



CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

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<https://planetaryhealthweekly.com>

March 4,

Hi,

Do you ever feel like giving up? Thinking that there's just too much craziness, evil, incompetence, fake and bad news constantly and perpetually bombarding you? A few days ago I watched a movie by a Canadian journalist, now brilliant screenwriter and director, called *Captive*, on TV Ontario (Ontario's educational TV network). This amazing work by Melissa Fung, about the plight of several girls captured, tortured, abused and held hostage for months and years in northeastern Nigeria, really made me think about how the dark side of our world just keeps going, growing, replicating and mutating like that crazy virus. That these deranged Boko Haram leaders, perhaps the violent cousins to our own conspiracy theory leaders and perpetrators, and their brainwashed and coerced minions keep this horror going - with even more such news items from Nigeria this week. That they seemingly operate with impunity, thanks to a hapless Nigerian military and likely corruption, is more than sad. No young person, either boy or girl, should ever have to undergo such mental and physical abuse and even murder. It's another global health tragedy of the first order. But, no, I won't give up.

I live a long distance from all this, but there is also so much darkness in my own province and country, with systematic racism affecting millions and the recent horror in many long-term 'care' facilities. And what about the plight of the Uighur people which the Canadian parliament just unanimously labeled genocide? And the suffering of so many Indigenous and other minority groups and refugees. Or how about the millions of Texans going for days without water, food and electricity from the unimaginable winter storm Uri? The list goes on and on and will only continue to grow as people continue to lose their democratic rights, and their right as a human being to health, food and education, to be who they want, and think what they want. But these rights, so precious and a product of centuries of

enlightening thinking and even wars, also continue to be abused by those trolling the dark web, spreading lies, doing harm to others, even denying Covid-19.

We truly do need to see the light shine more and brighter. The more we give, the more we love, exercise tolerance and practice equity in our lives, the brighter the light will get. We need to celebrate the rising sun, everyday (as in ENDSHOTS). Rather than giving up, I need to muster the energy and confidence to keep shining, to keep properly informed, not only for my own benefit, but also for my neighbours and the creatures we live amongst, and for the wellness of our beautiful Earth, whose limits of support we are now testing to our obvious peril.

In today's ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#9 of 2021), you'll find glimmers of the sunrise amongst the competing darkness. Read on about:

- UN calls for an 'ocean science revolution,' and UK leads the Global Ocean Alliance to turn 30% of oceans into marine protected areas by 2030,
- CORONAVIRUS UPDATES:
 - A grim measure of Covid's toll – life expectancy drops sharply in the U.S.,
 - Conspiracy theories and extremism have infected the public during the pandemic as exposure rises,
 - Cities can learn a lot from Kingston, Ontario's COVID-19 response,
 - Five ways to beat pandemic boredom and make change during lockdown,
 - How the search for Covid-19 treatments faltered while vaccines sped ahead,
 - Trends in suicide during the pandemic,
 - Mental health challenges and the way forward in the post-Covid-19 era,
 - Moving beyond rhetoric towards action for global accountability,
 - Rapid virus testing will ramp up as FDA approved three new at-home kits,
 - 'Like wartime' Canadian companies unite to start mass virus testing, THEN
- CDC director says 'bruises are going to take a long time to heal' at agency,
- Early steady investment in wind and solar is the best way to decarbonize the economy,
- Biden says he'll replace the 645,000 strong federal fleet with electric vehicles,
- Human-made materials now outweigh Earth's entire biomass,
- Documenting Covid-19 effects on youth sexual and reproductive health,
- Bangladesh scraps nine coal power plants as overseas finance dries up,
- 'Zero-emissions' building sites ditch diesel machinery in Oslo, Norway,
- Don't treat climate change as a national security risk,
- Countries must work together to build momentum for climate action,
- First Nations leaders fight vaccine hesitancy with social media savvy,
- WHO director-general talks of a pending 'catastrophic moral failure,'
- Ten sustainable fashion activists to follow,
- Hacker poisons Florida city water,

- Did QuantumScape just solve a 40-year-old battery problem?
- Tesla to build 'world's largest' battery plant near Berlin and Chinese car battery maker eyes 2bEuro base in Germany,
- Did fences cause last year's elephant deaths in Botswana,
- South Africa seizes rhino horns to be smuggled to Malaysia,
- New book: Handbook of Global Health,
- Toronto's George Brown College launches Canada's first four-year bachelor of food studies degree, and
- **ENDSHOTS** celebrate the rising sun amid Covid-19 stats and charts.

Do keep reading. Stay safe. Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



Sunrise Over Whitefish Lake, Ontario

March 2, 2021

UN Calls for an 'Ocean Science Revolution'



Credits: Alison Kentish/IPS

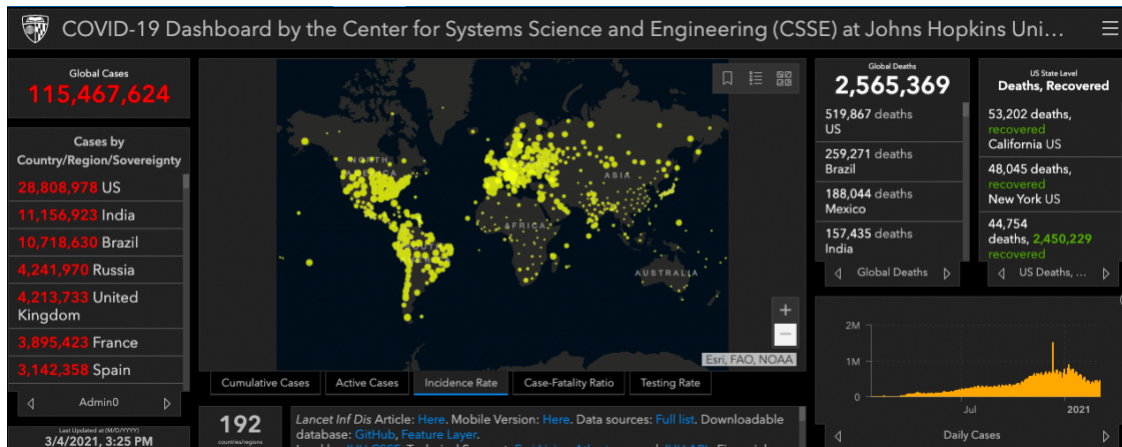
The United Nations Secretary-General has urged nations to rise to the ‘defining challenge’ of restoring the ocean’s power to support humanity and regulate the climate. António Guterres addressed the “Brave New Ocean” high level event on Feb. 3. The virtual gathering of world leaders, scientists, philanthropists and ocean advocates marked the start of the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The ocean is immense, containing 97% of the water on the earth’s surface. It is an important source of food and energy, while facilitating commerce and communication. Scientists have however warned that humanity’s dependence on the ocean has given way to overexploitation and increased pollution. [Read more at IPS](#)

SEE ALSO

UK leads Global Ocean Alliance to turn 30% of Oceans into Marine Protected Areas by 2030

Some thirty countries have now joined the Global Ocean Alliance championing an international commitment for a minimum 30% of the global ocean to be protected through Marine Protected Areas by 2030. The Global Ocean Alliance has grown from 10 to 30 members in just 12 months, and the countries which alongside the UK have committed to trebling existing targets are: Belize, Belgium, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Finland, Fiji, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Maldives, Monaco, Nigeria, Palau,

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



It is getting slightly better globally, but public health measures must continue. Over the last week, global deaths were down about 8% to 61,700 and new cases slightly down to about 2.6 million. There's still a long way to go.

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

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

A Grim Measure of Covid's Toll: Life Expectancy Drops Sharply in U.S.



Credit: Philip Cheung for The New York Times

Life expectancy in the United States fell by a full year in the first six months of

2020, [the federal government reported](#). It's the largest drop since World War II and a grim measure of the deadly consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Life expectancy is the most basic measure of the health of a population, and the stark decline over such a short period is highly unusual and a signal of deep distress. The drop comes after a troubling series of smaller declines driven largely by a surge in drug overdose deaths. A fragile recovery over the past two years has now been wiped out.

The data gives the first full picture of the pandemic's effect on American expected life spans, which dropped to 77.8 years from 78.8 years in 2019. It also showed a deepening of racial and ethnic disparities: Life expectancy of the Black population declined by 2.7 years in the first half of 2020, slicing away 20 years of gains. The life expectancy gap between Black and white Americans, [which had been narrowing](#), is now at six years, the widest it has been since 1998. Read more at [The New York Times](#)

SEE MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At Daily Kos: [Conspiracy Theories, Extremism Have Infected the Public During Pandemic as Exposure Rises](#)

At The Star: [What Can Cities Learn from Kingston, Ontario's COVID-19 Response? A lot, it turns out.](#)

At Global Citizen: [5 Ways to Beat Pandemic Boredom and Make Change During Lockdown](#)

At New York Times: [How the Search for Covid-19 Treatments Faltered While Vaccines Sped Ahead](#)

At BMJ: [Trends in Suicide During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

At BMJ: [Mental Health in the Post-COVID-19 Era: Challenges and the Way Forward](#)

At BMJ: [Covid-19 and Global Accountability: We Need to Move Beyond Rhetoric, Towards Action](#)

At New York Times: [Rapid Virus Testing Will Ramp Up in the U.S., as F.D.A. Approved Three New At-Home Kits.](#)

At New York Times: ['Like Wartime': Canadian Companies Unite to Start Mass Virus Testing](#)

CDC Director says 'Bruises are Going to Take a Long Time to Heal' at Agency



Credit: Susan Walsh/AP

The new director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (in Atlanta, Georgia) acknowledged that morale at the agency suffered under the Trump administration, saying in an interview that “these bruises are going to take a long time to heal.” Despite the battering the CDC has taken, both during the pandemic and in the chaotic three years of the Trump administration preceding it, Rochelle Walensky said there had not been a large exodus of experts from the Atlanta-based agency.

The agency saw its public and political stock fall markedly last year at a time when its experts would normally have been centre stage. Instead, they largely ceded that role to political appointees in the Trump administration, which was keen to downplay the threat posed by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and sidelined agency officials who could have served as experts skilled in public health communication. The early failure of a CDC-designed test for the virus also tarnished the CDC’s reputation. Walensky, an HIV researcher and former head of infectious diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital, said she’s committed to doing the work necessary to help the agency recover, and has been meeting with senior leaders about how best to restore morale among the staff. [Read more at Stat News](#)

Early, Steady Investment in Wind, Solar Best Way to Decarbonize Economy



Credit: Brooks Hays/ Solar Daily

To decarbonize the economy, European researchers recommend early, steady efforts to "electrify" economic sectors with wind and solar energy. For the study, researchers at Aarhus University, Denmark used high-resolution data to model the decarbonization of the sector-coupled European energy system -- that is the energy that heats and cools buildings, fuels transport and powers industry.

To meet the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, economies around the world must find a way to wean themselves off fossil fuels and replace dirty energy sources with green power. "Our model clearly shows that the cost optimized solution is to act now -- to be ambitious in the short term. And we find solar energy and onshore and offshore wind to be the cost optimized cornerstone in a fully decarbonized 2050 energy system," said Marta Victoria, a photovoltaics expert and assistant professor of engineering at Aarhus and the lead author of the study. Victoria acknowledged that, whether steadily or rapidly, decarbonizing the economy will be a significant challenge. Even the early and steady strategy will require periods of aggressive -- rapid, even -- installation and adoption of wind and solar energy. [Read more at Solar Daily](#)

[See Also: Biden Says He Will Replace the Entire Federal Vehicle Fleet \(of 645,000\) With Electric Vehicles](#)

Human-made Materials Now Outweigh Earth's Entire Biomass



Credit: Daniel Leal-Olivas/AFP/Getty Images

The giant human footprint stamped across the world in 2020 is greater than the impact on the planet of all other living things, research suggests. The amount of plastic alone is greater in mass than all land animals and marine creatures combined, the study estimates.

While human beings might believe in “the immensity of the globe and the seeming infinity of the natural world”, the researchers say they wanted to provide an objective and rigorous measure of the reality of the balance between man and nature. Their research shows that human activity including production of concrete, metal, plastic, bricks and asphalt has brought the world to a crossover point where human-made mass – driven mostly by enhanced consumption and urban development – exceeds the overall living biomass on Earth.

On average, every person in the world is responsible for the creation of human-made matter equal to more than their bodyweight each week, the paper [published in Nature](#) says. The research found that the stamp of humanity has been increasing in size rapidly since the beginning of the 20th century, doubling every 20 years. The researchers support a proposal to name the current epoch as Anthropocene, reflecting the abrupt and considerable impact of human activity. [Read more at The Guardian.](#)

Documenting COVID-19's Effect on Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health



Credit: Charles Mpaka/IPS

A group of youths in Machinga, Malawi. During the COVID-19 pandemic, young people, especially young girls, are facing many challenges regarding their sexual and reproductive health. The world's population of young people between the ages of 10 and 24 is at a historic high, with the majority — nearly 90% — living in the developing world.

With the COVID-19 pandemic adding [complex layers of challenges](#) to the issue of sexual and reproductive health for youths, governments should prioritize documenting these effects for data collection purposes, Dr. Simon Binezera Mambo co-founder and team leader of the Youth Alliance for Reproductive Health in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, told IPS in an interview. "There is a need for countries to document how COVID19 is affecting adolescent and young people for the time they have been out of school, which increases their risk for pre-marital sexual activities and sexual violence as they have less protection in community than in school," Mambo said. "With data-based evidence, countries will be able to make a right plan and respond to this risk which is irreversible if not mitigated."

[Read more at IPS](#)

GOOD NEWS

Bangladesh Scraps Nine Coal Power Plants as Overseas Finance Dries Up



Credit: [Flickr/Adam Cohn](#)

Bangladesh plans to scrap nine new coal projects as the cost of imported coal rises and overseas investors slash finance for polluting fossil fuels. The country's power secretary Habibur Rahma decided to axe the planned coal-fired power plants with a combined power capacity of 7,461 MW at a monthly review meeting of the power sector, Bangladeshi newspaper the [Daily Sun has reported](#). Analysts told Climate Home News that a number of factors have contributed to this decision, ranging from the high cost of imported coal to the drop in financial support from overseas investors. They said that exact details of Bangladesh's transition away from coal are expected this summer, when the government outlines its power sector master plan. [Read more at Climate Home News](#)

MORE GOOD NEWS

'Zero-emissions' Building Sites Ditch Diesel Machinery in Oslo, Norway



Credit: [Alister Doyle/Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

A nearly "zero-emissions" building site in Oslo, using electric machinery, could be a pioneer for greener construction as the world's urban areas swell by the equivalent of a Dublin or Dallas every week, city experts say. Plug-in diggers, saws for cutting stones and other electric machinery have been used to create a pedestrian area in the centre of the Norwegian capital — completed in time for Christmas. The shift aims to help curb climate change, air pollution and noise, officials say.

The project, which began in 2019, saved 35,000 litres of diesel fuel and 99% of greenhouse gas emissions compared to a conventional building site. The project cost 64 million crowns (CAN\$9.4 million), compared to an estimated 59 million (CAN\$8.7 million) for a more traditional project, largely because electric machines are scarce and currently cost more. The "zero emissions" standard used was more stringent than a previous "fossil-free" regulation in Oslo that allowed the use of biodiesel engines. [Read more at CBC](#)

OPINION

Don't Treat Climate Change as a National Security Risk



Credit: Anna Moneymaker/Pool/Getty Images

What does it mean to "[elevate climate change as a national security priority](#)?" President Joe Biden is already well on his way to keeping this campaign promise, tapping John Kerry for a new Cabinet-level "climate czar" position housed on the [National Security Council](#) and [directing](#) the intelligence community to put together the country's first National Intelligence Estimate on climate change.

These might [sound](#) like steps in the right direction. Biden's been [praised](#) by [climate groups](#) for these and other climate-related measures in his first week in office, including pressing pause on many drilling leases, revoking the Keystone XL pipeline's permit, and rejoining the Paris Agreement. But "security" has meant

some troubling things to American politicians and the world over the past few centuries. And designating climate change a matter of national security may affect how we engage with institutions like the Paris Agreement or the very topic of climate change—for the worse. [Read more at New Republic](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

Countries Must Work Together to Build Momentum for Global Climate Action



Credit: Andrew S. Wright

Climate change is one of the biggest geopolitical challenges the world is facing today, even as it continues to grapple with the [COVID-19](#) pandemic and its public health and economic fallout. One may question the urgency of stronger climate action amid a pandemic that has wreaked havoc on every aspect of our lives. But we say climate action is now more relevant than ever; the science is unquestionable. We must cut our carbon footprint and invest in green technologies for our future prosperity.

While much of the world's activity came to a standstill during the pandemic lockdowns, the planet continued to get perilously hotter. As much as COVID-19 is a large-scale human tragedy, no doubt science tells us this is just a warning compared to the existential risks global warming poses to our civilization in the years and decades to come. There will be no vaccine against climate change and its devastating impacts. [Read more at National Observer](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

First Nations Leaders Fight Vaccine Hesitancy With Social Media Savvy



Credit: Huffpost Canada Composite/Facebook/Tiktok

A typical post from Neskantaga Chief Chris Moonias pairs personality with uncomfortable truth. For years, Moonias has used Twitter to talk about the drinking water advisory in Neskantaga, which is Canada's longest-standing at 26 years. Now, he's spreading the word about something else: [COVID-19 vaccines](#).

He was the first person to get vaccinated in Neskantaga. He streamed the whole thing on Facebook Live, in a video that's now been viewed more than 3,000 times. "There's a very thin level of trust between Indigenous communities and the federal government and the provincial governments and territories," Minister of Indigenous Services [Marc Miller](#) said at a press conference Thursday. "My voice is less important than some of the Indigenous health professionals out there leading the way ... And it isn't just people with medical degrees." [Read more at Huffington Post](#)

Quote Of The Week

Reflecting on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the weaknesses and inequalities exposed in health systems around the world and the unequal rollout of vaccines, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** opened a recent meeting with strong remarks, stating

"I need to be blunt: the world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure –and the price of this failure will be paid with lives and livelihoods in the world's poorest countries."

Upcoming Events

- March 12- 14: [Consortium of Universities for Global Health Virtual Conference](#)
 - March 13- 14: [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 8th -11th, 2021: [Global Health & Innovation Conference](#) (Virtual Event)
 - April 25-30, 2021: [Planetary Health Week](#) (A Free Virtual Conference-Festival)
 - May 31 - June 18, 2021: [The McGill Summer Institute of Infectious Diseases and Global Health](#) (100% online from McGill University, Montreal, Canada)
 - June 7-9, 2021: [Executive Course: Global Health Diplomacy](#) (Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada)
 - September 16- 18, 2021: [North American Refugee Health Conference \(NARHC\)](#) is the largest interdisciplinary conference in the world. Its primary purpose is to promote the health of refugee populations during the continuum of their flight, migration, and resettlement by assembling multidisciplinary experts in research, education, advocacy and clinical practice. This year's conference is now offered completely online.
 - September 27 - October 1, 2021: [12th European Congress On Tropical Medicine And International Health: Global Challenges In Health, Migration And Equity](#)
 - November 1-12, 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

10 Sustainable Fashion Activists You Should Definitely Follow



Credit: Aja Barber

You're eating [vegetarian meals](#) more often, using a keep-cup for takeaway coffees (pre-pandemic at least!), and recycling everything you can. So far, so good in terms of making planet-friendly consumer choices. However, there is one area that often presents more challenges to staying sustainable: clothes shopping. You've got the convenience and affordable cost of fast fashion brands on the one hand, and the more sustainably-sourced options that are potentially more expensive and harder to find, on the other.

The allure of fast fashion, so-called because of the rapid turnaround of new products, has made it a vastly profitable industry. But in order to keep churning out new styles for fleeting trends, brands end up generating an enormous amount of surplus products that go to waste — despite the environmental damage caused to create them. Here are ten fashion designers/activists trying to make a difference.

Read and See More at Global Citizen

FYI #2

Hacker Increases Lye Levels in City Water from 100 Parts/Million to a Toxic 11,100 Parts/Million



Credit: Getty Images

U.S. federal authorities are investigating after hackers not only broke into a Florida water treatment facility's control system remotely, but also tried to poison the water supply with unsafe levels of lye, chemically known as sodium hydroxide. The facility services the city of Oldsmar, which is located about 20 miles northwest of Tampa, [Reuters reported](#). Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri told the news company that hackers accessed the software application TeamViewer on a water system employee's computer. "The guy was sitting there monitoring the computer as he's supposed to and all of a sudden he sees a window pop up that the computer has been accessed," Gualtieri said. "The next thing you know someone is dragging the mouse and clicking around and opening programs and manipulating the system."

Read More at Daily Kos

FYI #3

Did QuantumScape Just Solve a 40-Year-Old Battery Problem?



Credit: QuantumScape

If electric vehicles are ever going to fully supplant gas guzzlers on the world's roads, they're going to need an entirely new type of battery. The solution to this problem has been known for decades: It's called a solid-state battery, and it's based on a deceptively simple idea. Instead of a conventional liquid electrolyte—the stuff that ferries lithium ions between electrodes—it uses a solid electrolyte. Also, the battery's negative terminal, called its anode, is made from pure lithium metal. This combination would send its energy density through the roof, enable [ultra-fast charging](#), and would eliminate the risk of battery fires. But for the past 40 years, no one has been able to make a solid-state battery that delivers on this promise—until earlier this year, when a secretive startup called QuantumScape [claimed](#) to have solved the problem. Now it has the data to prove it.

For the first time, QuantumScape's cofounder and CEO, Jagdeep Singh, publicly revealed test results for the company's solid-state battery. Singh says the battery resolved all of the core challenges that have plagued solid-state batteries in the past, such as incredibly short lifetimes and slow charging rate. According to QuantumScape's data, its cell can charge to 80 percent of capacity in 15 minutes, it

retains more than 80 percent of its capacity after 800 charging cycles, it's noncombustible, and it has a volumetric energy density of more than 1,000 watt-hours per liter at the cell level, which is nearly double the energy density of top-shelf commercial lithium-ion cells.

SEE ALSO:

[Tesla to Build 'World's Largest' Battery Plant Near Berlin](#)

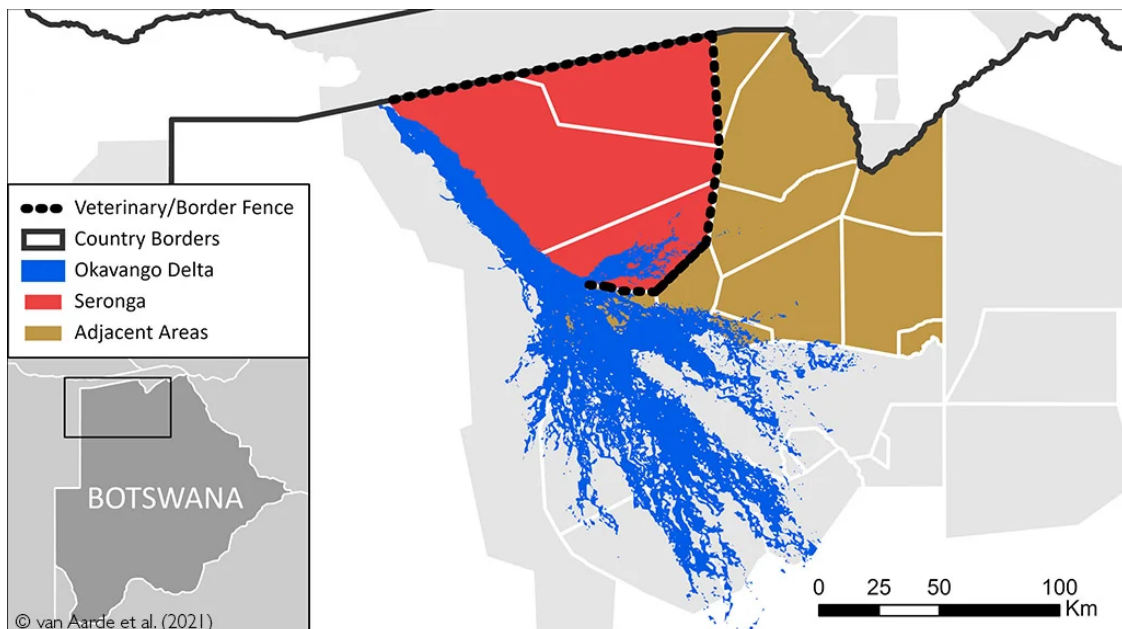
and

[Chinese Car Battery Maker Eyes 2-bn-Euro Base in Germany.](#)

Read More at Wired

FYI #4

Did Fences Cause the Recent Elephant Deaths in Botswana?



Credit: van Aarde et al. (2021)

Did fences in northern Botswana cause the mysterious death of hundreds of elephants in 2020? News media have been quick on the draw to blame fences, after the release of a recent report suggests a strong link. But, as is often the case, the situation is nuanced and requires pragmatic analysis rather than finding simple solutions to complex problems.

Between March and June 2020, a mysterious illness claimed the lives of 330 elephants in the Seronga district of Botswana's Okavango Delta. Now, a new study has shed light on the broader ecological implications of these elephant deaths and how a complex interplay of natural and anthropogenic factors (including fences) all played a role. Scientists used previous research on elephant movements in the area to interpret the wider conservation implications of these deaths. In particular, their conclusions highlight three main aspects significant for the management of elephant populations, not just in Botswana but throughout Africa:

1. **The impact of fences** on conservation – data from collared elephants indicates that the combination of the Okavango River and fences have prevented the elephant population in Seronga from dispersing under unfavourable conditions;
2. **The overlap between natural and unnatural factors** – the elephants were likely more susceptible to natural diseases/toxins due to anthropogenic restrictions and, potentially, stress due to human-wildlife conflict;
3. **Land-sharing between people and elephants** becomes superficial when the elephants' access to resource is restricted, and they are prevented from dispersing naturally.

Their recommendation to mitigate future mass die-offs is to remove or realign certain fences around the Seronga district of Botswana.

SEE ALSO: [South Africa Seizes Rhino Horns to be Smuggled to Malaysia](#)

Read More on Africa Geographic

FYI #5: MARCH READING

Handbook of Global Health



The ***Handbook of Global Health*** by Robin Haring (Editor-in-Chief), Ilona Kickbusch, Detlev Ganten and Matshidiso Moeti (eds.) Springer Cham (2021).

Global health is a rapidly emerging discipline with a transformative potential for public policy and international development. Emphasizing transnational health issues, global health aims to improve health and achieve health equity for all people worldwide. Its multidisciplinary scope includes contributions from many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences, including clinical medicine, public health, social and behavioral sciences, environmental sciences, economics, public policy, law and ethics.

This large reference offers up-to-date information and expertise across all aspects of global health and helps readers to achieve a truly multidisciplinary understanding of the topics, trends as well as the clinical, socioeconomic and environmental drivers impacting global health.

As a fully comprehensive, state-of-the-art and continuously updated, living reference, the *Handbook of Global Health* is an important, dynamic resource to provide context for global health clinical care, organizational decision-making, and overall public policy on many levels. Health workers, physicians, economists, environmental and social scientists, trainees and medical students as well as professionals and practitioners will find this handbook valuable.

[Read More at Springer Link](#)

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

George Brown College's Centre for Hospitality & Culinary Arts Launches the First Four-year Honours Bachelor of Food Studies Degree



Credit: George Brown College

George Brown College in Toronto has launched an Honours Bachelor of Food Studies degree. The degree, which George Brown says is the first of its kind in Canada, will train students in both culinary techniques and food studies. Students in the program will participate in experiential learning opportunities, field trips, and community-engaged learning placements. "This Food Studies program provides students with an in-depth knowledge of our food system along with the skills, insights and knowledge to become leaders in a rapidly changing environment," said Lorraine Trotter, Dean of the Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts at George Brown. "It offers a broad range of career pathways, while providing all stakeholders in our food system with leaders who can thrive in both for-profit and non-profit organizations."

[Read more at Cision](#)

ENDSHOTS

CELEBRATING SUNRISE ***Amid COVID-19 Stats and Charts***

WHITEFISH LAKE, ONTARIO

March 1, 2 & 4, 2021



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Last updated: February 25, 2021, 21:53 GMT

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

Coronavirus Cases:

113,476,091

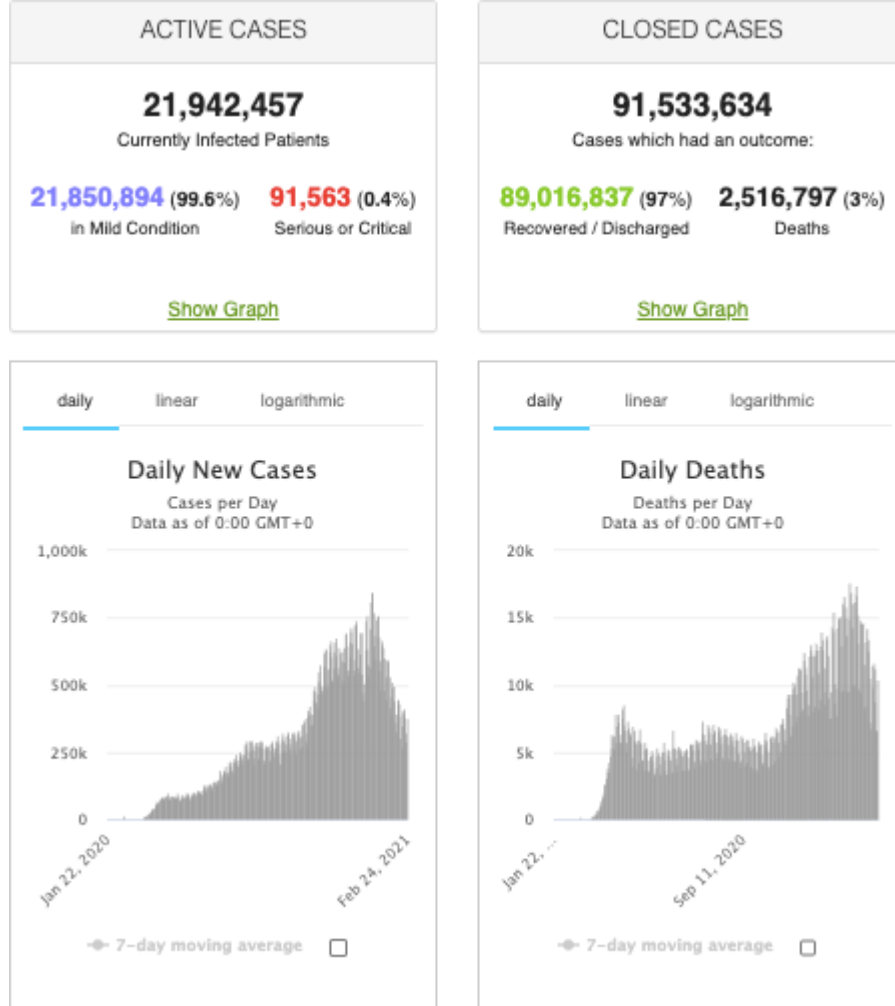
[view by country](#)

Deaths:

2,516,797

Recovered:

89,016,837



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



COVID-19 CASES & DEATHS (February 26 - March 4, 2021) Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping->

More than **2,563,000** people have died from the coronavirus worldwide

More than **115 million** cases have been reported.

Data as of March 4 at 2:10 p.m.

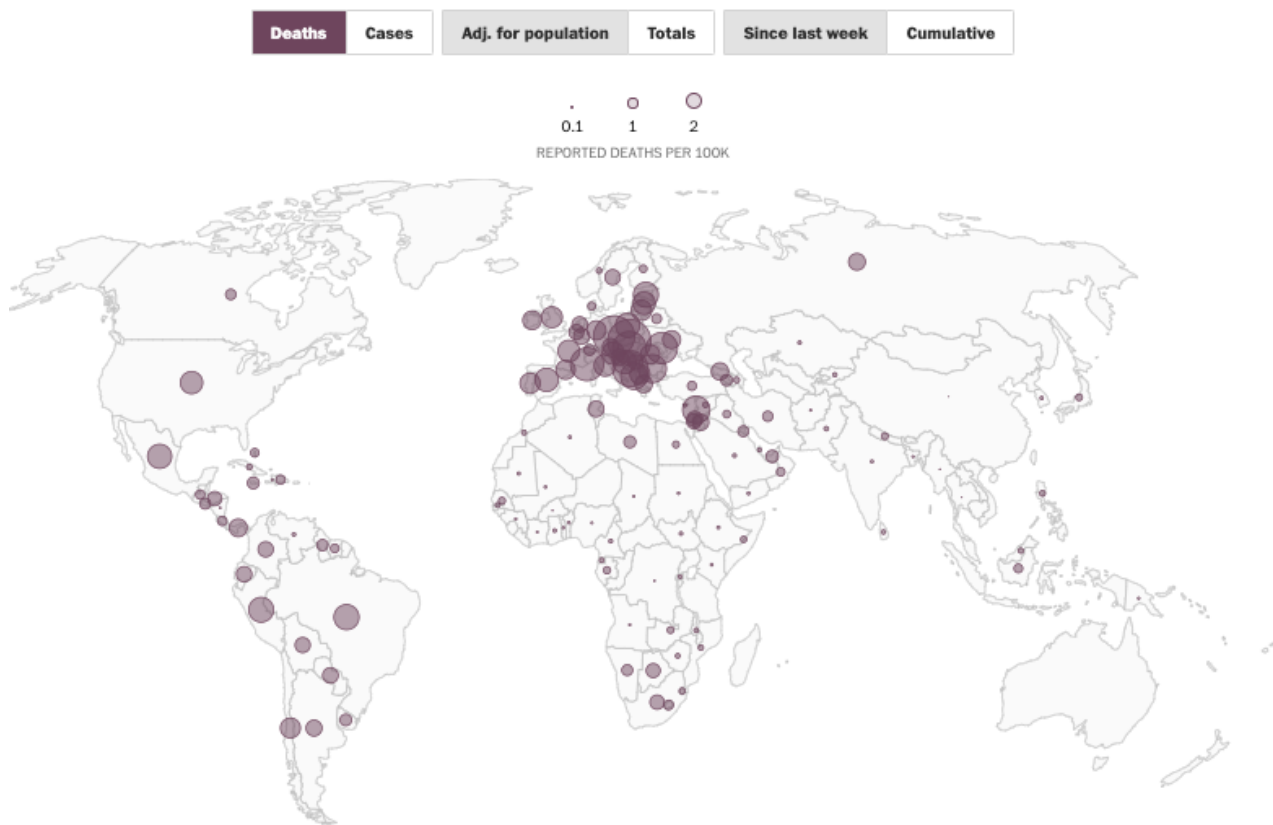
Where the virus is surging

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



Where the virus is surging



New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths

Cases

At least 115,374,981 have been reported since Feb. 29.

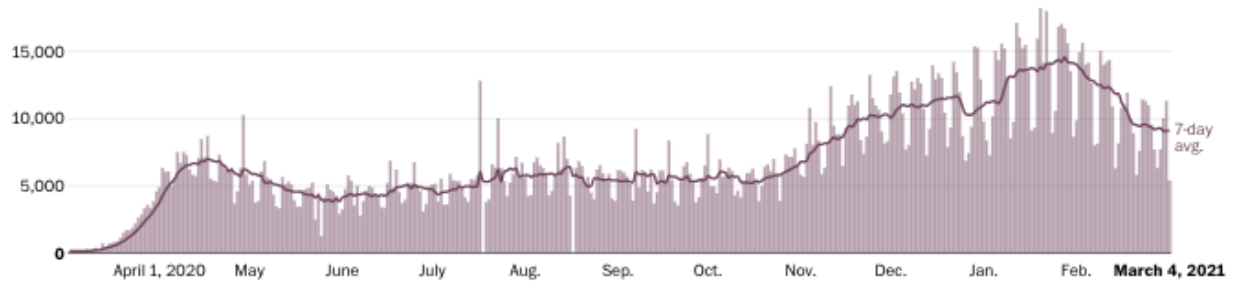


New daily deaths reported across the world

Deaths

Cases

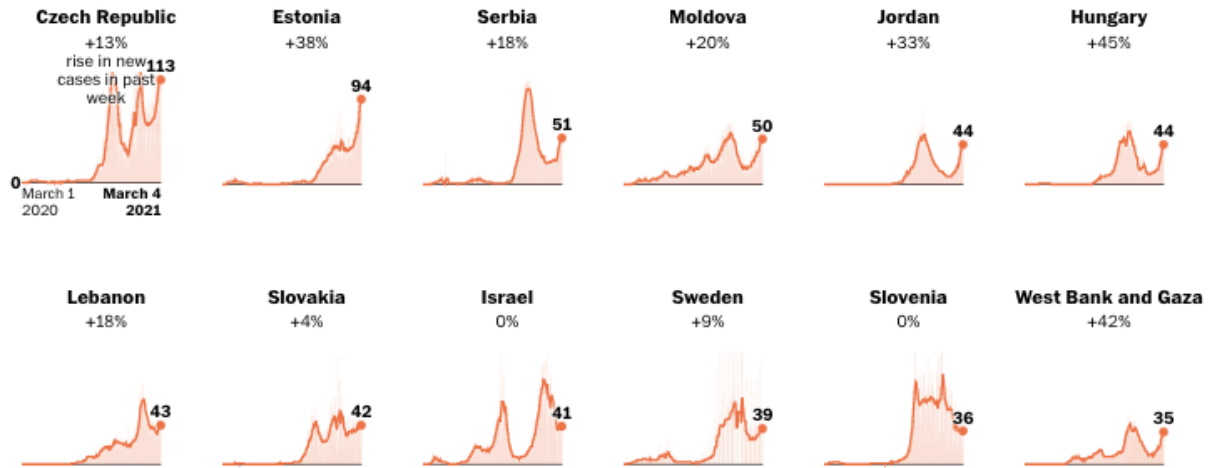
At least 2,563,558 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Global hot spots for reported cases per capita

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

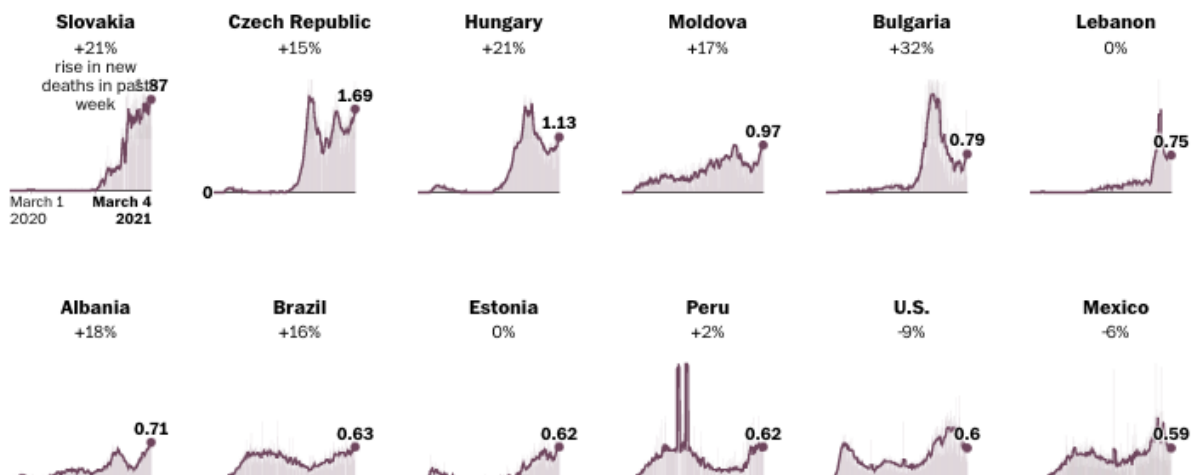
Deaths Cases Adj. for population Totals



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.



Doses of covid-19 vaccines administered per 100,000 residents

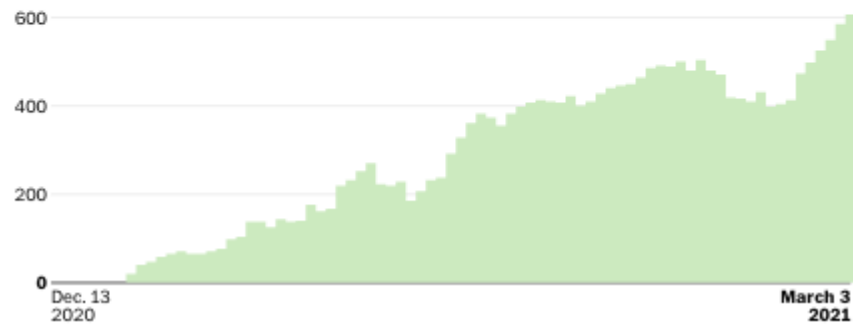


Doses of covid-19 vaccines administered per 100,000 residents

Adj. for population Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by U.S. ▼



Country ▼	Total doses given per 100k ▼	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated ▼	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination ▼
Israel	93,185	53.7%	39.5%
Seychelles	81,484	56.8%	24.6%
UAE	63,132	–	–
Britain	32,317	31.0%	1.3%
U.S.	24,872	16.3%	8.4%
Maldives	23,943	–	–
Serbia	22,106	14.4%	7.7%
Chile	20,899	19.8%	1.1%
Malta	19,054	12.3%	6.7%
Bahrain	17,863	17.9%	–
Barbados	13,437	13.4%	–
Morocco	11,258	10.3%	1.0%
Denmark	11,230	8.0%	3.2%
Turkey	11,168	8.7%	2.5%
Hungary	10,774	8.0%	2.7%
Norway	9,555	6.4%	3.1%
Lithuania	9,544	6.8%	2.7%
Poland	9,532	6.2%	3.4%
Switzerland	9,390	6.4%	3.0%
Iceland	9,364	5.9%	3.5%
Greece	9,251	6.0%	3.2%
Slovakia	8,984	6.0%	3.0%
Singapore	8,974	5.4%	3.5%
Ireland	8,900	6.0%	2.9%
Finland	8,833	7.3%	1.5%
Portugal	8,772	6.2%	2.6%

Estonia	8,765	6.1%	2.6%
Spain	8,623	5.9%	2.7%
Slovenia	8,474	6.0%	2.5%
Romania	8,282	5.1%	3.2%
Germany	8,196	5.5%	2.7%
Austria	8,144	–	–
Sweden	7,950	5.2%	2.7%
Italy	7,891	5.4%	2.5%
Belgium	7,359	4.6%	2.8%
France	7,217	4.7%	2.5%
Greenland	6,984	7.0%	–
Czechia	6,890	4.5%	2.4%
Liechtenstein	6,831	–	–
Luxembourg	6,527	4.6%	1.9%
Cyprus	6,356	4.5%	1.9%
Monaco	6,160	–	–
Netherlands	5,835	–	–
Canada	5,565	4.1%	1.5%
Croatia	5,238	3.8%	1.5%
Qatar	4,943	–	–
Brazil	4,396	3.4%	1.0%
Kuwait	4,160	3.3%	0.9%
Russia	3,802	3.0%	0.8%
China	3,758	–	–
Latvia	3,670	2.7%	0.9%
Bulgaria	3,558	3.0%	0.6%
Azerbaijan	3,365	3.4%	–



Compare countries by new daily reported cases per 100k

Deaths

Cases

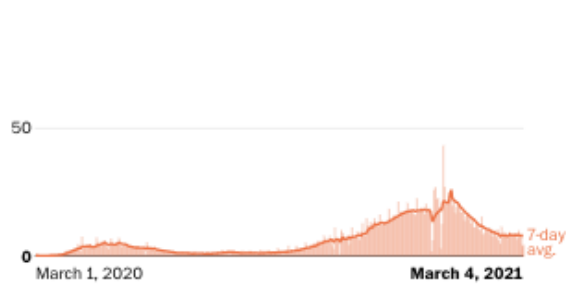
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

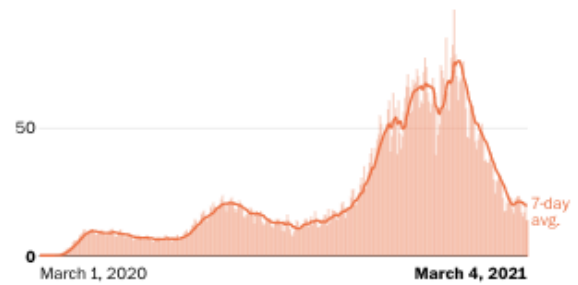
At least 882,215 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Select a country:

U.S.

At least 28,736,341 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Compare countries by new daily deaths reported per 100k

Deaths

Cases

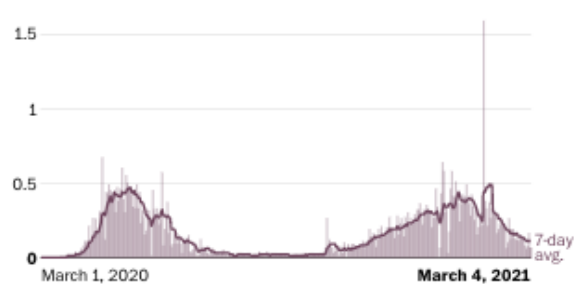
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

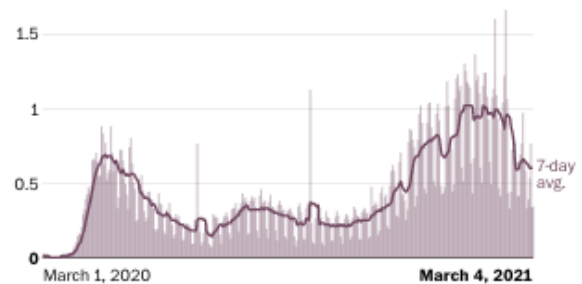
At least 22,129 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Select a country:

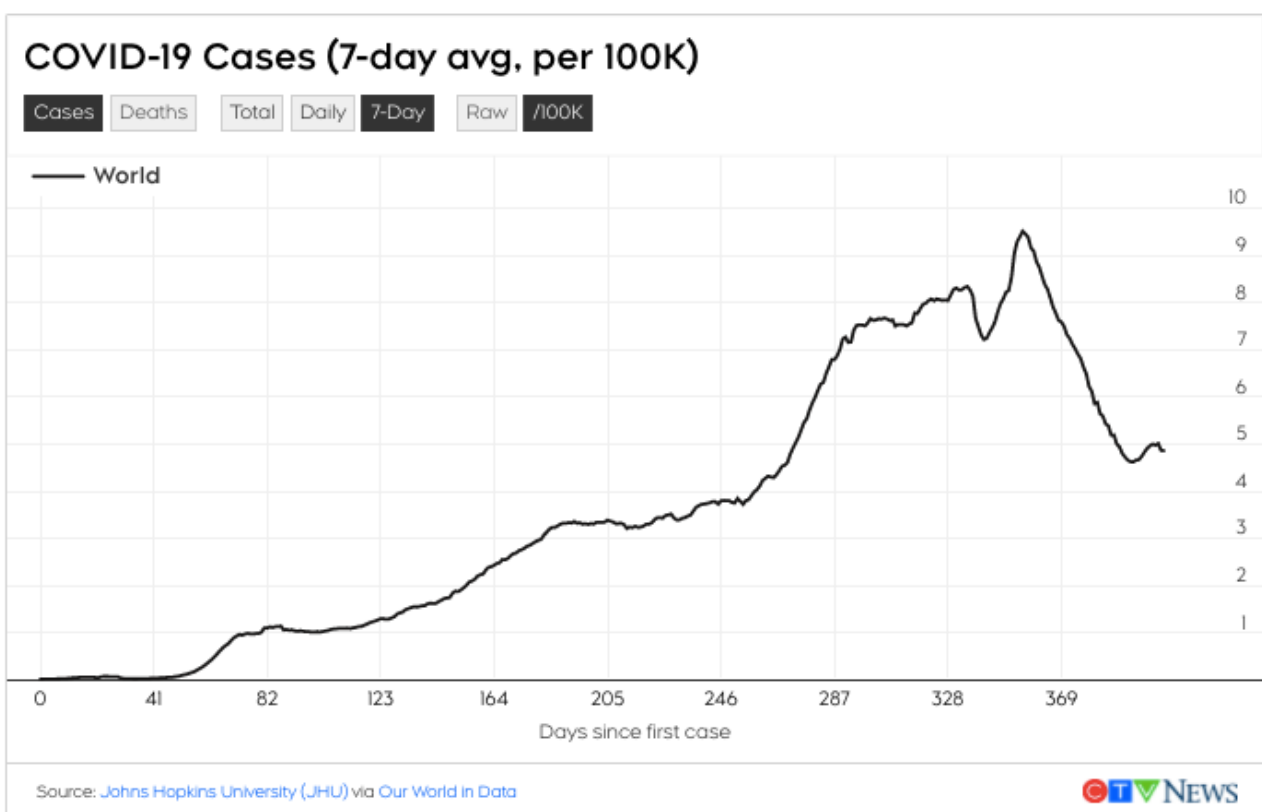
U.S.

At least 518,383 have been reported since Feb. 29.





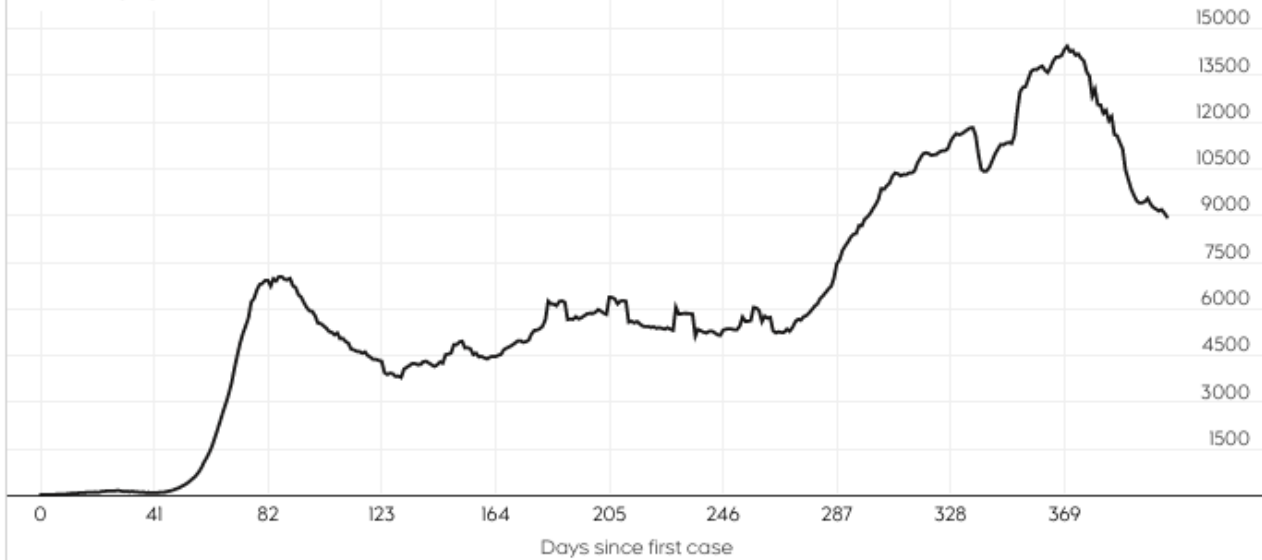
Source of World and Canadian Data Below (March 4, 2021):
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-curves-compare-canada-and-other-key-nations-1.4881500#link-top>



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](#)

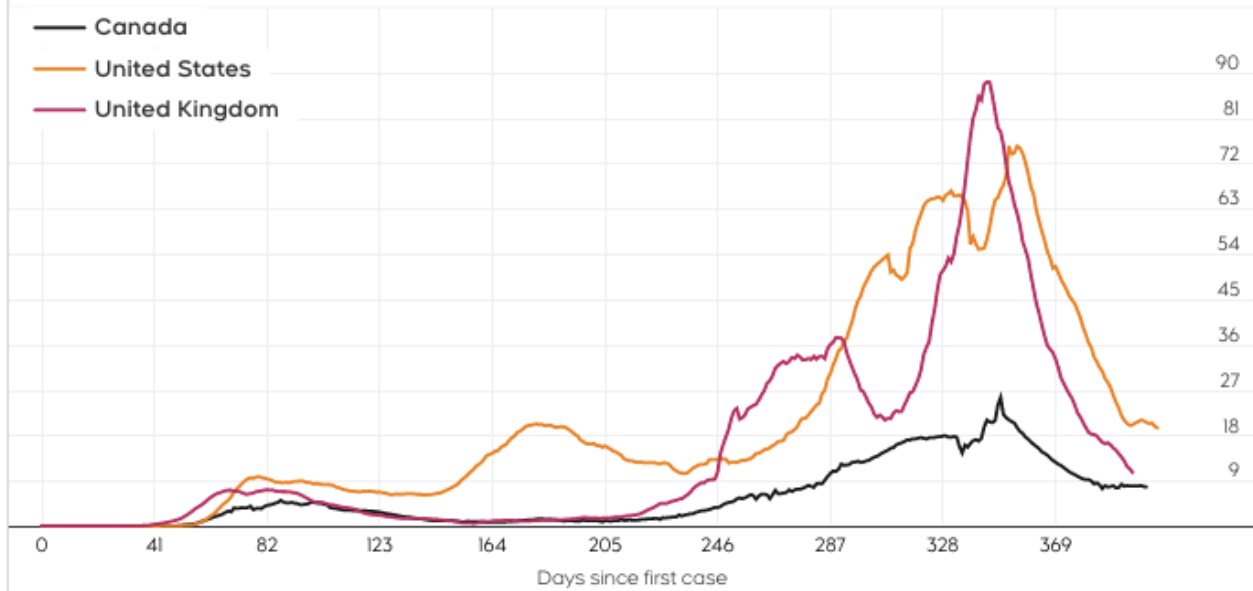
CTV NEWS



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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada
— United States
— United Kingdom



Choose regions

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

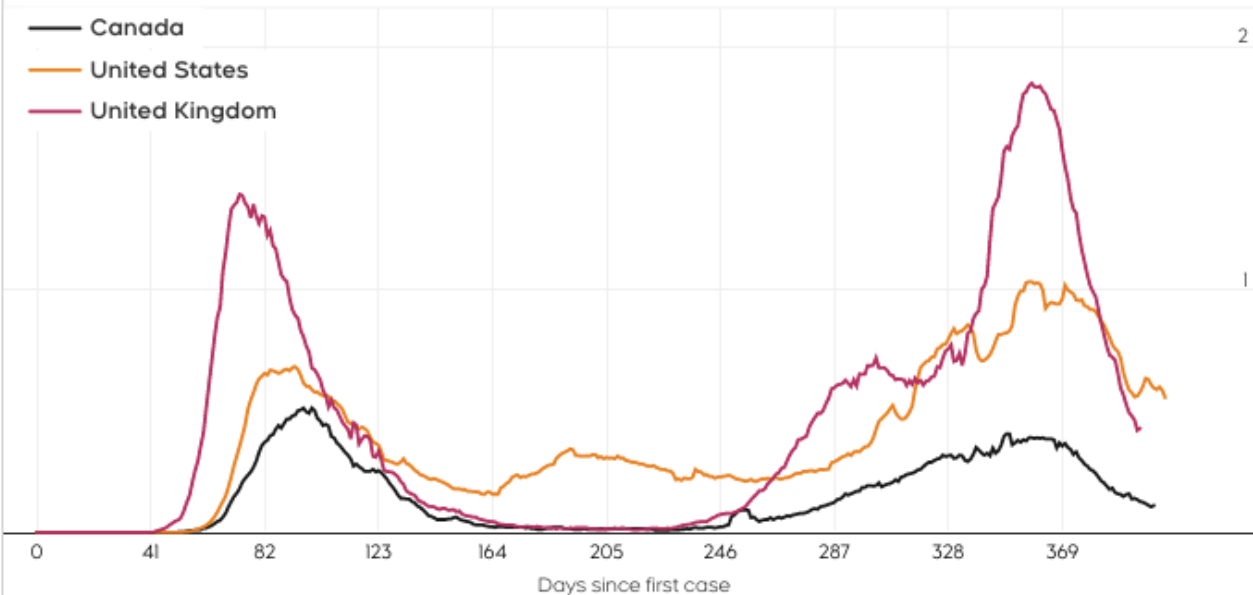
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada
— United States
— United Kingdom



Choose regions

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

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

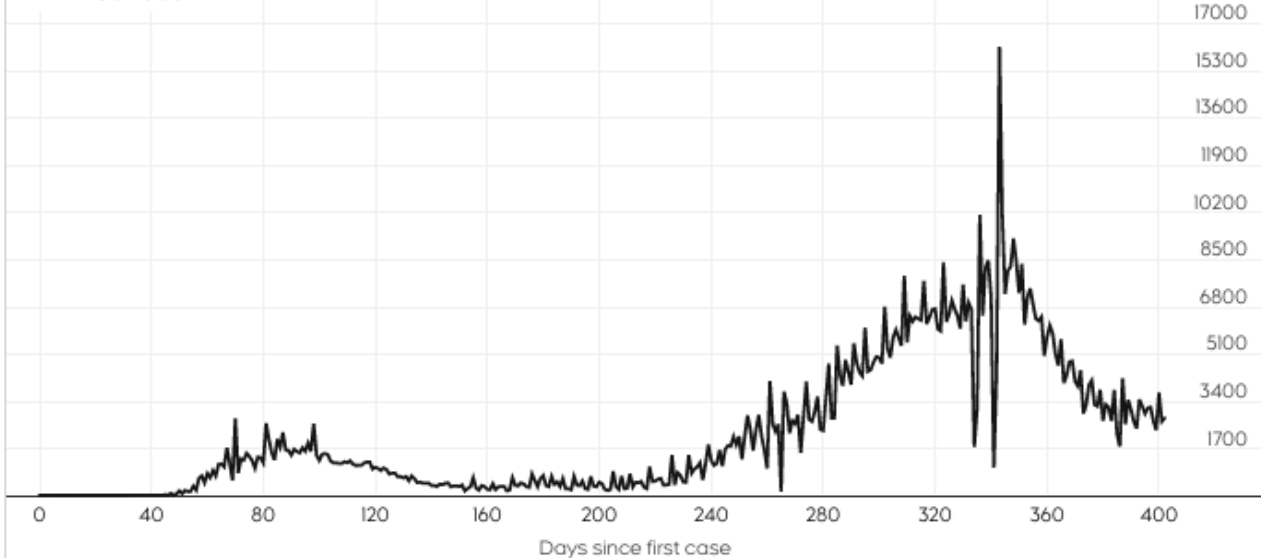
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COVID-19 Cases (Daily)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

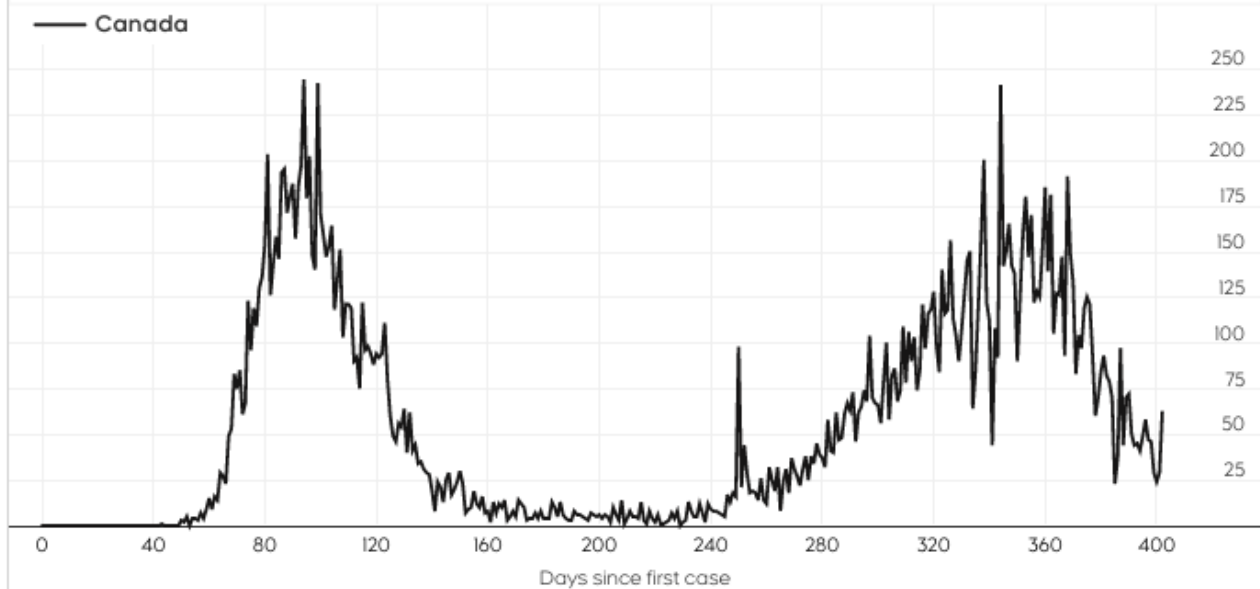
— Canada



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

COVID-19 Deaths (Daily)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K



Source: Johns Hopkins University (JHU) via Our World in Data

CTV NEWS



Source of Canadian Data Below (March 4, 2021):

<https://www.macleans.ca/society/health/covid-19-in-canada-how-our-battle-against-the-second-wave-is-going/>

COVID-19 hospitalizations in Canada

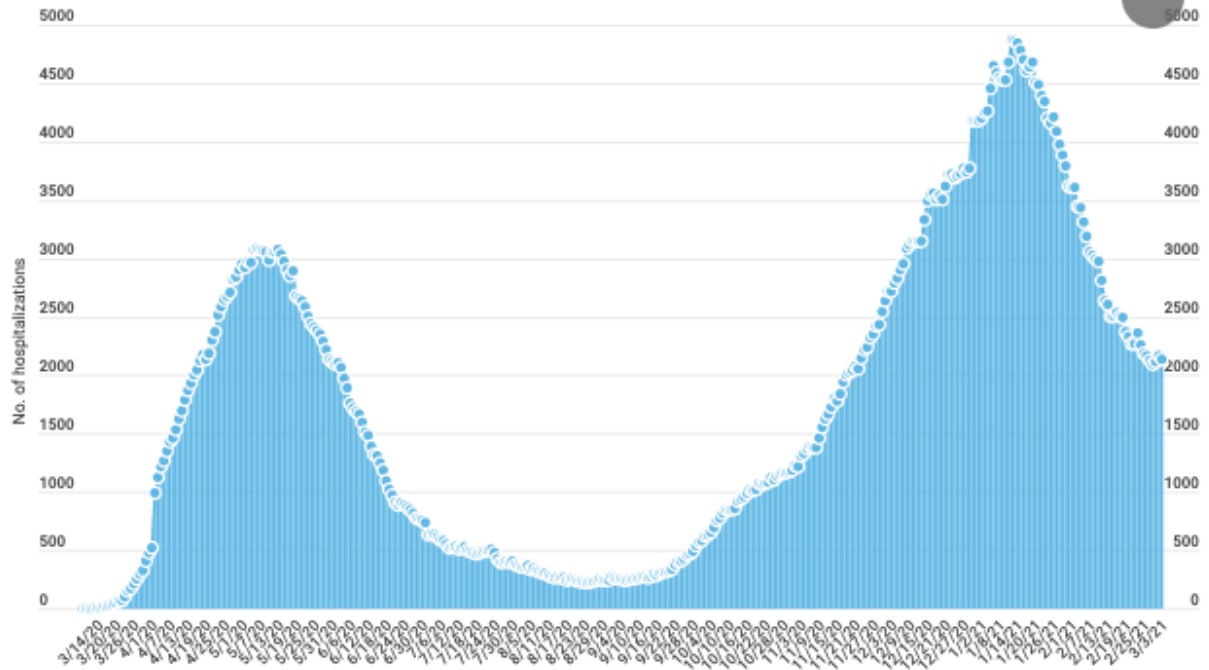


Chart source: COVID-19 Tracker Canada

COVID-19 cases in Canada

Cumulative total, starting with day of 100th case

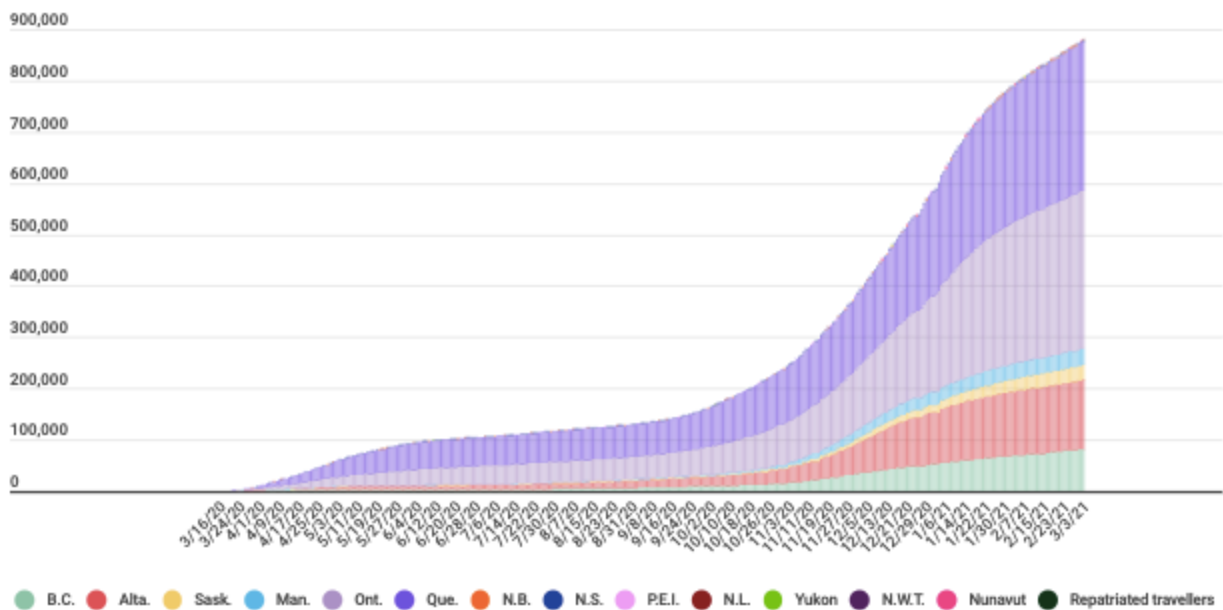


Chart by Patricia Treble and Lauren Cattermole - Source: Canadian federal and provincial coronavirus updates



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