



CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Volume 7, Number 4 <https://planetaryhealthweekly.com> **January 28, 2021**

Hi,

How would you like to live in a shadow? For the last four years, this is what it's been like to me to live in Canada. Traditionally, we have had a good and strong relationship with the United States of America, with open borders, huge business and other exchanges. But for the last four years, at the government level, this relationship developed into one based on fear of and bullying from them. Without a good relationship at the top preventing us being able to register anything disagreeable, though we did push back against trade sanctions, the shadow progressively got darker. It wasn't just Canada, but we being the closest neighbour, physically, culturally and financially, we often thought that of our (mostly) southern neighbours as 'cousins' but over the last four years that perception took a big blow. Now, though, just eight days after their big change in leadership we seem to be emerging out of this darkness, back to more of relationship based on friendship, respect and trust. And now their new president has done us a big favour. How? - by allowing more opportunities for cross border trade while refusing to grant permission for the Keystone XL oil pipeline to cross from Canada into their country.

This ban on an oil pipeline, the restoring of many environmental protections and rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement can be seen as a strong sign that the renewed America is going to take seriously the climate crisis and show leadership. These initial actions are not only good for Canada but the whole world. While a big blow, particularly to the Alberta oil industry, it's a big gain for the Earth. I'm so glad that the most powerful politician in the world is taking this stance, looking to the future; not just to immediate financial gratification, but looking to build a new green economy for the 21st Century. We know we cannot keep burning fossil fuels much longer and must continually sharply reduce their consumption to ensure a viable future. It's time our government, too, not just acknowledges the climate crisis, but shows leadership and innovation now in its actions to protect current generations and those to come.

Perhaps this act by the new American president will be an example to us and lead to a paradigm shift in thinking about industrial progress, protecting all life on Earth. While our smarts have been so sorely tested with the Covid-19 pandemic, we must also put them to the test to do our share of reigning in the climate crisis. Being one of the highest per capita users of energy in the world and having a government that gives over \$14 billion dollars of tax breaks annually to fossil fuel industries, Canadians must think with clear and informed minds, make the right decisions now and thank our newly found cousin for lifting the shadow. I only wish we had developed the wisdom over the last year to help them with their Covid-19 dilemma and share something good with them in exchange.

In today's ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#4 of 2021) you'll quickly see that the shadow of global ecological and health crises still loom large. Getting out of them will not be done by any one country, but by leadership, partnership and collaboration among all nations. We hope that you'll be more informed and energized by the following stories:

- Spirit injury is manifested in physical illness and mental issues,
- Coronavirus Updates on
 - New virus variant not being stopped by current vaccines as life expectancies drop,
 - Indonesia becoming a manufacturing hub for Chinese Covid-19 vaccines,
 - Two new coronavirus strains emerge in the U.S.,
 - Covid-19 scientists seek the source of the virus in Wuhan,
 - Belgian St. Nick party for elderly leads to 27 virus deaths,
 - There will be no quick Covid fix,
 - Small coronavirus outbreak in Hebei province, China
 - When is God's name will we cease failing the elderly and frail in long-term care (LTC) homes in Ontario?
 - Death toll hits 41 at Toronto LTC home as hospital staff struggle to control the outbreak,
 - After a year of COVID funding what are the future priorities? and
 - Eight facts about the coronavirus to combat common misinformation,
- THEN
- Green-talking fossil fuel companies still pay big executive bonuses for higher production and new discoveries,
- GM Canada announces a \$1B electric van investment in Ontario,
- Parasites may not be cute and cuddly but they need saving too,
- NEW: Aisha's Blog #1 of Student Voices for Planetary Health,
- NASA model reveals how much Covid-related pollution levels have deviated from the norm,
- South Africa's Madikwe Game Reserve – a conservation phoenix and malaria-free safari haven,

- People who previously had Covid-19 should go to the back of the vaccine line,
- All Nova Scotians are now considered potential organ donors under new law,
- Bringing a Covid-19 vaccine to Black and Indigenous communities distrustful of the health system,
- A poignant quote by a UK health worker,
- What has worked and flopped as we reached peak Internet in 2020,
- China's coronavirus success shows it has caught up with the West in some areas of innovation,
- The impact of Covid-19 on the 4th Industrial Revolution,
- French central bank culls coal and caps oil and gas investment,
- New book "Galaxies: Inside the Universe's Star Cities,"
- The evolution of higher education – five trends to watch, and
- ENDSHOTS of navigating among the shadows amid Covid-19 stats and charts.

I hope you'll keep reading...and have a good week to come.

Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



EMERGING FROM THE SHADOW
Arrowhead Provincial Park, Huntsville, Ontario - Jan. 23, 2021

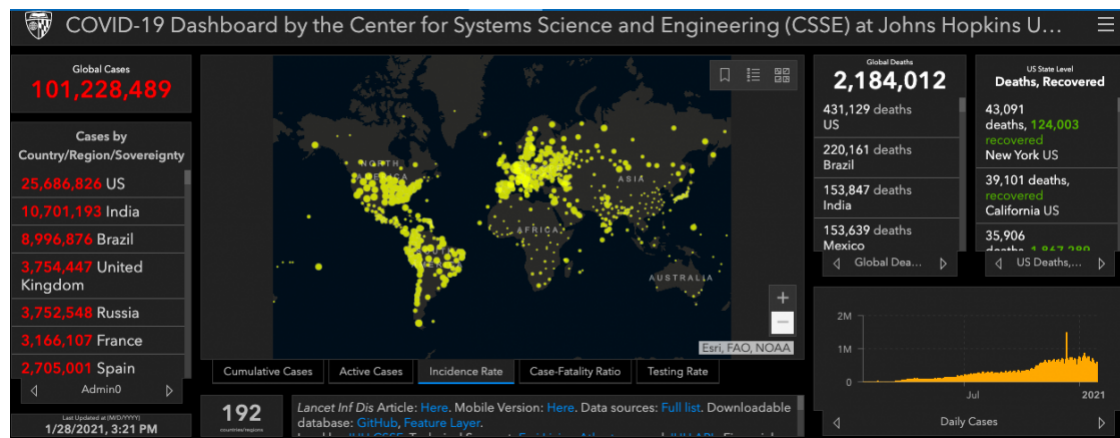
Spirit Injury Manifests in Physical Illness and Mental Issues, Says Strategic Lead of Indigenous Resurgence



Credit:www.shutterstock.com, CC BY-ND

Mental health issues. Addictions. Post-traumatic stress disorder. Back pain. All of those, said Dr. Lynn Lavallée, are symptomatic of spirit injury. “We know that we are spiritual beings having a physical experience. So when we have physical illness, that is spirit injury and it manifests itself into mental illness, into physical illness, into cognitive issues,” Lavallée told about 80 people who tuned into her webinar January 12 hosted by Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research. Lavallée, Anishinaabe/Métis, is the strategic lead of Indigenous resurgence in the Faculty of Community Services at Ryerson University, Toronto. [Read More at The Star.](#)

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



It's been yet again another terrible week. We continue to make no to little progress globally and in too many countries.

Globally, in the last week, there were over 3.9 million newly confirmed cases (which is a slight improvement from last week), but over 99,000 deaths (slightly worse). Such

terrible numbers with more deaths than ever. and our elders leave us in droves.

(See also ENDSHOTS for more COVID-19 charts and stats.)

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

New Virus Variant May Not Be Stopped by Current Vaccines, as American Lifespans Drop by 1.1 Years



Credit: Getty Image

Even before he took office, Donald Trump started patting himself on the back for the only measure of “success” he’s ever recognized: an increase in the stock market numbers. However, while stocks and bonds may be the be-all and end-all for some of Trump’s most deep-pocketed supporters, there’s another measure that may have more meaning for most Americans—one that measures being and ending.

Under Donald Trump, the average American life expectancy is now over one year *lower* than it was when Trump took office. In 2016, news accounts frequently referenced the decline of American life expectancy from 78.7 to 78.6 years as a sign that Americans—specifically white, rural Americans—were suffering from unemployment and the opioid crisis. But as Trump leaves office, life expectancy in 2020 has *dropped by 1.13 years*. As expected, most of that decline comes from the way that Trump has bungled the response to COVID-19. And, as also might be sadly

expected, the effect is even larger for Black and Latino communities where Trump's handling of the crisis has erased more than a decade of progress in lowering racial gaps. Read more on [Daily Kos](#).

SEE MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At Daily Maverick: [Indonesia can be Manufacturing Hub for COVID-19 Vaccine, says Chinese Foreign Minister](#)
iOS: <http://bit.ly/tjp-ios>

At Futurism: [Two New Coronavirus Strains Emerge in the United States](#)

At South China Morning Post: [Covid-19 Scientists Seek the Invisible in Wuhan Investigation into Deadly Virus](#)

At Mercury News: [Belgian St. Nick Party for Elderly Leads to 27 Virus Deaths](#)

At Project Syndicate: [There Will Be No Quick COVID Fix](#)

At South China Morning Post: [Coronavirus Outbreak in Hebei Province - Chinese steelmaking hub hit, with highway closures reducing output and delivery](#)

At The Star: [When In God's Name Will We Cease Failing the Elderly and Frail in Long-Term-care Homes?](#)

Not until December 16 was a provincial inspector dispatched to the privately operated home in Toronto. The report released documented widespread non-compliance with mandated LTC health orders, including failure to change PPE by personal support workers going between rooms, improper disposal of PPE, absence of PPE caddies, and only one size of gloves available. As a result, the disease spread rapidly throughout the home and there were a number of resident deaths and also a number of residents who have tested positive. Further: Tendercare (LTC home) had been issued multiple written notifications and voluntary plans of correction over the past 36 months.

At The Star: [Death Toll Hits 41 at Scarborough LTC Home as Hospital Staff Struggle to Control COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

Letter to Premier

Sunday's update still paints a grim picture: the number of COVID cases among Tendercare (long term care) residents has risen to 128 — up from the 116 reported on Saturday. The total death toll has risen to 41, up from 39 on Saturday. As first reported by the Star on Thursday, 164 out of 180 residents had contracted the virus in the previous 11 days.

At Mayo Clinic: [A Year of COVID Funding: Priorities and What Lies Next](#)

At Visual Capitalist: 8 Facts About the Coronavirus to Combat Common Misinformation

- Masks help prevent the spread of the coronavirus
 - There are no known cures for covid-19
 - Hospitals have no reason to purposely diagnose covid-19
 - The coronavirus is more deadly than influenza
 - The coronavirus vaccine candidates do not affect people's DNA
 - Staying home, using hand sanitizer and washing our hands more often are healthy
 - Scientists believe the coronavirus originated in animals
 - Urging high-risk people to stay home and letting everyone else live normal lives would not "solve" the crisis
-

Green-talking Fossils Still Pay Big Executive Bonuses for Higher Production, New Discoveries



Credit: John Giles/PA Wire

Even as the world's top oil and gas companies talk earnestly about creating zero emissions targets, 27 of the 30 largest still link executive bonuses to fossil fuel production, says a recent report by Carbon Tracker.

"We started covering this issue in 2017, and the progress since then has been grindingly slow," Carbon Tracker analyst Axel Dalman [told](#) DeSmog UK. "It doesn't seem like they're taking it very seriously. While some fossils link only a small percentage of bonus pay to so-called "direct growth" metrics, others are willing to shell out big bonuses to the executives who deliver big targets, with Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. offering "up to 33% of total pay" for increases in fossil fuel production or reserves.

And such rewards have profound consequences. "If you are giving 20% of the bonus in return for increasing fossil fuel production, then it's very likely that the CEO will do their darnedest to increase fossil fuel production," Dalman said. "And that's not going to be good for shareholders, it's not going to be good for the climate.". [Read More at The Energy Mix.](#)

GM Canada Announces \$1-Billion Electric Van Investment in Ontario



Credit : Raysonho/wikimedia commons

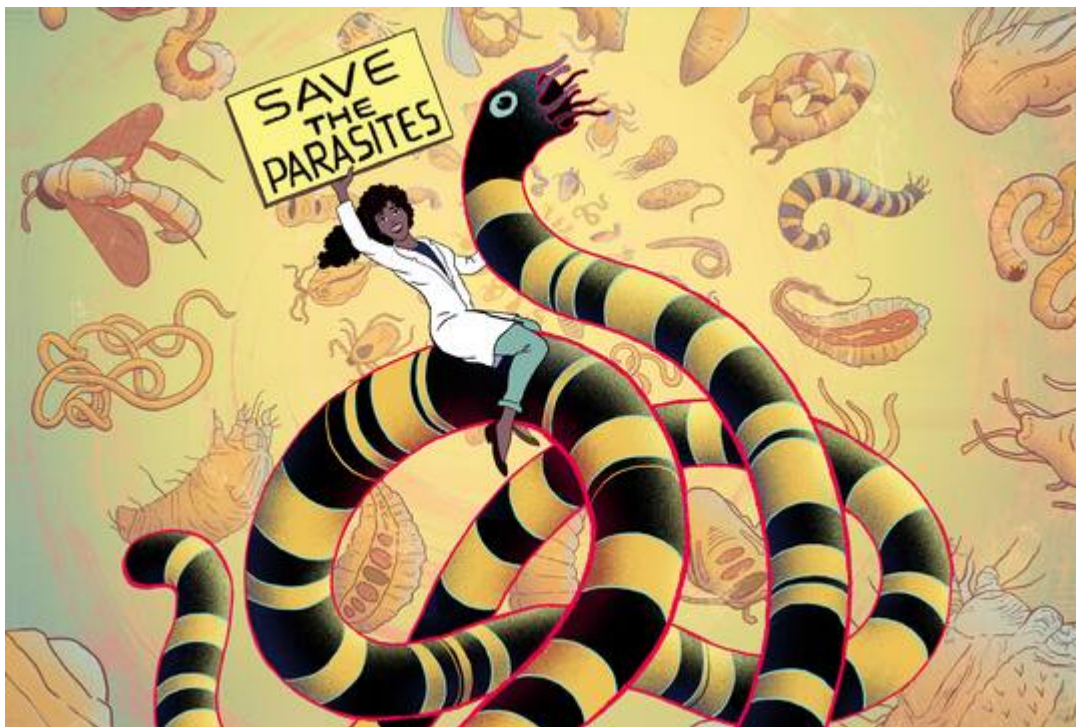
Results of a ratification vote were to be released today after GM Canada and Unifor reached a tentative deal that will see the giant automaker invest C\$1 billion to build electric vans at its CAMI plant in Ingersoll, Ontario. The plant currently makes Chevrolet Equinox SUVs, The Canadian Press [says](#).

But now, "a GM spokesperson said in a statement the plan is to build BrightDrop EV 600s—an all-new GM business announced [last] week at the Consumer Electronics Show that will offer a cleaner way for delivery and logistics companies to move goods

more efficiently,” CP writes. “BrightDrop’s first customer is FedEx, which will begin receiving GM’s EV600 electric vans later this year,” driven in part by rising demand from the increase in online shopping.

“Unifor (union) national president Jerry Dias said along with the significant investment, the agreement between the company and union will mean new products, new jobs and job security for workers,” CP states. “Unifor said the contract would bring total investment negotiated by the union to nearly \$6 billion after new agreements were ratified with [General Motors](#), [Ford](#), and [Fiat Chrysler](#) in 2020 that [included support](#) from the federal and Ontario governments.”. [Read More at The Energy Mix](#).

Parasites May Not Be Cute and Cuddly, But They Need Saving Too, Scientists Say



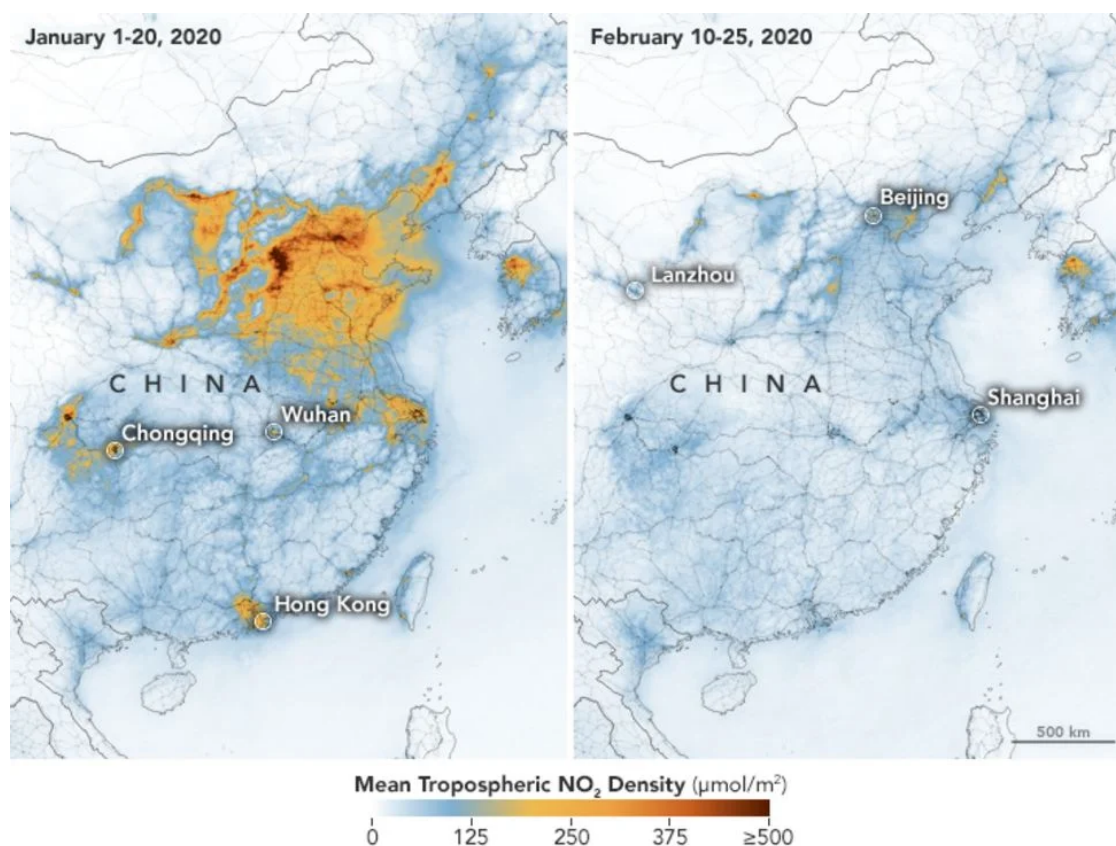
Credit: Antoine Doré/For The Washington Post

This year, the world has faced challenge after challenge. Save the climate. Save democracy. Save human rights. Save the parasites.

Yes, parasites: The October, 2020 edition of the journal *Biological Conservation* heralded the arrival of a groundbreaking “global parasite conservation plan,” in which a dozen scientists from around the planet — people with not just deep knowledge of tiny worms living on snail faces but also 90-foot tapeworms lurking inside sperm whales — warn of the consequence to humankind should parasites go extinct.

“Found throughout the tree of life and in every ecosystem, parasites are some of the most diverse, ecologically important animals on Earth — but in almost all cases, the least protected by wildlife or ecosystem conservation efforts,” the plan opens, before laying out crucial steps we must take in the next decade to preserve parasites. These include ensuring legal protections for endangered louses and nematodes, building parasitism into the K-12 curriculum, and getting the public not just mildly curious but “enthusiastic” about parasites. [Read More at the Washington Post.](#)

NASA Model Reveals How Covid Related Pollution Levels Deviated from Norm



Credit: NASA

It is observed by NASA that there is a significant reduction of pollutants in the air. Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, space and ground-based observations have shown the Earth's atmosphere has seen changes in the level of air pollution. However, scientists wanted to know how much the pollution has declined and can be attributed to changes in human activity during pandemic related shutdowns versus how much occurred in pandemic free 2020.

Using computer models to generate a COVID-free 2020 for comparison, NASA researchers found that since February, pandemic restrictions have reduced global nitrogen dioxide concentrations by nearly 20%. The results were presented at the 2020 International Conference for high-Performance computing, networking, storage and

analysis. Nitrogen dioxide is an air pollutant that is primarily produced by the combustion of fossil fuels used by industry and transportation—both of which were significantly reduced during the height of the pandemic to prevent the novel coronavirus from spreading. Nitrogen dioxide levels often dip during Lunar New Year celebrations in China and much of Asia and then rebound. But no rebound was evident this year over Wuhan, China where the virus was first reported, and nitrogen dioxide levels remained much lower than in 2019. [Read More at Data Bridge Market Research.](#)

GOOD NEWS

South Africa's Madikwe Game Reserve: Conservation Phoenix and Malaria-free Safari Haven



Just over three decades ago, a tract of land stretched across the corner of the North-West province of South Africa – a brown and dusty mosaic of degraded cattle farms devoid of almost all life. The transformation of this landscape to today's thriving Madikwe Game Reserve, though not without its challenges, is one of South Africa's conservation success stories.

The story of Madikwe Game Reserve is one which runs counter to that of most protected wild spaces in that its beauty and biodiversity potential were realised only after the fact. The decision to proclaim the reserve was made for socioeconomic reasons – a conscious

conclusion that ecotourism would bring more value to the community than farming. And so, conservationists were faced with a vastly different task. Rather than protecting what was already there, they had to restore what once was. [Read More at Africa Geographic.](#)

OPINION

People Who Previously Had Covid-19 Should Go To The Back Of The Vaccine Line



Credit: Pharmacist Ali Zamia fills a syringe with the Moderna vaccine at a vaccination site in Chula Vista, Calif., on Thursday. (Mike Blake/Reuters)

Marty Makary is a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is editor in chief of Medpage Today and author of ["The Price We Pay."](#)

As thousands of Americans perish daily due to Covid-19 and the nation scrambles to ration a scarce vaccine supply, many Americans are appropriately asking: "Should I get the vaccine if I already had Covid-19?" The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [says yes](#), with a narrow [exception for those who have been infected in the past 90 days](#) and received convalescent plasma or antibody therapy. But this is outdated and fails to take natural immunity seriously. As a result of this flawed

guidance, Americans with natural immunity — including many who are low-risk — are inappropriately getting the vaccine instead of high-risk seniors. [Read More at the Washington Post.](#)

NEW!!! AISHA'S BLOG #1 - Student Voices

A Discussion with Zarlisht Jamal



Let us introduce you to Zarlisht Jamal, a gradate from York University: Zarlisht Jamal is the Program Manager at UOSSM-Canada, an independent medical relief foundation that provides humanitarian and medical assistance. She has a research background in arms transfers and their impacts on global health security at the Dahdaleh Institute of Global Health Research at York University. During her time at the institute, Zarlisht co-authored a research paper titled "A Health-Based Case against Canadian Arms Transfers to Saudi Arabia," published in the *Health and Human Rights Journal*. Zarlisht

graduated from York University with a Degree in Global Health from the School of Global Health in 2019. Through her experience and educational background, she developed a strong interest in critically assessing low-resource and marginalized communities' health within broader issues of global political-economy, food justice, and socioeconomic and human rights. Further interests include understanding the root causes of humanitarian crises and the humanitarian sector's role (for better or for worse) and working towards a radically different world than the one we have today. [Read More at The Planetary Health Weekly.](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

All Nova Scotians Are Now Considered Potential Organ Donors Under Law



Credit: ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS.

Dr. Stephen Beed, medical director of Nova Scotia's organ and tissue donation program, is seen at the Halifax Infirmary in Halifax on Jan. 14, 2021. Dr. Beed says the province's organ and tissue donation program is an "opportunity to transform a component of the health-care system." Nova Scotia is now the first jurisdiction in North America to implement presumed consent around organ donation, a move health officials believe could see a significant rise in the number of donors over the next few years. Legislation passed in April 2019 finally took effect

January 18 following more than 18 months of work to ensure provincial systems were equipped to handle the change.

Under the Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act, all people in Nova Scotia will be considered potential organ donors unless they opt out. [Read More at Huffington Post.](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

Bringing a COVID-19 Vaccine to Black and Indigenous Communities Distrustful of the Health System has Unique Challenges. Here are Some Places to Start



Credit: RENE JOHNSTON / TORONTO STAR

In 2013, the flu vaccination rate among clients at the [TAIBU](#) Community Health Centre in northeast Scarborough (Toronto) was stubbornly stuck at around 10% — well below the Canadian average. Staff at the centre, which serves the Black community as its priority population, wanted to figure out why so many of their clients were reluctant to take the vaccine. So they conducted a broad survey and had clients

The following year the health centre used the information from the surveys to produce a targeted education campaign before the vaccine's rollout. The vaccination rate increased to 16% in the first year after the campaign and has risen steadily. It now stands at 53% — higher than the national average. [Read More at The Star.](#)



Quote Of The Week

The thing that we as healthcare professionals find so galling is that the relationship between people flouting the rules and increasing numbers of hospital admissions and deaths is abundantly clear. The virus passes between people, it's not sorcery. The fact that some can't understand that, or just don't seem to care, is mind-boggling and sad.

All of the concerns that we had during the first wave are still present but magnified; more than 1,000 people are dying from coronavirus in England each day at the moment, which is utterly extraordinary, and I don't think we have seen the worst of it.

The peak of this wave still seems out of sight for now. If the lockdown is relieved too soon and a broader roll-out of the vaccine doesn't happen soon enough, we will certainly see a significant third wave and maybe a fourth – and they will keep coming until people start to behave or we reach nationwide immunity.”

Anonymous Frontline Health Worker, UK (January 12, 2021)

[Read More at Telegraph](#)

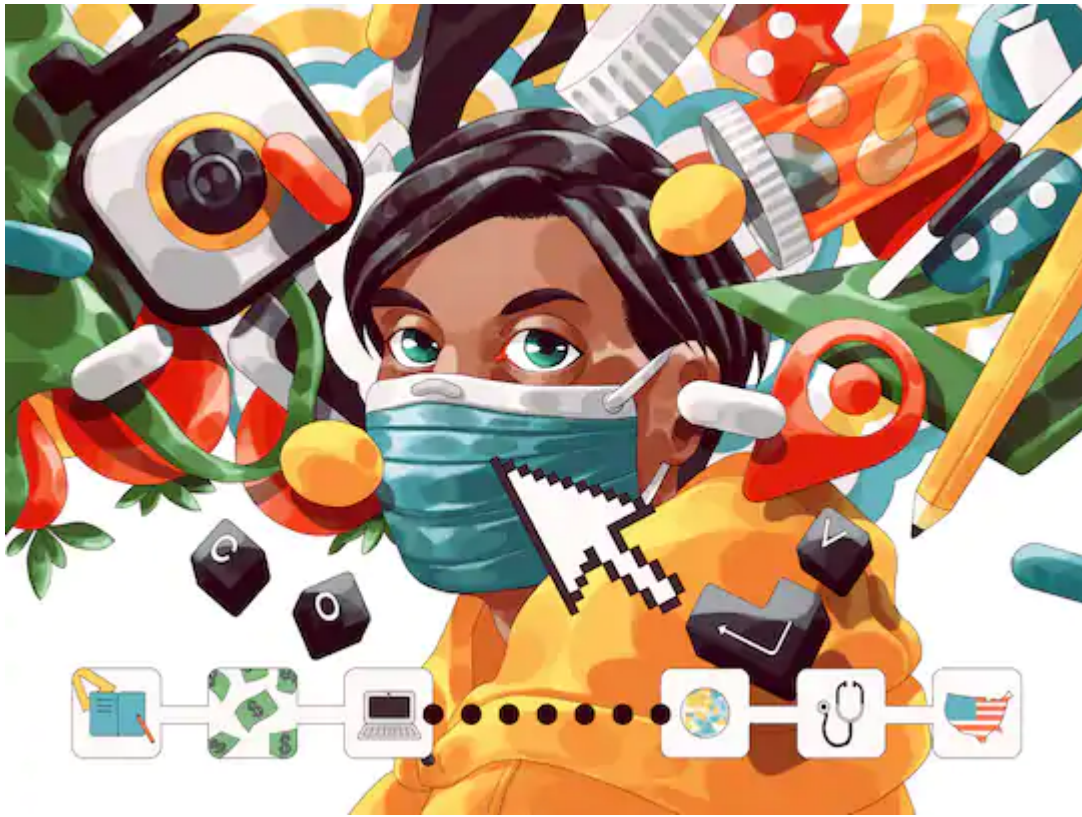
Upcoming Events

- January 30th, 2021 Deadline: [Call for entries: 2nd WHO Health For All Film Festival](#). The World Health Organization invites independent film-makers, production companies, NGOs, communities, students and film schools from around the world to submit their original short films to the 2nd Health for All Film Festival. WHO is focusing on three broad topic areas • Universal Health Coverage • Health Emergencies • Better health and Wellbeing
- February 22nd-23rd: [The Virtual World Conference on Rare Diseases \(RARE2021\)](#)
- March 12th-14th: [Consortium of Universities for Global Health Virtual Conference](#)
- March 13th-14th: [5th Annual South Asian Mental Health Conference \(virtual\)](#)
- March 18-28, 2021: Virtual [Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital](#)
- April 8-11, 2021: [Global Health & Innovation Conference](#) (Virtual Event)
- April 25th-30th, 2021: [Planetary Health Week](#) (A Free Virtual Conference-Festival)

- May 31st - June 18th, 2021: [The McGill Summer Institute of Infectious Diseases and Global Health](#) (100% online from McGill University, Montreal, Canada)
 - June 7th - 9th, 2021: [Executive Course: Global Health Diplomacy](#) (Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada)
 - September 27th - October 1st, 2021: [12th European Congress On Tropical Medicine And International Health: Global Challenges In Health, Migration And Equity](#)
 - [2020/2021. UN Climate Change Conference](#) UNFCCC COP26 - Postponed in 2020 and now to be held November 1st - 12th, 2021 (Glasgow, Scotland)
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FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

In 2020, We Reached Peak Internet. Here's What Worked — And What Flopped



Covid-19 has tested our health care, our economy and our faith. Who'd have thought it would also require a crash course in personal technology?

When the coronavirus started upending our lives in March, [I wrote about](#) the apps, websites and services that made it possible to never leave my home. Grocery deliveries, streaming movies and video calls were “hermit tech,” I joked. Ten months into the pandemic, hundreds of millions of Americans now rely on this tech to work from home, attend virtual school, see the doctor, go to the movies and just get our hands on some toilet paper. Not long ago, most of those were tech pipe dreams — businesses with limited reach beyond bubbles like San Francisco. The pandemic put Silicon Valley’s boldest ideas for an app-operated life to the test, quickly and at scale. Now it’s time for an accounting of what worked, what flopped — and what’s the new normal. Read further about: Working from home; Virtual School; Online grocery shopping; Connecting people; Telemedicine; Streaming movies and more.

Read More at Washington Post

FYI #2

China's Coronavirus Success Shows it has Caught Up With the West in Some Areas of Innovation, Nobel Laureate Paul Romer Says



Credit: Yahoo News

China's [success in combating the coronavirus](#) is a sign that it has already caught up with the United States and other Western nations in some areas of innovation, including public health policy, according to Paul Romer, co-recipient of the 2018 Nobel Prize in economics.

Romer warned that the West's response to the coronavirus pandemic was evidence of a complacent mindset on innovation, particularly in public policy.

"In the response to the pandemic, part of what we saw was more effective innovation in policy responses in Asia than in Europe and the United States," Romer recently told the Asian Financial Forum in Hong Kong.

ALSO: Get the latest insights and analysis from our [Global Impact newsletter](#) on the big stories originating in China.

[Read More at Yahoo](#)

FYI #3

What's Been the Impact of Covid-19 on the 4th Industrial Revolution?



Credit: [LinkedIn](#)

Obviously, the coronavirus has had a devastating impact on our world. The transformative effects of COVID-19 are immense, but they aren't all negative. When faced with the reality of everything being remote from work to entertainment to education to connecting with friends and more, the [technologies that propel the 4th Industrial Revolution](#) offered solutions to continue some normality in business and life. As more companies relied on these technologies to continue operations, things that held digital transformation back in the past were challenged. As a result, as [Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, said](#), "We've seen two years' worth of digital transformation in two months." COVID-19 accelerated the adoption of 4th Industrial Revolution technologies as people and companies relied on cloud computing, artificial intelligence, the speed of 5G network, big data and more.

[Read more at LinkedIn](#)

FYI #4

French Central Bank Vows to Cull Coal and Cap Oil and Gas Investment by 2024



Credit: Credit: Velvet

The French central bank said on January 18 it would exit from coal and limit exposure to gas and oil in its investment portfolio by 2024 as part of a shift towards more environmentally friendly assets. Many central banks have committed to green up their investment portfolios as part of a push to encourage the financial system to support a less environmentally damaging economy.

The Bank of France manages 22 billion euros (\$26.6 billion) of its own portfolio investments separately from asset purchases related to its monetary policy operations. It said in a statement that by the end of this year it would no longer invest in companies which generate more than 2% of their revenues from coal and reduce the threshold to zero by the end of 2024. Currently the threshold stands at 10%.

It said it would also exclude by 2024 companies with more than 10% of revenue coming from oil or 50% from gas, which could potentially mean the central bank would have to shun group's like French energy major Total . Already from this year it said it would turn its back on companies that derive 10% of their revenues from shale oil or gas, tar sands or exploration in the Arctic or deep water. As a shareholder, it would also from this year vote against new fossil fuel projects by the companies it invests in.

[Read More at Business Green](#)

FYI #5: Early New Year Reading: New Book

“Galaxies: Inside the Universe’s Star Cities” by David Eicher (editor-in-chief of Astronomy magazine) Showcases the Splendor of Space



Credit: Book Cover

The Sombrero Galaxy, or M104, is a massive lenticular galaxy in the constellation Virgo located 31 million light-years away. A favorite of deep-space astronomers, M104's massive central bulge and "edge on" orientation to Earth gives M104 the appearance of a hat.

What is the largest object you can think of? An aircraft carrier? A skyscraper, perhaps? If your mind leapt beyond the manmade, you might have imagined Mount Everest, Lake Superior, the Pacific Ocean—perhaps even Earth itself. If you are astronomically inclined, then you may have conjured Jupiter, the sun, or even the entire solar system.

I'm guessing, however, that you didn't think of a galaxy. These massive concentrations of stars challenge our senses of distance, scale, proportion, time. Like Jonah in the belly of the whale, we ride within our own galaxy, unable to get outside of it to see for ourselves the great celestial leviathan within which we are carried across the cosmos.

[Read More at Sierra Club](#)

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

The Evolution of Higher Education: Five Global Trends to Watch



Students % that feel more/less connected to each of the following, compared to last year.

● Less connected ● More connected



% of students that agree/strongly agree

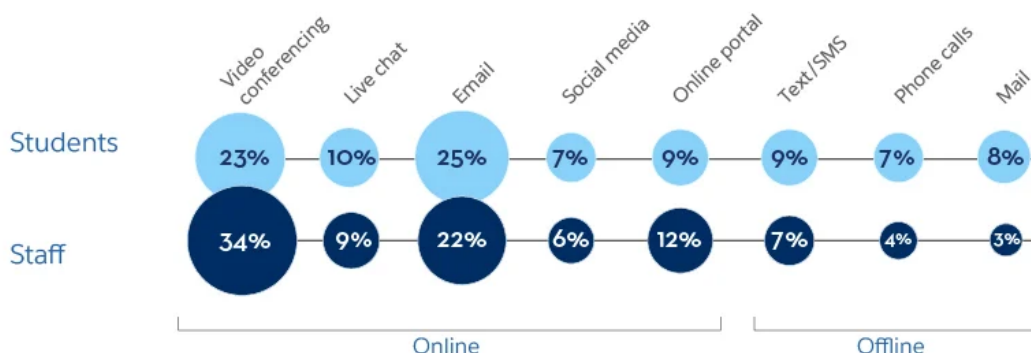


"I belong at my institution"



"Personalized messages help me feel that my institution cares about my success"

All #1 most helpful method of communicating with your institution during the pandemic



Higher education has gone through tremendous change during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the face of uncertainty, it's become evident that institutions with prior investment in digital technologies are emerging more agile and resilient. For example, online communities have helped **30% of students** feel more connected with other students during this time.

We look at key data from the [Global Higher Education Research Snapshot](#) from Salesforce.org—in partnership with market research firm Ipsos—which reflects the new attitudes and priorities of 2,200 students and higher education staff worldwide.

To understand the shifting landscape across higher education, the survey explores five key trends:

- 1. Communications Help Students Feel Connected**
- 2. Has The Pandemic Fractured Trust?**
- 3. Juggling Wellbeing Concerns**
- 4. Students Are Drawn to Online Learning**
- 5. Uncertainties Remain Around Future Plans**

Read More at Visual Capitalist

ENDSHOTS

NAVIGATING THE SHADOWS OF EARLY 2021

Amid Continually Sad COVID-19 Stats and Charts

ARROWHEAD PROVINCIAL PARK, HUNTSVILLE, ONTARIO

January 23, 2021



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Last updated: January 28, 2021, 13:45 GMT

[Graphs](#) - [Countries](#) - [News](#)

Coronavirus Cases:

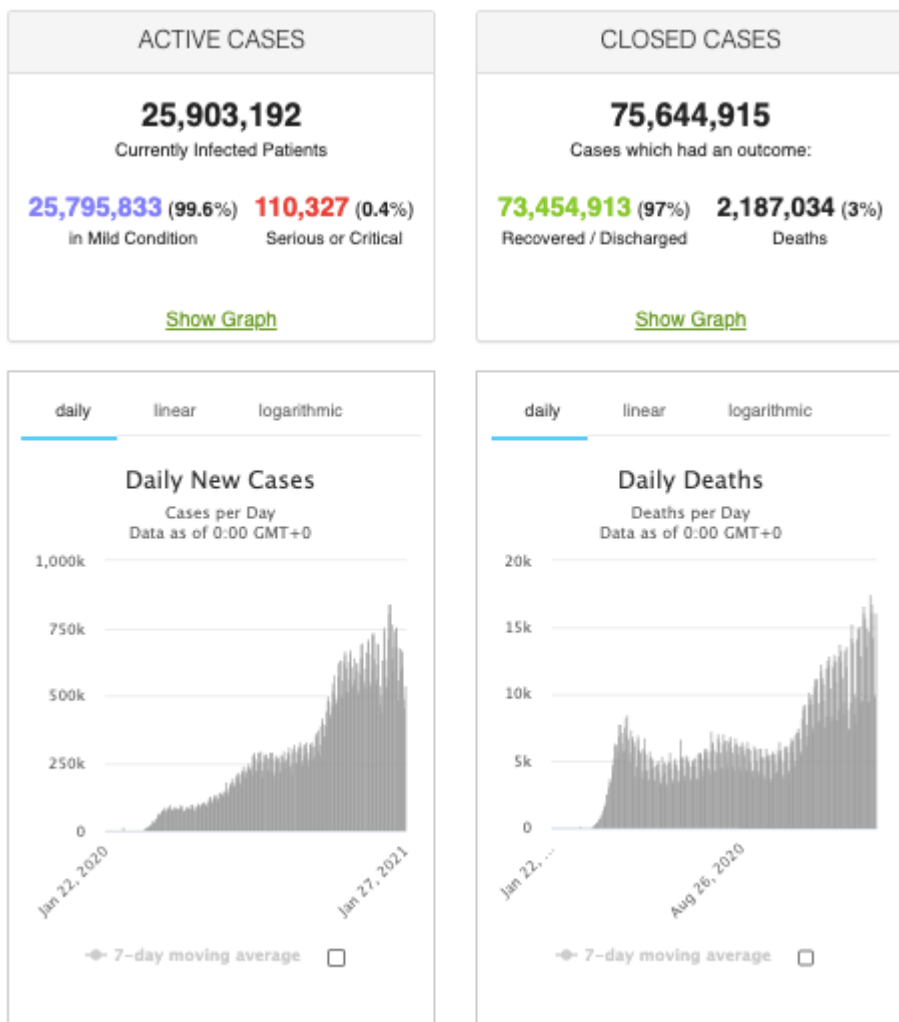
101,548,107[view by country](#)

Deaths:

2,187,034

Recovered:

73,454,913

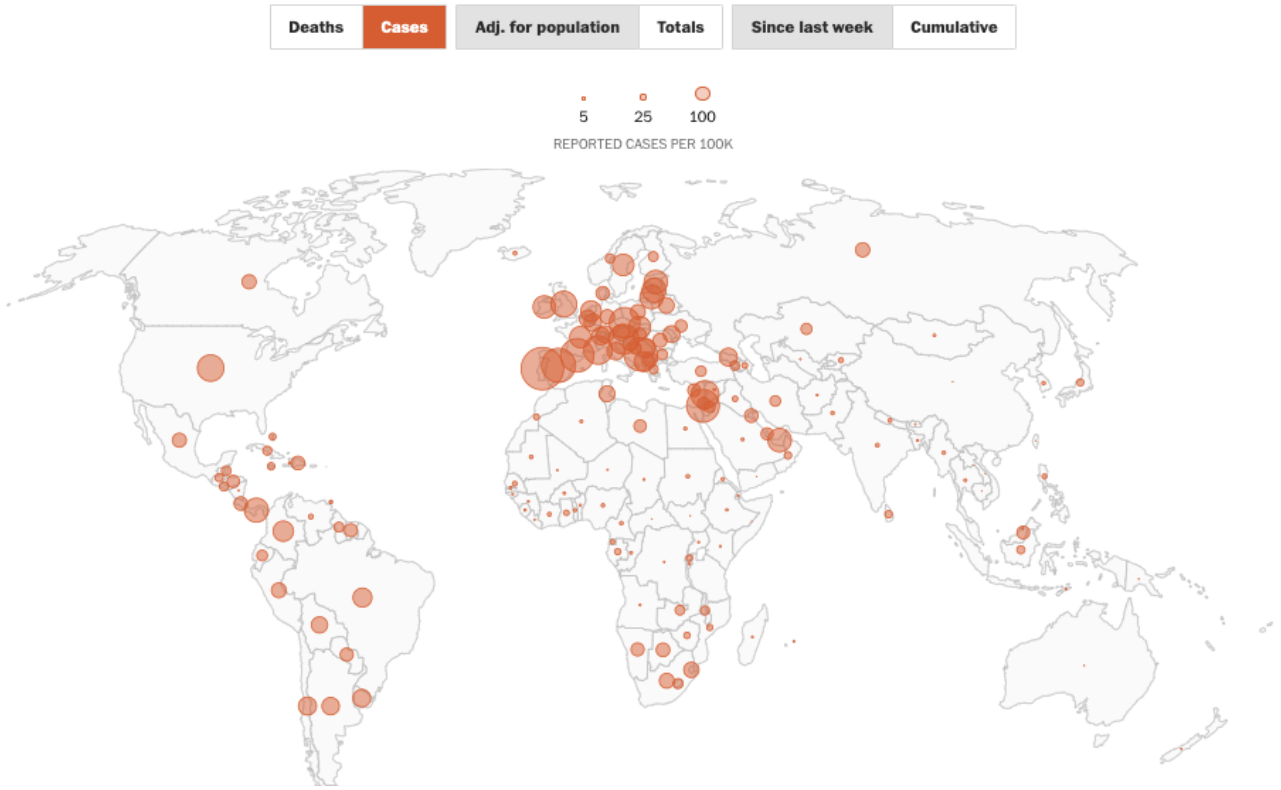


Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

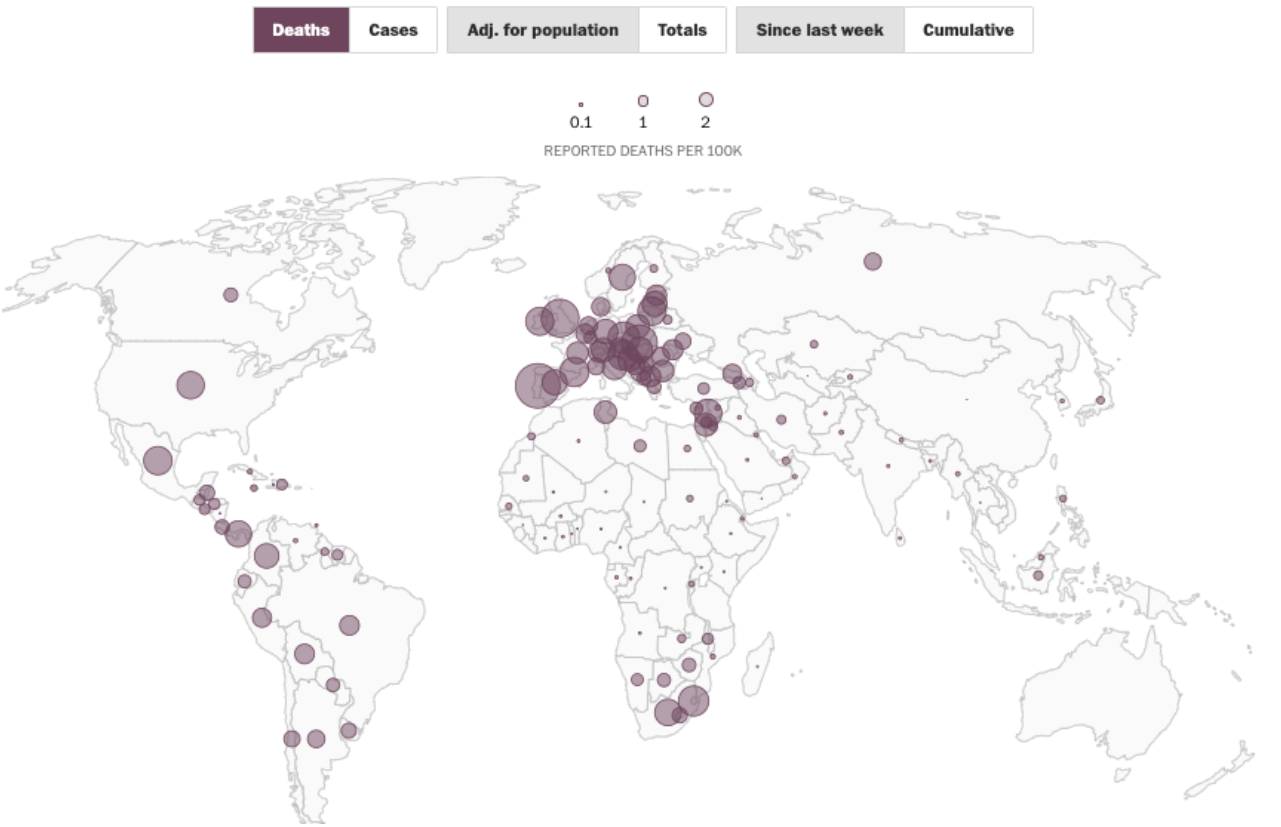


COVID-19 CASES & DEATHS (JANUARY 22-28, 2021) Source:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

Where the virus is surging



Where the virus is surging

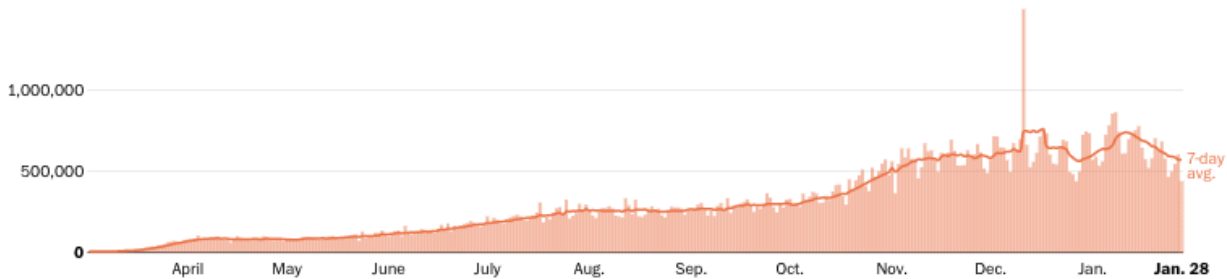




New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths Cases

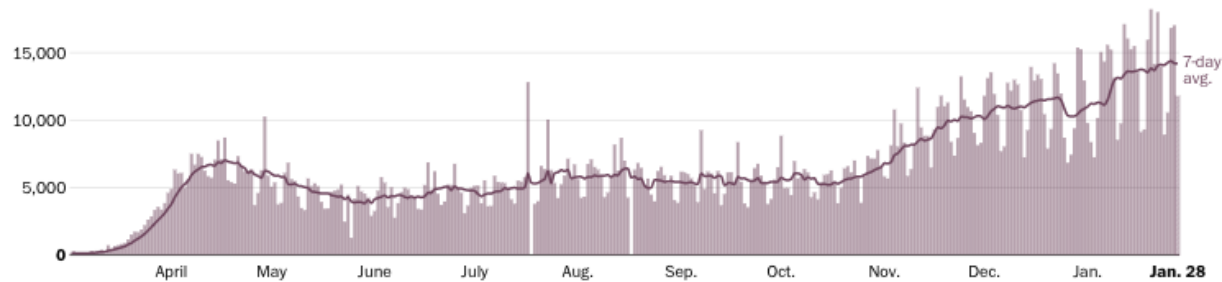
At least 101,204,041 have been reported since Feb. 29.



New daily deaths reported across the world

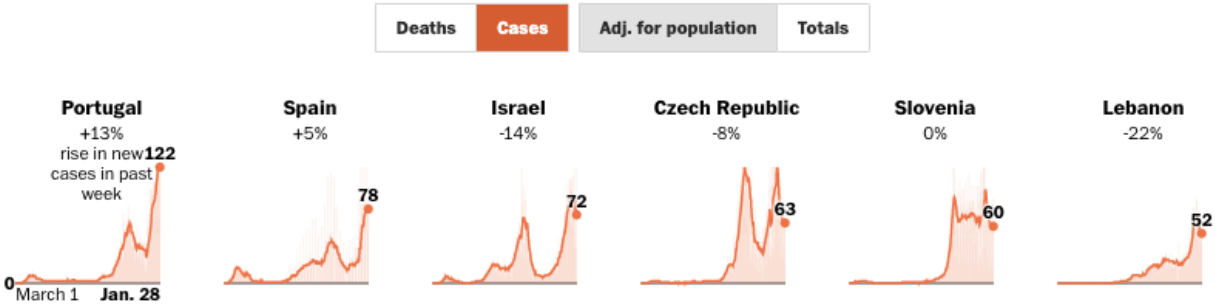
Deaths Cases

At least 2,183,419 have been reported since Feb. 29.



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





Compare countries by new daily reported cases per 100k

Deaths

Cases

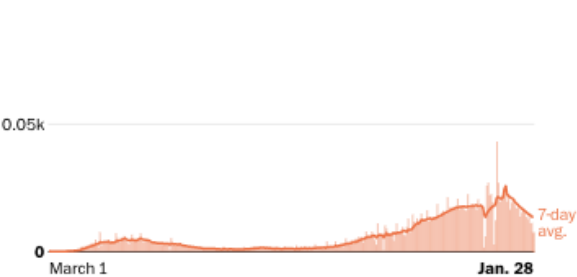
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

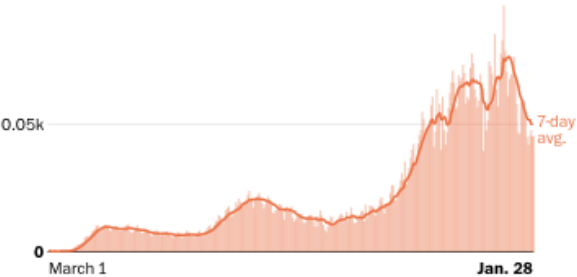
At least 768,528 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Select a country:

U.S.

At least 25,662,368 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Compare countries by new daily deaths reported per 100k

Deaths

Cases

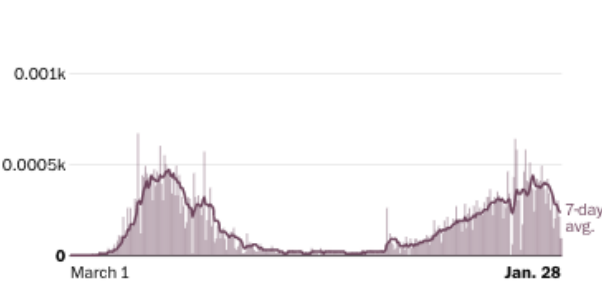
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

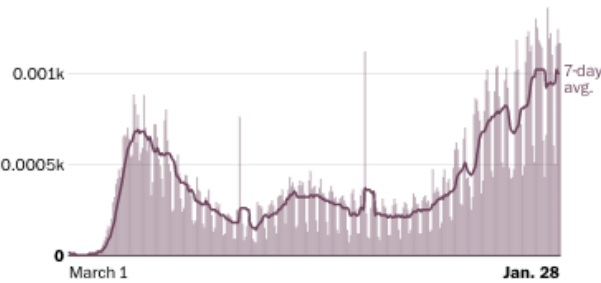
At least 19,094 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Select a country:

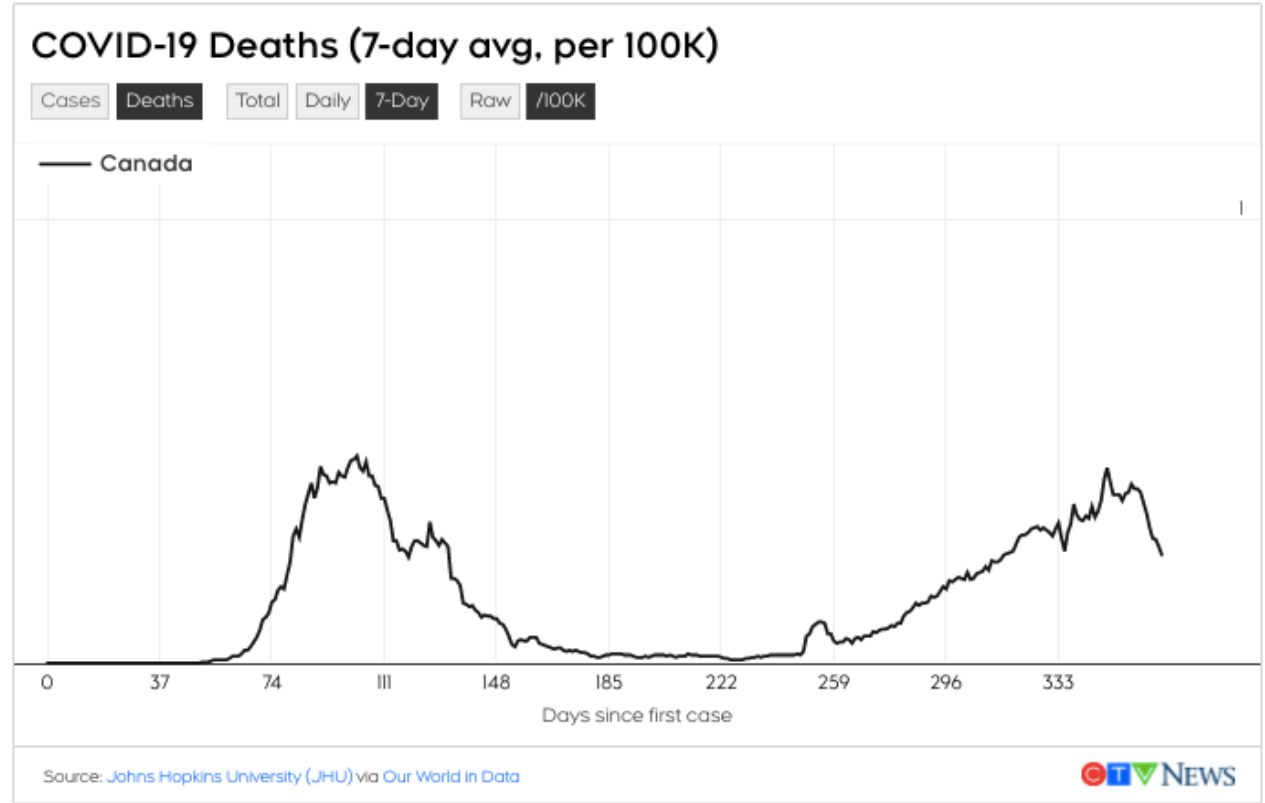
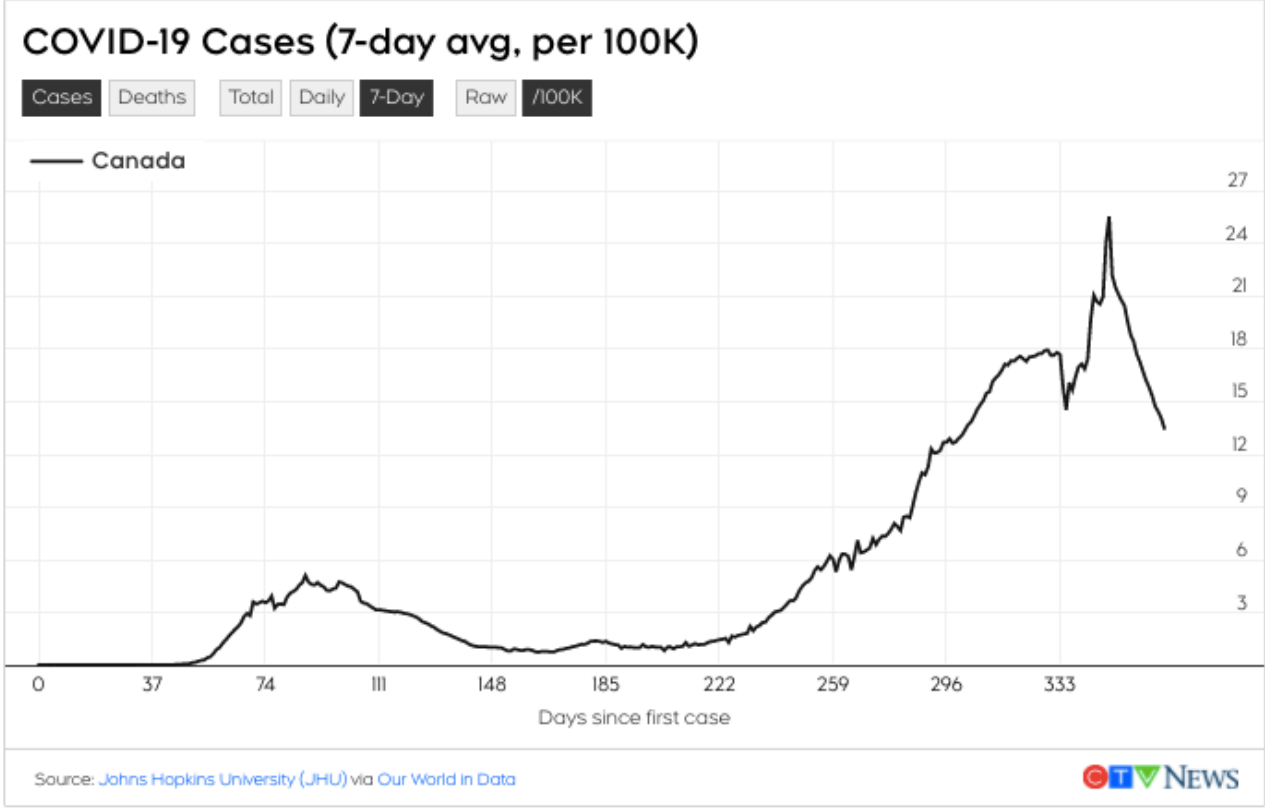
U.S.

At least 430,695 have been reported since Feb. 29.

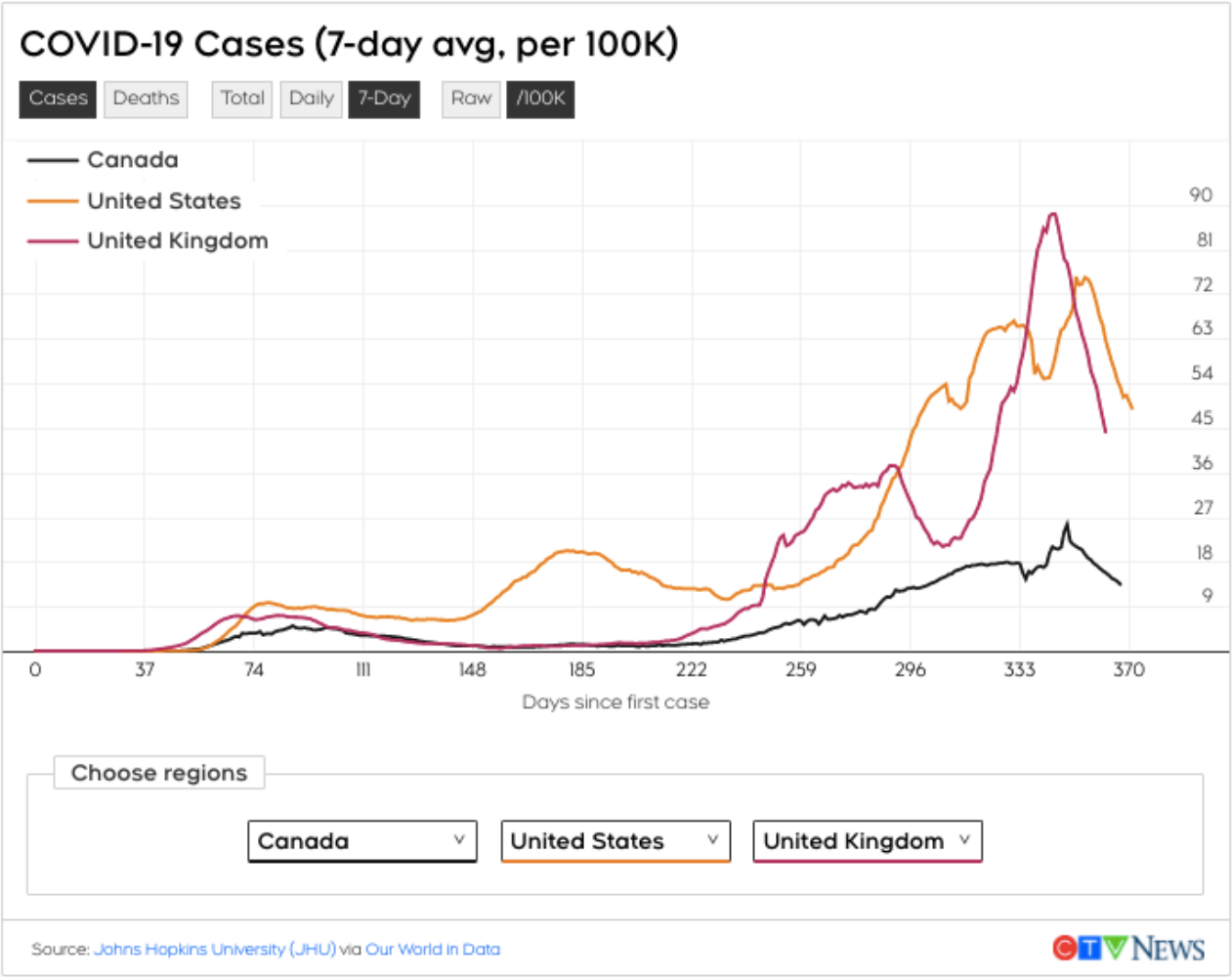


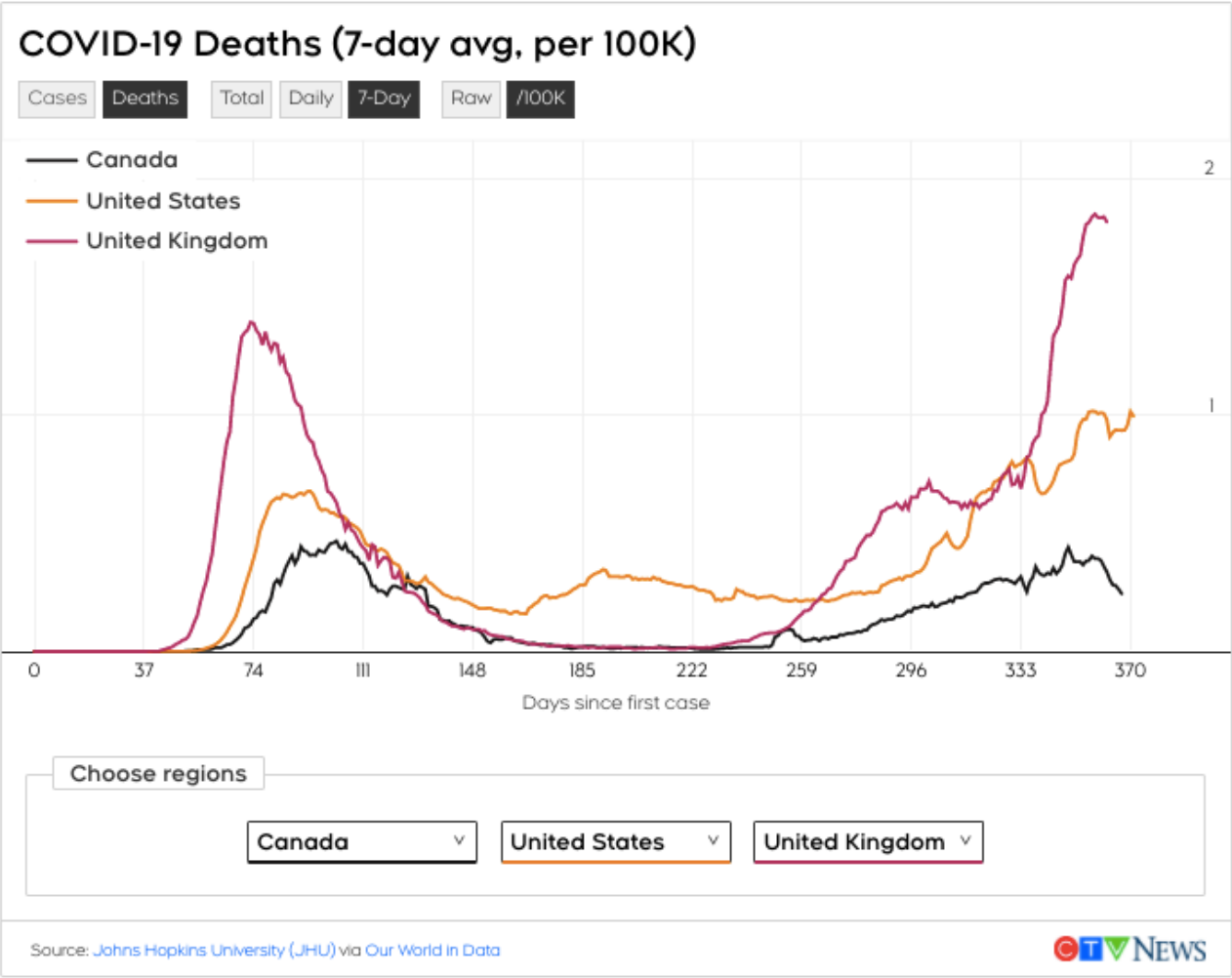


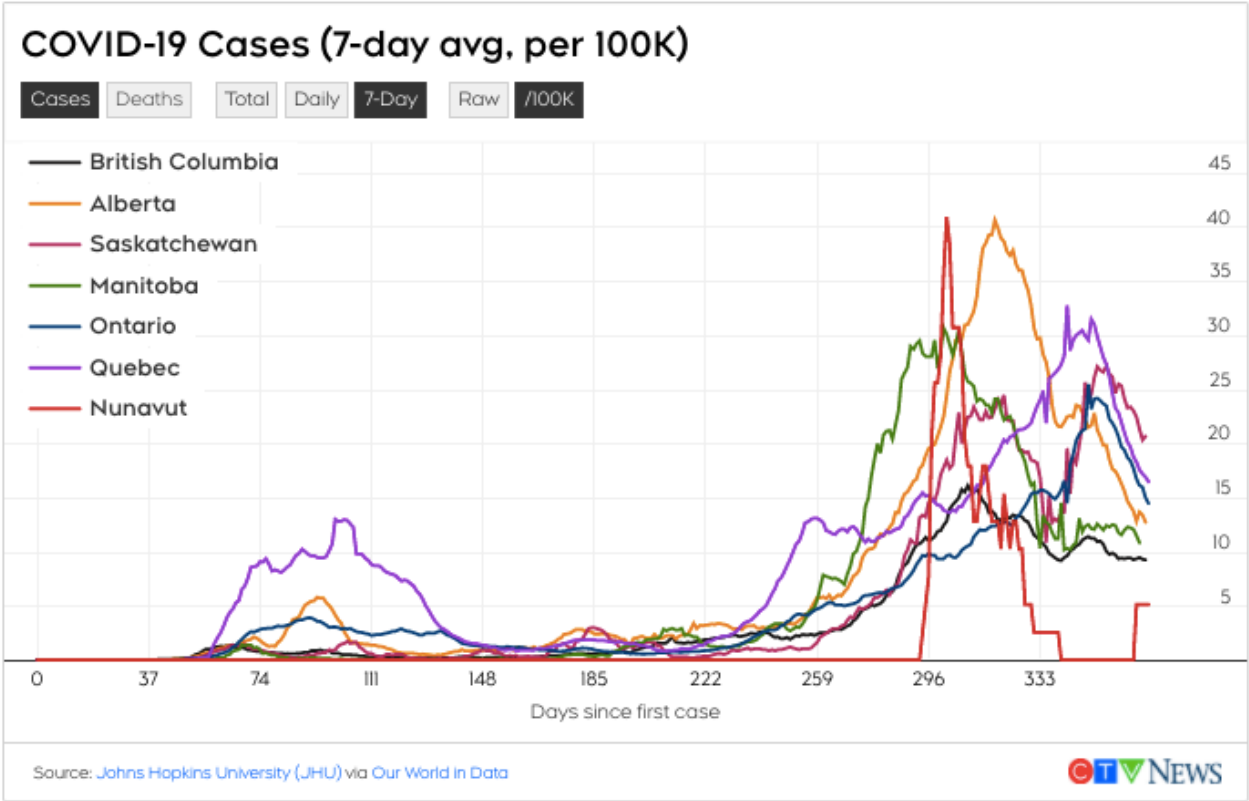
Source of World and Canadian Data Below (January 27, 2021):
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-curves-compare-canada-and-other-key-nations-1.4881500#link-top>











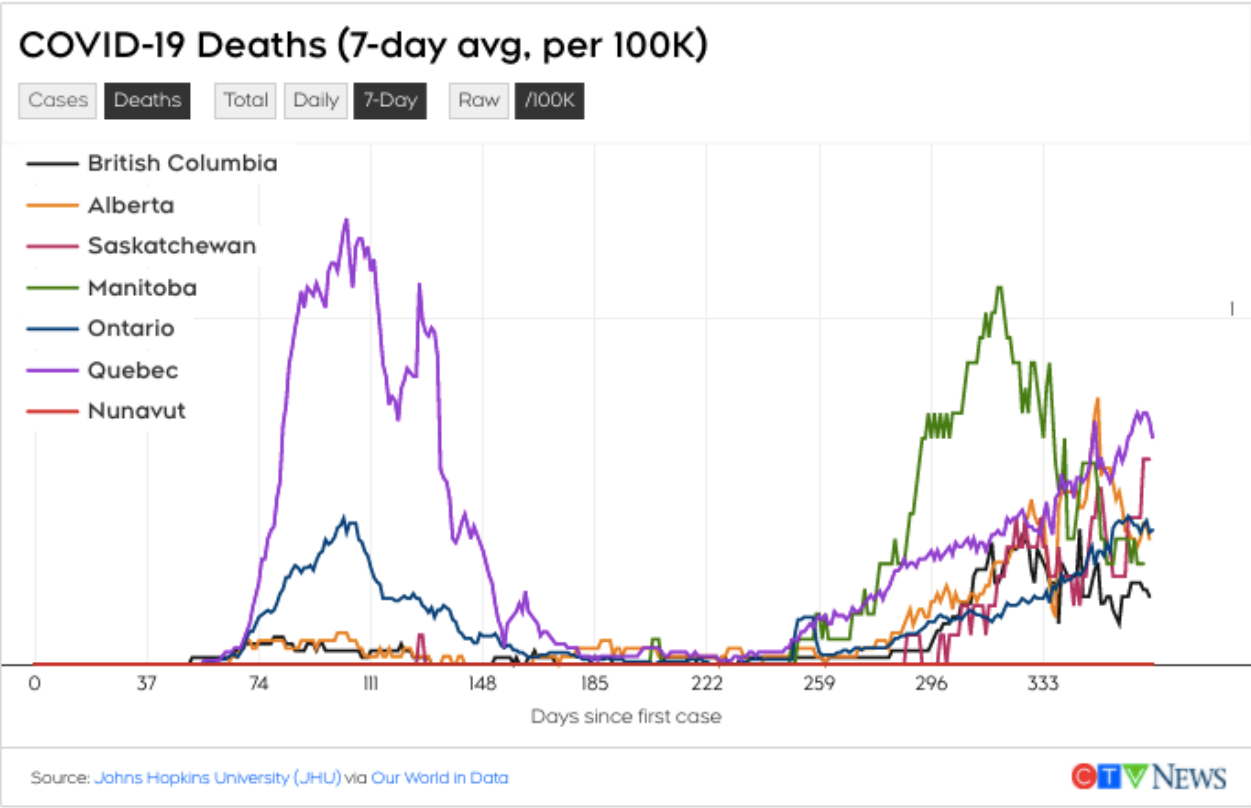


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