

# COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

4th Nov 2020

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## News Highlights

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### **U.S. Covid-19 hospitalisations rise to three-month high as country goes to polls**

One of the most contentious U.S. elections [in modern history is under way as millions of citizens gear up to cast their votes even as the number of coronavirus hospitalisations in the country crossed 50,000](#), the highest number in three months. White House scientific adviser, Dr Deborah Birx, [also warned that the U.S. is entering a new 'deadly phase' of the pandemic](#), contradicting President Donald Trump's campaign message that the country is 'rounding the corner' on the pandemic.

### **France ponders night curfews, ban on sale of non-essentials in supermarkets**

The French government is considering imposing additional restrictions on its citizens, [including a night curfew on Paris and adjoining areas](#), amid fears of cases rising rapidly with too many people ignoring lockdown rules. [The government also banned large supermarkets from selling anything beside 'essential items,'](#) possibly in a bid to appease small businesses that have been forced to close due to the new lockdown rules imposed on them.

### **'Cluster-busting' latest strategy to tackle new coronavirus surge**

Health experts are advocating for the use of a 'cluster-busting' approach similar to one used in Japan and other Asian countries to tackle the worldwide surge in coronavirus cases. [The approach adds the step of finding out where an individual caught Covid-19 in the first place](#), or backward tracing, to the current steps of identifying contacts and isolating them in order to uncover sources of infection at weddings, bars and other places where people congregate.

### **New UK lockdown may cost taxpayers billions, put millions at risk of unemployment**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson imposed a second lockdown on the UK, [prompting fears of a double dip recession and predictions of the economy collapsing 12% this month](#). Household mixing and non-essential travel have been banned, pubs and restaurants have been closed and even protests of more than two people are not allowed under the current rules. [Experts have warned that the new lockdown will put several companies out of business](#), put millions of jobs at risk and cost taxpayers billions of pounds.

## Lockdown Exit

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### **China changes school curriculum to reflect Beijing's positive Covid narrative**

Chinese government-endorsed content about the pandemic and the "fighting spirit" of the country's response will be added to school curriculum, the country's ministry of education has said, in a move to enshrine the country's narrative of success against the virus. The content will be added to elementary and middle school classes in biology, health and physical education, history, and literature, and will "help students understand the basic fact that the Party and the state always put the life and safety of its people first", the ministry said on Wednesday. "Students will learn about

key figures and deeds which emerged during the epidemic prevention and control efforts. They will learn to foster public awareness and dedication, to enrich knowledge about the advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics," the ministry said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/03/china-changes-school-curriculum-to-reflect-beijings-positive-covid-narrative>

### **Covid-19: The country's response to community cases hasn't relaxed, the system is just 'more sophisticated'**

The official response to new Covid-19 community cases might appear more relaxed than previous outbreaks. But the lack of intensity is simply a reflection of the strides made to improve the public health system, one expert says. Two new community cases – both workers stationed at the Sudima Hotel isolation facility in Christchurch – have not prompted localised lockdowns, as happened in Auckland after the August cluster emerged. "This is another example of the system working well to protect our border," Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield said at Tuesday's Covid-19 update.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/123285704/covid19-the-countrys-response-to-community-cases-hasnt-relaxed-the-system-is-just-more-sophisticated>

### **Coronavirus: Christchurch not facing lockdown after new community case - Jacinda Ardern**

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has confirmed Christchurch isn't facing an imminent alert level move after a community COVID-19 case was detected in the Garden City on Monday. On Monday night, the Ministry of Health released a statement saying a staff member at a Christchurch managed isolation facility had contracted COVID-19. While they had tested negative during routine testing on Thursday, they became unwell over the weekend and sought out another test, which came back positive. While the individual is now in isolation, they did visit a Countdown supermarket on Colombo St in the Christchurch suburb of Sydenham on Sunday. That store has now been deep-cleaned and will reopen on Tuesday.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2020/11/coronavirus-christchurch-not-facing-lockdown-after-new-community-case-jacinda-ardern.html>

### **Halloween parade in Wuhan draws huge crowd as city continues to recover from Covid-19 lockdown**

Halloween revellers in the central Chinese city of Wuhan flocked to the Happy Valley amusement park to watch a parade on October 29, 2020. The celebrations took place months after the city that was the initial epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to recover from a strict lockdown to fight the spread of the coronavirus that causes the disease.

<https://www.scmp.com/video/coronavirus/3108074/halloween-parade-wuhan-draws-huge-crowd-city-continues-recover-covid-19>

### **Europe is locking down a second time. But what is its long-term plan?**

Shortly before 11 p.m. yesterday, a waitress passed out paper cups to the customers crowded around the tables outside Luzia, a bar in the lively Kreuzberg district here. "I'm sorry, but you all have to leave," she said. "God, in 2 minutes it's going to be lockdown," a woman at one table said, as guests poured the remainder of their cocktails into the cups. The fun was over: For the second time this year, Luzia had to close on the German government's orders. All restaurants, bars, gyms, and theaters in Europe's largest economy will remain shut until at least the end of the month in a new bid to halt the spread of COVID-19. Hotels are no longer allowed to host tourists. Residents have been asked to meet people from only one other household. Florent, the manager at Luzia, took some hope from the fact that Germany was locking down while cases were still lower than in neighboring countries. "Hopefully we'll reopen in a month," he said.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/11/europe-locking-down-second-time-what-its-long-term-plan>

## **Exit Strategies**

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### **Covid: Group of four rule for Wales' pubs after lockdown**

Groups of four people from different households will be allowed to meet indoors at pubs, cafes and restaurants after Wales' firebreak lockdown ends. The sale of alcohol after 22:00 GMT will still be banned when new regulations come in on 9 November. Pubs and restaurants will reopen at the end of the lockdown, but the terms for their operation had been unclear. Larger groups of people who all live in the same house will be allowed to eat and drink out together. First Minister Mark Drakeford asked people visit such places in the smallest groups possible.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-54797857>

### **Third of staff 'fear catching Covid at work'**

More than a third of workers are concerned about catching coronavirus on the job, according to a study by the Resolution Foundation think tank. The poorest paid are particularly worried, the research found, but also the least likely to speak up about it. Younger workers are also less likely to raise a complaint, the Resolution Foundation said. The widespread concerns come despite government advice on making workplaces Covid-secure, researchers said. Lindsay Judge, research director at the Resolution Foundation, said: "More than one-in-three workers are worried about catching coronavirus on the job, despite the extensive steps employers have taken to make workplaces Covid-secure.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-54786585>

### **UAE prime minister receives coronavirus vaccine shot**

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the latest Emirati official to get the vaccine, developed by China's Sinopharm. Prime minister and vice president of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has said he received a coronavirus vaccine shot. "We wish everyone safety and great health, and we are proud of our teams who have worked relentlessly to make the vaccine available in the UAE," he wrote on Twitter on Tuesday.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/3/uae-pm-and-dubai-ruler-receives-coronavirus-vaccine>

### **'Critical moment' as Europe, N Africa see COVID-19 surge: WHO**

Governments face another "critical moment for action" as coronavirus cases surge in parts of Europe and North Africa, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), said in his latest briefing on the pandemic. Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom are among countries in Europe turning, once again, to lockdowns to try and get the disease under control, while the health crisis in the United States is also deepening.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/3/critical-moment-as-europe-n-africa-see-covid-19-surge-who>

### **UK in talks with Palantir over COVID-19 test-and-trace program: FT**

The British government is in talks with U.S. data analytics company Palantir Technologies Inc in an attempt to strengthen its test-and-trace program for COVID-19, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. Officials have been in talks with the tech company about using its Foundry software to manage sensitive contact tracing data, the FT reported on citing people familiar with the matter.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-britain-palantir/uk-in-talks-with-palantir-over-covid-19-test-and-trace-program-ft-idUKKBN27J2HJ>

## **Partisan Exits**

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### **Coronavirus: Michigan plotters attend multiple anti-lockdown protests**

On April 30, outside the Michigan Capitol, protesters gathered to demand that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer end the business closures and other measures she had imposed to slow the transmission of

the coronavirus. Speaker after speaker denounced the Democratic governor. One Republican congressional candidate told protesters that they were "the tip of the spear" in the fight against tyranny. An aspiring official said that by supporting conservative candidates they could "slap Gretchen Whitmer right across the face." In the crowd that day, according to photos and videos, were Adam Fox and at least five others who are now charged in the plot to kidnap Ms Whitmer or, in related cases, providing material support for a planned terrorist act.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/coronavirus-democrat-republican-trump-boogaloo-whitmer-b1553305.html>

### **Birx warns US entering 'deadly phase' of Covid, contradicting Trump's message**

White House scientific adviser Dr Deborah Birx warned the United States is entering a new "deadly phase" of the coronavirus pandemic, and urged an "aggressive" approach to containing its spread. Birx gave the warning in a written memo delivered to top administration officials Monday. It is a direct contradiction of one of Donald Trump's central, and false, closing campaign messages - that the US is "rounding the corner" on the pandemic. "We are entering the most concerning and most deadly phase of this pandemic," Birx wrote in the memo, first reported by the Washington Post. She continued: "Cases are rapidly rising in nearly 30% of all USA counties, the highest number of county hotspots we have seen with this pandemic. Half of the United States is in the red or orange zone for cases despite flat or declining testing."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/03/deborah-birx-coronavirus-new-deadly-phase-pandemic>

### **Top researchers say Britain's R rate has dropped to 1**

King's College London said cases were now 'plateauing' and there was a 'slight fall' in infections across UK. Oxford's Carl Heneghan said told how coronavirus hospital admissions, cases and 'in effect' deaths in retreat. It comes as Sir Patrick Vallance and Prof Chris Whitty face questions from MPs over the 4,000 deaths figure. Meanwhile Britain yesterday recorded its lowest number of daily coronavirus infections in fortnight - 18,950

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8909969/Top-researchers-say-Britains-R-rate-dropped-1.html>

### **Chris Whitty and Sir Patrick Vallance defend their '4,000 deaths a day' dossier**

Chief scientific and medical officers were hauled before MPs to defend SAGE's doomsday forecast today. Sir Patrick said he 'regrets' frightening people with the 4,000 deaths a day figure used to justify lockdown. Experts also admitted localised, three-tiered lockdown approach starting to take effect but not quick enough

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8908503/Was-lockdown-sold-LIE-Oxford-scientist-says-4-000-deaths-graph-NOT-used.html>

### **Spanish experts and authorities remain divided on home lockdown**

The Asturias region believes the measure will ease the pressure on hospitals, but epidemiologists and the Health Ministry argue it is better to wait and assess the impact of the current coronavirus restrictions

<https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-11-03/spanish-experts-and-authorities-remain-divided-on-home-lockdown.html>

### **More than 400 people arrested at anti-lockdown protest in Melbourne**

A policewoman was taken to hospital after she was injured when officers shut down a large anti-lockdown rally and arrested more than 400 protesters in Melbourne's CBD. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the Victorian parliament on Tuesday to oppose the state government's strict Covid-19 lockdowns in Melbourne that were eased last week, holding up signs that read "Tell the Truth", "Not Happy Dan", "Masks Don't Work" and "Corona Hoax 1984". A Victoria police spokeswoman told Guardian Australia the force "was disappointed to arrest a large number of protestors who again showed disregard for the safety of the broader community and the directions of the chief health officer".

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/nov/03/more-than-400-people-arrested-at-anti-lockdown-protest-in-melbourne>

### **UK's Johnson defends lockdown to avoid 'medical and moral disaster'**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday defended a second COVID lockdown in England from critics who said it was unnecessary and others who said it was too late, arguing now was the time to prevent a “medical and moral disaster”. After rejecting calls last month for a new national lockdown, Johnson U-turned on Saturday, announcing new restrictions across England would begin at 0001 GMT on Thursday and last until Dec. 2. Britain, which has the highest official COVID-19 death toll in Europe, is grappling with more than 20,000 new cases a day. Scientists have warned a worst-case scenario of 80,000 dead could be exceeded this winter.

<https://ca.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-johnson-idCAKBN27H1TQ>

### **France ponders new Paris curfew as lockdown rebels frustrate government**

France could reimpose a night curfew on Paris and possibly the surrounding region amid government frustration that too many people are ignoring lockdown rules as COVID-19 infections soar. France dramatically slowed the spread of the coronavirus in the spring with one of Europe’s strictest lockdowns. But 10 months into the epidemic and with winter drawing in, many are reluctant to endure another period of confinement. “It’s unbearable for those who respect the rules to see other French people flouting them,” government spokesman Gabriel Attal told BFM TV. “We need to take all the steps needed to fight the epidemic.” A final decision on a curfew had not been taken, the office of Prime Minister Jean Castex said. It will be discussed at a meeting between President Emmanuel Macron and senior cabinet ministers on Wednesday, a government source said.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-france/france-ponders-new-paris-curfew-as-lockdown-rebels-frustrate-government-idUKKBN27J0RC>

## **Continued Lockdown**

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### **South Africa's Covid-19 lockdown leaves aquarium penguins 'stressed out'**

The Covid-19 pandemic has left penguins in an aquarium in Cape Town, South Africa stressed after the outbreak changed their daily routine, animal keepers said. The birds are social creatures and rely on routine. However, this was disrupted when lockdown forced the exhibit to close in March. Instead of seeing hundreds of people a day, the colony of penguins was only interacting with their handlers.

<https://www.scmp.com/video/world/3108308/south-africas-covid-19-lockdown-leaves-aquarium-penguins-stressed-out>

### **Melbourne to honour 'community heroes' who stood up during lockdown**

The long months of lockdown caused fear, anxiety and isolation across Melbourne, but they also sparked an outpouring of community kindness. Take Alex Dekker, for example. When the pandemic struck, Mr Dekker was a 20-year-old global studies student at Monash University, intent on pursuing a career in academia. His sister Pietra, a first-year doctor working on coronavirus wards, was so busy at work she was getting by on muesli bars. So Mr Dekker made her a few lasagnas. Then he announced on his Facebook page that he would make lasagnas for other healthcare workers and their families.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/melbourne-to-honour-community-heroes-who-stood-up-during-lockdown-20201102-p56ao0.html>

### **The truckers who keep India's coronavirus patients breathing**

Subhas Kumar Yadav has fought fear, deadlines and hunger to truck liquid oxygen from a factory in India’s Himalayan foothills to hospitals in the northern plains during the coronavirus epidemic. The worst time, he said, was in the weeks after the federal government imposed a sweeping lockdown to contain the disease in late March, when roads were deserted, police made arbitrary checks and

roadside restaurants, repair shops and motels were shuttered. But the oxygen he was carrying was saving the lives of thousands of those infected. "We were on duty," said the 33-year-old driver with Linde India Ltd, an affiliate of the world's largest supplier of industrial gases, Linde Plc. "It's not like we could just give up and go home."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-india-oxygen/the-truckers-who-keep-indias-coronavirus-patients-breathing-idINKBN27J0DA>

## **Scientific Viewpoint**

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### **Covid-19: How do you make a vaccine? - podcast**

With any future Covid-19 vaccine requiring its manufacturing process to be signed off as part of its regulatory approval for use on the general population, Madeleine Finlay talks to Dr Stephen Morris from the Future Vaccine Manufacturing Research Hub about how vaccines are made at the volume and speed required for a mass vaccination programme

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/audio/2020/nov/03/covid-19-how-do-you-make-a-vaccine-podcast>

### **German Study Finds Covid-19 Risk Is Low at Indoor Concerts With Safety Precautions**

A new study conducted in Germany has found that there's potentially a low risk of spreading the coronavirus at indoor concerts, so long as significant safety precautions are taken, The New York Times reports. Back in August, a group of researchers at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg conducted a study centered around a show by the German pop singer Tim Bendzko at an arena in Leipzig. About 1,400 people were in attendance — most of them volunteers — and the study ultimately found that the risk of spreading Covid-19 at such an event was "low to very low" if there's good ventilation, strict hygiene rules, and a limited audience. The researchers who conducted the study boosted their findings, with Dr. Michael Gekle saying, "There is no argument for not having such a concert. The risk of getting infected is very low." However, before the ailing live music industry gets too excited, the study has not been peer-reviewed, and one critic suggested to the Times that while the findings may be "useful," it may not be possible to replicate the controls deployed in the study at an actual concert.

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/german-study-indoor-concerts-covid-19-spread-1085448/>

### **Covid-19: Liverpool to pilot city-wide coronavirus testing**

People in Liverpool will be offered regular Covid-19 tests under the first trial of whole city testing in England. Everyone living or working in the city will be offered tests, whether or not they have symptoms, with follow-up tests every two weeks or so. Some will get new tests giving results within an hour which, if successful, could be rolled out to "millions" by Christmas, the government says. Liverpool has one of the highest rates of coronavirus deaths in England. The latest figures show the city recorded 352 cases per 100,000 in the week up to 30 October. The average area in England had 153. On Monday, the UK recorded 18,950 new confirmed cases of coronavirus and 136 deaths within 28 days of a positive test.

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54786130?at\\_custom2=twitter&at\\_campaign=64&at\\_medium=custom7&at\\_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D&at\\_custom3=%40BBCr4today&at\\_custom4=CD948130-1DAF-11EB-9B41-87DF923C408C](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54786130?at_custom2=twitter&at_campaign=64&at_medium=custom7&at_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D&at_custom3=%40BBCr4today&at_custom4=CD948130-1DAF-11EB-9B41-87DF923C408C)

### **Testing a whole city for Covid-19 - but how will it work?**

The Government has announced plans for city-wide testing of the people of Liverpool. But what does it mean and how will it work? - What has the Government announced? Coronavirus tests are to be offered to everyone across Liverpool in a pilot of mass testing in England.

<https://www.helensburghadvertiser.co.uk/news/national/18842440.testing-whole-city-covid-19---will-work/>

### **Ending England's lockdown in December is realistic, says medical chief**

It is realistic that England's forthcoming national lockdown can end on Dec. 2, chief medical officer Chris Whitty said on Tuesday, as it is designed reduce COVID-19 transmission rates enough to move

into less stringent measures. Whitty said that any decision on whether to extend the lockdown, due to come into force on Thursday, would be for government, but he had faith that the public would adhere to the new restrictions.

<https://www.metro.us/ending-englands-lockdown-in/>

### **'Critical moment' as Europe, N Africa see COVID-19 surge: WHO**

Governments face another "critical moment for action" as coronavirus cases surge in parts of Europe and North Africa, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), said in his latest briefing on the pandemic. Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom are among countries in Europe turning, once again, to lockdowns to try and get the disease under control, while the health crisis in the United States is also deepening.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/3/critical-moment-as-europe-n-africa-see-covid-19-surge-who>

### **Scientists hail Israel's 'successful' second lockdown**

Israel is emerging from a second lockdown that has surprised scientists with its effectiveness in reducing infection rates. As FRANCE 24 correspondent Iiris Makler reports, the country re-entered confinement in September when its infection rate was the highest in the world. The rate has since decreased from 9000 per day, to less than 900. Even so, one-third of Israelis still believe a third lockdown is inevitable.

<https://www.france24.com/en/video/20201103-scientists-hail-israel-s-successful-second-lockdown>

### **Could we push coronavirus cases in Australia back down to zero — and stay there?**

It's taken almost five months, millions of people going into lockdown, and a significant amount of sacrifice. But on Sunday, for the first time since June, Australia achieved a day with no locally acquired cases of COVID-19. It's an impressive and — as Victorians will tell you — hard-won achievement. But it was also short-lived: Yesterday New South Wales recorded one new COVID-19 case, and multiple alerts were issued for Western Sydney. Still, with new case numbers at their lowest in months, is it possible for Australia to get back down to zero — and stay there? And even put coronavirus elimination within our sights?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2020-11-03/can-australia-keep-covid-19-cases-at-zero/12832778>

### **Covid-19: The country's response to community cases hasn't relaxed, the system is just 'more sophisticated'**

The official response to new Covid-19 community cases might appear more relaxed than previous outbreaks. But the lack of intensity is simply a reflection of the strides made to improve the public health system, one expert says. Two new community cases – both workers stationed at the Sudima Hotel isolation facility in Christchurch – have not prompted localised lockdowns, as happened in Auckland after the August cluster emerged. "This is another example of the system working well to protect our border," Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield said at Tuesday's Covid-19 update.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/123285704/covid19-the-countrys-response-to-community-cases-hasnt-relaxed-the-system-is-just-more-sophisticated>

### **Coronavirus: Another lockdown possible if complacency, border 'failures' continue - Sir David Skegg**

New Zealand could face another lockdown if COVID-19 complacency and border "failures" continue, a top health professor says. Sir David Skegg, an Otago University Emeritus Professor of epidemiology and public health, believes six border incursions in three months is "serious". He's also called for the immediate release of the Government's testing report - information submitted to the Health Minister weeks ago. It follows the country's latest community case - a health worker at managed isolation facility Sudima Christchurch Airport whose positive case was confirmed on Monday.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2020/11/coronavirus-another-lockdown-possible-if-complacency-border-failures-continue-sir-david-skegg.html>

### **Lockdown will be a letdown if we do not overhaul the test and trace system - it is time for a local approach**

The Test and Trace system has repeatedly failed to deliver and a further lockdown will be a letdown unless that changes. Figures for the week ending 14 October show only 15 per cent of people getting results within 24 hours, down by half from the previous week; only 59.6 per cent close contacts of Covid-positive people identified; and of them, only 57.6 per cent reached. This contrasts with 94.8 per cent contacts reached of cases handled by local authority public health teams.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/test-track-trace-lockdown-government-local-hubs-deloitte-amazon-g4s-b1533550.html>

### **COVID-19 'nanoparticle' vaccine could trigger strong immune response**

Scientists say they have developed an experimental coronavirus vaccine candidate that is far more potent than others currently being investigated. In trials conducted in mice, the team from the University of Washington School of Medicine said its vaccine triggered a 10-times stronger immune response to the infection than seen in COVID-19 survivors. What's more, it also provoked a strong memory cell response, in which the body remembers the invading virus to produce antibodies more quickly if infected. The team says its vaccine does not require freezer storage like those being made by other companies, which makes it easier to produce and ship across the globe.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-8906965/amp/Scientists-developed-COVID-19-vaccine-trigger-10-times-stronger-immune-response.html>

### **Europe is locking down a second time. But what is its long-term plan?**

Shortly before 11 p.m. yesterday, a waitress passed out paper cups to the customers crowded around the tables outside Luzia, a bar in the lively Kreuzberg district here. "I'm sorry, but you all have to leave," she said. "God, in 2 minutes it's going to be lockdown," a woman at one table said, as guests poured the remainder of their cocktails into the cups. The fun was over: For the second time this year, Luzia had to close on the German government's orders. All restaurants, bars, gyms, and theaters in Europe's largest economy will remain shut until at least the end of the month in a new bid to halt the spread of COVID-19. Hotels are no longer allowed to host tourists. Residents have been asked to meet people from only one other household. Florent, the manager at Luzia, took some hope from the fact that Germany was locking down while cases were still lower than in neighboring countries. "Hopefully we'll reopen in a month," he said.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/11/europe-locking-down-second-time-what-its-long-term-plan>

### **Scientists warn of new coronavirus variant spreading across Europe**

A coronavirus variant that originated in Spanish farm workers has spread rapidly through much of Europe since the summer, and now accounts for the majority of new Covid-19 cases in several countries — and more than 80 per cent in the UK. An international team of scientists that has been tracking the virus through its genetic mutations has described the extraordinary spread of the variant, called 20A.EU1, in a research paper to be published on Thursday. Their work suggests that people returning from holiday in Spain played a key role in transmitting the virus across Europe, raising questions about whether the second wave that is sweeping the continent could have been reduced by improved screening at airports and other transport hubs

<https://www.ft.com/content/2782655a-0441-4d38-bb03-5c4e67ead110>

## **Coronavirus Resurgence**

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### **U.S. coronavirus hospitalizations hit three-month high over 50,000: Reuters tally**

The number of coronavirus patients in U.S. hospitals breached 50,000 on Tuesday, the highest level

in nearly three months, as a surge in infections threatens to push the nation's health care system to the edge of capacity.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-usa-hospitals/u-s-coronavirus-hospitalizations-hit-three-month-high-over-50000-reuters-tally-idUKKBN27K05U?il=0>

### **Covid-19 deaths in Wales at highest level since June**

There have been 65 deaths involving Covid-19 in Wales registered for the latest week, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This is a further rise on the 47 deaths reported the previous week and is the highest since June. The 25 in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health board area included 23 in hospital for the week ending 23 October. There were 12 in the Aneurin Bevan health board and 11 each in the Betsi Cadwaladr and Cardiff and Vale areas. There were five deaths in Swansea Bay and one hospital death involving a Powys resident, although none in the Hywel Dda health board area.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/amp/uk-wales-54794874>

### **Argentina's Fernandez says 'horizon' in sight as COVID-19 cases appear to slow**

Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez said on Tuesday the "horizon" was starting to come into sight as the country battles against the coronavirus pandemic, with some signs the peak in cases may be over after rising since the outbreak began. The South American country imposed a strict lockdown in March, which initially slowed the spread of COVID-19 infections, but as restrictions were eased cases climbed rapidly above 1 million with one of highest testing positive rates in the world. However, a rolling seven-day average of new cases has dipped significantly since hitting a high on Oct. 21, raising hopes the peak may finally be over for the country, which has 1.18 million confirmed cases and 31,623 deaths.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-argentina/argentinas-fernandez-says-horizon-in-sight-as-covid-19-cases-appear-to-slow-idUSL1N2HP1WG>

### **France reports more than 850 daily COVID-19 deaths**

French health authorities on Tuesday reported 36,330 new COVID-19 infections over the past 24 hours, well below the 52,518 record set on Monday, but the 854 daily death toll linked to the disease was the highest since April 15. That tally was double Monday's 416 figure and the total number of fatalities now stands at 38,289. The cumulative number of cases now totals 1,502,763, the fifth-highest in the world.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-france-infections-idUSP6N2GM029>

### **U.S. to Use Covid Testing, Isolation Over Lockdowns: Johns Hopkins**

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security Senior Scholar Dr. Amesh Adalja discusses how the 2020 election could impact the U.S. approach to the coronavirus and the importance of having the Centers for Disease lead the public health response to Covid-19. He speaks on "Bloomberg Surveillance." The Bloomberg School of Public Health is supported by Michael R. Bloomberg, founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent company of Bloomberg News

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2020-11-03/u-s-to-use-testing-isolation-over-lockdowns-johns-hopkins-video>

### **New Russian infections soar; UK, Germany widen testing**

Coronavirus cases hit new daily highs this week in Russia, and Germany and the U.K. announced plans Tuesday to expand virus testing as European countries battled rapidly increasing COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. Nations reintroduced restrictions to get ahead of a virus that has caused more than 1.2 million deaths around the globe, over 270,000 of them in Europe, according to Johns Hopkins University, and is straining health care systems. New measures took effect Tuesday in Austria, Greece and Sweden, following a partial shutdown imposed in Germany Monday and tighter rules in Italy, France, Kosovo and Croatia. England faces a near-total lockdown from Thursday, although schools and universities will stay open.

<https://apnews.com/article/virus-russia-germany-uk-infections-soar-33408690a2eb564ac3d26cf1f9f92a00>

### **Germany in decisive phase of pandemic, health minister says**

Germany is in a decisive phase of the coronavirus pandemic, Health Minister Jens Spahn said on Tuesday, urging a national effort to slow the spread of the virus a day after month-long lockdown measures took effect. "This pandemic is really a mammoth task for the government and for every individual in society," Spahn, who has just recovered from his own coronavirus infection, told a news conference. "For eight months we have been working together to stem the virus. According to everything we know, we have not yet reached the peak of this task. We are in a decisive phase. The situation is serious. It is a national effort."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany/germany-in-decisive-phase-of-pandemic-health-minister-says-idUSKBN27J1DX>

### **Italy prepares new coronavirus curbs as deaths surge**

Italy on Tuesday reported 353 COVID-related deaths, the highest daily figure since May 6 and up from 233 on Monday, the health ministry said, as Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte prepares new curbs to tame the surge in infections and deaths. Some 28,244 new coronavirus infections were recorded over the past 24 hours, up from 22,253 on Monday. A total of 39,412 people have now died in Italy because of the disease, while 759,829 cases have been registered to date. Tougher measures will include a nationwide nightly curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. and the closure of museums and exhibitions, a draft decree seen by Reuters shows.

<https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/italy-prepares-coronavirus-curbs-deaths-174112089.html>

### **Italian doctors urge tougher restrictions fearing 'tsunami' on hospitals**

Italian doctors have urged the government to impose more aggressive measures to contain escalating infections over fears of a coronavirus "tsunami" on hospitals. Giuseppe Conte's government is working towards a "light lockdown" to avoid paralysing the country, Sandra Zampa, a health ministry undersecretary said before a meeting with regional presidents to thrash out an agreement that could see shutdowns only in badly affected and at-risk regions.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/03/italian-doctors-urge-tougher-restrictions-fearing-tsunami-on-hospitals>

### **Spain sets new weekend record for coronavirus cases, fatalities in the second wave**

The best thing that can be said about the spread of the coronavirus in Spain is that it is growing at a constant speed. Last Monday, the rise in the number of new cases – a figure that covers the weekend, given that no data is released on Saturdays and Sundays – was 12.7%. Yesterday, it came it at 12.9%. The number of new cases reported on Monday by the Health Ministry was 55,019, and 379 victims were added to the death toll – both new records for this second wave of the virus. The total number of official infections in Spain now stands at 1,240,697, and the death toll is 36,257. Excess deaths for the year, however, could be as high as 60,000, given that many people with the coronavirus passed away during the first wave without being tested.

<https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-11-03/spain-sets-new-weekend-record-for-coronavirus-cases-fatalities-in-the-second-wave.html>

### **Contact Tracers Eye Cluster-Busting to Tackle Covid's New Surge**

As a resurgent coronavirus sweeps across Europe and the U.S., some health experts are calling for a "cluster-busting" approach to contact tracing like the one Japan and other countries in Asia have used with success. Rather than simply tracking down the contacts of an infected person and isolating them, proponents advocate finding out where the individual caught Covid-19 in the first place. That extra step, known as backward tracing, exploits a weak spot of the virus – the tendency for infections to occur in clusters, often at super-spreading events. KJ Seung, a doctor who helps oversee contact-tracing for Massachusetts, said he adapted his approach this summer after

watching a seminar with Japanese scientists. Since his team started backward tracing, they've uncovered clusters at weddings, funerals, bars and other places where people congregated, generating fresh insights into the spread of the disease.

<https://www.bloombergquint.com/onweb/contact-tracers-eye-cluster-busting-to-tackle-covid-s-new-surge>

### **France sees record number of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations spike**

France's reported a record 52,518 new COVID-19 on Monday and the number of people hospitalised with the disease rose by more than a 1,000 for the fourth time in eight days, as the pandemic showing no signs of abating despite a new lockdown. The timing of the latest daily record could be seen as particularly worrisome as Mondays have, until now, seen a dip in new cases reported due to fewer tests being carried out on a Sunday. The cumulative number of cases now totals 1,466,433 in France, the fifth-highest total in the world behind the United States, India, Brasil and Russia.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-infections/france-sees-record-number-of-new-covid-19-cases-hospitalisations-spike-idUSKBN27I2DR>

### **Coronavirus surges across midwest as Trump attacks health professionals**

America set a world record for new daily cases over the weekend as Covid-19 cases spread across the midwest and hospitalizations increased. The increases come just as Americans anxiously ready themselves for an election season climax, in which the incumbent Donald Trump has attacked healthcare providers and adopted Covid-19 misinformation in his final arguments for re-election.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/03/us-coronavirus-cases-surge-trump-attacks-healthcare-experts>

### **Swedish PM warns pandemic respite over as deaths start rising**

COVID-19 cases are increasing fast in Sweden, Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said on Tuesday as he announced stricter recommendations for another three regions amid signs the resurgence was beginning to lift deaths from the disease.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-lofven/swedish-pm-warns-pandemic-respite-over-as-deaths-start-rising-idUKKBN27J1SZ>

## **New Lockdown**

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### **Students defy guidance and race home before lockdown in England**

Students are defying government guidance that they should stay at university throughout lockdown to make a last-minute dash home before the new restrictions kick in across England on Thursday. The universities minister, Michelle Donelan, has written to students urging them to stay put. After a challenging first term, during which thousands of students have already had to lock down and self-isolate as a result of Covid outbreaks, many have decided to leave campus. With continuing uncertainty about what might happen over Christmas and the majority of learning now online, they plan to continue their studies at home during lockdown without fear of being trapped at university over the holiday.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/03/students-defy-guidance-and-race-home-before-lockdown-in-england>

### **England lockdown will end on 2 December, Boris Johnson insists**

Boris Johnson has told the cabinet that England's lockdown restrictions will come to an end on 2 December, saying that was a hard deadline to develop a new solution to contain the spread of the virus. In a tacit admission that the current NHS test and trace system had not been enough to contain the virus, Johnson heralded a mass testing operation beginning in Liverpool, the start of an ambitious programme "Operation Moonshot" which would involve the entire population tested on a regular basis. The prime minister also appeared to affirm the government expected the four-week national lockdown in England would be enough to get the virus's reproduction R number below one - raising questions as to whether the lockdown would be extended should that not occur.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/03/england-lockdown-will-end-on-2-december-boris-johnson-insists>

### **Protest exemption set to be removed from England lockdown rules**

Protections for protesters are set to be removed from the coronavirus rules under the second national lockdown, it has emerged, provoking anger from human rights groups and campaigners. An exemption that permits demonstrations to take place with additional conditions designed to mitigate the spread of the virus is expected to be omitted from fresh regulations being drawn up for the lockdown that will commence from this Thursday. There have been a series of a high-profile protests since the pandemic erupted in the UK including rallies for racial equality led by the Black Lives Matter movement, racist counter-demonstrations and marches against lockdown measures directed by conspiracy theorists and extremists.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/03/protest-exemption-set-to-be-removed-from-england-lockdown-rules>

### **Coronavirus: Panic buyers strip shelves as England prepares for lockdown**

In scenes reminiscent of the first lockdown in March, some supermarket shelves have begun emptying once more, ahead of the second lockdown in England. Social media users have shared pictures of empty shelves where usually there would be toilet roll, bread, vegetables and meat, despite stores insisting there are no stock shortages. All non-essential shops will close from Thursday, as England enters another strict coronavirus lockdown. But food shops, supermarkets, garden centres and certain other retailers providing essential goods and services can remain open. The lockdown is due to end on 2 December, with the government hoping to then reintroduce a localised tiered system of restrictions.

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-panic-buyers-strip-shelves-as-england-prepares-for-lockdown-12122582>

### **Ministers add to confusion over England Covid lockdown rules**

Ministers have prompted confusion over England's new lockdown rules with Michael Gove apologising for incorrectly indicating tennis and golf could be played, as cabinet colleague Robert Jenrick apparently wrongly suggested a family would be allowed to meet a friend for a walk outside. Amid uncertainty over the lockdown coming into effect on Thursday, Gove, the Cabinet Office minister, issued an apology for signalling that singles tennis and golf in pairs could still go ahead. It came as Jenrick, the communities secretary, confirmed that a family could go for a walk with a friend – despite there being a two-person limit on people meeting outdoors when outside of households or support bubbles.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/03/ministers-prompt-confusion-over-england-covid-coronavirus-lockdown-rules>

### **Coronavirus: Is Germany's €10 billion enough for second lockdown?**

Germany entered a second partial lockdown on November 2 to try to stem the soaring cases of coronavirus ripping through the country. Dubbed lockdown-lite, the measures aren't as severe as the virtual shutdown of the economy that took place in March and April. The impact on many businesses is still set to be wide reaching, particularly in the entertainment and leisure sector, as well as for self-employed workers. Many companies were tipped perilously close to bankruptcy by the pandemic's first wave. Announcing the partial shutdown on Wednesday the previous week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel promised an additional €10 billion (\$11.6 billion) in support for affected businesses. Firms with up to 50 workers, and the self-employed, can have up to 75% of their previous year's November turnover reimbursed by the government.

<https://www.dw.com/en/christmas-lockdown-economy-germany-retail-bankruptcies-state-subsidies/a-55484637>

### **Germany is moving back into lockdown, but it hasn't suffered the same fate as Europe**

Europe is in the grip of a surging second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. But with France, Germany and England moving into lockdown, its hold on the continent — as per the first wave in March-April — is again highly variegated. Based on the seven day average to November 1, new cases in Germany are trending up and have risen to almost 15,000 per day. But that is similar to

Holland, with a population some five times smaller, and less than Belgium, with a population about eight times smaller. At the end of last week, daily case numbers reached almost 19,000 in Germany — in France, that figure was almost 50,000. As with the first wave, Germany — which was praised for increasing intensive care beds prior to the pandemic — is again taking patients from other European states.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-04/germany-coronavirus-lockdown-avoided-same-fate-as-europe/12843140>

### **Europe's shopkeepers on the warpath over lockdowns**

Many European shopkeepers reluctantly accepted the need to close during the coronavirus lockdowns in the spring, but the second round of shutdowns in the autumn is proving a more difficult pill to swallow for bookstore owners, florists and hairdressers from Italy to Ireland — and harder for governments to enforce. France's small traders, backed in some cases by their local mayors, have complained about the injustice of the measures imposed by Emmanuel Macron's government from last Friday, arguing the restrictions on shops favoured big chain stores and online retailers such as Amazon. They were further enraged by Amazon's launch of a premature "Black Friday" sale, supposed to be on November 27, which prompted remonstrations from the French finance ministry and a promise from Amazon to stop publicising the presale.

<https://www.ft.com/content/3fc8ba69-9a2c-4f19-ac79-ce310c8d6507>

### **Primark calls for extended trading hours after UK lockdown**

Primark has called for store trading hours to be extended in December to help retailers offset the impact of the latest round of lockdowns in the UK, its most important market. George Weston, chief executive of Primark parent company Associated British Foods, said extending Sunday opening hours in particular "would help us, help consumers, help the high street". "In some locations we could even open 24 hours. We know the demand is going to be there," he said on Tuesday, based on the experience when Primark reopened after the first lockdowns.

<https://www.ft.com/content/38db75e0-21dd-48fa-a207-6da4cc28a48b>

### **French government details products that can be sold during second lockdown**

France's government on Tuesday updated its conditions for businesses to continue selling products deemed to be essential during the new confinement declared to fight the second wave of Covid-19. Large retailers have until Wednesday to close off sections selling goods not on the list.

<https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20201103-french-government-details-products-that-can-be-sold-during-second-lockdown-coronavirus-confinement-economy>

### **New French lockdown to reduce economic activity by about 15% - Finance Ministry source**

The new four-week lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19 in France is expected to reduce economic activity by about 15%, a Finance Ministry source said on Tuesday. "We expect a much more moderate impact than that (the lockdown) of April, notably in France," the source said. While the April lockdown cut business activity by some 30%, the impact this time would "more around 15%", the source added

<https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/french-lockdown-reduce-economic-activity-105223417.html>

### **English retailers fret over Christmas as lockdown 2.0 looms**

This year, the annual illumination of the Christmas lights on London's famous Oxford Street was very much a bittersweet moment. The lights, which were turned on this week, are celebrating the people who helped during the coronavirus pandemic. They should have symbolized the start of a keenly awaited retail season following a year marked by lockdown restrictions. But with a second lockdown in England set to come into place on Thursday, shops selling nonessential items such as books and sneakers have been ordered to close, at least until Dec. 2. During the first lockdown they closed for nearly three months until mid-June.

<https://apnews.com/article/business-virus-outbreak-england-london-christmas-ce0cc7352b0f1a2fd5c0c2b48af94fdc>

### **What European leaders need to get right during second wave of lockdowns**

Lockdowns are multiplying throughout Europe as Covid-19 cases rise exponentially, threatening to push health services across the continent to breaking point. Fearing all of its intensive care beds could be full by mid-November, France implemented nationwide restrictions at the end of October -- as did Belgium and Ireland. Germany's softer, so-called "lockdown light," restrictions began on Monday, and Austria is following suite on Tuesday. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has called for a second lockdown to begin in England later this week, while daily record increases of coronavirus infections in Italy appear to foreshadow another round of severe restrictions.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/03/europe/europe-second-lockdowns-testing-isolating-gbr-intl/index.html>

### **How much second lockdown will cost UK economy**

Thousands of businesses are braced for a "truly devastating" blow from Boris Johnson's second lockdown amid fears that the economy will collapse 12 per cent this month. Britain is teetering on the brink of a dreaded double-dip recession following the Prime Minister's ban on household mixing and non-essential travel coupled with mass pub and restaurant closures, experts at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (Niesr) warned. It is thought that the new measures to contain the spread of Covid will cost taxpayers billions of pounds, destroy swathes of companies and put millions of jobs at risk.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/how-much-second-lockdown-will-cost-uk-economy/R7BXFRJPRYOB2PC2F3CCCBJT4Y/>

### **Protests of more than two 'to be banned during second lockdown'**

People gather in Trafalgar Square to protest against the lockdown imposed by the government (Picture: Reuters) Protests of more than two people will be prohibited when England goes back into a national lockdown,

<https://metro.co.uk/2020/11/03/protests-of-more-than-two-to-be-banned-during-second-lockdown-13525561/>

### **Ireland's latest coronavirus curbs put 85,000 temporarily out of work**

Around 85,000 more people have claimed temporary COVID-19 jobless benefits since Ireland moved to the highest level of restrictions to fight the virus two weeks ago, data showed on Tuesday. Limiting restaurants to takeaway service and the closure of non-essential retail pushed claims up to almost 330,000, from 244,153 before the six-week measures were introduced on Oct. 22, but far below a peak of 600,000 during a stricter lockdown in May. Recipients of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) have been on the rise since hitting a post-lockdown low of 205,000 at the start of October. They are expected to have helped push Ireland's unemployment rate up to around 20% in October, from 14.7% in September. October unemployment data is due on Wednesday.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-ireland-unemployme-idUKKBN27J1RC>

### **Major banks tell London staff to return home ahead of England lockdown**

Major banks in London have started directing all but essential workers to revert to home working, following the government's plans for a month-long lockdown in England from Thursday. The switch will be a further blow to the City of London and Canary Wharf financial districts, whose skyscrapers have sat largely empty for most of the year with footfall at local businesses a fraction of normal levels. Several investment banks had been encouraging more staff to work in their offices in recent months since the first lockdown in March, but the latest measures by the government have forced them into a reversal of policy.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-bank-offic/major-banks-tell-london-staff-to-return-home-ahead-of-england-lockdown-idUKKBN27I11C>

### **More debt, shrinking GDP: the impact of England's new lockdown**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has ordered England back into lockdown to slow the spread of COVID-19, a move that will add to the country's 2 trillion-pound (\$2.6 trillion) debt mountain and cause the economy to shrink again.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-economy-an/more-debt-shrinking-gdp-the-impact-of-englands-new-lockdown-idUSKBN27I0QB>

### **France considers new Paris curfew as lockdown rules are flouted**

France could reimpose a night curfew on Paris and possibly the surrounding region amid government frustration that too many people are ignoring lockdown rules as COVID-19 infections soar. France dramatically slowed the spread of the coronavirus in the spring with one of Europe's strictest lockdowns. But 10 months into the epidemic and with winter drawing in, many are reluctant to endure another period of confinement. "It's unbearable for those who respect the rules to see other French people flouting them," government spokesman Gabriel Attal told BFM TV. "We need to take all the steps needed to fight the epidemic." A final decision on a curfew had not been taken, the office of Prime Minister Jean Castex said. It will be discussed at a meeting between President Emmanuel Macron and senior cabinet ministers on Wednesday, a government source said.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-france/france-considers-new-paris-curfew-as-lockdown-rules-are-flouted-idUKKBN27J0RC?il=0>

### **France Forces Closure Of Supermarkets For Non-Essentials During Covid-19 Lockdown**

In order to appease small business owners, the French government made a U-turn in policy, Tuesday, and banned large supermarkets from selling anything other than 'essential items' during the current lockdown. The lockdown, which was brought in nationwide across France on 28 October to stem rising Covid-19 infection rates, made small businesses angry that they had been forced to close under the terms set by the government.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2020/11/03/france-forces-closure-of-supermarkets-for-non-essentials-during-covid-19-lockdown/?sh=570aed801ad0>