



International Medical Corps staff and volunteers pose near a new emergency medical field unit at West Suburban Hospital, in Oak Park, near Chicago, IL.

SITUATION UPDATE

Across the globe, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has grown to more than 4.8 million, with more than 319,000 deaths. The number of confirmed new cases this week, roughly 620,000, was almost precisely the same as the previous week, with a difference of only 1,000 cases. Though this week's numbers are the highest yet seen for COVID-19, we continue to observe a plateau in the overall growth of the virus. Thorough and adequate testing remains a concern for many countries across the globe. Brazil, India, Mexico and Pakistan all rank in the top 20 countries with the most cases, and yet they are not in the top 100 countries when ranked in order of tests conducted per capita. This lack of testing creates a large hole in the COVID-19 data, given that these countries combined house more than one-quarter of the world's population.

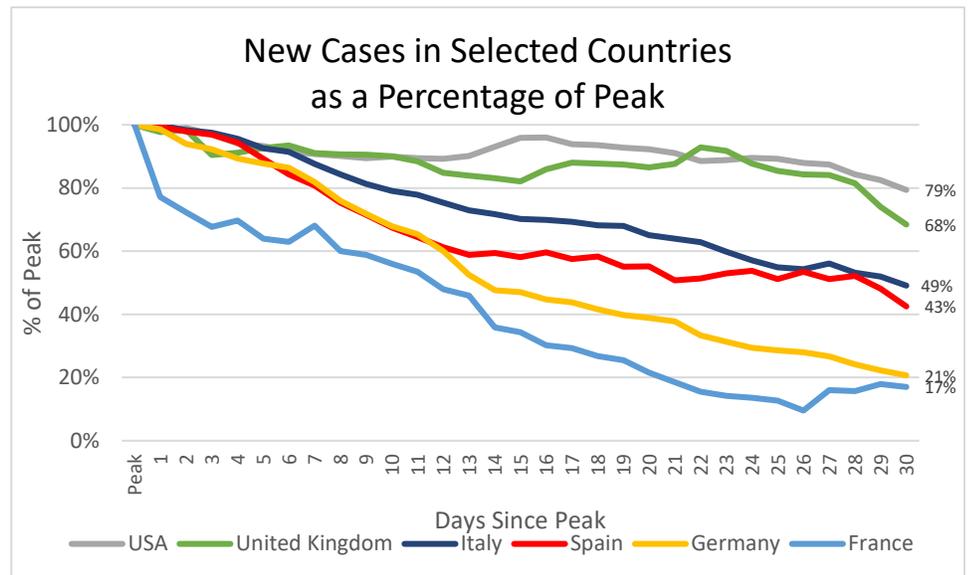
In Africa, there are more than 90,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and more than 2,800 deaths. Testing remains an issue across the continent, which is likely a strong contributor to the lower overall numbers in Africa. International Medical Corps staff were recently informed that many hospitals in East Africa are deciding on treatment methods based on symptoms instead of testing, which will keep confirmed case numbers low in the region. To highlight the lack of testing in Africa, South Africa has conducted by far the most tests on the continent—yet they rank 95th in the world when comparing tests conducted per capita¹.

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus>

FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of May 19, there have been 4,829,232 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in 188 countries and regions.
- In the US, we are supporting more than 20 health facilities in Los Angeles, New York City, Puerto Rico, Chicago and Detroit with emergency medical field units, equipment, supplies and volunteer staff.
- We have screened more than 250,000 individuals for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 2.5 million pieces of personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 8,400 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

Across Europe, there are more than 1.8 million confirmed cases and more than 163,000 deaths. Russia is still experiencing high levels of new cases but appears to have peaked with an average of more than 10,000 cases per day over the previous week. The United Kingdom—with the most deaths on the continent, at almost 35,000—continues to see a slowly receding amount of new cases. Plans are underway among many Western European nations to begin to reopen their borders. This weekend, Switzerland, Germany and Austria temporarily relaxed restrictions on border crossings for the first time since March². In addition to opening the border to each other, government officials within the three countries also have agreed to reopen borders between themselves and with France in June.



In the United States, where there are more than 1.5 million confirmed cases and more than 92,000 deaths, the number of new cases continues to decline slowly. Last week, there was an average of more than 22,000 cases per day, which is a bit more than two-thirds of what the country experienced during peak growth of transmission, in early April. Though the number of new cases remains the highest in the world, the US continues to reopen, as only Massachusetts, Connecticut and Washington, DC, have statewide stay-at-home orders in place.

Around the globe, new concerns are arising around the pandemic. In multiple COVID-19 outbreak hotspots, doctors have noted an unusual number of children with an illness similar to Kawasaki Syndrome. In the past month, doctors in Bergamo, Italy, have diagnosed 10 children with the disease—30 times the number diagnosed in a typical month. Doctors also diagnosed nearly 100 children with the syndrome in the United Kingdom, and another 82 in New York City, with five deaths^{3,4}. Additionally, there is great concern about the pandemic's effect on child and maternal mortality in developing countries. A new study estimates that even a small disruption in healthcare systems and decreased access to food would lead to more than 250,000 additional deaths for mothers and children under five-years-old⁵.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

Globally, International Medical Corps is focused on ensuring that it continues to provide essential medical aid and training without disruption by assuring continuity of services throughout our programs and operations.

COVID-19 RESPONSE: UNITED STATES

In the United States, International Medical Corps has partnered with hospitals and nursing homes in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Puerto Rico and Detroit. We are providing medical surge support, including emergency medical field units, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical equipment and supplies, and clinical volunteers.

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52674205>

³ <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/a-pretty-scary-thing-rare-child-syndrome-tied-to-virus-worries-new-york-100-sick/2413952/>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52648557>

⁵ <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2214-109X%2820%2930229-1>

- In **Los Angeles**, International Medical Corps continues to provide surge capacity with emergency medical field units, PPE and essential medical equipment to seven hospital and four nursing-home partners. In the past week, all but one of our hospital partners have experienced a decrease in intensive care patients. Last week, our team leader, Dr. Solomon Kuah, held training sessions for two nursing-home partners. This training—which covered PPE usage standards, COVID-19 epidemiology, contingency PPE usage planning, stockpiling and needs projections—is incredibly important because 45% of COVID-19-related deaths in Los Angeles have occurred in nursing and assisted-living facilities. We will continue to work with these new partners to provide PPE and training, to help ensure a safe environment for their staff and patients.

Los Angeles Response			
17 field units	7 ventilators	52 beds	1 anesthesia pump
6 pulse oximeters	15 HVACs	30 monitors	9 suctions
	7 portable ultrasounds	10,000 surgical masks	

- This week in the **Chicago** area, International Medical Corps deployed a new emergency medical field unit at West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park, on the west side of the city. The unit will be used to screen patients for COVID-related symptoms before they enter the ED, and also for screening patients before surgery. This Wednesday, we will deploy one of our largest field-unit builds, at Weiss Memorial Hospital in the city's Uptown neighborhood. These shelters will incorporate negative pressure units to provide care for COVID-19 patients. Our other partners in the area—Ingalls Memorial Hospital in Harvey, and Vista East Medical Center in Waukegan—continue to see a significant but manageable number of COVID-19 patients. At Vista, the medical field unit is open 24 hours per day and often has a line out the door for COVID-19 testing. This week, Ingalls Memorial Hospital will transfer its field units to a family care center in Calumet City to meet increased patient demand at that location for COVID-19 testing.

Chicago Response			
6 field units	15 nurses	40 beds	2 EMTs
	1 portable ultrasound	6 HVACs	2 paramedics

- In **New York City**, International Medical Corps has partnered with Jamaica Hospital Medical Center and Flushing Hospital Medical Center in Queens and Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn to provide critical surge capacity during the pandemic. Throughout the response, International Medical Corps deployed nearly 50 clinical volunteers, including nurse practitioners, registered nurses, critical care physicians and paramedics, who logged a total of more than 5,000 hours of service. Through collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and HillRom, International Medical Corps also was able to secure critical PPE and equipment to support the hospitals during the initial phase of the crisis. As the number of hospitalizations continues to decline throughout the city, International Medical Corps will continue to focus on procuring PPE, medical equipment and supplies to enhance the hospitals' capacity to respond to potential spikes in cases through the summer and fall.

New York City Response			
6 field units	26 nurses	16 MDs	1 EMT
4 HVACs	1 pulse oximeters	38 HillromSpot Monitors	4 Paramedics
300 Face Shields	3000 Surgical Gowns	2500 surgical masks	2100 Nitril Gloves
medical consumables			

- In **Puerto Rico**, International Medical Corps has partnered four hospitals. Two of our partners, Hospital Damas and Hospital Universitario Dr. Ramón Ruiz Arnau (HURRA), opened their emergency medical field units this week and are seeing patients. We will be deploying field units for two more partners once materials arrive from the mainland. The island continues to stay on alert for the triple threat of earthquakes, COVID-19 and the upcoming hurricane season. Our team continues to keep in touch with partners to gauge their need for PPE and other medical equipment. Puerto Rico has experienced an extreme shortage of PPE, so our upcoming shipments to the island will be a massive relief to our partners.

Puerto Rico Response			
7 field units	6 HVACs	4 generators	18 beds
2 portable ultrasounds			

- In **Detroit**, International Medical Corps continues its partnerships with the Henry Ford Hospital in downtown Detroit, Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital and Detroit Medical Center. The situation in the city continues to improve, with decreasing numbers of COVID-positive patients in the hospitals. We are continuing to focus our efforts on providing medical equipment to our partners, including cardiac monitors, portable X-rays and automatic chest-compression devices. Our shelters remain at the hospitals and will be used during a possible second wave of COVID-19 cases.

Detroit Response			
6 field units	6 HVACs	1 trailer	40 beds
2 portable ultrasounds			

GLOBAL RESPONSE

International Medical Corps is also responding in the nearly 30 countries where we work throughout the world. Each week, we provide highlights from our response in one of our regions, which include the Middle East Region; the North and East Africa, Asia and Europe Region; and this week's focus, the West, Central and Southern Africa Region.

- In the **Bahamas**, International Medical Corps has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and infection prevention and control (IPC), and providing supplies. On the island of Grand Bahama, we have provided five health facilities with bucket handwashing stations and distributed 14,436 pieces of personal protection equipment (PPE), including masks, gloves, gowns, sharps containers, aprons and first-aid kits. To date, International Medical Corps has reached more than 15,000 individuals in the Bahamas with COVID-19 awareness messaging. Also, the Bahamas team is providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, with a psychosocial support helpline for COVID-19 receiving calls and peer support group activities being conducted by telephone.

- In **Burundi**, International Medical Corps has been working closely with the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders to protect the country from Ebola and has leveraged these preparedness activities to support the country's COVID-19 contingency plans. The government has not announced any formal restrictions, but communities have begun taking precautions, such as setting up handwashing stations and maintaining some degree of social distancing. With support from International Medical Corps staff from the DRC, the Burundi mission has provided training on COVID 19 for 655 healthcare providers and provided training of trainers for an additional 38 Ministry of Health personnel. The country team has also supported the government in conducting screening and follow-up at Bujumbura International Airport for incoming passengers from countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19.



The countries highlighted on this map comprise International Medical Corps' West, Central and Southern Africa Region.

- In **Cameroon**, although the government has prepared a national response plan, its capacity to track and manage COVID-19 cases remains very low, and the number of confirmed cases—particularly in the capital city of Yaoundé—increases every day. On April 29, Cameroon recorded its first confirmed cases in the Far North region, which is home to more than 122,000 refugees. Since March 27, International Medical Corps in Cameroon has been implementing a COVID-19 response and prevention project in the Minawao refugee camp in the Far North, which hosts more than 60,000 refugees, and where malnutrition is widespread. To date, health teams have trained 127 health staff and outreach volunteers in COVID-19 prevention and reached 33,499 people through messaging.
- In the **Central African Republic (CAR)**, the Ministry of Health has suspended community health worker (CHW) messaging activities and is requiring that all CHWs be tested before resuming activities. International Medical Corps was asked by the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to lead the Community Engagement Committee, a consortium that also includes Oxfam, the Danish Refugee Council and Concern Worldwide, to support the country's COVID-19 response. In collaboration with CAR's Ministry of Health, the committee is organizing and coordinating efforts between NGOs and donor communities on COVID-19 activities, to ensure that there are no gaps or overlaps in programming. Currently, the CAR team is developing a concept note to cover six months of COVID-19 response activities, including the procurement of PPE and training for health professionals.
- In **Chad**, although close-out activities are finalized for the mission, the country team is currently supporting a hospital in N'Djamena with COVID-19 response activities, including providing treatment services, handwashing stations, mass messaging and response coordination. The country team has distributed more than 6,000 PPE and IPC items, and has conducted five training sessions on COVID-19 and case management.

- In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC), current national COVID-19 preparedness and response activities are centered in the capital city of Kinshasa. The government recently rolled out a national preparedness plan to support health sectors and train health facility staff; to date, we have provided COVID-19 training for 47 healthcare personnel and 16 Ministry of Health staff. Apart from Kinshasa, where a facility is being established to manage cases safely, no other city has COVID-ready treatment centers. However, the network of screening and referral units (SRUs) set up over the past 18 months to fight DRC's Ebola epidemic have the potential to conduct COVID-19 screenings. We have set up 95 such facilities in 11 health zones along the border of eastern DRC. So far, 66 International Medical Corps staff members working in SRUs in and around Goma have undergone training on COVID-19 case management and IPC measures. We also have provided COVID-19 training to 16 Ministry of Health staff in our Ebola Treatment Center in Mangina.
- In **Mali**, International Medical Corps' mission has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since late February in places where we have active programming, including Timbuktu and Ségou. Part of the national COVID-19 Task Force of the Health Cluster, International Medical Corps' Mali team meets regularly with governmental counterparts in the capital city of Bamako to determine needs and provide technical support, in collaboration with such international partners as ECHO, OFDA, WHO and UNICEF.
- In **Nigeria's** Kano and Borno states, where International Medical Corps' operations are centered, COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising. Our mission is currently responding to the outbreak through our network of 1,798 trained volunteers as part of our CORE Group Polio Project. These trained volunteers are conducting COVID-19 surveillance, have reached 87,162 people with COVID-19 messaging, have trained 2,300 community leaders and members on COVID-19 prevention and distributed educational materials in seven displacement camps.
- Since March 30, the entire nation of **Zimbabwe** has been on lockdown, with efforts being made to trace individuals who have been in contact with infected persons. International Medical Corps' team there continues to participate remotely in critical meetings with donors and partners. Through an existing program, the team facilitates the ongoing distribution at the district level of fliers and posters about COVID-19 prevention. The team has also worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Health to develop additional educational materials for distribution, and applied for 500 bicycles from World Bicycle Relief to be used by community health volunteers working on COVID-19 prevention issues.

International Medical Corps' Impact at a Glance

Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities



Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness- Raising Activities



PPE and IPC Items Distributed



Technical Guidance

WHO, Technical Guidance: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

WHO, Training on Novel Coronavirus: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/training>

WHO, Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19 Training: <https://openwho.org/courses/COVID-19-IPC-EN>

CDC, COVID-19 guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>