

# COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

## 4th Mar 2021

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### Five Minute Briefing

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#### **Twelve criteria for the development and use of COVID-19 vaccine passports**

Vaccine passports are certificates to establish proof of vaccination linked to the identity of the holder; the purpose of a passport is to aid the return to pre-COVID-19 activities and allow travel without compromising personal or public health

[This rapid review of vaccine passports is from the Royal Society to assist in the understanding and control of COVID-19](#)

Vaccine passports are certificates to establish proof of vaccination linked to the identity of the holder; the purpose of a passport is to aid the return to pre-COVID-19 activities and allow travel without compromising personal or public health.

We propose 12 criteria that should be satisfied by a COVID-19 vaccine passport. A passport should:

- Meet benchmarks for COVID-19 immunity;
- Accommodate differences between vaccines in their efficacy, and changes in vaccine efficacy against emerging SARS CoV-2 variants.
- It should be: internationally standardised with
- Verifiable credentials
- For defined uses, and
- Based on a platform of interoperable technologies
- Secure for personal data
- Portable
- Affordable for individuals and governments.
- Legal
- Ethical (equity and non-discrimination) standards,
- The conditions of use should be understood and accepted by passport holders.

Current evidence suggests that a COVID-19 vaccine passport system is feasible, but that not all criteria have yet been satisfied and consideration should be given to what longer term precedents (e.g., commercial accessibility of registers, expanded state health surveillance) this may create

#### **Twelve criteria for the development and use of COVID-19 vaccine passports**

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##### **Vaccine passports: false dawn or golden ticket?**

Vaccine passports are a classic case of possible good news accompanied by massive complications. These digital certificates promise a golden key to living a normal life again: but they risk distracting us from the greater need for vaccines in arms and responsible behavior from all. With so much money and power at stake, the world's biggest brains — from IBM to airlines — are working on systems to allow the vaccinated class access to a wider range of venues and countries.

[https://www.politico.com/newsletters/global-translations/2021/03/03/vaccine-passports-false-dawn-or-golden-ticket-491975?cid=su\\_tw\\_gt](https://www.politico.com/newsletters/global-translations/2021/03/03/vaccine-passports-false-dawn-or-golden-ticket-491975?cid=su_tw_gt)

## **COVAX vaccine deliveries to Africa begin ramping up**

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### **COVID-19 vaccine deliveries to African nations pick up speed**

More African countries received the long-awaited first deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines on Wednesday, with Kenya and Rwanda benefiting from the global COVAX initiative that aims to ensure doses for the world's low-and middle-income nations. So far Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Angola and Congo also have received their first vaccine doses via COVAX, with several other countries including Mali, Senegal, Malawi and Uganda set to receive them this week. But COVAX has faced delays related to the severely limited global supply of vaccine doses as well as logistical issues.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/covid19-vaccine-deliveries-to-african-nations-pick-up-speed-vaccines-rwanda-african-countries-nations-b1811652.html>

### **Kenya hails first vaccines as 'bazookas' against COVID-19**

Kenya received over a million doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday, while Rwanda said it was the first in Africa to secure shots from Pfizer, as efforts to inoculate the world's poorest nations accelerated. Kenya's batch, which arrived on a Qatar Airways passenger flight, is the first of an initial allocation of 3.56 million doses by the global COVAX facility. "We have received ... machine guns, bazookas, and tanks to fight this war against COVID-19," Health Minister Mutahi Kagwe exulted as the doses arrived at Nairobi's main airport

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN2AV19V>

## **The CDC worries that some U.S. states are opening prematurely**

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### **Mississippi, Texas lift COVID-19 restrictions despite warnings**

Texas and Mississippi announced yesterday that they were ending mask mandates and opening indoor businesses after a year of restrictions because of COVID-19. "I just announced Texas is OPEN 100%. EVERYTHING. I also ended the statewide mask mandate," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted yesterday afternoon. Abbott said in a press conference he was not suggesting the threat of COVID-19 was over, but with the arrival of vaccines and a significant drop in cases, the state was ready to reopen beginning Mar 10. Abbott also said his state was vaccinating 1 million people per week, a rate that should comfort those doubtful about lifting restrictions.

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/03/mississippi-texas-lift-covid-19-restrictions-despite-warnings>

### **US coronavirus: CDC director urges people to keep masking and distancing 'regardless of what states decide'**

The director of the US Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday said she hopes people will decide to individually "do the right thing" about distancing and wearing masks, even in states moving to eliminate restrictions against the CDC's recommendations. "I think we at the CDC have been very clear that now is not the time to release all restrictions," Dr. Rochelle Walensky said during a White House COVID-19 Response Team briefing. Walensky's comments come after governors of Texas and Mississippi said they were lifting mask mandates and allowing businesses to open at full capacity, starting now or within days.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/us-coronavirus-experts-are-warning-of-a-potential-covid-19-surge-while-several-governors-are-loosening-restrictions/ar-BB1ebozg>

### **Biden says 'big mistake' for states to lift mask mandates given virus toll**

U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday said decisions to end the required wearing of masks - such as those by governors of Texas and Mississippi - amounted to "Neanderthal thinking" given the rising death toll from the coronavirus pandemic. Asked if he had a message to Texas and Mississippi, Biden told reporters: "I think it's a big mistake. Look, I hope everybody's realized by now, these masks make a difference." Biden said the increasing availability of vaccinations was making a difference in containing the pandemic, but it was critical to remain vigilant about wearing masks, washing hands and social distancing. "The last thing, the last thing we need is Neanderthal thinking

that, 'In the meantime, everything's fine, take off your mask, forget it.' It still matters," Biden said before a brainstorming meeting with Republican and Democratic lawmakers to address cancer.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-whitehouse/biden-says-big-mistake-for-states-to-lift-mask-mandates-given-virus-toll-idUSKBN2AV261?il=0>

### **Some scientists more pessimistic in face of new variants**

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#### **'When will it end?': How a changing virus is reshaping scientists' views on COVID-19**

Chris Murray, a University of Washington disease expert whose projections on COVID-19 infections and deaths are closely followed worldwide, is changing his assumptions about the course of the pandemic. A new consensus is emerging among scientists, according to Reuters interviews with 18 specialists who closely track the pandemic or are working to curb its impact. Many described how the breakthrough late last year of two vaccines with around 95% efficacy against COVID-19 had initially sparked hope that the virus could be largely contained, similar to the way measles has been. But, they say, data in recent weeks on new variants from South Africa and Brazil has undercut that optimism. They now believe that SARS-CoV-2 will not only remain with us as an endemic virus, continuing to circulate in communities, but will likely cause a significant burden of illness and death for years to come. As a result, the scientists said, people could expect to continue to take measures such as routine mask-wearing and avoiding crowded places during COVID-19 surges, especially for people at high risk.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN2AV1T1>

#### **Brazil's Covid outbreak is global threat that opens door to lethal variants - scientist**

Duke University neuroscientist urges international community to challenge Brazilian government over its failure to contain - "The world must vehemently speak out over the risks Brazil is posing to the fight against the pandemic," said Nicolelis, who has spent most of the last year confined to his flat on the west side of São Paulo. "What's the point in sorting the pandemic out in Europe or the United States, if Brazil continues to be a breeding ground for this virus?" He said: "It's that if you allow the virus to proliferate at the levels it is currently proliferating here, you open the door to the occurrence of new mutations and the appearance of even more lethal variants." Already, one particularly worrying variant (P1) has been traced to Manaus, the largest city in the Brazilian Amazon, which suffered a devastating healthcare breakdown in January after a surge in infections. Six cases of that variant have so far been detected in the UK.

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/03/brazil-covid-global-threat-new-more-lethal-variants-miguel-nicolelis?CMP=fb\\_gu&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2F2sJNhC7T444UP3OHfRoFQ1ettuRsvZeDgWXLrUPkZijS6gUhMyMaZ38#Echobox=1614792042](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/03/brazil-covid-global-threat-new-more-lethal-variants-miguel-nicolelis?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2F2sJNhC7T444UP3OHfRoFQ1ettuRsvZeDgWXLrUPkZijS6gUhMyMaZ38#Echobox=1614792042)

#### **Data on long Covid in UK children is cause for concern, scientists say**

With schools in England poised to reopen on Monday - Prof Christina Pagel, a member of the Independent Sage committee and director of clinical operational research at University College London - in a Twitter post suggested that although emerging data on long Covid in children was uncertain, it should not be ignored, particularly given there was no licensed vaccine for these age groups, and there probably won't be until the end of this year or early next year.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/mar/02/long-covid-uk-children-date-cause-concern-scientists-say>

#### **Sao Paulo shuts down as raging virus prompts Brazil Pfizer deal**

The partial lockdown in Sao Paulo, Brazil's most-populous state, underscored mounting concerns about a surging new wave of infections. The country is facing its deadliest stretch since the pandemic began due to a homegrown variant dubbed P1, scarce restrictions to slow the virus and the patchy vaccine rollout. Brazil is setting single-day death records as outbreaks ebb in North America and parts of Western Europe. That risks internationally isolating Latin America's biggest country as other nations seek to shore up their gains against the virus.

<https://www.msn.com/en-au/lifestyle/wellbeing/sao-paulo-shuts-down-as-raging-virus-prompts-brazil-pfizer-deal/ar-BB1ecTc4>

## **Vaccine hesitancy and crime**

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### **US Catholic group tells followers to avoid Johnson & Johnson vaccine**

An American Catholic church body on Tuesday urged its followers to avoid the coronavirus vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson, alleging that it was “developed, tested and produced using abortion-derived cell lines.” The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged Catholics to choose between the alternatives offered by Pfizer and Moderna because the J&J vaccine raised questions about “moral permissibility.” “The approval of Johnson & Johnson’s Covid-19 vaccine for use in the United States again raises questions about the moral permissibility of using vaccines developed, tested, and/or produced with the help of abortion-derived cell lines,” said Bishop Kevin C Rhoades, chairman of USCCB. The body said the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines are preferable “if one has the ability to choose a vaccine.”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/covid-vaccine-johnson-johnson-catholics-b1811223.html>

### **COVID-19: Police arrest 84 people as thousands of fake coronavirus vaccines seized in China and South Africa**

Police have arrested 84 suspects and seized thousands of fake COVID-19 vaccines in raids in China and South Africa. It comes weeks after the head of Interpol warned that criminal networks would try to cash in on the global vaccination rollout. South African police seized 400 ampoules, providing 2,400 doses, of a fake vaccine in Germiston, Gauteng, along with a big supply of fake 3M brand masks. They arrested a Zambian national and three Chinese suspects.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-police-arrest-84-people-as-thousands-of-fake-coronavirus-vaccines-seized-in-china-and-south-africa-12234721>

### **'Tip Of the Iceberg': Interpol Says Fake COVID-19 Vaccines Were Smuggled Across Continents**

By the time police discovered the shipment of fake COVID-19 vaccines, the vials had travelled over 6,000 miles from China to South Africa, the work of a smuggling ring that has produced thousands of counterfeit doses, according to Interpol, the global police agency that helped break up the operation. The trafficking case, involving a shipment of at least 2,400 doses, is the first confirmed instance of fake vaccines being smuggled across continents, an Interpol spokesperson told TIME—though there are likely more that have occurred, and more still that may be uncovered in the future. “This is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to COVID-19 vaccine related crime,” said Jürgen Stock, the agency’s secretary general, in a statement on March 3.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/tip-iceberg-interpol-says-fake-110138782.html>

### **'Bomb' goes off at Dutch Covid test centre as anger grows over lockdown**

A coronavirus test centre in the Netherlands was hit by a suspected deliberate explosion as frustration grows over lockdown measures in the country. The building in the town of Bovenkarspel, which has recently seen a surge in Covid-19 cases, had its windows shattered after ‘something metal’ blew up outside just before 7am this morning. Officers say they believe the attack was targeted at the test centre. Police spokesperson Menno Hartenberg said: ‘What we’re saying is that something like that doesn’t just happen by accident, it has to be laid.

<https://metro.co.uk/2021/03/03/deliberate-explosion-at-dutch-covid-test-centre-after-surge-in-cases-14176883/?ico=related-posts>

## **Data offers hope of protection**

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### **South African scientists find antibodies from variant may offer cross-protection**

The findings in laboratory studies offer hope that COVID-19 vaccines based on the 501Y.V2 variant

first identified late last year could protect against multiple variants circulating in different parts of the world. The more contagious variant drove a second wave of infections in South Africa that peaked in January and is believed to have spread to many other countries in Africa and other continents. "We used plasma ... from people that were infected in this latest wave with the 501Y.V2 and we used it against the first-wave virus, ... what we found is that it could neutralise, OK not as well as it could neutralise itself but it's not bad at all," Alex Sigal from the Africa Health Research Institute told a news conference.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKCN2AV1SK>

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## **A universal coronavirus vaccine could stop the next pandemic**

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Coronaviruses have been responsible for three major pandemic threats, and it's likely many more are waiting in the shadows. A vaccine that protects against them all could stop a pandemic before it begins

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/universal-coronavirus-vaccine>

### **CRISPR rivals put patents aside to help in fight against Covid-19**

Coronavirus made the rivalry less cutthroat because patents were not a paramount concern. "The awesomely good thing about this terrible situation is that all the intellectual property questions have been put aside, and everyone's really intent on just finding solutions," said Chen. "People are focused on getting something out there that works, rather than on the business aspect of it." The ultimate goal for both teams is to create CRISPR-based coronavirus tests that would be like a home pregnancy test: cheap, disposable, fast, and simple, something you could buy at the corner drugstore and use in the privacy of your home. Harrington and Chen of the Mammoth team unveiled their concept for such a device in May 2020 and announced a partnership with the London-based multinational pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline to manufacture it. It would provide accurate results in 20 minutes and require no special equipment.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/03/03/crispr-rivals-put-patents-aside-fight-against-covid-19/>

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## **Influencers promote vaccination and community discussion**

### **Covid-19: Sprinter urges BAME groups to 'have conversation' about the jab**

A British sprinter has urged black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities to "have the conversation" about the coronavirus vaccine. Eugene Amo-Dadzie, from east London, said he had overcome his concerns after discussing them with a family member. New research shows people from ethnic minorities have been less likely to want to get vaccinated and trust family members' views over the government. Amo-Dadzie said he had "responsibility" over his career and family. "Let's have the conversation, let's ask the questions, let's understand what our fears and hesitations are, and then let's deal with those and move forward," he said.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-56251119>

### **From 'Jolene' To Vaccine: Dolly Parton Gets COVID-19 Shot She Helped Fund**

Country music legend Dolly Parton got a taste of her own medicine on Tuesday when she received a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine whose research she helped fund. Parton, 75, documented the moment in a video posted to social media in which she encouraged eligible viewers to get the shot and broke into a modified rendition of "Jolene" to that effect. "Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, I'm begging of you please don't hesitate," she sang. "Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, 'cause once you're dead then that's a bit too late." Dr. Naji Abumrad of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center administered a dose of the Moderna vaccine to Parton, who was wearing a sweater with shoulder cutouts for the occasion. The two have a long-running friendship; they met in 2013 when Parton was admitted to the emergency room following a car accident and have since grown close.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/03/03/973240792/from-jolene-to-vaccine-dolly-parton-ge>

[ts-covid-19-shot-she-helped-fund](#)