

WHO: COVID cases and deaths continue to fall globally

April 6 2022



A health worker wearing a protective suit walks by masked residents who wait in line to get their throat swab at a coronavirus testing site following a COVID-19 case was detected in a residential buildings, Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in Beijing. Credit: AP Photo/Andy Wong

The number of coronavirus cases reported globally has dropped for a

second consecutive week and confirmed COVID-19 deaths also fell last week, according to a World Health Organization report issued Wednesday.

In its latest pandemic report, WHO said 9 million cases were reported, a 16% weekly decline, and more than 26,000 new deaths from COVID-19. The U.N. health agency said confirmed coronavirus infections were down in all regions of the world.

However, it warned that the reported numbers carry considerable uncertainty because many countries have stopped widespread testing for the coronavirus, meaning that many cases are likely going undetected.

WHO said it was also tracking an [omicron variant](#) that is a recombination of two versions: BA.1 and BA.2, which was first detected in Britain in January. WHO said early estimates suggest the recombined omicron could be about 10% more transmissible than previous mutations, but further evidence is needed.

The agency has continued to warn [countries not to drop their COVID-19 protocols](#) too quickly and predicted that future variants could spread easily if surveillance and testing systems are shelved.

Last week, the U.K. said COVID-19 had hit record levels across the country, with government statistics estimating that about 1 in 13 people were infected. Those figures came on the same day the British government abandoned its free testing program.



A health workers in protective suits takes a throat swab sample from a resident at a coronavirus testing site following a COVID-19 case detected Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in Beijing. Credit: AP Photo/Andy Wong



A woman pulls up her mask to get her throat swab at a coronavirus testing site near residential buildings, Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in Beijing. Credit: AP Photo/Andy Wong



People wearing face masks as a precaution against the coronavirus walk under cherry blossoms in full bloom at a park in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, April 6, 2022. Credit: AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon

Meanwhile, Chinese authorities conducted more mass testing this week across Shanghai, which remains in lockdown following another jump in infections; the city has recorded more than 90,000 cases but no deaths during the pandemic.

Despite growing public frustration and concerns about [economic effects](#), China says it is sticking to its hard-line "zero-tolerance" approach mandating lockdowns, mass testing and the compulsory isolation of all

suspected cases and close contacts. Following a public uproar, Shanghai authorities said Wednesday they would allow at least some parents to stay with children infected with COVID-19, making an exception to a policy of isolating anyone who tests positive.

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