



OCTOBER 7th 2020, 19H00 Paris time – Dr M. Kalina, EA Group Medical Director, F. Tits, RN, EA Group Sr Project Manager, and Chiara Jannuzzi, EA Group Communication team.

Sources: International sources such as the WHO, the Chinese CDC, the CDC, international media, medical institutions, journals and government websites.

Current key news, facts and data

The pandemic is still extremely active and the hypothesis that a second wave has started has been raised in particular in Western Europe given the significant increase in the number of cases, including severe ones. Four countries, the USA, India, Spain and Brazil, account for most of the new cases.

The **total worldwide cases** as of 6 PM Beijing time, October 7th, is **36 082 361 cases** , with **10 51 114** deaths.

The main figures in the countries where Europ Assistance has offices are as follows:

Country	Cases	New cases last 24H	Deaths
USA	7724207	42 556	215 849
Brazil	4 970 953	25 417	147 571
India	6 757 131	73 924	104 591
Russia	1 248 619	11 615	21 865
South Africa	683 242	926	17 103
Spain	865 631	42 031	32 486
Argentina	824 468	11 242	21 827
France	634 763	5 084	32 365
Belgium	134 291	1 968	10 092
Chile	437 306	1 560	13 070
Portugal	80 312	427	2 032
Italy	330 263	2 257	36 030
Turkey	327 557	1 603	8 553
China	91 201	18	4 746
Poland	107 319	2 236	2 792
Serbia	33 952	51	756
Germany	307 119	3 025	9 635
Czech Republic	90 022	3 120	794
Greece	20 541	399	420





Switzerland	56 632	700	2 081
Austria	50 848	923	830
Hungary	33 114	818	877
Thailand	3 615	15	59

TESTS The point of getting large numbers of tests efficiently has become of crucial importance. Delays in both accessing the tests and receiving the results reduce the system efficiency in isolating positive cases. PCR remains the diagnostic standard but antigen testing has a place in screening programs. In his September 28th speech, the WHO CEO announced an initiative to make 120 million tests available to poor countries and the ACT program is focused on

New tests such as using saliva may be very useful for screening in pediatric populations.

TREATMENT There are still no breakthroughs in terms of treatment modalities, as aside from hydrocortisone and anticoagulants in the intensive care phase of the disease, no drug has proven to be effective in reducing the impact of the disease or the transmission of the virus. However health care institutions now know the disease better and treatment protocols allow to reduce the incidence of invasive respiratory support.

VACCINES - At this stage at least 169 projects, 26 of them at the human testing stage, and nine at the phase III of extensive human testing stage are registered at the WHO. GAVI, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, together with the WHO, supports an initiative by 172 countries to develop and distribute formally supported vaccines in an equitable way. Hopefully the first vaccine could be available very late 2020 or early 2021. The production capacity required to cover the whole world will be extremely high. The WHO and its partners hope to deliver 2 billion doses by the end of 2021 in an equitable fashion.

Key recommended actions items

At the current stage, **social distancing** remains the most important tool. Avoiding close personal contacts except with non-fragile members of one's own household is the key. Therefore work environments must be adapted as must shops, public facilities and transport systems. The avoidance of any public or private event producing large groups or close physical contacts is part of this action item.

A necessary addition to this component of the strategy is the obligation from anyone with the symptoms or close contacts with detected case to isolate him/herself, seek medical attention and get tested if indicated. To this, the active use of regular cleaning with either soap and water or hydroalcoholic gel must be added. The proper use of **masks** is a **recognized must** in all closed and / or crowded environments.





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Travel is acceptable where allowed in as much as the above are respected, and temperature control can be added as a means of detecting part of the potential **carriers**. Maximising access to testing is important not only to increase the systematic testing around clusters but also testing prior to some trips and of course any test required by a physician.

COVID CASE AIR AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION

Quite a few patients with COVID, especially those in countries where it is difficult to provide high end care to critical cases, but not only, repatriations have taken place. This requires a fairly challenging authorization process both in the country of origin and at the country of destination. Several providers in Europe, Africa and the Americas provide this service.

The current bulletin will be updated weekly until the situation stabilizes.

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