

Norway in the corona crisis -actual status and future challenges

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The Covid 19 Pandemi

COVID-19: A new type of coronavirus (coronavirus) called SARS-CoV-2

The virus's genetic material resembles the SARS virus

Pandemi: When a disease affects a large number of people and spreads across a very large geographical area

The term is not clearly defined, but the World Health Organization uses it for a worldwide spread of a new disease

Background

Start of the outbreak: Wuhan, in the Hubei Province in China in December 2019

The virus was likely to be transmitted to humans from animals sold at a food market in Wuhan

Further transmission between humans: In the same way as a cold or flu

Three ways of transmission: Droplets and direct and indirect contact infection

Viruses from sick persons respiratory tractuses are transmitted to other people through small droplets in the air, by their hands, or through contaminated surfaces

Pneumonia with unknown agent was reported to WHO in December 31, 2019.

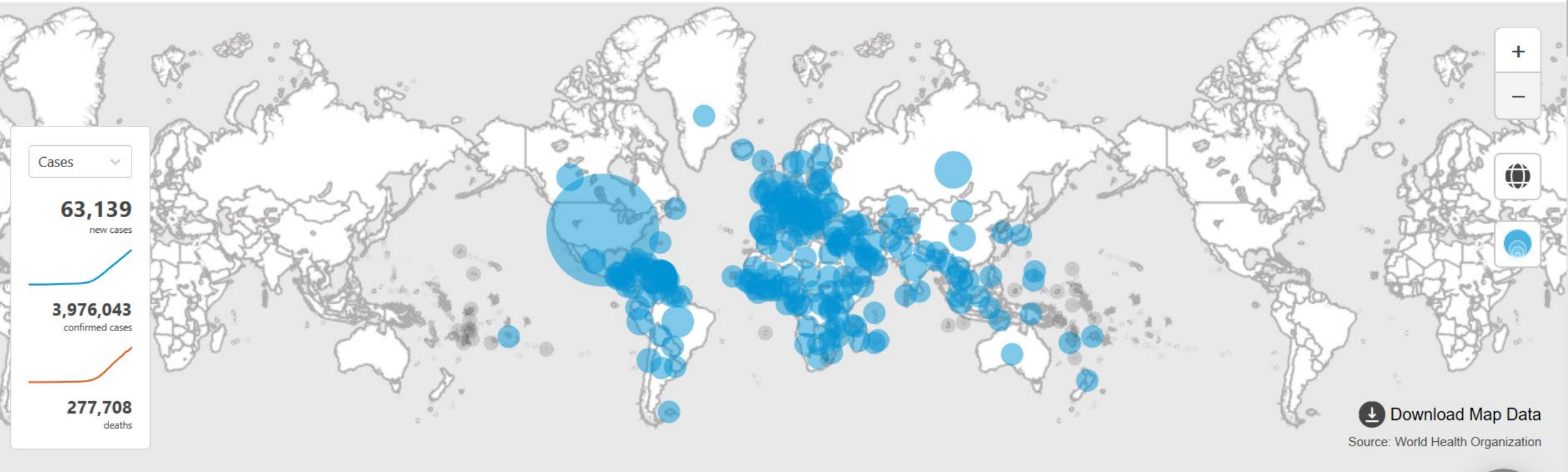
The outbreak recognized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020

WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard

Data last updated: 2020/5/11, 9:27am CEST

Overview

Explorer



Globally, as of **9:27am CEST, 11 May 2020**, there have been **3,976,043 confirmed cases** of COVID-19, including **277 708 deaths** reported to WHO



Nordic countries



Tabell 1. Antall påviste COVID-19 tilfeller og dødsfall i nordiske land.

Land	Tilfeller totalt	Tilfeller 08.05	Tilfeller per 100 000	Dødsfall totalt	Dødsfall 08.05	Dødsfall per million
Sverige	24 623	705	241,8	3 040	99	298,5
Danmark	10 083	100	173,9	514	8	88,7
Norge	7 995	42	150,4	209	0	39,3
Finland	5 673	100	102,8	255	3	46,2
Island	1 801	2	509,4	10	0	28,3

Norway



 Norway

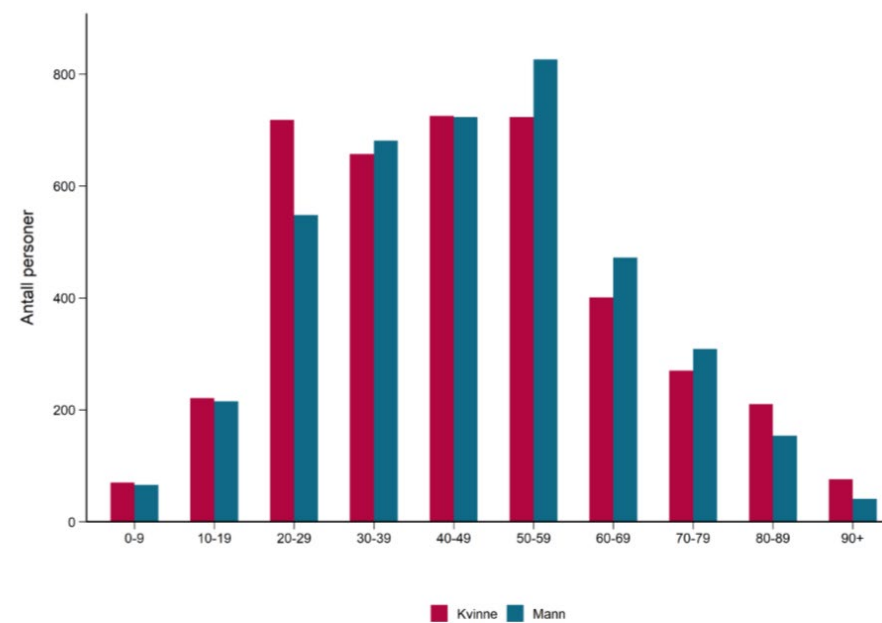
Confirmed
8,105
+3

Recovered
7,114

Deaths
219
+0

Tabell 1. Personer med påvist covid-19 meldt til MSIS, etter aldersgrupper og kjønn.

Alder	Kvinner	Menn	Antall positive
0-9	70	66	136
10-19	221	215	436
20-29	718	548	1 266
30-39	657	681	1 338
40-49	725	723	1 448
50-59	723	826	1 549
60-69	401	472	873
70-79	270	309	579
80-89	210	154	364
>= 90	76	41	117
Totalt	4 071	4 035	8 106



The outbreak in Norway

The first Norwegian Covid-19 patient diagnosed on February 26, 2020

The national winter break had just ended, many Norwegians had gone skiing to Northern Italy

In the two next week, it became apparent that that the virus was spreading freely in communities

March 12, 2020: All kindergartens and schools were closed and everyone entering the country quarantined for 14 days

Strategies to control the pandemic

- 1) To stop the outbreak
- 2) To slow down the outbreak.

The distinction between these strategies may be irrelevant, as strategies and measures must be developed and adjusted continuously based on new knowledge about the disease

The Norwegian strategy - Stop/quell the epidemic

Turn down and hold down the epidemic

Strong measures are put in place to quell the epidemic as soon as possible and then keep the virus under control with about $RE = 0.9$.

The epidemic is limited to local clusters.

The disease burden directly from covid-19 becomes small.

Preventing an epidemic until vaccination of a necessary proportion (probably at least 50%)



The slow down strategy – The Swedish path

The infection takes its course.

“Mild” measures to slow the spread of the epidemic to avoid a high peak

The burden of disease is considerable, and the health care system put under stress

Consequence: Many people will undergo infection over the course of a year, most without problems, and immunity is (probably) built in the population to avoid new, large waves.



Different strategies in European countries

Land	Strategi ⁴	1 Hygiene-tiltak ⁷	2 Oppdaging og isolering ⁸	3 Oppfølging av eksponerte	4 Reisetiltak	5 Kontakt-reduserende tiltak ⁹
Norge	«Slå ned»	Generelle råd	Prioritert testing Isolasjon av syke	Smittesporing og karantene nærkontakter	Unngå utenlandsreiser Karantene	Omfattende
Sverige ¹⁰	«Bremse»	Generelle råd	Prioritert testing Isolasjon av syke	-	Unngå utenlandsreiser	Mer avgrenset
Danmark ¹¹	«Bremse»	Generelle råd	Prioritert testing Isolasjon av syke	-	Unngå utenlandsreiser Karantene	Omfattende
Finland ¹²	«Bremse / Slå ned»	Generelle råd	Prioritert testing Isolasjon av syke	Smittesporing og karantene nærkontakter	Unngå utenlandsreiser Karantene	Omfattende
Island ¹³	«Bremse / Slå ned»	Generelle råd	Utvidet testing Isolasjon av syke	Smittesporing og karantene nærkontakter	Unngå utenlandsreiser Karantene	Omfattende, men skoler og barn-hager kan ha åpent
Nederland ¹⁴	«Bremse»	Generelle råd	Prioritert testing Isolasjon av syke		Unngå utenlandsreiser Karantene bare for reisende fra USA	Omfattende
Storbritannia ¹⁵	«Bremse»	Generelle råd	Prioritert testing Isolasjon av syke	-	Unngå utenlandsreiser Karantene?	Omfattende

Norway at the present

Re-opening of the society

12th of May: 224 deaths, 58 hospitalized, 8132 infected, 195921 tested (ca.4%)

All children/youth back to kindergarten/school

Hairdressers, physiotherapists etc. back in action.

Restrictions partly lifted cultural/physical activities

- Higher educational institutions remain closed
- Gatherings of more than 50 people not allowed
- Traveling restrictions still apply



Future challenges

1) Can disease be controlled when society is re-opened ?

2) Unemployment/ economical recession ?

3) Permanent social changes ?



What is there to be learned?

..... every crisis offers an opportunity for improvement

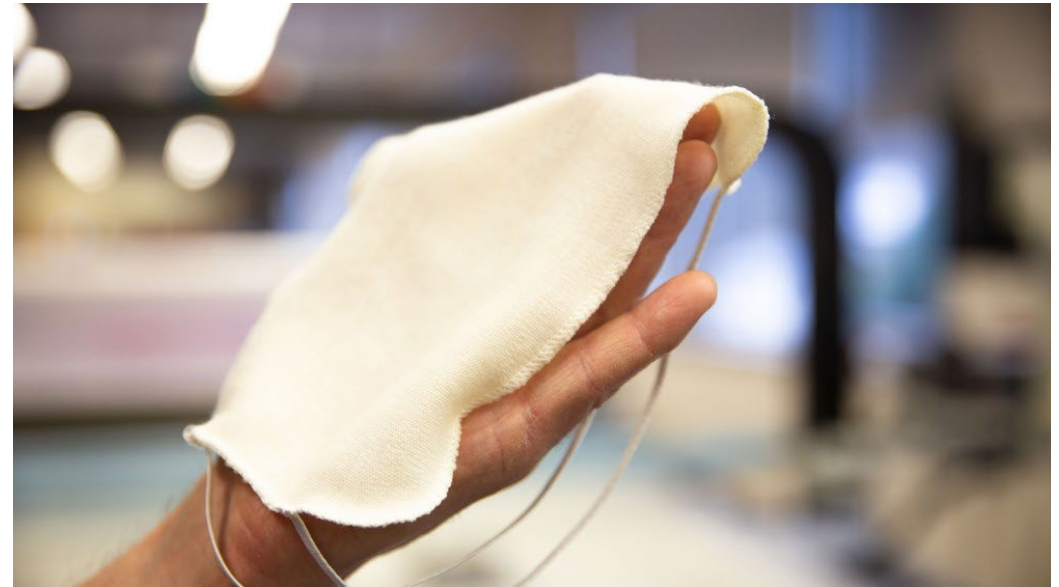


Proximity to vital services

Equipment such as masks and essential drugs must be available and produced locally

Be prepared in-between pandemics !

Local production as well as Nordic and European collaboration



A digital kick-start

The pandemi – A catalyst for digital transformation

Also in the health care system/ academic sector

Evaluating the digital tool bar – what worked?



Changing attitudes

Less frequent travel ?

Extra awareness of hygienic measures and standards?

Change in prescription practice?

Special focus on conditions in nursing homes?



Take home-message

Most people seem to get a mild disease

Great uncertainty regarding prevalence and proportion of infected patients that develop complications and need intensive care

The question of immunity

The infection will continue to spread for a long time, and the health care system must be facilitated to cope

The Norwegian way seems to have been successful, but only time will tell