

# COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

7th Oct 2021

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## One Minute Overview

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**UK readying payment systems to charge for rapid COVID-19 testing -sources** - Britain is aiming early next year to be ready to start charging for some previously free COVID-19 tests, two sources close to the health service said, a step one described as driven by the finance ministry's desire to rein in spending. [The government and health officials have said that rapid testing, via easy-to-use lateral flow tests, is crucial for tracking the spread of COVID-19.](#) with regular testing of those without symptoms identifying around a quarter of all cases.

**Sweden, Denmark pause Moderna COVID jobs for younger age groups** - Sweden and Denmark have said they will pause the use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for younger age groups after reports of possible rare side effects, such as myocarditis. The Swedish health agency said on Wednesday it would pause using the shot for people born in 1991 and after as data pointed to an increase of myocarditis and pericarditis among youths and young adults that had been vaccinated. [Those conditions involve an inflammation of the heart or its lining.](#) "The connection is especially clear when it comes to Moderna's vaccine Spikevax, especially after the second dose," the health agency said in a statement, adding the risk of being affected was very small. Anders Tegnell, Sweden's chief epidemiologist, said the health agency would continue to "follow the situation closely and act quickly to ensure that vaccinations against COVID-19 are always as safe as possible and at the same time provide effective protection" against the disease.

**Hospital system says it will deny transplants to the unvaccinated in 'almost all situations'** - A Colorado-based health system says it is denying organ transplants to patients not vaccinated against the coronavirus in "almost all situations," citing studies that show these patients are much more likely to die if they get covid-19. [The policy illustrates the growing costs of being unvaccinated and wades into deeply controversial territory — the use of immunization status to decide who gets limited medical care.](#) The mere idea of prioritizing the vaccinated for rationed health resources has drawn intense backlash, as overwhelmingly unvaccinated covid-19 patients push some hospitals to adopt "crisis standards of care," in which health systems can prioritize patients for scarce resources based largely on their likelihood of survival.

**Canada to require federal workers be vaccinated against COVID** - Canada will require federal employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or be placed on unpaid administrative leave, the government announced, as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau strengthened his government's efforts to combat the pandemic. [Speaking to reporters on Wednesday morning, Trudeau also announced that domestic travellers will need to show proof of vaccination to board aeroplanes,](#) trains or cruise ships operating within the country.

**Biden to Spend \$1 Billion to Boost Supply of Rapid Covid Tests** - The White House on Wednesday announced a billion-dollar investment in at-home rapid coronavirus tests that it said would help quadruple their availability by later this year. [By December, 200 million rapid tests will be available to Americans each month, with tens of millions more arriving on the market in the coming weeks, Jeffrey D. Zients, the White House's Covid-19 coordinator, said at a news conference.](#) Mr. Zients also said the administration would double the number of sites in the federal government's free pharmacy testing program, to 20,000. The changes reflect the administration's growing emphasis on at-home testing

as a tool for slowing the spread of Covid-19.

**Misinformation On Covid, Vaccines 'Resulting In People Dying', WHO Warns** - The World Health Organization's Covid-19 chief warned Tuesday 'We're not out of the woods' in the fight against the pandemic, even if many people thought it was nearly over. Maria Van Kerkhove, the technical lead for WHO's Covid-19, said last week 3.1 million known new cases were reported to the UN health agency, and 54,000 more deaths -- though the true numbers would be much higher. ['The situation is still incredibly dynamic. And it's dynamic because we don't have control over this virus,' she said during a live presentation on the WHO's social media channels.](#) 'We're not out of the woods. We're very much in the middle of this pandemic. But where in the middle... we're not quite sure yet, because frankly we're not using the tools we have right now to get us closer to the end.' She added: 'What I really struggle with is in some cities we see ICUs (intensive care units) and hospitals full and people dying -- yet on the streets people are acting like it's completely over.'

**Booster shot improves immune response of chemotherapy patients; post-COVID depression helped by widely used drugs** - A new study helps quantify the improved protection against COVID-19 achieved with a third booster dose of the vaccine from Pfizer Inc (PFE.N) and BioNTech SE in cancer patients who are undergoing chemotherapy. ['Chemotherapy can weaken the ability of cancer patients to fight off infections and to respond appropriately to vaccines,' said Deepta Bhattacharya of the University of Arizona College of Medicine, coauthor of the study reported in Nature Medicine.](#) Her team studied 53 patients receiving chemotherapy for solid-tumor cancers who received two shots of the vaccine. Almost all of the subjects had an immune response after vaccination. But 'the magnitude of these responses was worse than in people without cancer in almost every metric that we measured,' Bhattacharya said. 'In all likelihood, this leaves cancer patients more susceptible to infection and COVID-19 than healthy vaccinated people.' The researchers were able to bring back 20 of the study participants for a third vaccine dose, to see if immune responses would improve.

**Long COVID may affect almost 37% of COVID-19 patients** - Individuals with long COVID exhibit lingering symptoms, such as fatigue and brain fog, that persist beyond the typical recovery period of 3-4 weeks after the symptom onset. [A recent study assessed the incidence of long COVID symptoms using data extracted from de-identified electronic health records.](#) The study found that more than one in three individuals experienced long COVID symptoms 3-6 months after receiving a COVID-19 diagnosis. The study also reports that women, older adults, and individuals with severe illness during the initial phase of a SARS-CoV-2 infection had an increased likelihood of experiencing long COVID symptoms.

**Covid-19 reinfection rate remains low, analysis shows** - The rate of Covid-19 reinfections "remains low", according to new analysis. When people do get infected for a second time, the virus is much less likely to cause serious illness, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). [Reinfections become more likely as time goes on, the analysis suggested.](#) It also highlighted how some people are more likely to be reinfected than others. Kara Steel, senior statistician for the Covid-19 Infection Survey, said: "The analysis shows that the estimated number of Covid-19 reinfections in the UK remains low.

**Italy says mRNA COVID jab effectiveness stable after 7 months, but not for all** - Seven months after the second dose, there is no reduction in the efficacy of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines in the general population in Italy, while a slight decline is seen for some specific groups, the National Health Institute (ISS) said on Wednesday. The report led by ISS and the health ministry examined data up to Aug. 29 from more than 29 million people who had received two doses of an mRNA vaccine such as those produced by Pfizer and Moderna. [It said that in the general population, effectiveness against infection after seven months remained at 89%, while against hospitalisation and death, this time six months after the second dose,](#) it remained at 96% and 99% respectively.

**Fears of COVID surge in Vietnam as workers flee Ho Chi Minh City** - Tens of thousands of Vietnamese who once made a living in Ho Chi Minh City, the country's COVID-19 epicentre, are returning to their home provinces in desperation after authorities lifted a strict stay-at-home order last week, [raising fears that the highly infectious Delta variant could spread in parts of the country where vaccination rates remain low](#). The mass exodus, which began on Friday, has left local officials in the Mekong Delta region and the Central Highlands scrambling to track and quarantine the returnees, many of whom had weathered months of lockdown without work or sufficient food in Ho Chi Minh City and its surrounding provinces.

**Poland's daily COVID-19 cases up by 70% past in week deputy minister** - Poland's daily COVID-19 cases have risen by around 70% in the past week to over 2,000, a government official said on Wednesday, warning the country that a fourth wave of the outbreak is gathering pace. [Poland's health service was stretched to its limits in the spring by a third wave of the pandemic that saw daily cases exceed 35,000, but authorities believe vaccinations will help control the number of infections this autumn](#). 'Today's data is a very fast flashing red light,' Waldemar Kraska, a deputy health minister, told public broadcaster Polskie Radio 1, adding that there were 2,085 cases reported on Wednesday.

## **Lockdown Exit**

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### **UK readying payment systems to charge for rapid COVID-19 testing -sources**

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<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-readying-payment-systems-charge-rapid-covid-19-testing-sources-2021-10-06/>

### **China Is Last Holdout on Covid-Zero Strategy**

For much of the pandemic, a group of places in the Asia-Pacific brought infections to zero, becoming virus-free havens in a world ravaged by the pathogen. Now, with the rise of the delta variant and the proliferation of vaccines, only one is still holding fast to that goal of eliminating Covid-19: China. With New Zealand preparing to shift away from the zero-tolerance strategy, China's isolation is complete, raising the stakes on how long it can stick to a playbook that requires closed borders, abrupt lockdowns, and repeated disruption of social and economic activity. One by one, Covid Zero places like Singapore and Australia have decided that the approach is unsustainable, pivoting instead to vaccination to protect people from serious illness and death while easing off on attempts to control the number of infections.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-05/another-covid-zero-country-falls-making-china-the-last-holdout>

### **BofA Gives \$200 to Merrill Staff Who Confirm Vaccination Status**

Bank of America Corp. is offering \$200 awards to Merrill Lynch Wealth Management branch employees who return to the workplace and confirm they're fully vaccinated against Covid-19. The company will give the award to client associates, administrative support and operations staff "in recognition of the important work they are doing as the business has transitioned back into the office," a Merrill spokesman said in a statement to Bloomberg News. While the new policy stops short of being a mandate like those put in place by United Airlines Holdings Inc. and Microsoft Corp., Bank of America is following other U.S. companies in providing a financial incentive to get the shots. Delta Air Lines Inc. is imposing a \$200 monthly surcharge on employees who aren't vaccinated.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-06/bofa-gives-200-to-merrill-staff-who-confirm-vaccination-status>

### **Sweden, Denmark pause Moderna COVID jabs for younger age groups**

Sweden and Denmark have said they will pause the use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for younger age groups after reports of possible rare side effects, such as myocarditis. The Swedish health agency said on Wednesday it would pause using the shot for people born in 1991 and after as data pointed to an increase of myocarditis and pericarditis among youths and young adults that had been vaccinated. Those conditions involve an inflammation of the heart or its lining. "The connection is especially clear when it comes to Moderna's vaccine Spikevax, especially after the second dose," the health agency said in a statement, adding the risk of being affected was very small. Anders Tegnell, Sweden's chief epidemiologist, said the health agency would continue to "follow the situation closely and act quickly to ensure that vaccinations against COVID-19 are always as safe as possible and at the same time provide effective protection" against the disease.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/6/sweden-denmark-pause-moderna-covid-jabs-for-younger-age-groups>

### **The stages of pandemic emotion: from horror to hope to rage — and now, an anxious optimism**

The first days of summer this year saw Americans jubilant, as Covid-19 cases plummeted across the country. The sentiment morphed to anger as the Delta variant exploded, and as vaccine holdouts prolonged the pain of the pandemic — and then to despair, that even with remarkably protective shots, some communities with low vaccine coverage endured their worst stretches of the crisis. Now, with trend lines heading in the right direction, we're moving toward a kind of timid optimism. "People are almost holding their breath," said Columbia University epidemiologist Wafaa El-Sadr. "They're encouraged, but at the same time, they're hypervigilant. It's really a result of prior experiences." There are reasons to allow, at least partially, for an exhale. The Southern states that witnessed horrific summertime waves have seen them subside, after the Delta variant swept through so many of the people who remained susceptible. Nationally, cases have fallen by a third in recent weeks, and have been dropping for enough time that now deaths are coming down. Hospitalizations have declined to below 75,000 for the first time in weeks. All those metrics got so high, however, that they have quite a ways to plunge to reach the levels of June.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/10/06/pandemic-emotion-stages-anxious-optimism/>

### **Los Angeles requires proof of vaccination to enter many businesses, one of the nation's strictest rules.**

Los Angeles will require most people to provide proof of full coronavirus vaccination to enter a range of indoor businesses, including restaurants, gyms, museums, movie theaters and salons, in one of the nation's strictest vaccine rules. The new law, which was approved by the Los Angeles City Council on Wednesday, will allow people with medical conditions that do not allow them to be vaccinated, or who have a sincerely held religious objection, to instead show proof of a negative coronavirus test taken within the preceding 72 hours. It will take effect on Nov. 4, which city officials have said should give the city and businesses enough time to figure out how the rule should be enforced.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/06/world/americas/los-angeles-vaccine-requirements.html>

## **Exit Strategies**

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### **Canada to require federal workers be vaccinated against COVID**

Canada will require federal employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or be placed on unpaid administrative leave, the government announced, as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau strengthened his government's efforts to combat the pandemic. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday morning, Trudeau also announced that domestic travellers will need to show proof of vaccination to board aeroplanes, trains or cruise ships operating within the country.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/canada-to-require-federal-workers-be-vaccinated-against-covid/ar-AAPcAYG>

### **Biden to Spend \$1 Billion to Boost Supply of Rapid Covid Tests**

The White House on Wednesday announced a billion-dollar investment in at-home rapid coronavirus tests that it said would help quadruple their availability by later this year. By December, 200 million rapid tests will be available to Americans each month, with tens of millions more arriving on the market in the coming weeks, Jeffrey D. Zients, the White House's Covid-19 coordinator, said at a news conference. Mr. Zients also said the administration would double the number of sites in the federal government's free pharmacy testing program, to 20,000. The changes reflect the administration's growing emphasis on at-home testing as a tool for slowing the spread of Covid-19.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/06/us/politics/biden-rapid-covid-tests.html>

### **COVID-19 infections dropping throughout the Americas, more vaccine needed, says health agency**

The number of new COVID-19 infections has been dropping over the past month throughout the Americas, even though only 37% of the people in Latin America and the Caribbean are fully vaccinated, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said. PAHO also said it has closed vaccine supply agreements with Sinovac and AstraZeneca for the delivery of 8.5 million doses this year, and with China's Sinopharm for next year. Jamaica, Nicaragua and Haiti have yet to reach even 10% vaccination coverage, PAHO said.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/covid-infections-dropping-throughout-americas-says-health-agency-2021-10-06/>

### **Los Angeles poised to enact strict vaccination mandate**

Los Angeles leaders approved one of the nation's strictest vaccine mandates — a sweeping measure that requires the shots for everyone entering bars, restaurants, nail salons, gyms or even a Lakers game. The City Council voted 11-2 in favor of the ordinance that will require proof of full vaccination starting Nov. 4. The move came after the council postponed a vote last week to deal with concerns ranging from who could be fined for violations to whether employees could end up in fist-fights when they have to serve as vaccine door monitors. Some critics charge that a mandate would amount to segregation of those who cannot or refuse to be vaccinated. Others call it unenforceable.

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-business-los-angeles-health-57e9f1de7f9636f0567b00f7f551e41e>

### **Hospital system says it will deny transplants to the unvaccinated in 'almost all situations'**

A Colorado-based health system says it is denying organ transplants to patients not vaccinated against the coronavirus in "almost all situations," citing studies that show these patients are much more likely to die if they get covid-19. The policy illustrates the growing costs of being unvaccinated and wades into deeply controversial territory — the use of immunization status to decide who gets limited medical care. The mere idea of prioritizing the vaccinated for rationed health resources has drawn intense backlash, as overwhelmingly unvaccinated covid-19 patients push some hospitals to adopt "crisis standards of care," in which health systems can prioritize patients for scarce resources based largely on their likelihood of survival.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/10/05/uhealth-transplant-unvaccinated/>

### **'Complex EU' leads Europe to diverge from US on coronavirus vaccine booster**

The world's two leading medicines regulators have reached different decisions on a third dose of the BioNTech/Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine — and it's partly because of the complexity of the EU, according to the European Medicines Agency. On September 22, the U.S. FDA authorized the use of the vaccine as a third, or booster, dose for all over 65s, and only those over 18 who are at greater risk from infection, such as those with underlying illnesses or frequently exposed to the virus, like health workers. By contrast, the European Medicines Agency said on Monday that the third dose can be given to all healthy people over 18 at least six months after their second dose.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/complex-eu-leads-europe-to-diverge-from-us-on-coronavirus-vaccine-booster/>

### **England urged to step up vaccinations to avoid winter Covid surge**

The distribution of Covid boosters for the most vulnerable people and second shots of vaccine for teenagers should be accelerated to help prevent a winter surge of coronavirus overburdening the NHS, a senior scientist has said. Prof Neil Ferguson said England's vaccine strategy had been "cautious" in recent months, with many teenagers having only one jab, and boosters for the most vulnerable people given no sooner than six months after their second dose. Ferguson said it was unclear whether the winter would bring another substantial wave of infections, but with new cases already high, at about 30,000 a day, even a moderate rise could put the NHS under pressure.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/05/england-urged-step-up-vaccinations-avoid-winter-covid-surge>

### **The Psychological Benefits of COVID-19 Boosters**

Scientists don't agree on whether approving COVID-19 boosters for certain non-elderly Americans, as the CDC did recently, was the right move. The president, the CDC, and the FDA have issued a series of conflicting statements on the issue. Some experts have indignantly resigned. Others have published frustrated op-eds. President Joe Biden, who got a booster shot this week and called on other eligible Americans to do the same, remains enthusiastic. The split between Biden-administration scientists, such as Chief Medical Adviser Anthony Fauci and CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, and other scientists over boosters might seem confusing. One possible explanation for it has largely escaped notice: Vaccinated Americans seem to really want boosters, which means that the shots could have benefits that go well beyond extra protection against COVID. Those benefits could be psychological and economic—and, for the president, political.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/10/psychological-benefits-covid-19-boosters/620259/>

### **Kazakhstan to buy 4 mln doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine**

Kazakhstan has signed a deal to buy about 4 million doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, healthcare minister Alexei Tsoi said. The Central Asian nation's government has said it will offer the Pfizer shots, at least initially, only to children aged 12 and older, and to pregnant women.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/kazakhstan-buy-4-mln-doses-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-2021-10-06/>

### **Covid-19: Paul Givan hopes winter contingency plan not needed**

First Minister Paul Givan has said he hopes Northern Ireland's government will not have to deploy contingency coronavirus plans to help manage health pressures this winter. The executive will meet on Thursday to look at the remaining Covid-19 rules. Those include social distancing in hospitality venues and mandatory wearing of face coverings. Mr Givan said he hoped there would be the "headspace" to approve more relaxations.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-58807709>

### **Vaccines are here. School's open. Some parents still agonize**

Online school disrupted kids' educations and parents' work. Then the return of in-person school this year brought rising exposures and community tension as parents fought over proper protocols. The politicization of masks, vaccines and shutdowns have worn many parents out. Deciding what's OK for children to do and what isn't can feel fraught. Schools are, for many, a constant worry. There's evidence that masks in schools help reduce virus spread, and a majority of Americans support requiring masks for students and teachers. But that breaks down sharply along partisan lines.

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-lifestyle-business-stress-education-6d8436b05d64cbd831c69801a1009ce4>

## **Partisan Exits**

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### **Canada to put federal workers who refuse COVID-19 vaccination on unpaid leave**

Canada will place unvaccinated federal employees on unpaid leave and require COVID-19 shots for air, train and ship passengers, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Wednesday, as he unveiled one of the world's strictest vaccine mandate policies. Federal employees will be required to declare their

full vaccination status through an online portal by Oct. 29. Workers and passengers age 12 and older on trains, planes and marine transport operating domestically - which are federally regulated - must show they have been inoculated by Oct. 30.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/unvaccinated-federal-workers-canada-will-be-put-unpaid-leave-globe-mail-2021-10-06/>

### **New Hampshire lawmaker made the absurd claim that COVID-19 vaccines contain a 'living organism with tentacles'**

A New Hampshire lawmaker circulated the groundless and absurd claim that coronavirus vaccines contain a "living organism with tentacles." Rep. Ken Weyler, a Republican appears to support the claim made in a 52-page report he emailed to other lawmakers, prompting calls for his removal as the head of a government committee. State Rep. Mary Jane Wallner, a Democrat, on Monday released a statement describing the document she said was sent to her and other lawmakers.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/hampshire-lawmaker-made-absurd-claim-140321465.html>

### **Covid-19: 'You can't be forced into doing anything' - Dallas, McGinn & Baraclough on vaccine debate**

Northern Ireland manager Ian Baraclough and players Stuart Dallas and Niall McGinn give their opinions on whether footballers should be vaccinated against Covid-19.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/av/football/58818922>

### **Anti-vaxxers tear down Covid testing site in New York**

Two anti-vaxx demonstrators attacked a Covid-19 testing site on Monday, during a protest against New York state's vaccine mandate. A video caught the men in Union Square flipping over a table next to a mobile coronavirus testing van, tearing down the tent erected next to it and tossing a chair, before police intervened to stop them permanently destroying any property. Protesters at the rally shouted "boo" and "shame on you" at the staff member working at the Covid-19 testing site as they went past, followed by chants of "no vaccine mandate".

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/antivaxx-covid-testing-site-new-york-b1932588.html>

### **Hearings resume on Ohio House anti-vaccine mandate bill**

The right of individuals to decline the coronavirus vaccine and the right of businesses to require it as a condition of employment are at the center of debate over proposed House Republican legislation limiting employers' ability to mandate COVID-19 vaccination. Lawmakers on Wednesday began additional hearings on the bill after a failed effort last week to fast-track a full House vote on the legislation. All major business and health care organizations oppose the legislation that would allow public and private sector employees to seek exemptions from employer-mandated coronavirus vaccines. The hearing is meant to explore "the line between personal freedom and company rights to mandate your vaccination in terms of employment," said House Commerce and Labor Chairman Dick Stein, a Norwalk Republican.

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-business-ohio-bills-coronavirus-vaccine-b8de58f13b4341f71c99154afe0a9e9f>

### **Texas man sentenced to 15 months in prison for posting Covid-19 hoax on social media**

A Texas man was sentenced to more than a year in federal prison for spreading a hoax related to Covid-19 on social media, prosecutors said. Evidence showed Christopher Charles Perez, 40, posted two threatening messages on Facebook in April 2020, falsely claiming he paid someone infected with Covid-19 to "lick items at grocery stores in the San Antonio area to scare people away" from the businesses, the US Attorney's Office in the Western District of Texas said in a news release Monday.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/06/us/texas-man-sentenced-covid-hoax/index.html>

## **Covid-19: Nurseries demanding 'invasive' PCR tests on toddlers 'should be challenged in court'**

Children as young as two who develop coughing or a high temperature are having to endure "invasive" PCR tests by nurseries who are going further than Government guidelines state, according to a leading public health expert. Allyson Pollock, clinical professor of public health at Newcastle University, said it is "madness" that children who develop common cold symptoms are not allowed to return to the setting until they have a negative swab test - and that the issue should be challenged in court. Department for Education guidelines state that any child who develops symptoms, however mild, should be sent home where they should follow public health advice. Children aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts of someone with Covid will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/covid-nursery-pcr-test-children-1232465>

## **Misinformation On Covid, Vaccines "Resulting In People Dying", WHO Warns**

The World Health Organization's Covid-19 chief warned Tuesday "We're not out of the woods" in the fight against the pandemic, even if many people thought it was nearly over. Maria Van Kerkhove, the technical lead for WHO's Covid-19, said last week 3.1 million known new cases were reported to the UN health agency, and 54,000 more deaths -- though the true numbers would be much higher. "The situation is still incredibly dynamic. And it's dynamic because we don't have control over this virus," she said during a live presentation on the WHO's social media channels. "We're not out of the woods. We're very much in the middle of this pandemic. But where in the middle... we're not quite sure yet, because frankly we're not using the tools we have right now to get us closer to the end." She added: "What I really struggle with is in some cities we see ICUs (intensive care units) and hospitals full and people dying -- yet on the streets people are acting like it's completely over.

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/coronavirus-misinformation-on-covid-vaccines-resulting-in-people-dying-who-warns-2565266>

## **Scientific Viewpoint**

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### **Booster shot improves immune response of chemotherapy patients; post-COVID depression helped by widely used drugs**

A new study helps quantify the improved protection against COVID-19 achieved with a third booster dose of the vaccine from Pfizer Inc (PFE.N) and BioNTech SE in cancer patients who are undergoing chemotherapy. "Chemotherapy can weaken the ability of cancer patients to fight off infections and to respond appropriately to vaccines," said Deepta Bhattacharya of the University of Arizona College of Medicine, coauthor of the study reported in Nature Medicine. Her team studied 53 patients receiving chemotherapy for solid-tumor cancers who received two shots of the vaccine. Almost all of the subjects had an immune response after vaccination. But "the magnitude of these responses was worse than in people without cancer in almost every metric that we measured," Bhattacharya said. "In all likelihood, this leaves cancer patients more susceptible to infection and COVID-19 than healthy vaccinated people." The researchers were able to bring back 20 of the study participants for a third vaccine dose, to see if immune responses would improve.

[https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/booster-shot-improves-immune-response-chemotherapy-patients-post-covid-2021-10-06/?taid=615e34ffa677770001900818&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/booster-shot-improves-immune-response-chemotherapy-patients-post-covid-2021-10-06/?taid=615e34ffa677770001900818&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

### **FDA Is Reviewing Data on Mixing and Matching Boosters, Fauci Says**

A study of adults who received booster doses of different Covid-19 vaccines than their original shots has been completed, Fauci said in an interview on Bloomberg Television's "Balance of Power with David Westin," and the data have been presented to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The National Institutes of Health study looked at the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy of mixing and

matching of the three U.S. authorized vaccines for booster purposes. The vaccine from partners Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE has been cleared as a booster for vulnerable people, such as the elderly and immunocompromised. Next up for the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is consideration of boosters from Moderna Inc. and Johnson & Johnson.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/finance/markets/fda-is-reviewing-data-on-mixing-and-matching-boosters-fauci-says/ar-AA PcYdF>

### **Sweden Halts Moderna's Covid Vaccine for People Aged 30 or Under**

Sweden and Denmark decided to halt vaccinations with Moderna Inc.'s Covid-19 shot for younger people because of potential side effects. The Swedish health authority Wednesday cited new data on the increased risk of heart inflammation as a reason for the pause for those aged 30 and under. Denmark will stop giving the shot to those younger than 18. Moderna shares fell as much as 5.3% in New York trading. "We are monitoring the situation closely and are acting rapidly to ensure that Covid-19 vaccinations are constantly as safe as possible, while also providing protection," said Anders Tegnell, Sweden's chief epidemiologist.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-06/sweden-halts-moderna-s-covid-vaccine-for-people-aged-30-or-under>

### **Italy says mRNA COVID jab effectiveness stable after 7 months, but not for all**

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<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/italy-says-mrna-covid-jab-effectiveness-stable-after-7-months-not-all-2021-10-06/>

### **Sweden pauses use of Moderna COVID vaccine, cites rare side effects**

Sweden will pause the use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for people born 1991 and later after reports of possible rare side effects, such as myocarditis, the Swedish health agency said on Wednesday. "The Swedish Public Health Agency has decided to suspend the use of Moderna's vaccine Spikevax, for everyone born 1991 and later, for precautionary reasons," it said in a statement. "The cause is signals of an increased risk of side effects such as myocarditis and pericarditis. However, the risk of being affected is very small," it said.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/sweden-pauses-use-of-moderna-covid-vaccine-cites-rare-side-effects/ar-AAPc dpE>

### **Scancell Doses First Subject in Coronavirus Vaccine Trial**

Scancell Holdings PLC said Tuesday that it has dosed its first subject in its clinical trial for its Scov1 and Scov2 vaccine candidates, which aim to protect against all Covid-19 variants of concern. The biopharmaceutical company said that the first patient was dosed in South Africa as part of the program dubbed Covidity, and the candidate was administered using the PharmJet needle-free injection system. The objectives of the first part of the trial are to assess the safety and immunogenicity of Scov1 and Scov2, which target the original virus and variant viruses respectively, in healthy, non-vaccinated subjects.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/scancell-doses-first-subject-in-coronavirus-vaccine-trial-271633448357>

### **Merck says deal signed with Singapore on COVID-19 antiviral pill**

Merck announced on Wednesday a supply and purchase agreement that will provide Singapore with access to its experimental oral COVID-19 antiviral drug, the latest Asian country to try to snap up

supplies. Molnupiravir is designed to introduce errors into the genetic code of the virus and would be the first oral antiviral medication for COVID-19. Merck is seeking approval by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the pill. Singapore's health ministry did not immediately respond to a request for confirmation of the Merck agreement.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/merck-says-deal-signed-with-singapore-covid-19-antiviral-pill-2021-10-06/>

### **Long COVID may affect almost 37% of COVID-19 patients**

Individuals with long COVID exhibit lingering symptoms, such as fatigue and brain fog, that persist beyond the typical recovery period of 3–4 weeks after the symptom onset. A recent study assessed the incidence of long COVID symptoms using data extracted from de-identified electronic health records. The study found that more than one in three individuals experienced long COVID symptoms 3–6 months after receiving a COVID-19 diagnosis. The study also reports that women, older adults, and individuals with severe illness during the initial phase of a SARS-CoV-2 infection had an increased likelihood of experiencing long COVID symptoms.

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/more-than-one-third-of-covid-19-patients-may-experience-long-covid-symptoms>

### **Australia's Ellume recalls some COVID-19 test kits over false positives**

Australian diagnostic test maker Ellume has recalled some lots of its COVID-19 home test, saying they may show false-positive results due to a recently identified manufacturing issue. The company said of the 427,000 tests that were affected, it had recalled about 195,000 tests as they were unused. "Ellume has investigated the issue, identified the root cause and implemented additional controls," the company told Reuters on Wednesday.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/australias-ellume-recalls-some-covid-19-test-kits-over-false-positives-2021-10-05/>

### **UAE authorises Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine -Russia's RDIF**

The United Arab Emirates has authorised the Russia-developed one-shot Sputnik Light as both a standalone COVID-19 vaccine and a booster shot, Russia's sovereign fund RDIF said on Wednesday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/uae-authorises-sputnik-light-covid-19-vaccine-russias-rdif-2021-10-06/>

### **Swindon site to produce Covid-19 vaccines, PM says**

Doses of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine are to be made in Swindon, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced. It will be made at the Thermo Fisher Scientific site and production is expected to start in 2022. The firm already makes the vaccine at its facility in Monza, Italy. A statement from Pfizer said that regulatory approval, transfer of technology and on-site development work means production cannot immediately begin. It added: "The support from Thermo Fisher - one of more than 20 contract manufacturers across four continents that are - or will be - helping manufacture the vaccine is an example of our efforts to deliver the vaccine to people around the world as quickly as possible."

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-58817833>

### **Covid-19 reinfection rate remains low, analysis shows**

The rate of Covid-19 reinfections "remains low", according to new analysis. When people do get infected for a second time, the virus is much less likely to cause serious illness, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Reinfections become more likely as time goes on, the analysis suggested. It also highlighted how some people are more likely to be reinfected than others. Kara Steel, senior statistician for the Covid-19 Infection Survey, said: "The analysis shows that the estimated number of Covid-19 reinfections in the UK remains low.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/office-for-national-statistics-people-women-delta-b959064.html>

### **Cloth vs N95: Which coronavirus mask should you wear?**

Mask wearing has been a hotly debated topic, but most scientists agree that face coverings do help reduce the spread of the coronavirus, though the degree to which they do so depends on the quality of the masks themselves. Because about one in three people who have COVID-19 display no symptoms at all, widespread use of masks remains important. A study which reviewed the evidence on mask wearing found in favour of widespread mask use by infected people as a way to help reduce community transmission, concluding that the available evidence suggests that near-universal adoption of any face covering at all, in combination with complementary public health measures, could successfully reduce the community spread of COVID. Models suggest that public mask wearing is most effective at reducing the spread of the virus when compliance is high.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2021/10/6/cloth-vs-n95-which-coronavirus-mask-should-you-wear>

### **Coronavirus Resurgence**

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#### **Hospitalization rates are down across the US, but these 8 states still have fewer than 15% of ICU beds available**

The Los Angeles City Council voted Wednesday to require patrons at indoor spaces such as restaurants, gyms and movie theaters to show proof of full Covid-19 vaccination -- starting November 4. The ordinance will also apply to personal care establishments such as spas and hair salons, as well as city buildings. And while the measure doesn't go into effect until next month, businesses must display advisory notice of the requirement by October 21. Individuals with medical or religious exemptions must provide a form declaring that. People who do not meet those requirements can use the outdoor spaces of a business and will be allowed in the covered spaces to use restrooms or pick up takeout orders.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/06/health/us-coronavirus-wednesday/index.html>

#### **Poland's daily COVID-19 cases up by 70% past in week -deputy minister**

Poland's daily COVID-19 cases have risen by around 70% in the past week to over 2,000, a government official said on Wednesday, warning the country that a fourth wave of the outbreak is gathering pace. Poland's health service was stretched to its limits in the spring by a third wave of the pandemic that saw daily cases exceed 35,000, but authorities believe vaccinations will help control the number of infections this autumn. "Today's data is a very fast flashing red light," Waldemar Kraska, a deputy health minister, told public broadcaster Polskie Radio 1, adding that there were 2,085 cases reported on Wednesday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/polands-daily-covid-19-cases-up-by-70-past-week-deputy-minister-2021-10-06/>

#### **Russia reports record daily death toll from COVID-19**

Russia reported 929 coronavirus-related deaths on Wednesday, the largest single-day death toll it has recorded since the pandemic began. The government coronavirus task force also said it had recorded 25,133 new cases in the last 24 hours, a slight increase from a day earlier.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-reports-record-daily-death-toll-covid-19-2021-10-06/>

#### **COVID-19: UK records 33,869 new cases and 166 more coronavirus-related deaths, daily figures show**

The UK has recorded 33,869 new COVID-19 cases and a further 166 coronavirus-related deaths in the latest 24-hour period, according to government data. The figures compare with 35,077 COVID-19 infections and 33 fatalities reported yesterday, and 34,526 cases and 167 deaths recorded this time last week. The number of people in hospital with the disease stands at 6,747, the latest data shows, slightly down from 7,038 seven days earlier, with 769 of those on ventilators.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-uk-records-33-869-new-cases-and-166-more-coronavirus-related-deaths-daily-figures-show-12426658>

### **Fears of COVID surge in Vietnam as workers flee Ho Chi Minh City**

Tens of thousands of Vietnamese who once made a living in Ho Chi Minh City, the country's COVID-19 epicentre, are returning to their home provinces in desperation after authorities lifted a strict stay-at-home order last week, raising fears that the highly infectious Delta variant could spread in parts of the country where vaccination rates remain low. The mass exodus, which began on Friday, has left local officials in the Mekong Delta region and the Central Highlands scrambling to track and quarantine the returnees, many of whom had weathered months of lockdown without work or sufficient food in Ho Chi Minh City and its surrounding provinces.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/6/fears-of-covid-surge-in-vietnam-as-workers-flee-ho-chi-minh-city>

### **Australia reports easing in new COVID-19 infections as vaccinations rise**

New daily COVID-19 cases in Australia's Victoria and New South Wales states, the epicentres of the country's worst virus outbreak, fell on Wednesday as authorities look to start easing tough restrictions amid a rise in vaccination rates. A total of 1,420 new locally acquired cases were reported in Victoria, most of them in the state capital Melbourne, down from a record 1,763 on Tuesday. Eleven new deaths were registered, the state's highest daily number in the current outbreak.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australia-reports-easing-new-covid-19-infections-vaccinations-rise-2021-10-05/>

### **Ukraine daily COVID-19 deaths top 300 for first time since May**

The number of daily coronavirus-related deaths in Ukraine topped 300 for the first time since mid-May, health ministry data showed on Tuesday. The ministry reported 317 deaths over the past 24 hours and 9,846 new infections. The number of new COVID-19 cases has been growing for several weeks and the government has tightened lockdown restrictions.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-daily-covid-19-deaths-top-300-first-time-since-may-2021-10-05/>

### **Wyoming COVID-19 death toll tops 1,000**

Wyoming's COVID-19 death toll has surpassed 1,000. The deaths of 45 more people in recent weeks brought the state's death toll from the virus to 1,041, according to Wyoming Department of Health figures as of Wednesday.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/wyoming-covid-19-death-toll-tops-1000/ar-AAPd4Ps>