

Turkey sees drop in daily coronavirus infections

21 May 2020



In this photo provided by the Turkish Presidency, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaks to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe via video link, during the inauguration ceremony for Basaksehir Pine and Sakura City Hospital, in Istanbul, Thursday, May 21, 2020. Abe has called for international cooperation against the new coronavirus, saying any drug or vaccine developed against the virus must be made "fairly" accessible. (Turkish Presidency via AP)

Turkey on Thursday reported its lowest daily increase in confirmed coronavirus cases in the past two months, with 961 new infections in the past 24 hours.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca also reported 27 more deaths in the past 24 hours. The total [number](#) of infections in the country now stands at 153,548, with a total of 4,249 deaths.

Koca tweeted that the number of patients needing [intensive care](#) also continued to decrease. The number of patients that have recovered has now reached 114,990.

Earlier, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe joined by videoconference Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the opening of a 2,600-bed hospital in Istanbul.

He urged international cooperation in combating the new coronavirus, saying any drug or vaccine must be "fairly" accessible and nations must assist less [developed countries](#).

The Basaksehir Pine and Sakura City Hospital in Istanbul, which also has more than 400 intensive care unit beds, was built by Turkey's Ronisans Holding in partnership with Japan's Sojitz Corporation.

Turkey is separately constructing two other hospitals in Istanbul, including one on the site of the now-closed Ataturk Airport, as part of plans to turn the nation into a major destination for [medical tourism](#).



In this photo provided by the Turkish Presidency, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, front center, arrives to attend the inauguration ceremony for Basaksehir Pine and Sakura City Hospital, in Istanbul, Thursday, May 21, 2020. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who participated by videoconference the ceremony has called for international cooperation against the new coronavirus, saying any drug or vaccine developed against the virus must be made "fairly" accessible. (Turkish Presidency via AP)



In this photo provided by the Turkish Presidency, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan applauds Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe via video link, during the inauguration ceremony for Basakşehir Pine and Sakura City Hospital, in Istanbul, Thursday, May 21, 2020. Abe has called for international cooperation against the new coronavirus, saying any drug or vaccine developed against the virus must be made "fairly" accessible. (Turkish Presidency via AP)



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APA citation: Turkey sees drop in daily coronavirus infections (2020, May 21) retrieved 19 June 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-05-turkey-daily-coronavirus-infections.html>

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