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15% of global Covid deaths may be attributed to air pollution

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Long-term exposure to air pollution has been linked to an increased risk of dying from Covid-19.

The study, which was published today (October 27) in *Cardiovascular Research* has estimated that about 15% of worldwide deaths from Covid-19 could be attributed to long-term exposure to air pollution.

In order to create a model to calculate the fraction of Covid deaths that can be attributed to exposure to particulate matter (PM2.5), the researchers combined satellite data with information on atmospheric conditions and ground-level pollution monitoring networks.

Using this study they found that the proportion of deaths attributable to air pollution in Europe was about 19%, in North America, it was 17% and in East Asia about 27%.

Air pollution contributed to the highest number of coronavirus deaths in the Czech Republic (29%), followed by China (27%) and Germany (26%).

In the UK, 14% of deaths were attributable to air pollution and in New Zealand just 1%.