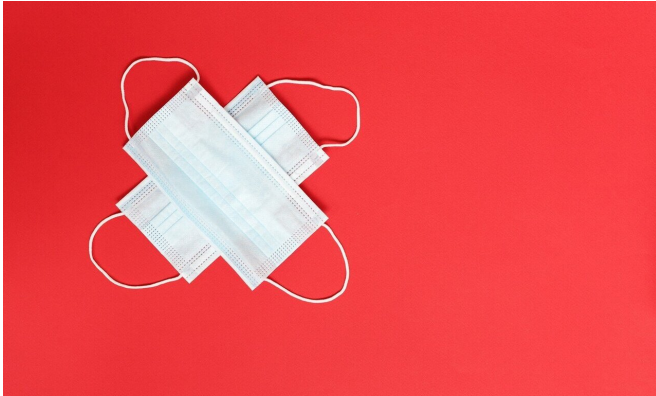


COVID deaths in Africa jump 40% in one month: WHO

11 February 2021



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Deaths from COVID-19 in Africa surged by 40 percent over the last month, the World Health Organisation said Thursday, as the continent's toll approaches 100,000.

"Over 22,300 deaths were reported in Africa in the last 28 days, compared with nearly 16,000 deaths in the previous 28 days," said the WHO Africa office based in the Republic of the Congo capital Brazzaville.

"This comes as Africa battles new, more contagious variants and gears up for its largest-ever vaccination drive," the UN agency said in a statement after a virtual press conference.

The first coronavirus infections in Africa were detected in February last year. More than 3.7 million cases have been recorded since, with 96,000 deaths, according to the latest figures released by WHO Africa on Thursday.

"The continent is expected to reach 100,000 deaths in the coming days," the WHO added.

"The increasing deaths from COVID-19 we are

seeing are tragic, but are also disturbing warning signs that [health workers](#) and [health systems](#) in Africa are dangerously overstretched," WHO's Africa director Matshidiso Moeti said in the statement.

Despite fears it would be hit hard, Africa saw fewer cases than much of the rest of the world during the earlier phase of the pandemic.

"In the [second wave](#) as cases surged far beyond the peak experienced in the first wave, health facilities have become overwhelmed," the WHO said.

With vaccine scepticism high in some parts of the continent, Moeti urged all Africans to "go out and get vaccinated when a vaccine becomes available in your country".

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