

## DEU: COVID-19 antibody study

The Helmholtz Center for Infection Research (HZI) started a nationwide coronavirus antibody study in Reutlingen on Wednesday. The test centre goes into operation on a former parcel post site.

In Reutlingen district, up to 3,000 people are to be tested for antibodies against the novel coronavirus within four weeks. A representative cross-section sample of the population was invited. A second survey is planned for autumn or winter. The HZI plans to conduct testing with the same approach in eight other German municipalities.

## Nationwide study on antibodies

The different testing locations and the timing of the tests should allow for an external validity and therefore transferability of the results to the entire population. Among other things, the scientists want to find out to what extent the number of people with antibodies matches the number of reported infections. In addition to age and gender other factors like occupation and previous illnesses of the tested individuals will be considered. Scientific data indicates that many COVID-19 cases are so mild that they are not recognized and subsequently not reported. However, the infected develop antibodies and are thought to be immune to the virus (at least for a period of time). Knowledge about the prevalence of the disease and associated antibodies within the society could therefore be an important basis for decision-making and dealing with the pandemic in the future. The Study is started in Reutlingen because of the cumulative incidence, i.e. the cumulative number of those affected, is particularly high compared to other counties. In other areas such numbers will be reached later, therefore the respective investigation will be conducted there later. The study is important for answering questions about the percentage of people who have already had an infection and the increase rate of that number. Also the results will contribute to answering the following questions: How many people are protected? Which people are protected (e.g. which occupational groups, which age groups)? Is there a difference with respect to gender within specific groups? Subsequently suitable vaccination strategies (to be applied as soon a vaccine is available) can be derived. HZI states, "Our approach is that we use the same approach in several cities - in Germany, across Germany - and that we conduct our measurements at different points in time. By this we can create a picture of the situation. We also work with the other institutes. This means that the findings of the other groups are also taken into account and we exchange data accordingly and have partially agreed on using similar questions, so that comparability is also given. With this joint information you can then create an overall picture".

Source: <https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/baden-wuerttemberg/tuebingen/antikoerperstudie-reutlingen-startet-100.html>

**USA:** registered corona infections have recently risen dramatically. The number of new infections rose to over 40,000 within 24 hours. The CDC said that 43,644 new cases had recently occurred. In total, there are more than 2.58 million infected people in the United States. Just two weeks ago, the number of new infections per day in the United States was around 22,000.

The US could exceed the threshold of 100,000 new people infected per day if the Americans do not wear masks and do not keep a minimum distance.

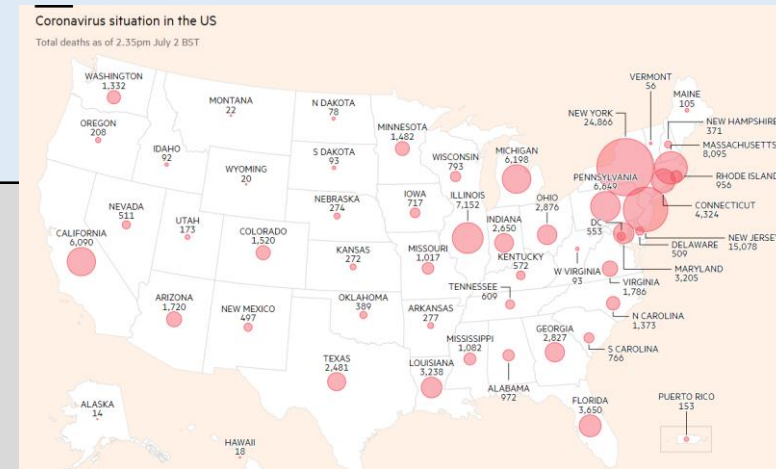
New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have restricted travel from parts of the country that are experiencing a spike in coronavirus cases. Travelers coming from 16 states will have to quarantine for a fortnight upon arrival in the tri-state region.

**ITA:** WHO is supporting the Italian Ministry of Health (MoH) in the development of procedures for the post-acute COVID-19 phase. In the Emilia Romagna region, WHO is working with the MoH regional health authorities to rehabilitate emergency room units in all hospitals in the region to strengthen IPC standards and adapt patient and staff pathways to accommodate post-acute COVID-19 care services. The project will start with two of the biggest hospitals (2000-bed and 2500-bed capacity) to assess and evaluate new standards and designs for a region-wide project.

**ISR:** The number of new infections with the corona virus in Israel has reached a new high. As the Ministry of Health announced late Wednesday evening, 868 new cases were registered within 24 hours. This is the highest single-day value registered in Israel since the pandemic started. The previous high was 819 on April 3.

New restrictions were announced on Thursday night. Different neighbourhoods in Lod near Tel Aviv and in the port city of Ashdod should be cordoned off for at least a week. A five-day lockdown is about to come into effect in the Palestinian Territories from Friday.

**SWE:** Sweden, which is heavily criticized for the special path it chose for coping with the pandemic, has announced a review of its crisis management. The government in Stockholm commissioned the state-funded Swedish Defense Research Agency (FOI) on Thursday to carry out the analysis. Despite the experience of other epidemics such as SARS and swine flu, in Sweden "as in other countries, preparation was incomplete when the corona pandemic hit," the FOI experts noted.



# Subject in Focus

## Use of gloves in in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic



On 2<sup>nd</sup> July [ECDC published a technical report on the use of gloves](#) in in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report details on recommendations for using medical gloves in the public and in health care settings. It summarizes the evidence that is available on this topic so far and provides an easy-to-understand overview of the current recommendations (see on the right).

One section of the report focusses on the decontamination of disposable medical gloves in healthcare settings and states that it is currently not recommended to use disinfectants (e.g. alcohol-based hand rub) to disinfect single-use/disposable gloves, as they might become more permeable.

The report emphasizes the positive effects of good hand hygiene and regular hand washing. It strongly recommends to routinely wash hands after taking off the gloves. The report also points out once again that “there is no evidence of transmission through contact with blood and that the role of faecal-oral route is still unclear”. Therefore the report does not recommend the use of gloves by the public except for individuals that used gloves prior to the pandemic for specific reasons (e.g. occupational necessities). The report also states that “There is currently insufficient evidence to recommend that individuals in the community should wear medical gloves or gloves for household activities in the context of COVID-19 [...]. An exception is for those with a COVID-19 case within the same household, who provide them with direct care, or cleaning or directly handing potentially contaminated waste, such as used paper tissues.”

### Key messages:

#### In the community

- There is currently insufficient evidence to recommend the regular use of gloves as a preventive measure in the context of COVID-19 to the public and to people in most occupations.
- Use of gloves in the community may lead to the misconception that hand hygiene practices can be neglected.
- Regular use of gloves may confer the risk of dermatological side effects.
- The generation of waste from unnecessary glove use causes environmental damage.

#### In healthcare settings

- The use of medical gloves is recommended as part of standard precautions to reduce the risk of contamination of healthcare workers’ hands with blood and other body fluids including contact with non-intact skin and mucous membranes.
- When indicated, use of medical gloves is recommended as part of contact precautions, to reduce the risk of pathogen dissemination to the patient’s environment, to other patients and for the protection of healthcare workers.
- Taking into consideration the currently available types of gloves for use in healthcare settings, extended use, decontamination and reuse of single-use medical gloves is discouraged.
- In the event of shortages, single-use medical gloves should be prioritised for use in healthcare settings.

Source: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Use-of-gloves-within-COVID-19.pdf>

### Recommendations for the use of gloves to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission by community setting

| Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Non-sterile gloves (without EN standards) | Non-sterile gloves <sup>a</sup> | Sterile gloves <sup>a</sup> | Gloves used in microbiological and biochemical laboratories <sup>b</sup> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Community</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                           |                                 |                             |                                                                          |
| Visiting busy closed spaces such as grocery stores, shopping centers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | no                                        | no                              | no                          | no                                                                       |
| Leisure activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | no                                        | no                              | no                          | no                                                                       |
| Using public transport.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | no                                        | no                              | no                          | no                                                                       |
| Workplaces and professions that involve physical proximity to many people, that did not wear gloves for occupational reasons prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g. cashiers in shops and supermarkets.                                                                                                                                            | no                                        | no                              | no                          | no                                                                       |
| People in occupations that wore gloves prior to COVID-19, such as environmental cleaners and the police.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | yes/no <sup>c</sup>                       | yes/no <sup>c</sup>             | no                          | no                                                                       |
| <b>Healthcare setting (e.g. acute care hospitals, general practices, long-term care facilities)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                           |                                 |                             |                                                                          |
| Aseptic procedures, e.g. surgical operations, central venous catheter insertion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | n/a                                       | n/a                             | yes                         | no                                                                       |
| Activities with a risk of contamination of healthcare workers’ hands, including contamination with body fluids, or contact with mucous membranes and non-intact skin, e.g. peripheral venous catheter insertion/removal, intubation, cleaning spills of body fluids, emptying emesis basins, handling/cleaning used instruments, handling waste. | yes                                       | yes                             | no                          | no                                                                       |
| Procedures not included in the two previous examples.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | no                                        | no                              | no                          | no                                                                       |
| Specific laboratory work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | no                                        | no                              | no                          | yes                                                                      |

<sup>a</sup> - European Standard EN 455 on medical gloves for single use, as stipulated in the Council Directive 93/42/EEC

<sup>b</sup> - Standards and specifics for the gloves used in microbiological and biochemical laboratories are described in the European Standard EN ISO 374

<sup>c</sup> - Dependent on occupation specific guidance applicable to the setting and/or applicable national guidelines /legislation

n/a - not applicable

## 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!

01<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**Aljazeera**

### **Middle East at 'critical threshold' of coronavirus crisis: WHO**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/middle-east-critical-threshold-coronavirus-crisis-200701174842532.html>

29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**The Guardian**

### **No evidence that vitamin D prevents coronavirus, say experts**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/29/no-evidence-that-taking-vitamin-d-prevents-coronavirus-say-experts>

01<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**The Guardian**

### **Concern grows in England over delays in sharing coronavirus data**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/01/concern-grows-in-england-over-delays-in-sharing-coronavirus-data>

01<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**Deutsche Welle**

### **Coronavirus triggers mental health crisis in India**

<https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-triggers-mental-health-crisis-in-india/a-54011738>

01<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**Aljazeera**

### **Can coronavirus threaten isolated Pacific nations?**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/thestream/2020/07/coronavirus-threaten-isolated-pacific-nations-200701011441256.html>

01<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**South China Morning Post**

### **Coronavirus tests at 700 'high risk' wet markets: welcome to West Java's new normal**

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/health-environment/article/3091271/coronavirus-tests-700-high-risk-wet-markets-welcome>

01<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**Deutsche Welle**

### **Pakistan: Blood plasma in high demand to cure COVID-19 patients**

<https://www.dw.com/en/pakistan-blood-plasma-in-high-demand-to-cure-covid-19-patients/a-54016553>

01<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**South China Morning Post**

### **South Africa may find the price of healing the economy is a surge in coronavirus cases**

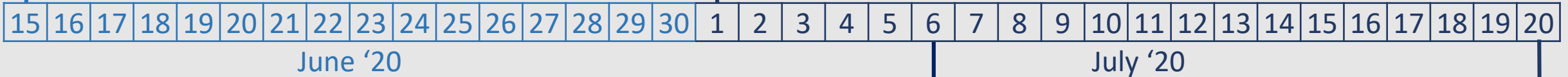
<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/africa/article/3091382/south-africa-finds-price-healing-economy-may-be-surge-coronavirus>

# Current plans to re-open borders

Residents from numerous EU countries are now allowed to travel within the Schengen Area again. Some countries have announced to keep some of their travel restrictions in place.

From 01<sup>st</sup> July EU **recommends** lifting travel restrictions for some non-EU/Schengen area countries

Additional information on EU's plans to reopen can be found here:  
<https://reopen.europa.eu/en>  
<https://ec.europa.eu/>



**CHN:** China has limited (inbound) foreign travel massively. Apart from „Fast-Track“ options that allow nationals of some countries to circumvent a mandatory 14-day quarantine after arriving in China by providing a negative COVID-19 test, travel activities are at a minimum.

The EU recommended removing China from their list of high-risk countries if China is removing the respective EU countries from its list of high-risk countries as well.

**USA:** The US administration has not announced a date or schedule to reduce or remove travel restriction for EU nationals. Non-essential travel currently only possible from AUS, NZL, KOR, CAN (air travel only) as nationals of these countries do not need a visa

**CHE:** Switzerland is planning to start reopening the country to non-EU/Schengen Area nationals. In a first step applications for working permissions and stays for more than 90 days will be processed via the regular administrative process. Travel for holidays is not yet possible for nationals of those countries.

**CHE:** Switzerland announced to follow EU recommendations to remove travel restrictions for 15 countries outside of the EU/Schengen Area as of 20th July. Serbia (SRB) will be excluded from this loosening of restrictions as some cases were imported from there in recent days. The comparably large minority of Serbians living in Switzerland makes an increasing number of imported cases during the soon to start holiday season (with numerous expected family visits) very likely.

According to:

<https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/timeline-of-eu-member-states-reopening-their-borders/> | <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/chinas-travel-restrictions-due-to-covid-19-an-explainer/> | <https://www.traveloffpath.com/u-s-reopening-for-tourism-everything-you-need-to-know/> | <https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/de/home/aktuell/aktuell/faq-einreiseverweigerung.html>