

How dangerous is COVID-19 in terms of mortality?

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The latest global death rate for the novel coronavirus is 3.4 percent – higher than earlier figures of about 2 percent.

The coronavirus outbreak that originated in Wuhan, China, has [killed more than 3,100 people and infected nearly 93,000](#) as of Tuesday. The virus causes a disease known as COVID-19.

[Speaking at a media briefing](#), the World Health Organisation's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, noted that the death rate was far higher than that of the seasonal flu, which kills about 0.1 percent of those infected.

The death rate is likely to change further as more cases are confirmed, though experts predict that the percentage of deaths will decrease in the longer term since milder cases of COVID-19 are probably going undiagnosed.

"There's another whole cohort that is either asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic," Anthony Fauci, the director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said at a [briefing](#) last month.

"We're going to see a diminution in the overall death rate."

[More Information](#)

Source: Perper, Rosie. "WHO Says The Coronavirus Global Death Rate Is 3.4%, Higher Than Earlier Figures." *ScienceAlert*, www.sciencealert.com/covid-19-s-death-rate-is-higher-than-thought-but-it-should-drop.