



CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Volume 7, Number 7 <https://planetaryhealthweekly.com> February 18, 2021

Hi,

It's another beautiful day, full of sunshine and snow everywhere!! What struck me, though, hard, during the last week, was coming to fully realize that the virus, SARS-CoV-2, is a lot smarter than ever imagined and, unlike us, takes a long term perspective. Its success in mutating, and furthering its relentless ability to kill and seriously sicken, is better than I ever imagined, though I was expecting mutations. A year ago, when the virus first appeared, I thought that it'd be around for a few months, perhaps even half a year. We now know a completely different picture: it's not going to disappear ever, and it's likely to be a menace for many more months, perhaps even years. And while we now have a serious control strategy with vaccines and continued public health measures, we've yet to public discussion on the exit strategy? Perhaps even why there are still so many 'resisters' or people not with the program is that there just hasn't been proper public consultation, like with good environmental impact assessments.

What's clear to me is that the public health protection measures, despite incredible vaccines, must be advocated and implemented for at least another year. I need to accept that, get used to it, and continue being observant in my daily life. On-going respect of the lethality of the virus and its staying power, demonstrated by widely occurring variants, is necessary. At least I know that with each passing day I'll be safer and more protected as vaccines roll out, though my jab is still likely months away. Those who aren't vaccinated or perhaps haven't been previously infected will continue to be hosts of the virus and fertile ground for more variants. Our collective efforts must persist for many more months.

That such a global phenomena is in our face everyday should also be a reminder of our fragility and the presence of other global crises, which can be easily forgotten. The pandemic is not the only game in town. In today's **Planetary Health Weekly** (#7 of 2021) you'll be reminded with these stories:

- The IEA will produce world's first comprehensive roadmap to net-zero emissions by 2050,
- A new global commission headed by the Danish Prime Minister will focus on putting people at the heart of energy transitions,
- Coronavirus Updates:

- Mental health effects of the pandemic on healthcare workers,
 - The consequences of an absence of trust with the Covid-19 vaccine,
 - Plastic surgeons say business is up partly because people don't like how they look on Zoom,
 - Shifts in global bat diversity suggest a possible role of climate change in the emergence of SARS-CoV-1 & 2,
 - WHO recommends the Oxford vaccine for over-65s,
 - New diabetes cases linked to Covid-19,
 - A snapshot of global Covid-19 vaccines,
 - If rich countries share, How well will vaccines work?
 - Vaccine nationalism poses a major threat to Africa,
 - Jabs and jab-nots – there will be enough vaccines for all
 - Global virus update, THEN
- A way to get rid of big polluting vehicles at no cost,
 - G20 nations backtrack on fossil fuel phase-out in Covid-19 recovery,
 - Scandinavian banks poured \$67B into the fossil fuel industry since 2015,
 - Chinese companies and Namibian elites make millions illegally logging rosewoods,
 - New warning of malnutrition inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - Deaths from terrorism reach five-year low,
 - Stripe's unusual plan to suck carbon out of the sky,
 - John Kerry says current goals under Paris climate agreement are 'inadequate' to reduce Earth's temperature,
 - Ørsted backs Danish offshore wind-powered hydrogen project,
 - The 'decolonizing bootcamp' uniting cities and indigenous reserves in Canada,
 - Quote by UNAIDS chief calling for a people's vaccine,
 - OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine (Journal),
 - Facebook bans misinformation about all vaccines after years of controversy,
 - Are African countries preventing corruption and prosecuting related crimes?
 - 'Sistene Chapel of the ancients' rock art discovered in remote Amazon forest,
 - New book "Saving America's Amazon: The Threat to Our Nation's Most Biodiverse River System," and Is it too late to save America's Amazon?
 - I'm not a soldier but I have been trained to kill, and
 - ENDSHOTS of nature's persistence amongst adversity in between stats and charts of Covid-19 in our world.

Please do keep reading.

Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



Whitefish Lake, Ontario
Sunrise February 12, 2021

IEA to Produce World's First Comprehensive Roadmap to Net-Zero Emissions by 2050

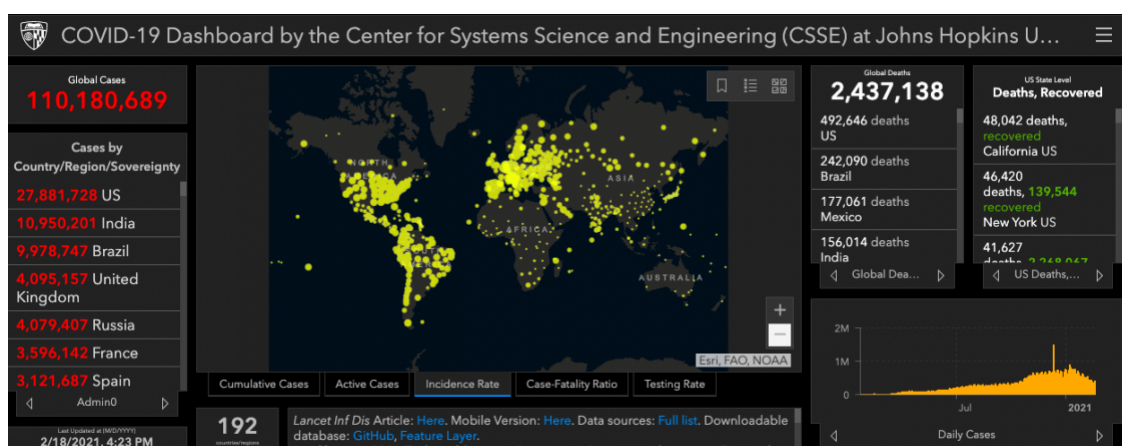


The International Energy Agency (IEA) announced that it will produce the world's first comprehensive roadmap for the energy sector to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 as it further strengthens its leadership role in global clean energy transitions. The new special report, *The World's Roadmap to Net Zero by 2050*, will set out in detail what is needed from governments, companies, investors and citizens to fully decarbonize the energy sector and put emissions on a path in line with a temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius. It is part of a series of new IEA projects to support efforts to reach global energy and climate goals.

This new roadmap will be released on 18 May and build momentum ahead of the COP26 Summit in Glasgow in November, under the presidency of the United Kingdom. Dozens of countries – including most of the world's largest economies – and many leading companies have already announced plans to bring their emissions down to zero by around the middle of this century. But much work remains to be done to translate these ambitious targets into actual reductions in emissions. Read more at [IEA](#).

[SEE ALSO at IEA: New Global Commission Headed by Danish Prime Minister Will Focus on Putting People at the Heart of Energy Transitions](#)

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



It continues to get better, but still a long way to go. Over the last week globally, deaths were down 14,000 to 73,700, and the number of new cases declined too, with about 0.5 million fewer this week than last, but still about 2.5 million.

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

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

Mental Health Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Healthcare Workers



Credit: Getty Images

Healthcare workers (HCWs) have been adapting to the changing needs of people worldwide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this descriptive study was to evaluate how HCWs are managing dietary self-care needs during the increased stress-load of the COVID-19 pandemic and determine if nutritional changes are being made that could place them at higher risk for mental health problems.

The results from this survey indicate that HCWs treating patients during the COVID-19 pandemic are experiencing chronically increased stress-loads, and the increased stress-load is negatively affecting dietary behaviors. Dietary behavior changes included perceived consumption of a less healthy diet overall, increased consumption of sweets and alcoholic drinks, and decreased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables since the pandemic began. Unhealthy dietary behaviours were associated in a predictive manner with negative mood states in HCWs. In addition, this study uncovered evidence of exhaustion, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal thinking in this normally resilient population. Read more at [Lindsen Publishing Inc.](#)

SEE MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At Daily Kos: [The consequences of an absence of trust with the COVID-19 vaccine](#)

At the Washington Post: [Plastic surgeons say business is up, partly because clients don't like how they look on Zoom](#)

At Science Direct: [Shifts in global bat diversity suggest a possible role of climate change in the emergence of SARS-CoV-1 and SARS-CoV-2](#)

At the Telegraph: [World Health Organization recommends Oxford COVID vaccine for over-65s](#)

At the Washington Post: [New diabetes cases linked to COVID-19](#)

At the Daily Maverick: [A snapshot of global COVID-19 vaccines](#)

At the Economist: [The Pandemic - How Well Will Vaccines work?](#)

At the Daily Maverick: [Vaccine nationalism poses a major threat to Africa as the West gobbles up supplies – we need to up our game](#)

At the Economist: [Jobs and jab-nots. There will be enough vaccines for all—if rich countries share](#) *Half of the world's supply has been reserved for just 15% of its population*

At the Daily Maverick: [Global Virus Update](#)

A Way to Get Rid of Big, Polluting Vehicles at No Cost



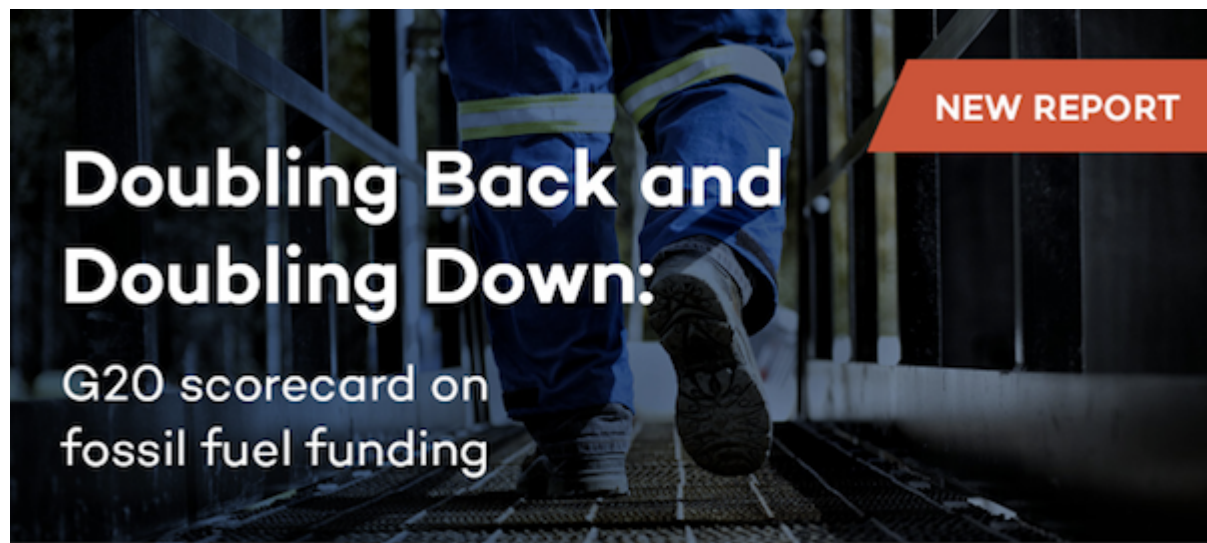
Credit: Ford Canada

As part of the Green Economy Plan announcement, the Legault government in Quebec put forward transportation electrification as a central element, relying on people's goodwill to make the right choices. But considering that we consistently miss our climate targets, relying on goodwill is not sufficient. As a society, we need to deploy binding measures to make the necessary 180. And we need to do it quickly.

So how can we incentivize consumers to adopt a more responsible approach when choosing their next vehicle? It's a simple yet incredibly effective solution, and best of all, it wouldn't cost taxpayers a cent! It's called a feebate system: purchases of low greenhouse gas-emitting vehicles are subsidized by charging a fee on the purchase of polluting vehicles. The fee is put towards a subsidy to reward the greener choice: a concrete application of the polluter-pays principle. Équiterre's recent report on the feebate system demonstrates the system's many benefits for different levels of government.

There are of course exceptions to every rule. As outlined in Équiterre's report, special measures could be put in place for people who truly need larger vehicles, whether for certain types of work, because of reduced-mobility issues, or for those who live in secluded areas without paved roads. Despite the recent transportation electrification announcements, our politicians are not moving fast enough on this issue. Read more at [CTV NEWS](#)

G20 Backtracks on Fossil Fuel Funding Phase-Out in COVID-19 Recovery



Credit: International Institute for Sustainable Development

Despite repeated pledges to end inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, G20 governments' support to fossil fuels has dropped by only 9% since 2014–2016, hitting USD 584 billion annually over the last three years, according to a report released by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and Oil Change International (OCI). This marginal progress will likely be undone this year by billions of dollars committed to fossil fuels in response to COVID-19.

According to the latest data from the [Energy Policy Tracker](#), G20 governments have given at least USD 233 billion in additional support through recovery measures to fossil fuel-intensive industries since the pandemic began. In **Doubling Back and Doubling Down**, researchers considered recent COVID-19 recovery commitments as well as pre-pandemic policies to rank G20 countries' progress in phasing out support to fossil fuels.

They looked at seven indicators: transparency, pledges, public money for coal, oil and gas, fossil fuel-based power, and consumption, as well as how support has changed over time. In most countries assessed, the progress made during the last three years was described by experts as “poor” or “very poor,” and no country was considered to have made “good progress” in line with reaching Paris Agreement goals.

According to the report, Canada is lagging behind its G20 peers when it comes to progress in ending support for fossil fuels. Among Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, Canada ranked worst in two categories: support for oil and gas and change in fossil fuel funding over time; coming in fifth overall. With more public finance per GDP going to fossils than other G20 countries, experts say Canada has immense work to do. Read more at [Equiterre](#).

See Also at [BankTrack – Scandinavian banks poured \\$67 billion into](#)

the fossil fuel industry since Paris

Since the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement at the end of 2015, ten Scandinavian banks have provided US\$ 67.3 billion in credit, including lending and underwriting, to companies and projects in the coal, oil and gas sector. (1) In addition, as of June 30 2020, these ten banks held US\$ 7.1 billion in shares in fossil fuel companies.

The finding that the Scandinavian banking sector continues to pour billions into the very industry that is causing the climate crisis, is in stark contrast with the generally progressive reputation of the region when it comes to taking effective action on climate change.

It also raises serious questions about the sincerity of the climate commitments these banks have made when they all signed on to the Principles for Responsible Banking, which commits them to align their business activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement. (2) Meeting these goals means global CO2 emissions should decline to effectively zero by 2050. However, none of the banks have so far made a concrete commitment to achieve group-wide zero or net-zero emissions in their financing activities by 2050.

‘They are finishing the trees’: Chinese Companies and Namibian Elites Make Millions Illegally Logging Rosewoods



© John Grobler

Credit: John Grobler

OCCRP found more than a dozen stockpiles of timber along the routes the loggers use, ranging from hundreds to thousands of logs or blocks — squared off trunks with bark still attached. All appeared to be from three protected hardwood species — African rosewood, Zambezi teak and Kiaat. A forestry expert described the stockpiles, all run by two Chinese-fronted companies, as evidence of “industrial wood mining.”

Despite a moratorium on harvesting these prized hardwoods in Namibia since November 2018, and a ban on trading raw timber since early August, the plunder has continued. On two recent road trips through the Okavango and Zambezi regions, together covering 6,600 kilometers, an OCCRP reporter saw not a single mature African rosewood tree left standing.

In Namibia, all indigenous hardwood tree species are nominally protected by the Forest Act of 2001, which was designed to prevent uncontrolled logging. But in 2016, Chinese wildcat loggers started shipping illicit timber from Angola, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo through a Namibian port. And by the following year, the rosewood gold rush had reached Namibia itself, starting in the Caprivi State forest in Zambezi Region before spreading to the settlement farms of Kavango East. Read more at [Africa Geographic](#)

New Report Warns of Malnutrition Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean



Credit: CARIBNEWS

A new United Nations report shows the territorial inequality of malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The report titled “Regional Overview of Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020,” analyses child overweight and stunting in the

countries of the region, and identifies which territories are highly lagging, that is, those that exhibit levels significantly higher than the national averages.

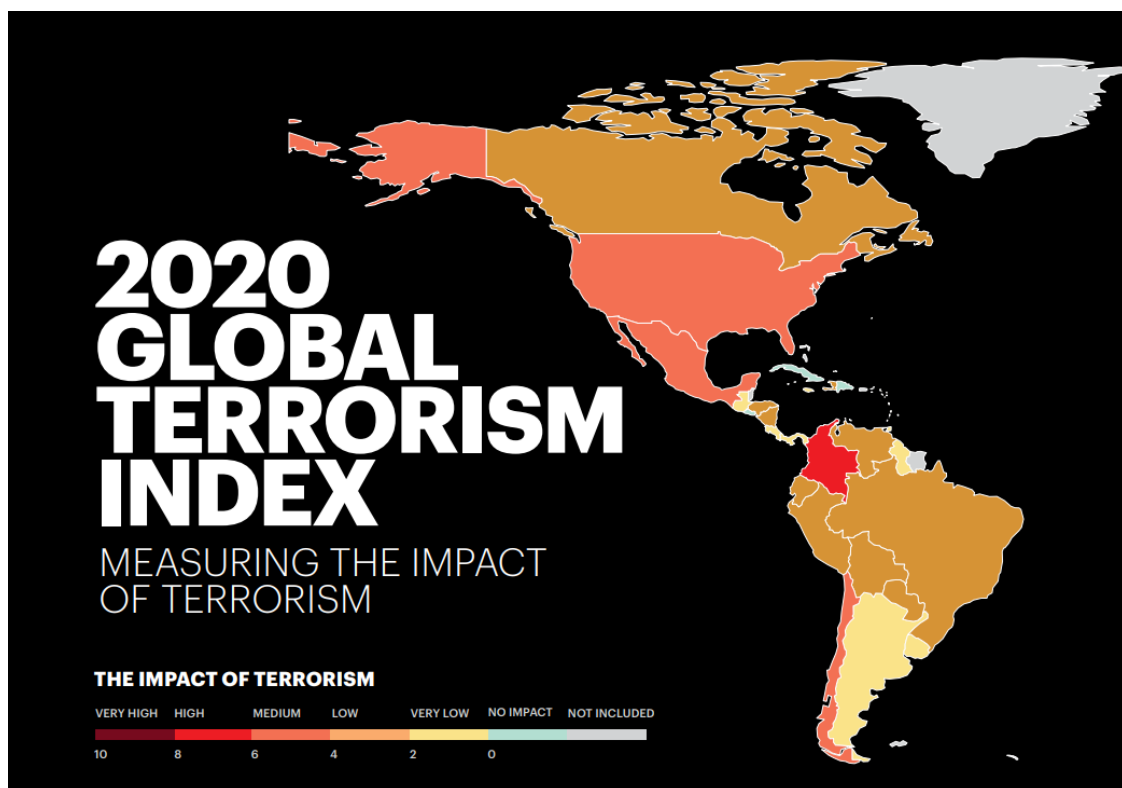
According to the report, child overweight in the highly lagging territories of the region is twice as high as in the territories with no lag, estimated at 13.1 percent. Stunting, meanwhile, reaches 27.6 percent in the territories which are highly lagging, and only 11.9 percent in those with no lag.

The report is a joint publication of the FAO, IFAD, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

"This report confirms the need for the governments of the region to expand their existing social protection networks and increase social spending so their benefits reach the most vulnerable people affected by food insecurity during the pandemic," said Miguel Barreto, WFP regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean. Read more at [the New York CaribNews](#)

GOOD NEWS

2020 Global Terrorism Index: Deaths from Terrorism Reach Five-Year Low, But New Risks Emerge



Credit: Global Terrorism Index

The 2020 Global Terrorism Index (GTI) has found that deaths from terrorism fell for the fifth consecutive year since peaking in 2014. The number of deaths has now decreased by 59% since 2014 to 13,826. Conflict remains the primary driver of terrorism, with over 96% of deaths from terrorism in 2019 occurring in countries already in conflict.

The largest decreases in deaths occurred in Afghanistan and Nigeria, however they are still the only two countries to have experienced more than 1,000 deaths from terrorism. The fall in deaths was also reflected in country scores, with 103 improving compared to 35 that deteriorated. This is the highest number of countries to record a year-on-year improvement since the inception of the index.

Since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020, preliminary data suggests a decline in both incidents and deaths from terrorism in most regions in the world. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to present new and distinct counter-terrorism challenges. It is important that counter-terrorism initiatives are not curtailed because of decreases in government expenditure due to the economic downturn. Reductions in international assistance for counter-terrorism operations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and sub-Saharan Africa could prove to be counter-productive. Read more at [CISION RN Newswire](#).

MORE GOOD NEWS

A Start-Up's Unusual Plan to Suck Carbon Out of the Sky



Credit: Sean Gallup/ Getty

Stripe is one of those technology companies that control the internet's plumbing. It makes payments-processing software that hustles money from your debit or credit card to someone else's bank account. If you've ever purchased groceries on Instacart or supported a project on Kickstarter, you've used Stripe, even if you didn't know it.

Lately Stripe has been helping to build a different kind of plumbing—physical pipes running from the open air to deep underground. In the past year, Stripe has become one of the world's largest purchasers of carbon-removal credits, devoting \$1 million to extracting carbon from the sky. Last month, it began allowing its customers—the businesses that use its payment software—to buy carbon removal as well. Read more at [the Atlantic](#)

John Kerry says Current Goals Under Paris Climate Agreement 'Inadequate' to Reduce Earth's Temperature



Credit: Mark Makela/Getty Images

[John Kerry](#), special U.S. presidential envoy for climate, says that the current goals under the [Paris climate agreement](#) are not enough to achieve the mission to limit the Earth's temperature.

"The goals thus far have been inadequate ... The goal of achieving a 1.5°C limitation on the rise of Earth's temperature is absolutely the appropriate goal, but the current promises of countries through the Paris Agreement, are insufficient to get the job done," Kerry told CNN's Fareed Zakaria on "GPS." But, the former U.S. secretary of state said, there was still time to do more when it comes to climate change. Read more at [CNN](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

Canada's Economy Already Suffering Effects of Climate Change



Credit: Ørsted

Ørsted, the largest offshore wind farm company in the world, has teamed up with five other Danish multinationals to develop a new large-scale green hydrogen project. Once finished, the facility will exclusively target ships, trucks, buses and airplanes in an aim to decarbonize the transport sector and align with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Located in the Greater Copenhagen Area, the project, a hydrogen facility powered by offshore wind, will likely be one of the largest of its kind in the world. When fully scaled up by 2030, the project is expected to deliver more than 250,000 tonnes of fuel to the industry and reduce annual carbon emissions by up to 850,000 tonnes.

"In Copenhagen, we've set the ambitious goal to become the world's first carbon neutral capital by 2025," said Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, adding, "we're already well underway – with district heating, wind turbines, great biking infrastructure, zero emission busses, a green metro, etc. But we need new, sustainable technologies to go all the way."

"Sustainable fuels are an important means in the fight against climate change and air pollution. It brings us one step closer to a greener future." And the facility aims to be up and running by Copenhagen's 2025 target. Read more at [Climate Home News](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

The 'Decolonization Bootcamp' Uniting Cities and Indigenous Reserves



Credit: Richard Perry

The relationship between Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation and the town of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada shows what incremental steps toward reconciliation can accomplish. For the past five years, they have benefited from a unique countrywide program designed to help long-time neighbours like them become neighbours. The First Nation–Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative, known as [CEDI](#), empowers municipal and First Nation leaders and their staff to, for once, sit down and talk as equals.

CEDI is a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers, known as CANDO, which represents Indigenous communities in support of economic growth. Since 2013, 15 pairs — out of hundreds of requests — have taken part in the program that is in principle about joint economic development, but in reality is more like decolonization bootcamp. Read more at [the Tyee](#)

THE
**PEOPLE'S
VACCINE**
Available to all. In all countries. Free of charge.

Quote Of The Week

A failure to ensure that all the world is safely vaccinated will ultimately come back to haunt all nations; the longer the virus is allowed to spread unchecked, the greater the chances of mutations that could render the vaccines we do have less efficacious.

“Almost every business on the planet has had to step away from business as usual as a result of this pandemic. It is in all our interests that pharmaceutical companies, government and corporations now do the same. And each of us has a role to play in urging key role-players to throw their weight behind the growing call for a people’s vaccine. No one is safe until everyone is safe.”

UNAIDS executive director Winnie Byanyima

See Also at C19 People's Coalition: [People's Vaccine Campaign: Letter from Archbishop Thabo Makgoba to Dr. Anthony Fauci and Others](#)

See More at DailyMaverick: [Covid-19 Vaccination is the Social Justice Challenge of Our Time](#)

Read More at Daily Maverick

Upcoming Events

- 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 U.S. Capital](#)
- Earth Hour - [March 27th at 8:30 Your Local Time](#)
- 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](#)
 - November 1st - 12th, 2021: [2020/2021 UN Climate Change Conference](#) UNFCCC COP26 - Postponed in 2020 and now to be held November, 2021 (Glasgow, Scotland).
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FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine



Credit: OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine

OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine is an international peer-reviewed Open Access journal published quarterly online by LIDSEN Publishing Inc. It covers all evidence-based scientific studies on integrative, alternative and complementary approaches to improving health and wellness.

Topics contain but are not limited to:

- Acupuncture
- Acupressure
- Acupotomy
- Bioelectromagnetics applications
- Pharmacological and biological treatments including their efficacy and safety
- Diet, nutrition and lifestyle changes
- Herbal medicine
- Homeopathy
 - Manual healing methods (e.g., massage, physical therapy) Kinesiology
 - Mind/body interventions
 - Preventive medicine
 - Research in integrative medicine
 - Education in integrative medicine
 - Related policies

It publishes a variety of article types: original research, review, communication, opinion, case report, study protocol, comment, conference report, technical note, book review, *etc.*

[Read more at Lidsen](#)

[Journal Flyer](#)

See also [COPE](#), which provides leadership in thinking on publication ethics and practical resources to educate and support members, and offers a professional voice in current debates.

[See also at DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals](#)

FYI #2

Facebook Bans Misinformation About All Vaccines After Years of Controversy



Credit: Olivier
Douliery/AFP/Getty Images

Facebook has banned misinformation about all vaccines following years of harmful, unfounded health claims proliferating on its platform.

As part of its policy on Covid-19-related misinformation, Facebook will now remove posts with false claims about all vaccines. These new community guidelines apply to user-generated posts as well as paid advertisements, which were already banned from including such misinformation. Instagram users will face the same restrictions.

Groups on Facebook have been known to create [echo chambers](#) of misinformation and have fueled the rise of anti-vaccine communities and rhetoric. Under the new policy, groups where users repeatedly share banned content will be shut down.

[Read More at the Guardian](#)

FYI #3

Are African Countries Preventing Corruption and Prosecuting Related Crimes?



Credit: [GovernmentZA](#) / Flickr

When the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption (AUCPCC) was adopted by the African Union Assembly in 2003, it was a huge step towards resolving the continent's serious corruption challenges. Designed as a shared roadmap for member states to implement governance and anti-corruption measures, the convention aims to eradicate corruption in government and business.

Today, 44 of the 55 member states have ratified the convention, yet there is little information on how well it is implemented in practice. A [new report by Transparency International](#) explores this, looking at three important areas: money laundering, illicit enrichment and political party funding, as well as the role civil society and media play in fighting corruption.

[Read More at Transparency International](#)

FYI #4

'Sistine Chapel of the Ancients' - Rock Art Discovered in Remote Amazon Forest



Credit: Ella Al-Shamahi

One of the world's largest collections of prehistoric rock art has been discovered in the Amazonian rainforest. Hailed as “the Sistine Chapel of the ancients”, archaeologists have found tens of thousands of paintings of animals and humans created up to 12,500 years ago across cliff faces that stretch across nearly eight miles in [Colombia](#).

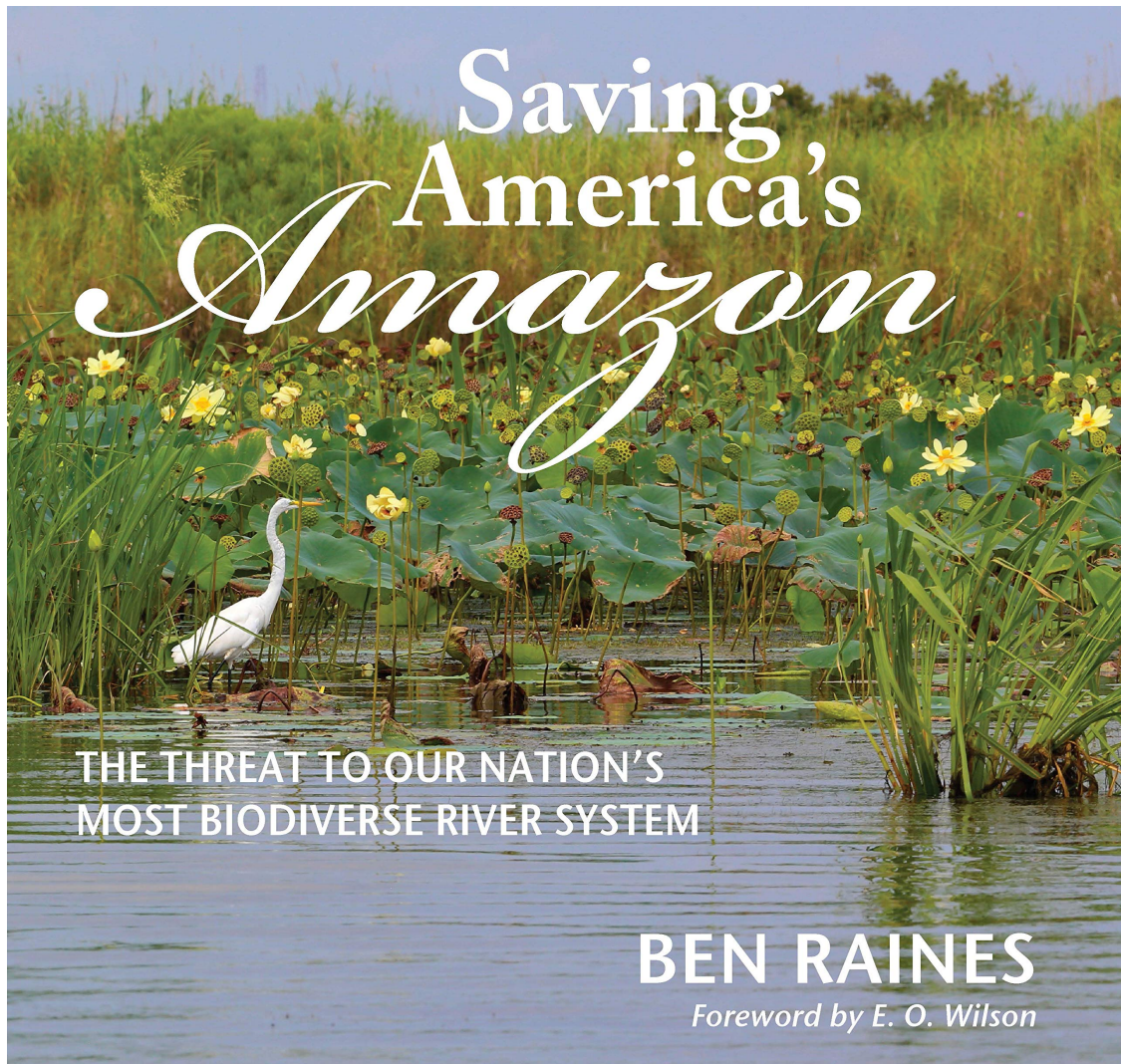
Their date is based partly on their depictions of now-extinct ice age animals, such as the mastodon, a prehistoric relative of the elephant that hasn't roamed South America for at least 12,000 years. There are also images of the palaeolama, an extinct camelid, as well as giant sloths and ice age horses. These animals were all seen and painted by some of the very first humans ever to reach the Amazon. Their pictures give a glimpse into a lost, ancient civilization. Such is the sheer scale of paintings that they will take generations to study.

[Read More from the Guardian](#)

FYI #5: FEBRUARY READING

Saving America's Amazon: The Threat to Our Nation's Most

Biodiverse River System by Ben Raines



Credit: Amazon Book Cover

Though almost no one knows it, the most diverse forests and aquatic systems in the nation lie in Alabama. Described as America's Amazon, Alabama has more species per square mile than any other state. Its rivers are home to more species of fish, crayfish, salamanders, mussels, snails and turtles than any other aquatic system in North America. And the contest isn't even close. California, for instance, has nine species of crayfish, while Alabama has 84. The 11 states that are drained by the Colorado River system are collectively home to 26 species of fish, while Alabama is home to 350 species of fish. But the wild places of the state are also under siege. Alabama has suffered more aquatic extinctions than any other state. In fact, more than half of all extinctions in the United States since the 1800s happened in Alabama, which has been logged, mined, and poisoned by a succession of industries. In this compelling portrait of the rough history of Alabama's rivers and the lands they flow through, Raines makes a case that more has been lost in Alabama than any other state thanks to the destructive hand of man. The version of Alabama that exists in the mind of the public – lynchings and fire hoses, cotton fields and steel mills – comes from things we've done to Alabama, and has for too long overshadowed the stunning natural splendor of the place.

For more see: <http://www.newsouthbooks.com/b...>

See Also at The Revelator: [Is it Too Late to Save 'America's Amazon'?](#)

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

I Am Not a Soldier, but I Have Been Trained to Kill



Credit: Jessie Rieser

A sprawling tactical industry is teaching American civilians how to fight like Special Ops forces. By preparing for violence at home, are they calling it into being?

As we head into an era that seems destined to be marked by escalating vigilantism and political violence—or, if we're very lucky, just the fear of them—it's time to reckon with the whole of American tactical culture. For all its power to shape this moment, that culture has roots that long precede it. The tactical world is a byproduct of years of rampant mass shootings and of the nation's longest wars, the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's a space where paramilitary ideas thrive and where ordinary gun owners learn to see themselves as potential heroes; but it's also where many Americans have simply gone looking for a way to negotiate living in a country where there are more firearms than people.

To try to understand it better, journalist Rachel Monroe spent this fall absorbing its mix of skills training, political indoctrination, and camaraderie. Sometimes it felt like CrossFit with bullets; sometimes it was more alarming than that.

[Read more at Wired](#)

ENDSHOTS

LASTING POWER OF TREES DESPITE ADVERSITY, I.E. WINTER ***Amid COVID-19 Stats and Charts***

HAWKRIGG LANE, SEGUIN, ONTARIO

February 18, 2021



Coronavirus Cases:

110,610,408[view by country](#)

Deaths:

2,444,890

Recovered:

85,473,593

ACTIVE CASES

22,690,026

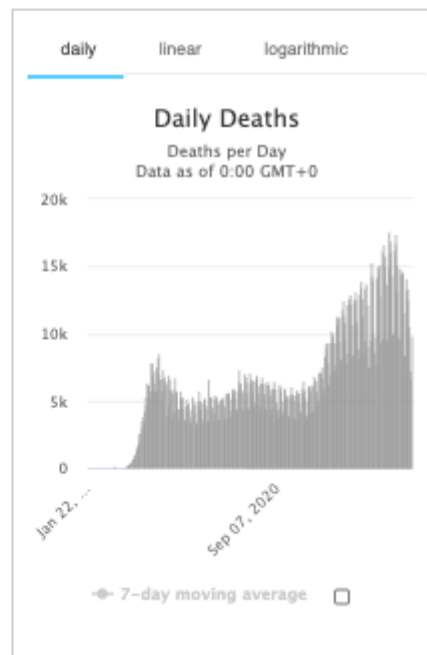
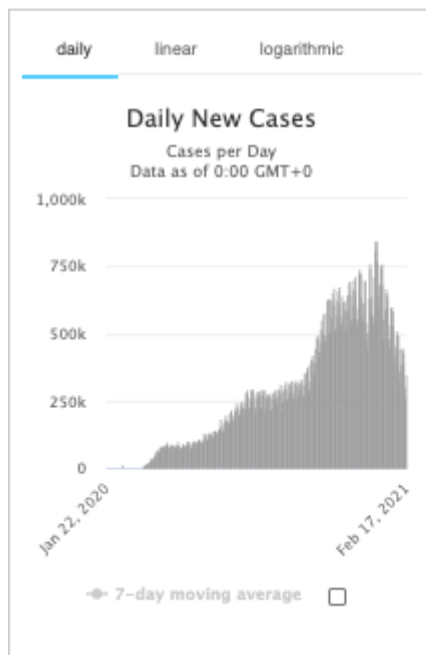
Currently Infected Patients

22,596,024 (99.6%) **95,901** (0.4%)
in Mild Condition Serious or Critical[Show Graph](#)

CLOSED CASES

87,920,382

Cases which had an outcome:

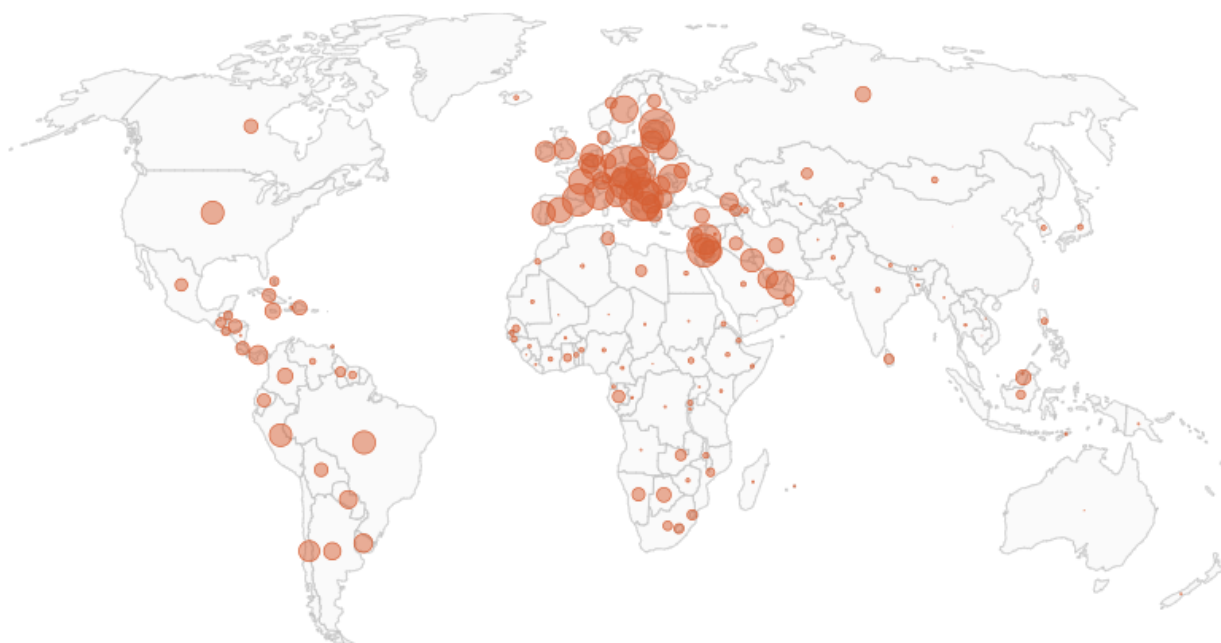
85,473,593 (97%) **2,444,890** (3%)
Recovered / Discharged Deaths[Show Graph](#)Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>



COVID-19 CASES & DEATHS (February 12-18, 2021) Source:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

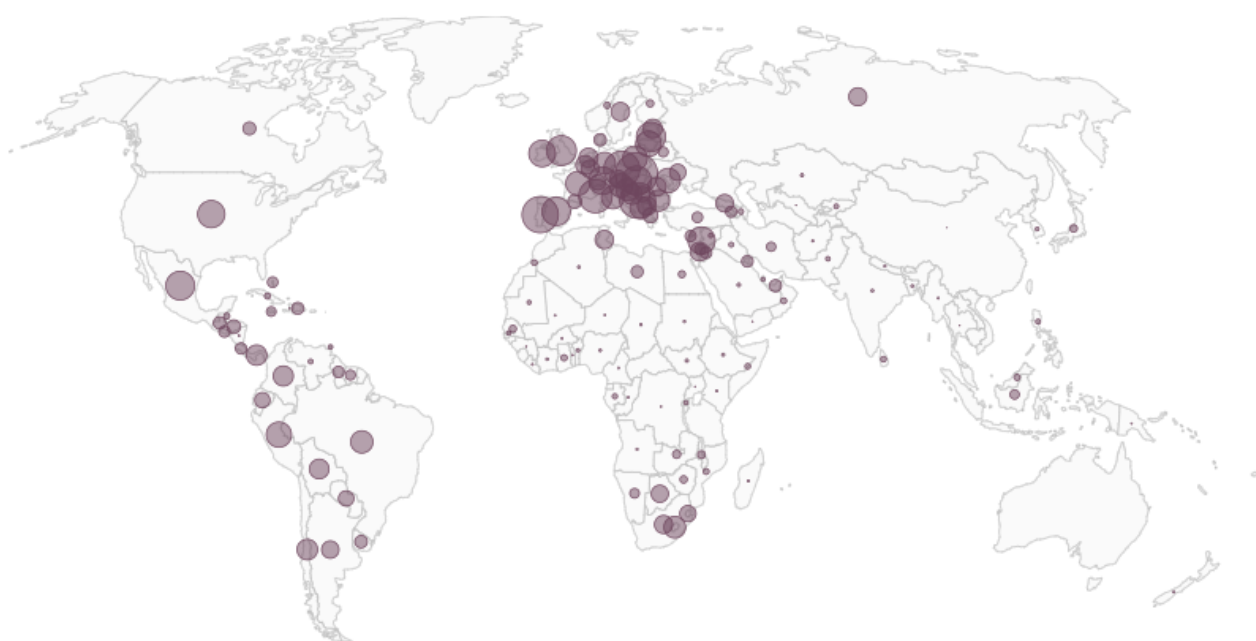
Deaths	Cases	Adj. for population	Totals	Since last week	Cumulative
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5 25 100
REPORTED CASES PER 100K



Deaths	Cases	Adj. for population	Totals	Since last week	Cumulative
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0.1 1 2
REPORTED DEATHS PER 100K

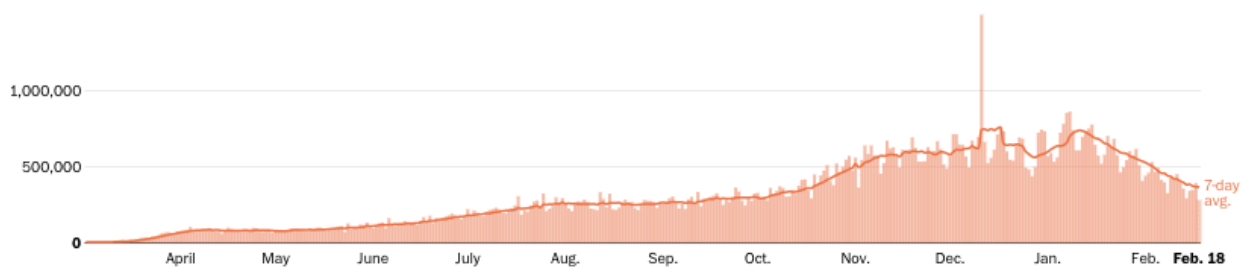




New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths Cases

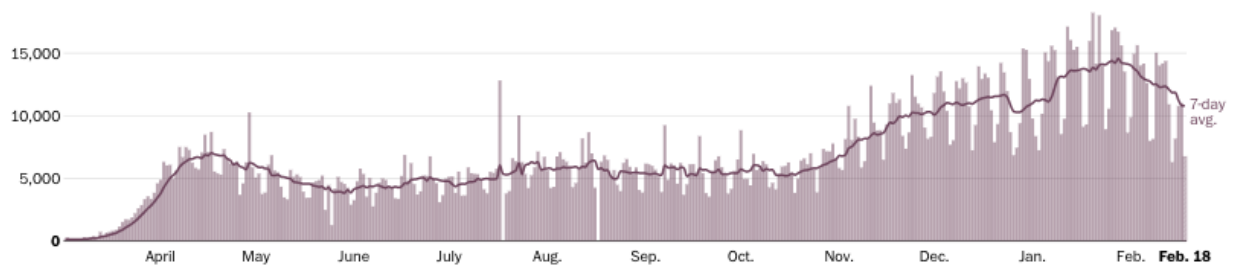
At least 110,104,181 have been reported since Feb. 29.



New daily deaths reported across the world

Deaths Cases

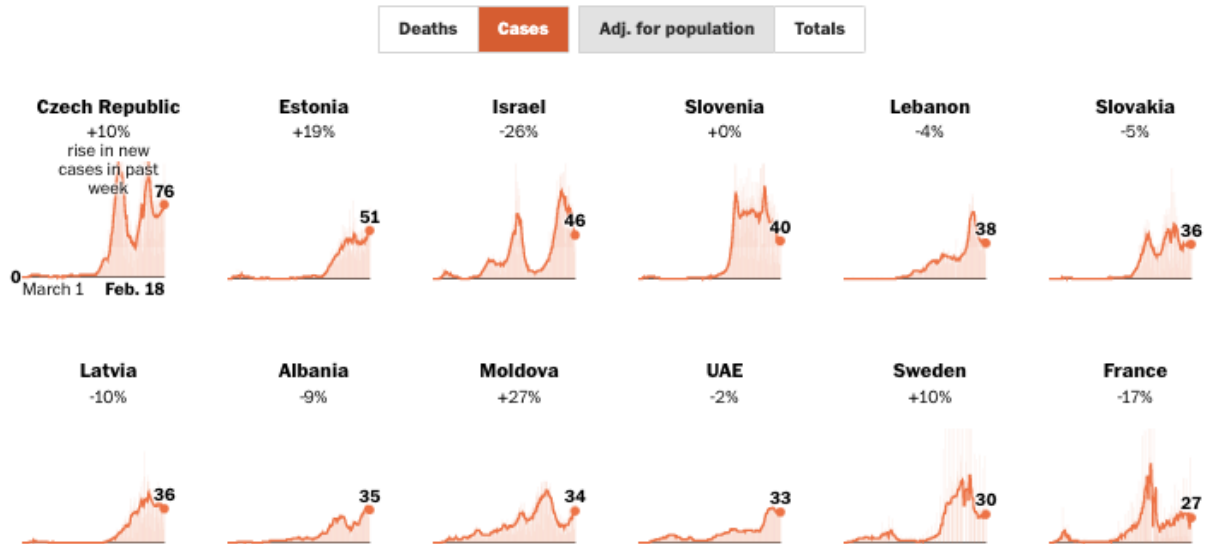
At least 2,434,847 have been reported since Feb. 29.





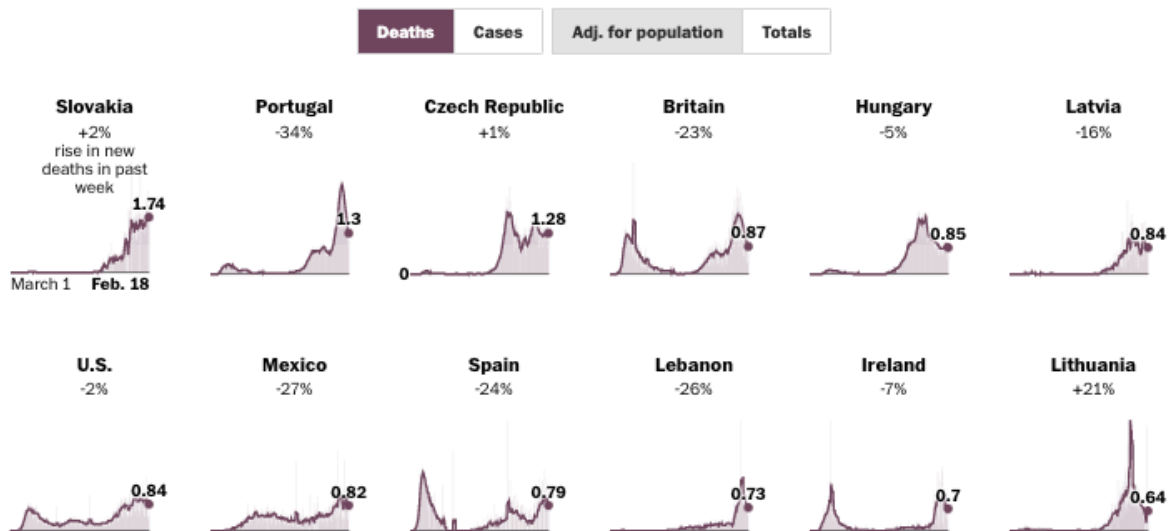
Global hot spots for reported cases per capita

— 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



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



Vaccinations by country

Adj. for population

Totals

Jump to a country:

Canada



Country ▾	Total doses given per 100k ▾	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated ▾	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination ▾
Israel	75,986	45.6%	30.4%
Seychelles	61,004	42.5%	18.5%
UAE	54,085	–	–
Britain	24,687	23.9%	0.8%
U.S.	17,295	12.5%	4.8%
Bahrain	15,138	15.1%	–
Serbia	13,621	–	–
Malta	12,617	8.6%	4.0%
Chile	12,535	12.2%	0.3%
Maldives	9,259	–	–
Denmark	7,503	4.5%	3.0%
Romania	6,408	3.8%	2.6%
Switzerland	6,310	5.1%	1.2%
Turkey	6,261	5.4%	0.9%
Monaco	6,160	–	–
Iceland	5,970	3.9%	2.0%
Lithuania	5,952	3.8%	2.1%
Slovakia	5,907	4.5%	1.4%
Poland	5,873	4.1%	1.8%
Norway	5,858	4.5%	1.4%
Slovenia	5,781	3.5%	2.3%
Spain	5,715	3.3%	2.4%
Morocco	5,706	–	–
Greece	5,633	3.9%	1.8%
Ireland	5,503	3.6%	1.9%
Portugal	5,417	3.4%	2.0%
Estonia	5,406	3.7%	1.7%
Finland	5,402	4.2%	1.2%
Italy	5,321	3.1%	2.2%
Germany	5,319	3.5%	1.8%
Hungary	5,180	3.7%	1.4%
Belgium	5,116	3.2%	1.9%
Sweden	5,113	3.6%	1.5%
Cyprus	4,945	3.7%	1.2%
France	4,734	3.5%	1.2%
Greenland	4,596	4.6%	–
Czechia	4,535	2.8%	1.7%
Singapore	4,376	4.3%	0.1%
Luxembourg	4,181	3.2%	1.0%
Netherlands	3,774	–	–
Canada	3,536	–	–



Compare countries by new daily reported cases per 100k

Deaths

Cases

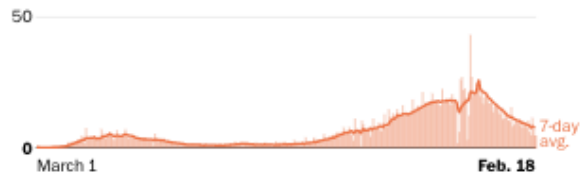
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

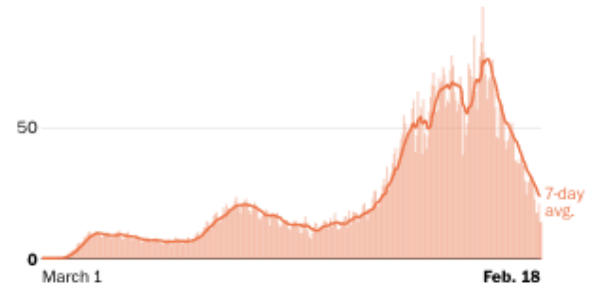
At least 840,745 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Select a country:

U.S.

At least 27,815,799 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Compare countries by new daily deaths reported per 100k

Deaths

Cases

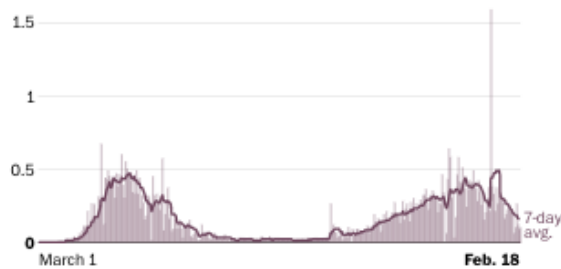
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

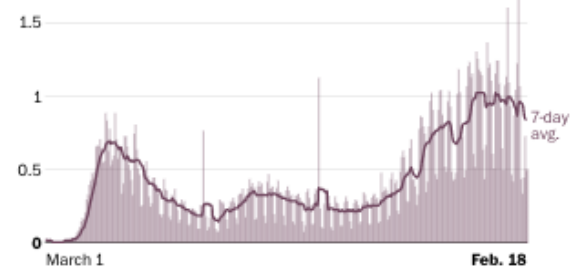
At least 21,472 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Select a country:

U.S.

At least 490,675 have been reported since Feb. 29.



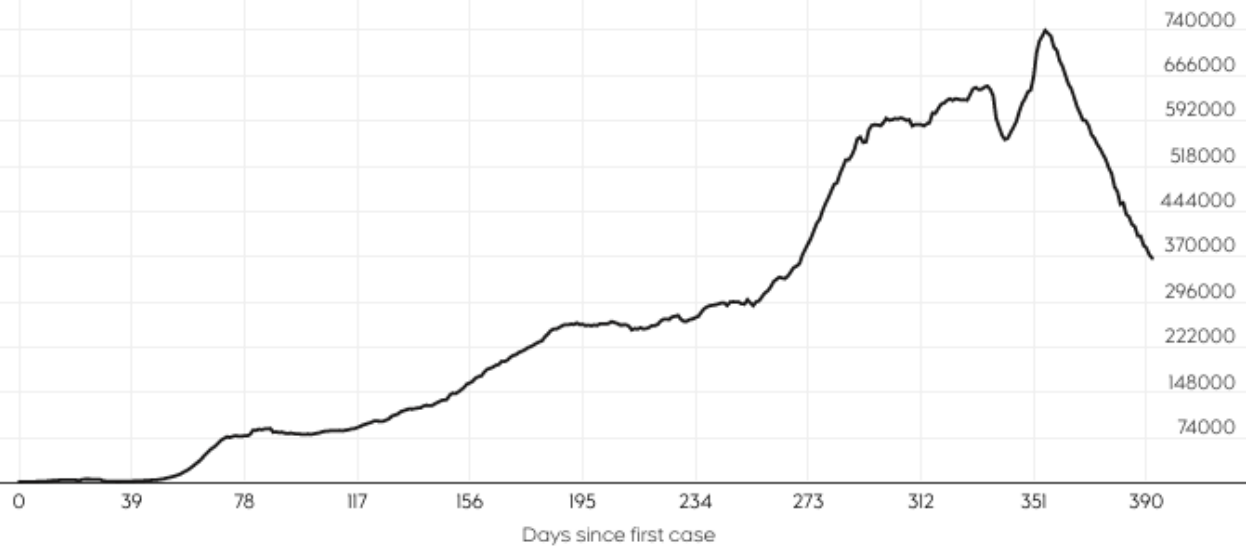


**Source of World and Canadian Data Below (February 18, 2021):
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-curves-compare-canada-and-other-key-nations-1.4881500#link-top>**

COVID-19 Cases (7-day avg)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— World



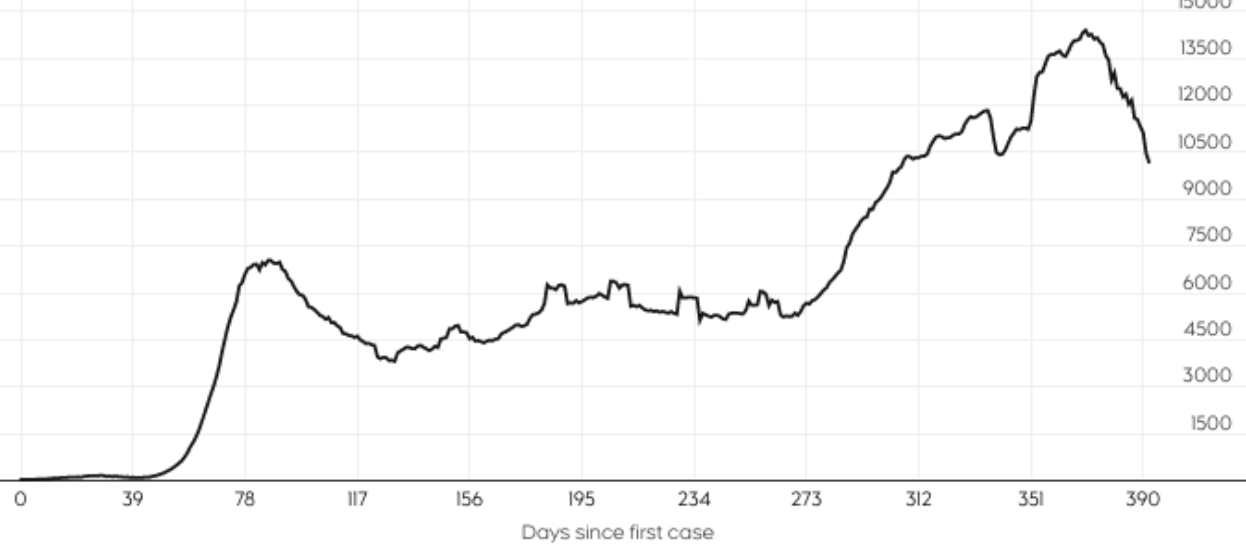
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

CTV NEWS

COVID-19 Deaths (7-day avg)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— World



Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

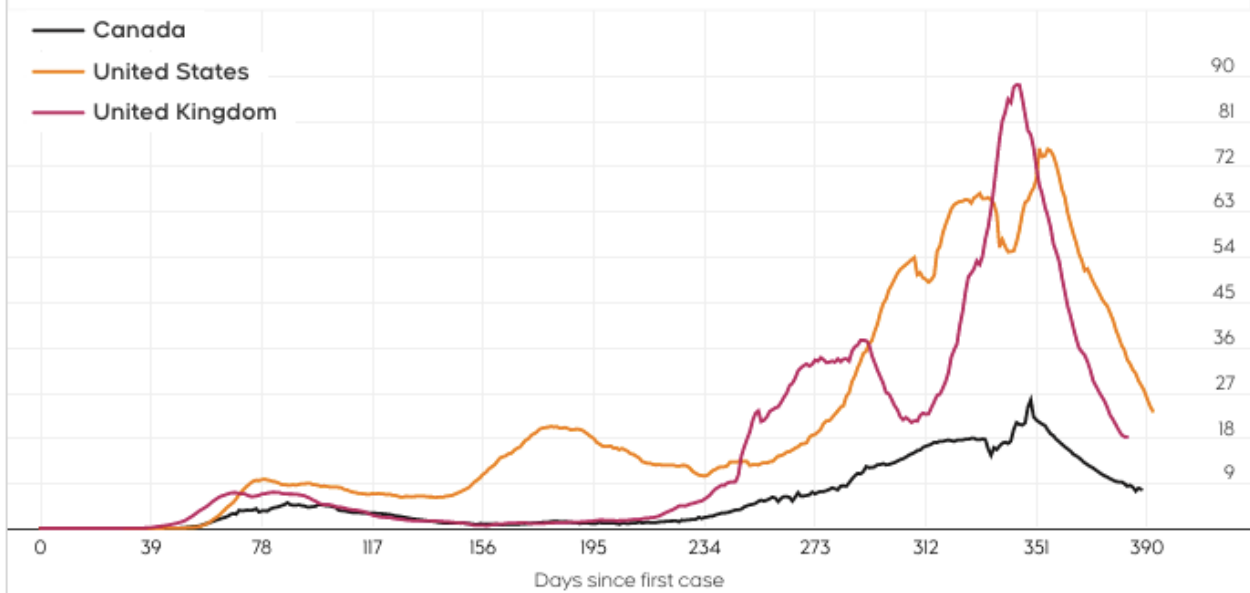
CTV NEWS



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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

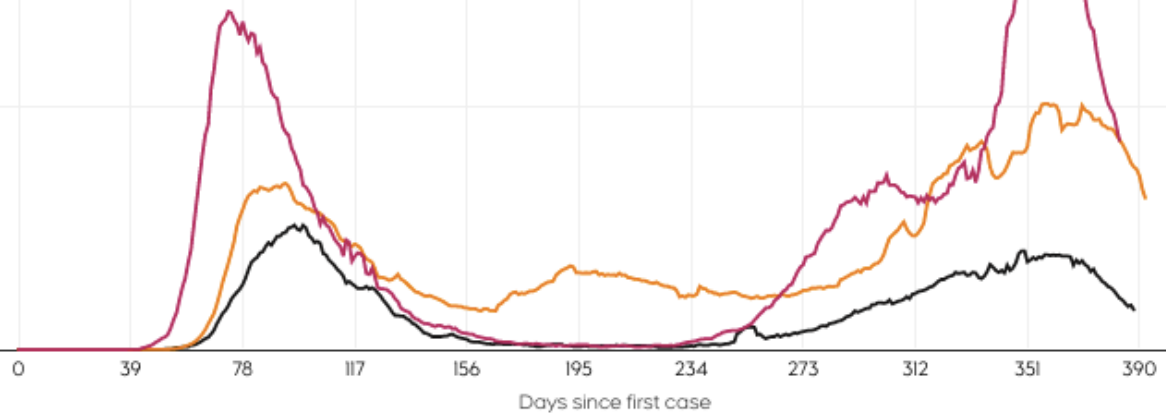
— Canada
— United States
— United Kingdom



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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada
— United States
— United Kingdom

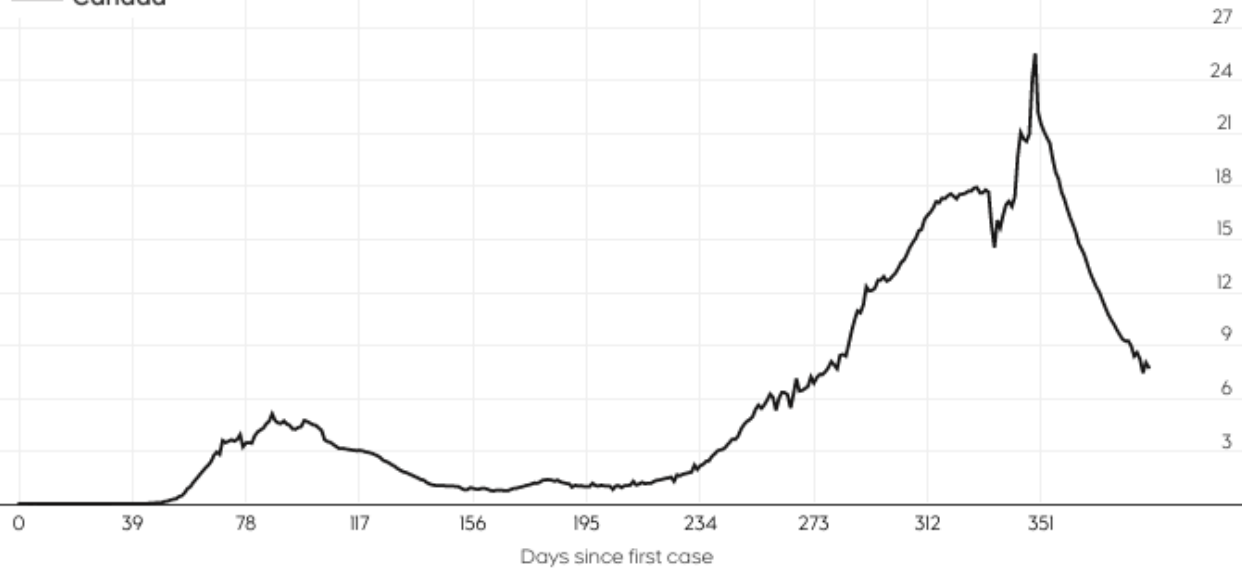


Overlooking Maple Lake

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada



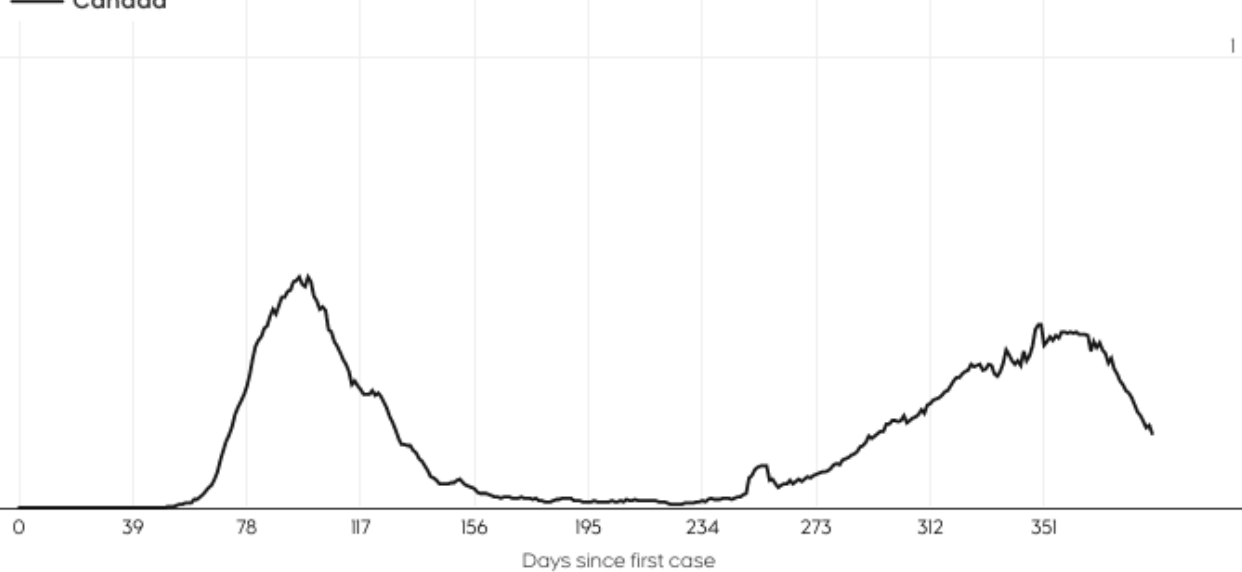
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada



Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

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