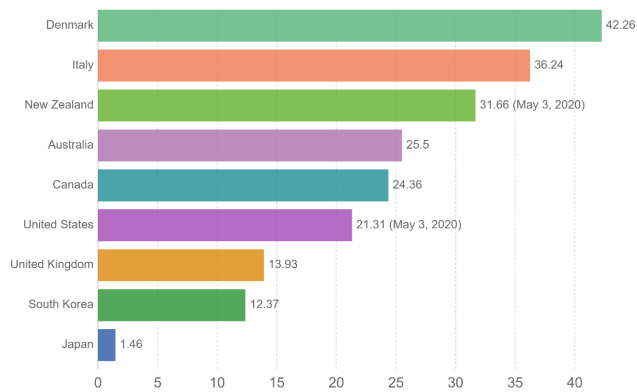


International Testing Approaches

- While Canada's relative testing rates are higher than some key allies (e.g., United States, United Kingdom), we are currently trailing a number of other countries that have made greater gains in reducing the spread of the virus or are beginning to relax physical distancing measures and beginning to reopen their respective economies.
- We are also seeing other countries make greater gains in increasing testing, including the United States and the United Kingdom.

Total COVID-19 tests per 1,000 people

The most recent figures for selection of countries is shown (you can change the selection using '+ Add country'). Only data relating to the the last 5 days are included.



Source: Official sources collated by Our World in Data. OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY
Note: For testing figures, there are substantial differences across countries in terms of the units, whether or not all labs are included, the extent to which negative and pending tests are included and other aspects. Details for each country can be found at the linked page.

International Testing Tracking

Country	Population	May 4		May 5				May 6			
		Total Test	Test/Million	Total Test	Tests/Million	New Tests	New Tests /Million	Total Test	Test/Million	New Tests	New Tests /Million
Canada	37,690,124	897,444	23,778	919,368	24,359	21,924	581.7	940,567	24,921	21,199	562.5
United States	330,700,557	7,254,818	21,918	7,510,108	22,706	255,290	772.0	7,727,938	23,347	217,830	658.7
Japan	126,535,913	183,251	1,449	184,586	1,459	1,335	10.6	186,343	1,473	1,757	13.9
UK	67,830,628	1,206,405	17,771	1,291,591	19,026	85,186	1,255.9	1,383,842	20,385	92,251	1,360.0
Italy	60,475,311	2,191,403	36,244	2,246,666	37,158	55,263	913.8	2,310,929	38,221	64,263	1,062.6
South Korea	51,262,197			640,237	12,488			643,095	12,543	2,858	55.8
Australia	25,452,094			664,756	26,069			688,656	27,006	23,900	939.0
New Zealand	4,815,982			155,928	32,335			160,700	33,325	4,772	990.9
Denmark	5,788,998			257,738	44,497			270,680	46,732	12,942	2,235.6

International Testing Strategies

Country	Approach
Australia	<p>Broad testing for those with symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently only testing those with symptoms. • Anyone with flu-like symptoms is now able to be tested. • Testing being conducted in pathology centres, hospitals and fever clinics. • As of April 29, additional 10 million tests purchased to allow more wide-spread testing.
Austria	<p>Relatively light in-home testing with aggressive quarantine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting a capacity goal of 10,000 – 15,000 diagnostic tests per day. • When Austria was at a testing capacity of 5,000, only one person per household was tested and remaining household members were automatically quarantined when the test result is positive. While this may result in non-COVID-carrying individuals being quarantined, it can save several tests per case. • Most testing has been carried out at home to prevent the spread of the virus in health care settings.
Denmark	<p>Expanding testing to those with mild symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently delivering 12,000 tests per day, goal of 20,000 tests per day. • Testing everyone with symptoms, including very mild symptoms as well as asymptomatic residents and front line personnel in institutions where we have seen COVID-19 cases among staff and/or residents. Will imminently begin testing people who are close contacts to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. • Testing tents that have been put up near hospitals in Denmark's five regions. • Drive-through testing similar to South Korea.
France	<p>Seeking to expand testing capacity, which has been recognized as too low:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of April 28, France had a testing capacity of 200,000 per week and had set a goal of 700,000 per week by May 11. • French news source <i>Connexion</i> reports that as of April 30, only symptomatic elderly and elder-care workers, pregnant women and health care workers.
Denmark	<p>Expanding testing to those with mild symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently delivering 12,000 tests per day, goal of 20,000 tests per day. • Testing everyone with symptoms, including very mild symptoms as well as asymptomatic residents and front line personnel in institutions where we have seen COVID-19 cases among staff and/or residents. Will imminently begin testing people who are close contacts to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. • Testing tents that have been put up near hospitals in Denmark's five regions. • Drive-through testing similar to South Korea.

Country	Approach
Germany	<p>Strong diagnostic capacity across a series of public and private labs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity reported at 160,000 tests per day as of May 2. 300 labs using automated molecular diagnostic tests that deliver results in 2.5 hours, created by German tech company Bosch.
Italy	<p>Attempting scale-up, but concerns the virus may be too wide-spread for testing to play a large role in recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of April 15, according to reports, Italy's hard-hit Lombardy region is testing 6,500 people daily; at this rate it would take almost 5 years to test everyone once. Doctors interviewed do not think testing will be a success factor in exiting the pandemic because capacity will not keep pace with the needs considering how widespread the virus has become.
Japan	<p>Diagnostic testing now being scaled up following a heavily-criticized strategy of testing only severely symptomatic individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently very low testing rate with high incidence of positive tests given that testing is focused on symptomatic people. As of April 30, in Tokyo, only 10,981 people had been tested, with 4,000 testing positive; Tokyo's population is 9.3 million. As of April 30, Japanese guidelines to doctors are only to test people with pneumonia. Following criticism, Japan is expanding its testing capabilities by developing drive-through testing centres and recruiting general practitioners to collect samples.
New Zealand	<p>High per capita diagnostic testing capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current testing capacity of 8,000 per day, which is one of the highest per capita rates in the world, at approximately 33.33 tests per 1,000 people.
South Korea	<p>Highly accessible open testing with contact tracing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average goal of 20,000 tests per day Has tested more than 444,000 people As of early March, country was testing one in every 200 people Highly accessible testing, with approximately 633 testing sites nationwide, including drive-through, walk-in and mobile centres Results received in approximately 24 hours Those presenting with respiratory symptoms and a fever, international travel history, and potential close contacts with a positive patient, are guaranteed access to free tests. Even those without symptoms can get tested just as easily and pay their own fees, costing about \$140. Contact tracing, including electronic bracelets that track people breaking quarantine laws

Country	Approach
United Kingdom	<p>Implementing a “test, track and trace” strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently delivering 85,000 tests per day. Goal of 100,000 tests per day. • Testing prioritized for people who have coronavirus-like symptoms. • As of April 29, testing social care workers and residents in care homes (with or without symptoms), and NHS workers and patients without symptoms where there is a clinical need. • Results come within 48/72 hours for home tests. • Different ways to get tested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional testing sites (drive-through testing sites) ○ Homes testing ○ Mobile testing units ○ Satellite centres ○ NHS facilities • Currently developing a contact tracing app that is being piloted on the Isle of Wight which will alert people potentially exposed to someone with coronavirus. Alongside the app, the government is recruiting 18,000 “tracers” who will interview people who test positive to find out who they have been physically close to. • The government is recruiting 20,000 households across the UK to be regularly tested for coronavirus - with the objective to ultimately have 300,000 taking part. Volunteers will be tested every week for the first five weeks, and then every month for a year. The study should provide crucially important data on how coronavirus is moving through the population.
United States	<p>Expanding diagnostic testing in partnership with pharmacies; targeting vulnerable populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National strategy announced by President Trump on April 27 to partner with pharmacies (notably CVS and Walgreens) to rapidly expand testing. • Reportedly will allow all 50 states to test 2% of their populations. • Plan to target vulnerable populations, including the elderly and minority groups. • CVS will have an online appointment system and drive-through testing. • U.S. medical experts are reportedly estimating the U.S. will need 500,000 tests per day before the economy reopens – which is roughly 200,000 tests more than available at the end of April. • Division of powers between the federal government (testing support) and states (primary responsibility for testing and contact tracing) but the division has been somewhat unclear and fluid.