



## CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

**Volume 6, Number 36** <https://planetaryhealthweekly.com> **September 3, 2020**

Hi, I'm terribly perplexed and agitated. How is it that so many people, here in Canada and elsewhere, particularly I think in the USA, believe in things that are horribly wrong and/or great distortions of reality? All this contrary to established fact and systematic observation (which is short for science)? How is it that lies are being spread so widely and then believed by so many? How can so many people believe such distortions even when presented with verifiable fact? I am at wits end with all the blatant lying and outright purposeful misleading in so much 'anti-mainstream' media and on the street. Why are so many so susceptible to believing what they're told is false by people who've spent their lives dealing with the subject?

A few examples among many: Just recently I heard someone say that the coronavirus doesn't exist, and that those sick with it are either faking or have something else. I heard that the PCR diagnostic test doesn't measure for coronavirus. I've heard that a man with a knee on his neck pleading for his life killed himself. I heard a man in the gas station the other day reply when asked why he wasn't wearing a mandatory mask say he left it in his car a few meters away. I've heard such horrible slurs against Canada's chief medical officer, that I can't even repeat them. I just don't understand what's going on. I'm worried. I'm fearful. But, I'm not defeated and won't give up trying to set the record straight however and whenever I can, though I confess I'm not so sure what to do about it.

At least and fortunately, I do understand and know what's happening to many, even billions, around the world suffering from all kinds of illness and diseases, lack of food and environmental catastrophes because I've been there, seen it, experienced it, over and over again for the last 45 years in over a 100 countries. Way back then, at the beginning of my career, I directed a clinic treating malnourished children in Honduras, and now most recently I work with a program to reduce the suffering and deaths of pregnant women in Mozambique. I also understand because I've dedicated years of study and teaching about it all. I know

I still have lots to learn, and I feel comfortable aligning myself with scientific (i.e., observational) evidence and credible journalistic reporting. And I can still enjoy a bike ride along the shore of Lake Ontario to share the fun of summer (see ENDNOTES).

In today's ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#36 of 2020) we present some of this evidence and reporting of what's going on in global health and the environment. It's real, it's what's being experienced by billions now all over the world. I hope you'll check out:

- Coronavirus updates, including:
  - The need to act now on child malnutrition,
  - Speech therapists giving Covid-19 patients their voices back,
  - Vaccines and antibodies,
  - How the virus can survive on frozen meat and fish for three weeks,
  - Key findings on racial disparities,
  - Support needed for South Africa's illustrious music industry,
  - The drivers of the pandemic in India,
  - How our brains numb us to Covid-19 risks,
  - Schools must do better for students with disabilities, and
  - No back to normal without a shift to prevention, THEN
- Extreme glacier loss linked to human-caused climate change for first time,
- Atmospheric CO2 nearing levels of 15 million years ago,
- Coastal flooding to affect 23 million more people,
- Why Africa's heatwaves are a forgotten impact of climate change,
- Florida is releasing almost a billion gene-hacked mosquitoes,
- There's good news on dementia,
- Noni MacDonald, an inspirational leader in Canadian and global health,
- Why the COVID-19 recovery and climate crisis need a unified response,
- Should governments tax plastic?
- Bolivian Indigenous groups model grappling with the pandemic,
- How to be an effective online ally to fight for social and environmental justice,
- Global travel restrictions by country,
- Tree planting can help tropical forests recover from logging 50% faster,
- Google Maps gets worldwide visual overhaul,
- New book by Ibram X. Kendi "How to Be an Antiracist,"
- Five ways university education is being reimagined in response to COVID-19, and
- ENDNOTES - Toronto's Lakeshore Park amid Coronavirus Stats.

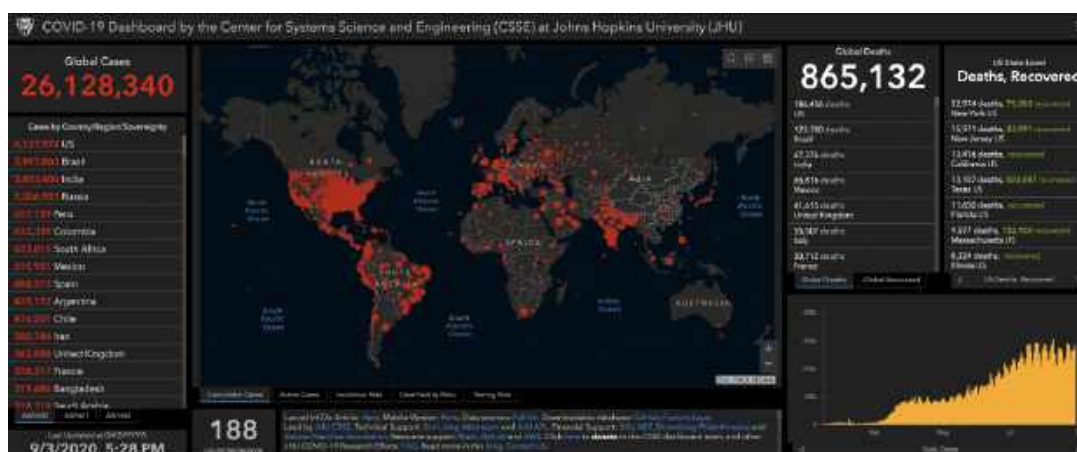
Keep scrolling to take a look...

Best, david



National Basketball Association Playoffs, Aug. 30, 2020

## **SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES**



***Globally, in the last week, again, about 1.8 million new cases and 37,000 new deaths (See more stats and charts in ENDNOTES)***

## **Child Malnutrition And COVID-19: The Time To Act Is Now**



Credit: UNICEF/Prinsloo

The COVID-19 pandemic is undermining nutrition across the world, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs). The worst consequences are borne by young children. Some of the strategies to respond to COVID-19—including physical distancing, school closures, trade restrictions and country lockdowns—are impacting food systems by disrupting the production, transportation and sale of nutritious, fresh and affordable foods, forcing millions of families to rely on nutrient-poor alternatives. Strained health systems and interruptions in humanitarian response are eroding access to essential and often life-saving nutrition services. Social protection systems in many LMICs are overloaded as vulnerable families struggle to access the food and services they need in the context of an economic downturn.

Malnutrition could exacerbate the effects of COVID-19 in mothers and children. At the same time, more children are becoming malnourished due to the deteriorating quality of their diets, interruptions in nutrition and other essential services, and the socioeconomic shocks created by the pandemic in LMICs. The estimated increase in child wasting is only the tip of the iceberg. The COVID-19 pandemic is also expected to increase other forms of child malnutrition, including stunting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight. The global community's failure to act now will have devastating long-term consequences for children, human capital and national economies. Leaders of four UN agencies are issuing a call for action to protect children's right to nutrition in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. This requires a swift response and investments from governments, donors, the private sector and the UN. Five actions must be taken and tracked immediately. [Read More at The Lancet](#)

### **MORE COVID-19 STORIES:**

**At The Guardian:** ['We Give Patients Their Voices Back': Speech Therapists On The Covid-19 Frontline](#)

**At Forbes:** [Covid-19 Coronavirus Can Survive On Frozen Meat And Fish For Up To 3 Weeks](#)

**At KFF:** [Racial Disparities in COVID-19: Key Findings from Available Data and Analysis](#)

**At NPR:** [Schools Say They Have To Do Better For Students With Disabilities This Fall](#)

**At Chatelaine:** [Vaccines, Antibodies & 2 Other Things To Know Right Now About COVID-19](#)

**At Daily Maverick:** [A matter of survival: South African government needs to pay more than lip service to the country's illustrious music industry](#)

**At Economic Times:** [People not wearing masks, maintaining social distancing driving Covid-19 pandemic in India: ICMR DG](#)

**At Washington Post:** [How our brains numb us to Covid-19's risks — and what we can do about it](#)

**At The Conversation:** [No 'back to normal' after COVID-19: Health care should shift focus from treatment to prevention](#)

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## 'Extreme' Glacier Loss Events Linked To Human-Caused Climate Change For First Time



Credit: Dave Allen NIWA

The rapidly evolving scientific field of “extreme event attribution” has detected the fingerprint of human-caused climate change on a wide range of extreme weather events, including heatwaves, floods, wildfires and drought. A new study finds that human-caused climate change made the extreme “mass loss” seen in glaciers in the Southern Alps, New Zealand, in 2018 at least 10 times more likely. Another mass loss event in 2011 was made at least six times more likely by climate change. The findings are “not surprising” but the authors may have underestimated the impact of climate change on glacier retreat by focusing on individual years rather than multi-year trends. In a year of net mass loss, a glacier has lost more ice than it has gained. However, there is usually a time lag before this loss event translates into glacier retreat, explains Dr Lauren Vargo, a research

fellow at the Antarctic Research Centre at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand and lead author of the new study published in *Nature Climate Change*. The results show that human-caused climate change heightened the chances of two years of extreme glacier mass loss in New Zealand's Southern Alps, says Vargo: "The results of our work show that the high melt in 2011 was at least six times more likely to have happened with climate change – but could be as high as 70 times. The high melt in 2018 was at least 10 times more likely to have happened with climate change, or as high as 350 times." [Read More at Carbon Brief](#)

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## CO2 In Earth's Atmosphere Nearing Levels Of 15 Million Years Ago



*Credit: Travel Photos/Alamy Stock Photo*

The amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is approaching a level not seen in 15 million years and perhaps never previously experienced by a hominoid. At pre-lockdown rates of increase, within five years atmospheric CO2 will pass 427 parts per million, which was the probable peak of the mid-Pliocene warming period 3.3m years ago, when temperatures were 3C to 4C hotter and sea levels were 20 metres higher than today. Some time around 2025, the Earth is likely to have CO2 conditions not experienced since the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum 15 million years ago, around the time our ancestors are thought to have diverged from orangutans and become recognizably hominoid. In a new paper published in the journal *Nature Scientific Reports*, a team of researchers from the University of Southampton report on a new high-resolution record of atmospheric CO2 during the Pliocene using data derived from the boron levels in tiny fossils about the size of a pin head collected from deep ocean sediments of the Caribbean Sea. [Read More at The Guardian](#)

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## Extra 23 Million People Could Face

# Coastal Flooding Within 30 Years, Even With Emission Cuts



Credit: Laura Morosoli/EPA, via Shutterstock

Human-caused sea level rise, storm surges and high tides will put trillions of dollars of assets at risk around the world by the end of the century. In a worst-case scenario where emissions continue to rise and no efforts are made to adapt to the rising sea levels, coastal assets worth US\$14.2tn – about 20% of global GDP – could be at risk by the end of the century. The study, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, identified “hotspot” regions at risk of extensive flooding. But the study also shows how the risk of damage from rising sea levels and storm surges will continue to rise even if emissions are kept to a level that would keep the global temperature rise to well below 2C by the end of this century. The new study builds on findings published by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2019 that predicted extreme sea level events could be near annual occurrences by the middle of this century on many coastlines. Professor Ian Young, a co-author of the study at the University of Melbourne, said: “We certainly need to mitigate our greenhouse gases but that won’t solve this problem.” The sea level rise is already baked in – even if we reduce emissions today the sea level will continue to rise because the glaciers will continue to melt for hundreds of years.” According to the study, about 148 million people globally are exposed to flooding events today. [Read More at The Guardian](#)

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## Why Africa’s Heatwaves Are A Forgotten Impact Of Climate Change



Credit: Fine Art / Alamy Stock Photo

Recent summers have demonstrated dramatically that heatwaves are not only deadly, but they are already being influenced by human-induced climate change. Research into heatwaves across the world has confirmed that increasing trends in frequency, duration and cumulative heat have accelerated since the 1950s. The biggest increases have been seen in the Middle East, South America and parts of Africa. In short, heatwaves in Africa are not reported, despite the fact we know that they are happening. We also know that exposure and vulnerability to extreme weather is often much higher in sub-Saharan Africa than Europe. Therefore, there is likely to be very large numbers of premature deaths from severe heat that have never been registered as such. In the paper, three key areas to focus such efforts are identified. [Read More at Carbon Brief](#)

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## Florida Is Releasing Almost A Billion Gene-Hacked Mosquitoes



Credit: CDC/Frank Hadley Collins

Local authorities in the Florida Keys just approved a plan for biotech company Oxitec to release more than 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes over the

next two years. The Environment Protection Agency approved the pilot project back in May after a years long approval process. The goal is to use mosquitoes that have had their genes altered so that female offspring die in the larval stage, meaning that populations could die off rapidly. "Their evasive answers and lack of management skills are an indictment of their unprofessionalism and arrogance which speaks loudly of an unprepared regulatory process," Ed Russo, president of the Florida Keys Environmental Coalition, added. An eight-year-old Change.org petition has received over 230,000 signatures — many of which were added very recently in response to the upcoming release — calling for the EPA to say no to Oxitec.

Previous trials using the mosquito have shown success in killing off populations, reducing as many as 95 percent of them during a trial in a Brazilian city. With or without genetic modification, controlling the mosquito population is challenging. The more common alternative, spraying insecticides, has shown to have its own environmental impact and high costs. It also hasn't been all that effective in curbing mosquitoes. [Read More at Futurism](#)

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## GOOD NEWS

# There's Good News On Dementia. But It Requires Big Changes To How We Live



Credit: Illustration for The Tyee by Indiana Joel

A commission created by the esteemed *Lancet* Medical Journal predicts that the number of people in the world living with dementia will triple, from 50 million today to 152 million by 2050. If that holds true for Canada, our present 420,000 dementia cases will be well over a million in 30 years. And so the grim curve keeps

rising. Two years ago an article in *The Lancet Neurology* reported that the number of people worldwide living with dementia more than doubled between 1990 and 2016 — from 20.2 million to almost 44 million. Already, the worldwide cost of dementia care, The Lancet Commission says, is US\$1 trillion a year. Earlier studies had confirmed nine major risk factors for dementia. They're not guaranteed triggers, but your odds aren't good if you have any of them. The new Lancet Commission adds scientific confirmation to three new factors: excessive alcohol consumption, head injury and air pollution. Reducing them at all stages of life would prevent or delay dementia in millions of people worldwide. [Read More at The Tyee](#)

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## MORE GOOD NEWS

### Noni Macdonald: Inspirational Leader In Canadian And Global Health



Credit: Literature Online

It is not easy to pigeon-hole Noni MacDonald, Professor of Pediatrics at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS, Canada. Paediatrician, infectious disease specialist, vaccinologist, founder of a paediatrics journal, the first woman in Canada to become Dean of Medicine, and passionate global health advocate, her career has been long and diverse. “My professional life has all been about confronting health problems. In my view, if you don't do something to solve the problem, you end up being part of the problem”, she says. Although she stopped clinical work four years ago, MacDonald remains involved in teaching, research and policy work, notably on vaccines. “Everyone in and outside the vaccine arena thinks they have the answers to what is preventing vaccine uptake, known as vaccine hesitancy. I see my role as helping to manage expectations around vaccination programme implementation”, she says. More recently, her work has focused on the importance of catch-up and sustaining immunization recommendations in the COVID-19 pandemic. Philippe Duclos, a former Senior Health Adviser in the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO, worked with MacDonald for over 30 years, and has seen her impact in Canada and on the global stage. “Beyond her scientific contribution, the legacy of Noni's career has been how she has energized, inspired and motivated thousands of physicians, scientists and vaccinologists, and to have helped build local and national capacity to enable countries and local health-care

workers find long-term local solutions for maternal and child health problems”, he says. She has also been key in developing and spreading around the world 'micro-research' training. [Read More at The Lancet](#)

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## OPINION

### Why The Covid-19 Recovery And Climate Crisis Need A Unified Response



Credit: Schroders

The European Union's proposed Green Deal shows that the right policy initiatives could address the economic crisis and climate change simultaneously. The European Union announced its intention to put a 'Green Deal' in place to transition the bloc to be a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. Growing numbers of countries and companies made equally ambitious pledges to cut emissions. Popular climate change protests gathered momentum and teenage activist Greta Thunberg was named *TIME* magazine's Person of the Year. Bloomberg New Energy Finance calculated that governments globally have pledged more than \$500 billion in 'brown' stimulus for carbon-intensive industries such as aviation and oil and gas. Brown stimulus refers to support provided to these industries that is not conditional on them making material improvements, for example such as investing in clean fuel development. Proposed funding sources will also nudge companies to reduce their carbon intensity. The sources include the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), a potential Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, and a plastics tax. Later in the year we also expect to see the EU's current 2030 emission reduction targets boosted from 40% to between 50-55%, which would require a tightening of the carbon market. The economic crisis caused by Covid-19 does not mean the collapse of the effort to address climate change. What the EU's plan shows is that the right policy measures can tackle both challenges simultaneously. [Read More at Business Green](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

# Should Governments Slap A Tax On Plastic?



Credit: RICHARD DRURY/GETTY IMAGES

More than a billion tons of it could enter the environment in the next 20 years. It's time, advocates say, to put a sin tax on single-use plastic. Proponents of the California Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act are campaigning for a 1-cent tax on these plastics. Brands that hawk them would have to pay a penny for each non-recyclable or non-compostable piece of packaging they sell—plastic bottles, potato chip bags, and all that. The waste-management company Recology filed the paperwork to get the initiative headed toward the California ballot and has contributed \$3.7 million to the campaign. Recology is joined by environmental groups like the Nature Conservancy. The group had nearly collected the requisite signatures to get the initiative on November's ballot, but the pandemic put the kibosh on all that. Now, a Recology official says, they're aiming to collect enough signatures by the end of this summer for it to appear on the 2022 ballot. The idea behind the tax is to make it more expensive for the food and personal care industries to keep churning out single-use plastics. "We know that we can't recycle our way out of the plastic crisis," says Christy Leavitt, plastics campaign director at Oceana, a conservation nonprofit that funded the ballot initiative. "Even if you can increase recycling, there's no way that it can keep pace with that amount of increased plastic production. That's going to lead to more pollution going into the oceans." Can 1 cent here and there can do much to prevent that dire destiny? It's going to take at least another election cycle to find out. [Read More at Wired](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

### In Bolivia, A Model For Indigenous

# Groups Grappling With Covid-19



Credit: Tsimane Health and Life History

Project Team

An effort to help Bolivian Indigenous rural villages weather the pandemic shows the importance of respecting local autonomy and tradition. For nearly two decades, Hillard Kaplan, a professor of health economics and anthropology at Chapman University in California, and Michael Gurven, a professor of anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, have regularly traveled to Beni region to study the Tsimane, an Indigenous group of forager-horticulturists who live in about 100 villages spread across the region. Kaplan and Gurven help direct the Tsimane Health and Life History Project ([THLHP](#)), studying health and aging in this population. As Covid-19 shut down their campuses in March, Kaplan and Gurven understood that — even though Beni was distant from the urban centers where Covid-19 was quickly spreading — the disease posed a serious threat, particularly to Indigenous communities like the Tsimane. Together with their team of physicians, anthropologists and Tsimane, Kaplan and Gurven began crafting a plan, published in *The Lancet* in May, to help the Tsimane weather the pandemic. At least 17 Tsimane villages now have confirmed Covid-19 cases, but surveys reveal typical symptoms in many more. Carolina Batista, physician and international board member for Doctors Without Borders, praised the collaboration for using existing community structures. In time, we may measure Covid-19 casualties not simply in lives lost but also in traditions erased. Armed with knowledge of the devastation past pandemics have wrought on Indigenous communities, and with response plans created together with rather than for the communities they seek to aid, we may, this time, minimize both kinds of loss. [Read More at Undark](#)

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Credit: NASA

## Quote Of The Week

Referring to a study stating, among other things, that the amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is approaching a level not seen in 15 million years and perhaps never previously experienced by a hominoid. Sometime around 2025, the Earth is likely to have CO<sub>2</sub> conditions not experienced since the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum 15 million years ago, around the time our ancestors are thought to have diverged from orangutans and become recognizably hominoid.

**“This study shows – with a high level of scientific skill – the enormous challenge ahead in meeting the Paris agreement on climate change target of keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5C.”**

**Petteri Taalas, Secretary-general, World Meteorological Organization**

[Read More at The Guardian](#)

## Upcoming Events

- September 22nd - 23rd: U.N. [Summit on Biodiversity](#) (New York City, USA)

- October 19-22, 2020 (Virtual): Canadian Conference for Global Health: Global Health In A Changing Climate
- November 9th-19th: [2020 UN Climate Change Conference](#) (UNFCCC COP26) (Glasgow, Scotland) - **Postponed until latter 2021**
- November 14th - 15th: [Results Canada's National Conference \(Virtual\)](#)
- March 12th-14th: [Consortium of Universities for Global Health Virtual Conference](#)
- June 7th-9th 2021: [Executive Course: Global Health Diplomacy](#) (University of Toronto, Canada)

## FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

# How To Be An Effective Online Ally For The Social And Environmental Justice Fight



*Tens of thousands of people attend a Black Lives Matter protest which was mainly peaceful on June 6*

**Credit:** Climate Reality Project

It's time for many of us to be honest with ourselves. As climate activists, we can't fight the climate crisis without considering the systemic impacts that environmental racism and White supremacy have on the frontline communities most affected by pollution and our warming world. As the movement for social and environmental justice continues, it's important to pay attention to the voices and media outlets you're consuming information from. Take a few minutes to look at

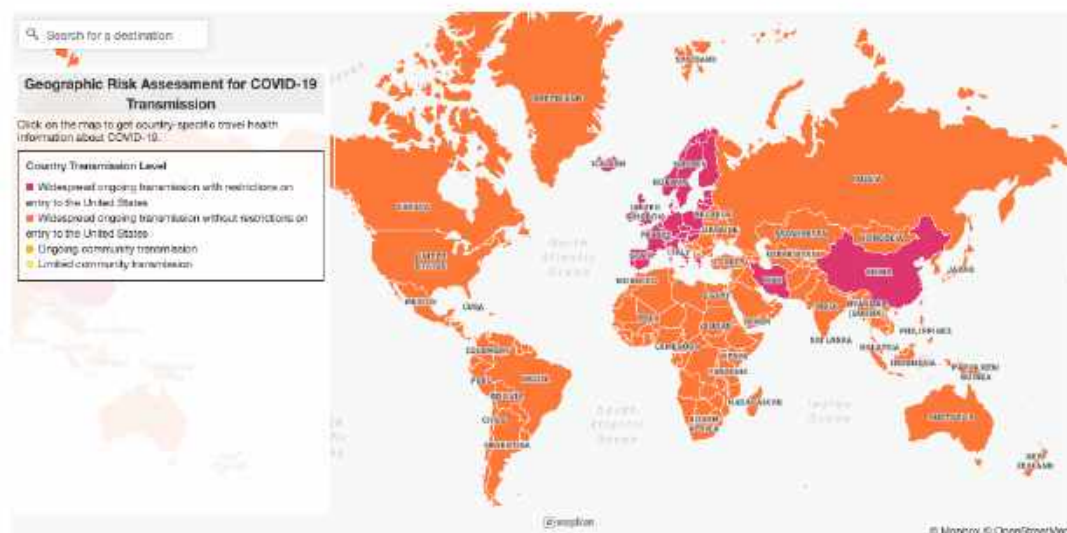
your social media feeds – do you follow people of color and diverse voices? Do you follow credible news sources? Take the recent victory in the fight against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline for example. Local environmental justice groups in West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina had been fighting for years against the pipeline. When it was canceled a few weeks ago, activists celebrated, but the story never seemed to get the same level of attention as the latest tweet from the White House. For many, you're a trusted messenger. What does that mean? You can read more about it in one of our past blogs, but here's a quick definition from Boston University: "People believe people whom they trust, and they're more likely to act based on the recommendation of that influential other person."

[Read more at Climate Reality Project](#)

## FYI #2

# Travel Restrictions By Country (Good Up To Date Resource)

## COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country



Credit: Kayak

For those destinations that may have current travel advisories issued by authorities, we're including alerts on our site when you search that will let you know there could be an issue with your route. The following information regarding travel restrictions for each country is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication.

Bermuda has lifted its travel restrictions as of July 1, meaning all travelers may enter the territory.

Canada has restricted the entry of all foreign nationals. However, Canadian citizens and permanent residents who have COVID-19 symptoms may only enter by land, rail, or sea, and not by air.

Greenland allows travelers to enter from countries defined as "open" by Denmark. They must have a COVID-19 test taken in a Nordic country in the five days before travel.

Mexico does not have any entry restrictions, but travellers arriving from countries affected by COVID-19 will be screened and quarantined if necessary.

The United States has restricted the entry of all foreign nationals who have visited Brazil, China, Iran, the Schengen Area, Ireland or the United Kingdom in the past 14 days.

[Read More at Kayak](#)

### FYI #3

## Tree Planting Can Help Tropical Forests Recover 50% Faster From Logging



Credit: Sonny Royal, SEARRP.

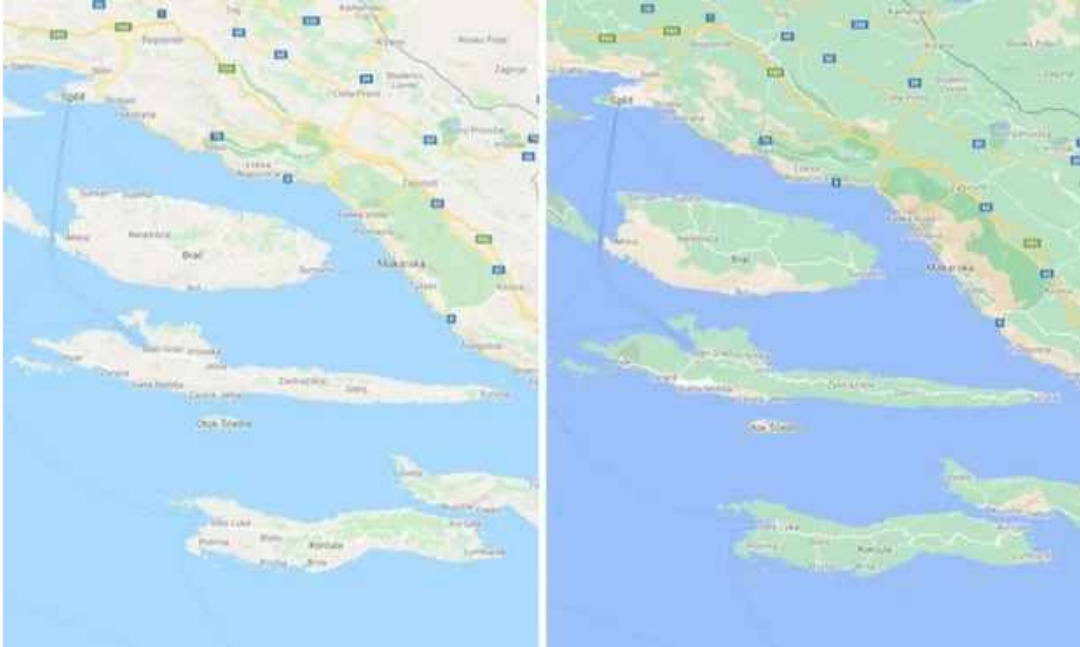
Restoring tropical forests through tree planting and selective plant removal can rapidly increase the speed at which they recover from logging, a new study says. The research, published in *Science*, finds that logged tropical forests in Malaysia that were actively restored increased their ability to absorb carbon 50% faster than logged forests that were left to regenerate naturally. Without any intervention, a tropical forest will typically take around 60 years to fully recover from a single logging event, the study estimates. With active restoration, this can be shortened to 40 years. The findings “clearly demonstrate the value in protecting previously logged forests with respect to carbon storage, as well as for maintaining other ecosystem services and biodiversity”, the study’s lead author tells Carbon Brief. At present, it costs around US\$2-10 to offset one tonne of CO2e in voluntary carbon offsetting schemes, according to the research. In order to fund similar forest restoration projects, it would need to be raised to at least US\$40-80 per tonne, the researchers estimate. Study author Prof David Burslem, a researcher at the University of Aberdeen, says: “The costs associated with the most intensive forms of active restoration, if to be recovered through [carbon offsets], require a higher carbon price than has been seen in recent times. However, varying the type and intensity of restoration treatments according to the residual amount of carbon in the forest stand has the potential to reduce net costs and bridge the gap to financial sustainability, thus enabling much larger areas of forest to be restored.”

[Read more at Carbon Brief](#)

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## FYI #4

# Google Maps Gets Worldwide Visual Overhaul



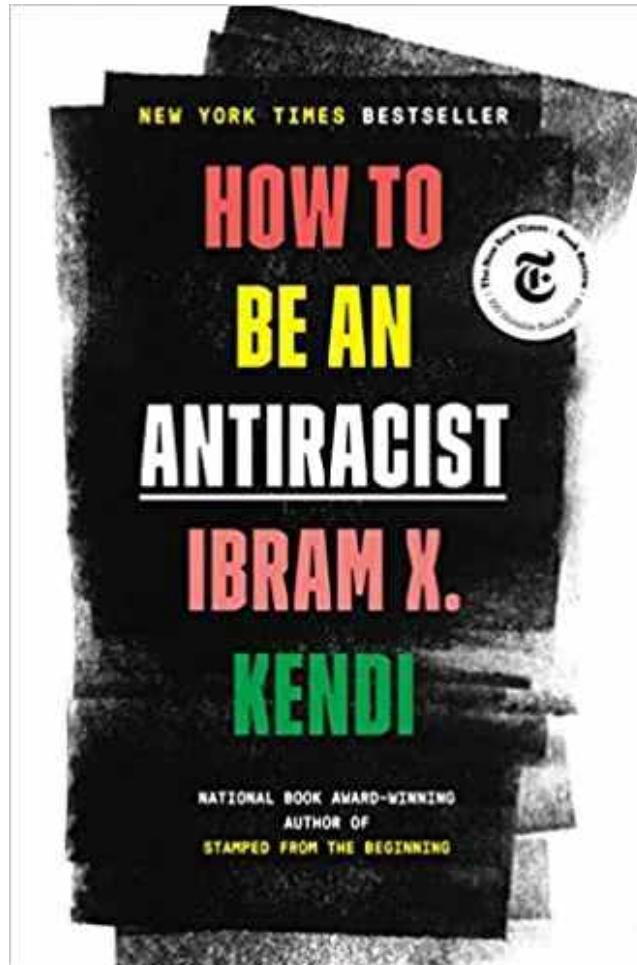
**Credit: Google**

Updated version promises 'more vibrant' representation of natural features and built environment. Google Maps is getting a visual overhaul worldwide, finally letting users distinguish forest from floodplain, and desert from snowfield, at a glance. Alongside the changes to natural environments, a new set of maps will be rolling out in major cities, beginning with London, New York City and San Francisco, aiming to more accurately represent the built-up environment to help pedestrians and cyclists navigate. "Google Maps has high-definition satellite imagery for over 98% of the world's population," said Sujoy Banerjee, a product manager for the app. "With a new colour-mapping algorithmic technique, we're able to take this imagery and translate it into an even more comprehensive, vibrant map of an area at global scale. "Exploring a place gives you a look at its natural features – so you can easily distinguish tan, arid beaches and deserts from blue lakes, rivers, oceans and ravines. You can know at a glance how lush and green a place is with vegetation, and even see if there are snow caps on the peaks of mountaintops." Competition between rival mapping companies has been steadily intensifying, as Google and Apple seek to reposition their respective mapping apps as more fully-featured "local search" offerings. As well as taking users from A to B, Google Maps can now be used to book restaurants or hotels, hire cabs and place orders for takeaway or delivery meals. But new entrants in the field are limited by technological and financial barriers. Acquiring and processing high-resolution satellite imagery is expensive and technically challenging, leaving few independent companies active in the space after waves of consolidation.

[Read more at The Guardian](#)

## FYI #5: SUMMER READING

### "How To Be An Antiracist" By Ibram X. Kendi



Credit: Book Cover

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is essential reading for

anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.

[Read More at Amazon](#)

## FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

# 5 Ways University Education Is Being Reimagined In Response To COVID-19



Credit: Shutterstock

With the new academic year beginning shortly, students, faculty and staff returning to higher education or arriving for the first time face uncertainty. There is anxiety about the fall term like no other. Responses to the pandemic are helping us reimagine the future of higher education. Instead of lamenting what's lost, let's

focus on what we've gained. Many of the adjustments to teaching and learning, student engagement and research to adapt to COVID-19 have shown us the way to a better version of higher education. Here is a blueprint:

- Create virtual content for the future
- Engage students through virtual experiences
- End the credit hour
- Broaden support for students' futures
- Renew a commitment to listening

Read More at The Conversation

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## ENDSHOTS

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### TORONTO LAKESHORE PARK AMID DAYS OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC; SHARING THE FUN OF SUMMER

AUGUST 23, 2020



**The World At A Glance** SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

Coronavirus Cases:

**26,288,366**

[view by country](#)

Deaths:

**869,233**

Recovered:

**18,531,339**

## ACTIVE CASES

**6,887,794**

Currently Infected Patients

**6,827,236** (99%)

in Mild Condition

**60,558** (1%)

Serious or Critical

[Show Graph](#)

## CLOSED CASES

**19,400,572**

Cases which had an outcome:

**18,531,339** (96%)

Recovered / Discharged

**869,233** (4%)

Deaths

[Show Graph](#)

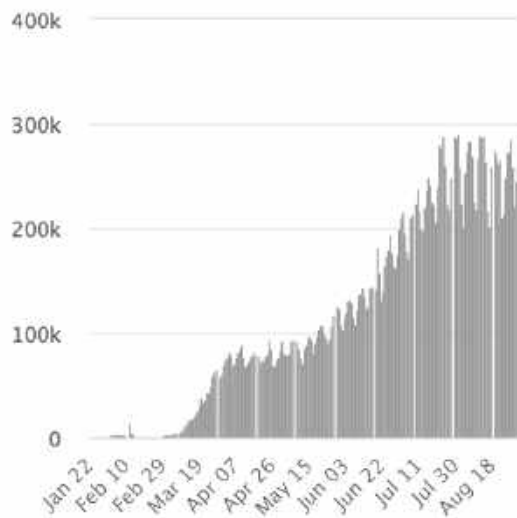
daily

linear

logarithmic

### Daily New Cases

Cases per Day  
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0



7-day moving average ☐

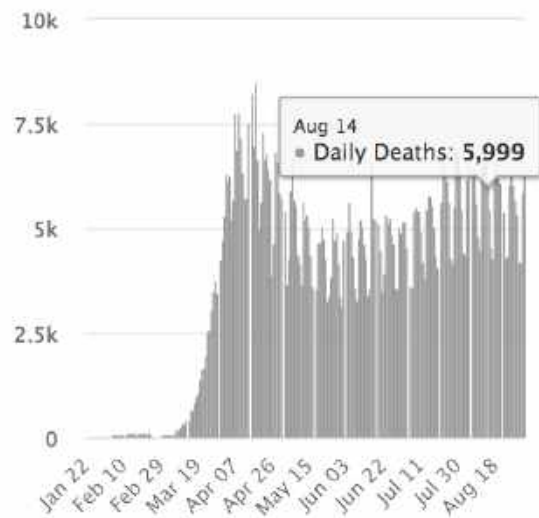
daily

linear

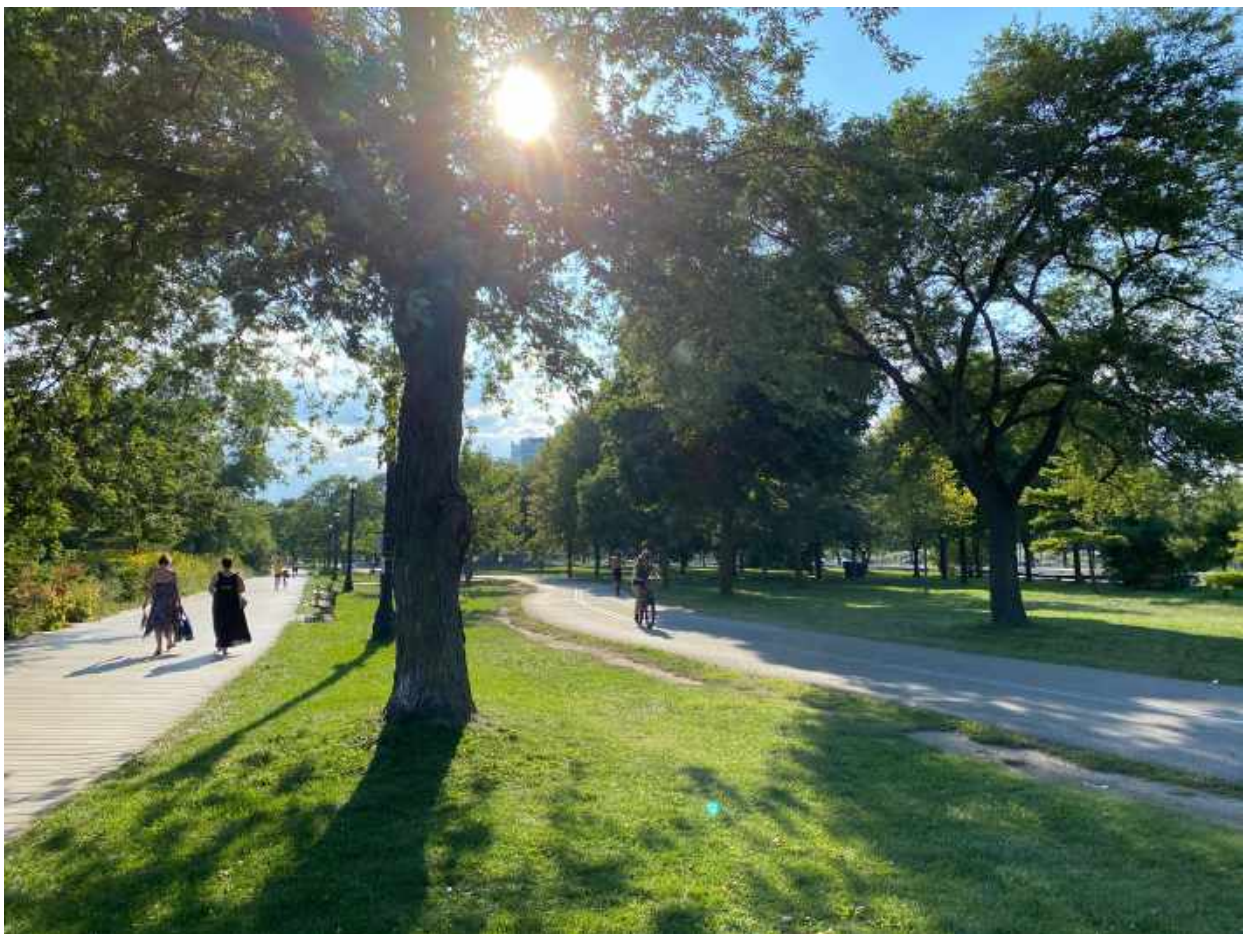
logarithmic

### Daily Deaths

Deaths per Day  
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0



7-day moving average ☐



Canada at a Glance, September 2, 2020 Source:  
<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html#fn3>

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases (n=123,107 <sup>1</sup>) in Canada by date of illness onset <sup>2</sup> as of September 2, 2020, 8 pm EDT (total cases <sup>3</sup>)

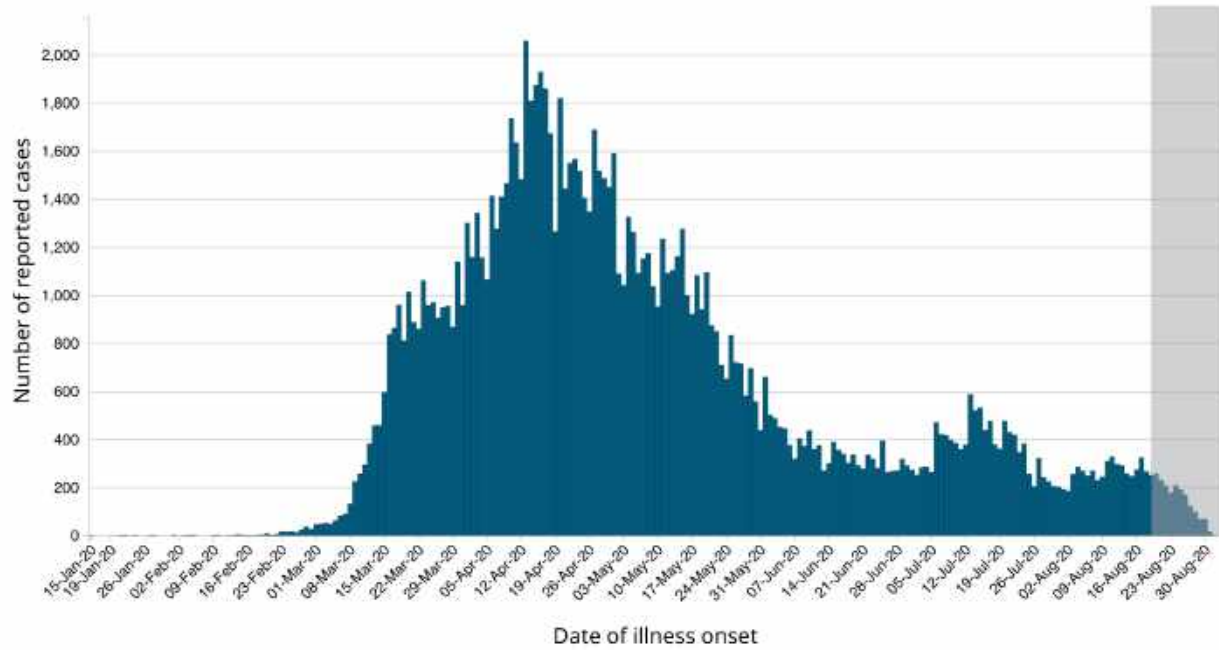
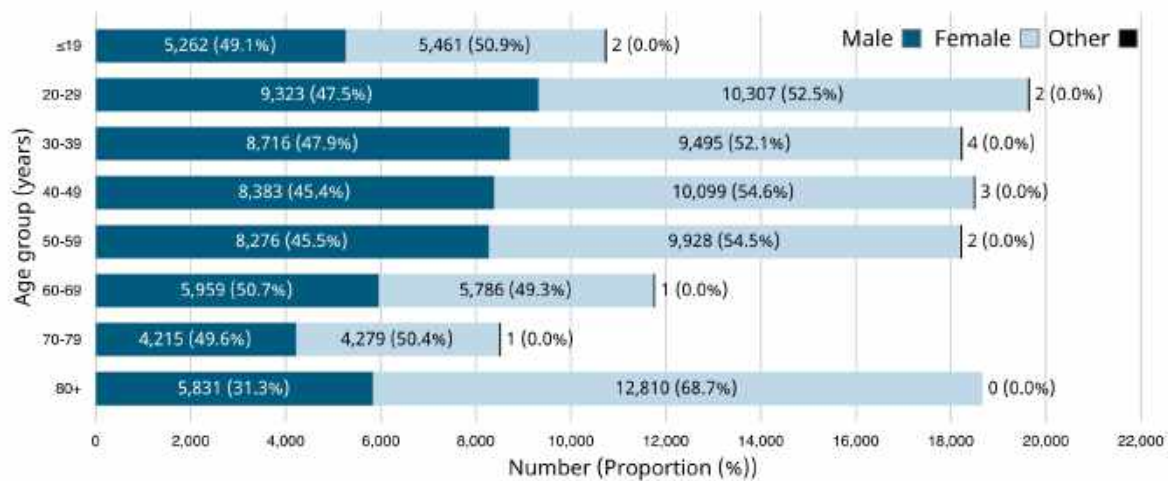


Figure 3. Age by gender <sup>1</sup> distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=124,145 <sup>1</sup>) in Canada as of September 2, 2020, 8 pm EDT <sup>3</sup>



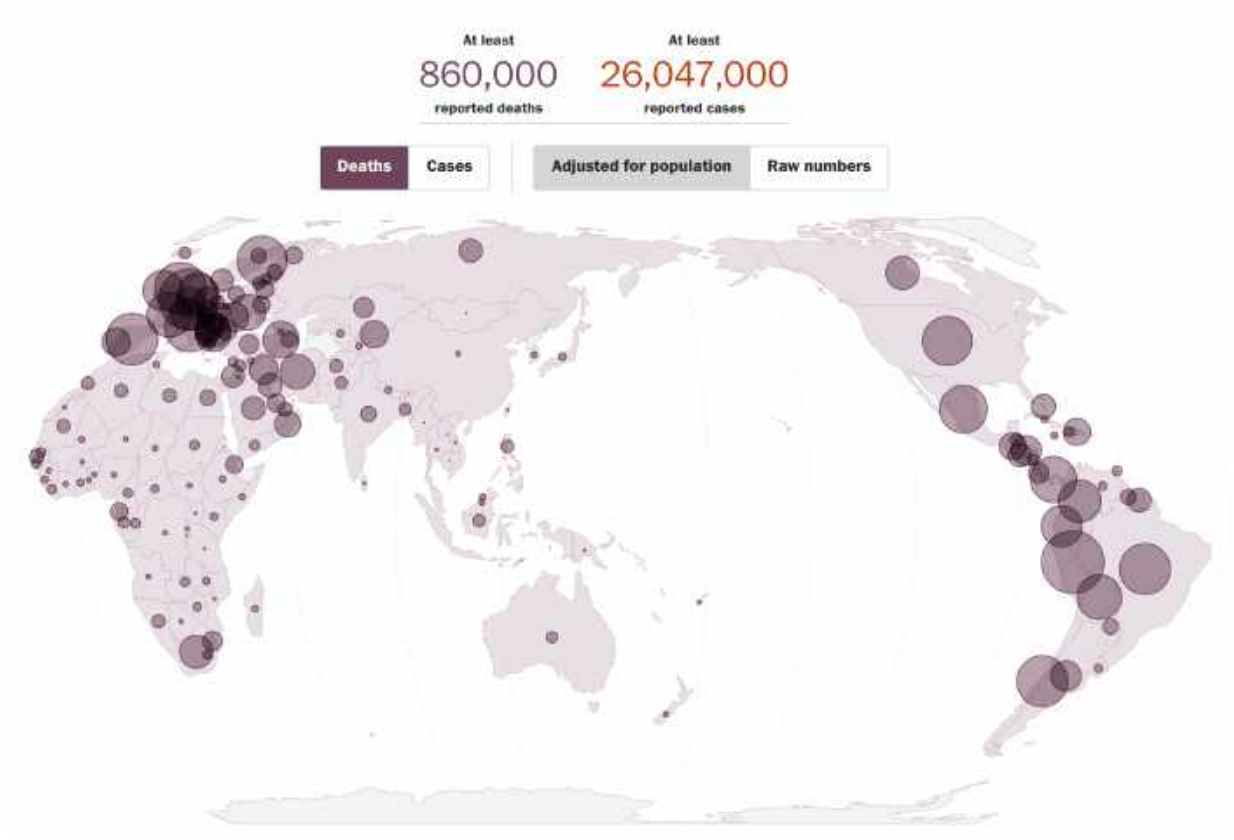
Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/coronavirus-us-cases-deaths/?utm\\_campaign=wp\\_to\\_your\\_health&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl\\_tyh&wpmk=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/coronavirus-us-cases-deaths/?utm_campaign=wp_to_your_health&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_tyh&wpmk=1)





**COUNTRIES ILLUSTRATED BY RATE OF COVID-19 DEATHS (September 3, 2020) Source:**

**<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mappingspread-new-coronavirus/>**



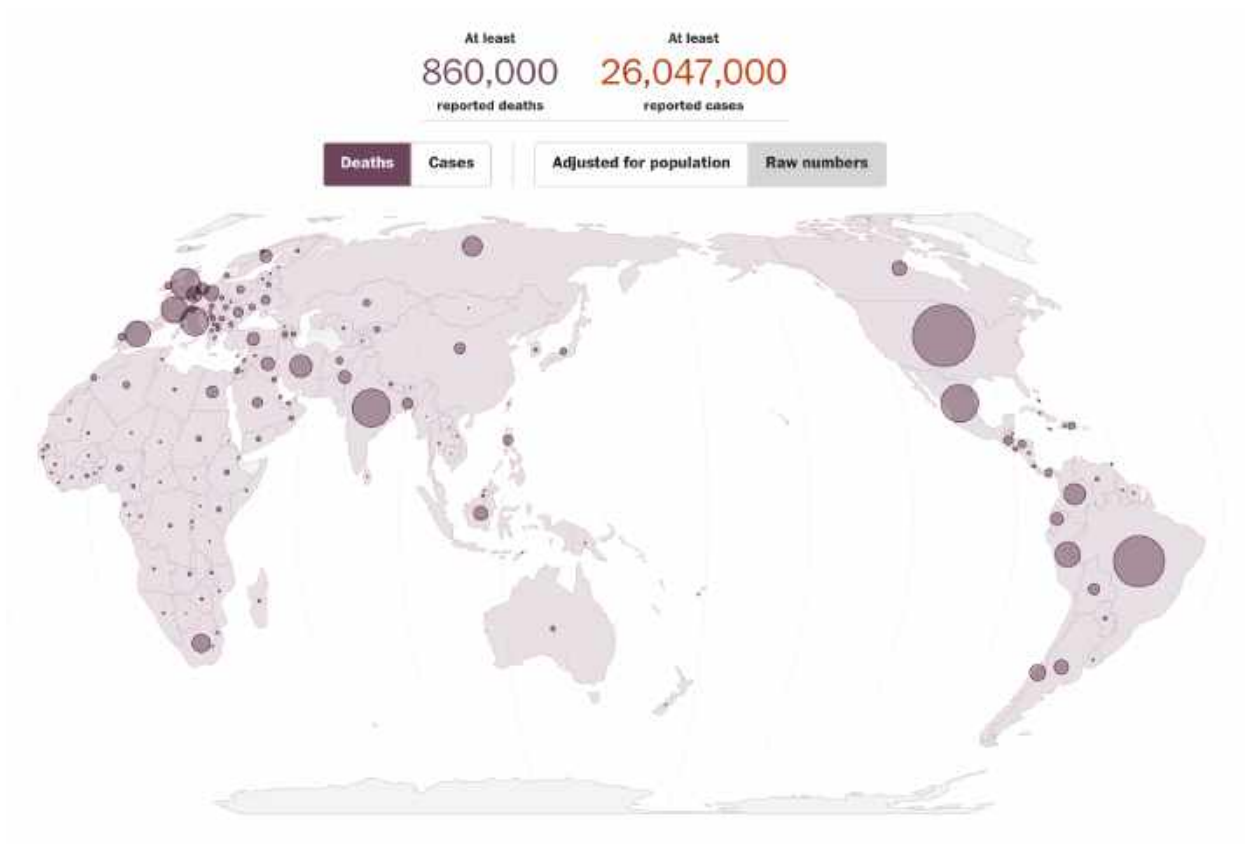
**COUNTRIES RANKED BY % INCREASE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES (08/27-09/03, 2020) Source:**

Country	Reported cases	Change from Aug. 27		Deaths
		Total	Pct. ▼	
India	3,853,406	▲ 543,172	+16%	67,376
Argentina	439,172	▲ 58,880	+15%	9,155
Ukraine	131,300	▲ 16,637	+15%	2,759
Indonesia	184,268	▲ 21,384	+13%	7,750
Iraq	247,039	▲ 27,604	+13%	7,275
Spain	479,554	▲ 50,047	+12%	29,194
France	331,060	▲ 33,575	+11%	30,692
Israel	122,779	▲ 12,376	+11%	976
Philippines	228,403	▲ 22,822	+11%	3,688
Colombia	633,339	▲ 51,344	+9%	20,348
Peru	657,129	▲ 43,751	+7%	29,068
Brazil	3,997,865	▲ 236,474	+6%	123,780
Mexico	610,957	▲ 31,043	+5%	65,816
Bangladesh	319,686	▲ 15,103	+5%	4,383
U.S.	6,087,826	▲ 248,867	+4%	182,722
Bolivia	117,928	▲ 4,799	+4%	5,203
Ecuador	115,457	▲ 4,238	+4%	6,619
Turkey	273,301	▲ 9,303	+4%	6,462
Iran	380,746	▲ 12,950	+4%	21,926
Russia	1,006,923	▲ 33,951	+3%	17,479
Italy	272,912	▲ 8,963	+3%	35,507
Germany	247,983	▲ 7,412	+3%	9,326
Britain	342,684	▲ 10,175	+3%	41,615
Chile	414,739	▲ 10,637	+3%	11,344
Canada	131,941	▲ 3,105	+2%	9,182
Saudi Arabia	318,319	▲ 6,464	+2%	3,982
South Africa	630,595	▲ 12,309	+2%	14,389
Qatar	119,420	▲ 1,432	+1%	201
Pakistan	297,014	▲ 2,376	+1%	6,328
Kazakhstan	106,032	▲ 624	+1%	1,588



## COUNTRIES BY TOTAL NUMBER OF COVID-19 DEATHS - September 3, 2020

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mappingspread-new-coronavirus/>





**COUNTRY COVID-19 STATS ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2020**  
**Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>**  
**Ranked by Covid-19 Case Rate**

All	Europe	North America	Asia	South America	Africa	Oceania							
#	Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
1	<a href="#">Qatar</a>	119,420	+214	201	+2	116,313	2,906	58	42,531	72	644,804	229,683	2,807,806
2	<a href="#">Bahrain</a>	52,807		190		49,645	2,972	34	30,862	111	1,128,829	659,726	1,711,057
3	<a href="#">French Guiana</a>	9,209		61		8,739	409	8	30,701	203	54,370	181,259	299,958
4	<a href="#">Chile</a>	416,501	+1,762	11,422	+78	389,409	15,670	940	21,756	597	2,481,508	129,619	19,144,606
5	<a href="#">Panama</a>	94,084		2,030		67,487	24,567	168	21,747	469	347,147	80,241	4,326,296
6	<a href="#">San Marino</a>	735		42		660	33		21,653	1,237	6,865	202,245	33,944
7	<a href="#">Aruba</a>	2,211		12		934	1,265	7	20,694	112	21,955	205,485	106,845
8	<a href="#">Kuwait</a>	87,378	+900	536	+1	78,791	8,051	93	20,409	125	631,482	147,497	4,281,320
9	<a href="#">Peru</a>	663,437		29,259		480,177	154,001	1,500	20,074	885	3,256,711	98,538	33,050,211
10	<a href="#">USA</a>	6,302,203	+11,466	190,300	+336	3,548,122	2,563,781	15,101	19,020	574	84,152,096	253,974	331,341,050
11	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	4,001,422		123,899		3,210,405	667,118	8,318	18,802	582	14,352,484	67,439	212,021,986
12	<a href="#">Oman</a>	86,380	+256	705	+16	81,828	3,847	144	16,845	137	309,212	60,298	5,126,058
13	<a href="#">Andorra</a>	1,199		53		909	237	3	15,514	686	137,457	1,778,527	77,287
14	<a href="#">Maldives</a>	8,140		29		5,338	2,773	12	15,014	53	115,727	213,459	542,151
15	<a href="#">Vatican City</a>	12				12	0		14,981				801
16	<a href="#">Armenia</a>	44,271	+196	887	+3	38,855	4,529		14,935	299	211,281	71,277	2,964,219
17	<a href="#">Turks and Caicos</a>	555	+17	4		220	331	2	14,302	103	2,557	65,892	38,806
18	<a href="#">Israel</a>	122,779	+1,315	976	+7	97,885	23,918	426	13,349	106	2,388,574	250,696	9,197,590
19	<a href="#">Colombia</a>	633,339		20,348		479,568	133,423	1,493	12,424	399	2,810,137	55,126	50,976,248
20	<a href="#">Mayotte</a>	3,301		40		2,964	297	1	12,052	148	13,000	47,462	273,906
21	<a href="#">Sint Maarten</a>	495	+13	19		302	174	8	11,522	442	2,281	53,096	42,960
22	<a href="#">Luxembourg</a>	6,745		124		N/A	N/A	1	10,746	198	655,169	1,043,755	627,704
23	<a href="#">South Africa</a>	630,595		14,389		553,456	62,750	539	10,610	242	3,726,721	62,701	59,436,725
24	<a href="#">Spain</a>	479,554		29,194		N/A	N/A	874	10,256	624	9,210,337	196,979	46,757,980
25	<a href="#">Bolivia</a>	117,928	+661	5,203	+102	64,074	48,651	71	10,079	445	246,032	21,028	11,700,207

## Ranked by Death Rate from Covid-19

All	Europe	North America	Asia	South America	Africa	Oceania							
#	Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
1	<a href="#">San Marino</a>	735		42		660	33		21,653	1,237	6,865	202,245	33,944
2	<a href="#">Peru</a>	663,437		29,259		480,177	154,001	1,500	20,074	885	3,256,711	98,538	33,050,211
3	<a href="#">Belgium</a>	65,911	+424	9,898	+1	18,490	57,523	60	7,407	853	2,336,975	201,490	11,598,451
4	<a href="#">Andorra</a>	1,199		53		909	237	3	15,514	686	137,457	1,778,527	77,287
5	<a href="#">Spain</a>	479,554		29,194		N/A	N/A	874	10,256	624	9,210,337	196,979	46,757,980
6	<a href="#">UK</a>	340,411	+1,735	41,527	+13	N/A	N/A	80	5,010	611	17,619,697	259,313	67,948,282
7	<a href="#">Chile</a>	416,501	+1,762	11,422	+78	389,409	15,670	940	21,756	597	2,481,508	129,619	19,144,606
8	<a href="#">Italy</a>	272,912	+1,397	35,507	+10	208,490	28,915	120	4,515	587	8,921,658	147,597	60,446,035
9	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	4,001,422		123,899		3,210,405	667,118	8,318	18,802	582	14,352,484	67,439	212,021,986
10	<a href="#">Sweden</a>	84,729		5,832	+5	N/A	N/A	14	8,381	577	1,094,856	108,292	10,110,233
11	<a href="#">USA</a>	6,302,203	+11,466	190,300	+336	3,548,122	2,563,781	15,101	19,020	574	84,152,096	253,974	331,341,050
12	<a href="#">Mexico</a>	610,957	+4,921	65,816	+575	424,990	120,151	3,191	4,730	510	1,376,170	10,654	129,186,028
13	<a href="#">France</a>	293,024		30,686		86,963	175,375	446	4,487	470	7,500,000	114,856	65,298,930
14	<a href="#">Panama</a>	94,084		2,030		67,487	24,567	168	21,747	469	347,147	80,241	4,326,296
15	<a href="#">Bolivia</a>	117,928	+661	5,203	+102	64,074	48,651	71	10,079	445	246,032	21,028	11,700,207
16	<a href="#">Sint Maarten</a>	495	+13	19		302	174	8	11,522	442	2,281	53,096	42,960
17	<a href="#">Colombia</a>	633,339		20,348		479,568	133,423	1,493	12,424	399	2,810,137	55,126	50,976,248
18	<a href="#">Ecuador</a>	115,457		6,619		101,867	6,971	363	6,527	374	334,045	18,936	17,688,599
19	<a href="#">Netherlands</a>	72,464	+601	6,235		N/A	N/A	43	4,227	364	1,455,274	84,897	17,141,544
20	<a href="#">Ireland</a>	29,114		1,777		23,364	3,973	7	5,885	359	864,508	174,745	4,947,267
21	<a href="#">Armenia</a>	44,271	+196	887	+3	38,855	4,529		14,935	299	211,281	71,277	2,964,219
22	<a href="#">North Macedonia</a>	14,762	+162	606		11,965	2,191	2	7,086	291	153,462	73,861	2,083,359
23	<a href="#">Isle of Man</a>	336		24		312	0		3,948	282	10,162	119,396	85,112
24	<a href="#">Channel Islands</a>	631		48		575	8	1	3,624	276	83,755	480,964	174,140
25	<a href="#">Iran</a>	380,746	+1,994	21,926	+129	328,595	30,225	3,702	4,523	260	3,307,383	39,291	84,176,929



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