

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

3rd Aug 2020

News Highlights

Russia plans mass coronavirus vaccination campaign

Days after an anonymous source revealed that Russian regulators are planning to fast track approvals for a coronavirus vaccine, Health Minister, Mikhail Murashko announced that the country is planning to start a mass vaccination campaign against the virus in October. [Health experts around the world are concerned with Russia's fast track approach](#), even as Murashko announced that doctors and teachers would be the first to receive the vaccine.

Cases rise substantially in Victoria; Melbourne declares a 'state of disaster'

Despite reimposing lockdown in early July, Melbourne has continued to report hundreds of new Covid-19 cases daily, prompting authorities to now impose new restrictions, including an overnight curfew and a ban on weddings. [Victoria Premier, Daniel Andrews, said these restrictions will remain in place until September 13](#), due to high levels of community transmission of the virus and declared 'a state of disaster.'

Japan faces resurgence of virus with cases spreading through the nation

Japan did not impose lockdown, [conducted limited testing and yet managed to contain the spread of the first wave of Covid-19, winning accolades from health experts around the world](#). However, cases have now dramatically increased in several regions, as the country with the world's oldest population now starts to seriously worry about a disease that strikes the elderly with particularly lethal force.

Post-lockdown France, Spain report high cases of Covid-19

France and Spain, nations that suffered many thousands of deaths and imposed restrictive lockdowns on their populace, have reported a big increase in cases since lifting restrictions. [Spain recorded 3,092 new cases, its biggest jump since lifting lockdown in June](#). France reported over 1,300 cases for the third consecutive day and an infection rate at a level that was last reported in April, [as millions of people travel and socialise with friends in the first month of the school holidays](#).

Lockdown Exit

Impact of coronavirus will be felt for decades to come, WHO says

The global coronavirus outbreak is the sort of disaster whose effects will last far into the future, World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday. "The pandemic is a once-in-a-century health crisis, the effects of which will be felt for decades to come," Tedros told a meeting of the WHO's emergency committee, according to remarks released by the agency. The pandemic has killed more than 670,000 people since emerging in Wuhan, China, with more than 17 million cases diagnosed. The United States, Brazil, Mexico and Britain have been particularly hard hit in recent weeks by the disease COVID-19, as their governments have struggled to come up with an effective response.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-who/impact-of-coronavirus-will-be-felt-for-decades-to-come-who-says-idUKKCN24W27M>

Latin America see coronavirus records tumble as cases near five million

Argentina broke past 200,000 COVID-19 cases on Sunday and Colombia set a daily record as grim milestones topple in Latin America, pushing the world's worst affected region towards a combined 5 million cases. The region, which topped 200,000 deaths on Saturday, has struggled to stall the spread of the novel coronavirus, with infections picking up pace in many countries even as governments look to ease lockdowns and revive economic growth. Latin America, which has some 8% of the world's population, accounts for close to 30% of global cases and fatalities, with infections still spreading fast and hitting regional leaders like Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and Bolivia's Jeanine Anez.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-latam/latin-america-see-coronavirus-records-tumble-as-cases-near-five-million-idUSKBN24Z016>

Coronavirus: Russia plans mass vaccination campaign in October

Russian health authorities are preparing to start a mass vaccination campaign against coronavirus in October, the health minister has said. Russian media quoted Mikhail Murashko as saying that doctors and teachers would be the first to receive the vaccine. Reuters, citing anonymous sources, said Russia's first potential vaccine would be approved by regulators this month. However, some experts are concerned at Russia's fast-track approach. On Friday, the leading infectious disease expert in the US, Dr Anthony Fauci, said he hoped that Russia - and China - were "actually testing the vaccine" before administering them to anyone. Dr Fauci has said that the US should have a "safe and effective" vaccine by the end of this year. "I do not believe that there will be vaccines so far ahead of us that we will have to depend on other countries to get us vaccines," he told US lawmakers.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-53621708>

Mexico death toll overtakes UK as third-highest in the world

Mexico has overtaken the United Kingdom as the country with the world's third-highest coronavirus death toll - more than 46,600. On Friday, a multibillion-dollar agreement with the United Nations was announced to buy medical equipment and supplies. Al Jazeera's Manuel Rapalo has more from Mexico City.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/mexico-death-toll-overtakes-uk-third-highest-world-200801170029921.html>

Indonesia reports 1,560 new coronavirus cases, 62 deaths

Indonesia reported 1,560 new coronavirus infections on Saturday, bringing the total in the Southeast Asian country to 109,936, data from the country's COVID-19 task force showed. It also reported 62 COVID-19 related deaths, taking the death toll to 5,193.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-indonesia/indonesia-reports-1560-new-coronavirus-cases-62-deaths-idUSKBN24X3MK>

India's coronavirus cases rise by a daily record of 55078

India reported another record surge in daily COVID-19 cases on Friday, taking the total to 1.64 million, as the government further eases virus curbs in a bid to resuscitate the economy, while also trying to increase testing. Infections jumped by 55,078 in the past 24 hours, while the death toll rose by 779 to 35,747, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on its website.

<https://nationalpost.com/pmnh/health-pmnh/indias-coronavirus-cases-rise-by-a-daily-record-of-55078>

Spain records 3,000 new coronavirus cases in biggest jump since lifting lockdown

Spain has recorded 3,092 more cases of coronavirus in the biggest jump since lifting their national lockdown in June. The country's health ministry said cumulative cases, which also include results from antibody tests on people who may have recovered from the disease,

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/spain-reports-3000-new-cases-lockdown-a4514096.html>

French Daily Coronavirus Infection Rate Back to Lockdown Levels

France reported 1,346 new coronavirus infections on Friday, taking the total to 187,919 as the daily tally of new cases remained above 1,300 for the third day running, a level last seen during lockdown. At the end of the first month of school holidays, with millions of French people traveling and mingling with friends and family not seen for weeks, the infection rate has risen back to a level last reported in late April, when the epidemic was in full swing and a strict lockdown was in place. Comparisons can be difficult, as the health ministry does not publish data every day and it sometimes adds batches of historical data to single-day figures. But the seven-day moving average (7DMA), which smoothes out such irregularities, is now above 1,000 for the second day in a row. Except for early May, when the 7DMA was above 1,000 for a week due to a data revision, the 7DMA was above 1,000 from March 19 to May 1, with a peak of 4,5537 on April 1.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-07-31/number-of-new-french-coronavirus-infections-above-1-300-f-or-third-day-in-a-row>

Vietnam braces for a fresh wave of coronavirus despite earlier success in containing the outbreak

Vietnam, once praised for its success in containing the coronavirus outbreak, is now battling a resurgence in cases and has warned that the disease could spread wider across the country. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc warned that every province and city in the country is at risk of further infections, reported Reuters, citing state broadcaster Vietnam Television. Authorities have tightened containment measures in Danang, such as stepping up contact tracing, limiting crowd sizes and halting non-essential services. Flights to and from the city have also been temporarily suspended.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/30/vietnam-braces-for-fresh-wave-of-coronavirus-despite-early-success-in-containing-outbreak.html>

Exit Strategies

Surviving a COVID-19 ICU stay is just the start. We're ignoring what else it takes to recover.

After the ICU, coronavirus patients need rehab facilities and staff to get them back to normal functioning, if they even can — the U.S. is short on both.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/surviving-covid-19-icu-stay-just-start-we-re-ignoring-ncna1235239>

New push to raise Covid-19 testing capacity in England to 500,000 a day

Plans to raise Covid-19 testing capacity in England to 500,000 people a day have been signalled by the government as infections rise in Europe and ahead of a feared winter surge in cases. More people without symptoms are to be tested; the goal is to reach 150,000 tests a day for people who may be asymptomatic, such as those working in health and social care and other jobs that involve contact with other people. Anyone who has even mild symptoms can be tested and is urged to do so. In the latest week for which data has been published, from 16 to 22 July, 366,397 people were newly tested in hospitals, care homes and the community, and just over 4,000 were positive. But this falls considerably short of the number of new infections in England estimated by modellers, such as the MRC Biostatistics Unit in Cambridge, which published new data on Wednesday showing there were 3,000 a day – a figure similar to that produced by the Office of National Statistics.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/30/government-launches-new-push-to-double-covid-19-testing-in-uk>

US COVID: child care closures disproportionately affect women

A survey found that 13 percent of working parents had to resign or reduce work hours because of a lack of child care. The pandemic upended child care plans for many parents in the US, forcing them – particularly mothers – to grapple with tough choices that are only becoming more difficult as states push return-to-work policies to try to revive the battered economy.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/coronavirus-child-care-closures-disproportionally-affect-women-200731153636725.html>

CDC: Children might play 'important role' in spreading COVID-19

Georgia allowed overnight camps to operate beginning May 31. The camp cited in the study was open June 17-27. All trainees, staff members and campers provided documentation of negative COVID-19 tests taken less than 12 days before arriving at camp, as required by an executive order signed by Gov. Brian Kemp (R), according to the report. A teenage staff member left the camp on June 23 after experiencing chills. The staff member tested positive for COVID-19 the following day, and officials began sending campers home the same day. According to test results, the COVID-19 attack rate was 44 percent, but higher for kids between the ages of 6 and 10 and highest for those who stayed at the camp longest, including staffers, who arrived a few days earlier for training. Of the cases at the camp where symptom data is available, 26 percent had no symptoms. Among the 74 percent who reported symptoms, fever and headache were the most common.

<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/public-global-health/510010-cdc-children-might-play-important-role-in-spreading>

'Enormous tragedy': Fiji records first COVID-19 death

Fiji announced its first coronavirus death Friday, but health officials assured people in the Pacific island nation that it was not the precursor to a major outbreak. Health Minister Ifereimi Waqainabete said the victim was a 66-year-old man who tested positive after returning from India, where he had undergone surgery for a long-standing heart condition. "Sadly, despite the best efforts of our health-care professionals, this gentleman passed away yesterday in the isolation ward at Lautoka hospital due to complications from COVID-19," Waqainabete told reporters.

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/08/01/enormous-tragedy-fiji-records-first-covid-19-death.html>

COVID-19: WHO warns of 'lengthy' pandemic as cases rise

The coronavirus pandemic is likely to be "lengthy", the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Saturday as countries from France to Mexico reported a rise in cases. The WHO said it "highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic" in a statement after its emergency committee met on Friday to evaluate the crisis six months after it rang the global alarm on January 30. The group also warned of the risk of "response fatigue" given the socio-economic pressures on countries. "WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 to be very high," said its latest statement.

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/08/01/mexico-surpasses-the-uk-for-coronavirus-deaths-amid-surge-in-cases>

Indonesia kindergarten explores new ways to teach over pandemic

As schools struggle to keep pupils engaged during the pandemic, a kindergarten on Indonesia's Java island is getting pupils back in the classroom using makeshift transparent cubicles and also sending teachers on home visits with social distancing barriers. Permata Hati Kindergarten, a private kindergarten with 135 pupils in the city of Semarang in Central Java province, is allowing six pupils per day to spend time in the classroom, giving children a chance to attend school once every two weeks. Central Java has recorded Indonesia's fourth highest number of infections and at least 287 people have died in Semarang alone, according to government data.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-indonesia-kinderga/indonesia-kindergarten-explores-new-ways-to-teach-over-pandemic-idUSKCN24S0E3>

Greece extends mask-wearing requirement as coronavirus infections flare up

Greece will make mask-wearing compulsory in all indoor public spaces and also in outdoor spaces where proper social distancing cannot be observed, its deputy civil protection minister said on Friday, following a further rise in COVID-19 infections. Greece reported 78 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 infections on Friday, its highest tally in about two months. Overall, it has so far confirmed 4,447 COVID-19 cases with 202 deaths, a relatively low number compared to many European countries, after imposing an early lockdown in the spring. "The decisive factor in successfully confronting the pandemic in the first phase was citizens' responsibility, the individual responsibility

of every one," Deputy Civil Protection Minister Nikos Hardalias said in a televised address. "This was the 'secret' of Greece's success and we must all show the same responsibility and alertness in this phase."

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-greece/greece-extends-mask-wearing-requirement-as-coronaviruses-infections-flare-up-idUKKCN24W2QH>

Coronavirus: Millions of over-50s 'could be told to stay at home' to avoid second nationwide lockdown

Millions of people aged over 50 could be told to stay at home under a "nuclear" option to prevent a new nationwide lockdown if there is a second wave of coronavirus, according to reports. Boris Johnson is said to be considering asking a greater number of people in England to take part in the shielding programme should there be a big spike in COVID-19 cases. A Sunday Times report said people aged between 50 and 70 could be given personalised risk ratings, taking into account factors such as age and medical conditions, before being asked to shield in the event of an outbreak.

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-millions-of-over-50s-could-be-told-to-stay-at-home-to-avoid-second-nationwide-lockdown-12040780>

U.K. Weighs London Lockdown in Worst-Case Scenario: Reports

Australia's Victoria state tightened restrictions and declared a state of disaster after its outbreak showed no signs of abating. Metropolitan Melbourne would be under a curfew limiting movement between 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-01/u-k-weighs-london-lockdown-in-worst-case-scenario-reports>

Kashmir's open-air classes offer stunning solution to lockdown

Schools across India are struggling to teach online as the pandemic forces them to stay shut. But this town in Indian-administered Kashmir has found a novel solution, reports Abid Bhatt. Every morning, students in Doodpathri, a town in Budgam district, walk past streams and bridges, and up the hill to their new classroom: a picturesque spot with the snow-capped Himalayas as a backdrop. The outdoor school is a breather for both parents and children after months of a grinding lockdown to slow down Covid-19 infections. The state has reported more than 19,000 cases and some 365 deaths. "It's far better that our kids attend such schools than grow weary in homes where they often end up frustrating themselves," says Mushtaq Ahmad, whose son is attending the open air school. Officials should collaborate with locals to set up more such schools, he adds.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-53590847>

Partisan Exits

When It Comes to Covid Shots, Rich Nations Are First in Line

Although international groups and a number of nations are promising to make vaccines affordable and accessible to all, doses will likely struggle to keep up with demand in a world of roughly 7.8 billion people. The possibility wealthier countries will monopolize supply, a scenario that played out in the 2009 swine flu pandemic, has fueled concerns among poor nations and health advocates.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-02/when-it-comes-to-covid-vaccines-rich-nations-are-first-in-line>

Anti-vaxxers on social media could ruin chance of an effective treatment

Social media influencers and celebrities with millions of followers are boosting anti-vaccination messages worldwide, as more people say that they will not take a coronavirus vaccine. Politicians and experts have given warning that the rapid spread of misinformation about a Covid-19 vaccine could mean that it cannot be rolled out effectively. Damian Collins, a former chairman of the Commons committee on digital, media, culture and sport, said that the findings required urgent legislation.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anti-vaxxers-on-social-media-could-ruin-chance-of-an-effective-treatment-075lt5d>

[mh](#)

Trump planning for U.S. rollout of coronavirus vaccine falling short, officials warn

As scientists and pharmaceutical companies work at breakneck speed to develop a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, public health officials and senior U.S. lawmakers are sounding alarms about the Trump administration's lack of planning for its nationwide distribution. The federal government traditionally plays a principal role in funding and overseeing manufacturing and distribution of new vaccines during pandemics, which often draw on scarce ingredients and need to be made, stored and transported carefully. There won't be enough vaccine for all 330 million Americans right away, so the government also has a role in deciding who gets it first, and in educating a vaccine-wary here public about its potential life saving merits. Right now, it is unclear who in Washington is in charge of oversight, much less any critical details, some state health officials and members of Congress told Reuters.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-vaccine/trump-planning-for-u-s-rollout-of-coronavirus-vaccine-falling-short-officials-warn-idUSKCN24W1ON>

Argentina lockdown: Reports of abuse by security forces

The Argentinean government deployed thousands of security personnel in March to enforce a nationwide lockdown to contain the coronavirus. But reports of abuse and violence have been on the rise. Al Jazeera's Teresa Bo reports from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/argentina-lockdown-reports-abuse-security-forces-200726110002951.html>

Continued Lockdown

California becomes first state to hit half a million coronavirus cases

More than half a million people have tested positive for the coronavirus in California, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. California is the first U.S. state to hit 500,000 cases. More than 9,000 people have died from coronavirus in California, and more than 6,000 people are currently in the hospital or an intensive care unit, according to state data published Friday morning. In mid-July, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced new restrictions to try and ease the spread of the virus. Bars, breweries, restaurants, wineries, movie theaters and other indoor businesses that "encourage mixing of individuals beyond immediate households and make physical distancing and wearing face coverings difficult" were ordered to close. Counties that are on the state's monitoring list for three or more consecutive days were also ordered to close indoor operations, including fitness centers, places of worship, indoor protests, personal care services, salons, and malls.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/california-becomes-first-state-to-hit-half-a-million-coronavirus-cases/>

Fewer than half of adults understand the current coronavirus lockdown rules, study suggests

Fewer than half of people in England understand the current coronavirus rules, a study has revealed. Researchers found that as measures eased at different rates across the UK, levels of understanding of what is and what is not permitted dropped, particularly among younger adults. University College London (UCL) research conducted on more than 70,000 adults showed that 45 per cent only had a "broad understanding" of the current rules in place.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/confusion-lockdown-rules-understanding-a4513261.html>

Spike in Covid-19 cases puts reopening of pubs at risk amid worries over spread of virus

Pubs may have to agree to shorter opening times and limits on customer numbers as a price for reopening. Acting chief medical officer Dr Ronan Glynn said at least 19 cases over the two days have been identified as community transmission with an unknown source, while 20 cases remain under investigation. "We may be beginning to see more cases which we cannot link to outbreaks or close contacts. The National Public Health Emergency Team will continue to monitor this situation closely

over the coming days," he said. The Irish Dog Foods factory in Naas, which was the centre of a large outbreak, remained closed yesterday for a deep clean

<https://www.independent.ie/world-news/coronavirus/spike-in-covid-19-cases-puts-reopening-of-pubs-at-risk-amid-worries-over-spread-of-virus-39415079.html>

Germany adds 3 coronavirus-hit Spanish regions to quarantine list

Germany on Friday (July 31) added three northern Spanish regions to its list of high-risk destinations, meaning anyone arriving from those areas will have to produce a negative coronavirus test or go into quarantine for 14 days. Germany's Foreign Ministry said it had toughened up its warning against travel to the regions of Catalonia, Navarre and Aragon following a spike in Covid-19 cases there. The move comes after Germany's Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for disease control added the three regions to its high-risk list.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/coronavirus-germany-adds-3-virus-hit-spanish-regions-to-quarantine-list>

Scientific Viewpoint

Vaccine Confronts Humanity With Next Moral Test

When it comes to Covid-19, "It's pretty hard to have informed consent when we barely know anything about this yet." There are fears that the virus can cause lasting damage even in twentysomethings, for example, but little clear evidence. Can volunteers really consent to expose themselves to such poorly understood risks?

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-08-02/coronavirus-vaccine-confronts-humanity-with-next-moral-test-kdck4x2j>

Antibody tests fail to detect people who had mild coronavirus symptoms

Tests designed to check whether people have had coronavirus might be missing those who only experienced mild symptoms, a new study has found. Researchers at Oxford University gave an antibody test to more than 900 healthcare workers and found significant numbers came back negative, even among those who were likely to have contracted Covid-19. The findings have thrown fresh doubts over the accuracy of the tests and how they can be used to help the UK avoid another lockdown.

<https://metro.co.uk/2020/08/02/antibody-tests-failing-pick-people-who-mild-coronavirus-symptoms-13072155/>

Covid-19: Cases to be reviewed over weekend ahead of phase-four reopening

The number of Covid-19 cases will be monitored "very carefully" over the weekend, the Taoiseach has said ahead of a Cabinet decision on Tuesday on moving to phase four of the reopening roadmap. Last night marked 38 additional cases of Covid-19 reported by the National Public Health Emergency Team following a spike of 85 new cases on Thursday. The acting chief medical officer warned "we may be beginning to see more cases which we cannot link to outbreaks or close contacts". Phase four, due to commence on August 10th, would mean pubs which do not serve food reopen as well as gatherings of up to 100 people indoors and 500 outdoors. Mr Martin yesterday said the spike in cases was a concern and the Government will "watch and monitor very carefully" what happens in the coming days. "We have to see if a pattern has emerged or if it was relating to specific clusters that have emerged in recent days," he said.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/covid-19-cases-to-be-reviewed-over-weekend-ahead-of-phase-four-reopening-1.4319117>

Italy travel linked to 1 in 4 first virus cases outside China: study

Researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention used publicly-available data to trace the early spread of COVID-19 to dozens of affected countries in the 11 weeks before the World Health Organization declared it a pandemic. They found that 27 percent of all the first reported cases were people with travel links to Italy, while 22 percent had been to China and 11 percent had

travelled from Iran. "Our findings suggest that travel from just a few countries with substantial SARS-CoV-2 transmission may have seeded additional outbreaks around the world before the characterisation of COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020," said the CDC's Fatimah Dawood, who co-led the research. The study, which was published in the journal *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* this week, found that overall three quarters of the first cases in affected countries were linked to recent travel.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-07-italy-linked-virus-cases-china.html>

Coronavirus threat rises across U.S.: 'We just have to assume the monster is everywhere'

The coronavirus is spreading at dangerous levels across much of the United States, and public health experts are demanding a dramatic reset in the national response, one that recognizes that the crisis is intensifying and that current piecemeal strategies aren't working. This is a new phase of the pandemic, one no longer built around local or regional clusters and hot spots. It comes at an unnerving moment in which the economy suffered its worst collapse since the Great Depression, schools are rapidly canceling plans for in-person instruction and Congress has failed to pass a new emergency relief package. President Trump continues to promote fringe science, the daily death toll keeps climbing and the human cost of the virus in America has just passed 150,000 lives.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/coronavirus-threat-rises-across-us-we-just-have-to-assume-the-monster-is-everywhere/2020/08/01/cdb505e0-d1d8-11ea-8c55-61e7fa5e82ab_story.html

US gov announces \$2.1bn deal with pharma companies to make 100 million doses of coronavirus vaccine

French firm Sanofi and British company GlaxoSmithKline will make the vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is being developed by both firms working together. They will receive up to \$2.1 billion to supply vaccines for 50 million people. The U.S. government has the option to buy another 500 million doses

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8584059/US-gov-announces-2-1bn-deal-pharma-companies-make-100-million-doses-coronavirus-vaccine.html>

Indian Billionaires Bet Big on Head Start in Coronavirus Vaccine Race

In early May, an extremely well-sealed steel box arrived at the cold room of the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine maker. Inside, packed in dry ice, sat a tiny 1-milliliter vial from Oxford, England, containing the cellular material for one of the world's most promising coronavirus vaccines. Scientists in white lab coats brought the vial to Building 14, carefully poured the contents into a flask, added a medium of vitamins and sugar and began growing billions of cells. Thus began one of the biggest gambles yet in the quest to find the vaccine that will bring the world's Covid-19 nightmare to an end.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/01/world/asia/coronavirus-vaccine-india.html>

COVID infections on the rise in England, survey shows

There has likely been a slight increase in the number of people in England testing positive for COVID-19 and in the overall incidence of infections in recent weeks, Britain's Office for National Statistics said on Friday. The weekly infection survey said an estimated 1 in 1,500 individuals had COVID-19 in the most recent week from July 20-26, compared to 1 in 2,000 the previous week. "Modelling of the rate of new infections over time suggests that there is now some evidence that the incidence of new infections has increased in recent weeks," the ONS said. The survey, which looks at estimated infections in the community, did not provide enough evidence to say whether COVID-19 infection rates differ by region, the ONS said.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-britain-ons/covid-infections-on-the-rise-in-england-survey-shows-idUKKCN24W1HQ>

US agrees to buy Sanofi-GSK Covid-19 vaccine

The US has agreed to pay Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline up to \$2.1bn to accelerate the development of the experimental Covid-19 vaccine the companies are developing and secure an initial 100m doses. The majority of the funding will go to Sanofi since the French pharma group came up with the vaccine candidate, which will be paired with GSK's adjuvant, an extra ingredient designed to boost its effectiveness. The agreement is part of what President Donald Trump dubbed "Operation Warp Speed", where the US is aiming to compress the time it takes to bring a vaccine to market from the usual decade to 12 to 18 months. It is also the eighth deal struck through the US's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (Barda) and brings the total pledged to over \$8.3bn, more than any other country or government to date.

<https://www.ft.com/content/327fb576-20ee-4690-a846-fb9415c42c06>

EU Poised to Secure Sanofi Deal for Coronavirus Vaccine

Sanofi SA and GlaxoSmithKline Plc on Friday said they are in advanced discussions to supply up to 300 million doses of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine for the 27-country European Union. Armed with an emergency fund of more than 2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion), the European Commission wants to strike deals with up to six drugmakers for their vaccines for their 450 million citizens against the coronavirus that has killed 674,000 people worldwide. The Commission said the aim of the talks with Sanofi was to clinch an advance purchase deal.

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/07/31/world/europe/31reuters-health-coronavirus-eu-sanofi-fr.html>

Large U.S. COVID-19 vaccine trials will exclude pregnant women for now

The first two COVID-19 vaccines to enter large-scale U.S. trials will not be tested in pregnant women this year, raising questions about how this vulnerable population will be protected from the coronavirus, researchers told Reuters. Moderna (MRNA.O) and Pfizer (PFE.N), which has partnered with Germany's BioNTech (22UAY.F), this week separately launched clinical trials that use a new and unproven gene-based technology. Both companies are requiring proof of a negative pregnancy test and a commitment to using birth control from women of childbearing age who enroll. Drugmakers say they first need to make sure the vaccines are safe and effective more generally. In addition, U.S. regulators require that drugmakers conduct safety studies in pregnant animals before the vaccines are tested in pregnant women to ensure they don't harm the fetus or lead to miscarriage.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-vaccines-pregnancy/large-u-s-covid-19-vaccine-trials-will-exclude-pregnant-women-for-now-idUKKCN24W1NZ>

Can you get Covid-19 through your eyes? Possibly. Should we all be wearing goggles? Probably not.

We know that the coronavirus can enter the body through the nose and mouth -- hence the constant recommendations from doctors to wear face coverings and practice social distancing. But what about the eyes? Should we all be wearing goggles or face shields as well? It's certainly possible that a person could get Covid-19 through the eyes, said Dr. Thomas Steinemann, a clinical spokesperson for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. There is "emerging evidence" that people are catching the virus from droplets floating in the air, the World Health Organization confirmed earlier this month. One of the ways those droplets can enter your body is through the eyes. It's also possible to get infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching the eye, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/31/health/covid-19-through-eyes-wellness-trnd/index.html>

Northern Ireland launches UK's first COVID-19 tracker app

Northern Ireland on Friday launched the United Kingdom's first COVID-19 tracing app, and the first one that can also trace users in another country, Ireland, who have been in contact with someone suffering from the disease. The developer NearForm, which hopes the app will become a blueprint

eventually synching up all of Europe, launched a similar app in Ireland on July 8, and cases can now be traced across the island's open border by two separate health services. NearForm's technical director Colm Harte said the technical approach it used in developing StopCovid NI would work with apps across the rest of the UK and that it could apply across Europe if countries agree how to share and store data.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-nireland-app/northern-ireland-launches-uks-first-covid-19-tracker-app-idUKKCN24W1SR>

The Three Key Hurdles for a Coronavirus Vaccine to Clear

Vaccines have transformed the world, saving hundreds of millions of lives. They are also by far our best hope to stop the Covid-19 pandemic. Our other choices for stopping the disease are staying apart, which hammers our economy and society, or building "herd immunity" through natural infection, which would mean more than a million deaths in the U.S. and 10 million or more deaths world-wide. But the push for a Covid-19 vaccine faces three key hurdles.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-three-key-hurdles-for-a-coronavirus-vaccine-to-clear-11596200623>

Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine performs well in early tests

A single dose of Johnson & Johnson's experimental coronavirus vaccine elicited "robust" protection against Covid-19 when tested on animals, with clinical human trials now under way in the US and Belgium. The pre-clinical data, published in Nature magazine, show the drugmaker's dose successfully prevented subsequent infection in non-human primates, spurring so-called "neutralising antibodies". It also provided complete or near-complete protection against Covid-19 in their lungs. "The findings give us confidence as we progress our vaccine development and upscale manufacturing in parallel," said Paul Stoffels, J&J's chief scientific officer.

<https://www.ft.com/content/a983341f-4066-4ace-8b0a-43f4c82d63a9>

Aboard the Diamond Princess, a Case Study in Aerosol Transmission

In a new report, a research team based at Harvard and the Illinois Institute of Technology has tried to tease out the ways in which the virus passed from person to person in the staterooms, corridors and common areas of the Diamond Princess. It found that the virus spread most readily in microscopic droplets that were light enough to float in the air, for several minutes or much longer. The new paper has been posted on a preprint server and submitted to a journal; it has not yet been peer-reviewed, but it was shown by Times reporters to nearly a dozen experts in aerosols and infectious disease. The new findings, if confirmed, would have major implications for making indoor spaces safer and choosing among a panoply of personal protective gear.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/health/diamond-princess-coronavirus-aerosol.html>

Yes, the Coronavirus Is in the Air

The World Health Organization has now formally recognized that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, is airborne and that it can be carried by tiny aerosols. As we cough and sneeze, talk or just breathe, we naturally release droplets (small particles of fluid) and aerosols (smaller particles of fluid) into the air. Yet until earlier this month, the W.H.O. — like the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or Public Health England — had warned mostly about the transmission of the new coronavirus through direct contact and droplets released at close range. The organization had cautioned against aerosols only in rare circumstances, such as after intubation and other medical procedures involving infected patients in hospitals.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/coronavirus-aerosols.html>

New push to raise Covid-19 testing capacity in England to 500,000 a day

Plans to raise Covid-19 testing capacity in England to 500,000 people a day have been signalled by the government as infections rise in Europe and ahead of a feared winter surge in cases. More people without symptoms are to be tested; the goal is to reach 150,000 tests a day for people who

may be asymptomatic, such as those working in health and social care and other jobs that involve contact with other people. Anyone who has even mild symptoms can be tested and is urged to do so. In the latest week for which data has been published, from 16 to 22 July, 366,397 people were newly tested in hospitals, care homes and the community, and just over 4,000 were positive. But this falls considerably short of the number of new infections in England estimated by modellers, such as the MRC Biostatistics Unit in Cambridge, which published new data on Wednesday showing there were 3,000 a day – a figure similar to that produced by the Office of National Statistics.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/30/government-launches-new-push-to-double-covid-19-testing-in-uk>

J&J Vaccine Protects Monkeys From Covid With Single Shot

Johnson & Johnson's experimental coronavirus vaccine protected macaque monkeys with a single shot in a pre-clinical study, potentially gaining on other vaccines that are further along in testing but require two doses over time. Five of six primates exposed to the pandemic-causing pathogen were immune after a single injection. The exception showed low levels of the virus, according to a study published in the medical journal Nature. Researchers evaluated a total of 52 macaques and seven different vaccine prototypes. The health-care behemoth kick-started human trials on July 22 in Belgium and in the U.S. earlier this week.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-07-30/j-j-s-covid-vaccine-protected-primates-with-single-shot>

Scientists discover why coronavirus leads to a loss of smell

Scientists have discovered why coronavirus causes some patients to lose their sense of smell. Temporary loss of smell, or anosmia, is one of the earliest and most commonly reported warning signs of Covid-19. Studies suggest the “devastating” symptom better predicts the disease than other well-known symptoms such as a fever or cough. But the actual cause for loss of smell in Covid-19 patients has been unclear – until now. Researchers at Harvard Medical School in the United States have identified which cell types used for smelling are most vulnerable to infection by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-loss-of-smell-symptoms-causes-temporary-covid-19-a9643451.html>

Coronavirus Resurgence

Coronavirus: 'Rapid increases' in South Africa cases as more than 500,000 test positive

South Africa has confirmed more than 500,000 coronavirus cases, as the number of infections in the African continent climbs towards one million. The country reported a daily rise of 10,107 new COVID-19 infections. This brings the total to 503,290 – the fifth-highest worldwide, behind the US, Brazil, India and Russia, according to Johns Hopkins University in the US.

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-rapid-increases-in-south-africa-cases-as-more-than-500-000-test-positive-12040784>

Switzerland should tighten coronavirus restrictions again, government advisor says

Switzerland should tighten restrictions to curb the coronavirus again following a recent spike in cases, in order to prevent the need for much harsher lockdown measures in future, the new head of the country's coronavirus taskforce said. Switzerland has seen the number of new cases of COVID-19 surge to more than 200 a day recently after an average of 35 per day in June. Martin Ackermann, who heads the body that provides scientific advice to the Swiss government, said the country was on the brink of a big increase in infections and had little room to manoeuvre.

https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-swiss-idUKKBN24Y0C5?taid=5f26abec9139ad0001b9be04&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter

Spain diagnoses 1,525 new coronavirus in new post-lockdown record

Spain's health ministry on Friday reported 1,525 new coronavirus cases, marking the biggest jump

since a national lockdown was lifted in June and beating the previous day's record rise. It is third day in a row Spain has diagnosed more than 1,000 infections. Cumulative cases, which also include results from antibody tests on people who may have recovered increased to 288,522 from 285,430, the ministry said.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-spain-tally/spain-diagnoses-1525-new-coronavirus-in-new-post-lockdown-record-idUKKCN24W29Y>

Namibia to close schools, limit public gatherings as COVID-19 cases surge

Namibian schools will be suspended for the second time in four months next week, while limits on public gatherings will be tightened further to 100 from 250 amid surging cases, President Hage Geingob said. In a televised speech on Friday, Geingob said the decision to suspend schools from Aug. 4 for 28 days came after considering the risks associated with the spread of the virus. The measure affects early childhood development, pre-primary, primary and the first two grades of high school. Namibia has 2,129 confirmed cases and 10 deaths with the country's rate of daily new cases now the fourth highest on the continent following South Africa, Eswatini and Gabon, according to Geingob. People will also not be allowed to consume alcohol at bars and taverns. They will only be permitted to drink it at home.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-namibia/namibia-to-close-schools-limit-public-gatherings-as-covid-19-cases-surge-idUSKCN24W2JN>

After 'warning light', Johnson halts COVID lockdown unwind

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday postponed a planned easing of the coronavirus lockdown in England after a rise in infections amplified fears of a second deadly surge in COVID-19 cases.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-britain/after-warning-light-johnson-halts-covid-lockdown-unwind-idUKKCN24W0S0>

Mainland China reports 45 new coronavirus cases for July 31

China reported 45 cases of the new coronavirus in the mainland for July 31, down sharply from 127 cases a day earlier, the health commission said on Saturday. Of the new infections, 31 were in the far western region of Xinjiang, according to a statement by the National Health Commission. Eight were in the northeastern province of Liaoning, and the remaining six were imported cases. China reported 23 new asymptomatic cases, up from 11 a day earlier. As of the end of Friday, mainland China had 84,337 confirmed coronavirus cases, the health authority said. The COVID-19 death toll remained at 4,634.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-cases/mainland-china-reports-45-new-coronavirus-cases-for-july-31-idUSKCN24X3B3>

Japan Acted Like the Virus Had Gone. Now It's Spread Everywhere.

The country garnered global attention after containing the first wave of Covid-19 with what it referred to as the "Japan Model" -- limited testing and no lockdown, nor any legal means to force businesses to close. The country's finance minister even suggested a higher "cultural standard" helped contain the disease. But now the island nation is facing a formidable resurgence, with Covid-19 cases hitting records nationwide day after day. Infections first concentrated in the capital have spread to other urban areas, while regions without cases for months have become new hotspots. And the patient demographic -- originally younger people less likely to fall seriously ill -- is expanding to the elderly, a concern given that Japan is home to the world's oldest population.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-07-31/japan-acted-like-the-virus-had-gone-now-it-s-spread-everywhere>

COVID Infections on the Rise in England, Survey Shows

People in England will be required to wear face masks or other face coverings in cinemas, places of

worship, museums and art galleries from Aug. 8, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday. "We will also extend the requirement to wear a face covering to other indoor settings where you're likely to come into contact with people you do not normally meet, such as museums, galleries, cinemas and places of worship," Johnson said. Face coverings are already required on public transport and, more recently, in shops.

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/07/31/world/europe/31reuters-health-coronavirus-britain-ons.html>

Coronavirus: Scots warned to avoid Covid hotspots in England

The Scottish government has warned people not to visit areas of England affected by new local lockdown rules. It said travel between Scotland and Greater Manchester, East Lancashire and parts of West Yorkshire should only be undertaken if "absolutely essential". First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said those already in the affected areas do not need to return to Scotland early. But she said they should be "more careful than normal" after their return home. They are being advised to minimise contact with other households for 14 days, avoid indoor hospitality and be vigilant in monitoring for symptoms. The advice was issued as 30 new cases of coronavirus were confirmed in Scotland.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-53608460>

Philippines records 4063 new coronavirus cases, Southeast Asia's highest jump for second day

The Philippine health ministry on Friday (Jul 31) confirmed 4,063 novel coronavirus infections, reporting the highest daily case increase in Southeast Asia for a second straight day. In a bulletin, the ministry said total confirmed infections have risen to 93,354, while deaths increased by 40 to 2,023. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday maintained coronavirus restrictions in the capital and some provinces for another two weeks to try to control the spread of the virus. The capital region, provinces south of it, and cities in central Philippines were placed under general community quarantine, limiting movement of elderly and children, and the capacity of business establishments. "My plea is to endure some more. Many have been infected," Duterte had said in a televised address.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/covid-19-philippines-records-4-063-new-coronavirus-cases-12980366>

Indonesia reports 2,040 new coronavirus cases, 73 deaths

Indonesia reported on Friday 2,040 new coronavirus infections and 73 additional deaths, according to data published on the country's COVID-19 task force website. This brought Indonesia's total number of confirmed infections to 108,376 and deaths to 5,131.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200731073845-k7a0u/>

The Coronavirus Infected Hundreds at a Georgia Summer Camp

The staff and counselors gathered at the overnight camp in late June. Within a week of the camp orientation, a teenage counselor developed chills and went home. The camp, which the C.D.C. did not name, started sending campers home the next day, and shut down a few days later. By then, 76 percent of the 344 campers and staffers whose test results were available to C.D.C. researchers had been infected with the virus — nearly half the camp. The study is notable because few outbreaks in schools or child care settings have been described to date, said Caitlin Rivers, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "The study affirms that group settings can lead to large outbreaks, even when they are primarily attended by children," she said. "The fact that so many children at this camp were infected after just a few days together underscores the importance of mitigation measures in schools that do reopen for in person learning," Dr. Rivers added.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/31/health/coronavirus-children-camp.html>

Florida, Mississippi report record increases in COVID-19 deaths

California and Florida, two of the most populous U.S. states, reported record increases in COVID-19

deaths on Friday, according to a Reuters tally. Florida reported 257 deaths and California 208 fatalities. In numerical terms, the loss of life in each state is roughly equivalent to the number of passengers on a single-aisle airplane. California became the first U.S. state to have over half a million cases on Friday. Florida is in second place with over 470,000 infections. California's death toll rose to over 9,200, the third highest in the country behind New York and New Jersey. Florida ranks eighth with nearly 7,000 deaths. California and Florida are among 19 states that saw cases more than double in July.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-records/florida-mississippi-report-record-increases-in-covid-19-deaths-idUKKCN24W28W>

New Lockdown

Libya to impose full lockdown as pandemic cases grow

Libya's internationally recognised government in Tripoli will impose a full lockdown in areas of the country it controls, it said on Thursday, after a sharp rise in coronavirus cases. Libya, split since 2014 between areas held by the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli and a rival administration in the east, managed to avoid an early surge of the pandemic. However, the disease has been spreading more quickly this month and Libya's National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), one of the few bodies that operates across the country despite the conflict, has confirmed 3,222 cases.

<https://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN24V2OJ-OZATP>

Greater Manchester declares major incident after rise in Covid-19 cases

A major incident has been declared in Greater Manchester in response to increases in coronavirus infection rates across "multiple localities". The decision to up the readiness of emergency and public services to react to the escalating Covid-19 transmission rate in the region comes after the government announced new lockdown restrictions for parts of north-west England on Thursday. Gold command meetings of senior figures from the police, local authorities and other agencies to discuss the pandemic have been taking place over the weekend. Major incidents are often declared as a result of a terror attack or natural disaster and mean a region can access extra national resources if necessary, with the police able to draft in the army if they need support.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/02/greater-manchester-declares-major-incident-after-spike-in-covid-19-transmission>

Melbourne declares 'state of disaster' as coronavirus sweeps through Victoria

Australia on Sunday introduced sweeping new measures to control a growing coronavirus outbreak in its second-biggest city, including an overnight curfew and a ban on weddings for the first time during the pandemic. Despite a lockdown that began in early July, Melbourne has continued to report hundreds of new cases daily, and authorities said the city's residents would now face a curfew from 8 pm to 5 am for the next six weeks. Declaring a "state of disaster" on Sunday, Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said the state capital would move to Stage 4 restrictions until September 13 given "unacceptably high" levels of community transmission.

<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/melbourne-declares-state-of-disaster-as-coronavirus-sweeps-through.809070>