

Situation Report on COVID-19 (19 January 2022)

DATA	<p>Global Confirmed Cases: 334,005,099 Global deaths: 5,554,646</p> <p>Data as at 19 January 2022 (09.33 local time) - Johns Hopkins University live-tracking;</p> <p>www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6</p>	<p>Confirmed Cases Deaths</p> <p>US 28-Day: 15,395,651 42,143 Totals: 67,589,830 853,955</p> <p>France 28-Day: 5,538,762 5,552 Totals: 14,284,535 128,629</p> <p>United Kingdom 28-Day: 3,888,961 4,854 Totals: 15,501,850 153,017</p> <p>Italy 28-Day: 3,384,942 5,613 Totals: 9,018,425 141,825</p> <p>Spain 28-Day: 2,889,272 2,200 Totals: 8,518,975 91,277</p> <p>India 28-Day: 2,866,107 8,754 Totals: 37,804,933 487,065</p> <p>Argentina 28-Day: 1,802,279 1,301 Totals: 7,318,305 118,420</p> <p>Australia 28-Day: 1,611,188 619 Totals: 1,954,977 2,843</p>
AFRICA	<p>Number of Confirmed Cases: 10,201,488 Number of Deaths: 232,770 Number of Recoveries: 9,089,637</p> <p>Source: Africa CDC</p>	
UN	<p>WHO recommends two new drugs to treat patients with COVID-19</p> <p>The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended on Thursday two new drugs to treat patients with COVID-19, one for patients with critical disease and one for non-severe cases.</p> <p>The first drug, baricitinib, is a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor- a class of drugs used to treat autoimmune conditions, blood and bone marrow cancers, and rheumatoid arthritis.</p> <p>According to the WHO Guideline Development Group, it is “strongly recommended” for patients with severe or critical disease in combination with corticosteroids.</p> <p>The group of international experts based their recommendation on “moderate certainty evidence” that it improves survival and reduces the need for ventilation.</p> <p>There was no observed increase in adverse effects.</p> <p>The experts note that it has a similar effect as other arthritis drugs called interleukin-6 (IL-6) inhibitors. Because of that, when both drugs are available, they suggest choosing the best option based on cost, availability, and clinician experience.</p> <p>It is not recommended to use both drugs at the same time.</p> <p>The experts also advise against the use of two other JAK inhibitors (ruxolitinib and tofacitinib) for patients with severe or critical cases of COVID-19 infection.</p>	

According to them, trials undergone using these drugs failed to show any benefits arising using either drug, and suggested a possible increase in serious side effects with tofacitinib.

In the same update, WHO makes a conditional recommendation for the use of a monoclonal antibody known as sotrovimab in patients with non-severe cases.

According to them, the drug should only be administered to patients at the highest risk of hospitalisation. In those at lower risk, it only showed “trivial benefits”.

A similar recommendation has been made previously, for another monoclonal antibody drug, casirivimab-imdevimab, and the experts say there is insufficient data to recommend one over the other.

For both, the effectiveness against new variants, like Omicron, is still uncertain.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109722>