

WEEKLY FACTSHEET #27

COVID-19: WEEK 26 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER 2020

REGIONAL INDICATORS

SOUTH AFRICA

CONFIRMED 721,770
RECOVERED 649,935
DEATHS 19,164

ZAMBIA

CONFIRMED 16,325
RECOVERED 15,585
DEATHS 348

TANZANIA

CONFIRMED 509
RECOVERED 183
DEATHS 21

DRC

CONFIRMED 11,253
RECOVERED 10,554
DEATHS 305

IVORY COAST

CONFIRMED 20,628
RECOVERED 20,310
DEATHS 124

Source: strategix.co.za

DID YOU KNOW?

While COVID-19 has affected the whole world, making many people incredibly ill and sometimes leading to death, some people can be asymptomatic. Being asymptomatic means that you have contracted the virus, but you don't show symptoms. Being asymptomatic has proven to be a complicated part of both understanding and fighting COVID-19 because people can be positive for the virus, not know or experience it, but still pass it on and infect others. From what the

current research shows, children and young people are more likely to be asymptomatic carriers, but this doesn't mean that all young people won't experience symptoms or are safe from the effects of COVID-19. With this in mind, it is useful for all people, including young people and children, to take the recommended measure to social distance, wear a mask, and wash one's hands as often as possible.

Source: [UNICEF South Africa](https://www.unicef.org/southafrica)

YOUTH VOICES

This pandemic is affecting all of us and it helps to reach out and share ideas, stories and concerns with one another about all things COVID-19. Please keep sharing your questions with us weekly, and we'll do our best to find you the most accurate and relevant answers.

NOKWANDA SITHOLE (INANDA FM) - SOUTH AFRICA

COMMENT: "I've learned a lot - from the importance of education, to how climate change is affected by human activity and how the pandemic affected it, from looking after the environment to the importance of hygiene."

RESPONSE: The issues you raise are all closely interconnected, and the climate crisis sits firmly at the centre. Our broken relationship to nature has led to a pandemic. The pandemic is threatening our health, our education, and our economies. And climate change hasn't stopped during the pandemic. This year has

seen intense wildfires, flooding, and hurricanes, which only make it harder to manage the global health crisis. Solving the climate crisis will address inequality and racism, strengthen the economy, and promote global health. Many climate justice organisations have noted that the need to look at these issues as a whole will get us to a better future. By taking all of these crises happening at once seriously, we stand a better chance of making a good tomorrow.

Source: [World Economic Forum](https://www.weforum.org)

PAUL EGOUATI - (SOUBRE) - IVORY COAST

QUESTION: "The authorities and members of the government seem to no longer respect the barrier measures. Does that mean that COVID-19 is over and we can walk around without a mask and without fear of contracting the virus?"

RESPONSE: While restrictions have eased up in many countries on the continent, it definitely does not mean that COVID-19 has gone away. Many governments are under pressure to open countries up on accounts of having a functioning economy, so they may respect

boundaries, but are trying to also negotiate the financial needs of the country. However, this doesn't mean it's out of your control to practice good health, like wearing a face mask correctly and often, social distancing when possible, washing your hands, and sanitising surfaces. You can also have conversations with your family, friends, and community about COVID-19. This will all help stop the spread of the virus.

Source: [Neymours Children's Health System](https://www.neymours.org)

MMAKUBU PHOKWANE (MCRS) - SOUTH AFRICA

COMMENT: "I think we should have topics about gender based violence because it is a problem that we are facing right now in our country. Also, we must encourage people to speak when they are abused."

RESPONSE: To many in South Africa, gender based violence (GBV) feels like a pandemic all on its own. Under COVID-19, many vulnerabilities have been exposed, including the loss of jobs of women as well as how being confined to a home space can be very unsafe for women. The risk of physical and emotional abuse, unwanted pregnancy, and becoming dependent on someone

are all serious issues affecting many women in South Africa. The high rates of GBV in South Africa were met with many protests earlier this year across the country and these movements have the potential to continue to both make people aware of what abuse and violence are as well as hold political leaders accountable. GBV combined with COVID-19 has made many things in the country intense, but young people can continue to protest and educate their communities about their experiences and the experiences they don't deserve to have.

Source: [AIDC](https://www.aids.org)

FAVEL NSIMBA (KINSHASA) - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

QUESTION: "How can a pregnant woman protect herself effectively against coronavirus because it's not easy for her to breathe well when she wears a mask?"

RESPONSE: Pregnant people (not every person who is pregnant identifies as a woman) definitely are at higher risk of health complications if they become infected with the coronavirus, and protecting oneself can be hard. When wearing a mask, especially

out in public, limiting the amount of time spent out as well as social distancing can help ease the physical strain as well as reduce the risk of contracting the virus. In addition to this, what doctors have recommended for pregnant people is to stay up-to-date on all medical visits, take all the prenatal (pre-pregnancy) medicine needed, and of course practice good hygiene.

Source: [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int)

RICARDO TSHISHIKU (MBANDAKA) - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

QUESTION: "Can a person who is cured of coronavirus still get infected again?"

RESPONSE: Coronavirus is still being studied and learned, but many scientists agree that if a person has been infected and gotten sick from COVID-19, there is a chance for re-infection, and this has happened. According to the CDC, ongoing COVID-19 studies are addressing the following:

- How likely is reinfection

- How often reinfection occurs
- How soon after the first infection can reinfection take place
- How severe are cases of reinfection
- Who might be at higher risk for reinfection
- What reinfection means for a person's immunity
- If a person is able to spread COVID-19 to other people when reinfected.

Source: [Center for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov)