

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2020

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 11 December 2020

On 31 December 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health and Health Commission reported a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown aetiology with a common source of exposure at Wuhan's 'South China Seafood City' market. Further investigations identified a novel coronavirus as the causative agent of the respiratory symptoms for these cases. The outbreak rapidly evolved, affecting other parts of China and other countries worldwide. On 30 January 2020, WHO declared that the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), accepting the Committee's advice and issuing temporary recommendations under the International Health Regulations (IHR). On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

→ Update of the week

Since 4 December 2020 and as of 11 December 2020, 4 171 404 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (in accordance with the applied case definition in the countries) have been reported, including 74 940 new deaths.

Globally, the number of cases has increased from 65 111 258 to 69 282 662 and the number of deaths has risen from 1 507 441 to 1 582 381.

In the EU/EEA and the United Kingdom (UK), the number of cases has increased from 13 680 014 to 14 651 551 (+ 971 537 cases), and the number of deaths has risen from 339 409 to 365 293 (+ 25 884 deaths).

More details are available [here](#).

Measles – Multi-country (World) – Monitoring European outbreaks

Opening date: 9 February 2011

Latest update: 11 December 2020

Measles cases in the EU/EEA and the UK continue to occur among both adults and children. However, a sharp decrease in the reporting of measles cases has been observed during the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU/EEA and the UK, as well as in other countries across the globe.

→Update of the week

Since the previous monthly measles update in ECDC's Communicable Disease Threats Report (CDTR) on 13 November 2020, nine new cases have been reported by four EU/EEA countries and UK: Germany (7), Ireland (1) and Poland (1). Spain has discarded two earlier reported cases. No other countries reported new cases of measles.

No new deaths have been reported by EU/EEA countries or the UK. Overall, two deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK in 2020, both from Bulgaria.

Relevant updates outside the EU/EEA and the UK are available for Ukraine, the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO) and the WHO Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Disclaimer: the [monthly measles report published in the CDTR](#) provides the most recent data on cases and outbreaks from the publicly available information of national public health authorities or the media. This report is supplementary to [ECDC's monthly measles and rubella monitoring report](#), based on data routinely submitted by 30 EU/EEA countries and the UK to The European Surveillance System (TESSy). Data presented in the two monthly reports may differ.

Non EU Threats

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2020/2021 season

Opening date: 14 October 2020

Latest update: 11 December 2020

Influenza transmission in Europe shows a seasonal pattern, with peak activity during the winter months.

→Update of the week

Week 49/2020 (30 November–6 December 2020)

Influenza activity remained at interseasonal levels.

None of the 1 002 sentinel specimens tested for influenza viruses in week 49 were positive.

Influenza viruses were detected sporadically from non-sentinel sources (such as hospitals, schools, primary care facilities not involved in sentinel surveillance, or nursing homes and other institutions). Both influenza type A and type B viruses were detected.

There were no hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza cases for week 49/2020.

II. Detailed reports

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2020

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 11 December 2020

Epidemiological summary

Since 31 December 2019 and as of 11 December 2020, 69 282 662 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 1 582 381 deaths.

Cases have been reported from:

Africa: 2 326 086 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (836 764), Morocco (391 529), Egypt (120 147), Ethiopia (115 360) and Tunisia (107 814).

Asia: 16 572 477 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (9 796 769), Iran (1 083 023), Indonesia (598 933), Iraq (571 253) and Bangladesh (485 965).

America: 29 992 302 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are United States (15 616 381), Brazil (6 781 799), Argentina (1 482 216), Colombia (1 399 911) and Mexico (1 217 126).

Europe: 20 337 876 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (2 569 126), France (2 337 966), United Kingdom (1 787 783), Italy (1 787 147) and Spain (1 720 056).

Oceania: 53 225 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (28 000), French Polynesia (15 535), Guam (7 052), New Zealand (1 736) and Papua New Guinea (684).

Other: 696 cases have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

Deaths have been reported from:

Africa: 55 266 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are South Africa (22 747), Egypt (6 854), Morocco (6 492), Tunisia (3 758) and Algeria (2 564).

Asia: 286 812 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are India (142 186), Iran (51 496), Indonesia (18 336), Iraq (12 526) and Philippines (8 701).

America: 773 311 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United States (292 179), Brazil (179 765), Mexico (112 326), Argentina (40 431) and Colombia (38 484).

Europe: 465 835 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United Kingdom (63 082), Italy (62 626), France (56 940), Spain (47 344) and Russia (45 280).

Oceania: 1 150 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Australia (908), Guam (115), French Polynesia (91), New Zealand (25) and Papua New Guinea (7).

Other: 7 deaths have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

EU/EEA and the UK:

As of 11 December 2020, 14 651 551 cases have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK: France (2 337 966), United Kingdom (1 787 783), Italy (1 787 147), Spain (1 720 056), Germany (1 272 078), Poland (1 102 096), Belgium (600 261), Netherlands (584 980), Czechia (569 205), Romania (539 107), Portugal (335 207), Sweden (312 728), Austria (311 067), Hungary (271 200), Bulgaria (174 568), Croatia (163 992), Slovakia (124 921), Greece (121 253), Denmark (100 489), Slovenia (91 921), Lithuania (86 949), Ireland (75 203), Luxembourg (40 037), Norway (39 524), Finland (29 572), Latvia (23 706), Estonia (16 598), Cyprus (14 052), Malta (10 884), Iceland (5 524) and Liechtenstein (1 477).

As of 11 December 2020, 365 293 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK: United Kingdom (63 082), Italy (62 626), France (56 940), Spain (47 344), Poland (21 630), Germany (20 970), Belgium (17 692), Romania (12 948), Netherlands (9 889), Czechia (9 341), Sweden (7 354), Hungary (6 622), Bulgaria (5 405), Portugal (5 278), Austria (4 158), Greece (3 370), Croatia (2 420), Ireland (2 117), Slovenia (1 387), Slovakia (1 104), Denmark (918), Lithuania (764), Finland (442), Luxembourg (384), Norway (382), Latvia (304), Malta (164), Estonia (141), Cyprus (72), Iceland (28) and Liechtenstein (17).

EU:

As of 11 December 2020, 12 817 243 cases and 301 784 deaths have been reported in the EU.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC):

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constituted a PHEIC. On 11 March 2020, the [Director-General of WHO](#) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The [third](#), [fourth](#) and [fifth](#) International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee meetings for COVID-19 were held in Geneva on 30 April, 31 July and 29 October 2020, respectively. During these meetings, the committee concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute a PHEIC.

Sources: [Wuhan Municipal Health Commission](#) | [China CDC](#) | [WHO statement](#) | [WHO coronavirus website](#) | [ECDC 2019-nCoV](#)

[website](#) | [RAGIDA](#) | [WHO](#)

ECDC assessment

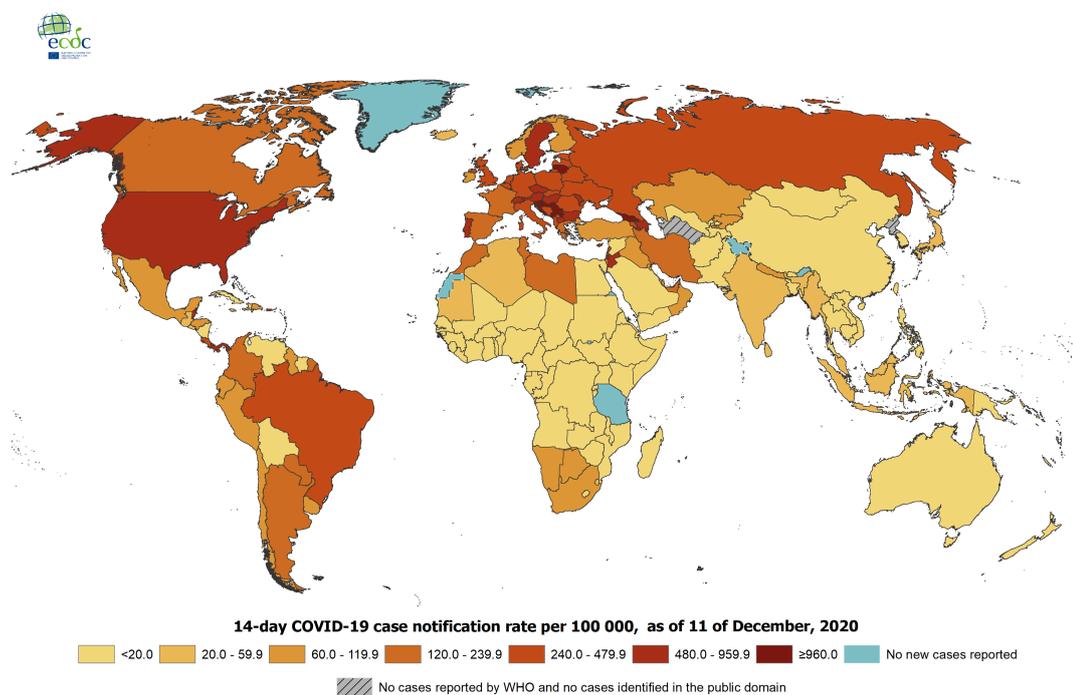
Information on the COVID-19 situation and a risk assessment can be found on [ECDC's website](#).

Actions

ECDC activities related to COVID-19 can be found on [ECDC's website](#). On 12 November 2020, ECDC [published](#) a rapid risk assessment on the detection of new SARS-CoV-2 variants related to mink.

Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, as of 11 December 2020

Source: ECDC



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union. Date of production: 11/12/2020

Measles – Multi-country (World) – Monitoring European outbreaks

Opening date: 9 February 2011

Latest update: 11 December 2020

Epidemiological summary

Since the previous monthly measles update in ECDC's Communicable Disease Threats Report (CDTR) on 13 November 2020, nine new cases have been reported by four EU/EEA countries and UK: Germany (7), Ireland (1) and Poland (1). Spain has discarded two earlier reported cases. No other countries reported new cases of measles.

No new deaths have been reported by EU/EEA countries or the UK. Overall, two deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK in 2020, both from Bulgaria.

Relevant updates outside the EU/EEA and the UK are available for Ukraine, the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO) and the WHO Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Routine immunisation sessions should be maintained as long as COVID-19 response measures allow.

In May 2019, WHO classified measles outbreaks across the European Region as a [Grade 2 emergency](#). On 29 August 2019, the [European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination \(RVC\)](#) determined that, for the first time since the verification process began in the Region in 2012, four countries (Albania, the Czech Republic, Greece and the United Kingdom) had lost their measles elimination status.

Disclaimer: the [monthly measles report published in the CDTR](#) provides the most recent data on cases and outbreaks from the publicly available information of national public health authorities or media. This report is supplementary to [ECDC's monthly measles and rubella monitoring report](#), based on data routinely submitted by 30 EU/EEA countries and the UK to The European Surveillance System (TESSy). Data presented in the two monthly reports may differ.

Epidemiological summary for EU/EEA countries and the UK with updates since last month

[Germany](#) reported 158 cases in 2020 as of week 50 (ending 13 December 2020), with an increase of seven cases since the last national update as of week 45 (ending 8 November 2020).

[Ireland](#) reported 19 cases in 2020 as of week 48 (ending 28 November 2020), with an increase of one case since week 44 (ending 31 October 2020). According to TESSy, 23 cases were reported from January to October 2020.

[Poland](#) reported 30 cases from 1 January to 30 November 2020, with an increase of one case since the national report on 30 September 2020.

[Spain](#) reported 90 cases in 2020 as of week 48 (ending on 29 November 2020), with a decrease of two cases since the national report on week 44 (ending 1 November 2020).

Relevant epidemiological summary for countries outside the EU/EEA and the UK

A global overview is available on [WHO's website](#). Additional information with the latest available data is provided for several countries.

[Ukraine](#) reported 255 cases in 2020, according to media report quoting public health authority on 27 November. This is an increase of ten cases since the national report on 11 August 2020.

According to the WHO Regional Office for Africa ([AFRO](#)), as of 29 November 2020 (week 48) outbreaks of measles were reported in the following countries: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria and South Sudan.

According to the WHO Pan American Health Organization ([PAHO](#)), between week 1 and week 41 of 2020 nine countries in the Region of the Americas reported 8 479 confirmed measles cases, including eight deaths: Brazil (8 202 cases, including seven deaths), Mexico (196 cases), Argentina (61 cases, including one death), the US (13), Bolivia (3 cases), Chile (2 cases), Uruguay (2 cases), Canada (1), and Colombia (1 case). Currently, only Brazil notifies active measles outbreaks.

ECDC assessment

A substantial decline in measles cases reported by EU/EEA countries and the UK after March 2020 contrasts with the typical seasonal pattern seen for measles, which peaks in the spring in temperate climates. A similar decrease has been observed in other countries worldwide during the same period. Under-reporting, under-diagnosis or a real decrease due to the direct or indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic measures could explain the decline of cases observed. Nevertheless, achieving the best possible vaccine uptake in the current circumstances is crucial in order to prevent measles outbreaks in the future.

Actions

ECDC monitors the measles situation through its epidemic intelligence activities, which supplement a monthly report with measles surveillance data from The European Surveillance System (TESSy) for 30 EU/EEA countries. ECDC published a [risk assessment](#) entitled 'Who is at risk of measles in the EU/EEA?' on 28 May 2019.

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2020/2021 season

Opening date: 14 October 2020

Latest update: 11 December 2020

Epidemiological summary

Week 49/2020 (30 November–6 December 2020)

Influenza activity remained at interseasonal levels.

None of the 1 002 sentinel specimens tested for influenza viruses in week 49 were positive.

Influenza viruses were detected sporadically from non-sentinel sources (such as hospitals, schools, primary care facilities not involved in sentinel surveillance, or nursing homes and other institutions). Both influenza type A and type B viruses were detected.

There were no hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza cases for week 49/2020.

2020-2021 season overview

For the Region as a whole, influenza activity has been at baseline level since the start of the season.

In total, 334 specimens have tested positive for influenza viruses: five from sentinel sources and 329 from non-sentinel sources, with A(H1)pdm09, A(H3) and type B viruses detected.

Since the start of the season, few hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported: 10 from ICUs (nine infected with type A viruses and one with type B); three cases (all type B viruses) in wards outside ICUs with one fatality; and four from severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)-based surveillance (three infected with type B viruses and one with type A).

WHO has published [recommendations](#) for the composition of influenza vaccines to be used in the 2020–2021 northern hemisphere season. Based on these recommendations, the influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and B/Victoria-lineage virus components should be updated compared to the 2019–2020 influenza vaccine.

Sources: [EuroMOMO](#) | [Flu News Europe](#) | [InfluenzaneT](#)

ECDC assessment

Reported influenza activity remains at a very low level, similar to that usually observed during the interseason in summer months.

The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has affected healthcare seeking behaviours, healthcare provision, and testing practices and capacities in countries and areas of the European Region, which have negatively impacted on the reporting of influenza epidemiological and virological data during the 2019-2020 season. It is not unusual for influenza activity to be low at this time of year. However, if the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the influenza data we present will need to be interpreted with caution, notably in terms of seasonal patterns.

Actions

ECDC and WHO monitor influenza activity in the WHO European Region between week 40–2020 and week 20–2021. They publish their weekly report on the [Flu News Europe](#) website.

The Communicable Disease Threat Report may include unconfirmed information which may later prove to be unsubstantiated.