

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

8th Jul 2021

Overnight News RoundUp

COVID-19: Mass testing pilot in Liverpool potentially prevented thousands of cases, study suggests

- Thousands of new COVID-19 cases were potentially prevented and detection of infections rose by almost a fifth due to a community testing pilot in Liverpool, results suggest.
- Researchers said more than 3,200 key worker staff days were protected from quarantine through a test-to-release scheme.
- [Conducted by the University of Liverpool and the Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\), the study ran from 6 November 2020 to 30 April 2021 with the aim of improving detection of coronavirus by using lateral flow testing for people with symptoms.](#)
- It showed that new cases of COVID-19 fell by 21% compared with other areas up to mid-December - at a time when the UK variant of the virus made it difficult to compare areas.
- More than half - 57% or 283,338 people - in Liverpool took a lateral flow test (LFT) as part of what Liverpool City Council said was a world-first voluntary mass testing programme for people without COVID-19 symptoms.

Results of the study showed that around 6,300 individuals declaring symptoms tested positive by lateral flow - case positivity of 2.1%

- Liverpool's community testing compared with other areas saw an estimated 18% increase in case detection and a 21% reduction in cases up to mid-December, researchers said.
- Optimistic modelling suggested that 6,600 cases were prevented due to the mass testing pilot - however scientists said a pessimistic model showed just 850 infections were prevented.
- Professor Iain Buchan, chair of public health and clinical informatics at the faculty of health and life sciences at the University of Liverpool, said scientists had take a 'cautious approach' with the modelling.
- 'That's why we have that wide range between a pessimistic and an optimistic scenario,' he said.
- 'The reality is it's probably much nearer the optimistic scenario, if that's going to be consistent with reducing case rates by a fifth which is what we actually observed.'
- Meanwhile, Professor Calum Semple said the benefit of rapid testing was clear.
- **'We were seeing the benefit of rapid testing in the community on a wide scale and we can see it drove down cases,** so arguing the pros and cons of PCR and its sensitivity - you could argue its 'over-sensitivity' - was not what this was about,' the professor of outbreak medicine at the University of Liverpool and SAGE member said.
- 'This was about testing one device across our community and seeing how it could get our community back on its feet.'
- Prof Semple said the approach had been 'very effective and kept our emergency services on the road.'
- But Professor Sally Sheard, head of the public health, policy and systems department at the University of Liverpool's institute of population health, said there must be a 'learning point' in terms of challenges faced by those living in more deprived parts of the city.
- The study showed that people living in more deprived areas were less likely to take up testing

and more likely to test positive for the virus.

- She said: 'A lot of people in the poorer parts of the city were reluctant to engage with the process because of the very genuine fear that they would lose income if they had to self-isolate, if they were found to be positive.'
- Liverpool's director of public health, Matthew Ashton, said the use of lateral flow tests gives the 'opportunity to close down outbreaks at a much earlier stage by that large-scale hyperlocal deployment of LFT.'
- He added: 'we hope our learning can be used by governments here and abroad, not just in managing COVID-19 but also in future pandemics.'

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<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-mass-testing-pilot-in-liverpool-potentially-prevented-thousands-of-cases-study-suggests-12350413>

Covid: Heathrow to trial fast-tracking vaccinated arrivals

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Two of the world's biggest airlines will trial fast-track lanes at Heathrow airport for fully-vaccinated arrivals. Under the scheme passengers on four routes will be able to upload their vaccination status before boarding. The trial by British Airways and Virgin Atlantic comes as the aviation industry calls for quarantine-free travel to the UK from lower-risk amber list countries. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps is set to announce such a scheme this week

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-57743038>

South African Excess Deaths at Six-Month High as Delta Spreads

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Excess deaths, seen as a more precise way of measuring total fatalities from the coronavirus, rose to their highest level since January in South Africa as the delta variant spread to all of the country's nine provinces. In the week ended June 27, the country recorded 5,228 deaths compared with 1,729 official deaths from the virus, the South African Medical Research Council said in a report Wednesday. The number of deaths, which is measured against a historical average, was the highest since the week ending Jan. 24 and compared with 4,145 the week earlier.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-07/south-african-excess-deaths-at-six-month-high-as-delta-spreads>

COVID infections imperil Indonesia's vaccinated health workers, and hospitals

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Indonesian pulmonologist Erlina Burhan is exasperated after another long shift in a jam-packed hospital missing 200 staff infected by the coronavirus despite being vaccinated just months ago. "It's crazy, really crazy," she tells Reuters. "More patients but less staff. This is ridiculous." About 95% health workers have been fully vaccinated, overwhelmingly with China's Sinovac, said the Indonesian Hospitals Association (IHA).

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/covid-infections-imperil-indonesias-vaccinated-health-workers-hospitals-2021-07-07/>

Covid-19 Pushed 22 Million Out of Job Market in Major Economies

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Labor markets in developed nations have recovered only half of the loss of employment they suffered in the pandemic, with the young and low-skilled hurt most. That's the conclusion of a 400-page study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which found that about 22 million jobs disappeared by the end of 2020 in industrial nations. The Paris-based institution said a full recovery to pre-pandemic levels of employment won't come until the end of next year.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-07/oecd-says-jobs-market-has-only-recovered-half-of-pandemic-damage>

New Zealand health regulator approves use of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

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New Zealand said on Wednesday that its health regulator Medsafe has given provisional approval for a coronavirus vaccine developed by Janssen, the pharmaceutical unit of Johnson & Johnson. The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine was approved for individuals 18 years of age and older, COVID-19 Minister Chris Hipkins said in an announcement. "The medical evidence shows Janssen is a very safe and effective vaccine. It is a great addition to our vaccine options," Hipkins said

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/new-zealand-health-regulator-approves-use-janssen-covid-19-vaccine-2021-07-07/>

World reacts cautiously to Boris Johnson's 'reckless' Covid plans

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Boris Johnson's plan to scrap most of England's Covid-19 restrictions has prompted alarm, wariness and perhaps even a hint of envy around the world. Politicians in the north and south of Ireland, which stands to be most affected by its neighbour's experiment, expressed concern about its consequences being exported across the Irish Sea. Authorities in other parts of Europe and in New Zealand gave a more mixed response but none said they planned to follow England's lead.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jul/07/ireland-and-northern-ireland-raise-alarm-about-english-covid-plans>

New Zealand approves use of J&J coronavirus vaccine

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New Zealand medical regulators have approved use of the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine, after earlier in the year approving the Pfizer vaccine. But New Zealand's government intends to stick with its plan of primarily using the Pfizer vaccine to inoculate the population of 5 million. The provisional approval for the J&J vaccine by regulator Medsafe applies to adults aged 18 and over and will need to be signed-off on by the Cabinet, which will likely happen next month. New Zealand has an agreement to buy 2 million doses of the J&J vaccine.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/new-zealand-approves-use-of-j-j-coronavirus-vaccine-01625629107>

Singapore omits Sinovac shots from COVID-19 vaccination tally

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People who received Sinovac Biotech shots are excluded from Singapore's count of total vaccinations against COVID-19, officials in the city state said, citing inadequate efficacy data for the Chinese-made vaccine, especially against the contagious Delta variant. "We don't really have a medical or scientific basis or have the data now to establish how effective Sinovac is in terms of infection and severe illnesses on Delta," health minister Ong Ye Kung said

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/singapore-not-counting-sinovac-shots-covid-19-vaccination-tally-2021-07->

[07/?taid=60e5628dfdc7d30001f57812&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter](https://www.bloombergenews.com/news/articles/2021-07-07/germany-renews-vaccine-plea-as-europe-struggles-to-contain-delta?utm_source=twitter)

Germany Renews Vaccine Plea as Europe Struggles to Contain Delta

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Germany's health minister stepped up his plea for as many people as possible to get a Covid-19 shot amid signs the vaccination drive across Europe is losing steam. Jens Spahn made the call on Wednesday as the spread of the delta variant threatens to spark a new wave of virus infections throughout the European Union. There are signs that other countries, including France, Italy, Switzerland and Austria, are also struggling to maintain the pace of shots. The slowdown suggests a growing risk that developed countries, including the U.S., could fall short of the vaccination rates needed to achieve herd immunity. The situation is being made worse because the delta strain is more transmissible than previous versions of the coronavirus.

https://www.bloombergenews.com/news/articles/2021-07-07/germany-renews-vaccine-plea-as-europe-struggles-to-contain-delta?utm_source=google&utm_medium=bd&cmpld=google

Turkmenistan makes COVID-19 vaccination mandatory

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Turkmenistan's healthcare ministry said on Wednesday it was making COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for all residents aged 18 and over as the former Soviet region of Central Asia reported a fresh spike in new cases. Turkmenistan has reported no COVID-19 cases but introduced a number of restrictions such as setting out requirements for wearing facemasks. Neighbouring Kazakhstan made vaccinations mandatory for a wide range of public and private sector employees last month, following the example of Russia.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/turkmenistan-makes-covid-19-vaccination-mandatory-2021-07-07/>

Covid-19 passports dropped over fears certificates would place strain on testing system

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Ministers have dropped plans to introduce Covid-19 passports – in spite of the certificates offering a possible public health benefit – amid concerns they would place a burden on the testing system. The official review into the use of Covid Status Certificates also raised fears that the introduction of the scheme would encourage people to take more risks, believing they were “Covid free”.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/covid-19-passports-dropped-over-fears-certificates-would-place-strain-on-testing-system-1089734>

New Zealand not willing to risk UK-style ‘live with Covid’ policy, says Jacinda Ardern

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New Zealand has dismissed suggestions it should follow in Britain's footsteps to “live with” Covid-19, saying the level of death proposed by Boris Johnson would be “unacceptable”. If cases in Britain explode as a result of the lifted regulations, New Zealand may also consider putting the country on a no-fly list. On Monday, Johnson announced plans to scrap regulations including on face masks and social distancing by 19 July, saying that Britain must “learn to live with” the virus. He said Covid cases would likely reach 50,000 a day within a fortnight, and “we must reconcile ourselves, sadly, to more deaths from Covid”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/07/new-zealand-not-willing-to-risk-uk-style-live-with-covid-policy-says-jacinda-ardern>

Trump Country Rejects Vaccines Despite Growing Delta Threat

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Larry Krauck awoke in a strange hospital, the date written on a dry-erase board in his room: Dec. 12,

2020. That can't be right, he thought. He remembered being treated for Covid-19 at a different hospital in Springfield, Missouri, on Nov. 1. Could the last six weeks really be blank? He told a nurse her board was wrong. She slipped out of the room and returned with a summary of his procedures, scrawled on a sticky note, including thirty-three days on a blood oxygenation machine called an ECMO. One day, Krauck had flat-lined and was resuscitated. Krauck, 50 at the time, caught the coronavirus and nearly died well before vaccines were available. Since his ordeal, he's become an advocate for the shots — the type of local, trusted messenger that health officials hope can woo the skeptical.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-07-07/where-is-delta-spreading-u-s-midwest-rockies-as-trump-county-rejects-vaccine>

COVID-19: PM heading for showdown with MPs amid predictions millions of Britons could get coronavirus this summer

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Boris Johnson is heading for a COVID showdown with MPs amid a backlash over a six-week wait for the ending of self-isolation rules. Conservative MPs and business leaders have reacted furiously after Health Secretary Sajid Javid said children and fully vaccinated adults will have to follow current self-isolation rules until 16 August. This means they will have to stay at home for 10 days if they come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-pm-heading-for-showdown-with-mps-amid-predictions-two-million-britons-could-get-coronavirus-this-summer-12350497>

Sydney locked down for another week as Delta COVID-19 variant spreads

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The leader of Australia's New South Wales (NSW) state on Wednesday ordered a week-long extension of Sydney's COVID-19 lockdown, warning new cases are bound to rise as the country's biggest city grapples with the highly infectious Delta variant. Sydney, home to a fifth of Australia's 25 million people, was plunged into lockdown on June 26 as a Delta variant outbreak persuaded officials to tighten restrictions in a country that has been slow to vaccinate. Strict stay-at-home orders were due to end on Friday, but now remain in place until July 16.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/sydney-covid-19-lockdown-be-extended-another-week-media-reports-2021-07-06/>

As lockdown bites, Malaysians hoist white flags in plea for help

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When Malaysian mother Hadijah Neamat was struggling to cope during the coronavirus lockdown, she hung a scrap of white cloth outside her window in a plea for help. The #benderaputih (white flag) campaign has gained momentum on social media in a bid to encourage people to help others in distress during a prolonged lockdown in Malaysia. Indeed, shortly after Hadijah, 73, put up the flag a neighbour came by to offer her food and other items.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/lockdown-bites-malaysians-hoist-white-flags-plea-help-2021-07-07/>

Brazil authorizes Butanvac vaccine for volunteers in clinical trial

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Brazilian health regulator Anvisa on Wednesday gave the go-ahead for the Butanvac COVID-19 vaccine developed by Sao Paulo's Butantan Institute biomedical center to be used on volunteers in clinical trials. Anvisa in a statement said the vaccine will be applied in two doses, 28 days apart. Phase I of Butanvac's clinical trial will involve 400 volunteers, and the first two phases are expected to involve 6,000 volunteers in total.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-authorizes-butanvac-vaccine-shot-volunteers-clinical-trial-2021-07-07/>

Covid-19 Vaccine-Related Blood Clots Linked to Amino Acids in New Study

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Canadian researchers say they have pinpointed a handful of amino acids targeted by key antibodies in the blood of some people who received AstraZeneca PLC's Covid-19 vaccine, offering fresh clues to what causes rare blood clots associated with the shot. The peer-reviewed findings, by a team of researchers from McMaster University in Ontario, were published online Wednesday by the science journal Nature. They could help doctors rapidly test for and treat the unusual clotting, arising from an immune-driven mix of coagulation and loss of platelets that stop bleeding.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-19-vaccine-related-blood-clots-linked-to-amino-acids-in-new-study-11625648400>

COVID-19: Do face masks work? Here is what scientific studies say

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Wearing a face mask is soon set to become a personal choice rather than something required of people inside buildings and on public transport. Although the government has repeatedly stressed that it would be guided by the science, a rift in approach is showing between groups such as the British Medical Association and health minister Helen Whately. So - what do peer-reviewed scientific studies say when it comes to how effective face masks are?

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-what-does-the-science-actually-say-about-face-masks-12349337>

UK to track COVID-19 variants with genomic sequencing across the world

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Britain said on Wednesday it would provide genomic sequencing support to Brazil, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan to help identify, assess and track new variants of the novel coronavirus. The novel coronavirus, which has killed 4 million people globally since it emerged in China in late 2019, mutates around once every few weeks, slower than influenza or HIV, but enough to require tweaks to vaccines. Public Health England will extend support to Britain's partners through the New Variant Assessment Platform Programme which tracks changes in the virus.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/uk-track-covid-19-variants-with-genomic-sequencing-a-cross-world-2021-07-07/>

What are the Covid-19 symptoms for people who are fully vaccinated?

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People who have received two doses of a Covid vaccine are less likely to be fall seriously ill or die from the virus, but they may still feel unwell if they become infected. The symptoms commonly associated with coronavirus are a high temperature,

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/covid-after-vaccine-symptoms-uk-b1879504.html>

Developer says Russia's CoviVac COVID-19 vaccine effective against Delta variant

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The developer of CoviVac, one of Russia's vaccines against COVID-19, said on Wednesday it is effective against the highly infectious Delta variant, TASS news agency reported. Russia is trying to contain a rise in cases and deaths and has introduced mandatory vaccination in Moscow and some other regions for a wide group of citizens,

<https://news.yahoo.com/developer-says-russias-covivac-covid-130621532.html>

Oxford scientists said 'no corners were cut' when creating the Covid vaccine despite the speed

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The scientists behind the Oxford/AstraZeneca coronavirus jab have insisted that no corners were cut while creating it, and explained that they'd been preparing the vaccine technology before the pandemic hit. Professor Sarah Gilbert said she had been preparing for the emergence of a new, unknown disease "for some time", known as 'Disease X'. With her team at Oxford University, Prof Gilbert was preparing to create a vaccine technology which could be adapted and used against Disease X if it ever appeared. "We've been working for some time on a way of making vaccines which means we can respond very quickly when there's a new disease which is identified," said Prof Gilbert, who received a standing ovation at Wimbledon for her role in the vaccine roll-out.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/uk/astrazeneca-vaccine-covid-oxford-scientists-how-made-jab-so-fast-explained-1090472>

mRNA vaccines slash risk of COVID-19 infection by 91% in fully vaccinated people

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People who receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are up to 91 percent less likely to develop the disease than those who are unvaccinated, according to a new nationwide study of eight sites, including Salt Lake City. For those few vaccinated people who do still get an infection, or "breakthrough" cases, the study suggests that vaccines reduce the severity of COVID-19 symptoms and shorten its duration. Researchers say these results are among the first to show that mRNA vaccination benefits even those individuals who experience breakthrough infections. "One of the unique things about this study is that it measured the secondary benefits of the vaccine," says Sarang Yoon, D.O., a study co-author, assistant professor at the University of Utah Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH), and principal investigator of the RECOVER (Research on the Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Essential Response Personnel) study in Utah. The study, published online in the New England Journal of Medicine, builds on preliminary data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in March. The study was designed to measure the risks and rates of infection among those on the front lines of the pandemic.

<https://outbreaknewstoday.com/mrna-vaccines-slash-risk-of-covid-19-infection-by-91-in-fully-vaccinated-people-81311/>

Batavia Biosciences works with Swiss start-up on COVID-19 vaccine

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Privately held Batavia Biosciences said on Tuesday it is working with Swiss start-up Swiss Rockets AG on an investigational COVID-19 vaccine that both companies hope to begin testing in humans next year.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/batavia-biosciences-works-swiss-start-114525511.html>

Covid UK: Doom-monger ex-Chief Scientific Adviser warns scrapping lockdown is 'very, very risky'

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Sir David King has warned that the decision to remove most lockdown measures on July 19 is 'very, very risky.' Ex-Chief Scientific Adviser claimed number of people dying with Covid will rise dramatically in three weeks. He also warned that hundreds of thousands of people could 'suffer life shortening' due to 'long Covid.' It comes as Chris Whitty warned Britain will not return to a pre-pandemic normal until at least next Spring

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9762111/Covid-UK-Doom-monger-ex-Chief-Scientific-Adviser-warns-scrapping-lockdown-risky.html>

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Nigeria and Pakistan to help identify, assess and track new variants of the novel coronavirus. The novel coronavirus, which has killed 4 million people globally since it emerged in China in late 2019, mutates around once every few weeks, slower than influenza or HIV, but enough to require tweaks to vaccines. Public Health England will extend support to Britain's partners through the New Variant Assessment Platform Programme which tracks changes in the virus.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/uk-track-covid-19-variants-with-genomic-sequencing-a-cross-world-2021-07-07/>

COVID-19: Around nine in 10 adults in most parts of UK likely to have virus antibodies, ONS data says

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Around nine in 10 adults in most parts of the UK are likely to have COVID-19 antibodies, latest data shows. Latest estimates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show 89.8% of adults in England are likely to have the antibodies, with the highest percentage of adults testing positive for them estimated to be the age groups 60 to 64, 70 to 74 and 75 to 79 (all 96.8%). The lowest percentage was for 16 to 24-year-olds at around 59.7%.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-around-nine-in-10-adults-in-most-parts-of-uk-likely-to-have-virus-antibodies-ons-data-says-12350776>

COVID-19 affects men and women differently. So why don't clinical trials report gender data?

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COVID-19 doesn't strike the sexes equally. Globally, for every 10 COVID-19 intensive care unit admissions among women, there are 18 for men; for every 10 women who die of COVID-19, 15 men die. In the United States, a gender gap is emerging in vaccination rates, with women ahead of men by 6 percentage points, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And rare adverse effects from the AstraZeneca vaccine appear to strike women more frequently, whereas those from the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines more often affect young men.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/07/covid-19-affects-men-and-women-differently-so-why-don-t-clinical-trials-report-gender>

German COVID-19 cases rise again after two months of decline

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The number of coronavirus cases in Germany ticked up again on Wednesday after more than two months of steady decline, according to official data. The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases reported 985 new infections to bring the total to 3.73 million, a rise of 177 cases compared to the daily increase a week ago. The death toll rose by 48 in the past day to a total of 91,110 - down from a daily rise of 56 a week ago. The number of cases per 100,000 people recorded in the last seven days rose slightly to 5.1 from 4.9 on Tuesday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/german-covid-19-cases-rise-again-after-two-months-decline-2021-07-07/>

Japan set to declare another COVID-19 state of emergency in Tokyo

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The Japanese government is slated to declare another state of emergency over COVID-19 in Tokyo as infections rebounded in the capital, where the Olympic Games are scheduled to open about two weeks later. The Tokyo metropolitan government reported 920 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, logging the highest number since mid-May at the peak of Japan's fourth wave of infections. The Japanese capital reported 1,010 new COVID-19 cases on May 13. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said he will make a final decision Thursday regarding the 10 prefectures including Tokyo and

Osaka after a quasi-state of emergency expires Sunday.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-07/07/c_1310048193.htm

Desperate Indonesians search for oxygen as virus cases soar

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With his aunt gasping for breath at home from her COVID-19 infection, 17-year-old Ridho Milhasan took matters into his own hands Wednesday and went to find her some oxygen. After his uncle scrounged an empty tank from a friend, Milhasan found an oxygen filling station in southern Jakarta, waited in the long line of others also in desperate need, and emerged triumphantly after three hours with the supply he needed. "My aunt badly needed this oxygen," he said before strapping the oxygen container to his small scooter. "This pandemic is getting dire."

<https://apnews.com/article/indonesia-business-coronavirus-pandemic-health-665a6b2b8df106d3e3aa32cebb686b6f>

Bangladesh hits record COVID cases amid fears of oxygen crisis

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The country reports 11,525 cases, the highest in a day since the pandemic started, as authorities fear a shortage of medical oxygen could worsen the crisis.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/7/bangladesh-record-covid-cases-oxygen-crisis-lockdown>

Daily Covid-19 Deaths in Indonesia Nearly Double as Delta Variant Drives Surge

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Deaths in Indonesia from Covid-19 rose sharply on Wednesday, with reported daily fatalities nearly double the number from two days ago, as the fast-spreading Delta variant of the coronavirus overwhelms the largely unvaccinated country's healthcare system. Public-health experts have for weeks warned that Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, could face a surge like the one that caused India's hospital system to collapse in April and May. Around 5% of Indonesia's 270 million people are fully vaccinated and infections have been rising for days. The country reported a record 1,040 deaths from Covid-19 on Wednesday, up from 558 deaths two days ago.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/daily-covid-19-deaths-in-indonesia-nearly-double-as-delta-variant-drives-surge-11625674555>

UK daily coronavirus cases surpass 30000 for first time since January

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Britain on Wednesday reported 32,548 cases of COVID-19, the first time the figure has surpassed 30,000 since January as the government looks set to ease almost all coronavirus measures later this month.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-daily-coronavirus-cases-surpass-30000-first-time-since-january-2021-07-07/>

South Korea considers reimposing restrictions as COVID-19 cases surge

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S.Korea reports 1,212 new daily cases. Movement restrictions extended in Seoul Officials warn tougher curbs could be reinstated. Surge being fuelled by young and unvaccinated

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/south-korea-reports-highest-daily-covid-19-caseload-months-2021-07-06/>

Brazil registers 54022 new cases of coronavirus and 1648 COVID-19 deaths

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Brazil registered 54,022 new COVID-19 cases and 1,648 new deaths in the past 24 hours, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday. This brings the total in Brazil to nearly 18.9 million cases and 528,540 deaths.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-registers-54022-new-cases-coronavirus-1648-covid-19-deaths-2021-0>

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The Delta variant of Covid-19 and a surge in infections among younger, unvaccinated people have catapulted Spain's coronavirus rate to the highest in mainland Europe, according to Financial Times research. Infection rates in the country have rocketed over the past week, surpassing both Portugal and Russia, with the seven-day rate almost tripling from 58 cases per 100,000 on June 29 to 156 on Tuesday. Spain still slightly lags behind Portugal on the 14-day rate more widely used in the EU. In response to the rise, the Catalonia region — the worst affected in the country — said on Tuesday it was reintroducing restrictions on nightlife, while Castile-León called for a return to a curfew system

<https://www.ft.com/content/06334a7b-30cc-40bf-942b-e3bcd2efb305>

Chinese city on Myanmar border hit by fourth COVID-19 wave

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Parts of a small city in southwest China that shares a border with Myanmar went into a full lockdown on Wednesday as local authorities wrestled with the city's fourth outbreak of the new coronavirus since the pandemic began. Residents in the main areas of Ruili, a city in Yunnan province with a population of about 270,000, were told to quarantine themselves at home as schools and businesses shut. Some markets, hospitals and pharmacies remained open.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/chinese-city-myanmar-border-reports-coronavirus-case-spike-2021-07-06/>