

## Covid-19 and islands (states, territories and sub-national island jurisdictions- SNIJs)

NB New format as from 19 June 2020

1. This is a further update in a revised format of a note started on 25 March – then updated every 5 days - with data from the Worldometer website on Covid-19 and islands. For over 20 years I have been involved with the UK's overseas territories, as a UK diplomat and then in retirement as a member of the council of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (see [www.ukotcf.org.uk](http://www.ukotcf.org.uk) ) The first note started with data about the UK's overseas territories. It now seems for most readers more useful /to start with the data from island and archipelagic nation states. However, to fit the data onto one Landscape page is impossible, so this revised format starts with the data from 26 March and then jumps to 20 May and onwards, **but now in TEN-DAY PERIODS**, so one glance shows the changes in the latest 10-day period compared with the previous period and leaves room for new data over the coming months. If you would like a copy of the last note in five-day periods from 26 March to 25 May, please email me (Iain Orr) at [biodiplomacy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:biodiplomacy@yahoo.co.uk) (or text me on [44] (0)7484-268-886).

2. In the following tables I have added in bold numbers after the name of each state /territory the latest number of deaths per million =**dpm** (ie as of 19 June in this update). I have added \* to numbers which are more than the actual deaths because the population is significantly less than 1 million. Note that these figures are bound to rise as more deaths occur. As of 19 June the breakdown of the states/territories recording at least one death is: 20 had from 1-9 dpm (18 states and 2 territories), 19 had from 10-99 dpm (10 states and 9 territories; **and 8 had 100 + dpm ( two states - UK, Republic of Ireland) and 6 territories (Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Bermuda, Mayotte and Sint Maartin)**). However, since social distancing is such an important factor for this sort of infectious virus that dpm figure is followed by a slash and then the density of that state or territory's population in terms of people per sq. km. Such a measure of density does not, of course, take into account the amount of movement within a country or of inward and outward tourism. It became clear quite early in the spread of Covid-19 that densely populated cities (including capitals, which attract visitors to national institutions, including parliaments) have functioned as super-spreaders. Also, there are a number of countries and territories whose total area includes huge regions empty or virtually empty of human communities.

### Island and archipelagic states

	26 Mar	20 May	30 May	9 June	19 June	29 June	8 July	18 July	28 July	7 Aug
UK	11658	248293	272826	289140	301815					
<b>602/281</b>	-578	-35704	-38376	-40883	-42461					

Australia	3556	7079	7185	7267	7409
<b>4/3</b>	-7	-100	-102	-102	-102
R Ire	1819	24315	24929	25215	25368
<b>343/72</b>	-18	-1571	-1651	-1691	-1714
Japan	1387	16385	16804	17210	17740
<b>7/347</b>	-47	-771	-886	-916	-935
Indonesia	893	19189	25773	33076	43803
<b>7/151</b>	-78	-1242	-1573	-1923	-2373
Iceland	802	1803	1806	1807	1819
<b>29*/3</b>	-2	-10	-10	-10	-19
Philippines	707	13221	17224	22992	28459
<b>9/368</b>	-45	-842	-950	-1017	-1130
Singapore	683	29364	34366	38514	41615
<b>4/8538</b>	-2	-22	-23	-25	-26
Dom Rep	488	13477	16908	20415	25068
<b>50/225</b>	-10	-446	-498	-544	-657
Bahrain	419	7888	10793	15731	20916
<b>17/2239</b>	-4	-12	-17	-29	-57
N Zealand	283	1503	1504	1504	1507
<b>4/18</b>	-0	-21	-22	-22	-22
Taiwan <b>0.3/673</b>	252-2	440-7	442-7	443-7	446-7
Cuba <b>7/106</b>	67-2	1900-79	2025-83	2205-83	2305-85
Malta <b>20/1380</b>	134-0	584-6	618-9	632-9	663-9
Sri Lanka <b>0.5/341</b>	106-0	1028-9	1613-10	1859-11	1950-11
Cyprus <b>15/131</b>	146-3	922-17	944-17	972-18	985-19
Brunei <b>5/83</b>	114-0	141-1	141-2	141-2	141-3
Jamaica <b>3/273</b>	16-1	520-9	575-9	599-10	638-10
Mauritius <b>8/626</b>	81-2	332-10	335-10	337-10	337-10
Trinidad <b>6/273</b>	65-1	116-8	116-8	117-8	123-8
<i>Macau</i> <b>/21645</b>	31-0	45-0	45-0	45-0	45-0
Madagas <b>0.3/48</b>	23-0	371-2	758-6	1138-9	1433-13
Barbados <b>24/668</b>	18-0	90-7	92-7	92-7	97-7
Maldives <b>15*/1802</b>	13-0	1186-4	1672-5	1942-8	2150-8
<i>Dominica</i> <b>/96</b>	11-0	16-0	16-0	18-0	18-0

Eq Guinea	<b>9/50</b>	-0	890-7	1306-12	1306-12	1664-32
Haiti	<b>5/414</b>	8-0	596-22	1584-35	3538-54	4916-84
<i>Seychelles</i>	<i>/214</i>	7-0	11-0	11-0	1-0	11-0
Baham	<b>28*/39</b>	5-0	97-11	102-11	103-11	104-11
<i>Fiji</i>	<i>/49</i>	5-0	18-0	18-0	18-0	18-0
Cabo Ver	<b>9*/138</b>	4-1	349-3	421-4	585-5	848-8
Antigua	<b>31*/223</b>	0-0	25-3	25-3	26-3	26-3
<i>Saint Lucia</i>	<i>/301</i>	3-0	18-0	18-0	19-0	19-0
<i>St Kitts N</i>	<i>/205</i>	2-0	15-0	15-0	15-0	15-0
S.Tome	<b>55*/228</b>	0-0	249-8	479-12	514-12	693-12
<i>Timor Leste</i>	<i>/89</i>	1-0	24-0	24-0	24-0	24-0
<i>PNG</i>	<i>/20</i>	1-0	8-0	8-0	8-0	8-0
St Vincent	<b>/284</b>	1-0	17-0	26-0	27-0	29-0
Comoros	<b>2/467</b>	0-0	11-1	106-2	141-2	210-5

Note: names of countries/territories with no current active cases are in *italics*.

3. Wordometer has entries for many sub-national island jurisdictions (SNIJs) as well as independent nation states. These are now listed separately in relation to their parent metropolitan states since such SNIJs may be able to call on support less readily available to independent island states. Two exceptions: Hong Kong and Macau are not listed as part of China since they (and Taiwan) function in relation to Covid-19 quite independently of Beijing. Many SNIJs have the authority to determine local medical and budgetary policies and contingency disaster planning. However commitments under multilateral international treaties and agreement are matters for the state that exercises sovereignty over any overseas territory or sub-national jurisdiction (eg federal states and devolved administrations).

### **Covid-19 Cases-deaths for UK overseas territories**

Territory	26/3	20/5	30/5	9 June	19 June
<i>Anguilla</i>	<i>/167</i>	0-0	3-0	3-0	3-0
<i>Ascension</i>		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Bermuda	<b>144*/1246</b>	7-0	125-9	140-9	141-9
<i>BAT</i>		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<i>BIOT</i>		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<i>BVI</i>	<b>33*/202</b>	2-0	8-1	8-1	8-1
<i>Gibraltar</i>	<b>/3369</b>	26-0	154-0	169-0	176-0
Cayman Is	<b>15*/274</b>	8-0	111-1	141-1	176-1
<i>Montserrat</i>	<b>200*/50</b>	2-0	111-1	11-1	11-1

<i>Pitcairn</i>	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<i>St Helena</i> /16	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<i>Tristan</i>	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
<i>Falklands</i> /0	0-0	13-0	13-0	13-0	13-0
<i>Turks&amp;Caicos</i> 26*/41	2-0	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Total UKOTs	47-0	432-13	497-13	529-13	532-13

NB All cases in the Falkland Islands so far have been at the military Mount Pleasant Complex: no Falkland Islanders. No statistics for the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus. Note on population figures: the total for St Helena also includes numbers on Ascension and Tristan (technically this is a single territory with three widely separated islands that are inhabited; “0” for the Falklands = less than 0.5 .

### UK Crown Dependencies, Devolved Administrations and local or regional authorities

	26/3	20/5	30/5	9 June	19 June
Channel Is	46-1	558-45	560-45	565-48	570-48
	<b>276*/915</b>				

*IoM* 282\*/149 26-0 336-24 336-24 336-24 336-24

NB: tWorldometer lumps together the separate Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey.

Jersey	313-30	313-30
Guernsey	252-16	252-16

N Ireland

Scotland

Wales

England

London [“the world in one city”]

### Other Overseas Territories and sub-national island jurisdictions

	26March	20 May	30 May	9 June	June 19
<i>French Poly</i> /77	30-0	60-0	60-0	60-0	60-0
<i>Guadeloupe</i> 35*/237	73-1	155-13	162-14	164-14	174-14
<i>Martinique</i> 37*/354	81-1	192-14	200-14	202-14	236-14
<i>Mayotte</i> 103*/728	36-0	1475-1	1699-2	2175-28	2394-29
<i>N Caledonia</i> /16	14-0	18-0	19-0	21-0	21-0
<i>Reunion</i> 1/358	115-0	447-1	471-1	481-1	504-1

<i>St. Barth</i> /470	3-0	6-0	6-0	6-0	6-0
Saint Martin 78*/730	11-0	39-3	41-3	41-3	42-3
<i>St Pierre &amp; Miq</i> /25	0-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0
<i>Aruba</i> 28*/593	19-0	101-3	101-3	101-3	101-3
Curacao 6*/370	8-0	16-1	19-1	21-1	23-1
Sint Maarten 350*/1261	3-0	76-15	77-15	77-15	77-15
<i>Carib Nether</i> /80	0-0	6-0	6-0	6-0	6-0
<i>Faroes</i> /35	140-0	187-0	187-0	187-0	187-0
<i>Greenland</i> /0 (i.e less than 0.5)	6-0	11-0	12-0	13-0	13-0
Hawaii 12/	106-0	643-17	651-17	682-17	789-17
Puerto Rico 42/323	64	2866	3776	5185	6195
	-2	-125	-136	-142	-147
<i>American Samoa</i> /276	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Guam / 313	n/a	n/a	154-5	172-5	200-5
US Virgin Is /298	n/a	17-0	69-6	69-6	73-6
N Mariana Is /125	n/a	n/a	21-2	22-2	30-2
US Military	n/a	n/a	8764	9449	13232
			-29	-36	-36

### Other Sub-National Island Jurisdictions [SNIJs – most still to be calculated]

Canada -PEI

China - Hainan

Australia -Tas

Ecuador - Gal

Chile – Rapa N

Indonesia- the following all calculated as of 12 April from provincial figures on the Wikipedia website:

Kalimantan ( North, South, West, East and Central K combined) 122-8

Java (East, Central and West Java + Jakarta) 3080-290

Sulawesi (North, Central, South and South-East S) 279-20

Sumatra (South and North Sumatra + Aceh)	91-12
Bali	81-2
Sub-total (at 12 April)	3653-332

(The total for all of Indonesia on that date was 4241-373, more than the above individual island totals since the national total covers many smaller island provinces. Java is, as its density and centrality for transport would suggest, a national and global Covid-19 hotspot.)

**DIV-IDED ISLANDS [Still to calculate the statistics]**

	26 Mar	20 May	25 May	30 May	9June	19 June
<b>Ireland</b>						
Rep	1819	24315	24698	24929	25215	25368
	-19	-1571	-1606	-1651	-1691	-1714
NI						
<b>Borneo</b>						
Brunei	114-0	141-1	141-2	141-2	141-2	141-2
Kalimantan						
Sarawak						
<b>Hispaniola</b>						
Dominican R	488	13477	16908	18319	20415	25068
	-10	-446	-498	-520	-544	-647
Haiti	8-0	596-22	1584-35	2640-50	3538-54	4916-84
<b>Cyprus</b>						
Cyprus (North)						
Cyprus Rep	146-3	922-17	937-17	958-17	972-18	985-19
<b>/131</b>						
<b>Saint/ Sint Maarten</b>						
Saint M	11-0	15-3	40-3	41-3	41-3	41-3
Sint M	3-0	77-15	77-15	77-15	77-15	77-15
<b>Timor</b>						
Timor Leste	1-0	24-0	24-0	24-0	24-0	24-0
Timor (ind)						
<b>New Guinea</b>						
PNG	8-0	8-0	8-0	8-0	8-0	8-0
West P + Papua AS on 12 April :	66-4					

**Tierra del Fuego** (Argentina/Chile)- one of the 4 provinces of Magallanes Region):

Note: on 15 March the first two Tierra del Fuego (Argentina) cases were identified out of a total of 56 cases by that date, but no deaths.

## **Comments on these statistics**

4. These Worldometer statistics reveal contrasts between insular and continental states/territories; and also between nation states and overseas territories of metropolitan states. Here is a summary.

As of 19 June, Worldometer lists 213 states territories that have recorded at least one case of infection by Covid-19. (That excludes two entries for cruise ships. To treat them as metaphorical islands is tempting; but more significant is that, once breached, any insular defences they may once have had turn them into floating cauldrons of infectivity.) Of that list of 213, 145 are continental (at least for the majority of the area/population) and 68 are insular/archipelagic.

Of the insular entries, 39 are of nation states. Note: Taiwan and Macau are treated (as is Hong Kong, non-insular because of the size of the New Territories) as being separate from the People's Republic of China); and 29 are of overseas territories /dependencies)

Of the 68 insular states and territories, as of 19 June, 18 have recorded no C19 deaths.

Of these, 9 are **insular states**:

St Vincent, PNG, Timor Leste, St Kitts Nevis, St Lucia, Fiji, Seychelles, Dominica and Macau.

9 are **sub-national island jurisdictions** :

Anguilla, Falklands, St Pierre et Miquelon, St Barthelemy, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Caribbean Netherlands (ie Saba, Bonaire and Sint Eustatius, the three municipalities governed directly from the Hague ), Faroes, Greenland.

Of the 145 continental nation states, ten have so far recorded no deaths (in decreasing order of number of infections):

Uganda, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Bhutan, Eritrea, Namibia, Laos, Vatican City and Lesotho.

Gibraltar, with 176 infections by 19 June, is the only infected non-island (but strongly peninsular) overseas territory to have so far suffered no deaths (despite the land border with badly-infected Spain).

**Note: the above totals are based on the country Covid-19 table on Worldometer.** They do NOT take account of sub-national island jurisdictions not in that list of states and territories, such as Hawaii, Prince Edward Island, Madeira, Sardinia, Corsica, Tasmania, Svalbard, Andaman Islands, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Hainan and Socotra. These are all, of course, significant island jurisdictions at the level of government/administration immediately below that of the metropolitan state of which they are part.

### **Islands uninfected (so far)**

5. Not included in the Worldometer list are 12 countries and 11 overseas territories which have so far not recorded any cases of Covid-19. The majority of these are from the Pacific (Oceania in the Worldometer lists) and Atlantic oceans. Also not included are the various and often overlapping claims (eg British Antarctic Territories – BAT) to parts of the Antarctic continent:

Of the 235 countries and territories on Worldometer's population list 81 are island/archipelagic states or territories of which 39 have so far recorded at least one case of Covid-19. North Korea is the only continental state not listed as having recorded at least one case of infection. However that must be due to lack of an officially reported figure.

**Countries so far infection-free:** Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau **Infection-free Overseas Territories (NB underlined are those with no resident population):** Bouvet Island, American Samoa, Wallis and Futuna, Clipperton Island, the Pitcairn Islands, British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT\*), St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha.\*\* South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI), Midway Island

\*[Might any infections here be counted amongst those listed in the US Military part of Worldometer's listing of sub-national parts of the USA?].

\*\*Constitutionally St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha is a single but tripartite UK overseas territory, with the Governor resident in St Helena. The Wikipedia entry for "Demographies of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan", cited as a source by Worldometer also relies rather too much on the entry for St Helena in the CIA Factbook which lumps together the population figures for the three islands. Similarly, for many years St Helena was, misleadingly, listed as having an airfield, with no mention that it was located several hundred miles away on Ascension. Currently HMG regards all those living on Ascension as being contract workers with no right of abode (including a few who were born on the island).

Other statistical comparisons concerning islands (and continental states and territories) can be made using the worldometer data. In this article - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/144753968919662/permalink/3009287732466257/>

Professor Ilan Kelman, posting in Island Vulnerabilities and Resilience at 3:28 pm on 15 April, noted the significance of the ratio of tests to reported cases of infection. Cuba's 18,825 tests done leads to a ratio of 25:1, compared with 16:1 in Jamaica and 3:1 in the Dominican Republic. Testing is, of course, at the heart of debate about the adequacy of the UK's response. The following snapshots (figures downloaded at 06.00 am BST on 20 April) of countries and territories with the highest and lowest figures for Deaths per million (Tests per million) provide tentative clues about which countries have – so far – responded poorly or well to the medical and social threats from C19.

### **HIGHEST DEATHS PER MILLION (tests per million) at 10-day intervals, first on 20 April then from 20 May**

Note: this list of the top ten omits six high scorers where small populations may distort the picture (San Marino, Sint Maarten, Andorra, Luxembourg, Channel Islands and Bermuda).

Country	Deaths per million (Tests per m)				
	At 20 April	At 20 May	At 30 May	At 9 June	At 19 June
Belgium	503 (13,969)	793 (63,807)	816 (73,201)	830 (82,725)	837 (93,835)
Spain	(19,896)	596 (64,977)	580 (76,071)	580 (95,508)	606 (103,232)
Italy	391 (22,436)	535 (52,450)	551 (63,249)	563 (71,422)	572 (80,859)
France	302 (7,103)	431 (21,218)	441 (21,217)	449 (21,215)	454 (21,214)
UK	237 (7,101)	526 (43,661)	556 (59,592)	602 (86,502)	626 (109,511)
Neth	215 (9,041)	336 (17,652)	347 (20,380)	352 (24,774)	355 (30,193)
Switz	160 (25,566)	219 (41,098)	222 (45,636)	224 (49,587)	226 (57,074)
Sweden	152 (7,387)	380 (20,798)	435 (23,658)	467 (27,289)	500 (38,194)
USA	120 (11,400)	287 (42,680)	319 (52,203)	345 (66,922)	367 (82,604)
NY State	933 (31,478)	1,478 (42,830)	1,533 (103,486)	1,573 (133,962)	1,602 (167,535)
Rep Ireland	116 (18,358)	319 (59,97)	335 (66,045)	343 (74,533)	347 (80,346)

It is notable that so far the only non-European country in the top ten throughout the crisis has been the USA. That picture may now start to change with the growing number of new cases and new deaths being recorded from Latin America (notably Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Chile). On 19 June the greatest number of new infections were recorded, in decreasing order, from: Brazil, USA, India, Russia, Chile, Mexico, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Peru. On that same date (therefore reflecting the outcome of new infections in the previous couple of weeks) the top ten countries recording new deaths were: Brazil, USA, Mexico, India, Chile, Peru, Russia, UK, Pakistan and Iran. The only African country on either list is South Africa.

### **Recovered cases**

6. At 19 June the Worldometer recorded - highlighted in green - 20 states or territories where all the identified infectious cases had by then recovered, with no deaths. Of these, 17 are islands (Faroese, Timor Leste, New Caledonia, Grenada, Fiji, Dominica, St Kitts Nevis, Macau and French Polynesia, Greenland, Falklands, PNG, Seychelles, Caribbean Netherlands, St Barth, Anguilla and St Pierre et Miquelon). The other three were Gibraltar, Vatican City and Laos. Note that as no , has yet tested all inhabitants, **no place can claim to be “100% Covid-19-free.”** A further ten countries and territories (highlighted in grey on Worldometer) currently also have no active cases but have had at least one Covid death. Seven of these are island territories: Isle of Man, Guadeloupe, Aruba, Sint Maarten, TCI, Montserrat and BVI; two are island states – Comoros and Brunei - and one is a continental state - Western Sahara The broad picture that emerges is that you would be at less risk from Covid-19 if you took an island rather than a continental vacation. There is, however, a Catch-19: if your holiday starts with a tube ride to Heathrow, Schipol or JFK and then a flight, the chances are that you will have left home uninfected but may have picked the bug up before setting foot on your blissful holiday island . Bonnes vacances!

**PLEASE SEND ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS AND SOURCES ON SUB-NATIONAL JURISDICTIONS TO ME (Iain Orr) at [biodiplomacy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:biodiplomacy@yahoo.co.uk) or text me on [44] {0}7484-268-886.**

(Last updated and corrected on 20 June 2020) 3,079 words