

《全球新冠死亡人数超百万 真实数字可能被低估》

根据约翰斯·霍普金斯大学的最新统计数据，全球新冠肺炎死亡病例已超过100万例。而世界卫生组织官员9月28日表示，新冠肺炎疫情造成的官方死亡人数，可能低于真实数字。



People wear face masks after the southern Italian region of Campania made it mandatory to wear protective face coverings outdoors 24 hours a day, as part of the efforts to contain the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Naples, Italy, Sept 25, 2020. [Photo/Agencies]

The number of people worldwide who have died with Covid-19 has passed one million, researchers say, with many regions still reporting surging numbers of new infections.

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The tally by Johns Hopkins University shows that deaths in the US, Brazil and India make up nearly half that total.

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Experts caution that the true figure is probably much higher.

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UN Secretary-General António Guterres called it a "mind-numbing" figure and "an agonising milestone".

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"Yet we must never lose sight of each and every individual life," he said in a video message.

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"They were fathers and mothers, wives and husbands, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues. The pain has been multiplied by the savageness of this disease."

“?????????????????????????????????????”

savageness[ˈsævidʒnɪs]n.??;??;??

The pandemic has since spread to 188 countries with more than 32 million confirmed cases. Lockdowns and other measures to try to stop the virus spreading have thrown many economies into recession.

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Meanwhile, efforts to develop an effective vaccine are continuing - although the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that the death toll could hit two million before one is widely available.

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The US has the world's highest death toll with about 205,000 fatalities followed by Brazil on 141,700 and India with 95,500 deaths.

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People enjoy the start of the spring amid the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Buenos Aires, Argentina Sept 21, 2020. [Photo/Agencies]

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The US has recorded more than seven million cases - more than a fifth of the world's total. After a second wave of cases in July, numbers dropped in August but appear to be on the rise again now.

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The coronavirus has been spreading fast in India, with the country recording about 90,000 cases a day earlier in September.

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Confirmed infections in India have reached six million - the second-highest after the US. However, given the size of its population India has seen a relatively low death rate.

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Brazil has the highest number of deaths in Latin America and has recorded more than 4.7 million cases, the third highest in the world.

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Elsewhere in the region, newly confirmed infections are also rising quickly in Argentina, which now has more than 700,000 cases.

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Because of differences in how countries record cases and deaths - and the sporadic rates of testing in some regions - the true numbers of coronavirus cases and deaths is believed to be higher than reported, experts say.

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A vial with potential vaccine for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is pictured at the Imperial College London, London, Britain, in this June 10, 2020 file photo.

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Globally there are about 240 potential vaccines in early development, with 40 in clinical trials and nine in the final stage of testing on thousands of people. Vaccine development normally takes years but because of the global emergency, scientists are working at breakneck speed.

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breakneck [ˈbreʔknek]adj.???

One being developed by the University of Oxford - already in an advanced stage of testing - has shown it can trigger an immune response.

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In China, a potential vaccine has been shown to produce protective antibodies.

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Meanwhile in Russia, scientists say early tests on a vaccine called Sputnik-V show signs of an immune response.

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In a report earlier this month, they said that every participant in trials developed antibodies to fight the virus and suffered no serious side effects.

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Russia licensed the vaccine for local use in August - the first country to do so. There was concern at the speed of the process and some experts said the early trials had been too small to prove effectiveness and safety.

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In the US, President Donald Trump has said Americans should be able to access a vaccine as early as October although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says a vaccine is unlikely to be widely available before mid-2021.

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The WHO has said it does not expect to see widespread vaccinations against Covid-19 until the middle of 2021.

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