

[View in browser](#)**CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH****Volume 6, Number 46** <https://planetaryhealthweekly.com> **November 12, 2020**

Hi, How great, interesting and frustrating these last seven days have been. Yes, democracy works (well, sort of, but seems to get into trouble when a main player doesn't believe in it), even with the big stall. And this time the Americans have provided an example, better for me and the whole world. We live in a global commons. Our world is interconnected, and interdependent. No country can be totally self-sufficient, nor can any individual and neither can ignore what's going on around them. We all personally rely on others including family, friends and neighbours, especially in times of need and celebration. We cannot live in a bubble, though some try, but it will burst and likely when its least expected (remember last March?). We are dependent on others for so many things, this being part of the joy of life - interconnecting and exchanging goods, money and ideas. Our sanity depends on it. Who wants to live alone? I believe much of the world heaved a giant sigh of relief and celebrated in a Covid-19 way last Saturday. I did.

But the pandemic still rages on in too many places despite our ability to find havens and momentary peace (See Endshots for both peace and stats). As for the public health emergency as it is in the USA, President Trump must yield control over the pandemic to incoming Joe Biden, yesterday. Read the headlines, the United States is out of control, well over 100,000 cases day after day and increasing, hospitals are full, and deaths are at least a 1000 every day. The president's inaction is killing too many and making way too many sick. All this from a super microscopic form of life, that due to inaction and mistaken actions is incredibly lashing out, having now affected more than 52 million people worldwide. Unreal!!

In today's **Planetary Health Weekly** (#46 of 2020), we continue to celebrate verifiable knowledge and the way we learn about the natural world to help ensure a safe life for all for the years we are given, short of those that are taken from some. Check out stories on:

- An amazing tracker data base of global disease and life expectancy that so interestingly illustrates the Covid-19 plague,
- Coronavirus Updates including:
  - Glimmers of hope for winter tropical travel,
  - Thorough treatment of airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2,
  - Effects of large group meetings on the spread of Covid-19 – the case of Trump rallies,
  - How the fight to end polio can help Covid-19 recovery,
  - Tracking Covid-`19 excess deaths across countries,
  - A three part documentary 'America's Pandemic',
  - The link between construction work and Covid-19 risks in Texas,
  - How Covid-19 hinders the fight against malaria,
  - Covid-19 is forcing the arts in Europe back into the arms of government,
  - Dr. Fauci speaks out,
  - Enlisting the gaming community to boost understanding,
  - Italian towns hit hardest by Covid-19 are doing better,
  - Baby boom/baby bust – the pandemic may be leading to fewer babies,  
THEN
- Climate change could open new land in Canada for farming, but there is a price,
- Surge in natural disasters takes heavy human and economic toll,
- Canada's climate change inaction violates Indigenous human rights,
- Support by many for the Treaty on transnational corporations with respect to human rights,
- Jay's Blog #2 'Public Health...What is it, really?'
- A potentially new antibiotic from Komodo Dragon blood,
- There is a fifth horseman of the Apocalypse – and it's us By Trevor Hancock,
- Amidst bankruptcies, faltering oil and gas firms are leaving a multi-billion dollar cleanup to the public,
- Indigenous Canadians face attacks in lobster war,
- Quote by Richard Horton on Covid-19,
- How should the media talk about climate change?
- Here's where to find every wind turbine in Canada,
- Federal judge throws out youth climate case against the Canadian government,
- Seven reasons to go for a morning walk,
- New books – "A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency" by Seth Klein and "All Fracked Up: The Costs of LNG to British Columbia,"
- Toronto health science leaders form Community of Practice for high-quality, low carbon health care, and

- ENDSHOTS from a peaceful urban haven in Toronto (High Park) amidst coronavirus stats and charts.

I hope you'll keep reading below.

Best, david

David Zokus, Editor and Publisher



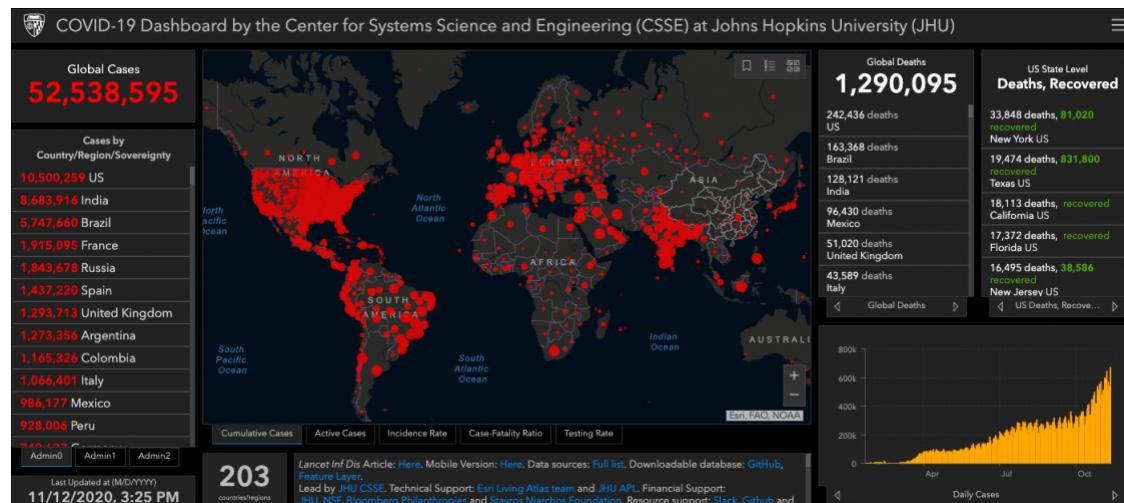
# World Life Expectancy Tracker



Credit: Tom LeDuc

This amazing tool simulates how Covid-19 deaths rank against selected causes of death for virtually every country in the world. It uses historical averages of selected causes for each country. Covid-19 deaths are current for each country and updated daily. Do check this out! Amazing data presentation [\*\*at World Life Expectancy Tracker\*\*](#)

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



*It's been just another terrible week in so many countries and with many global, national and local record highs for the disease and its consequences. We are seeing the*

**richest doing the poorest. Plagues are not new, but this is not the 18th Century; we surely can and must do better. Today sees record highs in Canada, Ontario and Toronto. Globally in the last week there have been about 4 million new cases (double from a month ago!), and ~60,000 deaths, also way up. What a disaster. We must continue keeping our calm and discipline, demand better, find happiness in everything and keep up our battles. (See more COVID-19 stats and charts in ENDSHOTS at the end of this newsletter.)**

**"It is the plague in seemingly all sincerity." Bob Woodward**

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## **Glimmers Of Hope For A Winter With Tropical Travel**



**Credit: Larry MacDougal, via Associated Press**

Canada's public health experts are researching approaches to testing and quarantine that could make travel abroad more feasible. Calgary International Airport has now started offering incoming international passengers a chance to spend just 48 hours in

quarantine, rather than the two long solitary weeks normally mandated. It will do that with free coronavirus tests. Ed Sims, the chief executive of WestJet Airlines, said the pilot program was “the first piece of good news” that the airline had heard since Feb. 29, when he watched bookings take a nosedive and never recover.

The Canadian government not only barred foreigners from entering, but also ordered Canadians to avoid “inessential travel.” To underline what constitutes “essential,” the government slapped on a mandatory two-week quarantine for anyone returning to the country, with fines or potential jail time for those who broke it. The goal is to evaluate whether a full two weeks of isolation is warranted, and to compare outcomes from different countries with different transmission rates, “I hope it would become easier for politicians to say, ‘This is the framework, informed by data and science, and we will relax border controls from these countries,’” said Dr. Vivek Goel, a professor of public health at the University of Toronto and a co-lead of a similar study at Toronto’s Pearson International Airport. [Read More at New York Times](#)

## MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

**At NAP: [Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief \(but a thorough treatment of the topic\)](#)**

**At Sebotero: [The Effects of Large Group Meetings on the Spread of COVID-19: The Case of Trump Rallies](#)**

We conclude that the eighteen rallies studied ultimately resulted in more than 30,000 incremental confirmed cases of COVID-19. Applying county specific post-event death rates, we conclude that the rallies likely led to more than 700 deaths (not necessarily among attendees).

**At UN Foundation: [Come Together: How The Fight To End Polio Can Help The Covid-19 Recovery](#)**

**At Economist: [Covid-19 Data - Tracking Covid-19 Excess Deaths Across Countries | Graphic Detail](#)**

**At Washington Post: [America’s Pandemic: a three-part documentary video from The Washington Post explores a failed response to the coronavirus pandemic that’s left 225,000 Americans dead, despite decades of preparation in Washington.](#)**

**At JAMA Network: [Estimated \(High\) Association of Construction Work With Risks of COVID-19 Infection and Hospitalization in Texas](#)**

**At Economist: [The Virus And The Vector - How Covid-19 Hinders The Fight Against Malaria](#)**

**At Economist: Busking For Bail-Outs - Covid-19 Is Forcing The Arts In Europe Back Into The Arms Of Government**

**At Daily Kos: Dr. Fauci speaks bluntly about Trump and COVID-19 - We're in for a whole lot of hurt**

**At National Academies: National Academy of Sciences Enlists Gaming Community to Boost Public Understanding of COVID-19**

**At Economist: The Valleys Of The Shadow Of Death - Italian Towns Hit Hardest By Covid-19 Are Doing Better**

**At Economist: Baby Boom, Baby Bust - The Pandemic May Be Leading To Fewer Babies In Rich Countries**

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## Climate Change Could Open New Land For Farming In Canada — But Comes At A Price



Credit: THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP Photo/dpa, Julian Stratenschulte

Climate change could open a whole different area in Canada to farming, says newly published research. But Evan Fraser of the University of Guelph, a co-author of the international study, warns that simply turning northern forests into waving wheat fields would sow disaster. "Canada is actually holding a good card when it comes to climate change, and one of the potentially positive changes is a longer growing season in our backyard. There is an interesting opportunity to generate food in a world that needs more. (But) there's some very serious environmental consequences.

If we clear a lot of land and plow a lot of soil, what we could see is a huge release of carbon dioxide," he said. "For Canada, a large-scale conversion of land in the North to agriculture would eliminate any chance we have as a country of meeting our Paris commitments." Still, Fraser said, some are already considering bigger things. "There are casual conversations with policy-makers or casual conversations with industry ... thinking, 'Canada's going to have this warmer growing season. We can do agriculture farther North.'" [Read More at Global News](#)

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## Surge In Natural Disasters Takes Heavy Human And Economic Toll



Credit: Antara Foto/via Reuters

Extreme weather events have increased dramatically in the past 20 years, taking a heavy human and economic toll worldwide, and are likely to wreak further havoc, the United Nations said recently. Heatwaves and droughts will pose the greatest threat in the next decade, as temperatures continue to rise due to heat-trapping gases. Some 7,348 major disaster events were recorded globally, claiming 1.23 million lives, affecting 4.2 billion people and causing \$2.97 trillion in economic losses during the two-decade period. "The good news is that more lives have been saved but the bad news is that more people are being affected by the expanding climate emergency," Mami Mizutori, the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, told a news briefing. Global temperatures will continue to warm over the

next five years, and may even temporarily rise to more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in July. Scientists have set 1.5C (2.7 Fahrenheit) as the ceiling for avoiding catastrophic climate change. [Read More at News Trust](#)

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## Canada's Climate-Change Inaction Violates Indigenous Human Rights



Credit: Daron Donahue/ Human Rights Watch

Two Human Rights Watch experts (Katharina Rall and Rachel LaFortune) describe how First Nations people in Canada are struggling to sustain traditional diets, as fish and wildlife become more difficult and dangerous to reach. While the entire country grapples with COVID-19, the international research and advocacy organization Human Rights Watch is shining a spotlight on another crisis being faced by Indigenous people in remote northern communities. Thanks to climate change, there are fewer fish and animals to hunt and it's more difficult to harvest them, forcing Indigenous peoples to buy expensive and less nutritious food imported from the South. For example, in Peawanuck, a remote community on Hudson Bay in Ontario, fewer animals like caribou and snow geese are migrating to the area, with unstable ice and permafrost making it more difficult to hunt them in the winter. [Read More at Macleans](#)

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## GOOD NEWS

# Representatives Worldwide Support The Un-Binding Treaty On Transnational Corporations With Respect To Human Rights



Victor Barro / Friends of the Earth International

Credit: Lúcia Ortiz and Anne van Schaik

Amidst the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the United Nations (UN) Open Ended Inter-governmental Working Group (OEIGWG) entered its sixth round of negotiations on a treaty on “transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights,” from 26 -30 October. UN member states will negotiate a second revised draft of this groundbreaking treaty, which aims to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations.

Interest in the process continues to grow as evidenced by the significant presence of UN member state delegates taking part in negotiations. The Global Inter-parliamentarian Network (GIN) issued a statement in support of the UN Binding Treaty urging “states to actively engage in this UN process and to work towards an effective and legally binding instrument, to ensure that people’s dignity enshrined by universal political, economic, social and cultural rights, is prioritized and guaranteed worldwide over private profits.” [Read More at UN Binding Treaty](#)

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## JAY'S BLOG #2

### Public Health...What Is It, Really?

What *is* the discipline of public health? This challenging profession, often overlooked or misunderstood, works diligently, typically in the background, to protect everyone – even as more visible attention is drawn during outbreak investigations and/or pandemics. Public health practitioners possess broad educational backgrounds including medicine, nursing, entomology, veterinary, occupational and environmental science disciplines, embracing wide ranging skills, goals and responsibilities. [Read On at PHW Blogs](#)



Credit: Jay Kravitz

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## MORE GOOD NEWS

# Scientists Develop A Potential Antibiotic From Komodo Dragon Blood



Credit: Reuters

Komodo dragon blood may hold the key to tackling the “looming crisis” of antimicrobial resistance, according to scientists behind a potential new antibiotic, DRGN-6. The synthetic molecule, developed by experts at George Mason University in the United States, was created by combining two genes found in Komodo dragon blood – an endangered species found on five Indonesian islands. In preclinical tests DRGN-6 killed carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, a highly drug resistant bacteria which causes a particularly aggressive form of pneumonia. [Read More at Telegraph](#)

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## OPINION

# There Is A Fifth Horseman Of The Apocalypse – And It Is Us (By Trevor Hancock)



Credit: Global News

The Book of Revelations in the New Testament lists the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse as conquest, war, famine and death, while in the Old Testament's Book of Ezekiel they are sword, famine, wild beasts and pestilence or plague. But whatever we call them, they are remarkably close to what we might call the four horsemen of ecology that regulate population size in nature. In his 2016 book *The Serengeti Rules*, Sean Carroll discusses the work of pioneering ecologist Charles Elton in the 1920s. In thinking about how animal numbers are regulated to avoid over-population, "Elton suggested that, in general, increases in numbers were held in check by predators, pathogens, parasites and food supply."

We should recall that the WHO has called climate change "the greatest threat to health in the 21st century." Increasingly, it seems the most likely factor that could lead to a human population crash is a runaway hot-earth scenario combined with a mass species extinction and the other massive and rapid global ecological changes we have triggered. So although of course an asteroid strike or super-volcano eruption could wipe us out, the greatest threat to the human population, the "fifth horseman" if you like, is us. [Read More at Healthy Debate](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

# With Bankruptcies Mounting, Faltering Oil and Gas Firms Are Leaving a Multi-billion Dollar Cleanup Bill to the Public



Credit: DANIEL FOSTER/VICTOR TANGERMAN

Amid a record wave of bankruptcies, the U.S. oil and gas industry is on the verge of defaulting on billions of dollars in environmental cleanup obligations. Even the largest companies in the industry appear to have few plans to properly clean up and plug oil and gas wells after the wells stop producing — despite being legally required to do so. While the bankruptcy process could be an opportunity to hold accountable either these firms, or the firms acquiring the assets via bankruptcy, it instead has offered more opportunities for companies to walk away from cleanup responsibilities — while often rewarding the same executives who bankrupted them.

The results may be publicly funded cleanups of the millions of oil and gas wells that these companies have left behind. “The plan is that these costs will be transferred, these obligations will be transferred to the state at some point,” said Greg Rogers, a former Big Oil advisor, and co-author of [a previous Carbon Tracker report](#) on the likely costs of properly shutting down shale wells. He continued: “Why would a company want to go out and spend hundreds of millions of dollars plugging all of these wells when it could instead pay its executives?” As The New Republic notes, bankruptcy has become good business for the failing oil and gas industry, which is using loopholes in the process to shift billions in costs for closing down wells and remediating the environment around them to the public. [Read More at Desmog](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

### In ‘Lobster War,’ Indigenous Canadians

## Face Attacks By Fishermen



Credit: Andrew Vaughan/The Canadian Press via AP

Jason Marr, an Indigenous lobsterman in Nova Scotia, was unloading his live catch at a storage facility in late October when, he said, an angry mob of 200 commercial fishermen began pounding on the door, screaming to be let in. Terrified, he barricaded himself inside a cold storage area, waiting for more than 90 minutes for police officers to respond to his call for help, as the crowd outside tossed rocks and a man urinated on the passenger seat of his van parked outside. "It feels like they have declared a lobster war against us," said Michael Sack, chief of the Sipekne'katik First Nation, whose lobster fishermen were targeted in the attacks and who himself was assaulted when a commercial fisherman lunged at him during a protest at a lobster facility. "I believe that systemic racism is at play," he added, noting that local suppliers were refusing to sell his people fuel, bait or traps. Dora Maillet of Saulnierville, a village where Indigenous people have come to fish for lobster, said people in the area were shaken by the rising violence. "Usually there's not much going on and it's quiet," she said. "It gets you scared." [Read More at Chicago Tribune](#)

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Credit: David Zakus

## Quote Of The Week

“COVID-19 has evolved to become a debate about the distribution of power in society—central government versus local government, young versus old, rich versus poor, white versus black, health versus the economy. Those most at risk of COVID-19 are some of the least powerful in our society. Those working in public health do not see themselves as instruments of capitalist states. On the contrary, they view health to be of such intrinsic value that it must be fought for and defended. But we need to be clear-sighted about our alliance with government to address this syndemic. Medicine and public health are being co-opted into a political programme of population control to protect the power of the modern neoliberal state. The struggle for health is a struggle for human dignity, liberty, and equity. But we must also meet our obligation to question power and its effects on truth, and truth and its effects on power.”

**Richard Horton, Editor in Chief, The Lancet**

Read More at The Lancet

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## Upcoming Events

- November 9th-19th: [2020 UN Climate Change Conference](#) (UNFCCC COP26 - Glasgow, Scotland) - Postponed until latter 2021
- Envi
- November 12th-18th: [Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital](#) (Virtual)
- November 13th-14th: [Global Impact in the Age of Dual Pandemic: Re-imagining the Global Black Community in the Face of a Sweeping Pandemic](#) (Virtual)
- 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)

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### FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

## How Should the Media Talk About Climate Change?



Credit: Luke Sharrett / NYT / Redux

It is now October of 2020, the homestretch or—God help us—the halfway point of the Donald Trump years. As we flip through our metaphorical national photo album, reminiscing on some of the all-time darkest moments, there are so many to consider. You've got Charlottesville, of course, with the marching Nazis holding tiki torches—Trump's "very fine people." The peaceful protesters being tear-gassed in front of St. John's Church. The maskless superspreader event in the Rose Garden. One event that comes up less often is Trump's California wildfire briefing, early last month. The West Coast was in flames. The skies above San Francisco were red. Smoke and ash blotted out the sun. And the President was on television assuring the public that "it'll start to get cooler. You just watch." He added, "I don't think science knows" the truth about climate change. "Frankly, it was better than anything I'd even dreamed," the activist Genevieve Guenther told me recently, from her home in the West Village. "I'd been hoping the news anchors would *mention* climate change. But they didn't just do that. They talked about it as the emergency that it is. And they gave their guests space to connect it to the Presidential elections and American politics, and even talk about some of the policy solutions." She was pleased that climate change had come up during the Vice-Presidential debates, though she wished the moderator hadn't framed the question as whether Pence "believed" that man-made climate change was making extreme weather worse. "It's not the Tooth Fairy or Santa Claus. The question is: Do you 'understand' or 'accept' climate science?" she said. Anyway. She added, "The work goes on."

Read More at New Yorker

## FYI #2

# Here's Where To Find Every Wind Turbine In Canada



Credit: Aeolis Wind Power Corporation

Natural Resources Canada has published the **Canadian Wind Turbine Database**, which contains the precise latitude and longitude of every turbine, along with details like its dimensions, its power output, its manufacturer and the date it was commissioned. There is also an interactive map. For example, users can see that the largest rotor diameter of any wind turbine in Canada belongs to the Moose Lake Wind Project, northwest of Tumbler Ridge, B.C., which came online last year and is expected by Aeolis Wind Power to produce energy at a level comparable to large BC Hydro projects, such as the Site C dam. "For the first time, Canadians have access to centralized geographic and technical information on individual wind turbines that make up individual wind farms, (which) were all collected prior to now very much on an aggregated basis," said Tom Levy, senior wind engineer at the federal Natural Resources Department. The database reveals that Danish manufacturer Vestas can

put its name to most turbines now installed in Canada, with 1,834. Vestas narrowly beating out GE, the second-largest manufacturer of installed turbines in Canada, with 1,725. German multinational Siemens can claim the third-largest manufacturing total, at 1,248. Levy said the government is aiming to update the database about once a year.

[Read More at National Observer](#)

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### FYI #3

## Federal Judge Tosses Youth Climate Case Against Ottawa



**Credit: Stephanie Keith/Getty Images**

The young climate activists challenging Ottawa's climate policies will not get to lay out their case in Federal Court, striking a blow to efforts to litigate for tougher action sought in massive street protests. Justice Michael Manson rejected the 15 youths' legal challenge, agreeing with a government motion to strike it, saying their claims

that government climate policy had hurt them was too broad a question for the courts to consider. The decision may have set the stage for another climate case to head to the Supreme Court, with those backing the youth saying they will appeal. But Sophia Sidarous, one of the young plaintiffs, said the decision was a wake up-call to Canadian and Indigenous youth that "Canada has tried to silence our voice in court and block our calls for climate justice."

Read More at National Observer

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## FYI #4

### 7 Reasons to Go For a Morning Walk



Credit: [Arek Adeoye on Unsplash](#)

By this point in our evolutionary history, we all know walking is good for us. Yet, many of us still leave this fundamental component of health up to whatever we manage to squeak in while walking around the house, to and from work (if that's even

happening), or while running errands. We may think we counteract the amount of time we spend sitting with a 30–60-minute gym session, but our bodies weren't designed to sit all day and then push as hard as possible for a brief amount of time. According to a study in *Diabetes*, "The average non-exercising person may become even more metabolically unfit in the coming years if they sit too much, thereby limiting the normally high volume of intermittent non-exercise physical activity in everyday life". The benefits of walking include:

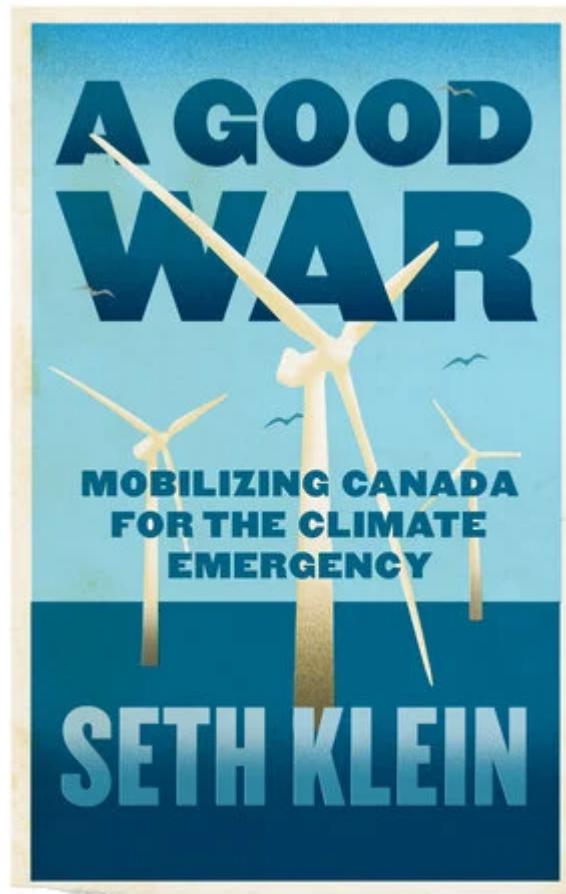
1. Faster Cardio
2. Low Insulin State
3. It's Easy
4. Increased Blood Flow to Reduce Soreness
5. Improved Eye Movement
6. Improved Optic Flow
7. Sunlight Exposure

[Read More at Medium](#)

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## FYI #5: AUTUMN READING

### A Good War: Mobilizing Canada For The Climate Emergency



Credit: Book Cover

In ***A Good War*** (published by ECW Press in September 2020), Seth Klein explores how we can align our politics and economy with what the science says we must do to address the climate crisis. But Klein brings an original and uniquely hopeful take to this challenge. The book is structured around lessons from the Second World War – the last time Canada faced an existential threat. Others have said we need a “wartime approach” to climate change, but this is the first book to delve into what that could actually look like. Canada’s wartime experience, Klein contends, provides an inspirational reminder that *we have done this before*. We have mobilized in common cause across class, race and gender, and entirely retooled our economy in the space of a few short years.

Weaving together history, politics and policy, the book jumps between our past and present, answering questions such as: What did the marshaling of all our economic and human resources look like during the Second World War, and what might a similar deployment look like today? How was it paid for? What kind of leadership did it require? How was public support and national unity secured? What did we do for returning soldiers, and are there lessons for just transition for fossil fuel workers today? What was/is the role of Indigenous people and youth, then and now? And what are the war’s cautionary tales, the warnings of things that brought us shame, that we do not wish to repeat? The book is an invitation to both the public and our political

leaders today, to reflect on the people who saw us through the Second World War, and to consider who we want to be, as we face down the defining task of our lives.

See Also:

***All Fracked Up: The Costs of LNG to British Columbia.***

**Edited by Alice de Wolff and Delores Brotan**

Co-edited by Comox Valley Chapter activist and former Council of Canadians' Board member Alice de Wolff and Delores Brotan, editor of the *Watershed Sentinel*, this book offers a unique collection of articles on fracking and B.C.'s push to refine Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) for export. It extends the idea of subsidies by highlighting the urgent need to account for the "costs" of the industry's impacts on water, the land and agriculture, Indigenous communities, human health, other species' health, air and climate change. [Read More at Water Shed Sentinel](#)

AND

**[B.C. Chapters Of The Council Of Canadians Use Election To Call On Politicians To End Fossil Fuel Subsidies](#)**

Read More at Seth Klein

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## FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

**Toronto Health Science Leaders Form 'Community of Practice' For High-quality, Low-carbon Health Care**



**Credit: IHPME Campus Review**

Recognizing the urgent need to reduce health care-related greenhouse gas emissions, leaders from the 12 hospital systems that comprise the Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) and the seven health science faculties that make up the University of Toronto's Council of Health Sciences have formed the Sustainable Health System Community of Practice. It will provide evidence, ideas, leadership and advocacy to reduce carbon emissions through coordinated action, research and education. The first meeting was held on Sept. 25, 2020.

The initiative is co-chaired by Professor Steini Brown, Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and Dr. Joshua Tepper, CEO of North York General Hospital and a professor at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME). "This project represents an opportunity for TAHSN, along with the Council of Health Sciences, to lead locally and beyond in building a more environmentally sustainable health system. The enthusiasm with which the initiative has been met across the leadership of our hospitals demonstrates an understanding of the importance of this issue and an appetite for real change. This is the kind of collaboration we need to see if we're going to meaningfully address climate change," says Tepper. Why does health care have such a big carbon footprint? "It's because we use a lot of carbon-intensive products. We're tucked into global supply chains that involve a lot of resource-intensive materials, and a lot of transportation and energy production are necessary to make the goods and services that we use in health care," says Dr. Fiona Miller, a professor at IHPME and founding director of the Centre for Sustainable Health Systems, which is serving as the secretariat for the Community of Practice.

***See Also at Healthy Debate:***

### **Healthcare's Alarming Carbon Footprint Can No Longer Be Ignored**

If global healthcare were a country, it would be the fifth-largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. This was the alarming conclusion international NGO Healthcare Without Harm reached last year in the most comprehensive report ever released on the impact of health systems on climate change. Galvanized by these findings, last month the National Health Service (NHS) of England became the first in the world to commit to a net-zero national healthcare system, by 2040.

Read More at IHPME UToronto

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## **ENDSHOTS**

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### **A BIKE RIDE AROUND HIGH PARK, TORONTO AMID THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

**NOVEMBER 9, 2020**



**High Park is just a few minutes from my home in Toronto. I love to go there to clear my mind of all the problems. It always seems to work.**

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Last updated: November 12, 2020, 18:33 GMT

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

Coronavirus Cases:

**52,852,677**

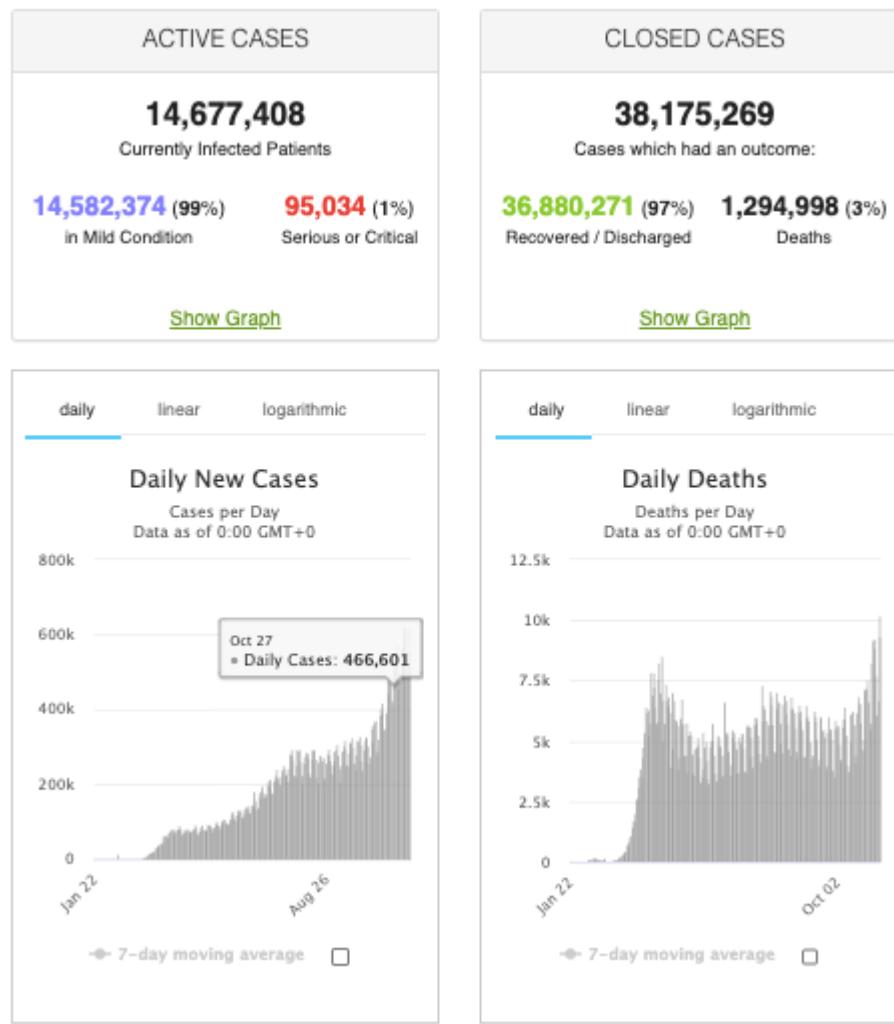
[view by country](#)

Deaths:

**1,294,998**

Recovered:

**36,880,271**



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



## COUNTRIES RANKED BY RATE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS/CAPITA (NOVEMBER 5-12, 2020) Source:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf\\_coronavirus](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus)

Country	Case and death counts by country			
	Deaths	Cases	Adj. for population	Totals
Jump to a country: <input type="text" value="U.S."/> <span>▼</span>				
Country	Reported cases per 100k	New cases in last 7 days per 100k	Change in daily cases in last 7 days	
Andorra	7,217	560	▼ -8%	
Qatar	4,771	53	▲ 3%	
Belgium	4,488	314	▼ -65%	
Czech Republic	4,113	439	▼ -27%	
Montenegro	3,997	536	▲ 6%	
Luxembourg	3,825	413	▼ -30%	
Armenia	3,810	443	▼ -8%	
Israel	3,549	38	▼ -16%	
Panama	3,355	139	▲ 42%	
Kuwait	3,207	126	▲ 7%	
Moldova	3,187	193	▲ 16%	
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>▲ 35%</b>	
Spain	3,011	237	▼ -9%	
Switzerland	2,920	559	▼ -11%	
France	2,856	397	▲ 1%	
Peru	2,854	50	▼ -19%	
Argentina	2,834	125	▼ -8%	
Chile	2,769	43	▲ 2%	
Brazil	2,723	75	▲ 65%	
Netherlands	2,523	232	▼ -31%	
Slovenia	2,436	468	▼ -8%	
Oman	2,401	46	▼ -14%	
Costa Rica	2,373	107	▼ -4%	
Colombia	2,315	94	▼ -61%	
Liechtenstein	2,307	487	0%	
Bosnia	2,069	327	▲ 1%	
North Macedonia	2,042	296	▲ 9%	
Austria	1,942	449	▲ 23%	
Britain	1,896	200	▼ 0%	
Georgia	1,873	550	▲ 45%	
Portugal	1,871	300	▲ 23%	
Croatia	1,867	406	▲ 4%	
The Bahamas	1,813	46	▼ -21%	
Romania	1,727	297	▲ 19%	

Canada is in 69th place in the case rate ranking above; basically no change from last week..

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
Belgium	120	10.8	▼ -9%
Peru	108	1.1	▼ -10%
Austria	97	0	-
Spain	85	3.4	▼ -20%
Brazil	77	1.1	▲ 9%
Chile	77	1.2	▲ 2%
Argentina	77	3.9	▼ -13%
Bolivia	77	0.4	0%
Mexico	76	2.1	▲ 7%
United Kingdom	75	3.4	▲ 21%
Ecuador	74	1.1	▲ 100%
U.S.	73	1.9	▲ 14%
Moldova	73	3.2	▼ -37%
Italy	71	4.6	▲ 54%
Panama	66	1.6	0%
Colombia	66	3.2	▼ -9%
France	64	5.2	▲ 28%
Sweden	60	1.2	▲ 25%
North Macedonia	58	6.1	▲ 32%
Montenegro	57	4.5	▼ -21%
Armenia	56	6.5	▼ -8%
Republika Srpska	53	10.5	▲ 59%
Czech Republic	52	11.6	▼ -2%
Iraq	48	3.8	▲ 7%
Netherlands	48	3.1	▲ 4%
Romania	44	5	▲ 25%
Ireland	40	0.6	0%
The Bahamas	40	1	-
Switzerland	37	5.9	▲ 30%
South Africa	34	0.6	▼ -27%
Slovenia	33	10.3	▲ 14%
Luxembourg	32	3.4	0%
Portugal	30	3.5	▲ 21%
Costa Rica	30	1.4	0%
Israel	30	0.7	▼ -21%
Iraq	29	0.9	0%
Honduras	29	0.6	0%
Canada	29	0.8	▲ 10%
Hungary	28	6.5	▲ 24%
Bulgaria	27	6.2	▲ 79%
Oman	27	0.8	▼ -41%
Palestine	24	5.9	▲ 28%
Guatemala	23	0.5	▲ 50%
Croatia	23	5.9	▲ 29%
Russia	22	1.7	▲ 7%
Paraguay	22	1	▼ -12%
Ukraine	21	2.9	▲ 10%
Dominican Republic	21	0.1	▼ -92%
Albania	21	1.6	▲ 23%
Kuwait	20	0.7	0%
Suriname	19	0.2	-
Belize	19	3.3	-
Kyrgyzstan	18	0.4	0%
Tunisia	18	4.5	▲ 39%
Kuwait	18	3.3	▲ 59%
Guyana	18	0.9	-
Saudi Arabia	16	0.3	▼ -6%
Georgia	16	5.3	▲ 65%
...	...	...	...

**Canada is in 36th place in the death rate ranking above.**



## WHERE CASES AND DEATHS ARE SURGING (NOVEMBER 5-12, 2020)

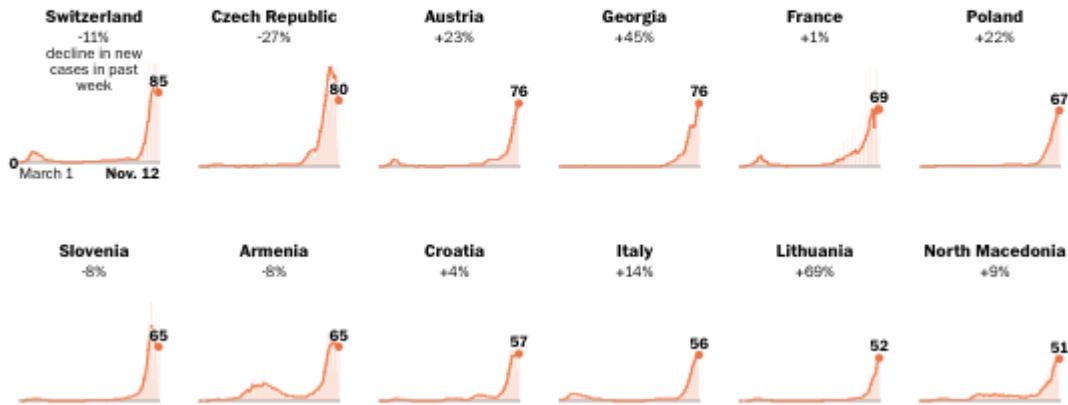
Source:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf\\_coronavirus](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

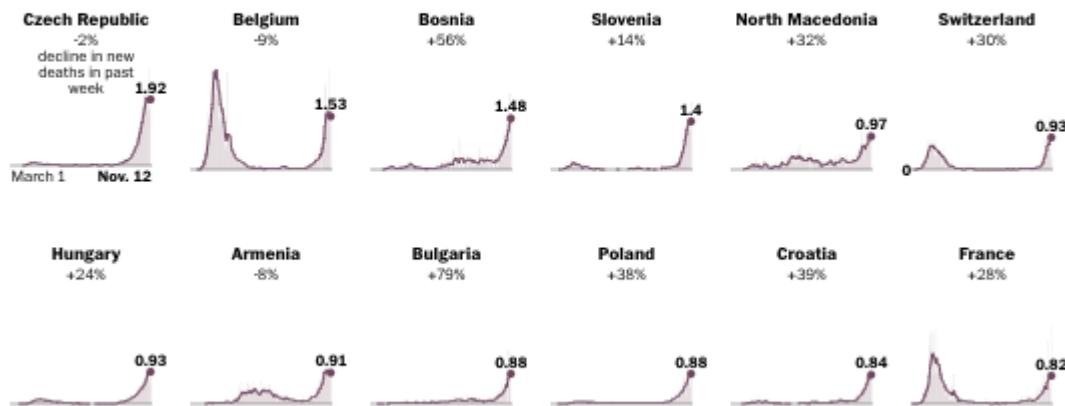
Deaths	Cases	Adj. for population	Totals
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**Global hot spots for reported deaths per capita**

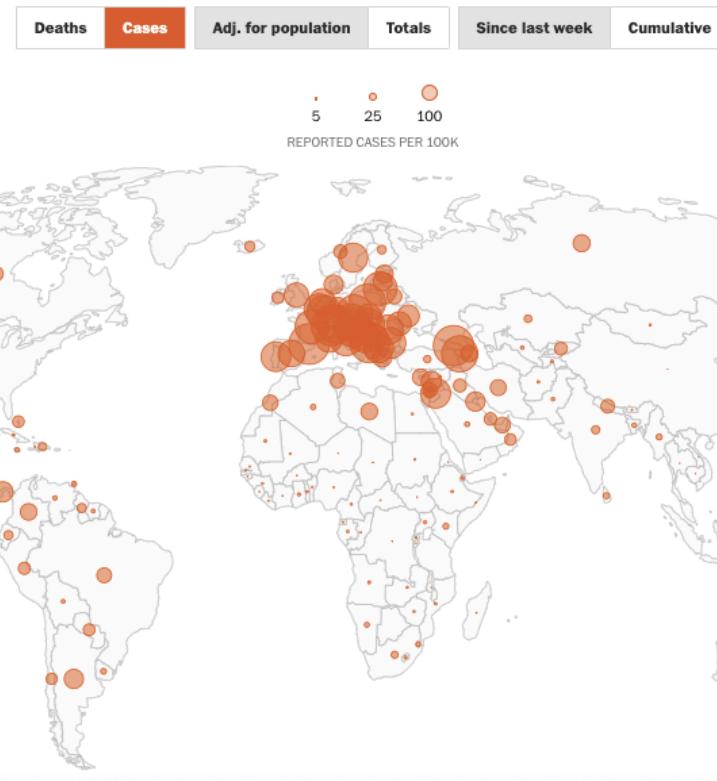
— 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths per 100,000 residents

Deaths	Cases	Adj. for population	Totals
--------	-------	---------------------	--------



Note: Only countries with a population of more than 1 million are shown.



**Where the virus is surging****Compare countries by new daily reported cases per 100k**

Deaths	Cases	Adj. for population	Totals
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Select a country:

U.S.

Select a country:

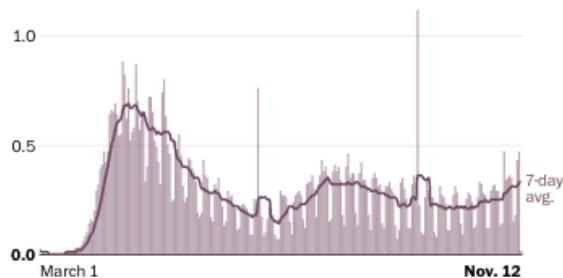
Canada

At least 10,373,906 have been reported since Feb. 29.At least 280,462 have been reported since Feb. 29.

**Compare countries by new daily deaths reported per 100k****Deaths**   **Cases**   **Adj. for population**   **Totals**

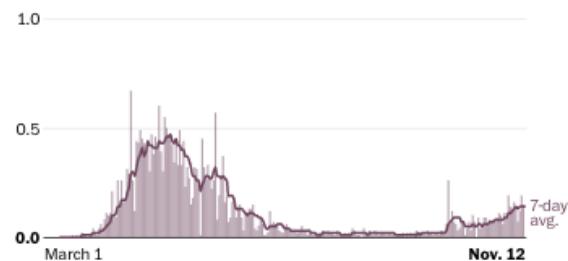
Select a country:

U.S.

At least 241,158 have been reported since Feb. 29.

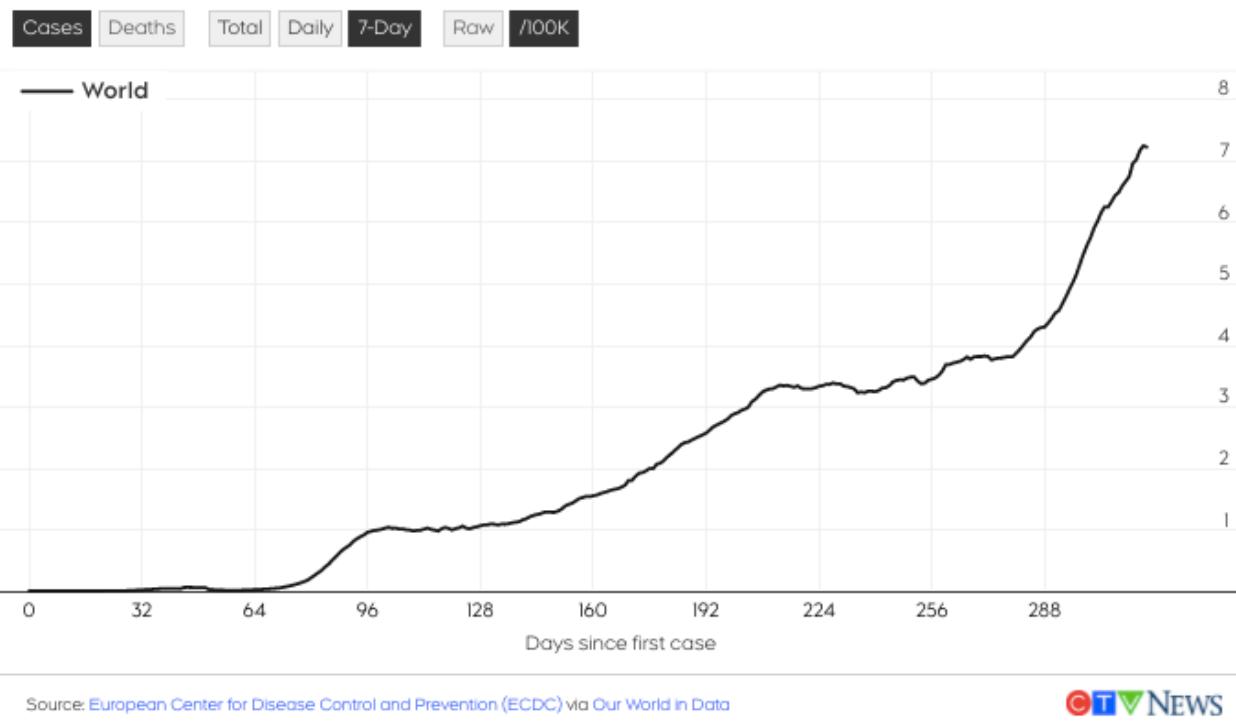
Select a country:

Canada

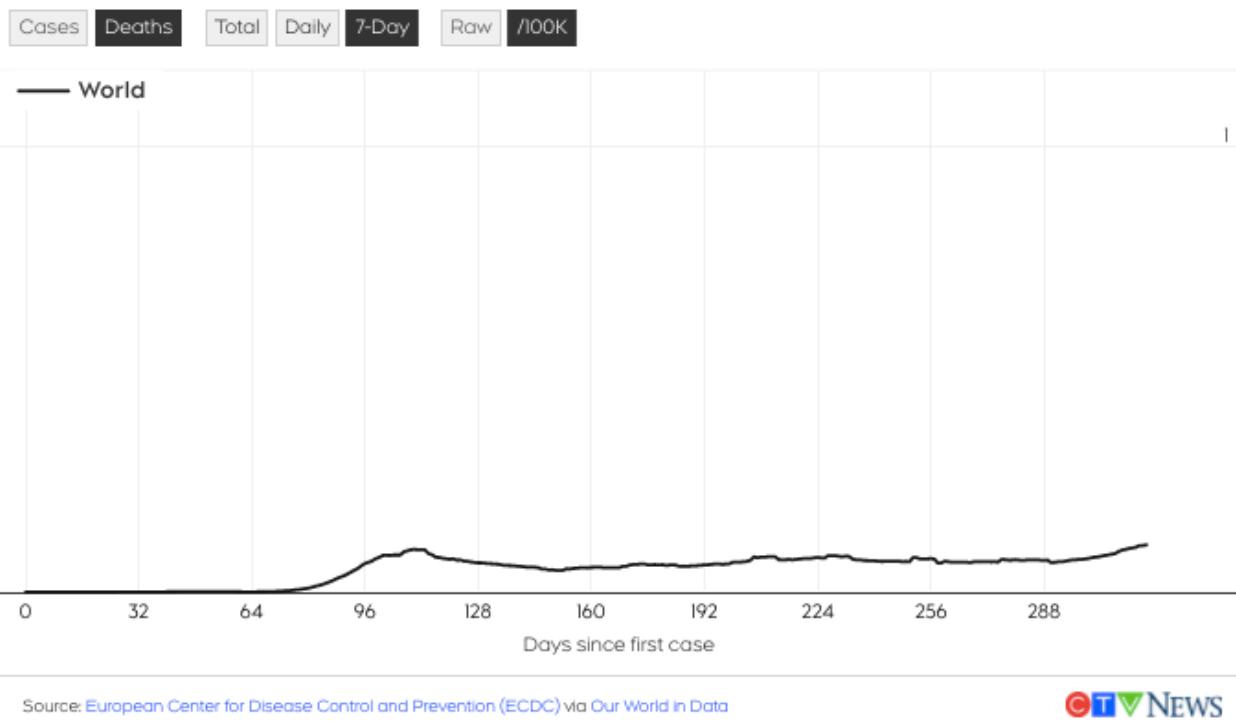
At least 10,748 have been reported since Feb. 29.**Source of data below on November 12, 2020:**

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

## COVID-19 Cases (7-day avg, per 100K)

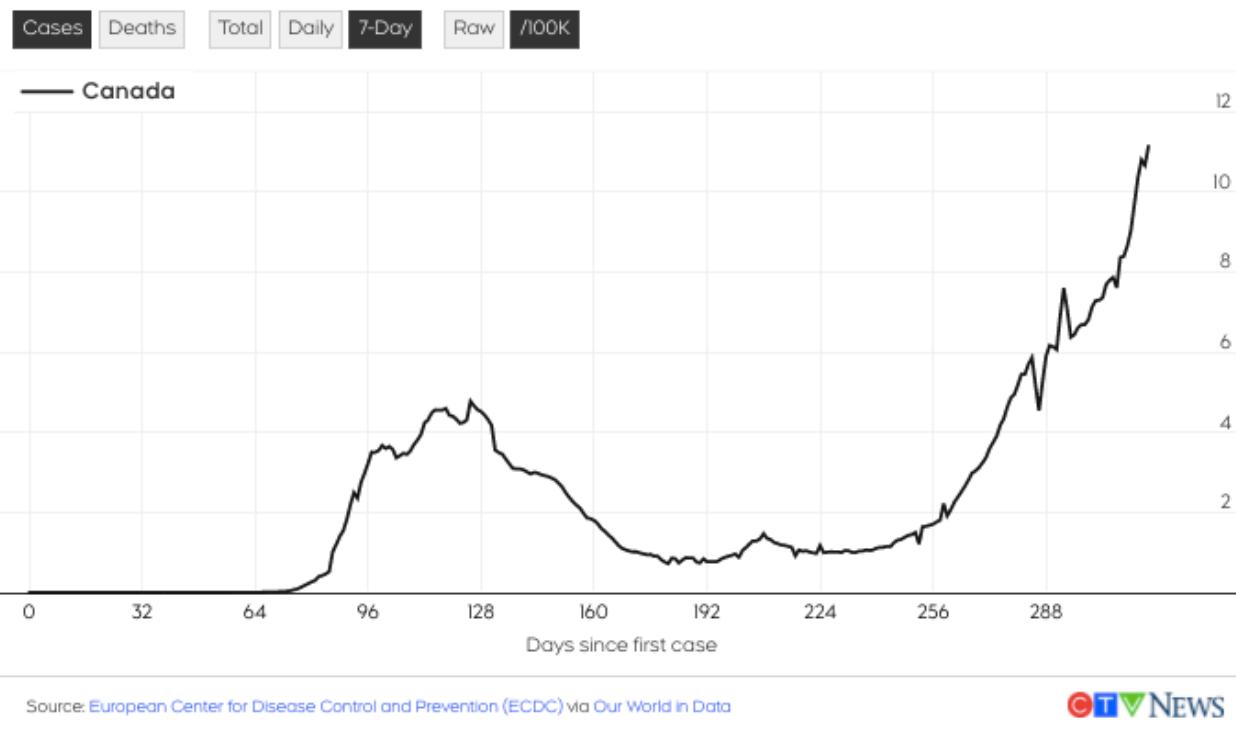


## COVID-19 Deaths (7-day avg, per 100K)

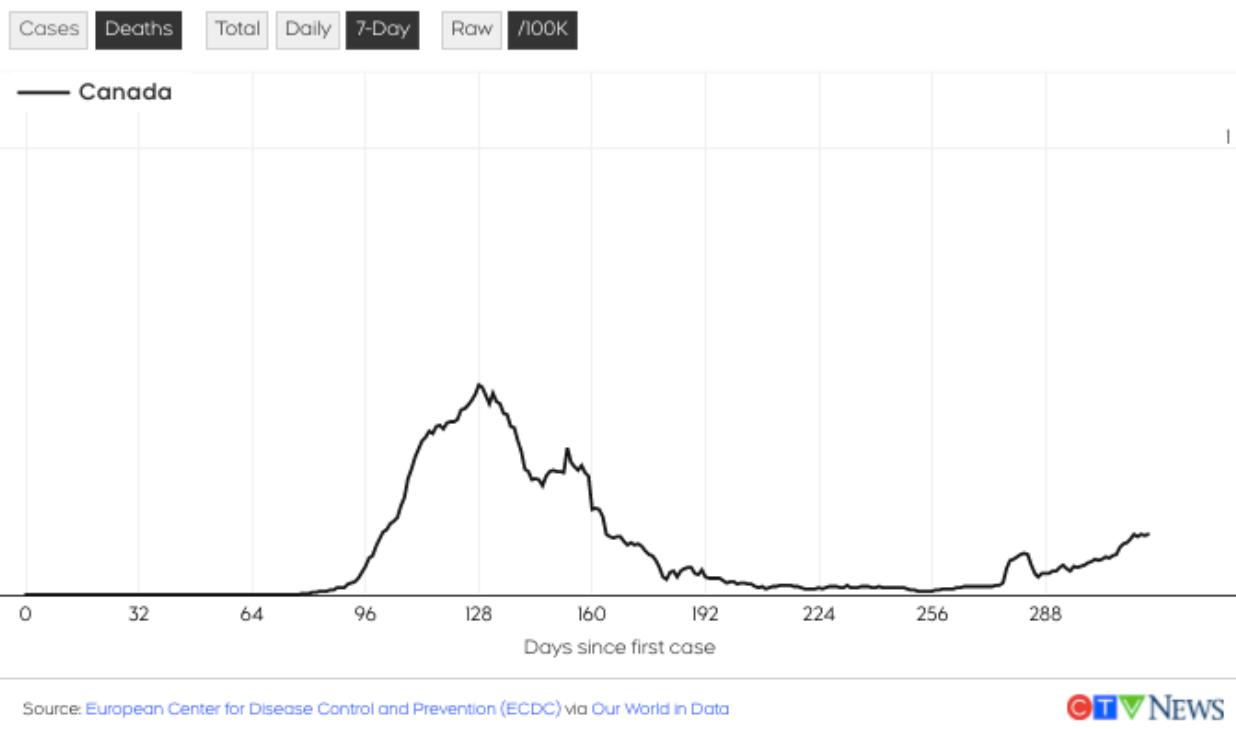


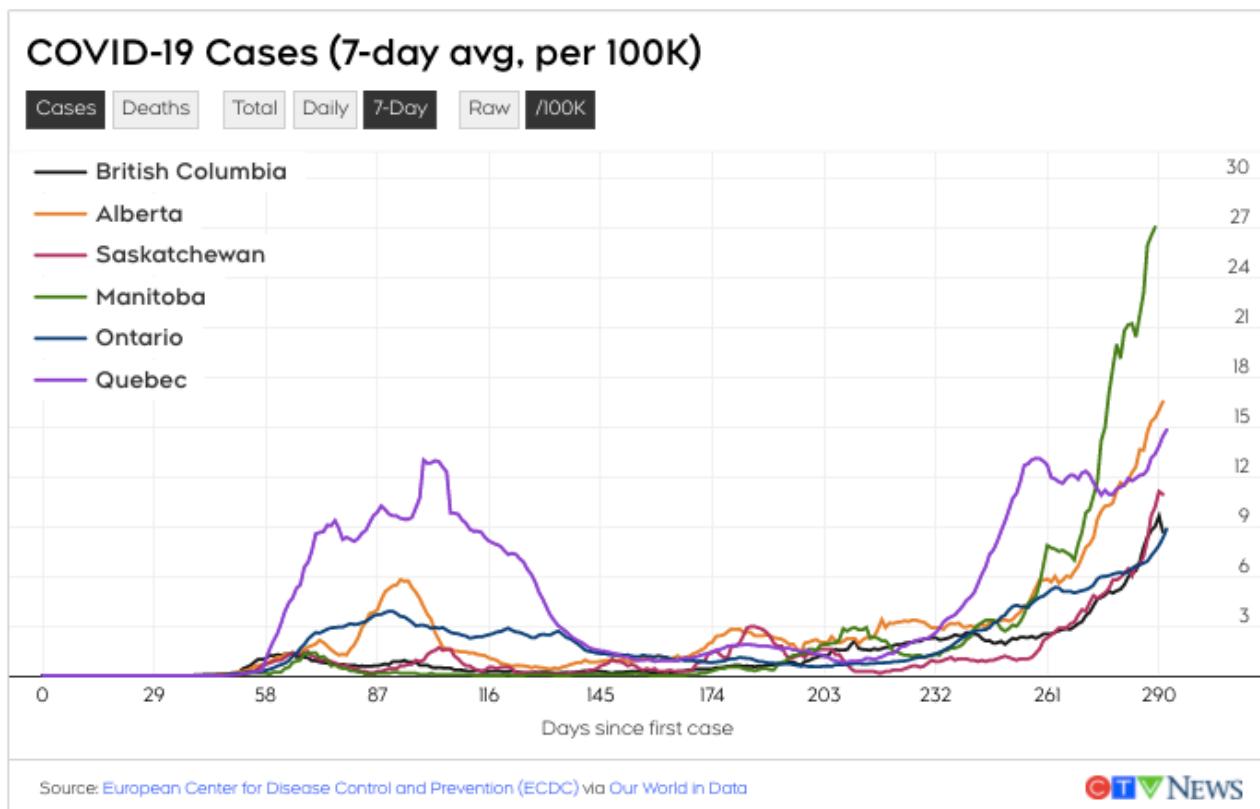


## COVID-19 Cases (7-day avg, per 100K)



## COVID-19 Deaths (7-day avg, per 100K)







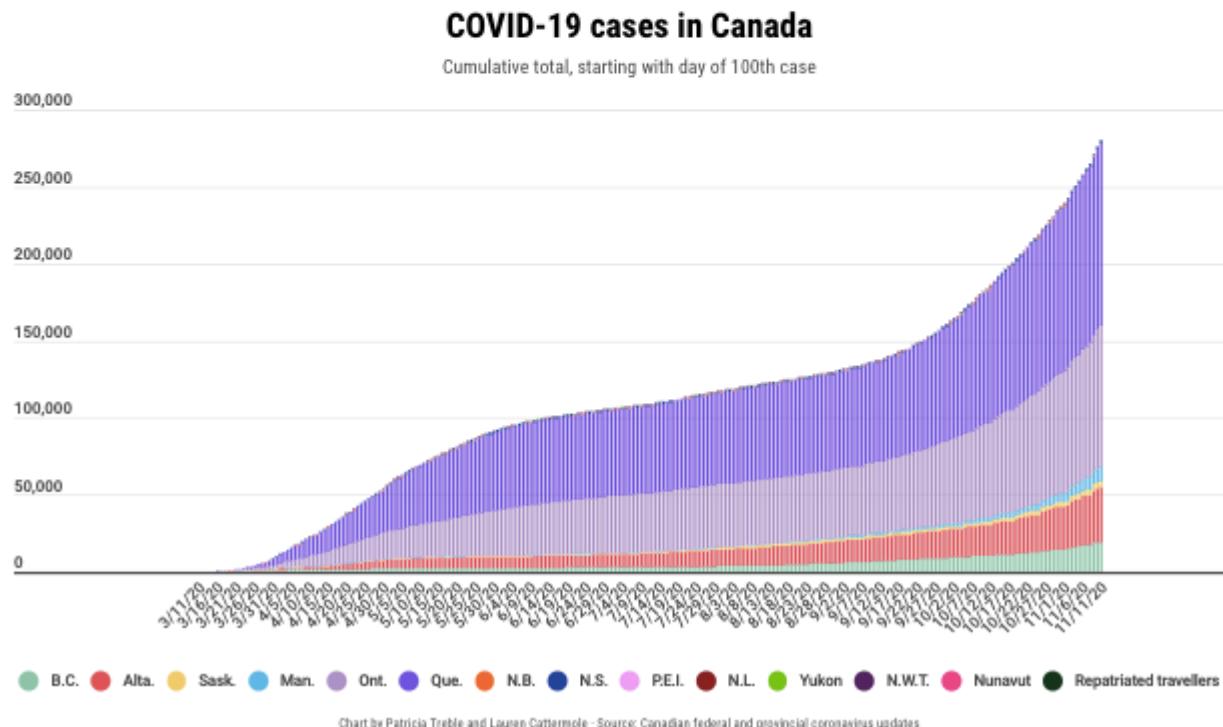
Source of Canadian data below (November 12, 2020):

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

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

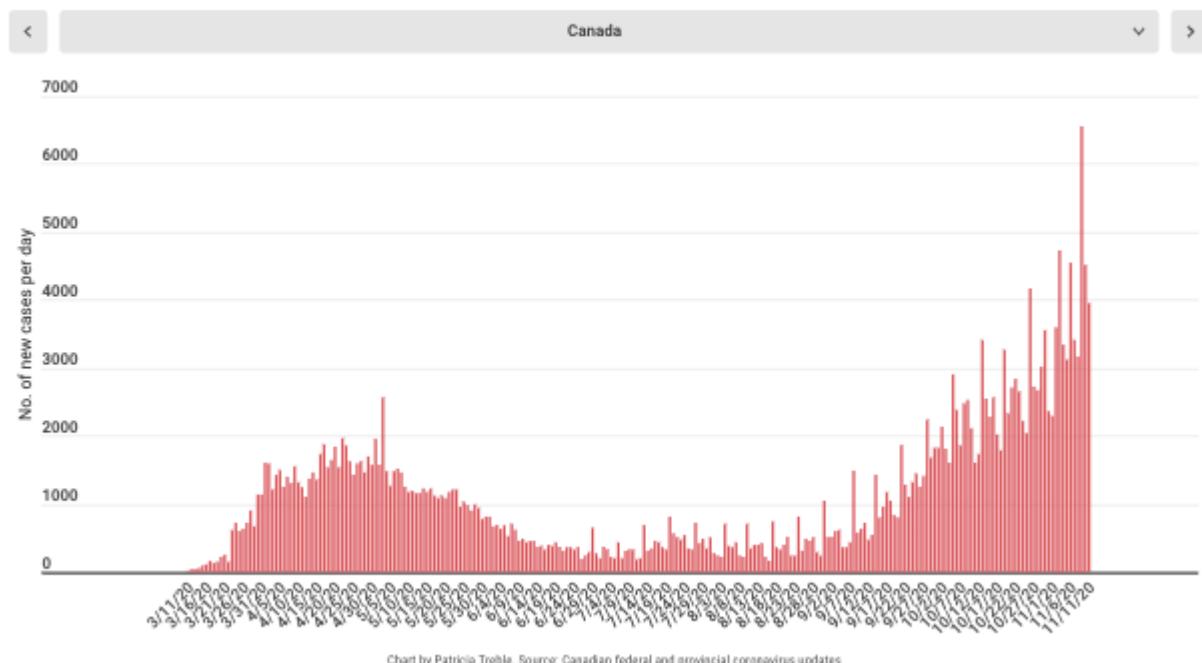
Hotspots in Manitoba and Ontario result in jaw-dropping numbers—and some of the most severe restrictions seen since the initial lockdown

By Patricia Treble  
November 11, 2020

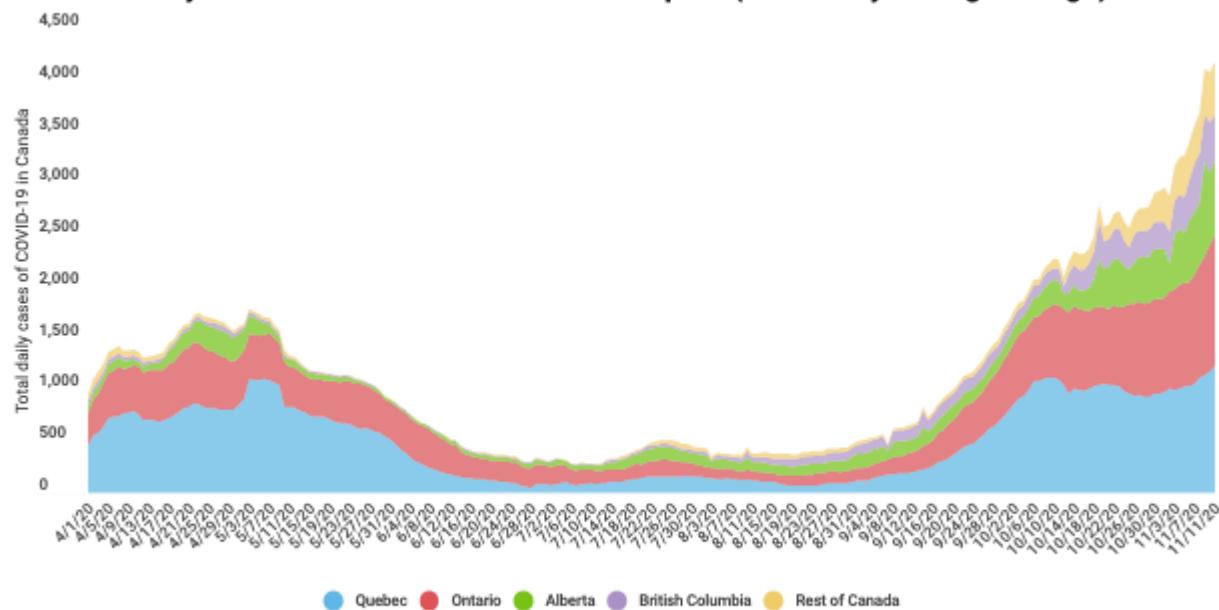


## No. of daily COVID-19 cases

Daily, starting on day Canada reported its 100th case



## Daily cases in Canada's COVID-19 hotspots (seven-day rolling average)



Note: Some provinces include their weekend numbers in Monday's data announcement.

Source: COVID-19 Canada Open Data Working Group, Maclean's calculations

## COVID-19 hospitalizations in Canada

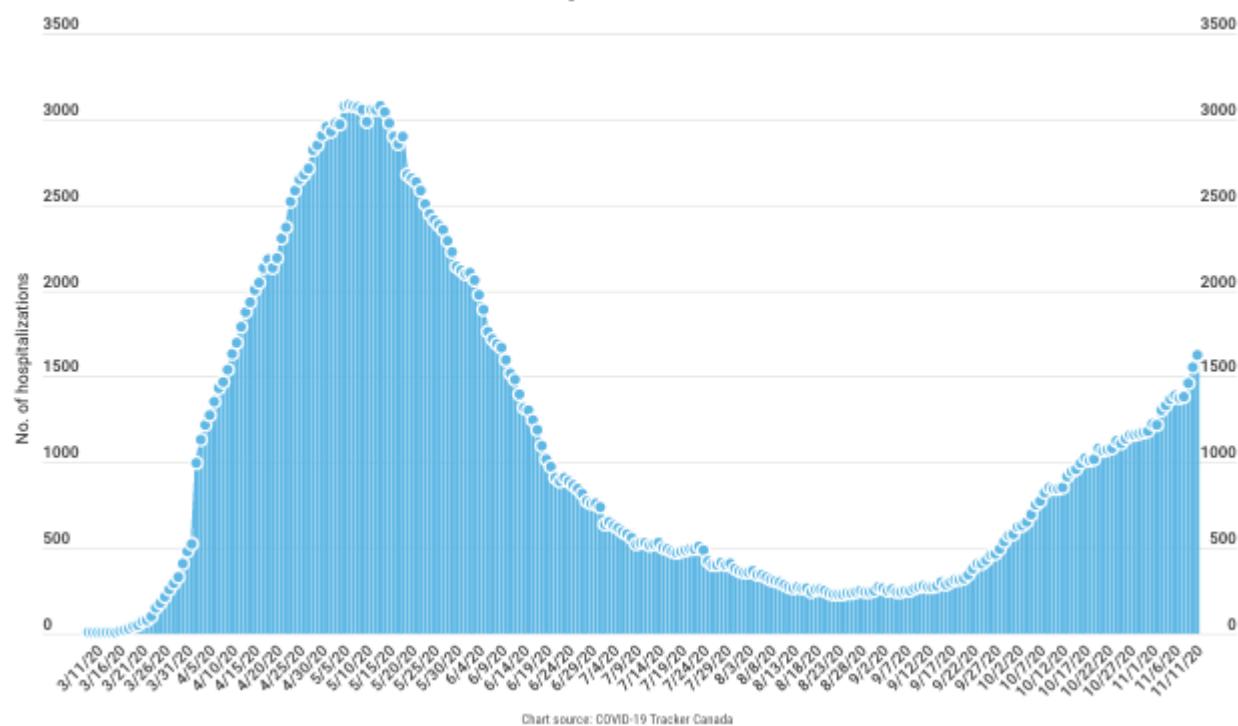
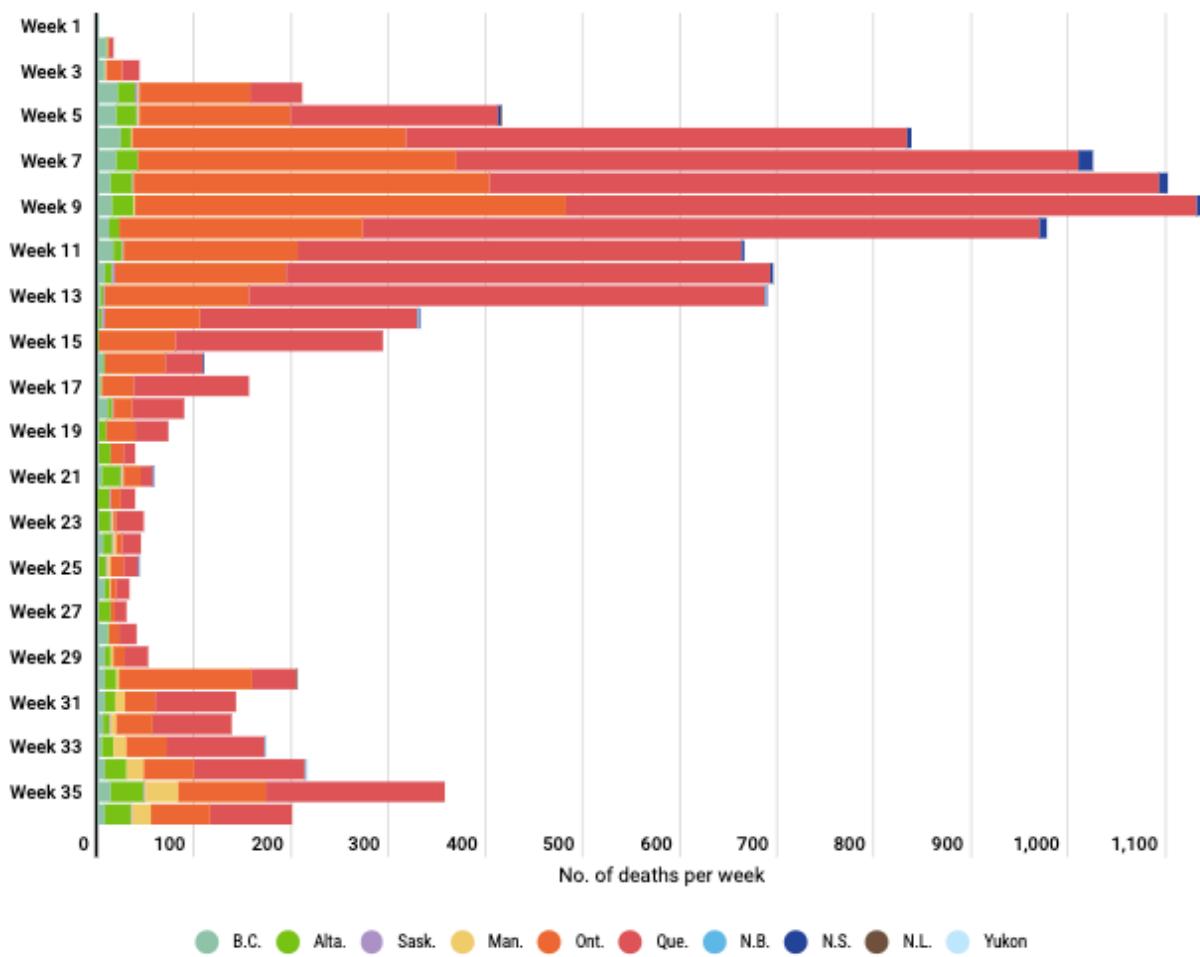


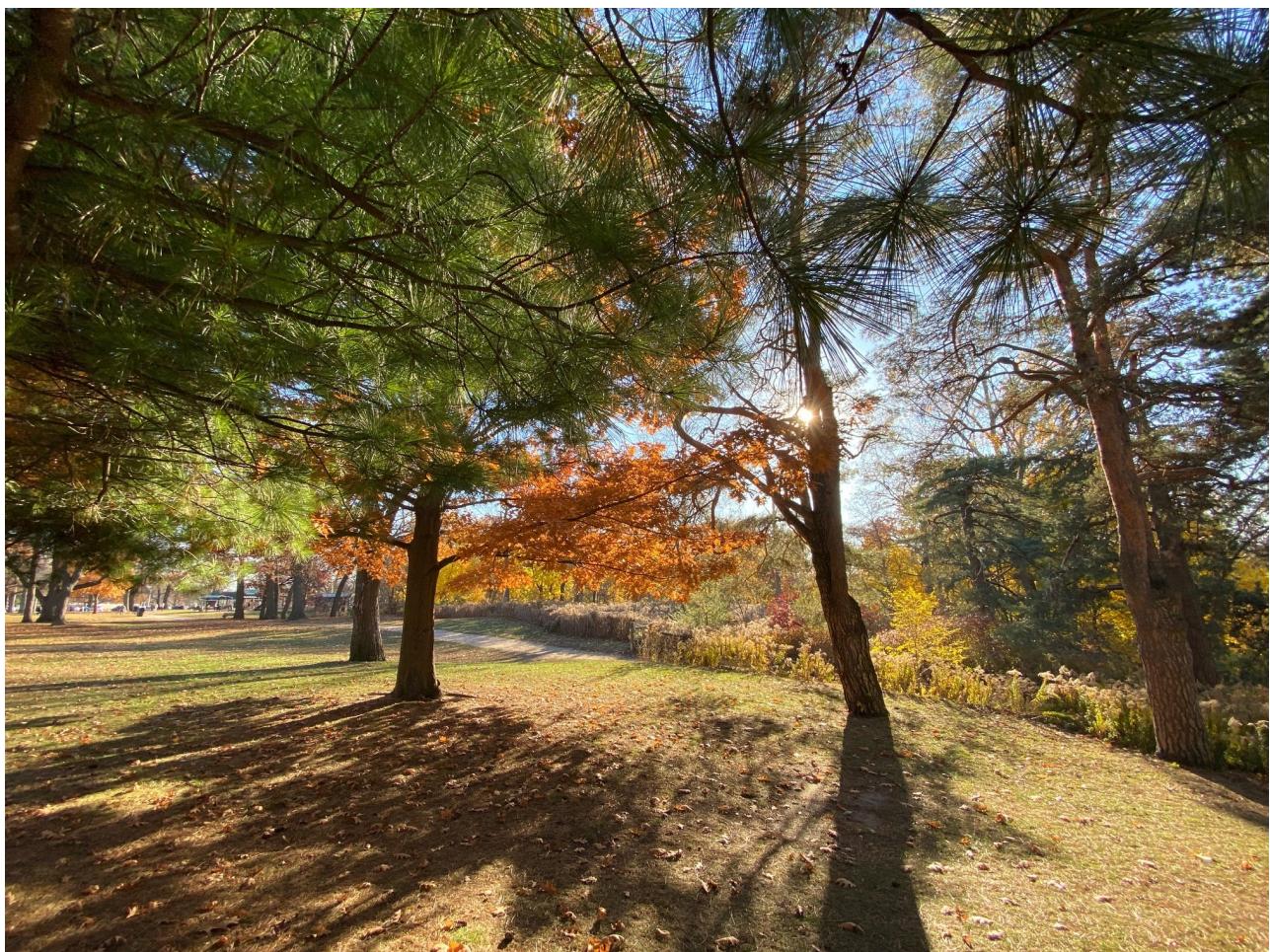
Chart source: COVID-19 Tracker Canada

## 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.





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