

Description and disclaimer

The downloadable data file contains information about testing volume for COVID-19 by week and country. Each row contains the corresponding data for a country and a week. The file is updated weekly. You may use the data in line with ECDC's copyright policy.

Source

The figures displayed for weekly testing rate per 100 000 population and weekly test positivity (%) are based on several data sources.

The number of weekly cases per used to estimate weekly test positivity per country or subnational region is based on data collected by ECDC Epidemic Intelligence. The information sources are Ministries of Health or National Public Health Institutes (websites, twitter official accounts or Facebook official accounts), and the obtained data is systematically cross checked with data from WHO. More information is available at <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/data-collection>

The main source of total tests per country or subnational region per week is aggregate data submitted by Member States to TESSy. However, when not available, as was often the case earlier in the pandemic, ECDC compiled data from public online sources. These data have been automatically or manually retrieved ('web-scraped') daily from national/official public online sources from EU/EEA countries. It should be noted that there are several limitations to this type of data. Scraped data are not available for all variables and/or countries due to content variability on national websites. Additionally, the data collection process requires constant adaptation to avoid interrupted time series (i.e. due to modification of website pages, types of data).

Interpretation of COVID-19 data

The 14-day notification rate of newly reported COVID-19 cases is based on data collected by the ECDC Epidemic Intelligence from various sources and are affected by the local testing strategy, laboratory capacity and the effectiveness of surveillance systems. Comparing the epidemiological situation regarding COVID-19 between countries should therefore not be based on these rates alone. However, at the individual country or regional level, this indicator may be useful for monitoring the national situation over time.

Testing policies and the number of tests performed per 100 000 persons, vary markedly across the EU/EEA and presumably even more so among third countries. More extensive testing will inevitably lead to more cases being detected.

The 14-day notification rate of new COVID-19 cases should be used in combination with other factors including testing policies, number of tests performed, test positivity, excess mortality and rates of hospital and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admissions, when analysing the epidemiological situation in a country. Most of these indicators are presented for EU/EEA Member States in the [Country Overview](#) report.

Even when using several indicators in combination, comparisons between countries should be done with caution and relevant epidemiological expertise.

Variable (as of 20210114)	Definition	Code
country		String
country_code	2-letter ISO country code	String
year_week		yyyy-Www

level	National (archived dataset with national subnational data to week 36, 2022 is available on ECDC's website)	String
region	2-letter ISO country code where level is national.	String
region_name	Country name where level is national	String
new_cases	Number of new confirmed cases	Numeric
tests_done	Number of tests done	Numeric
population		Numeric
testing_rate	Testing rate per 100 000 population	Numeric
positivity_rate	Weekly test positivity (%): $100 \times \text{Number of new confirmed cases} / \text{number of tests done per week}$	Numeric
testing_data_source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country API • Country GitHub • Country website • Manual webscraping • Other • Survey • TESSy: data provided directly by Member States to ECDC via TESSy 	String