

**CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH****Volume 6, Number 41**<https://planetaryhealthweekly.com>**October 8, 2020**

HI, Is it 'macho/macha' to take risks? Is it macho/a to put your life in danger? I guess it depends on the goal. To me it's even more 'macho/a' to do what you can to protect your life while trying to achieve your goals. Why would anyone put their life on the line when other options are available? What then to conclude from the President of the United States getting sick with COVID-19, likely the outcome of wanton/on-purpose carelessness and wanting to project an image of strength and manliness? Aren't we over this stage yet in our social development? Couldn't there have been, and shouldn't there have been, a different outcome than the quarantining and death watch of so many of the leaders of the world's largest government, economy and military?

To all the people who still have doubts about the huge magnitude of what's going on in all the world, perhaps this display of presidential folly will set them straight...but maybe not. Here's more. Infectious diseases over the centuries and millennia have killed more people than all the world's wars put together, which haven't been few. What would the situation be like if such a virus was to hit us and we still only had the knowledge available 100 or 200 years ago, when we didn't have the tools to understand and control infectious diseases like we have today? Would we have to quarantine until death on a desolate island, as was the case with smallpox in Boston in the 18th Century.

What did we know way back then? What would we have been thinking? What would have we done? What could've we done? Would there be misinformation, conjecture and conspiracy theories circulating about?

Probably, to start with the last question (and leave the others to next week); yes, there would have been huge misinformation and very little understanding of what actually was going on, other than the point blank evidence of suffering, disease and death and the idea that it is contagious. What then is the big difference with today, when we seemingly know so much more but yet still saddled with huge efforts of misinformation. The big difference is that we now have so much more factual knowledge of the natural (or disease) world, but ironically are now are saddled with too many people who reject the huge systematic accumulation of scientific and medical knowledge and believe whatever they like. One of the greatest achievements ever of humankind is ignored or rejected. And during one of the last smallpox epidemics in Boston in 1721 over 300 persons were saved by being the first in America to be vaccinated. Even without germ theory the 'objectors' or 'hesitants' (as we so politely say today) were put in their place by the outcome. We definitely need greater scientific literacy.

More on our latest achievements and persistent perils follow in today's ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#41 of 2020), including:

- An alarming report on America's massive wildlife imports,
- Coronavirus Updates, including:
 - Study finds single largest driver of coronavirus misinformation: Trump,
 - Dr. Fauci explains the 'double whammy' on non-white Americans,
 - Questions are raised over scary Covid-19 heart studies,
 - Donald Trump the worst possible COVID-19 carrier,
 - The unexpected recovery of regional trade in East Africa,
 - China pushes emergency use of vaccines,
 - How Covid-19 is changing citizenship by investment
 - UN chief slams countries for making vaccine side deals for their own population,
 - Trudeau announces vaccine pact as Canada surges past 175,000 cases,
 - Nearly half of Argentina in poverty as pandemic deepens crisis, and
 - September was worse as India added 41% of cases and 34% of deaths, THEN:
- Coronavirus gets dangerously close to isolated 'Arrow People' in the Amazon,
- California plans to ban sales of gas-powered cars by 2035 AND the US government tries to stop it,
- The role of reducing food waste for resilient food systems,

- Consumption of products from vulnerable wildlife is pervasive in Laos,
- Why bees are finally getting a break,
- The Himalayan invention powered by pine needles,
- UN Chief: "We are in trouble, and we need to change course",
- Renewable energy generated 500,000+ new jobs in 2019,
- Quebec promises investigation after Indigenous woman live-streams moments before her death in abusive hospital,
- A photographer explores the U.S. West on fire,
- Ecuadorian Amazonian Nemonte Nenquimo is a Time 100 2020 most influential person,
- The remarkable floating gardens of Bangladesh,
- Coronavirus food waste comes with a huge carbon footprint,
- New book by Thomas Piketty "Capital and Ideology",
- What makes the top 20 environmentally friendly universities, and
- ENDSHOTS of the beginning gorgeous Ontario Autumn amid Coronavirus stats and charts.

See it all below.

Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



**“Dealing in Disease” New Report On
America’s Massive Wildlife Imports
Fueling The Global Pandemic; Risks
Influx of Millions of Bat, Primate,
Rodent Parts; Raises Disease Danger in
Source Countries**

DEALING IN DISEASE

How U.S. Wildlife Imports Fuel
Global Pandemic Risks



CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY • 2020

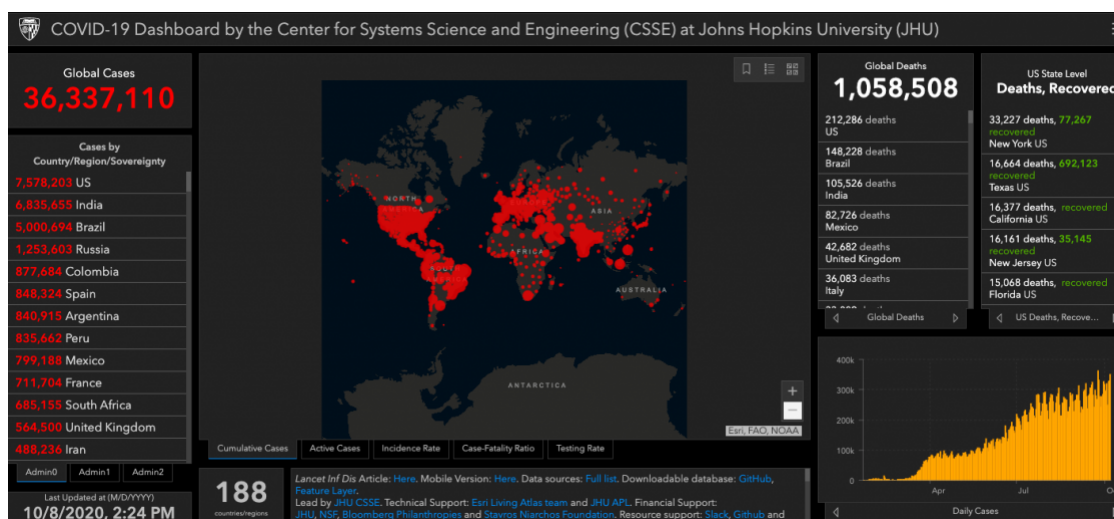
Credit: The Center for Biological Diversity

"The voracious U.S. appetite for these imports wipes out wildlife and breeds disease," said report author Tanya Sanerib, legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "Bats, primates and rodents are amazing animals, that naturally harbour diseases. When we exploit them through trade and habitat infringement, those diseases can infect us. The insatiable demand for wildlife products in the United States is a dangerous problem that can't be ignored."

The Center's report also found that:

- The majority of imports (99% of bats and 96% of rodents and primates) were dead, meaning that U.S. demand shifts the disease risk linked to the wildlife trade and the capture, transport and slaughter of wildlife to China and other source countries.
- Of the imports analyzed, 93% of bats, 90% of rodents and 21% of primate imports were wild caught.
- China, where the virus causing COVID-19 likely emerged, is the number one source of bats and primates imported to the United States and the fifth-largest source of rodents.
- Commercial sale to U.S. consumers is among the top three reasons bat, primate and rodent parts, products, samples and animals are imported. This demand for wildlife parts for décor and hobbies drives the exploitation of primarily wild-caught bats and rodents and many wild primates. [See more at Biological Diversity.](#)

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



Globally, in the last week, the total number of new COVID-19 related cases surged over 2 million, along with 42,000 new deaths, both somewhat worse than in previous weeks (See more stats and charts in ENDSHOTS at the end of this newsletter.)

Study Finds 'Single Largest Driver' Of

Coronavirus Misinformation: Trump



Credit: Erin Schaff/The New York Times

Of the flood of misinformation, conspiracy theories and falsehoods seeding the internet on the coronavirus, one common thread stands out: President Trump. That is the conclusion of researchers at Cornell University who analyzed 38 million articles about the pandemic in English-language media around the world. Mentions of Mr. Trump made up nearly 38% of the overall “misinformation conversation,” making the president of the United States the largest driver of the “infodemic” — falsehoods involving the pandemic. The study is the first comprehensive examination of coronavirus misinformation in traditional and online media.. [Read More at NY Times.](#)

MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At DailyKos: [Fauci: COVID-19 Is A 'Double Whammy' On Nonwhite Americans. Vaccine Trials Should Represent That](#)

At Undark: [Experts Raise Questions Over 'Scary' Covid-19 Heart Studies](#)

At Macleans: [Donald Trump: The Worst Possible COVID-19 Carrier](#)

At Brookings: [Crisis? What crisis? COVID-19 And The Unexpected Recovery Of Regional Trade In East Africa](#)

At Economic Times India: [China Pushes Emergency Use Of Covid-19 Vaccine Despite Concerns](#)

At Quartz: [How Covid-19 Is Changing Citizenship By Investment](#)

At Hindustan Times: [Chief Slams Countries For Making Covid-19 Vaccination 'Side Deals' For Their Own Population](#)

At Economic Times India: [Trudeau Announces Vaccine Pact As Canada Surpasses 150,000 Covid Cases](#)

At DailyMaverick: [Nearly Half of Argentina in Poverty as Pandemic Deepens Crisis](#)

At Economic Times India: [September Was Worst As India Added 41% of Cases & 34% of Deaths](#)

Coronavirus Gets Dangerously Close To Isolated 'Arrow People' In Amazon



Credi FELIPE DANA, AP

Graves for victims of COVID-19 fill a new section of Nossa Senhora Aparecida cemetery, in Manaus, capital of Amazonas state, Brazil. More than 100,000 cases of

COVID-19 and 3,500 deaths have been reported in the state, where infection rates are beginning to stabilize. Amid rising alarm that the [novel coronavirus](#) has reached deep into the Amazon rainforest, threatening isolated tribes, Brazil's Supreme Court this month unanimously ruled in favour of Indigenous people's demands to force the government to protect them from the pandemic.

Even before the ruling on August 5, Indigenous groups hailed the case as an unprecedented triumph. It was the first time the high court had agreed to hear a case brought by Indigenous litigants without intermediaries, such as the Indigenous affairs agency FUNAI. The agency, whose mission is to defend the rights and lands of Brazil's Indigenous people, has come to be seen as adversarial to their interests under the rule of hard-right president Jair Bolsonaro. "It's a historic victory and extremely important for us Indigenous people," says Luiz Eloy Terena, lead attorney for the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), the country's principal Indigenous federation, which partnered with six opposition political parties to bring the case against the government. "It's a recognition of our own forms of social organization."

[Read More at National Geographic](#)

California Plans To Ban Sales Of Gas-Powered Cars by 2035



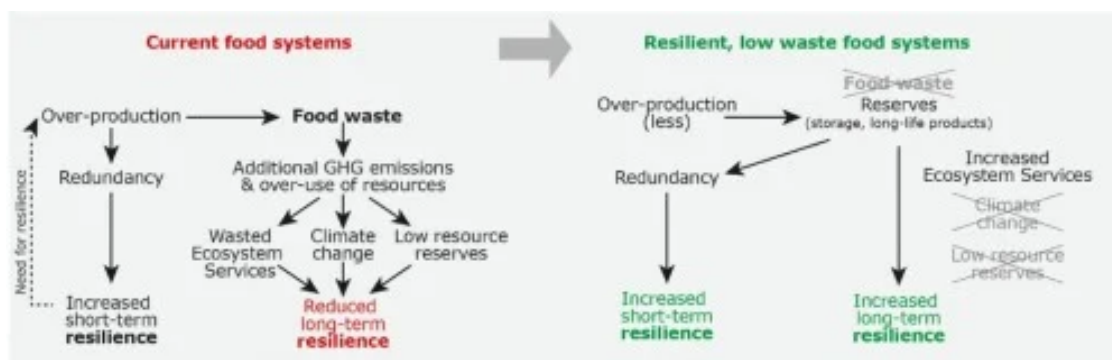
Credit: STEPHEN LAM/REUTERS

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order that sets an ambitious plan to eliminate sales of gas-powered cars and trucks in the state by 2035. The order, the nation's first that would ban gasoline engines, directs the state's Air Resources Board to draft rules to require the sales of more electric-powered vehicles. "This is the most impactful step our state can take to fight climate change," Newsom [said at a press conference](#).

California has had a monstrous few weeks. Starting in August, freak lightning storms, errant campfires, and a [gender reveal party](#) ignited [fast-racing wildfires across the state](#), which blanketed homes outside the firelines with ash and turned the skies above the Bay Area [a dusky tangerine](#). Heat waves have buffeted the West Coast, with California's Death Valley hitting 130 degrees Fahrenheit, the third-highest temperature ever recorded on Earth. [At least 25 people](#) have died in western wildfires this season. Oh, [plus global pandemic](#). [Read More on Wired](#).

See also: [EPA Chief Pushes Back On California Ban On Sales Of Gas Vehicles By 2035](#)

The Role Of Reducing Food Waste For Resilient Food Systems



Credit: Sciencedirect

Food waste undermines long-term resilience of the global food system by aggravating ecosystem damage. The global community must therefore work to reduce the amount of food that gets wasted. However, we should be mindful of some potential conflicts between food waste reduction and food system resilience. Over-production and over-supply are a contributing cause of waste, yet they also provide resilience in the form of redundancy. In this paper, we examine individual interventions designed to minimise food waste by scoring their impact on different aspects of resilience. We find that there are strong synergistic elements and interventions that support short- and long-term resilience, such as improved storage, which reduces the need to

provide a constant flow of 'surplus food' and replaces it with a stock of 'spare' food. Some interventions carry a risk of trade-offs due to possible losses of redundancy, and investment lock-in that may reduce the ability of farmers to adapt by changing what and where they farm. Trade-offs do not mean that those interventions should not be pursued, but they should be recognized so that can be adequately addressed with complimentary actions. This review underlines the necessity of food-systems thinking and joined-up policy. [Read More at Science Direct](#)

Consumption Of Products Derived From Vulnerable Wildlife Species Pervasive In Laos



Credit: [Vet Candy](#)

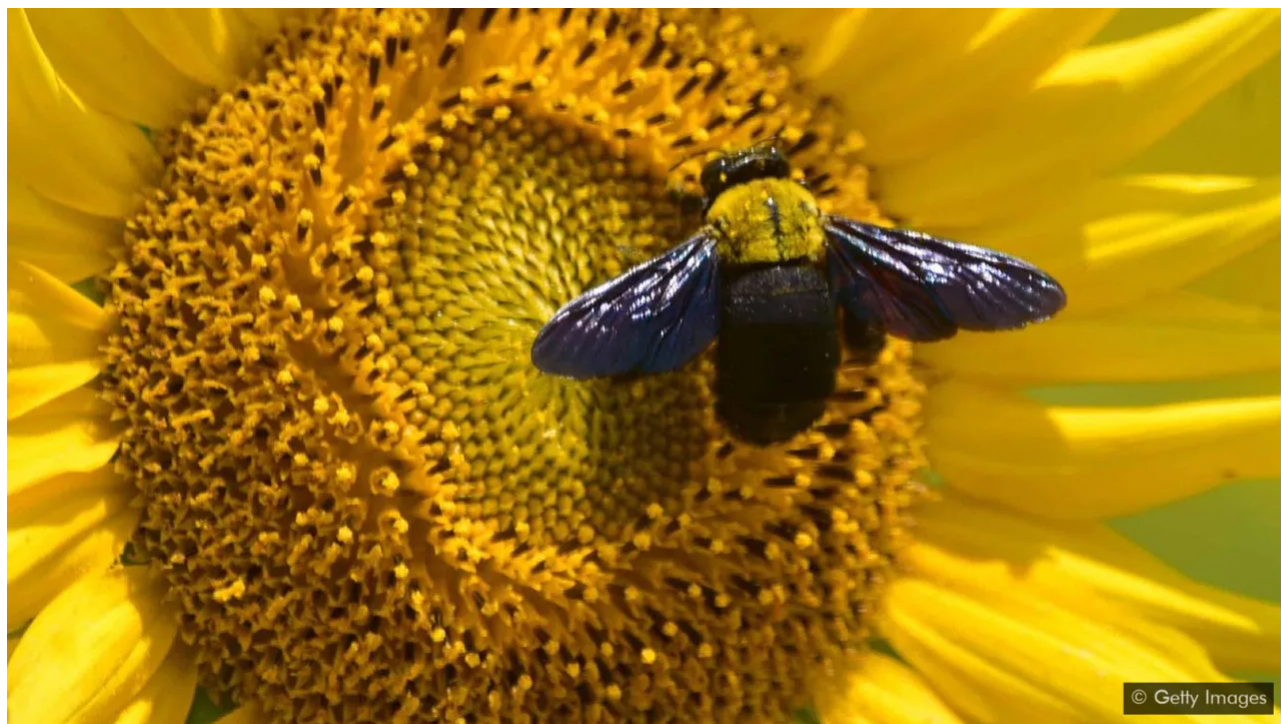
A new study of wildlife consumption in northern Laos by San Diego Zoo Global researchers found widespread use of products made from sun bears, Asiatic bears and serows--goat-like mammals found throughout Asia--among other vulnerable species. The findings indicate that efforts are needed to reduce the unsustainable harvest of bears and serows, in particular, "before this demand becomes a significant conservation challenge," the authors wrote.

"Our results indicate the importance of identifying emerging trends in wildlife consumption, which can inform efforts to halt population declines before they become full-blown crises," said Elizabeth Oneita Davis, Ph.D., a postdoctoral associate

in Community Engagement at San Diego Zoo Global. She co-authored the study, published in April in the journal *Animals*, with Jenny Glikman, Ph.D., an associate director in Community Engagement at San Diego Zoo Global. [Read More at My Vet Cady](#)

GOOD NEWS

Why Bees Are Finally Getting A Break



Credit: Visual Capitalist

Less fumes from cars on the road makes it easier for bees to forage, as [air pollution substantially reduces the strength and longevity of floral scents](#), according to a 2016 study. Pollutants break down scent molecules emitted by plants, making it harder for bees to detect food. This means they often end up flying further to find food and bring it back to their nests. Ozone concentrations of 60 parts per billion, which the [US Environmental Protection Agency classes as "low"](#), was enough to cause chemical changes that confused bees and prevented them from foraging efficiently.

"In a world with less air pollution, bees can make shorter and more profitable 'shopping trips', and this may help them rear more young," says Mark Brown, professor of evolutionary ecology at Royal Holloway, University of London. Fewer cars on the roads means other benefits for bees too. The number of bee deaths is likely to fall as car journeys decrease during lockdown. A 2015 study by Canadian researchers

estimated that [24 billion bees and wasps are killed by vehicles on roads across North America every year](#). [Read More at BBC](#)

MORE GOOD NEWS

The Himalayan Invention Powered By Pine Needles



Credit Alamy:

A large part of this very northern Indian landscape is the chir pine forest, large plantations of which were introduced by British colonists and continued by later governments for commercial timber and resin. But the chir pine's dominance in the landscape – it covers nearly 400,000 hectares (1,540 square miles) of Uttarakhand – has contributed to other problems. These pines shed their needles onto the forest floor, littering it in what is essentially delicate shreds of dry, high-energy kindling.

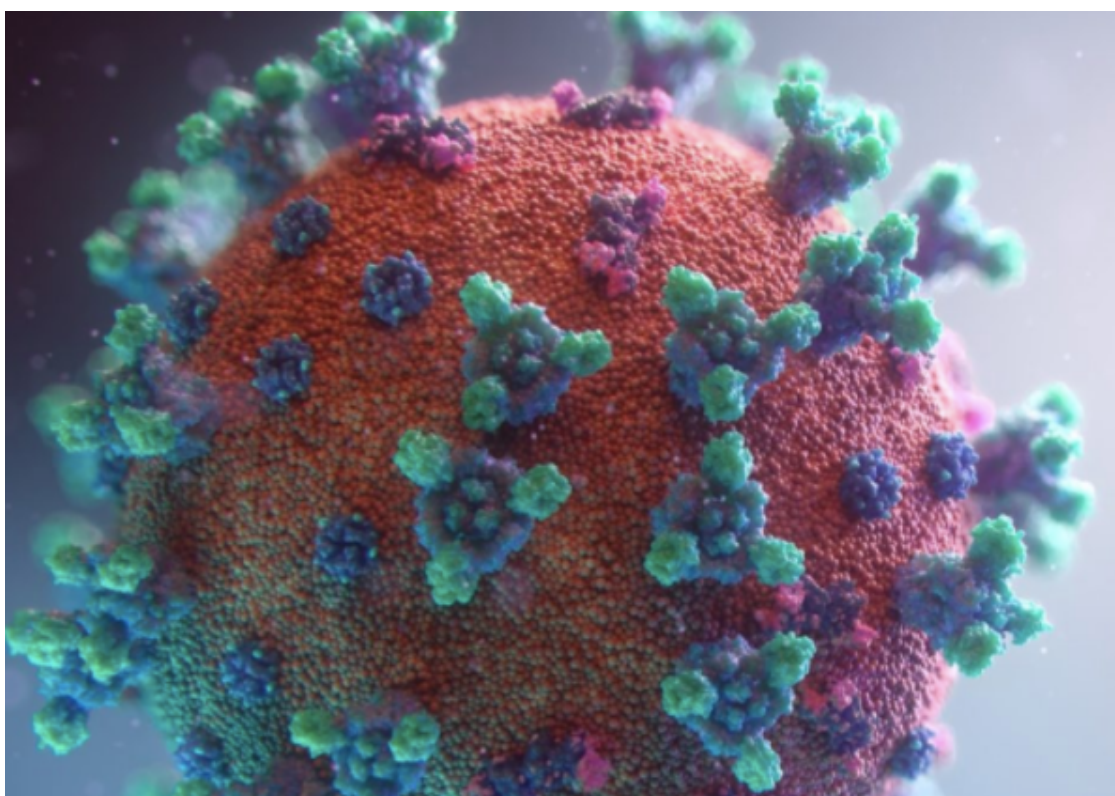
One study estimates [the net annual pine needle yield in the state of Uttarakhand to be some 1.3 million tonnes](#) (that's roughly a quarter of the weight of Great Pyramid of Giza). Pine needles shed by the trees between March to June cover the hill slopes, which are prone to fire.

Then along comes Avani Bio Energy, a for-profit social enterprise, in 2011. Now there are seven 25 kWh power plants up and running at different villages using the pine needles as fuel, with five of those owned by village-based entrepreneurs, with a further five 10 kWh plants in other villages. Forty more projects are on the horizon. As

well as boosting the local economy by providing good jobs, there is hope that the collection of pine needles has lowered the local fire risk. In the nearby areas that have seen consistent removal of pine needles, there has been almost no incidence of fire, he says. The indigenous medicinal plants, usually destroyed by fires, have also been seen reviving. [Read More at BBC](#)

OPINION

UN Chief: 'We Are In Trouble, And We Need To Change Course'



Credit: Trinity Care Foundation via Flickr

[United Nations](#) Secretary-General António Guterres sees two potential scenarios playing out in the global response to [COVID-19](#). In the first scenario, wealthy nations — led by the G-20 — will find a way to deliver meaningful debt relief to low- and middle-income countries, and lead an effort to ensure the COVID-19 vaccine is a “people’s vaccine.” “If that is the case, I believe that in two to three years time it will be possible to progressively come — I wouldn’t say to a perfectly reestablished situation — but come to a moment of progress and hope that the future is possible.”

In the other scenario, those things do not happen — lower-income countries are left to fend largely for themselves, and there is no effective global coordination of vaccine production and distribution. Guterres projects that such an approach would lead to a

long cycle — “five to seven years” — of social and economic disruption. “Not only a series of recessions, but a depression, with many countries coming to insolvency and the dramatic impacts and consequences in global financial systems,” he said.

The conclusion, for Guterres, is that, **“it's time to put our act together.”**

As told to Devex editor-in-chief Raj Kumar in an [interview](#) ahead of the [U.N.'s 75th general assembly](#). [Read More at Devex](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

IRENA: Renewable Energy Generates Half A Million New Jobs Worldwide in 2019



Credit: Siemens

As many as 11.5 million people now work in renewable energy worldwide, but the [International Renewable Energy Agency \(IRENA\)](#) warns strong policy action essential to sustain growth in the wake of Covid-19 Job opportunities in the renewable energy continue to surge worldwide, with 11.5 million people worldwide working in the sector in 2019, up almost 500,000 from the year before, according to IRENA. [Read More at Business Green](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

Quebec Promises Investigation After Atikamekw Mother Live-streams Moments Before Her Death [In An Abusive Hospital]



Credit: APTN News

A video showing the last moments of an Atikamekw mother from the community of Manawan has shocked the province of Quebec. Joyce Echaquan, a mother of seven in her mid-thirties, posted a video Monday evening just before her death. In it she captures racist and dismissive behaviour by the nurses charged with her care – something Quebec's minister of Indigenous Affairs is promising will be investigated.

Echaquan started a Facebook live video from inside of her room at a hospital in Joliette, about 75 km northeast of Montreal. After crying out in distress, she expresses in Atikamekw that she's concerned about being given medication she is allergic to. The video continues as nurses enter the room somewhere out of frame, and begin speaking to Echaquan in a way that's prompted outrage across the province. "Are you finished fooling around? Well you're f*cking stupid," says one nurse. "F*cking stupid idiot," says another. [Read More at APTN News.](#)



Credit: National Observer

Quote Of The Week

"If you adopt a Gitanyow house territory perspective, you understand that you can't have too much activity in one territory or it won't function for the future house members.

"If you blend science with traditional law, you can say with good proof that these animals won't come back, the berries won't grow, or the fish will dry up if you continue."

Chief Malii, British Columbia, Canada

The land is our hanii tohowxt

Read More at National Observer

Upcoming Events

- October 15 (Virtual): [Making the Links in Canada and Africa: Community engagement to improve maternal and child health](#) (University of Saskatchewan and IDRC)
 - 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

The West On Fire: A Photographer Explores The Devastation Left Behind By Oregon And California Wildfires



Credit: Nina Riggio

Recently in Oregon, blazes advanced on towns so rapidly that even fire crews had to flee, and 500,000 people were evacuated across the state. The smoke from these historic western wildfires enveloped the whole continent, dimming the sun in cities 2,000 miles (3200 km) away. U.S. [Federal spending on wildfire suppression](#) has ballooned from roughly \$450 million per year in the 1990s to a record-setting \$3.1 billion in 2018. While suppression costs have increased, the budget for the Joint Fire Science Program, which is funded through the Interior and Agriculture Departments and produces research on the best practices for fire prevention and management, has fallen. The program started with a budget of \$12.9 million in 2017; today that has been slashed by nearly half.

Meanwhile, global average temperatures are [already 2°F more](#) than they were in preindustrial times, a threshold often associated with the worst effects of climate change. Unless humans significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, average global temperatures are expected to keep rising. As [NASA has shown, in its data](#) on the interplay between fire, humans and climate for the past two decades, that is going to mean a hotter, drier world, in which monster wildfires like those ravaging the West will be more common.

While federal funding is cut, and fire suppression measures are taken to the extreme, people like those photographed by Nina Riggio in this story are losing their homes, their livelihoods, their memories and their loved ones.

This photo series was supported by the journalism nonprofit [Economic Hardship Reporting Project](#).

Read and See More at Sierra Club

FYI #2

ONE OF THE TIME 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2020 IS FROM THE AMAZON



Credit: Stefan Ruiz

"The TIME 100 recognition (of me) is for our ancestors, our elders, and all Indigenous peoples fighting to protect the Amazon", said Nemonte Nenquimo. "The fires, pandemic, and accelerating climate change are a stark reminder that our world is out of balance. Along with my indigenous sisters and brothers, we hope TIME's recognition will inspire people from all nations and countries to stand with us in demanding respect for Indigenous rights and to listen to Indigenous knowledge and solutions. Now is the time to unite to protect the Amazon, our planet, and climate for

future generations.”

Nemonte is a member of the Waorani nation, a nation of hunter-harvesters in the southcentral Ecuadorian Amazon, who currently number approximately 5,000 people in 54 communities spread out across roughly 2.5 million acres of some of the most richly biodiverse and threatened rainforest on the planet. She is one of the few Indigenous leaders featured on this year’s TIME100 list and among the first Amazonians to ever receive the accolade. But Nemonte wants people to know that she shares this recognition with all Indigenous peoples on the frontlines who risk their lives to protect their ancestral lands and cultures.

SUPPORT HER WORK ON THE FRONTLINES

(<https://www.amazonfrontlines.org/donate/>)

The Waorani people’s resistance continues to inspire frontline Indigenous communities across the Amazon and beyond as a powerful example of Indigenous-led action against fossil fuel extraction. Nenquimo led the international Waorani Resistance campaign, which successfully blocked the Ecuadorian government from auctioning off Indigenous territories to foreign oil companies and marked a flashpoint in the ongoing conflict between the country’s thirst for oil revenues and the importance of strong international and national legal frameworks that protect indigenous peoples’ rights to free, prior and informed consent, self-determination, and territory, as well as the constitutionally-protected rights of nature in Ecuador.

Please join us in celebrating Nemonte and the bravery of Indigenous peoples across the Amazon, whose activism is the first line of defense for the rainforest and our climate!

Read More at Time

FYI #3

The Remarkable Floating Gardens Of Bangladesh



Credit: Fahmida Akter

Pipening squash, bitter gourd and okra loom over a mass of water hyacinth. Birds fly low over the surface of the water. Bijoy Kumar, a farmer in the low-lying Gopalganj district of Bangladesh, stands knee deep in water, tending to his plants. He and his family could not escape the rising waters in the volatile monsoons – so they abandoned the traditional rice crop. He turned instead to an eco-friendly practice that had been used by his ancestors in the southern flood plains, a traditional form of hydroponics, called floating vegetable gardens.

Bangladesh, by the fact it was formed by the alluvial plains of the Ganges-Brahmaputra river systems, is prone to floods and waterlogging. Fierce monsoons, Himalayan snow melt and severe cyclones exacerbate the problem for the country. Two-thirds of Bangladesh is wetland, criss-crossed by highly sedimented rivers that frequently change their course. Vast swathes of land in the country are under water for as much as eight months in a year, while seawater intrusion also makes much coastal land useless for growing crops.

And yet agriculture is one of the most important contributors to the country's GDP. Bangladesh is also one of the world's poorest countries, where 48% of the 160-million-strong population is landless. The number of people displaced from their homes in Bangladesh because of climate change is predicted to rise to [one in seven](#)

[of the population by 2050](#). Some farmers are giving up agriculture and looking for alternative ways to make a living, while others find work at clothing factories or moving to farm shrimp.

This (return to floating gardens) has made a great difference to my life. Now I have enough food in the floods – Bijoy Kumar

Read More at BBC

FYI #4

Coronavirus Food Waste Comes With Huge Carbon Footprint



Credit: David Clynych / Alamy Stock Photo

According to [early reports](#), at least 10 million chickens have already been culled in the US and the [same is expected](#) for 10m pigs. The beef sector is less affected as animals can be kept for longer, but not completely spared. Animal welfare aside, this has a tremendous carbon footprint, as [meat production is far more greenhouse gas-intensive](#) than the production of plant-based foods.

Based on these reports and [available data](#) from the sector, I have estimated the embodied carbon footprint of US livestock and dairy losses alone to be at least 7.1MtCO₂e. This is comparable to the total annual emissions of a small country, such as Cyprus, or the yearly territorial emissions associated with 860,000 UK citizens. Meanwhile, in the EU, the carbon footprint of wasted potatoes alone – a food with one of the lowest carbon footprints – would still come to 0.5MtCO₂e.

[Read More at Carbon Brief](#)

FYI #5: AUTUMN READING

Capital and Ideology



Credit: Book Cover

"Tomas Piketty's magisterial global and connected history takes us on a whirlwind journey across the world during the past 500 years to show how shifting ideas and politics have shaped a wide variety of inequality regimes. Fully embracing the power of historical analysis, ***Capital and Ideology*** emboldens us to reimagine what is possible today. Enormously rich in argument and evidence, this tour de force by one of the most influential thinkers of our age is a must-read for anyone grappling with the dilemmas of our present."

—SVEN BECKERT, author of *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*

THOMAS PIKETTY is Director of Studies at L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and Professor at the Paris School of Economics. He is the author of ***Capital in the Twenty-First Century***.

Read More at Piketty

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

The Top 20 'Coolest' Schools 2020 In The USA - Here's How They Earned A+ Marks For Environmental Commitments, Despite Unprecedented Challenges



Credit: Sierra Club

In the 14 years since *Sierra* started ranking colleges according to their eco bona fides and environmental commitments, one thing has become clear: Governments and businesses would be wise to take their cues from higher education. That's because achieving carbon neutrality, divesting from fossil fuel companies, and incorporating

sustainability into both campus operations and gen-ed curriculum have all become practically *de rigueur* in academia.

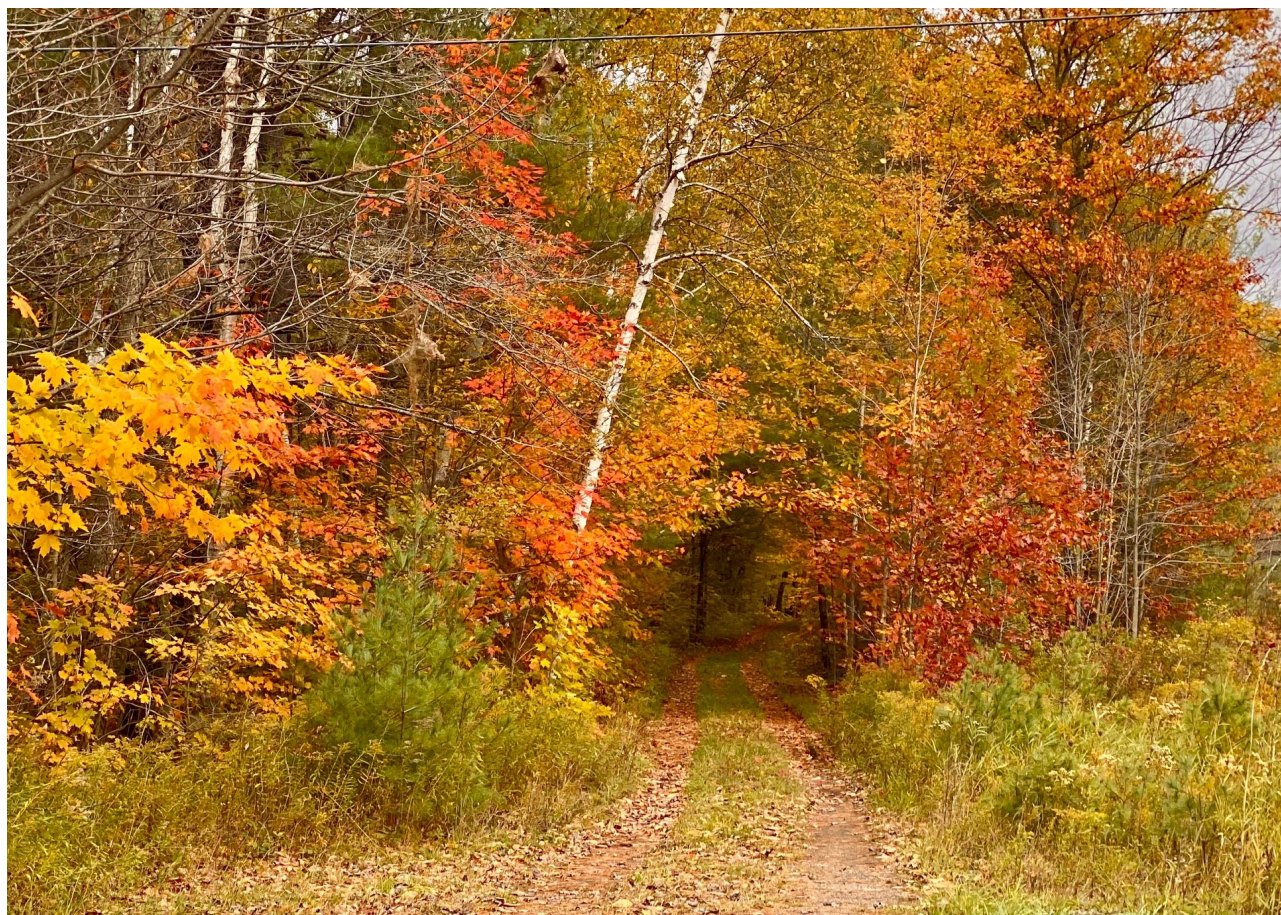
This year, a record 312 institutions participated in our annual Cool Schools rankings—a remarkable feat, given the fact it's been a school year like no other. Beyond having to suddenly pivot to virtual learning and community-building because of the coronavirus pandemic, many schools had to backtrack. Those that had phased out plastic bags and takeout containers, for example, found themselves having to bring them back to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols. Despite such setbacks, the schools on this list have shown incredible resourcefulness as they have innovated new ways to maintain—and in many cases, further—their sustainability objectives.

[Read More at Sierra Club](#)

ENDSHOTS

NEAR HUMPHREY, ONTARIO AMID THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

OCTOBER 7, 2020



**THIS BEING A MOST BEAUTIFUL AND CALMING TIME OF THE
YEAR, DESPITE THE PANDEMIC**

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Last updated: October 08, 2020, 21:11 GMT

[Graphs](#) - [Countries](#) - [Death Rate](#) - [Symptoms](#) - [Incubation](#) - [Transmission](#) - [News](#)

Coronavirus Cases:

36,688,600

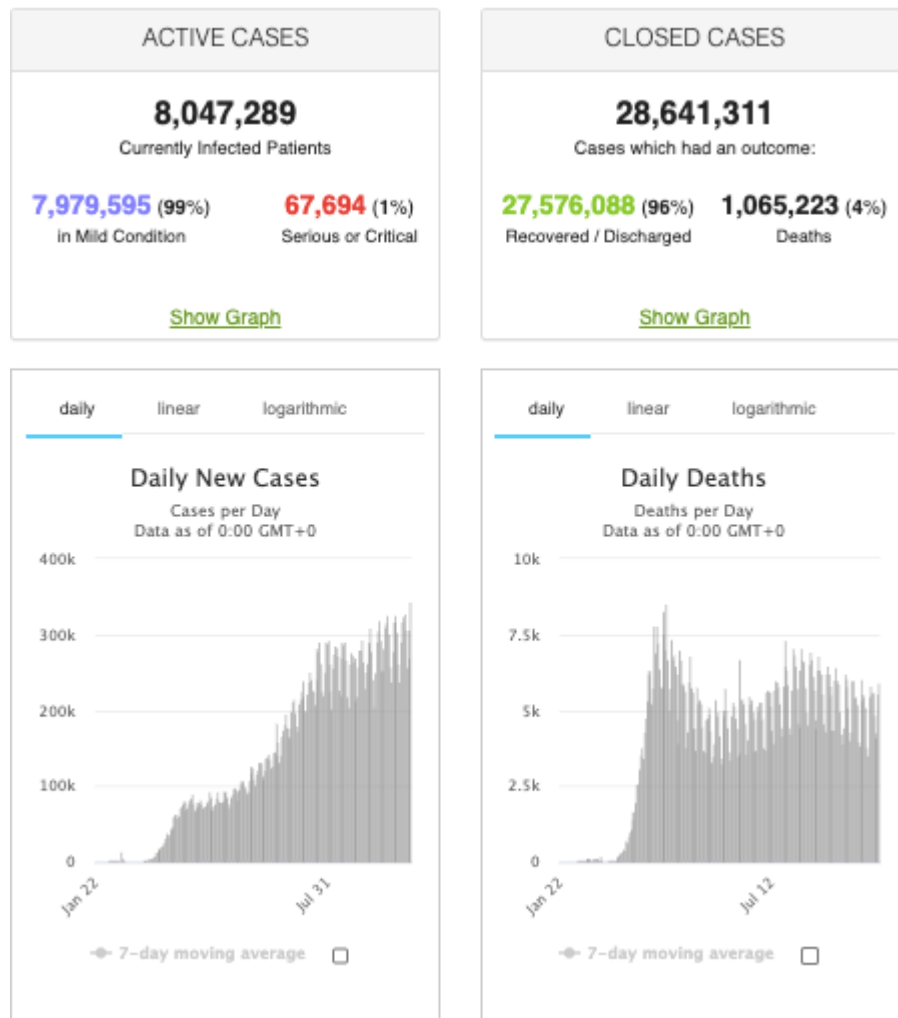
[view by country](#)

Deaths:

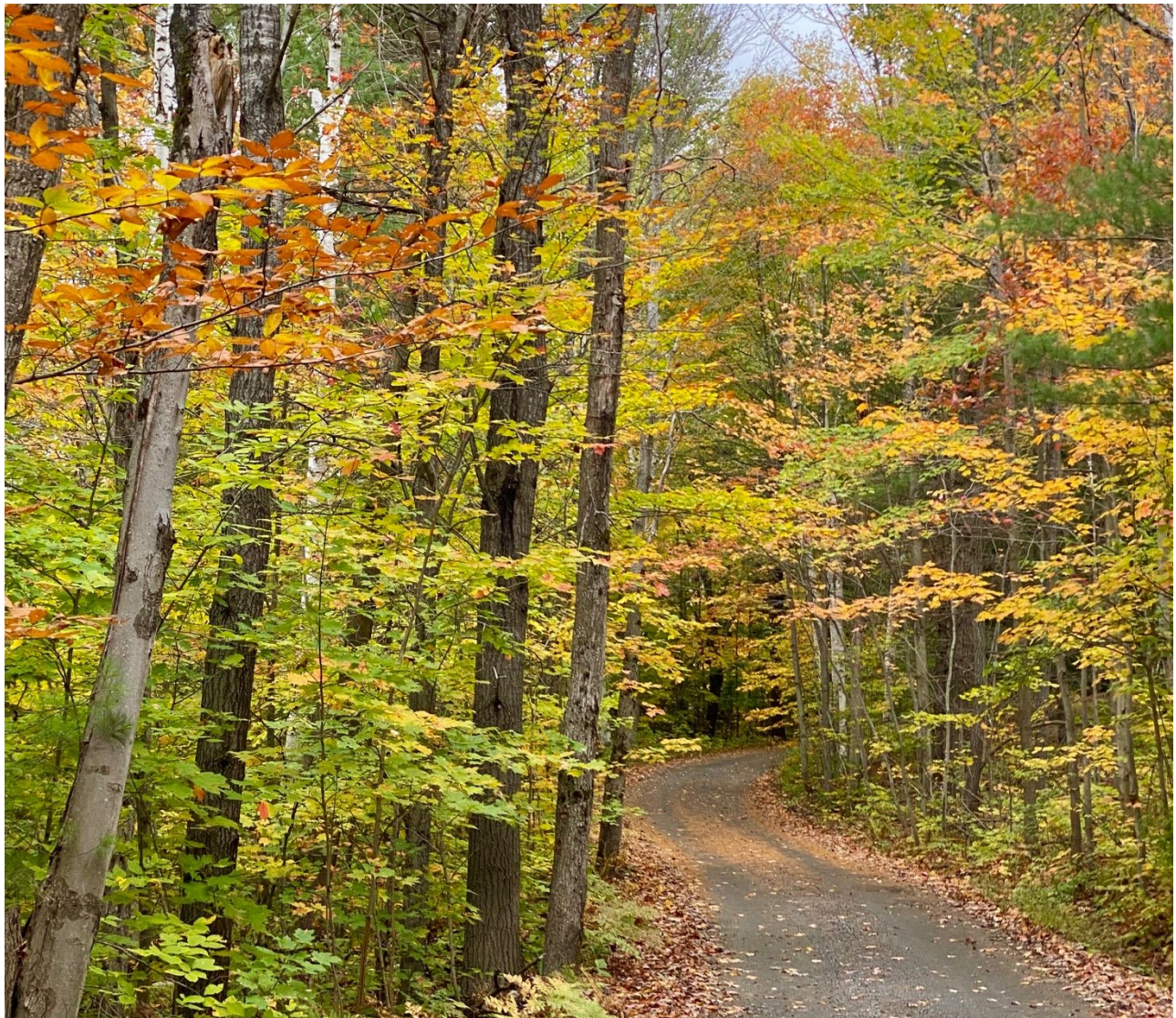
1,065,223

Recovered:

27,576,088



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



**COUNTRIES RANKED BY RATE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES AND
DEATHS PER CAPITA (OCTOBER 1-8, 2020) Source:**

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

Case and death counts by country

Deaths

Cases

Adj. for population

Totals

Jump to a country:

U.S. ▼

Country ▼	Reported cases per 100k ▼	New cases in last 7 days per 100k ▼	Change in daily cases in last 7 days ▼
Qatar	4,498	51	▼ -7%
Andorra	3,329	671	▲ 74%
Israel	3,145	345	▼ -13%
Panama	2,762	93	▲ 2%
Kuwait	2,601	89	▼ -7%
Peru	2,570	64	▼ -34%
Chile	2,512	59	▼ -13%
Brazil	2,369	73	▲ 0%
U.S.	2,302	95	▲ 3%
Moldova	2,254	220	▲ 13%
Oman	2,093	111	▲ 82%
Montenegro	2,090	324	▲ 59%
Argentina	1,871	169	▲ 4%
Armenia	1,842	122	▲ 31%
Spain	1,802	148	▼ -10%
Colombia	1,744	84	▲ 8%
Costa Rica	1,654	132	▲ 5%
Luxembourg	1,471	85	▲ 40%
The Bahamas	1,210	151	▲ 63%
Belgium	1,201	146	▲ 58%
Bolivia	1,196	17	▼ -23%
South Africa	1,170	15	▲ 20%
Dominican Republic	1,088	39	▲ 51%
France	1,061	141	▲ 11%
UAE	1,053	78	▲ 12%
Iraq	1,004	69	▼ -8%
Saudi Arabia	987	9	▼ -4%
North Macedonia	949	79	▲ 53%
Sweden	948	38	▲ 15%

Case and death counts by country

Deaths

Cases

Adj. for population

Totals

Jump to a country:

Canada

Country	Reported deaths per 100k	New deaths in last 7 days per 100k	Change in daily deaths in last 7 days
Peru	102	1.7	▼ -13%
Belgium	88	0.7	▲ 59%
Bolivia	71	1.7	▼ -4%
Brazil	70	1.7	▼ -12%
Andorra	70	1.3	—
Ecuador	70	4.1	▲ 76%
Chile	69	1.8	0%
Spain	69	1.5	▼ -10%
Mexico	65	3.6	▲ 92%
U.S.	65	1.4	▼ -4%
Britain	64	0.6	▲ 24%
Italy	60	0.3	▲ 22%
Panama	58	1.4	▼ -16%
Sweden	57	0	—
Colombia	54	2	▼ -18%
Moldova	54	3.3	0%
Argentina	49	4.3	▼ -4%
France	49	0.8	▼ -6%
Netherlands	38	0.7	▲ 7%
North Macedonia	37	1.5	0%
Ireland	37	0.2	▲ 89%
Armenia	34	1.4	▲ 100%
Iran	34	1.8	▲ 9%
Montenegro	31	3.4	0%
South Africa	29	0.7	▼ -12%
Bosnia	28	1.6	▼ -12%
Romania	27	2	▲ 39%
The Bahamas	26	1.5	—
Canada	26	0.6	▲ 248%





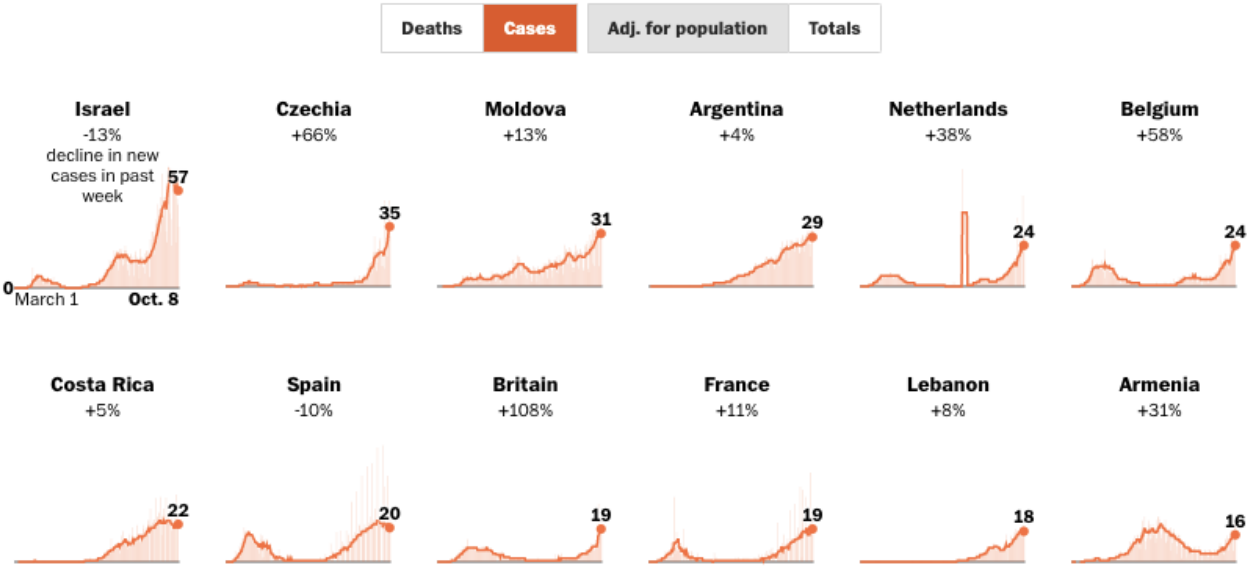
WHERE THE CASES AND DEATHS ARE SURGING (OCTOBER 1-8, 2020)

Source:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

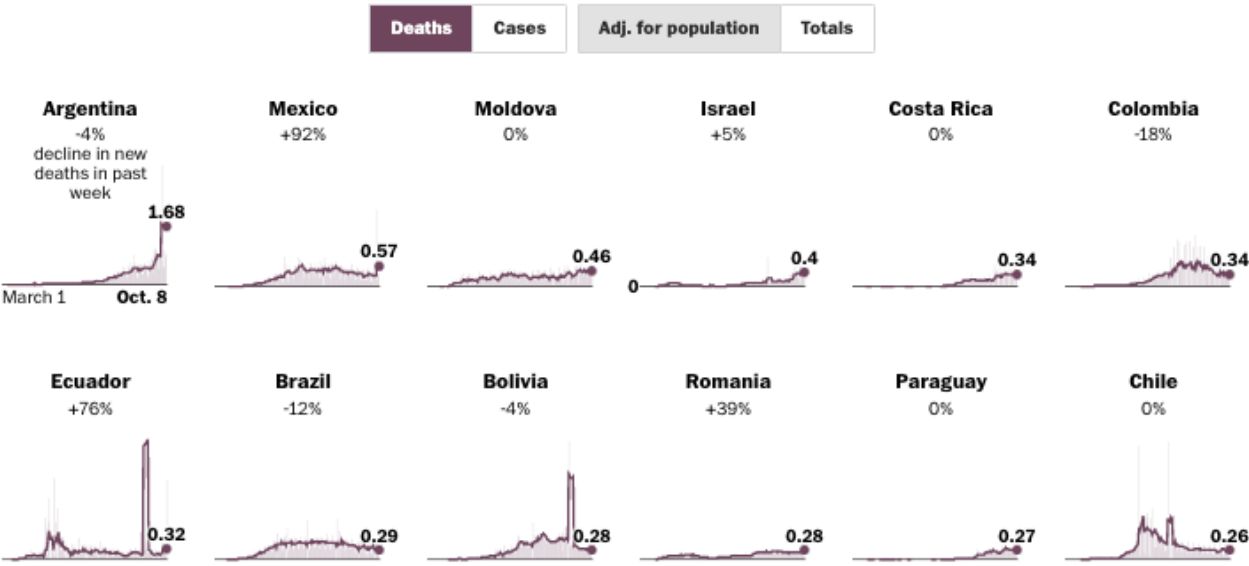
Global hot spots for reported cases per capita

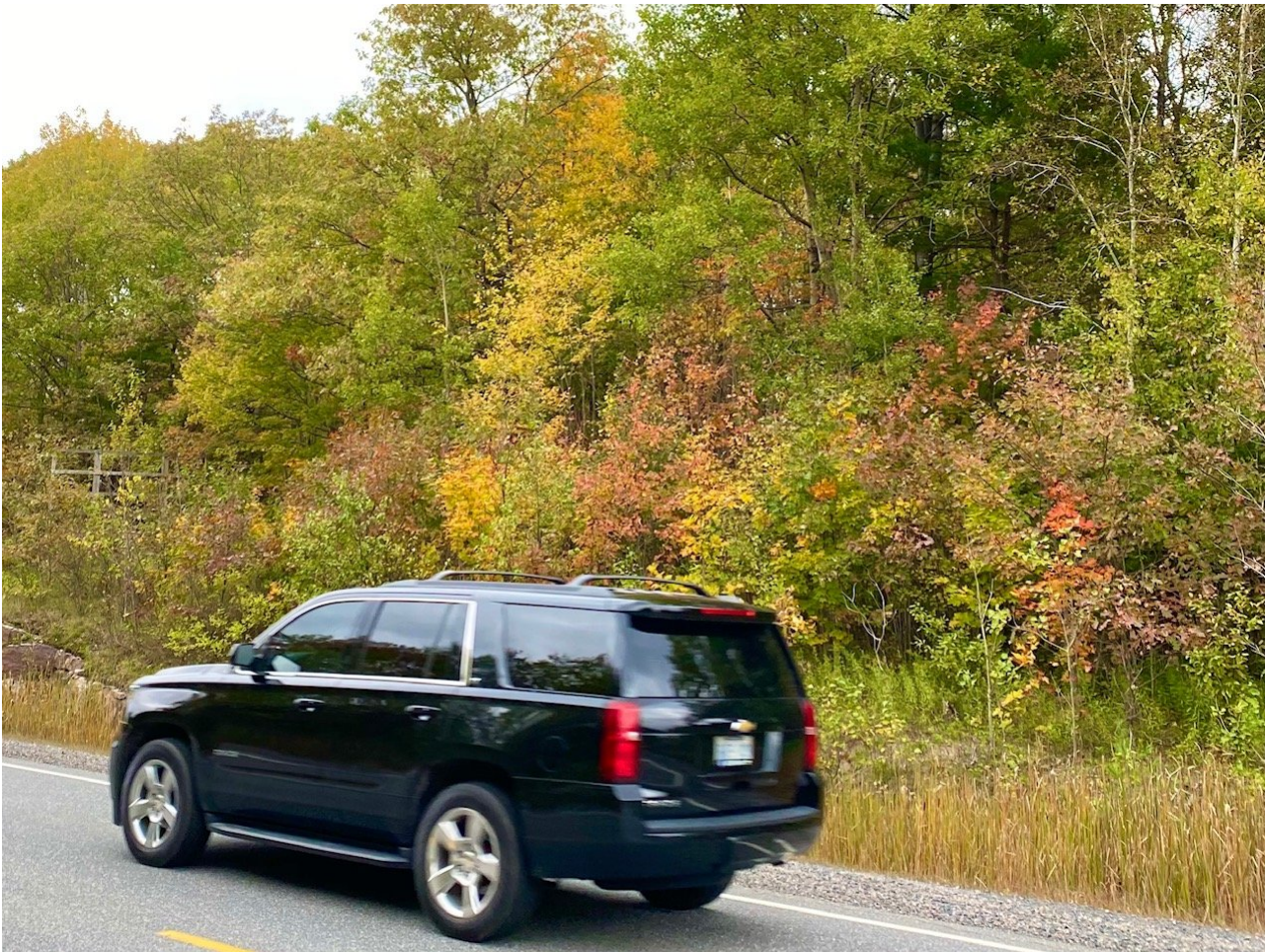
— 7-day rolling average of daily new reported cases per 100,000 residents



Global hot spots for reported deaths per capita

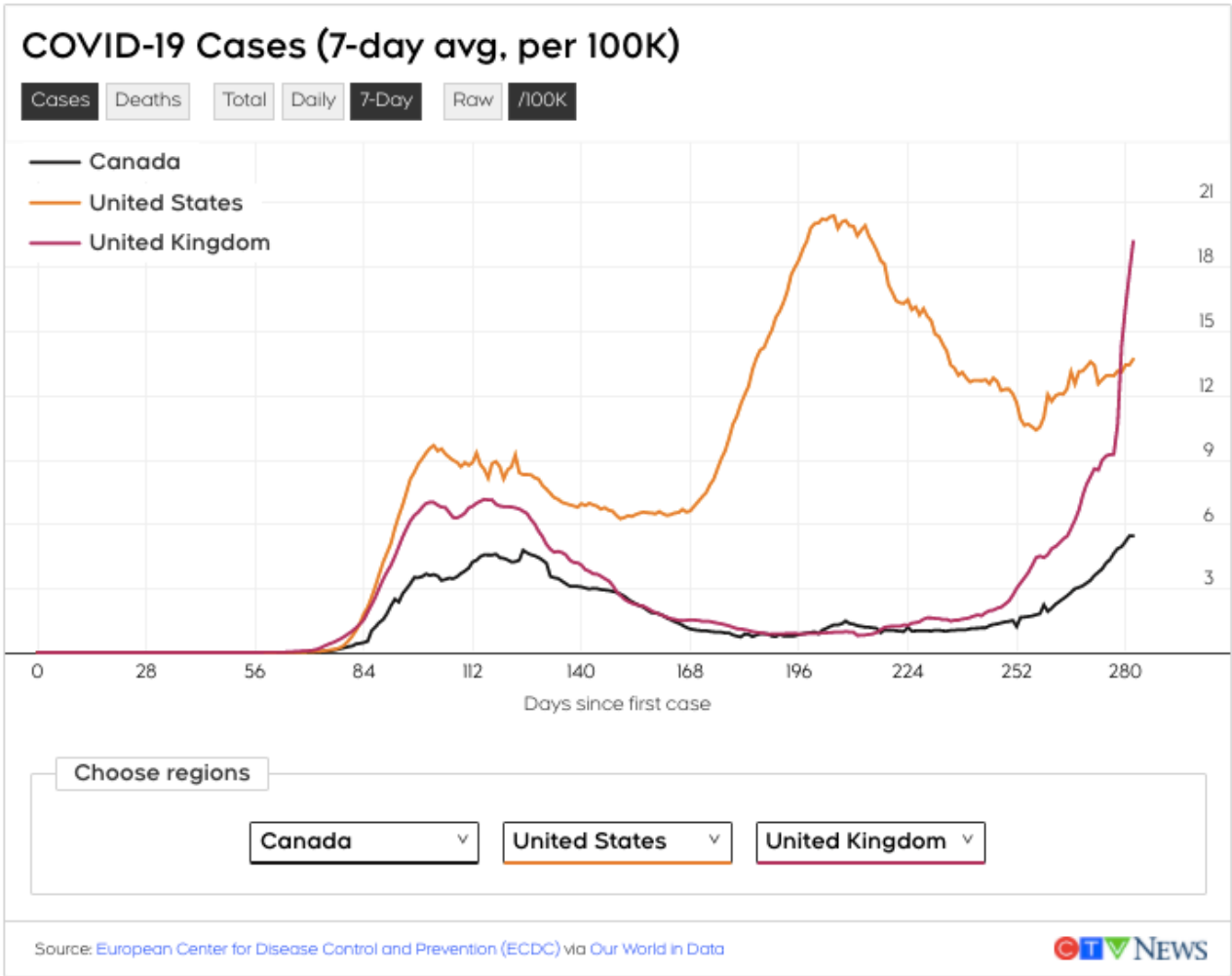
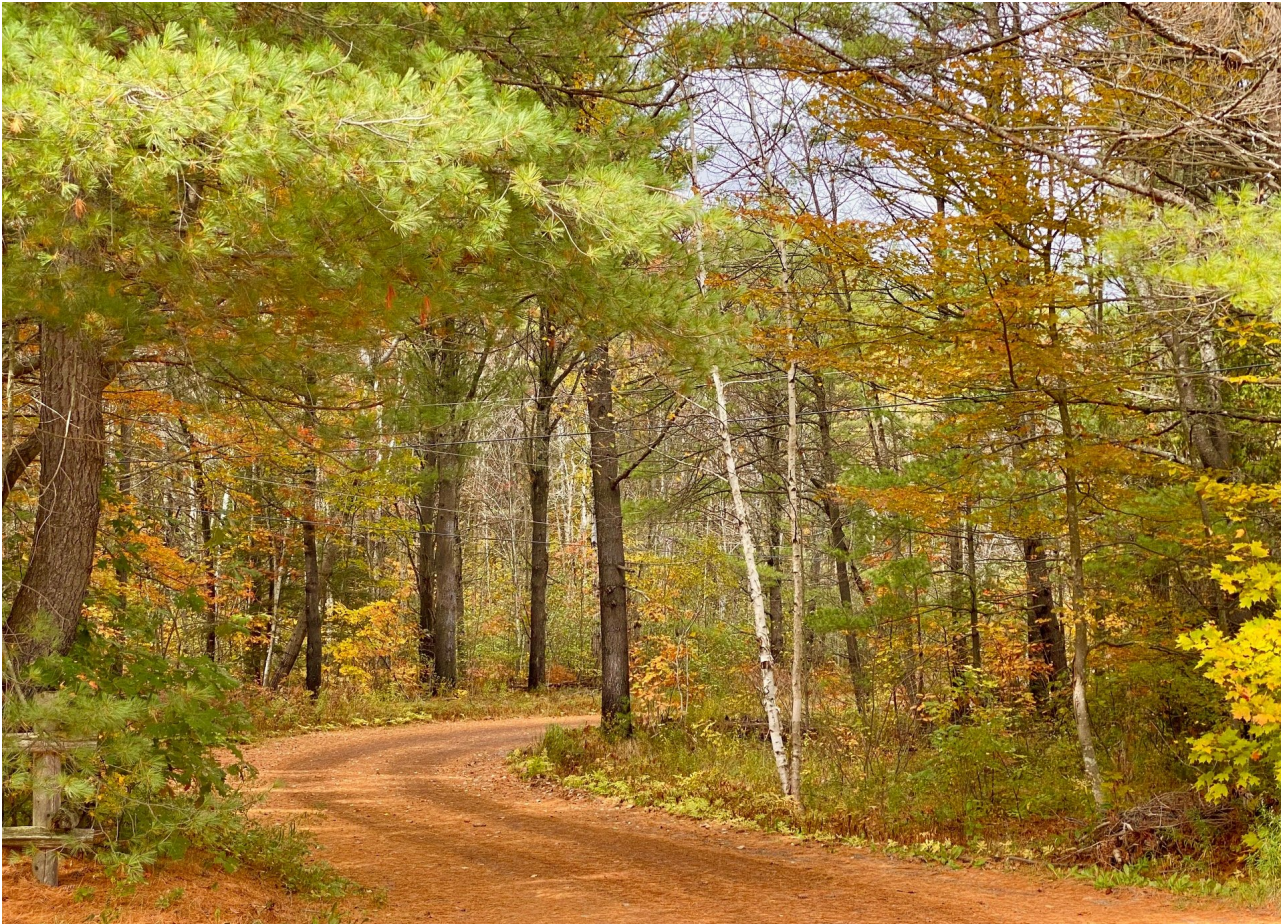
— 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths per 100,000 residents

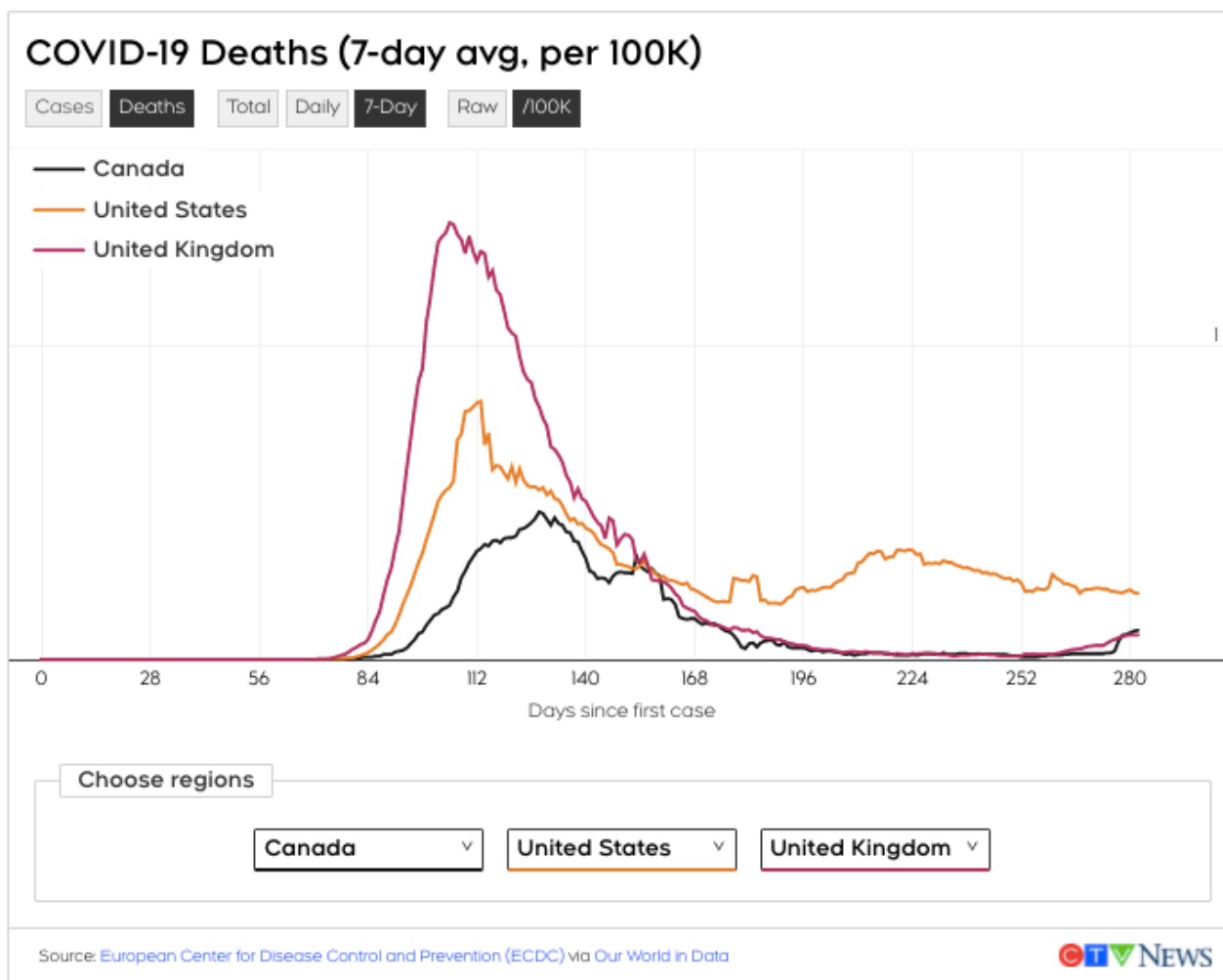




How the U.S. compares to other regions

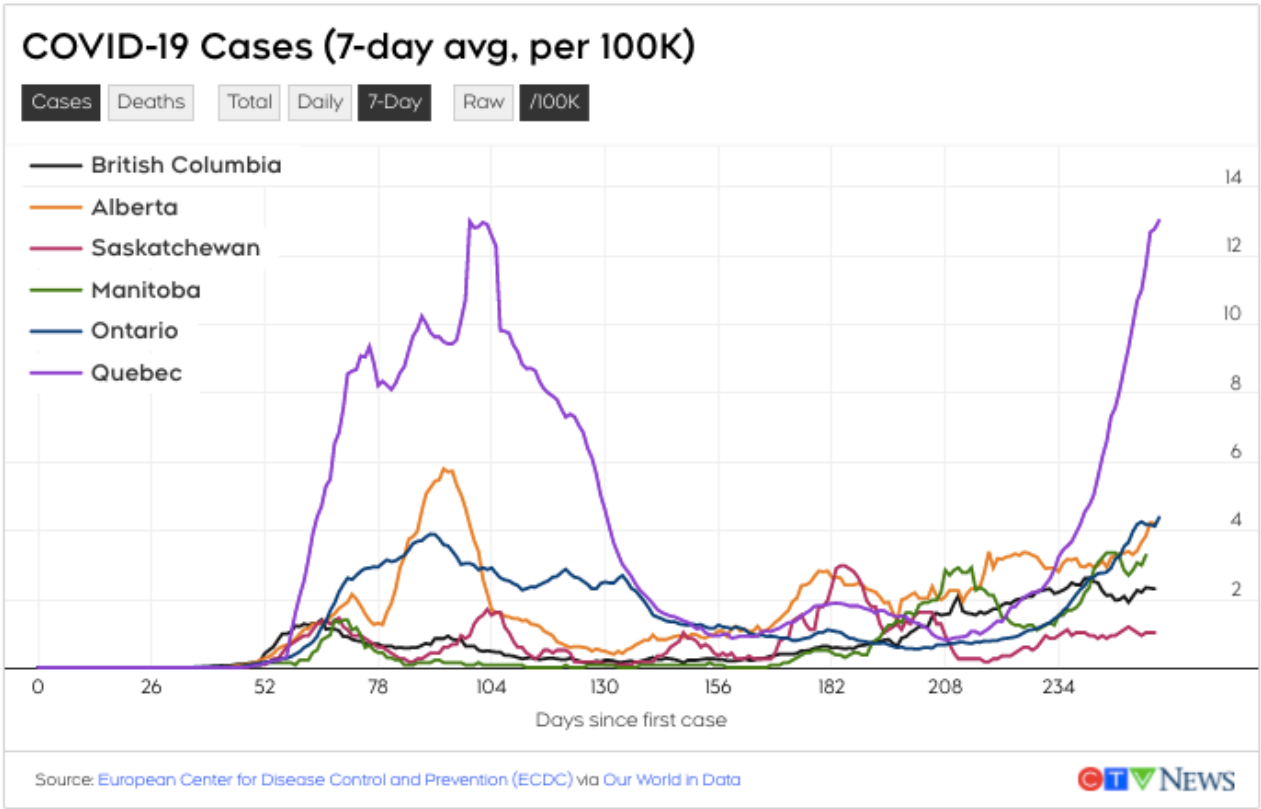


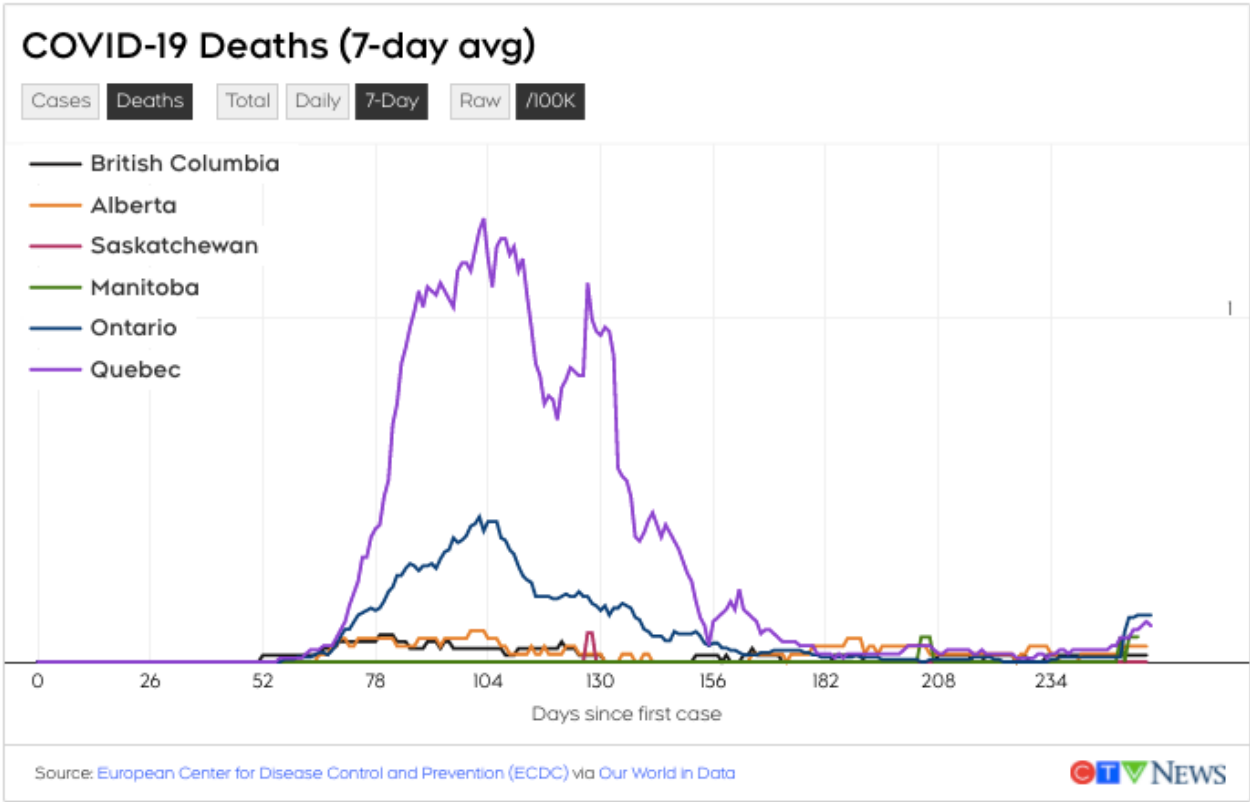




Source on October 8, 2020:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-curves-compare-canada-and-other-key-nations-1.4881500>



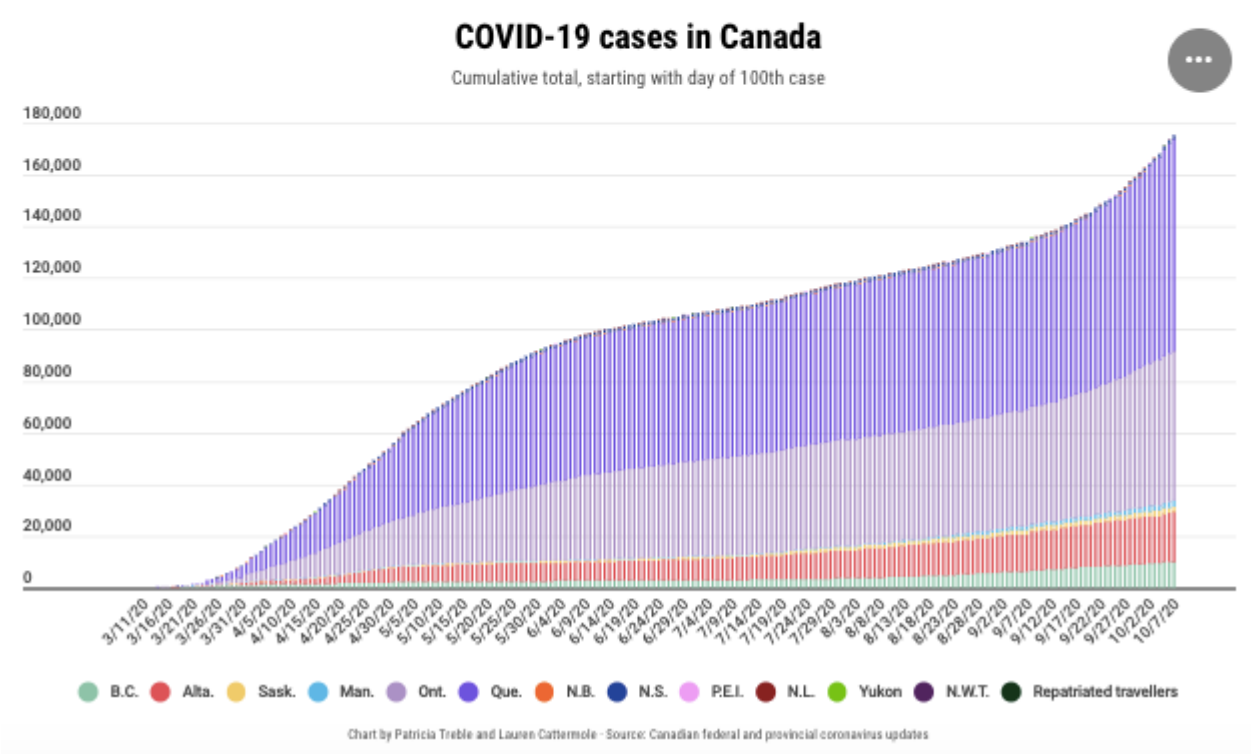




COVID-19 in Canada: Here's how our battle against the second wave is going

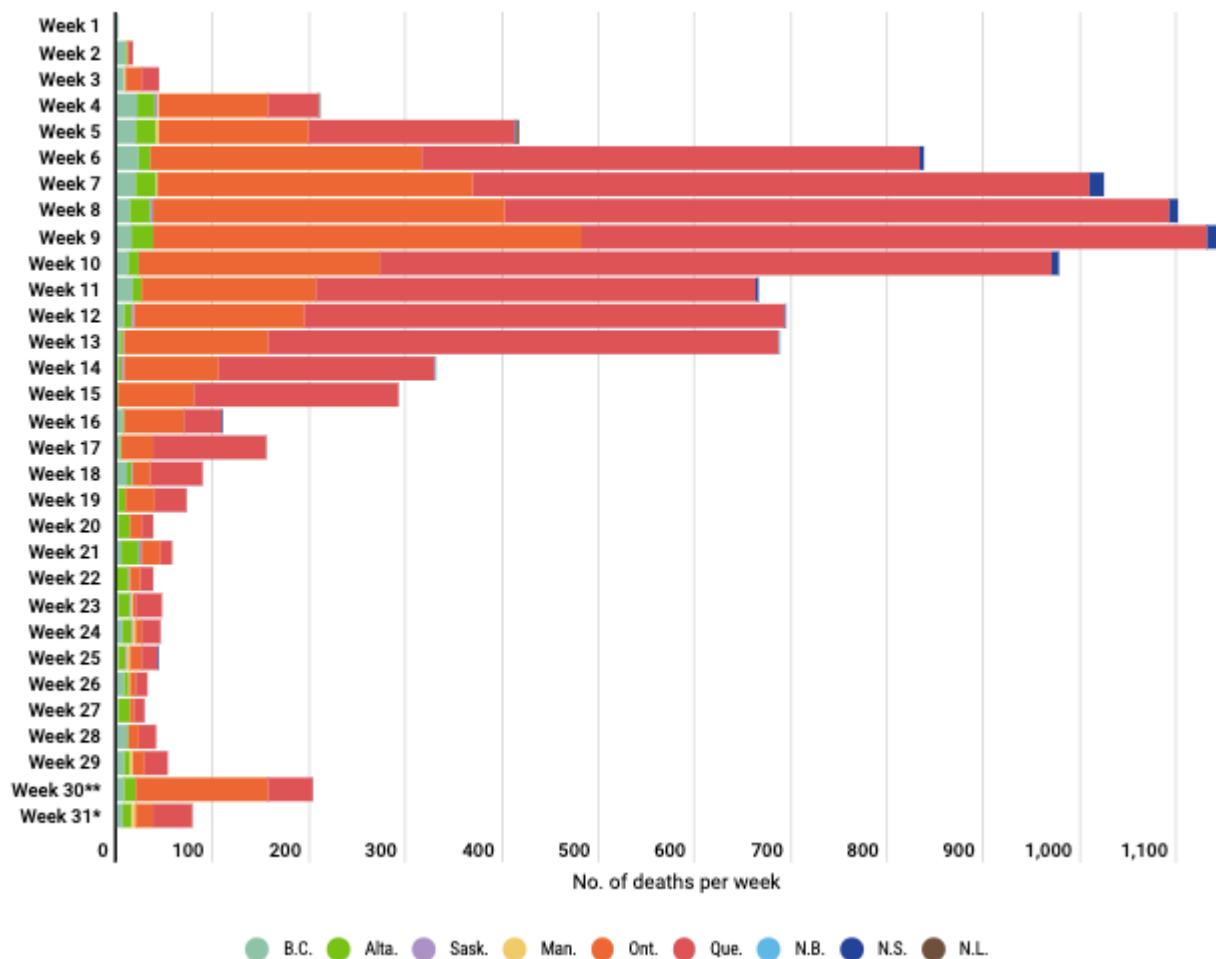
At a time when cases are rising sharply in many provinces, medical experts and politicians are unified in their Thanksgiving message: Keep gatherings limited to the people in your household.

By Patricia Treble
October 8, 2020

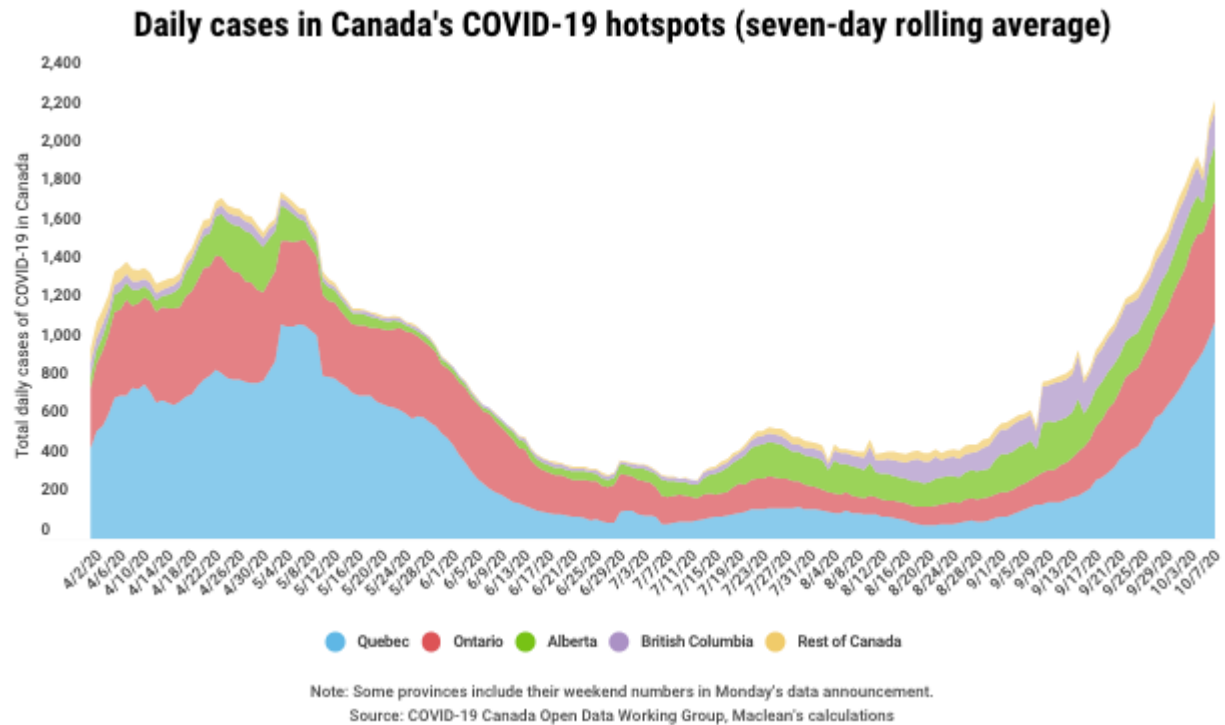


COVID-19 deaths in Canada

(starting the week of the first death on March 8)



*week to date **Toronto added 117 historical deaths to its Week 30 tally. Excluding those deaths, Ontario recorded 20 deaths in Week 30.



Source on October 8, 2020 of Canadian data above:

<https://www.macleans.ca/society/health/coronavirus-in-canada-these-charts-show-how-our-fight-to-flatten-the-curve-is-going/>







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