Italy is catching up with China in terms of infections

German virologist: The reason for low mortality is mass testing

Another weekly status update for some of the most affected countries in Europe.

In Italy, 6153 people have been confirmed infected with the new coronavirus in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of infected to 80,539. In China, where a pandemic erupted, a total of 81,285 people became infected. -- 26th of March 2020

In the last 24 hours, more people have healed than died. The total number of deaths increased to 8,165 - 662 died yesterday (683 the day before). 10,361 people were healed - 999 yesterday, according to the civil protection records by Corriere della Sera.

Italy:

The Piedmont region reported that 50 civil deaths in their country were not included in the civil protection report. Which makes yesterday's death toll 712, not 662, and rising, Reuters reported. The total number of deaths is 8,215, not 8,165.

24,753 patients with symptoms of covid-19 have been hospitalized. 3612 people are in intensive care.

The number of people infected in the worst-hit Italian country of Lombardy has risen by about 2500. "Unfortunately, the new numbers are not encouraging. The increase is steeper than in previous days," said Governor Attilio Fontana.

The death toll has also risen sharply in Lombardy, according to Reuters. In the last 24 hours, 385 people died and 296 on Wednesday. A total of 4860 people have died in Lombardy after infection with the new coronavirus.

An unnamed source confirmed the governor's allegations of new infections - 2,543 people were expected to be infected, to Reuters. The number of infections has thus risen to 34,890.

Bergamo is one of the worst affected areas in Lombardy, with a huge increase in deaths. As reported by city officials today, a total of 313 people died in the city last week, seven times more than the weekly average of deaths in the last ten years.

Emilia is among the worst affected counties in Lombardy. In the neighboring Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, 72 people have died so far and 1,223 people are infected.

Tortured healthcare workers pay a heavy price for their daily fight against the coronavirus. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, 39 doctors have died and 6206 healthcare workers have been infected with the virus, which is about nine percent of all infected in the country.

Although the number of newborns has been decreasing slightly in the last four days, WHO has labeled the first encouraging signs. "The situation remains very serious, but we are witnessing the first encouraging signs. Italy, which has the highest number of cases in the area, found a slight decline in the number of new infections. However, it is too early to estimate that the pandemic in

this country has culminated," are words of hope by Hans Kluge, the WHO Regional Director for Europe.

On Wednesday, 683 people died in Italy, 750 in total. The number of people infected increased by 3491 on Wednesday, leaving 57,521 infected as reported by the Italian civil protection.

France:

France has approved 365 new deaths of coronavirus-19. There is also a 16-year-old girl among the deceased. The death toll is still increasing daily in France, according to French news agency AFP.

Health Ministry spokesman Jerome Salomon said that 1696 people have died in hospitals in France due to covid-19. This does not include people who have died either at home or in nursing homes.

29,155 infections have been confirmed so far. Solomon also noted that the number of infected patients is likely to be much higher as they only test more at-risk patients.

There are currently 3,375 intensive care units out of 13,904 patients undergoing treatment in hospitals across France.

France has quarantined until March 17th to slow the spread of the new coronavirus. "It is very difficult to estimate when we will culminate. Those who are ill now became infected before the closure began," the minister explained.

Spain:

In Spain, 655 new deaths have been confirmed in the last 24 hours due to the new coronavirus, which is less than on Wednesday, when 738 died. More than 4,000 people died in total. The number of patients increased by 8,578 to 56,188.

In the county of the Iberian Peninsula, the number of infected and the number of fatalities are increasing rapidly, with more reported on Wednesday than in Italy. The Spanish healthcare system is approaching the edge of capacity.

The Spanish Parliament has extended the emergency and its quarantine until 12 April.

Attacks on vehicles with elderly patients are also reported in Spain. Tuesday's attack in La Linea de la Concepsion involved dozens of people who wanted to prevent patients, some infected, others with covid-19 disease from being quarantined by the Alcala del Valle municipality in a nursing home in the Andalusian city. At the same time, protesters tried to prevent road convoys from reaching the destination by road barricades. On Wednesday night, protests continued in front of the said retirement home. Protesters burned several garbage cans and threw explosives at neighboring homes. Police arrested two men.

La Linea mayor Juan Franco condemned the violent protesters on Wednesday but said the relocation of the elderly was not well planned, as he himself carried it out in the last moment.

Germany:

In Germany, the number of those infected has increased to 36,508. 198 people died, according to Reuters citing information from the Robert Koch Institute for Infectious Diseases.

Many people wonder why mortality is extremely low in Germany compared to other countries, notably Italy and Spain. In Italy the mortality rate is 20 times higher. "To be fair, we still don't know enough," World Health Organization expert Richard Pebody reportedly told Thelocal.de. Various theories are emerging in the media.

Many German experts emphasize the role of mass testing. Among them is the renowned German virologist Christian Drosten, who reportedly conducted an average of 500,000 tests a week in Germany at a government-sponsored virus research meeting.

Others also emphasize the importance of the age of the sick. Although the average age of the population does not differ significantly in Germany and Italy, the average age of the patient in both

countries differs significantly: in Germany, it is 45 years and in Italy 63 years. Age presents a significant factor when determining the cause of high mortality.

Meanwhile, Bosch has reported that they have been able to develop a test that shows the result of coronavirus presence in less than two and a half hours. According to the report, the rapid test is intended for use in hospitals, surgeries and elsewhere.

Reliability is 95% and is in line with the WHO standards. It is expected to be available in April and is currently pending the necessary permits.

Current testing in Germany takes about four to five hours, however, since these are carried out in laboratories, the delivery time of the sample should be considered and may alter that time significantly.

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