



Update: April 30- May 1

**UPDATE ON GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ON
COVID-19**

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Summary

- The pandemic has now affected 212 countries.
 - 3,329,450 confirmed cases, 234,725 deaths and 1,053,040 recoveries reported worldwide as of May 1, 12:00 GMT
 - The total number of new cases has increased
- Africa recorded 37,393 confirmed cases, 1,598 deaths and 12,228 recoveries as of May 01, 4:00 PM EAT
- An antibody test reportedly with high sensitivity and specificity has been approved by the European Union
- Remdesivir has now emerged as the only drug with a proof of modest efficacy in reducing time to recovery. Although mortality was also lower in the R. group, this was not statistically significant

Update on Epidemiology (Incidence, mortality, recovery & epidemiologic parameters)

Global

- As of May 1, 12:00 GMT, the pandemic has affected 212 countries with 3,329,450 confirmed cases, 234,725 deaths and 1,053,040 recoveries.
- The total number of new cases reported in the last 24 hours (86,037 new cases) is higher than the previous two consecutive days (81,678 and 76,561 new cases).
- In contrast, the number of new deaths (5,801 deaths) has declined compared with April 29th (6,688 deaths) and April 30th (6,593 deaths).
- In the United States of America (USA), more than a million people (1,095,977) are infected with the virus. US contributes a third (32.9%) of the total cases in the world.
- More than a fourth (28.4%; n=310,839) of the total cases in USA were reported from New York state, which has also reported the highest number of deaths (23,780)
- The United Kingdom is now in the top five countries with the most COVID-19 infection because of a substantial increase in the past two days.
- The highest number of deaths were reported from USA (27.2%; 63,876) followed by Italy (11.9%; 27,967), United Kingdom (11.4%; 26,771), Spain (10.5%; 24,543) and France (10.4%; 24,543).

Africa

- According to Africa CDC, a total of 37,393 confirmed cases, 1,598 deaths and 12,228 recoveries were reported from Africa as of May 01, 4:00 PM EAT.
- The highest number of cases was reported from South Africa (5,647) followed by Egypt (5,537), Morocco (4,529), Algeria (4,006) and Ghana (2,074).
- The number of new cases in Ghana was sharply increased within the last two days; from 121 on April 28th to 403 on April 30th. Therefore, Ghana ranked as fifth country in the continent with a total of 2,074 corona cases and 17 deaths.
- Over two third (69.8%; 1,116) of total deaths in the continent were reported from Algeria (450), Egypt (392), Morocco (171) and South Africa (103).

Ethiopia

- In the last two days, additional 2,320 laboratory tests were performed and three of them confirmed to be positive for COVID-19 raising the total number of cases to 133.

- All the additional cases are Ethiopians and two of them are males.
- Out of the three additional cases, two of them have travel history and one of them came from Punt land while the other one was from Kenya. Both of these cases were staying in Jijiga and Moyale mandatory quarantine center respectively.
- The third case is a 45 years old female who is a resident of Bahir Dar city. Even though, she doesn't have travel history to abroad, it's confirmed as she has contact history with confirmed COVID-19 case.
- According to the ministry of health report, additional seven people (from Addis Ababa) recovered from the disease raising the total number of recoveries to 66.
- Therefore, currently there are 133 confirmed cases, 3 deaths and 66 recoveries as of May 01, 5:00 PM EAT.
- All of the active cases (62) have mild form of the disease and they are receiving medical care in the designated treatment centre.

Update on Diagnosis

- According to FIND diagnostics, as of 1st May 2020 [12:00pm, EAT], there were 257 molecular assay tests commercialized and 44 tests under development for COVID-19. There were also 259 immunoassay tests commercialized and 45 tests under development (FIND, 2020).
- An antibody blood test for covid-19, which the manufacturer Abbott claims has sensitivity and specificity of over 99% to detect IgG 14 days or more after symptoms started, has been certified by the European Union.
 - Sensitivity: 100% (95% confidence interval of 95.07% to 100%) for 73 positive samples ≥ 14 days post symptom onset (excluding immunocompromised patient)
 - $>99.6\%$ specificity (95% confidence interval of 99.05% to 99.90%) for 1070 negative samples (Mahase, 2020).

Update on Treatment

- For the first time, a relatively large study in the US among hospitalized patients with advanced COVID-19 and lung involvement (n=1063 participants), offers evidence of effective treatment. This study of the antiviral, Remdesivir, demonstrated a significantly reduced time to recovery. Patients who received Remdesivir had a 31% faster time to recovery than those who received placebo. Specifically, the median time to recovery was 11 days for patients treated with Remdesivir compared with 15 days for those who received placebo. Results also suggested a survival benefit, with a mortality rate of 8.0% for the group receiving Remdesivir versus 11.6% for the placebo group (NIH, 2020).
- However, it is worth of note that a previous, relatively small study, from China had suggested that remdesivir may not be significantly superior to placebo. This study had a much smaller sample size. However, although not statistically significant, patients receiving Remdesivir had a numerically faster time to clinical improvement than those receiving placebo among patients with symptom duration of 10 days or less (Wang et al., 2020). It is possible that the difference did not reach statistical significance because of the sample size.

Update on personal protective equipment

Face mask use

- Recommendations continue to emerge endorsing public masking for crowded indoor or public spaces, including supermarkets, public gatherings, and in close workplace as an adjunct control measure (Gandhi and Havlir, 2020).
- Healthy individuals, especially those who must still work during this time must wear masks regularly, especially in any situation involving more than two people in order to curb the spreading of the COVID-19 virus, particularly asymptomatic transmission (Wu and Qi, 2020).

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