

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

27th Jul 2021

Overnight NewsRoundUp

A new way to visualize the surge in COVID-19 cases in the USA

- The month of July has seen COVID-19 cases in the USA increase at the fastest pace since last winter, marking the start of the latest wave of infections to afflict the nation. A new STAT analysis of COVID-19 case data reveals this new wave is already outpacing the spring and summer waves of 2020.
- [There are many metrics that governments, scientists and media outlets have used to try and reckon with the COVID-19 pandemic.](#) One of the most popular ways of visualizing COVID-19 has been to track the weekly average of new cases.
- Charts fail to show the acceleration of cases. This is the rate at which the number of new cases is speeding up or slowing down.
- As an analogy, a car's velocity tells you how fast the car is going. Its acceleration tells you how quickly that car is speeding up.
- Using COVID-19 case data compiled by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University and Our World in Data, combined with data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, STAT was able to calculate the rate of weekly case acceleration.
- In charting in this way, we see how quickly the weekly average of new cases is changing. When the values are positive, new case counts are increasing, and when the values are negative, new counts are falling. Highlighted in red, we can see each previous wave's intensity and duration.
- Looking at the data this way is useful because the rate at which cases increase is a reasonable indicator of how intense that wave might be and how long it might last. For example, case acceleration in the U.S. reached a peak in November 2020, closer to the start of the nation's deadly winter wave than to when cases reached their zenith in January of 2021.
- This view of the data reveals that the United States is currently in the midst of a fifth wave of cases and that this new wave is growing faster than the first and second waves from spring and summer of 2020.

Infection rate acceleration

- STAT also calculated case acceleration for each state and major territory in the USA, revealing where cases are increasing the fastest.
- In the last two weeks, new case counts in Louisiana accelerated the fastest in the nation at an average of 444 cases per week per day (2.38 cases per 100,000 people per week per day). Only 36% of the state's residents are vaccinated, making it among the least vaccinated in the country.
- By looking at the state's case acceleration rate, we can see that cases in Louisiana are currently increasing faster than they did at the start of last winter's wave.
- Likewise, in the state of Florida, the case acceleration has outpaced that state's 2020 summer wave. In Florida, about 48% of residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Cases are increasing in nearly every region of the country, but they are not increasing at the same rate everywhere. Vaccination rates likely help explain these variations.

- The five states where cases are accelerating the fastest all have vaccination rates below the national average. But consider the state of Massachusetts, where about 63% of the population is fully vaccinated.
- The New York Times' Covid Dashboard reports the state has an alarming 351% increase in cases over the last 14 days, the highest percentage change in the nation. Looking at Massachusetts' case acceleration paints a different picture. While cases in Massachusetts are increasing, the rate at which case reports are accelerating is much lower than it has been for any of the state's previous waves, and is below the national average for case acceleration.

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<https://www.statnews.com/2021/07/26/new-way-visualize-covid-19-case-surge-us/>

Schools closing 'could be behind drop in Covid-19 cases across UK' as experts welcome latest figures

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Schools closing for the summer break is likely to be one of the reasons why coronavirus cases are falling across the UK, a leading expert has said. Dr Mike Tildesley, a member of the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Modelling group (Spi-M) advising ministers, said he is "cautiously optimistic" about dropping cases but only time will tell if the third Covid wave is "turning round". The expert in infectious diseases, from the University of Warwick, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that "any situation where cases are falling clearly is good news".

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/schools-covid-cases-pandemic-third-wave-cases-falling-b947628.html>

Disabled workers fear COVID-19 silver lining to fade as 'old normal' returns

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Remote work opened 'window of opportunity.' Some fear workplace changes temporary. Disabled workers deserve job security - campaigners. Learn lessons of pandemic, say rights groups

<https://www.reuters.com/world/the-great-reboot/disabled-workers-fear-covid-19-silver-lining-fade-old-normal-returns-2021-07-26/>

Indonesia loosens Covid restrictions despite record deaths

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Indonesia's government has said small businesses and some shopping malls can reopen despite warnings that loosening curbs could spark another Covid wave. President Joko Widodo said measures imposed in early July would continue until 2 August as the Delta variant spreads across the country, which has been overtaking India and Brazil as the world's virus epicentre. Official case rates are down from more than 50,000 a day. But testing rates have also declined, while the number of positive results remains high - suggesting that the virus is still spreading quickly. But he added that "adjustments" would be made to a shutdown that closed malls, restaurants, parks and offices including in the capital Jakarta, island of Java and on holiday island Bali.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/26/indonesia-loosens-covid-restrictions-despite-record-deaths>

Long path back to business as usual, UK's coronavirus genome expert says

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It is a long road back to business as usual from the COVID-19 pandemic, the head of Britain's coronavirus genome sequencing effort told Reuters, adding she was on alert for new mutations to the Delta variant that is sweeping the world.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/long-path-back-business-usual-uks-coronavirus-genome-expert-says-2021-07-26/>

French parliament approves COVID passes despite protests

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France's parliament has approved legislation to make COVID passes a key part of daily life and vaccinations mandatory for health workers amid a surge in infections across the country. Monday's move means people visiting restaurants and other public venues, or those undertaking domestic travel on trains and aeroplanes, will be required to show proof of vaccination, a negative test, or recent recovery from the coronavirus. It initially applies to all adults, but will apply to everyone 12 and older from September 30. Paper or digital documents will be accepted and the new legislation says a government decree will outline how to handle vaccination documents from other countries.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/26/french-parliament-approves-covid-19-passes-despite-protests>

Thai volunteers aid COVID patients in need of care, testing

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As Thailand's medical system struggles beneath a surge of coronavirus cases, ordinary people are helping to plug the gaps, risking their own health to bring care and supplies to often terrified, exhausted patients who've fallen through the cracks. In the Samai area of Bangkok, Ekapob Laungprasert's team heads out for another weekend on the front lines of a crisis. His volunteer group, Samai Will Survive, has been working around the clock, responding to about a hundred SOS calls daily from desperate COVID-19 patients unable to get the help they need.

<https://apnews.com/article/health-coronavirus-pandemic-2b1babe842019f8900d9106f4df2d36d>

S'pore to review Covid-19 rules in early August, ease measures for vaccinated people if situation under control

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Singapore will review its Covid-19 restrictions in early August, and ease some measures if virus clusters are under control and hospitalisation rates remain low. But any loosened restrictions will be extended only to vaccinated individuals, who are "much better protected against the effects of the virus", Finance Minister Lawrence Wong said on Monday (July 26).

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/singapore-to-review-covid-19-rules-in-early-august-ease-measures-for-vaccinated>

NYC Imposes Covid-19 Vaccine—Or Weekly Test—Mandate For 340,000 City Workers

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New York City will require all of its municipal workers—including firefighters, police officers and teachers—to get vaccinated against Covid-19 or test weekly for the virus, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Monday,

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2021/07/26/nyc-imposes-covid-19-vaccine-or-weekly-test-mandate-for-340000-city-workers/>

COVID-19: University students could need to be fully vaccinated to attend lectures and stay in halls

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University students could need to be fully vaccinated against coronavirus to attend lectures and stay

in halls this coming academic year. "We aren't ruling it out," a senior government source told Sky News about the prospect of mandating COVID-19 vaccination passports for universities.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-university-students-could-need-to-be-fully-vaccinated-to-attend-lectures-and-stay-in-halls-12364349>

More than 66.1 million doses of coronavirus vaccine have been given in Turkey

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More than 66.1 million doses of coronavirus vaccine have been given in Turkey so far. According to the data from the Ministry of Health, more than 39.48m people received the first dose, while slightly more than 22.86m were completely immunized.

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/more-than-661-million-doses-of-coronavirus-vaccine-have-been-given-in-turkey20210726121419>

Gladys Berejiklian slammed over 'severely lacking' coronavirus vaccine messaging

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The NSW opposition has said Gladys Berejiklian's government isn't doing enough to educate people on the availability and safety of vaccines. Labor's health spokesman, Ryan Park, said the public information campaign around coronavirus vaccines has been "severely lacking". "A multimedia, multilingual public awareness campaign in NSW is long overdue," he said. "We need the government to be communicating across multiple media outlets in different languages on how and where to get the vaccine."

<https://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/gladys-berejiklian-slammed-over-severely-lacking-coronavirus-vaccine-messaging/news-story/ad50c5d796ac16f303cddd76aa3b4e97>

U.S. will not lift travel restrictions, citing Delta variant -official

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The United States will not lift any existing travel restrictions "at this point" due to concerns over the highly transmissible COVID-19 Delta variant and the rising number of U.S. coronavirus cases, the White House confirmed on Monday. The decision, which was first reported by Reuters, comes after a senior level White House meeting late on Friday. It means that the long-running travel restrictions that have barred much of the world's population from the United States since 2020 will not be lifted in the short term.

https://www.reuters.com/world/us/exclusive-us-will-not-lift-travel-restrictions-citing-delta-variant-official-2021-07-26/?taid=60fed625cb4037000146cab&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter

California, NYC to require employees to get COVID-19 vaccine

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California and New York City announced Monday that they would require all government employees to get the coronavirus vaccine or face weekly COVID-19 testing, and the Department of Veterans Affairs became the first major federal agency to require health care workers to receive the shot. Meanwhile, in a possible sign that increasingly dire health warnings are getting through to more Americans, vaccination rates began to creep up again, offering hope that the nation could yet break free of the coronavirus if people who have been reluctant to receive the shot are finally inoculated.

<https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-health-coronavirus-pandemic-0f571cd04622cfb37eaf777449f408b3>

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France's parliament has approved legislation to make COVID passes a key part of daily life and vaccinations mandatory for health workers amid a surge in infections across the country. Monday's

move means people visiting restaurants and other public venues, or those undertaking domestic travel on trains and aeroplanes, will be required to show proof of vaccination, a negative test, or recent recovery from the coronavirus. It initially applies to all adults, but will apply to everyone 12 and older from September 30. Paper or digital documents will be accepted and the new legislation says a government decree will outline how to handle vaccination documents from other countries.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/26/french-parliament-approves-covid-19-passes-despite-protests>

Ghana aims to receive 18 million COVID shots by October

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Ghana hopes to receive over 18 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines before October as it struggles to contain a third wave of infections, President Nana Akufo-Addo said in a speech on Sunday. Cases of COVID-19 are rising fast in parts of West Africa, in part due to the arrival of the Delta coronavirus variant which is considered more transmissible than other variants

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ghana-aims-receive-18-million-covid-shots-by-october-2021-07-25/>

Indonesia's easing of COVID-19 curbs seen driven by economics

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Indonesia's decision to relax some COVID-19 curbs this week, despite reporting record-high deaths in recent days, is being driven by social and economic concerns rather than epidemiological advice, public health experts said on Monday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indonesias-easing-covid-19-curbs-seen-driven-by-economics-2021-07-26/>

Europe tried to boost Covid-19 vaccine takeup with carrots. Now some leaders are breaking out the sticks

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As the pace of Covid-19 vaccinations in Europe shows signs of a slowdown, leaders are racing to find answers to a key dilemma of the rollout's next phase: how to convince reluctant citizens to roll up their sleeves. From cash payments to phone data, free football stadium tours to free grilled meat, officials have offered up a range of carrots to entice people to get shots.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/europe/europe-vaccine-mandate-passport-certificate-intl-gbr-cmd/index.html>

'Freshers' jobs' for students as universities pressed to help boost take-up of Covid-19 vaccine

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The Government is planning a "freshers' job" campaign this autumn as part of efforts to increase Covid-19 vaccine uptake among the youngest groups in time for the winter when NHS pressure will increase. Ministers are keen to target around 2.5 million under-30s who say they are willing to get vaccinated but have not yet got round to signing up for their first dose. They have launched social media advertising campaigns, including a recent video by England manager Gareth Southgate, and encouraging the use of "vaccine passports" to reopen high-risk events. The Government has also worked with dating apps and social media companies to get the message out.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/freshers-jobs-students-government-pushes-universities-help-boost-take-up-covid-19-vaccine-1120577>

The Delta Variant Is the Symptom of a Bigger Threat: Vaccine Refusal

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There are almost as many reasons for vaccine hesitancy and refusal as there are unvaccinated Americans. But this problem, not the variant, lies at the root of rising infection rates.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/25/health/coronavirus-vaccine-refusal.html>

Opinion | 'Medical freedom' anti-vaccine bills like New Hampshire's endanger public health

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Sununu and other Republicans are engaged in performative libertarianism. But even the most strident forms of that creed come with a qualification. It is John Stuart Mill who is most closely associated with the “harm principle” — that humans should be free to act, unless their actions bring harm to others. I think this is impoverished as a moral theory. But it accurately describes the mission of public health.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/07/26/sununu-medical-freedom-vaccine-bills-endanger-public-health/>

Pandemic leaves Indians mired in massive medical debts

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As coronavirus cases ravaged India this spring, Anil Sharma visited his 24-year-old son Saurav at a private hospital in northwest New Delhi every day for more than two months. In May, as India's new COVID-19 cases broke global records to reach 400,000 a day, Saurav was put on a ventilator. The sight of the tube running into Saurav's throat is seared in Sharma's mind. “I had to stay strong when I was with him, but immediately after, I would break down as soon as I left the room,” he said.

<https://apnews.com/article/business-health-india-pandemics-coronavirus-pandemic-8ea04dfa5119727ba49e0066d6aeacd9>

Germans divided over restrictions for the unvaccinated

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German politicians were deeply divided Sunday over a warning by Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief of staff that restrictions for unvaccinated people may be necessary if COVID-19 infection numbers reach new heights in the coming months. Chief of staff Helge Braun told the newspaper Bild am Sonntag that he doesn't expect another coronavirus-related lockdown in Germany. But Braun said that unvaccinated people may be barred from entering venues like restaurants, movie theaters or sports stadiums “because the residual risk is too high.”

<https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-government-and-politics-germany-a46d18ff239dcbc71973cd1052c3866b>

Indonesia extends COVID-19 movement curbs until Aug. 2

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- Indonesian President Joko Widodo said on Sunday that COVID-19 restrictions would be extended from July 26 to August 2, though he said infections and hospital bed occupancy rates in some provinces in Java had declined.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indonesia-extends-covid-19-movement-curbs-until-aug-2-2021-07-25/>

Uzbekistan to produce Uzbek-Chinese coronavirus vaccine

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The talks on possible launch of production of Uzbek-Chinese coronavirus vaccine ZF-UZ-VAC-2001 in Uzbekistan was held with representatives of Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutica in the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan on July 24. Production capacity of Uzbekistan fully corresponds to vaccine production requirements, the chief engineer of Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical said. Preliminary agreement was reached concerning timing and volume of supplies of raw materials by China for production of coronavirus vaccine in Uzbekistan

https://akipress.com/news:660894:Uzbekistan_to_produce_Uzbek-Chinese_coronavirus_vaccine/

One Covid symptom 'only' found in people who have been vaccinated

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New research from the ZOE Covid Symptom study found that vaccinated people who caught the virus reported 'only' one coronavirus symptom which differed from the main ones. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the main signs that you might have contracted Covid have been a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. But researchers discovered that sneezing was the "only" symptom which was more commonly reported in vaccinated people with Covid-19", according to the King's College London study in May.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/health/one-covid-symptom-only-found-24620453>

No anaphylaxis after second dose of mRNA COVID vaccine, study finds

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People who had a severe allergic reaction to their first dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine had no issues after their second dose, according to a retrospective multicenter US study in JAMA Internal Medicine. Allergic reactions are estimated to occur in up to 2% of people after their first mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose, with anaphylaxis reported in as many as 2.5 per 10,000 vaccinees. The authors said that the results demonstrate that a second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is safe for those who had an allergic reaction to the first dose

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/no-anaphylaxis-after-second-dose-mrna-covid-vaccine-study-finds>

Moderna expanding kids vaccine study to better assess safety

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Moderna said Monday it plans to expand the size of its COVID-19 vaccine study in younger children to better detect rare side effects, such as a type of heart inflammation recently flagged by U.S.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/moderna-expanding-kids-vaccine-study-to-better-assess-safety/ar-AAMAU8>

Study: Chinese COVID shot may offer elderly poor protection

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A new study suggests that a Sinopharm vaccine offers poor protection from COVID-19 among the elderly, raising questions for dozens of countries that have given the Chinese company's shots to their most vulnerable populations. A survey of blood samples taken from 450 people in Hungary at least two weeks after their second Sinopharm dose found that 90% under 50 years old developed protective antibodies. But the percentage declined with age, and 50% of those over 80 had none. The study by two Hungarian researchers was posted online this week but not yet reviewed by other scientists. Three outside experts said they had no problems with the methodology of the study of the vaccine developed by Sinopharm's Beijing Institute of Biological Products.

<https://apnews.com/article/europe-middle-east-business-science-health-4b770731d5995e3bb49a1d8ec63febbd>

S.Korea says Moderna reports 'production issue' as vaccination widens to 50s

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South Korea said on Monday it has been informed by Moderna of an unspecified production issue involving its COVID-19 vaccine, as the country expands its inoculation campaign for people aged 55-59 amid a fourth wave of infections. It was not immediately clear what the production issue is, how much and long shipment will be impacted and whether other countries will be also affected by the problem.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skorea-starts-vaccination-55-59-age-group-covid-19-caseloads-remain-high-2021-07-26/>

Memory Effects Of Long COVID-19 Can Resemble Alzheimer's : Shots

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Researchers at UT Health San Antonio are studying Covid patients like nurse Cassandra Hernandez, trying to understand why their cognitive problems persist and whether their brains have been changed in ways that elevate the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. The San Antonio researchers are among the teams of scientists from around the world who will present their findings on how COVID-19 affects the brain at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference, which begins Monday in Denver. What scientists have found so far is concerning.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/07/26/1019875347/doctors-worry-that-memory-problems-after-covid-19-may-set-stage-for-alzheimers>

Aspen to start J&J COVID-19 vaccine supplies to South Africa from Monday

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South Africa's Aspen Pharmacare will supply the first batch of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to the country from July 26, the drugmaker said on Monday. It will be the first set of vaccines to be manufactured in the country from active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) - substances used to make the final drug product - sourced from Europe, Aspen said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/aspen-start-supplies-jj-covid-19-vaccine-south-africa-monday-2021-07-26/>

If you are not vaccinated against Covid-19, you shouldn't go into a bar or restaurant, expert says

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Less than half of the US population is fully vaccinated against Covid-19 -- and with cases on the rise, experts are urging a return to precautions reminiscent of the earlier days of the pandemic. "What I would say bluntly is: If you are not vaccinated right now in the United States, you should not go into a bar, you should probably not eat at a restaurant. You are at great risk of becoming infected," CNN Medical Analyst Dr. Jonathan Reiner, professor of medicine and surgery at George Washington University, told CNN's Fredricka Whitfield. In 48 states, the rate of new Covid-19 cases in the past week jumped by at least 10% compared to the previous week, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. In 34 of those states, the rate of new cases increased by more than 50%.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/health/us-coronavirus-monday/index.html>

Spaniards put faith in COVID-19 vaccines even as cases surge

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Like far too many of Spain's youth, Sergio Rosado has seen the new, more contagious coronavirus strain strike those too eager to cut loose when authorities rolled back health restrictions with vaccinations picking up pace. But the 22-year-old student shares the country's widespread public trust in the vaccines, and Rosado plans to get his shots as soon as his turn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/spaniards-put-faith-in-covid19-vaccines-even-as-cases-surge-spain-barcelona-covid-european-union-msnbc-b1890046.html>

Doctors warn over increasing number of young people with Covid in ICU

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Increasing numbers of young people with coronavirus are being admitted to hospital - including to intensive care wards - doctors have said, begging them not to "suffer unnecessarily" and to get the vaccine. During the first weekend after the majority of Covid restrictions were lifted in England there were pictures of crowded nightclubs, filled with revellers not wearing masks or social distancing. Medics raised the alarm that unvaccinated young people urgently needed to protect themselves against infection to avoid serious illness.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/25/seriously-ill-young-people-in-current-covid-admissions-expert-warns>

COVID-19: US 'going in the wrong direction' on coronavirus as cases almost triple, Dr Anthony Fauci says

COVID-19: US 'going in the wrong direction' on coronavirus as cases almost triple, Dr Anthony Fauci says

COVID-19 cases have nearly tripled in the US over the last two weeks, driven by the explosion of the Delta variant, and especially in pockets of the South where vaccine hesitancy is high.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-us-going-in-the-wrong-direction-on-coronavirus-as-cases-almost-triple-dr-anthony-fauci-says-12364429>

Global COVID deaths rise sharply, led by surging Delta

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The world's pace of deaths from COVID-19 rose steeply last week, as countries in multiple parts of the world battled surges and people in many nations over the weekend protested vaccination and other measures to curb virus activity. Global COVID deaths last week were up more than 20.6%, with cases increasing by 6.5%, Maria Van Kerkhove, PhD, the World Health Organization (WHO) technical lead for COVID-19, said today on Twitter. Global cases have been rising for 5 consecutive weeks, and deaths are usually a lagging indicator of increased activity.

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/global-covid-deaths-rise-sharply-led-surging-delta>

US mask, COVID-19 vaccine mandates in question

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Some states, cities, and national public health officials are posing the possibility of reinstating mask mandates as COVID-19 cases continue to surge across the United States. And businesses and organizations are struggling with the question of vaccine mandates as the Delta (B1617.2) variant shows no sign of slowing down. Yesterday on CNN, Anthony Fauci, MD, White House chief medical adviser, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) discussed the use of masks for even vaccinated individuals when indoors.

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/07/us-mask-covid-19-vaccine-mandates-question>

Southeast Asia's COVID-19 cases hit new highs, Malaysian doctors protest

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Thailand reported a record number of coronavirus infections on Monday, while neighbouring Malaysia has more than a million, as the virulent Delta variant carves a deadly path through Southeast Asia, now a global epicentre for the virus. Thailand's 15,376 new cases were a daily high for a second consecutive day in the nation of more than 66 million.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/southeast-asia-covid-19-cases-hit-new-highs-malaysian-doctors-protest-2021-07-26/>

Thailand reports record COVID-19 cases with focus on vaccinations

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Thailand on Monday reported 15,376 coronavirus cases, a record number for a second consecutive day, amid public criticism over the pace of the country's vaccination rollout that has fallen behind some neighbours.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/thailand-reports-record-covid-19-cases-with-focus-vaccinations-2021-07-26/>

Kazakhstan reports record daily COVID-19 cases

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Kazakhstan reported 6,637 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, a daily record for the Central Asian nation which is once again tightening restrictions to curb the fresh spike in infections. The government also reported 84 cases of pneumonia with negative PCR tests which were likely to be caused by COVID-19.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/kazakhstan-reports-record-daily-covid-19-cases-2021-07-26/>

China reports most COVID-19 cases since end-Jan, Nanjing starts 2nd mass testing

China reports most COVID-19 cases since end-Jan, Nanjing starts 2nd mass testing

China reported 76 new COVID-19 cases on July 25, the highest daily total since January amid a surge of local infections in the eastern city of Nanjing, which started a second round of mass testing and banned taxis from leaving to curb the outbreak. China has taken a zero-tolerance approach to COVID infections, quickly testing swathes of its population and tracing the contacts of any positive cases to prevent the spread of the virus. Local infections accounted for 40 of the new cases, compared with only five a day earlier, the National Health Commission said

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-reports-most-covid-19-cases-since-end-jan-nanjing-starts-2nd-mass-testing-2021-07-26/>

Tokyo daily COVID-19 cases double on week earlier to 1429

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Tokyo reported 1,429 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, almost double the number on the same day a week earlier, as infection spreads in the Japanese capital which is currently hosting the Olympic Games.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/tokyo-daily-covid-19-cases-double-week-earlier-1429-2021-07-26/>