

**Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove**

*COVID-19 Technical Lead of the World Health Organization*

Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove is the COVID-19 Technical Lead of the World Health Organization, as well as the Head of Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses in the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme. Dr Van Kerkhove's research has spanned zoonotic, respiratory and emerging/re-emerging viruses such as avian influenza, MERS-CoV, Ebola, Marburg, plague and Zika. Of particular interest are factors associated with transmission between animals and humans, the epidemiology of zoonotic pathogens, and ensuring that research directly informs public health policies for action.

Dr Van Kerkhove completed her undergraduate degree at Cornell University, an MS Degree in epidemiology at Stanford University and a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Prior to joining WHO in 2017, she was the Head of the Outbreak Investigation Task Force at Institut Pasteur's Center for Global Health, in Paris, where she was responsible for establishing public health rapid response teams for infectious disease outbreaks. Her previous roles include a senior fellow at Imperial College London in the MRC Center for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling, and an epidemiologist at the Institut Pasteur in Cambodia.