

COVID-19 News Update (20 January 2021)

DATA	<p>Worldwide Confirmed Cases: 96 144 818 Global deaths: 2 056 300</p> <p>Data as at 20 January 2021 (09 00 local time) -Johns Hopkins University live-tracking:</p> <p>www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6</p>	Confirmed Cases	Global Deaths
		24,247,006 US 10,581,823 India 8,573,864 Brazil 3,574,330 Russia 3,476,804 UK 2,996,784 France 2,400,598 Italy 2,399,781 Turkey 2,370,742 Spain 2,071,615 Germany	401,586 US 211,491 Brazil 152,556 India 142,832 Mexico 91,643 UK 83,157 Italy 71,482 France 65,632 Russia 56,973 Iran 54,173 Spain
AFRICA	<p>Number of Confirmed Cases: 3 288 950 Number of Deaths: 79 982 Number of Recoveries: 2 721 185</p> <p>https://africacdc.org/covid-19/</p>		
World Health Organization	<p>Independent panel finds critical early failings in COVID-19 response</p> <p>The global system for pandemic alert and response is “not fit for purpose”, highlighting the need for a new framework in the wake of COVID-19, experts appointed by the World Health Organization (WHO) said in an interim report presented on Tuesday.</p> <p>The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response found critical elements to be “slow, cumbersome and indecisive” in an era when information about new disease outbreaks is being transmitted faster than countries can formally report on them.</p> <p>“When there is a potential health threat, countries and the World Health Organization must further use the 21st century digital tools at their disposal to keep pace with news that spreads instantly on social media and infectious pathogens that spread rapidly through travel”, said Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and co-chair of the panel.</p> <p>“Detection and alert may have been speedy by the standards of earlier novel pathogens, but viruses move in minutes and hours, rather than in days and weeks.”</p> <p>The Independent Panel was established to review lessons learned from international response to COVID-19, which first emerged in Wuhan, in December 2019. Nearly 94 million confirmed cases and more than two million deaths have been reported globally as of Tuesday.</p> <p>The panel’s second progress report said countries were slow to respond to the new coronavirus disease, noting “there were lost opportunities to apply basic public health measures at the earliest opportunity”.</p> <p>Although WHO declared on 30 January 2020 that COVID-19 was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the panel found many countries took minimal action to prevent spread both within and beyond their borders.</p> <p>https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1082502</p>		