

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

3rd Nov 2021

Greek Covid Restrictions Target Unvaccinated as Daily Cases Hit Record - [Greece announced new Covid-19 measures targeting the unvaccinated as daily infections hit their highest level since the pandemic began. From Nov. 6, those who haven't been jabbed but want to attend their place of work must undergo two rapid tests a week instead of one -- paid for themselves. To enter most stores, banks and restaurants, they'll need to present a negative rapid or PCR test. Fines for businesses that don't comply will double, starting at 5,000 euros \(\\$5,791\) and a 15-day suspension of operations. Tests won't be needed for supermarkets and pharmacies. "The restrictions will apply to unvaccinated people because they're much more at risk than the vaccinated," Health Minister Athanasios Plevris said Tuesday in a televised statement.](#)

Dutch reintroduce face masks as COVID-19 cases surge - [The Dutch government on Tuesday decided to re-impose measures, including the wearing of face masks, aimed at slowing the latest spike in COVID-19 infections, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said. The use of a 'corona pass', showing proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or recent negative coronavirus test, would be broadened as of Nov. 6 to public places including museums, gyms and outdoor terraces, Rutte said.](#)

China won't give up on its zero-tolerance COVID policy soon - experts - [China will not give up on its zero-tolerance policy towards local COVID-19 cases any time soon, some experts said, as the policy has allowed it to quickly quell local outbreaks, while the virus continues to spread outside its borders. To stop local cases from turning into wider outbreaks, China has developed and continually refined its COVID-fighting arsenal -- including mass testing, targeted lockdowns and travel restrictions - even when those anti-COVID measures occasionally disrupted local economies.](#)

India's billionaire vaccine prince held the key to ending the pandemic. His plans went awry - [As Covid-19 wreaked havoc around the world last year, the 39-year-old son of an Indian billionaire was laying the groundwork for a plan he hoped would eventually end the pandemic. Adar Poonawalla — the CEO of Serum Institute of India \(SII\), the world's largest vaccine maker — pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into his Indian manufacturing facility and committed to make millions of doses of a then-unproven coronavirus vaccine. That vaccine, created by Oxford University and AstraZeneca \(AZN\), was still in clinical trials at the time. Nobody was sure how long a vaccine would take to develop, let alone whether it would even work. 'It was a calculated risk,' Poonawalla told CNN Business. 'But I didn't see the choice at that time, to be honest. I just felt I'd regret not committing one way or another.'](#)

Covid anti-vaxxers are refusing to pay tax bills mistakenly thinking they are immune from prosecution - [A number of Covid conspiracists have started abstaining from paying utility bills and their council tax in protest against the "tyranny" they claim to live under in the UK, according to messages posted to Telegram. Groups on the social media platform - where thousands of Covid anti-vaxxers congregate and organise protests - have started branching out from discussing conspiracy theories about coronavirus and the vaccine and have begun justifying the reasons for no longer paying their bills. Many have a misguided belief they will not face prosecution for cancelling their payments, thanks in part to disinformation spread by an influencer on the platform with a significant following who claims stopping the payment of council tax will put pressure on the Government to scrap the Coronavirus Act.](#)

Pfizer/BioNTech booster vaccine reduces COVID-19 hospitalisations - [International researchers have identified that the Pfizer/BioNTech booster vaccine is highly effective at reducing COVID-19 hospitalisations.](#)

[Experts from the Clalit Research Institute and Harvard University have collaborated to investigate the efficacy of the Pfizer/BioNTech BNT162B2 booster vaccine against the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2, discovering that it lowers hospitalisations from the disease. The study, based in Israel, utilised one of the world's largest integrated health record databases, illuminating the effectiveness of a third "booster" dose of the BNT162B2 vaccine in a nationwide mass-vaccination setting. The investigation was partly funded by the recently announced Ivan and Francesca Berkowitz Family Living Laboratory.](#)

Austrian army dogs join growing global pack of COVID-sniffers - [Austria's army has successfully trained two dogs to sniff out COVID-19, it said on Tuesday, adding to a mass of evidence that dogs can be deployed to identify carriers of the virus. Trials across the world from Thailand to Britain have found dogs can use their powerful sense of smell to detect the coronavirus with a high degree of accuracy, suggesting they could be regularly deployed as an additional line of safety at large events and border entry points. Airports in Finland and Chile began deploying dogs to screen arrivals for COVID-19 last year.](#)

AstraZeneca increases COVID-19 vaccine supply to Thailand after row - [AstraZeneca Plc provided Thailand 10.5 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine last month, the firm said on Tuesday, months after an official said the government was considering curbing exports from its local plant because of lower supplies. Thailand had been pushing for 10 million doses each month to be able to fight back against coronavirus infections in the country of about 66 million people. James Teague, managing director of AstraZeneca Thailand, said that the company had increased batchwise vaccine production by a fifth at its plant, from 580,000 doses to on average 700,000.](#)

Pfizer Covid Vaccine for Kids Ages 5-11 Gets CDC Advisers' Backing - [Younger children across the U.S. are now eligible to receive Pfizer Inc.'s Covid-19 vaccine, after the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention granted the final clearance needed for shots to begin. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky recommended the vaccine for children from 5 to 11 years old. The decision ushers in a new phase in the U.S. pandemic response, widening access to vaccines to some 28 million more people at the same time that Americans who received shots earlier in the pandemic are lining up for booster doses.](#)

Indonesia is first country to authorize Novavax Covid-19 vaccine - [Biotechnology company Novavax said Monday that Indonesia has given the world's first emergency use authorization for its Covid-19 vaccine, which uses a different technology than currently used shots. The vaccine doesn't require the extremely cold storage temperatures that some other vaccines need, which could allow it to play an important role in increasing supplies in poorer countries around the world.](#)

Colorado at Risk of Running Out of Hospital Beds This Month - [Colorado could come close to running out of hospital beds in late November or early December if Covid-19 infections accelerate, officials warned Tuesday. An estimated 1,900 of the state's roughly 2,000 beds could be occupied under a worst-case scenario, Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist, said during an online news briefing. At the current pace, hospitalizations are projected to peak at 1,500, Herlihy said. An estimated 1-in-51 state residents are contagious, Governor Jared Polis said during the briefing, imploring Coloradans to get vaccinated. Polis said the delta variant is "like a laser-guided missile."](#)

New Zealand seals off northern region over suspected spread of COVID-19 - [Authorities planned to seal off the northern tip of New Zealand with police cordons on Tuesday, as they enforce a lockdown in the region over fears of an undetected community transmission of COVID-19 there. Part of the Northland region, about 270 km \(168 miles\) from the biggest city of Auckland, is to begin a level 3 lockdown from midnight, said Chris Hipkins, the minister coordinating the response to coronavirus. The move follows two cases in the region that lacked a link to any known cases.](#)

Russian regions consider extra COVID curbs as deaths hit record - [Several Russian regions said on Tuesday they could impose additional restrictions or extend a workplace shutdown to fight a surge in COVID-19](#)

[cases that has already prompted Moscow to re-impose a partial lockdown nationwide. Russia reported 1,178 deaths related to COVID-19 on Tuesday, its highest daily death toll since the start of the pandemic, as well as 39,008 new infections. President Vladimir Putin last month ordered a week-long nationwide workplace shutdown from Oct. 30 that could be extended by regional authorities as they see fit. The Novgorod region has already announced it is prolonging the shutdown by a week.](#)

New Covid-19 vaccination certification app launches in Northern Ireland - [The Department of Health has launched a new app to allow people in Northern Ireland to show proof of their Covid-19 vaccination. Cert Check NI will assist hospitality venues that wish to carry out voluntary checks of vaccination status before allowing admission. Use of the app could become more wide spread if the Executive implement contingency measures of Covid status certification in higher risk settings. SDLP Leader Colum Eastwood feels the new app is a step in the right direction.](#)

Lockdown Exit

Greek Covid Restrictions Target Unvaccinated as Daily Cases Hit Record

Greece announced new Covid-19 measures targeting the unvaccinated as daily infections hit their highest level since the pandemic began. From Nov. 6, those who haven't been jabbed but want to attend their place of work must undergo two rapid tests a week instead of one -- paid for themselves. To enter most stores, banks and restaurants, they'll need to present a negative rapid or PCR test. Fines for businesses that don't comply will double, starting at 5,000 euros (\$5,791) and a 15-day suspension of operations. Tests won't be needed for supermarkets and pharmacies. "The restrictions will apply to unvaccinated people because they're much more at risk than the vaccinated," Health Minister Athanasios Plevris said Tuesday in a televised statement.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-02/greek-restrictions-target-unvaccinated-as-daily-cases-hit-record>

Pfizer expects 2021, 2022 COVID-19 vaccine sales to total at least \$65 bln

Pfizer Inc said it expected 2021 sales of the COVID-19 vaccine it developed with German partner BioNTech SE to reach \$36 billion and forecast another \$29 billion from the shot in 2022, topping analyst estimates for both years. The U.S. drugmaker said it is seeking to sign more vaccine deals with countries, which could drive sales even higher next year. It has the capacity to produce 4 billion doses in 2022 and has based its projections on sales of 1.7 billion doses. Still, Chief Executive Albert Bourla said he was concerned that low- and middle-income countries would not place orders for next year's vaccine doses early enough, and could again end up behind wealthier countries.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/pfizer-raises-covid-19-vaccine-sales-forecast-36-billion-2021-11-02/>

Covid-19 Australia: Overseas travellers banned from shops pubs and schools

Australia's international borders finally reopened on Monday, November 1. Victoria, NSW allowing vaxxed overseas travellers to land 'quarantine-free.' Vaxxed NSW arrivals had movement limited for 7 days but restrictions eased

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10155455/Covid-19-Australia-Overseas-travellers-banned-shops-pubs-schools.html>

Japan eases COVID-19 border curbs, trails major partners

Japan confirmed on Tuesday plans to gradually ease COVID-19 border curbs, but fell short of demands by business lobbies to open up in line with major trading partners. In relaxing its controls, Japan will take a phased approach, chief cabinet secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters, responding to media reports that quarantine periods for business travellers would be cut to three days from 10. The easing could start next Monday, while daily limits on the numbers of border

entrants would be raised to 5,000 people later this month from 3,500, national broadcaster NHK said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-eases-covid-19-border-curbs-trails-major-partners-2021-11-02/>

Exit Strategies

Pfizer Raises Covid-19 Vaccine Forecast as Sales More Than Double

Pfizer Inc. increased its forecast for sales of its Covid-19 vaccine this year to about \$36 billion, a roughly 7% boost that comes as the U.S. prepares to distribute the shot to 28 million children aged 5-to-11-years old. The New York-based drugmaker said its sales projection for the vaccine it developed with partner BioNTech SE takes into account expected deliveries of about 2.3 billion vaccine doses this year. The companies have grown their capabilities for manufacturing doses, and are working with other firms overseas to produce doses. The vaccine's revenue of \$13 billion was the biggest contributor to Pfizer's third-quarter sales of about \$24 billion, which more than doubled year over year. More than 75% of vaccine sales this year are from international sales, as the vaccine has reached 152 countries, Pfizer Chief Executive Albert Bourla said on an earnings call.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/pfizer-ups-covid-19-vaccine-forecast-as-sales-more-than-double-11635853492>

RBNZ Says Transition to Living With Covid-19 May Drag on Economy

New Zealand's transition to living with Covid-19 could lead to changes in consumer behavior that damp economic growth, the central bank said. "Businesses will need to adapt, and some businesses that have stayed afloat to date may not be viable as support schemes wind down," the Reserve Bank said in its semi-annual Financial Stability Report published Wednesday in Wellington. "These changes could drag on economic activity." The transition from pandemic to Covid-19 being an endemic disease also creates financial stability risks, "although the magnitude of these is still hard to gauge at this stage," the RBNZ said.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-02/rbnz-says-transition-to-living-with-covid-19-may-drag-on-economy>

Dutch reintroduce face masks as COVID-19 cases surge

The Dutch government on Tuesday decided to re-impose measures, including the wearing of face masks, aimed at slowing the latest spike in COVID-19 infections, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said. The use of a "corona pass", showing proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or recent negative coronavirus test, would be broadened as of Nov. 6 to public places including museums, gyms and outdoor terraces, Rutte said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/dutch-weigh-vaccine-boosters-new-restrictions-covid-19-cases-surge-2021-11-02/>

India's billionaire vaccine prince held the key to ending the pandemic. His plans went awry

As Covid-19 wreaked havoc around the world last year, the 39-year-old son of an Indian billionaire was laying the groundwork for a plan he hoped would eventually end the pandemic. Adar Poonawalla — the CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine maker — pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into his Indian manufacturing facility and committed to make millions of doses of a then-unproven coronavirus vaccine. That vaccine, created by Oxford University and AstraZeneca (AZN), was still in clinical trials at the time. Nobody was sure how long a vaccine would take to develop, let alone whether it would even work. "It was a calculated risk," Poonawalla told CNN Business. "But I didn't see the choice at that time, to be honest. I just felt I'd regret not committing one way or another."

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/02/business/adar-poonawalla-risk-takers/index.html>

Two new COVID-19 vaccines approved by TGA for Australians trying to return

Two more types of COVID-19 vaccines, which are not registered in Australia, will be recognised as valid vaccines for travellers proving their vaccination status to enter the country. Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has today ruled that the Australian Government will recognise Covaxin and BBIBP-CorV vaccines among arrivals to Australia. The recognition will be for travellers aged 12 and over who have been vaccinated with Covaxin and for travellers aged 18 to 60 who have been vaccinated with BBIBP-CorV.

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/coronavirus-australia-therapeutic-goods-administration-recognises-two-more-vaccines-not-registered-in-australia-for-travellers/8064f7be-fbab-4103-8e77-6f993ce51da1>

New Covid-19 vaccination certification app launches in Northern Ireland

The Department of Health has launched a new app to allow people in Northern Ireland to show proof of their Covid-19 vaccination. Cert Check NI will assist hospitality venues that wish to carry out voluntary checks of vaccination status before allowing admission. Use of the app could become more wide spread if the Executive implement contingency measures of Covid status certification in higher risk settings. SDLP Leader Colum Eastwood feels the new app is a step in the right direction.

<https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2021-11-02/new-covid-19-vaccination-certification-app-launches-in-northern-ireland>

Prisons are facing staff shortages as correctional officers quit over 'unsafe working conditions,' fear of contracting COVID-19 and vaccine mandates

Prisons across the U.S. are reporting staffing shortages as correctional officers retire and quit in droves. Some, such as Lance Lowry, of Texas, have quit due to the increased risk of COVID-19 for prison employees. Other workers report bad working conditions including 'understaffing, poor pay and poor benefits.' Unions warn that correctional officers will leave over vaccine mandates with just 63% vaccinated or planning to be as of early October. States are trying to offer incentives including hiring bonuses, better pay at critical units and extra time off for staff who refer new hires

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-10152195/US-prisons-face-staff-shortages-officers-quit-amid-COVID.html>

COVID-19 vaccine developer facing sack after refusing jobs because he's had his own

An Adelaide medical researcher who has developed and been administered with his own COVID-19 vaccine says he is facing the sack because of his refusal to get one of the TGA-approved jobs. Flinders Medical Centre director of endocrinology Nikolai Petrovsky has developed a vaccine candidate, COVAX-19, which completed phase 1 trials in August last year. The vaccine was developed by Professor Petrovsky's company Vaxine, which has laboratories at adjacent Flinders University, and is based on a protein produced in insect cells. Professor Petrovsky said, after clinical phase two and phase three trials, it had been "approved for use in Iran and we're now looking to see if we can get it approved in Australia".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-02/covid-19-vaccine-developer-facing-sack-after-refusing-jobs/100587356>

Shift Covid testing from draconian punishment to empowerment

Public health is at its best when it is pragmatic in the face of complex problems fraught with stigma and uncertainty, like moving in the direction of full vaccination in the face of many Americans' entrenched or even defiant anti-vaccination sentiment. It is neither insightful nor actionable to so singularly promote vaccination to decision makers who must confront the here and now of various attitudes toward it. Viewing Covid-19 testing as a complementary harm-reduction approach can address the well-being of unvaccinated people while slowly building trust and confidence in Covid vaccines. But making that work requires a radical shift in the way testing is perceived. Many Americans view testing as a draconian intrusion to be feared if not outright avoided. The goal for public health should be to make testing look more like contraceptives: cheap, convenient, ubiquitous, and empowering.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/11/02/shift-view-covid-testing-from-draconian-punishment-to-empowerment/>

COVID-19: Earlier close for test sites in England sparks fears most deprived won't be able

to check symptoms

Coronavirus testing centres have reduced their opening hours due to "limited demand" in the evenings, prompting fears the most disadvantaged won't be able to get tests. From 1 November onwards, NHS Test and Trace sites in England are closing two hours earlier - at 6pm instead of 8pm. The government claims "recent analysis has shown there is limited demand for PCR testing between 6pm and 8pm" and the decision "provides the best possible value for taxpayers' money". People "unable to attend PCR test appointments before 6pm" can also get home testing kits delivered, it adds. But Dr Deepti Gurdasani, clinical epidemiologist at Queen Mary University, says it will affect those who are worse off.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-earlier-close-for-test-sites-in-england-sparks-fears-most-deprived-wont-be-able-to-check-symptoms-12457668>

COVID-19 restrictions in Sydney to ease weeks ahead of schedule

Australia's biggest city will lift more COVID-19 curbs for vaccinated residents ahead of schedule next week, while delaying freedoms it has promised for unvaccinated Sydneysiders as officials aim to boost inoculations. Vaccinated people in the harbour city of around 5 million will be allowed unlimited numbers of guests in their homes from Nov. 8. Pubs and clubs will also be able to accommodate more guests and reopen dance floors, in changes that were initially planned to come into force on Dec. 1.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/covid-19-restrictions-sydney-ease-weeks-ahead-schedule-2021-11-02/>

China won't give up on its zero-tolerance COVID policy soon - experts

China will not give up on its zero-tolerance policy towards local COVID-19 cases any time soon, some experts said, as the policy has allowed it to quickly quell local outbreaks, while the virus continues to spread outside its borders. To stop local cases from turning into wider outbreaks, China has developed and continually refined its COVID-fighting arsenal -- including mass testing, targeted lockdowns and travel restrictions - even when those anti-COVID measures occasionally disrupted local economies.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-wont-give-up-its-zero-tolerance-covid-policy-soon-experts-2021-11-02/>

Dutch health council recommends COVID-19 booster for age 60+

The Netherlands' Health Council recommended that adults aged 60 and older who have been previously vaccinated against COVID-19 also receive booster shots. The advice comes amid a major surge in new coronavirus cases in the Netherlands. The council's recommendations are routinely adopted by the government.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/dutch-health-council-recommends-covid-19-booster-age-60-2021-11-02/>

Make Covid-19 testing an empowering choice rather than a draconian punishment

Public health is at its best when it is pragmatic in the face of complex problems fraught with stigma and uncertainty, like moving in the direction of full vaccination in the face of many Americans' entrenched or even defiant anti-vaccination sentiment. It is neither insightful nor actionable to so singularly promote vaccination to decision makers who must confront the here and now of various attitudes toward it. Viewing Covid-19 testing as a complementary harm-reduction approach can address the well-being of unvaccinated people while slowly building trust and confidence in Covid vaccines.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/11/02/shift-view-covid-testing-from-draconian-punishment-to-empowerment/>

Partisan Exits

Nurse films herself being escorted from work for refusing to get the Covid-19 vaccine

A nurse has filmed herself supposedly being escorted from her job at a hospital because of her refusal to take the Covid-19 vaccine. The video, posted on Twitter on Saturday, shows the woman

telling the camera she is being removed from the Kaiser Permanente hospital “because I don’t want to get the jab”. The nurse says she is not willing to get the vaccine because of her “sincerely held religious beliefs” as she urges people to “count the costs” and says she is willing to lose “everything, for my freedom”.

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/nurse-films-herself-being-escorted-from-work-for-refusing-to-get-the-covid-19-vaccine/ar-AAQc7pM>

NYC puts 9,000 workers on unpaid leave as vaccine mandate kicks in

New York City placed 9,000 city workers on leave without pay Monday as its coronavirus vaccine mandate for the public workforce kicked in. The requirement ordered by Mayor Bill de Blasio — one of the most aggressive in the nation — has pushed the vaccination rate among all city workers to 91 percent. But at least 21,000 city workers covered by the mandate remain unvaccinated: 9,000 who have now been barred from working, and another 12,000 who have applied for religious or medical exemptions. The latter group is being allowed to work until decisions on those exemptions are made in the coming days. The total city workforce is roughly 378,000. “This mandate was the right thing to do,” de Blasio said Monday. “We now see it worked.”

<https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2021/11/01/nyc-puts-9-000-workers-on-unpaid-leave-as-vaccine-mandate-kicks-in-1392160>

Covid anti-vaxxers are refusing to pay tax bills mistakenly thinking they are immune from prosecution

A number of Covid conspiracists have started abstaining from paying utility bills and their council tax in protest against the “tyranny” they claim to live under in the UK, according to messages posted to Telegram. Groups on the social media platform – where thousands of Covid anti-vaxxers congregate and organise protests – have started branching out from discussing conspiracy theories about coronavirus and the vaccine and have begun justifying the reasons for no longer paying their bills. Many have a misguided belief they will not face prosecution for cancelling their payments, thanks in part to disinformation spread by an influencer on the platform with a significant following who claims stopping the payment of council tax will put pressure on the Government to scrap the Coronavirus Act.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/covid-anti-vaxxers-conspiracy-theorists-teach-how-avoid-paying-uk-council-tax-1258766>

Australians fired for refusing Covid vaccine search social media for ‘welcoming’ employers

Unvaccinated Australians who have lost their jobs for refusing to comply with Covid vaccine mandates are using social media to find and share employment opportunities at workplaces where the new rules are not being enforced. Telegram and Facebook have had an influx of people searching for paid jobs after states and territories implemented mandates covering a range of industries from health and aged care workers, teachers and police to construction and hospitality workers. On some job boards, businesses that are happy to accept unvaccinated people advertise that they are “welcoming of everyone”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/nov/02/australians-fired-for-refusing-covid-vaccine-search-social-media-for-welcoming-employers>

From Boeing to Mercedes, a U.S. worker rebellion swells over vaccine mandates

In Wichita, Kansas, nearly half of the roughly 10,000 employees at aircraft companies Textron Inc (TXT.N) and Spirit AeroSystems (SPR.N) remain unvaccinated against COVID-19, risking their jobs in defiance of a federal mandate, according to a union official. “We’re going to lose a lot of employees over this,” said Cornell Beard, head of the local Machinists union district. Many workers did not object to the vaccines as such, he said, but were staunchly opposed to what they see as government meddling in personal health decisions.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/boeing-mercedes-us-worker-rebellion-swells-over-vaccine-mandates-2021-11-02/>

'There was no plan': Throwing spaghetti at the wall to overcome Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy

One or two donuts, a car, \$1 million, \$25, Super Bowl tickets, french fries. There's a remarkable range of incentives and other methods devised to overcome Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy. While some of these ideas have stuck like spaghetti thrown against a wall, it's not clear which are most effective. Even when researchers have demonstrated the success of certain strategies, they haven't been widely adopted. The White House announced Monday that 70% of adults across the country are now fully vaccinated, and 80% have gotten at least one shot. But progress is slow, as daily vaccination rates remain low compared with the peak in April.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/11/02/there-was-no-plan-to-overcome-covid-19-vaccine-hesitancy/>

U.S. to publish rules on private-sector COVID-19 vaccinations, testing in days

The Biden administration said on Monday that a planned rule requiring private-sector employers with 100 or more employees to mandate COVID-19 vaccines or regular testing will be published in the coming days. The Labor Department said the White House Office of Management and Budget had completed its regulatory review of the rule known as an emergency temporary standard (ETS). The White House said in September the rule would cover more than 80 million private-sector employees.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-publish-rules-private-sector-covid-19-vaccinations-testing-days-2021-11-01/>

Scientific Viewpoint

Pfizer Covid Vaccine for Kids Ages 5-11 Gets CDC Advisers' Backing

Younger children across the U.S. are now eligible to receive Pfizer Inc.'s Covid-19 vaccine, after the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention granted the final clearance needed for shots to begin. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky recommended the vaccine for children from 5 to 11 years old. The decision ushers in a new phase in the U.S. pandemic response, widening access to vaccines to some 28 million more people at the same time that Americans who received shots earlier in the pandemic are lining up for booster doses.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-02/pfizer-vaccine-for-5-to-11-year-olds-gets-cdc-advisers-backing>

Pfizer/BioNTech booster vaccine reduces COVID-19 hospitalisations

International researchers have identified that the Pfizer/BioNTech booster vaccine is highly effective at reducing COVID-19 hospitalisations. Experts from the Clalit Research Institute and Harvard University have collaborated to investigate the efficacy of the Pfizer/BioNTech BNT162B2 booster vaccine against the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2, discovering that it lowers hospitalisations from the disease. The study, based in Israel, utilised one of the world's largest integrated health record databases, illuminating the effectiveness of a third "booster" dose of the BNT162B2 vaccine in a nationwide mass-vaccination setting. The investigation was partly funded by the recently announced Ivan and Francesca Berkowitz Family Living Laboratory.

<https://www.healtheuropa.eu/pfizer-biontech-booster-vaccine-reduces-covid-19-hospitalisations/111484/>

CDC advisers discuss Covid-19 vaccines for kids

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is meeting to discuss Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11. Follow here for the latest news updates.

<https://edition.cnn.com/us/live-news/cdc-covid-vaccine-kids-02-11-21/index.html>

Indonesia is first country to authorize Novavax Covid-19 vaccine

Biotechnology company Novavax said Monday that Indonesia has given the world's first emergency

use authorization for its Covid-19 vaccine, which uses a different technology than currently used shots. The vaccine doesn't require the extremely cold storage temperatures that some other vaccines need, which could allow it to play an important role in increasing supplies in poorer countries around the world.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/indonesia-first-country-authorize-novavax-covid-19-vaccine-n1282935>

Singapore may see 2,000 Covid-19 deaths each year, minister says

Singapore could see as many 2,000 Covid-19 deaths annually over time, a minister said on Monday as the country battles its biggest surge in infections. At 0.2% Singapore's Covid-19 case fatality rate is similar to the rate of deaths from pneumonia before the pandemic struck, said Janil Puthuchery, a senior minister of state in parliament. It is also lower than other countries where cases surged before vaccination, he said. "But it does mean that over time, the absolute number of deaths from Covid-19 will rise despite the best possible medical care," he said. "We could have perhaps 2,000 deaths per year from Covid-19."

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/02/asia/singapore-covid-deaths-minister-intl-hnk/index.html>

AstraZeneca increases COVID-19 vaccine supply to Thailand after row

AstraZeneca Plc provided Thailand 10.5 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine last month, the firm said on Tuesday, months after an official said the government was considering curbing exports from its local plant because of lower supplies. Thailand had been pushing for 10 million doses each month to be able to fight back against coronavirus infections in the country of about 66 million people. James Teague, managing director of AstraZeneca Thailand, said that the company had increased batchwise vaccine production by a fifth at its plant, from 580,000 doses to on average 700,000.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/astrazeneca-increases-covid-19-vaccine-supply-thailand-after-row-2021-11-02/>

Austrian army dogs join growing global pack of COVID-sniffers

Austria's army has successfully trained two dogs to sniff out COVID-19, it said on Tuesday, adding to a mass of evidence that dogs can be deployed to identify carriers of the virus. Trials across the world from Thailand to Britain have found dogs can use their powerful sense of smell to detect the coronavirus with a high degree of accuracy, suggesting they could be regularly deployed as an additional line of safety at large events and border entry points. Airports in Finland and Chile began deploying dogs to screen arrivals for COVID-19 last year.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/austrian-army-dogs-join-growing-global-pack-covid-sniffers-2021-11-02/>

U.S. buys more doses of Lilly's COVID-19 treatment for \$1.29 bln

Eli Lilly and Co said on Tuesday that the U.S. government bought 614,000 additional doses of its COVID-19 antibody therapy for \$1.29 billion. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration in September revised its emergency use authorization for the company's cocktail, bamlanivimab and etesevimab, to include for use in patients who have been exposed to the virus and are at high risk for progression to severe disease. Under the deal, Lilly will supply a minimum of 400,000 doses of its treatment by Dec. 31 and the rest by Jan. 31. The new purchase is estimated to add \$840 million to the company's 2021 revenue forecast and about 25 cents of additional earnings per share, Lilly said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-buys-more-doses-lillys-covid-19-treatment-129-bln-2021-11-02/>

Two UK COVID test makers pull devices due to new review

Two producers of COVID-19 tests in Britain said on Tuesday they had pulled some of their tests from the market after a new review system came into force, which has not yet granted approval for their previously accepted products. Avacta said under the new system suppliers of COVID-19 tests had to submit information regarding their products for desktop review if they wished to remain on sale in Britain. It said it had submitted its information ahead of the Sept. 1 deadline and was still waiting for a response.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/two-uk-covid-test-makers-pull-devices-due-new-review-2021-11-02/>

CDC panel debates: Should all school kids get COVID vaccine?

Should all school-age kids get Pfizer's pediatric COVID-19 vaccine? That's the question before an influential government advisory panel Tuesday. The Food and Drug Administration has authorized emergency use of kid-size doses for children ages 5 to 11. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also must sign off before widespread vaccinations begin in that age group. CDC's advisers are weighing who will get the most benefit as they deliberate whether to recommend the shots for up to 28 million more children, or perhaps only for those most vulnerable to serious illness. Their recommendation goes to the CDC's director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, for the final say. "Today is a monumental day in the course of this pandemic," Walensky told the advisory panel Tuesday.

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-science-business-health-centers-for-disease-control-and-prevention-032f7ed4fa60a3c0e08ba418446cfe2b>

COVID: Medical experts step up after dismissing menstrual changes

After her first Pfizer vaccine five months ago, Dahye Yim, 30, noticed something different with her menstrual cycle. Unusually heavier and with more physical symptoms such as a migraine, she went online to see if other women had experienced post-vaccine cyclical changes. She uncovered similar stories but failed to find scientifically-backed information on possible short-term vaccine side effects. The South Korean national, a PhD student based between London and Berlin, told Al Jazeera: "After I received my second dose in September, I noticed a lump under my armpit and I was able to find out very easily that this was a side effect that was nothing to worry about. This helped me calm down.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/2/covid-menstruation-and-the-medical-industrys-response>

Coronavirus Resurgence

Colorado at Risk of Running Out of Hospital Beds This Month

Colorado could come close to running out of hospital beds in late November or early December if Covid-19 infections accelerate, officials warned Tuesday. An estimated 1,900 of the state's roughly 2,000 beds could be occupied under a worst-case scenario, Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist, said during an online news briefing. At the current pace, hospitalizations are projected to peak at 1,500, Herlihy said. An estimated 1-in-51 state residents are contagious, Governor Jared Polis said during the briefing, imploring Coloradoans to get vaccinated. Polis said the delta variant is "like a laser-guided missile."

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-02/colorado-could-come-close-to-running-out-of-hospital-beds>

COVID-19 deaths hit another daily record in hard-hit Russia

Coronavirus deaths in Russia hit another daily record Tuesday, four days since a nationwide order for many Russians to stay off work took effect. Russia's state coronavirus task force reported 39,008 new confirmed cases and 1,178 COVID-19 deaths. The task force has reported record daily infections or deaths almost every day for the last month. To reduce the spread of the coronavirus, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a nationwide non-working period for Oct. 30-Nov. 7. Putin has said that governments in regions where the situation is most dire could add more non-working days, if needed. The Novgorod region became the first one to do so Monday, extending the period by another week.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/vladimir-putin-russia-dmitry-peskov-russia-moscow-europe-b1949737.html>

Slight rise in Covid-19 deaths registered in England and Wales

The number of deaths involving coronavirus registered each week in England and Wales has risen for the second week in a row, though figures remain at a low level. A total of 792 deaths registered in the week ending October 22 mentioned Covid-19 on the death certificate, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This is up 11% on the previous week, and follows a 7% rise a week

earlier.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/office-for-national-statistics-england-wales-cambridge-university-ian-jones-b963849.html>

Covid-19: MPs told to wear face masks in Commons after 'major' Covid outbreak in Parliament

MPs have been ordered to cancel face-to-face meetings and events with visitors and start wearing face masks at all times in the Commons due to a major covid outbreak on parliamentary estate. The new rules will be in place for at least two weeks after advice from the UK Health Security Agency, which has warned of a "greater" risk of transmission in parliament. Tours, banquets and other events with outside visitors will be cancelled, while MPs – who had been exempt from face coverings in the Commons – are now being told to wear them in line with parliamentary staff, contractors and journalists.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/covid-19-mps-told-to-wear-face-masks-in-commons-after-major-covid-outbreak-parliament-1280066>

Greece reports record high daily COVID-19 infections

Greece recorded 5,449 new coronavirus infections in the past 24 hours, authorities said on Monday, the highest single-day figure since the pandemic began early last year. Another 52 people died from COVID-19 over the past day, taking the total to 15,990 among 747,595 COVID-19 cases. Giannis Oikonomou, a spokesman for the government, said it was "pressing" to increase the number of vaccinations, which have been moving at a slower pace than authorities anticipated. "We're not done with COVID yet. As long as there are unvaccinated people, the virus finds a suitable ground to spread," Oikonomou told a regular news briefing on Monday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/greece-reports-record-high-daily-covid-19-infections-2021-11-01/>

UK records 40077 new COVID-19 cases, 40 deaths on Monday

The United Kingdom recorded 40,077 new COVID-19 cases on Monday and 40 deaths of people who had tested positive for the disease within 28 days, government data showed. That compares with 38,009 coronavirus cases and 74 deaths a day earlier.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-records-40077-new-covid-19-cases-40-deaths-monday-2021-11-01/>

New Lockdown

Russian regions consider extra COVID curbs as deaths hit record

Several Russian regions said on Tuesday they could impose additional restrictions or extend a workplace shutdown to fight a surge in COVID-19 cases that has already prompted Moscow to reimpose a partial lockdown nationwide. Russia reported 1,178 deaths related to COVID-19 on Tuesday, its highest daily death toll since the start of the pandemic, as well as 39,008 new infections. President Vladimir Putin last month ordered a week-long nationwide workplace shutdown from Oct. 30 that could be extended by regional authorities as they see fit. The Novgorod region has already announced it is prolonging the shutdown by a week.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russias-daily-covid-19-death-toll-rises-new-record-high-2021-11-02/>

New Zealand seals off northern region over suspected spread of COVID-19

Authorities planned to seal off the northern tip of New Zealand with police cordons on Tuesday, as they enforce a lockdown in the region over fears of an undetected community transmission of COVID-19 there. Part of the Northland region, about 270 km (168 miles) from the biggest city of Auckland, is to begin a level 3 lockdown from midnight, said Chris Hipkins, the minister coordinating the response to coronavirus. The move follows two cases in the region that lacked a link to any known cases.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-seals-off-northern-region-over-suspected-spread-covid-19-20>

[21-11-02/](#)