

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

17th Sep 2021

One Minute Overview

EU launches health crisis body to prepare for future pandemic - The European Commission launched on Thursday a health crisis body that will coordinate EU spending of almost 30 billion euros (\$35.3 billion) to prepare for a future pandemic. [The new health emergency preparedness and response authority \(HERA\) will assess potential health threats, promote research, ensure the availability of critical production and help build stockpiles.](#) If a new health crisis struck, it would activate emergency funding and help coordinate monitoring, procurement and purchase of medical equipment or treatments.

France suspends 3000 health staff as Europe targets vaccine refusal - Hospitals, care homes and health centres have suspended around 3,000 workers across France for failing to comply with mandatory COVID vaccination, the government said on Thursday, as countries around Europe weigh how far to go to combat the pandemic. [While Italy is set to announce later on Thursday that proof of vaccination or a negative test will be compulsory for all workers, going further than any other country in the region,](#) the Netherlands plans a similar step - but only to go to bars or clubs.

IMF, World Bank urge more COVID-19 vaccination doses to go to poor countries - International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and other multilateral-organization leaders on Thursday urged countries with high COVID-19 vaccination rates to boost efforts to send doses to low- and middle-income countries. [Georgieva and the heads of the World Bank Group, World Health Organization and World Trade Organization expressed concern in a joint statement that it would not be possible to vaccinate at least 40% of the population in all countries by the end of 2021 without urgent action.](#)

Italy makes COVID health pass mandatory for all workers - The Italian government approved on Thursday some of the strictest anti-COVID measures in the world, making it obligatory for all workers either to show proof of vaccination, a negative test or recent recovery from infection. [The new rules will come into force on Oct. 15 in the latest effort by Prime Minister Mario Draghi's broad coalition to persuade people to get inoculated and blunt contagion in one of the countries worst-hit by the virus.](#)

Spain to give COVID-19 booster dose to nursing home residents - Spain will give a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine to nursing home residents, organ transplant recipients and other vulnerable groups, the Health Ministry said on Thursday. [Cancer patients undergoing chemo or radiotherapy and people with health conditions that require immunosuppressive treatment would also be eligible for a booster dose, the ministry said.](#)

Parents Seek Out Covid-19 Vaccine Trials for Their Children Ahead of Official Authorization - Rachael DiFrancisco's 14-month-old daughter Sybil chewed on a plastic toy at a doctor's office in the Cleveland suburbs while waiting one recent day to enroll in a study testing whether a Covid-19 vaccine works safely in children. ["This trial is our best shot at getting the vaccine as quickly as possible," said Ms. DiFrancisco, who said she wanted Sybil to be able to spend more time with other children and extended family.](#) "We want some semblance of normalcy for her."

Brazil Stops Vaccinating Some Teens to Probe a Reported Death - Brazil ordered states halt immunizations of teenagers who aren't part of at-risk groups for Covid-19 as it probes the details around the death of a young adult who received a Pfizer Inc. shot. [The death was reported in Sao Paulo](#)

[and is under investigation, Health Ministry officials said at a press conference on Thursday.](#) They gave no details on how long after the shot the death was reported, nor on the cause of death.

No-fridge coronavirus vaccine looks promising: study - A team based at University of California, San Diego is working on a coronavirus vaccine that doesn't need to be refrigerated. [They grew plant and bacteria viruses and attached a piece of the spike protein from the SARS-CoV-2 virus.](#) In tests with mice, the vaccine led to high levels of neutralizing antibodies.

Indonesia aims to become a global vaccine manufacturing hub - Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said the country is well placed to join South Africa in being one of the WHO's vaccine 'technology transfer hubs.' [He said Indonesian pharmaceutical companies are also in talks with vaccine manufacturers and developers](#)

British study to test mixed COVID-19 vaccine dose schedules in children - A British study will look into the immune responses of children to mixed schedules of different COVID-19 vaccines as officials try to determine the best approach to second doses in adolescents given a small risk of heart inflammation. [Children aged 12-15 in Britain will be vaccinated from next week, while those aged 16-17 have been eligible for shots since August.](#)

Vladimir Putin admits 'several tens of people' in his inner circle have COVID-19 - Russian President Vladimir Putin is in self-isolation after revealing that several members of his staff and inner circle have contracted COVID-19. ["Cases of coronavirus have been identified in my immediate environment, and this is not one, not two, but several tens of people."](#) Putin said via video link, according to The Associated Press. "Now we have to observe the self-isolation regime for several days." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said none of the cases are severe at this time and that Putin is fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. According to Our World in Data, less than 30 percent of Russia's population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Lockdown Exit

IMF, World Bank urge more COVID-19 vaccination doses to go to poor countries

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<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/imf-chief-georgieva-speak-us-led-global-covid-19-summit-sept-22-2021-09-16/>

Mississippi Surpasses New Jersey as Worst State for Covid Deaths

Mississippi has overtaken New Jersey as the state with the highest per-capita death toll from Covid-19. Since the end of June, Mississippi has been among the states hardest-hit by the latest wave of infections, fueled by the fast-spreading delta variant. In that period, Mississippi's cumulative deaths rose by about 22% to 306 per 100,000 residents, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-16/mississippi-surpasses-new-jersey-as-worst-state-for-covid-deaths>

EU launches health crisis body to prepare for future pandemic

The European Commission launched on Thursday a health crisis body that will coordinate EU spending of almost 30 billion euros (\$35.3 billion) to prepare for a future pandemic. The new health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA) will assess potential health threats,

promote research, ensure the availability of critical production and help build stockpiles. If a new health crisis struck, it would activate emergency funding and help coordinate monitoring, procurement and purchase of medical equipment or treatments.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-launches-health-crisis-body-prepare-future-pandemic-2021-09-16/>

France suspends 3000 health staff as Europe targets vaccine refusal

Hospitals, care homes and health centres have suspended around 3,000 workers across France for failing to comply with mandatory COVID vaccination, the government said on Thursday, as countries around Europe weigh how far to go to combat the pandemic. While Italy is set to announce later on Thursday that proof of vaccination or a negative test will be compulsory for all workers, going further than any other country in the region, the Netherlands plans a similar step - but only to go to bars or clubs.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/around-3000-health-workers-suspended-france-over-vaccination-minister-2021-09-16/>

Malaysians enjoy taste of travel after lockdown in tourism restart

The first plane carrying tourists in more than four months touched down on the Malaysian island of Langkawi on Thursday and was greeted by a twin water cannon "salute", in the launch of a programme to revive a travel sector frozen by the pandemic. The first batch of 159 travellers from the capital, Kuala Lumpur, arrived eager for a vacation after a monthslong, nationwide lockdown imposed to address one of Asia's highest per-capita coronavirus infection rates.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/malaysians-enjoy-taste-travel-after-lockdown-tourism-restart-2021-09-16/>

Majorities in new poll support requiring proof of vaccine to fly, enter arenas

A majority of people in the U.S. support requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination in order to board airplanes or enter indoor arenas, a new Monmouth University poll shows. The poll found 59 percent of Americans said people should need to show proof of vaccination to be able to get on an airplane, while 55 percent say they support the measure for indoor arenas. Forty-six percent of people support requiring proof of vaccination to attend events at outdoor arenas.

<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/572395-majorities-in-new-poll-support-showing-proof-of-vaccine-to-fly-enter-arenas>

Exit Strategies

Parents Seek Out Covid-19 Vaccine Trials for Their Children Ahead of Official Authorization

Rachael DiFransico's 14-month-old daughter Sybil chewed on a plastic toy at a doctor's office in the Cleveland suburbs while waiting one recent day to enroll in a study testing whether a Covid-19 vaccine works safely in children. "This trial is our best shot at getting the vaccine as quickly as possible," said Ms. DiFransico, who said she wanted Sybil to be able to spend more time with other children and extended family. "We want some semblance of normalcy for her."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/parents-seek-out-covid-19-vaccine-trials-for-their-children-ahead-of-official-authorization-11631784602>

Italy Is First EU Country to Require Covid Pass for All Workers

Italy will require all workers to have a valid Covid passport, as the government led by Prime Minister Mario Draghi moves to set the toughest vaccination requirements in Europe. A cabinet meeting Thursday approved the measure, which applies to all public and private-sector workers and will come into force Oct. 15. Workers faces fines of as much as 1,500 euros (\$1,763) for noncompliance, while employers who fail to check their workers may have to pay as much as 1,000 euros. The wider use of the passports -- dubbed Green Passes -- had met fierce opposition from right-wing parties including Matteo Salvini's League, which backs Draghi's government.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-16/italy-is-first-eu-country-to-require-covid-pass-for-all-workers>

United says about 90% staff vaccinated ahead of company deadline

United Airlines Holding said on Thursday 95% of its management was fully vaccinated and about 90% of all employees had uploaded proof of shots ahead of the company's Sept. 27 deadline for staff vaccination. United has taken a tough stance on employees who decline to get vaccinated and became the first U.S. carrier in early August to announce it would mandate vaccines for employees.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/united-says-about-90-staff-vaccinated-ahead-company-deadline-2021-09-16/>

COVID-19: Vaccine booster programme begins as NHS starts giving third jabs

The NHS has started rolling out COVID-19 booster jabs. Over 50s, people in care homes, frontline health and social care workers and vulnerable people between 16 and 49 are among those who will be offered a third dose. At least six months must have passed since the second jab. Hospital hubs began giving third doses to health and social care workers on Thursday, NHS England said, with other eligible people now being identified.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-vaccine-booster-programme-begins-as-nhs-starts-giving-third-jabs-12409424>

Spain to give COVID-19 booster dose to nursing home residents

Spain will give a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine to nursing home residents, organ transplant recipients and other vulnerable groups, the Health Ministry said on Thursday. Cancer patients undergoing chemo or radiotherapy and people with health conditions that require immunosuppressive treatment would also be eligible for a booster dose, the ministry said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/spain-give-covid-19-booster-dose-nursing-home-residents-2021-09-16/>

Covid-19 Australia: Queensland health to send text messages to track people in home quarantine

Australians in home quarantine will soon receive timed text messages to ensure they are isolating or face a visit from the cops as part of a compliance crackdown in Queensland. The texts are part of the state's new Covid-19 laws - which come into effect immediately - that give people in home quarantine a ten minute window to respond as part of a real-time check in system. Health Minister Yvette D'Ath told parliament on Thursday residents who are isolating at home after returning from to the state will receive daily text messages at random times of the day from Queensland Health.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9996605/Covid-19-Australia-Queensland-health-send-text-messages-track-people-home-quarantine.html>

Virgin Australia to require COVID-19 vaccinations for staff

Virgin Australia said on Thursday it will require all its staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19, in line with domestic rival Qantas Airways and a growing number of airlines in the Asia-Pacific region. Pilots, cabin crew and airport workers will need to be fully vaccinated by Nov. 15, while other staff will have until March 31, 2022, Virgin said, aligning its dates with Qantas. "We also remain supportive of any government-led measures to ensure travellers are vaccinated," Virgin Chief Executive Officer Jayne Hrdlicka said.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/virgin-australia-require-covid-19-vaccinations-staff-2021-09-16/>

US working on new COVID-19 rules for international visitors

The Biden administration is considering requiring vaccinations against COVID-19 and contact tracing of international visitors after the U.S. revamps current broad restrictions that bar many foreigners from traveling to the U.S., a top White House adviser said. Jeffrey Zients, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, said that because of the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, current travel restrictions will remain in place until the administration rolls out a "new system" for regulating international travel. The system will include a prominent role for the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/covid-biden-washington-anthony-fauci-white-house-b1921038.html>

Covid-19: France suspends 3,000 unvaccinated health workers

About 3,000 health workers in France have been suspended because they have not been vaccinated against Covid-19. A new rule, which came into force on Wednesday, made vaccination mandatory for the country's 2.7 million health, care home and fire service staff. But French Health Minister Olivier Véran said on Thursday that "most of the suspensions are only temporary". Many are now agreeing to get jabbed because "they see that the vaccination mandate is a reality", he said. The rule applies to all doctors, nurses, office staff and volunteers.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-58581682>

The government's winter Covid plan can prevent another UK lockdown - if we all work together

Prof Devi Sridhar is chair of global public health at the University of Edinburgh. He writes: 'To avoid a lockdown, we need the various components of the system - vaccination, behavioural changes and widespread testing - to work together. Covid-19 is still here, and we are still in the midst of a pandemic. Let us hope this autumn brings a move away from a divided society arguing over how serious Covid-19 is, to one where we collectively work towards managing this problem, slowing the spread of the disease, and saving lives and livelihoods.'

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/sep/15/government-winter-covid-plan-uk-lockdown-vaccinations-testing-masks>

Asia supercharges vaccination efforts after slow start, U.S. lags

Several Asian nations are quickly ramping up vaccination campaigns from shaky starts to combat growing COVID-19 infections, as supply shipments roll in and people overcome hesitancy in hopes of easing curbs and freeing up travel. Japan and South Korea have passed the United States in terms of those who have received at least one dose and are fast catching up with the second. And Australia, which is targeting high vaccination rates in its drive to escape lockdowns and re-open borders, has given 56% of people at least one shot as infections peak.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/asia-supercharges-vaccination-efforts-after-slow-start-us-lags-2021-09-16/>

Beyond 'vaccinopia': Rapid tests should play a larger role in Biden's Covid-19 plan

America is suffering from a serious case of vaccinopia: an inability to look beyond shots in arms when considering how to manage the pandemic. This was made clear by President Biden's new Covid-19 plan, which emphasizes vaccine mandates while providing insufficient support for rapid tests, which we believe to be the most promising — and most underused — tool in the armamentarium against the coronavirus. We are strong proponents of the Covid-19 vaccines, which have proven to be impressively effective and safe. In an ideal world, every eligible American would have been vaccinated by now. But we do not live in an ideal world. Covid-19 vaccination has become so politicized that a broad, societal consensus on its merits seems all but impossible. As many as one in five eligible Americans may continue to decline vaccination. Vaccine mandates could change that, but their immediate impact will be blunted by the inevitable legal challenges and the months-long process of delivering millions of vaccinations and waiting for sufficient immunity to develop.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/09/16/beyond-vaccinopia-larger-role-rapid-tests-fighting-covid/>

End of the face mask in fight against Covid? Around 4.3 million people stopped wearing coverings this summer, data shows

Millions of Britons stopped wearing face masks in public this summer, Government data suggests. An Office for National Statistics survey found 89 per cent of people wore coverings outside their home in the week ending September 5. For comparison, uptake stood in the region of 98 per cent at the start of May when the second wave was receding. This equates to around 4.3 million people

having turned their backs on masks, figures suggest.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9996899/More-four-million-people-stopped-wearing-face-masks-public-sum-mer.html?ito=social-twitter_dailymailUK

Italy makes COVID health pass mandatory for all workers

The Italian government approved on Thursday some of the strictest anti-COVID measures in the world, making it obligatory for all workers either to show proof of vaccination, a negative test or recent recovery from infection. The new rules will come into force on Oct. 15 in the latest effort by Prime Minister Mario Draghi's broad coalition to persuade people to get inoculated and blunt contagion in one of the countries worst-hit by the virus.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-readies-law-make-covid-health-pass-mandatory-all-workers-2021-09-16/>

Partisan Exits

Brazil Stops Vaccinating Some Teens to Probe a Reported Death

Brazil ordered states halt immunizations of teenagers who aren't part of at-risk groups for Covid-19 as it probes the details around the death of a young adult who received a Pfizer Inc. shot. The death was reported in Sao Paulo and is under investigation, Health Ministry officials said at a press conference on Thursday. They gave no details on how long after the shot the death was reported, nor on the cause of death.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-16/brazil-stops-vaccinating-some-teens-to-probe-death>

Facebook Removes Accounts Tied to German Anti-Lockdown Group

Facebook Inc. has removed a network of user accounts from its core site and Instagram tied to Querdenken, a movement in Germany that opposes Covid-19 measures like wearing masks and imposed lockdowns. "This network consistently violated our Community Standards against harmful health misinformation, incitement of violence, bullying, harassment and hate speech," Facebook wrote in a blog post. The group helped organize a rally last year in Berlin to oppose pandemic-related laws, which it says infringe on German constitutional freedoms. Facebook, which said the movement is linked to violence and other social harms, removed fewer than 150 groups, pages or accounts linked to Querdenken, and isn't banning all of the group's content.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-16/facebook-removes-accounts-tied-to-german-anti-lockdown-group>

Facebook shuts down network linked to German anti-COVID group, launches rules on 'social harms'

Facebook has removed a network of accounts linked to an anti-COVID restrictions movement in Germany as it announced a new crackdown on coordinated campaigns of real users that cause harm on and off its platforms. Reuters exclusively reported on Thursday that Facebook's security teams were expanding the tactics used to take down influence operations using fake accounts to do more wholesale shutdowns of coordinated groups of real-user accounts causing harm, through mass reporting or brigading.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/facebook-shuts-down-network-linked-german-anti-covid-group-launches-rules-social-2021-09-16/>

'If I get fired, so be it': the Louisiana nurses refusing to get the Covid vaccine

Louisiana's largest hospital systems are requiring their employees to be fully vaccinated, but a minority of nursing staff say they are still considering leaving their jobs instead of getting the jab, citing concerns over personal liberty, lack of long-term studies and discredited conspiracy theories. The fourth Covid-19 wave has hit Louisiana hard, with the Delta variant causing a surge in new cases that outpaced any of the waves that came before it. "The speed with which Delta just took over the landscape, I don't think we quite anticipated that," said Dr Jennifer Avegno, director of the

New Orleans health department and an ER doctor.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/16/nurses-coronavirus-vaccine-louisiana>

French hospital worker on hunger strike over vaccine mandate

A French hospital worker has said he is on a hunger strike to protest against a government rule that healthcare workers will be suspended if they are not vaccinated against COVID-19. Thierry Paysant, a fire safety officer with the public hospital system in Nice, southern France, has pitched a tent in front of the city's Abbey of Saint Pons, and erected a placard reading "Hunger Strike" in large red letters.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/16/french-hospital-worker-on-hunger-strike-over-vaccine-mandate>

Nicki Minaj Re-Tweets Tucker Carlson's Video About Covid-19 Vaccine Claims

What do you do after tweeting a claim about testicles and getting some blowback? How about sharing a video of FOX News host Tucker Carlson? As I covered for Forbes, on September 13, singer and songwriter Nicki Minaj tweeted that her "cousin in Trinidad won't get the vaccine cuz his friend got it & became impotent. His testicles became swollen." Here's the tweet along with a hold-on-a-sec response from Vinny Arora, MD, MAPP, the Dean for Medical Education at the University of Chicago

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2021/09/16/nicki-minaj-re-tweets-tucker-carlsons-video-about-covid-19-vaccine-claims/>

As COVID-19 vaccine mandates rise, religious exemptions grow

An estimated 2,600 Los Angeles Police Department employees are citing religious objections to try to get out of the required COVID-19 vaccination. In Washington state, thousands of state workers are seeking similar exemptions. And in Arkansas, a hospital has been swamped with so many such requests from employees that it is apparently calling their bluff. Religious objections, once used sparingly around the country to get exempted from various required vaccines, are becoming a much more widely used loophole against the COVID-19 shot.

<https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-health-religion-los-angeles-arkansas-3ba53f2f00e1ab7105d7d128f2b1e65d>

Scientific Viewpoint

British study to test mixed COVID-19 vaccine dose schedules in children

A British study will look into the immune responses of children to mixed schedules of different COVID-19 vaccines as officials try to determine the best approach to second doses in adolescents given a small risk of heart inflammation. Children aged 12-15 in Britain will be vaccinated from next week, while those aged 16-17 have been eligible for shots since August.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/british-study-test-mixed-covid-19-vaccine-dose-schedules-children-2021-09-16/>

COVID-19 booster vaccine campaign begins in England

England launched its COVID-19 booster vaccination campaign on Thursday, the National Health Service (NHS) said, after officials and the government gave the go-ahead for the programme earlier in the week. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday outlined how the booster programme for over-50s and other priority groups will form a key plank of his plan to navigate the winter without further coronavirus lockdowns

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/covid-19-booster-vaccine-campaign-begins-england-2021-09-16/>

Pfizer and Moderna say Covid-19 vaccine protection wanes over time

Pfizer and Moderna said protection from their Covid-19 vaccines can wane over time, as the US drug regulator prepares to consider whether to approve a booster programme. Ahead of a crucial meeting of the Food and Drug Administration vaccines advisory committee on Friday to discuss its booster proposal, Pfizer on Wednesday submitted a study by Kaiser Permanente Southern California suggesting that vaccine efficacy wanes over time naturally, "irrespective of variant", rather than as

a consequence of the Delta coronavirus strain evading its jab.

<https://www.ft.com/content/8d42600f-7da3-452a-a7ab-22735c6f73c7>

WHO Suspends Sputnik V Approval Process Over Manufacturing Breaches

The World Health Organization (WHO) has suspended its approval process for Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, pending a fresh inspection of at least one Russian factory manufacturing the shot. Speaking at a press briefing of the Pan American Health Organization, a regional branch of the WHO, Assistant Director Jarbas Barbosa said Russia's bid for emergency authorization had been put on hold after a number of manufacturing infringements were uncovered during a WHO inspection in Russia in May.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/09/15/who-suspended-sputnik-v-approval-process-over-manufacturing-breaches-a75058>

Indonesia aims to become a global vaccine manufacturing hub

Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said the country is well placed to join South Africa in being one of the WHO's vaccine 'technology transfer hubs.' He said Indonesian pharmaceutical companies are also in talks with vaccine manufacturers and developers

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3148961/coronavirus-indonesia-talks-who-it-aims-become-vaccine>

US to buy additional doses of Lilly's Covid-19 antibody therapies

The US Government is to purchase additional doses of Eli Lilly's neutralising antibody therapies authorised for emergency use to treat Covid-19. As per the deal, Lilly will deliver 388,000 doses of etesevimab to complement doses of bamlanivimab already purchased by the US government.

<https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/news/us-doses-lilly-antibody/>

Researchers examine the persistent effects of COVID-19 on vascular function of young adults

In a first-of-its-kind study, researchers have examined the persistent effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection on the vascular function of otherwise healthy young adults. The research, published in the American Journal of Physiology-Heart and Circulatory Physiology, was chosen as an APSselect article for September. "It is intriguing that those with persistent [COVID-19] symptoms exhibited peripheral vascular dysfunction, whereas those who were asymptomatic at the time of testing had similar macrovascular and microvascular vasodilation to controls."

<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20210916/Researchers-examine-the-persistent-effects-of-COVID-19-on-vascular-function-of-young-adults.aspx>

Menstrual changes after covid-19 vaccination

Common side effects of covid-19 vaccination listed by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) include a sore arm, fever, fatigue, and myalgia. Changes to periods and unexpected vaginal bleeding are not listed, but primary care clinicians and those working in reproductive health are increasingly approached by people who have experienced these events shortly after vaccination. More than 30 000 reports of these events had been made to MHRA's yellow card surveillance scheme for adverse drug reactions by 2 September 2021, across all covid-19 vaccines currently offered.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2211>

Analysis: Hospital strain to test UK's vaccine-based winter COVID plan

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is hoping to get through winter without any more coronavirus lockdowns, but doctors and scientists warn that relying largely on vaccines without other measures could put unsustainable pressure on hospitals. Britain has recorded one of the highest COVID death tolls in the world for its population size and one of the deepest recessions of wealthy nations as a

result of the pandemic, but also has one of the world's highest vaccination rates.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/hospital-strain-test-uks-vaccine-based-winter-covid-plan-2021-09-15/>

Can kids be harmed wearing masks to protect against COVID?

Can kids be harmed wearing masks to protect against COVID? No, there is no scientific evidence showing masks cause harm to kids' health despite baseless claims suggesting otherwise. The claims are circulating on social media and elsewhere just as virus outbreaks are hitting many reopened U.S. schools — particularly those without mask mandates. Among the unfounded arguments: Masks can foster germs if they become moist or cause unhealthy levels of carbon dioxide. But experts say washing masks routinely keeps them safe and clean.

<https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-health-media-social-media-coronavirus-pandemic-cb9d23a531ed796aa684e62b9972eea4>

FDA strikes cautious tone ahead of vaccine booster meeting

Influential government advisers will debate Friday if there's enough proof that a booster dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective — the first step toward deciding which Americans need one and when. The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday posted much of the evidence its advisory panel will consider. The agency struck a decidedly neutral tone on the rationale for boosters — an unusual and careful approach that's all the more striking after President Joe Biden and his top health advisers trumpeted a booster campaign they hoped to begin next week.

<https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-coronavirus-vaccine-e871c33dd713b5a6ce9f485732daab09>

As Pfizer's booster AdComm nears, FDA staffers say COVID vaccines are already working as intended

Ahead of the FDA's advisory meeting to review Pfizer's COVID-19 booster application, agency staffers voiced skepticism about the need to quickly roll out follow-up shots. As it stands, authorized vaccines are doing their job, the staffers said. In briefing documents ahead of Friday's meeting, FDA reviewers said that while "some observational studies" suggest the efficacy of Pfizer two-dose vaccine wanes over time, overall data "indicate that currently US-licensed or authorized COVID-19 vaccines still afford protection against severe COVID-19 disease and death in the United States." The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee plans to review the data Friday and make recommendations to the agency. The White House has said it plans to start giving COVID-19 booster doses during the week of Sept. 20, pending regulatory nods.

<https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/as-pfizer-moderna-and-j-j-pursue-booster-nods-fda-staffers-say-covid-19-vaccines-are-working>

Study: Farmworkers at 4 times risk of COVID-19

A study today in JAMA Network Open that found quadruple the risk of COVID-19 in California farmworkers reveals risk factors for current or previous SARS-CoV-2 infection in the group, including outdoor work exposures, crowded living conditions, and high body mass index (BMI). A team led by University of California at Berkeley researchers analyzed the data of 1,107 adult farmworkers undergoing testing for COVID-19 infection and immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies at federally qualified community clinics and community sites in the Salinas Valley from Jul 16 to Nov 30, 2020.

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/09/study-farmworkers-4-times-risk-covid-19>

Almost 90% of all 16-24 year olds now have Covid antibodies, official data suggests

Between 87 and 89 per cent of youngsters across the UK have Covid antibodies This suggests they have some protection against the virus from infection or jab Antibody positivity is 'increasing steadily across all four UK countries', ONS said

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9997271/Almost-90-16-24-year-olds-Covid-antibodies-official-data-suggests.html?ito=social-twitter_dailymailUK

No-fridge coronavirus vaccine looks promising: study

A team based at University of California, San Diego is working on a coronavirus vaccine that doesn't need to be refrigerated. They grew plant and bacteria viruses and attached a piece of the spike protein from the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In tests with mice, the vaccine led to high levels of neutralizing antibodies.

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/572394-no-fridge-coronavirus-vaccine-looks-promising>

Coronavirus Resurgence

Florida vaccine advocate loses 6 members of her family to Covid-19 within 3 weeks

More than 56% of the population of Palm Beach County is fully vaccinated, slightly ahead of the US average, according to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, the CDC also describes the county as having a high rate of community transmission. "I really hope that people are encouraged by her telling her story and encouraged in a way that they won't want their family to go through this and be vaccinated," McKinlay said. Following the loss of her family members, Wilson continues to encourage others, including members of her family, to get a vaccine

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/09/16/us/florida-vaccine-advocate-family-member-deaths/index.html>

Vladimir Putin admits 'several tens of people' in his inner circle have COVID-19

Russian President Vladimir Putin is in self-isolation after revealing that several members of his staff and inner circle have contracted COVID-19. "Cases of coronavirus have been identified in my immediate environment, and this is not one, not two, but several tens of people," Putin said via video link, according to The Associated Press. "Now we have to observe the self-isolation regime for several days." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said none of the cases are severe at this time and that Putin is fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. According to Our World in Data, less than 30 percent of Russia's population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/572544-vladimir-putin-admits-several-tens-of-people-in>

Ukraine's daily COVID-19 deaths exceeds 100 first time since June

The number of daily coronavirus related deaths in Ukraine exceeded 100 over the past 24 hours for the first time since early June, when the country reported 118 deaths, the health ministry data showed on Thursday. Ukraine reported 101 death on Sept. 16 while the number of new infections rose to 5,744 from 4,640 a day earlier. The number of new COVID-19 cases has been growing over the past few weeks and the government has already announced that it will tighten lockdown restrictions in the near future

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/ukraines-daily-covid-19-deaths-exceeds-100-first-time-since-june-2021-09-16/>

COVID-19: Army could be called in to help Scottish ambulance service, amid reports man died after a 40-hour wait

The military could be called in to help Scotland's ambulance service which is facing "acute pressure", Nicola Sturgeon has announced. Scotland's first minister apologised "unreservedly" for long waiting times and confirmed that targeted military assistance to help deal with "short-term pressure points" is under consideration. The announcement came as Ms Sturgeon was questioned about the death of Gerald Brown, a 65-year-old from Glasgow, who reportedly died after waiting 40 hours for an ambulance.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-army-could-be-called-in-to-help-scottish-ambulance-service-amid-reports-man-died-after-a-40-hour-wait-12409499>

COVID-19: UK records 30,597 new cases and 201 deaths - with over 8,000 coronavirus

patients in hospital

The UK has recorded 30,597 new COVID cases and a further 201 coronavirus-related deaths, with the number of coronavirus patients in hospital over 8,000 for the seventh day in a row. The total number of people in hospital with coronavirus in the UK currently stands at 8,340 - it has been over 8,000 for eight of the past nine days. Before this, the last time figures surpassed the 8,000 mark was in early March.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-uk-records-30-597-new-cases-and-201-deaths-with-over-8-000-coronavirus-patients-in-hospital-12408713>

Australia COVID-19 cases rise but vaccination surge gives hope

Australia's Victoria state reported its biggest one-day rise in COVID-19 cases of the year on Thursday as a surge in vaccinations nationwide raised hope for easing restrictions with almost 70% of the adult population having had a first dose. Victoria, home to the city of Melbourne, detected 514 new infections, exceeding the year's previous daily high of 473 on Monday. Sydney and Melbourne, Australia's largest cities, have ramped up their immunisation drives as the country struggles to contain a third wave of infections fuelled by the highly infectious Delta variant, putting nearly half of the 25 million population under strict stay-at-home orders.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/melbourne-readies-anti-lockdown-protest-covid-19-cases-surge-2021-09-15/>

Indonesia quells COVID, but is a new wave on the way?

Official data in Indonesia shows a Delta-driven second wave of COVID-19 that saw the Southeast Asian nation become the global epicentre of the pandemic in July and August has run its course. But some of the country's top epidemiologists say poor testing and tracing capacity, inaccurate estimates on the death toll and the deliberate falsification of data, means there is still no clear picture of the pandemic in Indonesia and a third wave could be brewing. At the peak of Indonesia's second wave in July, a staggering one in three people tested for COVID-19 in the country showed a positive result. But the seven-day average positivity rate has now dropped to 3.64 percent and is still falling, according to the National Board for Disaster Management.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/16/indonesia-covid-wave>

Alaska, Idaho using crisis standards of care over COVID-19

Alaska now joins Idaho in establishing crisis standards of care as its largest hospital is now prioritizing treatment to patients most likely to survive COVID-19 infections. "While we are doing our utmost, we are no longer able to provide the standard of care to each and every patient who needs our help," Kristen Solana Walkinshaw, MD, chief of staff at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, wrote in a letter addressed to Alaskans and published yesterday. "We have been forced within our hospital to implement crisis standards of care," Walkinshaw said. "We have been required to develop and enact policies and procedure to ration medical care and treatments, including dialysis and specialized ventilatory support."

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/09/alaska-idaho-using-crisis-standards-care-over-covid-19>