



JIPMER SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY (JSS)



Invited Column



SARS-CoV-2 Update: August 2020

Since the first case report of Covid 19 infection on 8th December 2019 from Wuhan, China, and its subsequent spread to all continents and all countries, scientists and world leaders are struggling to contain the spread of the virus and its resultant health and economic impacts. In this column, we will be revisiting the status of the spread of the pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 infection as on 31st August 2020.

World

The world has reported 25, 085, 685 cases of COVID-19 with 843, 927 deaths as on 31st August 2020¹. The virus, SARS-CoV-2, continues to affect every region of the world, but some countries are experiencing high rates of infection, while others appear to have mostly controlled the virus despite re-appearance of some isolated clusters. Out of the six World Health Organization regions, Americas (PAHO) [13.2 Million], Europe (EURO) [4.2 million] and South-East Asia (SEARO) [4.15 million] lead the chart in terms of cumulative confirmed cases. The top three worst affected countries are USA (5.89 million cases), Brazil (3.84 million cases) and India (3.62 million cases), respectively¹.

India

The population share of reported cases and deaths due to COVID-19 is one in 374 and one in 20,981 persons respectively (31st August 2020). In the last week of August, India reported 514,897 confirmed cases with seven-day average increasing from 52,000 on 1st August to 73,500 on 31st August 2020². The top three states/ Union territories affected as per number of cases per 100,000 residents in the last seven days are Puducherry (289), Goa (206) and Andhra Pradesh (145)³.

Puducherry

There has been ten-fold increase in the number of reported cases (1,357 to 14,411) and four-fold increase in number of COVID-19 deaths (51 to 228) from 1st to 31st August, respectively. But it is important to note that the testing rate per one lakh population has increased marginally during this period (1st August: 945 and 31st August: 1074). However, infection mortality rate was found to be hovering between 1.41-1.58%.⁴

We will be back with more updates, until then stay safe, use mask, wash hands regularly and practice physical distancing.

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¹<https://covid19.who.int/>

²<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/world/asia/india-coronavirus-cases.html>

³<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/world/coronavirus-maps.html#countries>

⁴<https://covid19dashboard.py.gov.in/>