



Round Table Report

23 December 2020

For restricted use

This report summarizes the ECDC daily roundtable discussion and provides update on threats detected and monitored by Epidemic Intelligence.

Active threat

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – multi-country (world) – 2020

Sources: This update is based on multiple official sources, including [WHO updates](#), Ministries of Health, National Health authorities and official social media accounts. Detailed updates are presented on the [ECDC website](#) and [ECDC COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Update: Since week 2020-50 and as of week 2020-51, 4 496 802 new cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) and 79 169 new deaths have been reported.

New cases have been reported from America (2 327 003), Europe (1 582 049), Asia (456 340), Africa (130 637) and Oceania (773). The five countries reporting most new cases are: United States (1 588 085), Brazil (361 667), Turkey (194 476), United Kingdom (190 744) and Germany (173 574).

New deaths have been reported from America (34 838), Europe (33 808), Asia (7 698), Africa (2 815) and Oceania (10). The five countries reporting most new deaths are: United States (18 493), Brazil (5 889), Mexico (4 645), Germany (4 300) and Italy (4 279).

Summary: Since 31 December 2019 and as of week 2020-51, 76 046 387 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 1 693 858 deaths.

Cases have been reported from:

Africa: 2 511 635 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (921 922), Morocco (417 125), Egypt (125 555), Tunisia (121 718) and Ethiopia (119 951).

Asia: 17 238 546 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (10 055 560), Iran (1 152 072), Indonesia (664 930), Iraq (584 145) and Bangladesh (500 713).

America: 33 216 866 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are United States (17 844 839), Brazil (7 263 619), Argentina (1 547 115), Colombia (1 518 067) and Mexico (1 325 915).

Europe: 23 024 293 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (2 762 668), France (2 473 354), United Kingdom (2 040 147), Italy (1 953 185) and Spain (1 762 212).

1/4

Oceania: 54 342 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (28 198), French Polynesia (16 182), Guam (7 211), New Zealand (1 765) and Papua New Guinea (761).

Other: 705 cases have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

Deaths have been reported from:

Africa: 59 157 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are South Africa (24 691), Egypt (7 098), Morocco (6 957), Tunisia (4 199) and Algeria (2 666).

Asia: 297 828 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are India (145 810), Iran (53 448), Indonesia (19 880), Iraq (12 697) and Pakistan (9 392).

America: 820 300 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United States (317 670), Brazil (187 291), Mexico (118 598), Argentina (41 997) and Colombia (40 680).

Europe: 515 398 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Italy (68 799), United Kingdom (67 401), France (60 549), Russia (49 151) and Spain (48 401).

Oceania: 1 169 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Australia (908), Guam (120), French Polynesia (103), New Zealand (25) and Papua New Guinea (9).

Other: 6 deaths have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

EU/EEA and the UK:

As of week 2020-51, 16 190 212 cases have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK: France (2 473 354), United Kingdom (2 040 147), Italy (1 953 185), Spain (1 762 212), Germany (1 510 652), Poland (1 202 700), Netherlands (688 900), Czechia (627 523), Belgium (627 370), Romania (591 294), Sweden (384 294), Portugal (374 121), Austria (336 222), Hungary (305 130), Croatia (195 728), Bulgaria (191 195), Slovakia (151 336), Denmark (134 434), Greece (131 072), Lithuania (114 487), Slovenia (105 899), Ireland (79 542), Luxembourg (44 067), Norway (42 775), Finland (33 162), Latvia (30 940), Estonia (21 794), Cyprus (17 688), Malta (11 714), Iceland (5 642) and Liechtenstein (1 633).

As of week 2020-51, 403 131 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK: Italy (68 799), United Kingdom (67 401), France (60 549), Spain (48 401), Germany (26 275), Poland (25 397), Belgium (18 766), Romania (14 394), Netherlands (10 477), Czechia (10 411), Hungary (8 282), Sweden (8 163), Bulgaria (6 609), Portugal (6 134), Austria (5 216), Greece (4 172), Croatia (3 257), Slovenia (2 368), Ireland (2 158), Slovakia (1 555), Lithuania (1 039), Denmark (1 035), Finland (489), Luxembourg (440), Latvia (439), Norway (404), Malta (190), Estonia (174), Cyprus (91), Iceland (28) and Liechtenstein (18).

EU:

As of week 2020-51, 14 100 015 cases and 335 280 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.

Assessment: For the last available risk assessment, please visit [ECDC dedicated webpage](#).

Actions: ECDC has published the thirteenth update of its [rapid risk assessment](#). A [dashboard](#) with the latest updates is available on ECDC's website. ECDC [rapid risk assessment](#) on the risk of increase of COVID-19 infection related to end-of-year festive season has been published on 4 December 2020.

Influenza A(H5N6) – China – Monitoring human cases

Sources: [media report 1](#), [media report 2](#)

Update: An additional human case of avian influenza A(H5N6) was reported in December 2020 from Hunan province, China, according to media reports. The case tested positive to influenza A(H5N6) on 19 December 2020, with a history of exposure to poultry in a trading market. The case is hospitalised in the intensive care unit. This is the second human case of A(H5N6) reported in 2020.

Summary: The previous case was reported from Jiangsu province in China with the day of hospitalisation and death on 27 November 2020.

Since 2014 and as of 23 December 2020, China has reported 27 human cases of influenza A(H5N6), including one case with year of onset in 2015 reported in literature. The cases have occurred in Anhui (1), Fujian (1), Guangdong (9), Hubei (1), Hunan (5), Sichuan (1), Jiangsu (2) and Yunnan Provinces (2), Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (4) and Beijing (1). Of the cases, 16 have died. All cases had exposure to live poultry or live poultry markets, except for five cases where the exposure source was not reported. No clustering of cases has been reported.

Assessment: Although avian influenza A(H5N6) has caused severe infection in humans, human infections remain rare and no sustained human-to-human transmission has been reported. However, characterisation of the virus is ongoing and its implication to the evolution and potential emergence of a pandemic strain is unknown.

The risk of zoonotic influenza transmission to the general public in EU/EEA countries is considered to be very low. As the likelihood of zoonotic transmission of newly introduced or emerging reassortant avian influenza viruses is unknown, the use of personal protective measures for people exposed to avian influenza viruses will minimise the remaining risk.

[Assessment related to outbreaks in poultry in Europe](#)

The World Organisation for Animal Health/Food and Agriculture Organization/EU reference laboratory for avian influenza at the Animal and Plant Health Agency Weybridge has conducted a detailed genetic analysis of a small number of H5N6 highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses recently detected in both Europe and Asia. The European strains can be differentiated from those associated with zoonotic infection in Asia. Furthermore, they do not carry any virulence markers strongly associated with human infection risk. In addition, there have been no reported human infections with this particular genetic sublineage of H5N6 highly pathogenic avian influenza to date.

Actions: ECDC monitors avian influenza strains through its epidemic intelligence activities in order to identify significant changes in the epidemiology of the virus. ECDC, together with EFSA and the EU reference laboratory for avian influenza, produces a quarterly updated [report of the avian influenza situation](#). The most [recent report](#) was published on 11 December 2020. ECDC has published an [outbreak alert](#) for new avian influenza outbreaks of A(H5) among wild and domestic birds.

Risk assessments under production

Rapid Risk Assessment: Risk of spread of SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern 202012/01 in the EU/EEA to be circulated on 28 December 2020.

Joint ECDC and EFSA rapid outbreak assessment to be produced on *Salmonella* Enteritidis contamination in poultry products from Poland to be published in week 03-2021.

The Round Table Report contains information that could be considered sensitive or is still under verification. Its distribution is restricted to intended users only.

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Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases: -

Food and Water-borne Diseases: -

Influenza: -

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