



## CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

**Volume 7, Number 8**    <https://planetaryhealthweekly.com>    **February 25, 2021**

Hi,

A few hours ago I put aside the editorial I had been working on to change track, as I woke this morning finally feeling good about exciting news and developments this past week. Guess what? After following the Covid-19 statistics for about 50 weeks, watching the first wave, then see them subsiding last summer, only to be followed by a second often more pronounced than the first, I was continually down with the perpetually climbing and astronomical number of cases and deaths during the later part of 2020 and into 2021, week after week. But it's now clear we are moving in the right direction. Both cases of and deaths by Covid-19 are subsiding at a significant rate. It's dramatic in many places including Canada. I don't want to sound overly optimistic, but it's truly good news and worthy of cautious celebration. While we will continue need all our public health measures, only societal cohesion and discipline will ensure this, including getting vaccinated. Vaccines are rolling out for some though from a global perspective it appears highly unequal. I just found out that I will qualify for my vaccination in June. Vaccinations will make a significant contribution, and their effects are already starting to show. The slopes of the curves are certainly heading in the right direction. But, there will be no end to the pandemic until all national and subnational epidemics are all controlled. Vaccine nationalism needs tempering and exit strategies must include prime consideration for the environment and the climate crisis. After all, it's not lessening but only getting worse, day by day, despite the temporary reductions in carbon pollution over the last year.

And then, to my great wonder, I watched on TV the other day [NASA's Perseverance Mars rover landing on Mars](#). WOW, that was incredible and I encourage all reading this to watch it if you haven't already. Watching the high tech rover land on our neighbouring planet and seeing up close its images of the actual surface of Mars was incredible. It left me speechless. Look what we can do if we put science, expertise, team work, motivation, hard work and good organization together. Dealing with

Covid-19 should be a piece of cake compared to this. But alas, poor governance and organization, (deliberate) confusion and misunderstanding, vanity and privilege, and lack of public coherence, consultation and trust in expertise and authority, has given us over two million deaths and 110+ million cases of a disease never seen before; and it's certainly not over yet.

Determination, energy and hope for victory are central to the stories today in the ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#8 of 2021). See:

- Human rights and population policy,
- CORONAVIRUS UPDATES:
  - Q&A with WHO's emergencies chief on Covid-19 and why he's hopeful,
  - Covid-19 vaccination is the social justice challenge of our time,
  - Most at risk – first in line – why racialized Canadians should be prioritized for vaccines,
  - On WHO trip China refused to hand over important data,
  - People with dementia are twice as likely to get Covid,
  - Arthritis drug cuts deaths in hospitalized Covid-19 patients,
  - What Covid-19 teaches us about smell,
  - Covid-19 travel info for all countries,
  - How the new Covid-19 variants are different from the original, and
  - What scientists know about variants and vaccines, THEN
- Aisha Saleem's Blog #2 - an Interview with York University global health student Amanda Sunderdas,
- Hydro Québec's giant hydrogen deal with Thyssenkrupp,
- U.S. supreme court hears arguments in landmark climate change case,
- Rich nations are accused of inflating climate adaptation finance figures,
- EU foreign ministers push for global fossil fuel phase-out,
- Alberta reinstates 1976 coal policy after massive public outcry,
- San Francisco schools and radicalism in the pandemic,
- Community engagement in dissemination and implementation models,
- Nepal struggles to preserve Indigenous languages,
- Quote on conspiracy theories and extremism,
- How to spot fake news,
- Insect decline in the Anthropocene – death by a thousand cuts,
- A city staring down the barrel of a climate driven flood,
- Hitting the reset button for post-Covid-19 cruise tourism – the case of Akaroa, New Zealand; and Offshore oil drilling in the Bahamas is a big mistake,
- New book: Resetting the Table – Straight Talk About the Food We Grow and Eat,
- Nine B.C. post-secondary institutions partner with province on Feed BC, and



- ENDSHOTS of a beautiful ski day behind the barn amid Covid-19 stats and charts.

Do keep reading. Be happy and safe. Best and Happy Birthday Brother,  
david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



**Sunset from Highway 400, 40 km North of Toronto, Ontario  
February 20, 2021**

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## **Human Rights and Population Policy**

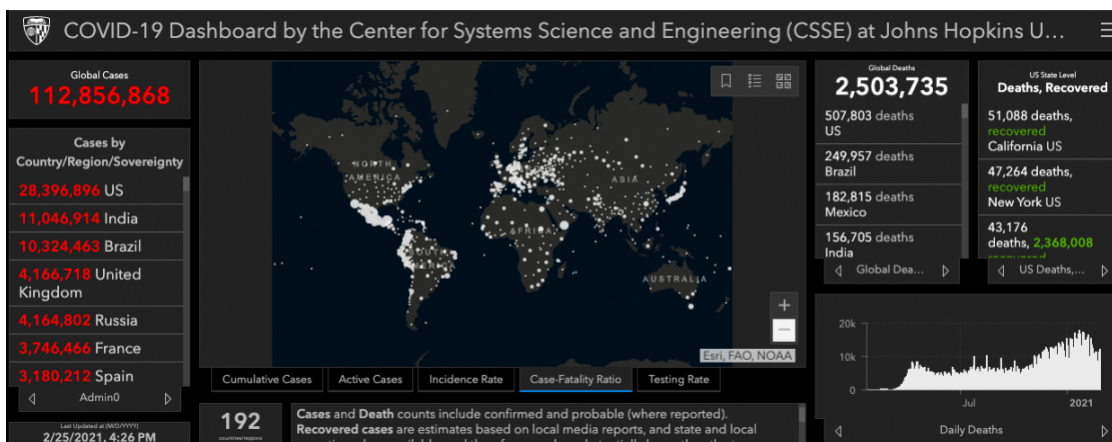


Credits: IEA

**Like all government policies, population policies should respect human rights. But what does that mean in practice? Putting reproductive rights in the larger context of creating just and sustainable societies provides the best framework for answering that question correctly.**

Issues concerning human rights loom large in population debates. On the one hand, [opponents of family planning efforts](#) often point to past human rights abuses, such as forced abortions under China's "one child policy" and coerced sterilizations in India during its "national emergency" in the mid-1970s, to justify their opposition. Some others who tolerate or even approve of family planning believe that government programs that speak too enthusiastically about the environmental or social benefits of reducing population growth, or that set specific targets to reduce fertility, are prone to such abuses. From this angle, the main human rights concern around family planning is that it should not force people to have fewer children than they want to have, or punish them if they have more than the state wants. Keep reading at [Overpopulation Project](#).

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



*It wonderfully does continue to get better, but we can't weaken. Over the last week, global deaths were down about 10% to 66,500 though the number of new cases is about the same at 2.7 million.*

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

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

## A Q&A With WHO's Emergencies Chief on Covid-19, Why He's Hopeful, and When Normalcy Might Return



*Credit: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES*

This time last year, [Mike Ryan](#), head of the World Health Organization's health emergencies program, was strenuously urging the world to try to contain the new virus that was spreading in and from China. The world, he said, had the necessary tools: contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. "There's enough evidence to suggest that this virus can still be contained," he told STAT [in an interview](#) for a story published February 1, 2020. The world didn't move swiftly enough to put SARS-CoV-2 "back in the box," to borrow an expression sometimes used by scientists to describe viral containment. Read more at [Stat News](#).

## SEE MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

**At Daily Maverick:** [Covid-19 Vaccination is the Social Justice Challenge of Our Time](#)

**At the CBC:** [Most at Risk, First in Line: Public Health Experts Say Racialized Canadians Should be Prioritized for Vaccines](#)

**At NY Times:** [On W.H.O. Trip, China Refused to Hand Over Important Data](#)



At NY Times: [People With Dementia Are Twice as Likely to Get Covid, Huge Study Finds](#)

At STAT News: [Arthritis Drug Cuts Deaths in Hospitalized Covid-19 Patients](#)

At the NY Times: [What Can Covid-19 Teach Us About the Mysteries of Smell?](#)

At the Sky Scanner: [COVID-19 Travel Information For All Countries](#)

At the Huffington Post: [How the New COVID-19 Variants Are Different from the Original](#)

At the STAT News: [The Good and the \(Potentially\) bad: What Scientists Know About Variants and Covid-19 Vaccines](#)

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## Student Voices With Aisha Saleem

### BLOG #2



**Credit: Amanda Sunderdas**

## **Interview with Amanda Sunderdas:**

### **What's your advice to students and for them to best use their time?**

Personally, I believe we put too much pressure on time. The “best” use of someone’s time will look different for everyone. Often, we think that to be successful means being always productive or continuously setting and achieving goals. This is objectively true, and for some students, the best use of their time may include obtaining additional certificates and taking those extra online courses. But for most students, I think a lot of us are still in the overwhelming process of figuring out what our goals are and trying to dissect what it is that truly motivates us. This limbo period tends to be a really overwhelming, confusing and often fearful period that people



don't necessarily talk about. I truly believe that the best use of a student's time would be to spend it with themselves, reflecting on how to work through unravelling what truly drives them in life. As I am continuously learning, there is no clear-cut roadmap to success. So, use your time to do whatever it is that makes you happy and makes you truly inspired to continue learning and growing as an individual.

Read more at Planetary Health Weekly Blog

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## HYDRO-QUÉBEC LANDS 88-MW GREEN HYDROGEN DEAL WITH THYSSENKRUPP



Credit: Gene.arboit/Wikimedia Commons

Provincial utility Hydro-Québec has signed a deal with a division of Essen, Germany-based industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp to build one of the world's biggest green hydrogen plants, an 88-megawatt facility in Varennes, a suburb of Montreal, that will produce 11,100 tonnes of the product per year. The big electrolyser will run on electricity from the province's network of hydropower dams, CNBC reports.

"Quebec as a region and Hydro-Québec as a customer offer ideal conditions for installing our water electrolysis technology on a multi-megawatt scale for the first time," [said](#) Denis Krude, CEO of Thyssenkrupp Uhde Chlorine Engineers. "The hydrogen and oxygen produced by the unit is set to generate biofuels for use in transportation," CNBC writes. Commissioning of the green hydrogen facility is slated for the end of 2023. Read more at [The Energy Mix](#).

# U.S. Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Landmark Climate Change Case



Credit: SHAHZAIB AKBER / EPA

What relief can American courts provide to states, counties, and cities? That's the question at the centre of more than 20 lawsuits filed in the past three years, alleging that reckless and deceptive business practices by the major oil companies contributed to climate-related destruction and must be paid for. When the US Supreme Court heard arguments in one of those cases on January 19, the justices focused on arcane procedural matters and avoided the bigger issues—leaving in doubt the fate of the many lawsuits seeking some measure of corporate accountability for the effects of the climate crisis. The Supreme Court will rule on the case sometime this spring. Whatever happens, the carbon barons have already notched a victory of sorts. When it comes to evading responsibility for their actions, the oil companies rely on deflection and delay. The procedural debate at the Supreme Court was part of the industry's tested legal playbook: Throw sand in the judicial machinery, litigate every last technicality, and use their huge wealth and phalanxes of attorneys to grind down the opposition. Read more at [SierraClub](https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2021/01/supreme-court-hears-arguments-in-landmark-climate-change-case).

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## Rich Nations Accused of Inflating Climate Adaptation Finance Figures



Credit: [SHAHZAIB AKBER / EPA](#)

A close reading of 112 projects representing 13% of global adaptation finance in 2013-17 found the 25 donor countries collectively overreported the amount supporting climate adaptation by 42%. Under the UN climate process, the developed world has committed to mobilize \$100 billion of climate finance a year by 2020, with a balance between mitigation (carbon-cutting) and adaptation projects. At the last count in 2018, they delivered [\\$16.8 billion in adaptation finance](#), according to the OECD – but if overreporting levels persisted, the true amount could be less than \$10bn.

“It really shows that rich countries are not as concerned about living up to their climate commitments as they should be,” John Nordbo, report co-author and senior climate advocacy adviser at Care Denmark, told Climate Home News. Read more at [the Euractiv](#).

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## GOOD NEWS

# EU Foreign Ministers to Push for Global Fossil Fuel Phase-out





**Credit: Josep Borrell Fontelles**

European Union energy diplomacy will discourage all further investments into fossil fuel based energy infrastructure projects in third countries, unless they are fully consistent with an ambitious, clearly defined pathway towards climate neutrality. Foreign ministers are expected to put green diplomacy at the top of their agenda, saying the EU “will seek to ensure undistorted trade and investment for EU businesses in third countries” as well as “a level playing field, and a fair access to resources and green technologies” in countries like China. Read more at [Euractiv](#).

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

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## MORE GOOD NEWS

# Alberta Reinstates 1976 Coal Policy After Massive Public Outcry



**Credit: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jason Franson**

Public protest has persuaded the Alberta government to U-turn on a major section of its economic road map and reinstate a policy that has kept open-pit coal mines out of the Rocky Mountains for almost 45 years. "We admit we didn't get this one right," Energy Minister Sonya Savage said. "Albertans sure let us know that." Savage announced that the (provincial) United Conservative government will reinstate a policy on coal mining in the Rockies and their eastern slopes that was developed after years of public consultation by the Progressive Conservatives under Peter Lougheed in 1976. Read more at [the National Observer](#).

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## OPINION

# San Francisco Schools, Radicalism and the Pandemic



*Credit: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images*

At the end of January, the San Francisco School Board of Education [voted](#) 6 to 1 to proceed with a plan to rename 44 of the city's currently shuttered schools, wiping away notables like Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Paul Revere, Robert Louis Stevenson and even Dianne Feinstein, California's senior senator, for various forms of cooperation with white supremacy and patriarchy.

After the vote, I spent some time reading the Google [spreadsheet](#) helpfully compiled by the renaming effort, which listed the justification for each erasure: for Washington, slave-owning; for Revere, helping to command a doomed Revolutionary War military operation on the Maine coast that nonetheless supposedly contributed to the "colonization" of the Penobscot tribe; for Stevenson, writing a "cringeworthy poem" that includes words like "Eskimo" and "Japanee." Read more at [NY Times](#).

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## SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

# Community Engagement in Dissemination and Implementation Models: A Narrative Review





Credit: *business2community*

Responding to the growing demand for scientific understanding of adoption and uptake of evidence-based interventions (EBIs), numerous dissemination and implementation (D&I) models have been proposed. This review aimed to identify community-specific constructs with the potential to help researchers engage community partners in D&I studies or deploy EBIs. We identified 74 D&I models targeting community-level changes, published between 2012 and 2020. Three coders independently examined all 74 models looking for community-specific engagement constructs. We identified five community engagement constructs: (1) Communication; (2) Partnership Exchange; (3) Community Capacity Building; (4) Leadership; and (5) Collaboration. This article identified community engagement constructs reflected in existing D&I models targeting community-level changes. Implications for future research and practice are discussed. Read more at [Sage Pub](#).

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## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

# Nepal Struggles to Preserve Its Indigenous Languages as Those Speaking Them Dwindle



*Credit: Child reading Newa folk story, Dhaplaan Khyaa, by Durgala Shrestha. Credit: ASHISH SHAKYA*

At last count Nepal had 129 spoken languages, but even as new ones are identified, others are becoming extinct. At least 24 of the languages and dialects spoken in Nepal are 'endangered', and the next ones on the verge of disappearing are Dura, Kusunda and Tillung, each of which have only one speaker left.

"It will not surprise me if these three languages will be the next to go. With no one left to speak, we will not be able to save them," says Lok Bahadur Lopchan of the Language Commission of Nepal, which is entrusted with preserving Nepal's linguistic diversity. If a language is spoken by less than 1,000 people, it is categorized as 'endangered'. Lopchan predicts that over 37 more languages spoken in Nepal are in that category and likely to disappear in the next ten years.

According to the [Language Commission of Nepal's 2019 annual report](#) the languages most commonly spoken in the country are Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tharu, Tamang, Nepal Bhasa, Bajjika, Magar, Doteli and Urdu, in that order. Read more at [the IPS News](#).

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Getty Images

## Quote Of The Week

"Pandemics create insecurity, while extremism offers a kind of certainty, especially now, when trust is low in government, in Congress, in science, in medicine, the church—there's nobody you can trust, so you trust your friends, your tribe. Extremists offer a black-and-white view. There's a culprit responsible for some evil plan to destroy the nation, and they have a plan for restoration that will bring back greatness."

University of Maryland social psychologist Arie Kruglanski

[Read More at Daily Kos](#)

## Upcoming Events

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- 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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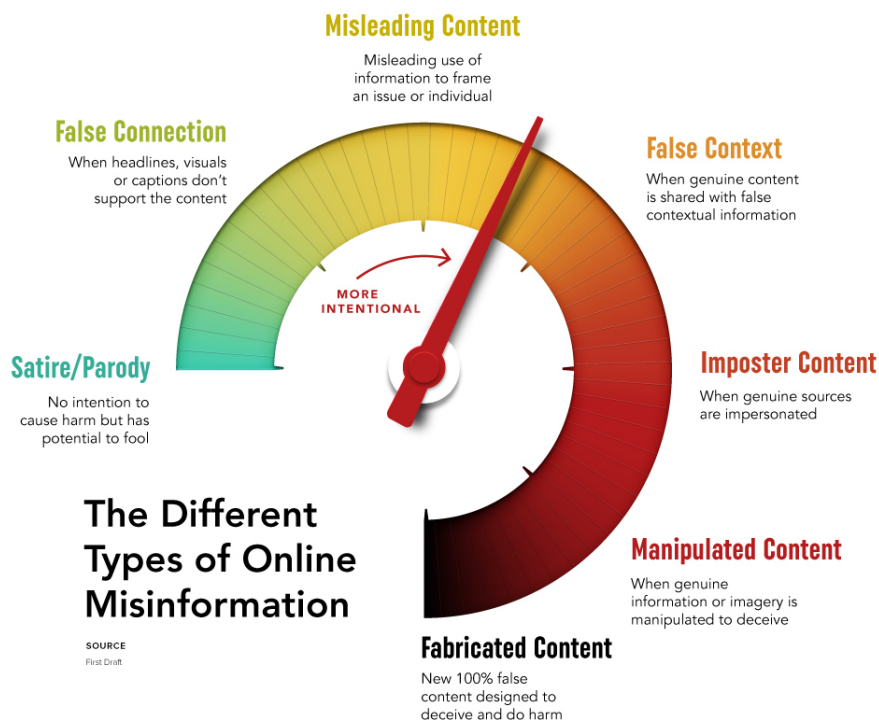
## FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

# How To Spot Fake News

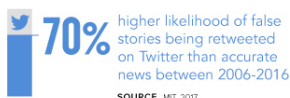


# How To Spot Fake News

"Fake news" might feel like an overused term, but misinformation online is everywhere. Here are the key characteristics of fake news and how to spot them.



Unfortunately, "fake news" is just as widespread as it is hard to detect:



## Is It Fake News?

WHAT TO CHECK ON A STORY.

### The Source

What's the story's intent? Investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.

### The Author

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

### The Information

Read past click-bait headlines, note who is (or isn't) quoted, and verify the information on other sites.

### Supporting Sources

www.thehonesttruth.com.co

the honest truth .com

NEWS BLOG ABOUT

MAYOR HATES TREES?

JOHNNY REPORTER MAY 04 2002

After campaigning strongly on an environmental platform, the city's famously green mayor is in hot water for comments made at a charity fundraiser late Tuesday. At the Children's Reading Association's annual Books4Charity gala, Mayor Truman delivered an opening speech that left many in the audience speechless and questioning the event's legitimacy.

Though the mayor's keynote started on warm, celebratory terms, it quickly turned into an improvised rant that blurred between comedic and shocking. Truman began by congratulating the hosts for their 10th annual event before devolving into a nostalgic anecdote that seemed pro-lumber. "I read everything I can get my hands on," said Truman. "But lately there are less books. We should print more!"

### The URL

Be wary of unusual top-level domain names, like ".com.co" that are designed to appear legitimate.

### Your Bias

Who is the intended audience for this story? Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

### The Date

Republishing old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.

### The Text

Does the article have spelling errors or dramatic punctuation? Reputable sources have high proofreading and

Click on the supporting links, and perform reverse searches on images. Are they credible, and do they support the story?

**SOURCE** International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Harvard

The mayor's inflammatory comments encouraging the **destruction** of forests for reading material aren't the only time they've been in **trouble** with **environmentalists**. At last year's March For Earth through the city's downtown, Truman spoke positively about environmentalists organizing the event before noting, "I don't like the term treehugger, though, because I hate hugging trees. You get covered in sap and dirt."

Mayor Truman's increasingly vile anti-tree rhetoric is likely to cause concern in City Hall and amongst prominent party staff and donors. Eyebrows were already raised at the City's lackluster response to a local forest fire last week, when firefighters took two whole hours to arrive on scene after claiming they were busy saving people from a burning building.

grammatical standards.

**The Experts**

Would this story meet academic citation standards? Consult a fact-checking site.

The most important thing is to *consider* the credibility of articles in the first place. People's ability to discern and share real articles over fake nearly **tripled** after a simple reminder to check accuracy. **SOURCE** Psychological Science, 2020

**VISUAL CAPITALIST**

Facebook YouTube /visualcapitalist Twitter Instagram @visualcap LinkedIn visualcapitalist.com

**SOURCES**  
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, First Draft, Harvard, IPSOS, Psychological Science, MIT, Gallup

**COLLABORATORS**  
**RESEARCH • WRITING** Omri Wallach  
**DESIGN • ART DIRECTION** Harrison Schell

Credit: Visual Capitalist

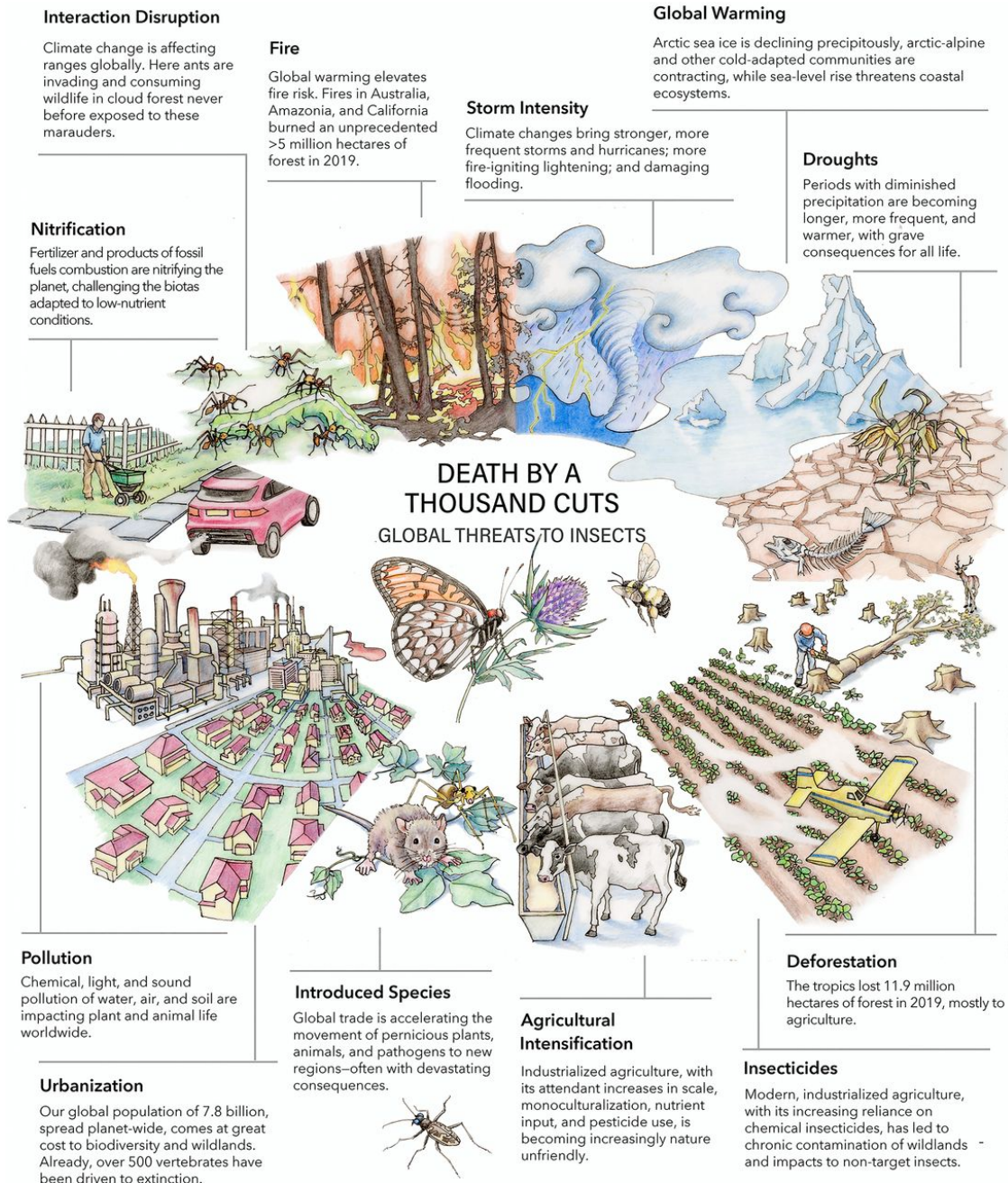
"Fake news" used to be a relatively uncommon problem, but over the last decade, and especially during the **COVID-19 pandemic**, increasing consumption of news and articles has caused misinformation to run wild. Far from a new concept, misinformation and cherry-picked stories have been used throughout history as a form of propaganda or information warfare. However, the rise of social media as a hub for sharing articles has spread "fake news"—false or misleading information presented as legitimate news—all over the internet. Fuelled further by increasing polarization, as well as the use of the term by former U.S. President Donald Trump to also refer to negative coverage (whether legitimate or misinformed), it seems more difficult than ever to separate trustworthy from misleading sources.

Read and See More at Visual Capitalist

## FYI #2

# Insect Decline in the Anthropocene: Death by a Thousand Cuts





Credit: Virginia R. Wagner

Nature is under siege. In the last 10,000 years the human population has grown from 1 million to 7.8 billion. Much of Earth's arable lands are already in agriculture, millions of acres of tropical forest are cleared each year, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are at their highest concentrations in more than 3 million years, and climates are erratically and steadily changing from pole to pole, triggering unprecedented droughts, fires, and floods across continents. Indeed, most biologists agree that the world has entered its sixth mass extinction event, the first since the end of the Cretaceous Period 66 million years ago, when more than 80% of all species, including the non avian dinosaurs, perished.

Read More at the PNAS

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### FYI #3

## For a City Staring Down the Barrel of a Climate-Driven Flood, A New Study Could be the Smoking Gun



**Credit: Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post via Getty Images**

Not all of the water from [the planet's melting glaciers](#) is pouring into rivers and oceans. A surprising amount is [building up](#) behind unstable piles of rubble left behind by the retreating ice. As the Earth continues to warm, the swelling lakes [threaten to burst](#) through the glacial moraines holding them back and wash away the forests, towns and farms below. The threat is particularly high in the Northern Andes, where some of the world's last big tropical glaciers are dwindling even faster than those in

the Alps or Himalaya. At low latitudes, the length of the day doesn't change much during the year, so tropical glaciers don't get a seasonal respite from the sun's direct rays. That's resulted in a rapid meltdown of glaciers near the equator, and the formation of hundreds of lakes in recent decades.

New [research](#) presents evidence of a direct link between global warming and the growing risk of an outburst flood to the Andean city of Huaraz, Peru.

Read More at Inside Climate News

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## FYI #4

# Hitting the Reset Button for Post-COVID-19 Cruise Tourism: The Case of Akaroa, Aotearoa New Zealand



Credit: Peter Lynch



Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, cruise tourism was often hailed as the fastest-growing sector within the tourism industry. The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), representing 55 cruise lines and 95% of the global cruise capacity, predicted that 32 million passengers would take a cruise in 2020. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and global travel restrictions brought the travel industry to a halt, meaning also that the phenomenal growth of the cruise industry has abruptly ground to a halt.

Prior to the halt of cruises, the industry had come under fire for a plethora of negative impacts on the environment, host communities, and their own workforce. In particular, many observers attributed the phenomenon of overtourism, for example, in Barcelona and Venice, at least in part to the cruise lines. While in the spotlight of the media, these popular cities were not the only places that experienced a heavy burden on the local communities due to the large influx of cruise passengers in pre-COVID-19 tourism. For example, the small Alaskan town of Skagway has a population of just over 1,000, but receives around 10,000 daily cruise passengers in the short summer cruise season each year. The tiny town of Akaroa on New Zealand's South Island, population 625, has been similarly affected.

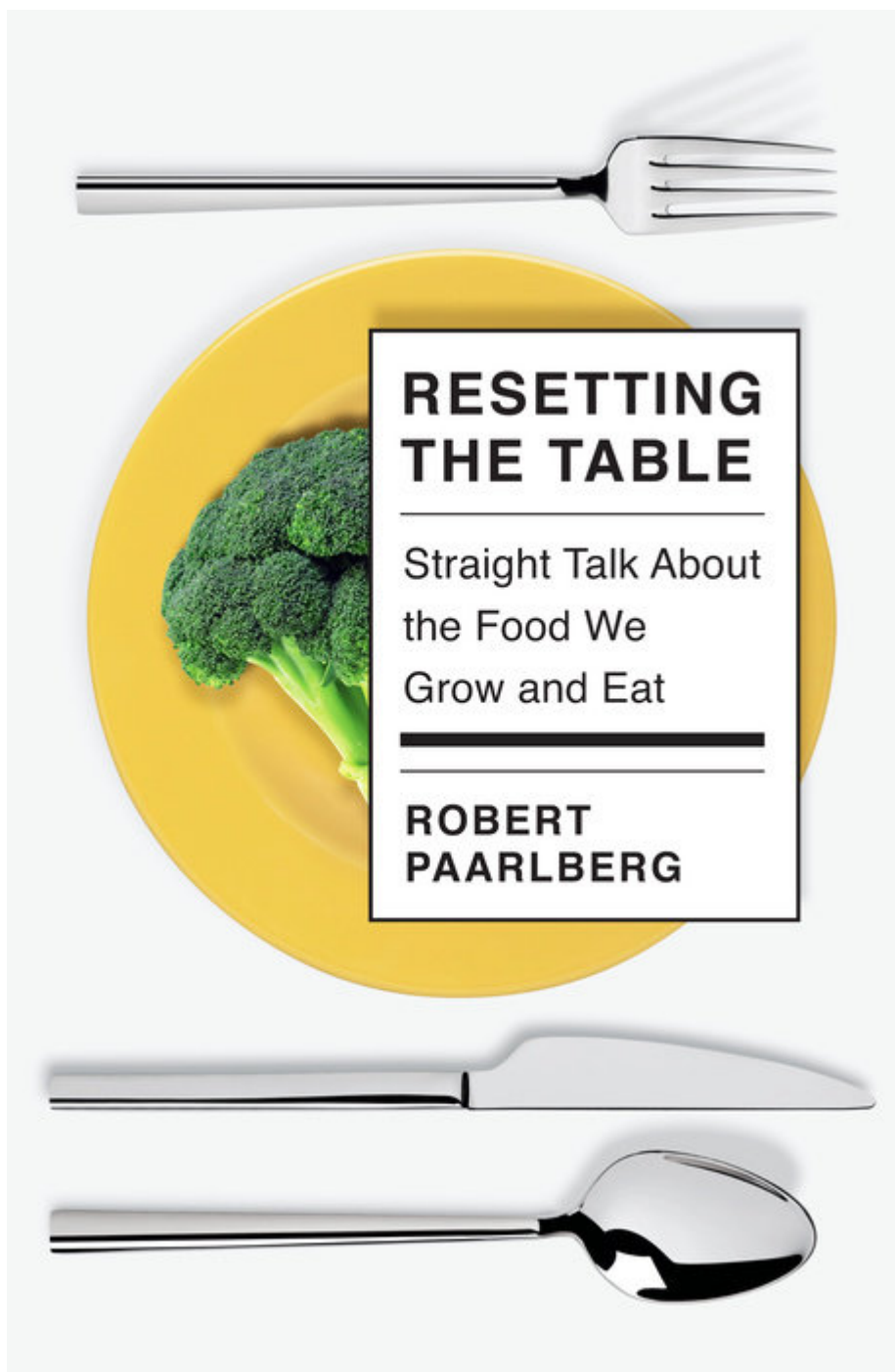
**[See also: Offshore oil drilling in the Bahamas is a big mistake](#)**

Read More on Academia

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## **FYI #5: FEBRUARY READING**

# **New Book: Resetting the Table - Straight Talk About the Food We Grow and Eat by Robert Paarlberg**



Credit: Book Cover

**This is a bold, science-based corrective to the groundswell of misinformation about food and how it's produced, examining in detail local and organic food, food companies, nutrition labeling, ethical treatment of animals, environmental impact, and every other aspect from farm to table.**

Consumers want to know more about their food—including the farm from which it came, the chemicals used in its production, its nutritional value, how the animals were treated, and the costs to the environment. They are being told that buying

organic foods, unprocessed and sourced from small local farms, is the most healthful and sustainable option.

See Also for the book's Introduction: <http://www.newsouthbooks.com/b...>

Read More at Penguin Random House

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## FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

# Nine B.C. Institutions Partner With Province on "Feed BC"



**Credit: Government of British Columbia**

Nine British Columbia postsecondary institutions have partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training on "Feed BC." Through this initiative, the postsecondary institutions will work across departments to track and source more BC food, build innovative local food initiatives and promote local food education and awareness on campus and beyond. British Columbia Institute of Technology, Camosun College, Selkirk College, Simon



Fraser University, Thompson Rivers University, University of British Columbia, University of the Fraser Valley, University of Northern British Columbia, and Vancouver Community College have committed to increasing the amount of local food served on campus to at least 30%. "Feed BC is an exciting, real-world opportunity for B.C.'s post-secondary institutions to be leaders in promoting local food and food system sustainability," said Anne Kang, BC Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training.

[Read more at BC Government](#)

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## ENDSHOTS

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### ***A BEAUTIFUL SKI DAY IN THE FOREST***

#### ***Amid COVID-19 Stats and Charts***

***HUMPHREY, ONTARIO***

***February 20 2021***



## COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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

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

Coronavirus Cases:

**113,476,091**

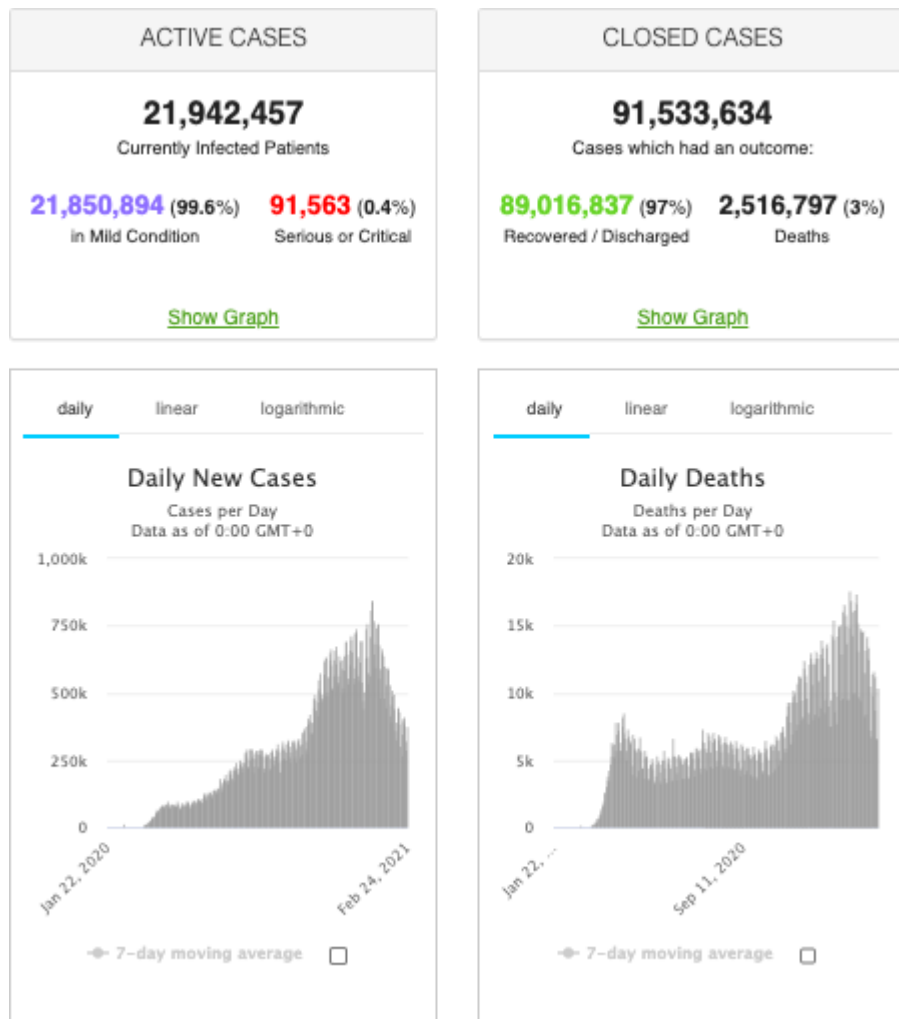
[view by country](#)

Deaths:

**2,516,797**

Recovered:

**89,016,837**



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





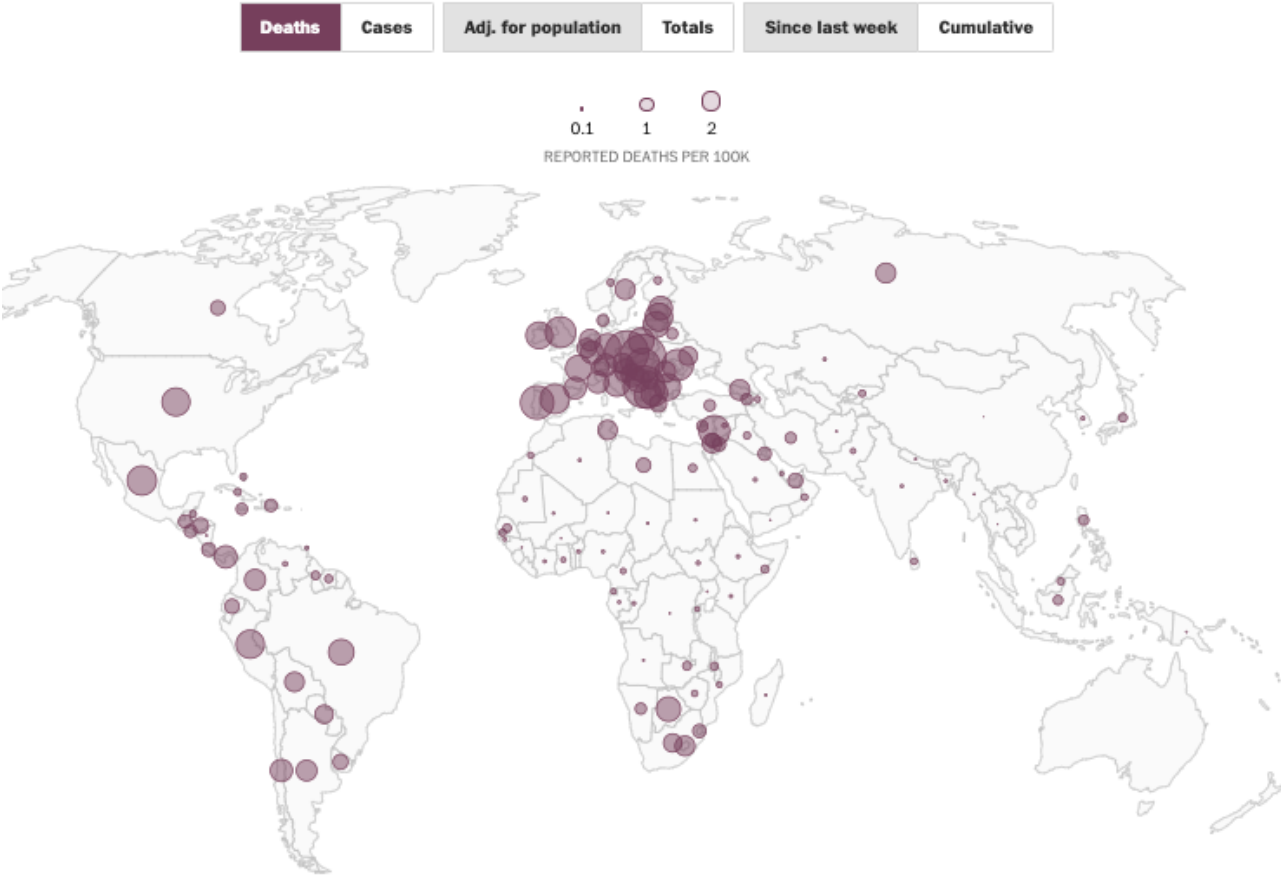
**COVID-19 CASES & DEATHS (February 19-25, 2021) Source:**  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf\\_coronavirus](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus)

Where the virus is surging





Where the virus is surging

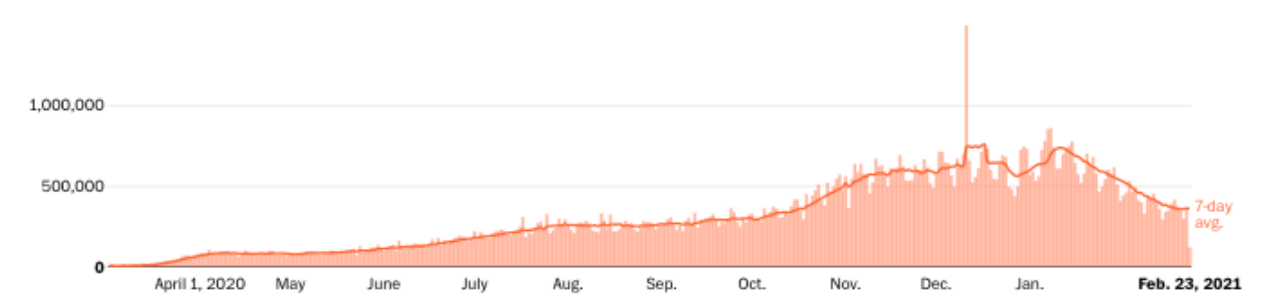




New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths Cases

At least 111,730,659 have been reported since Feb. 29.

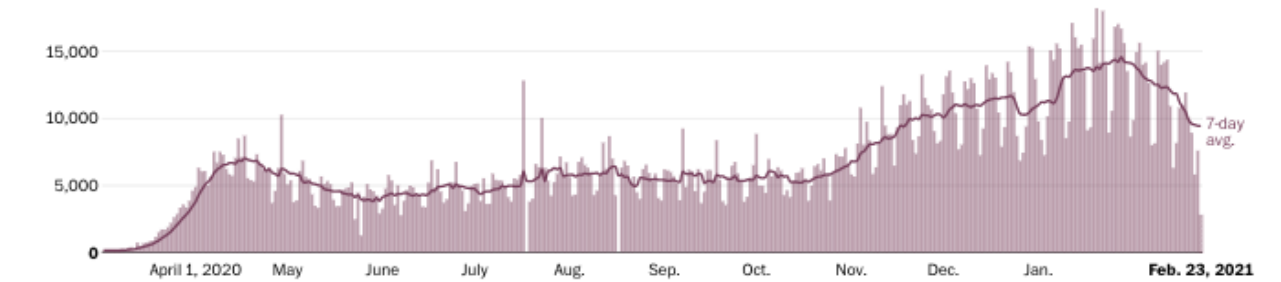




New daily deaths reported across the world

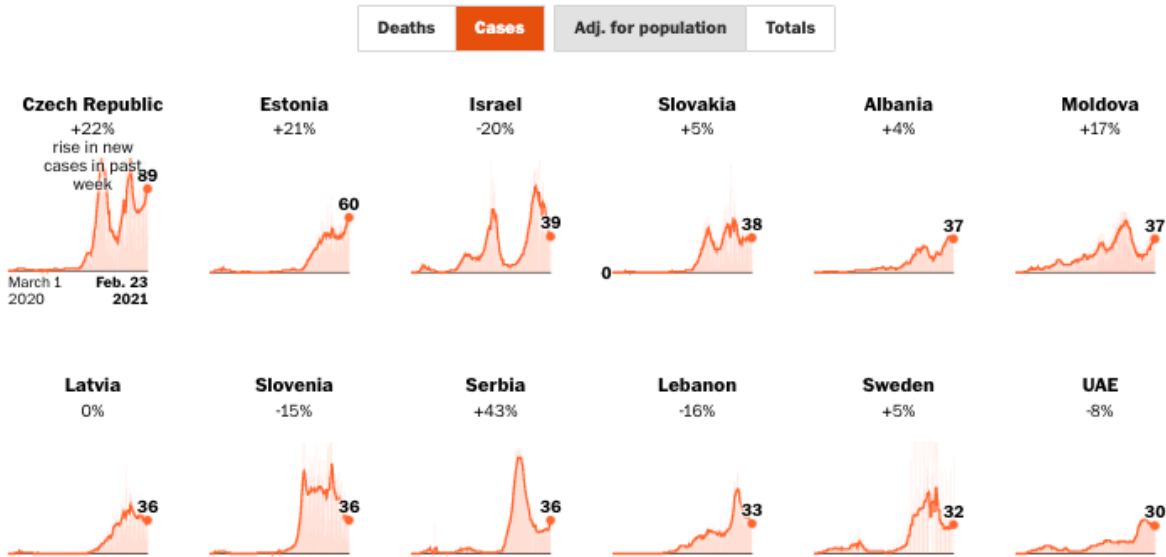
Deaths Cases

At least 2,475,147 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

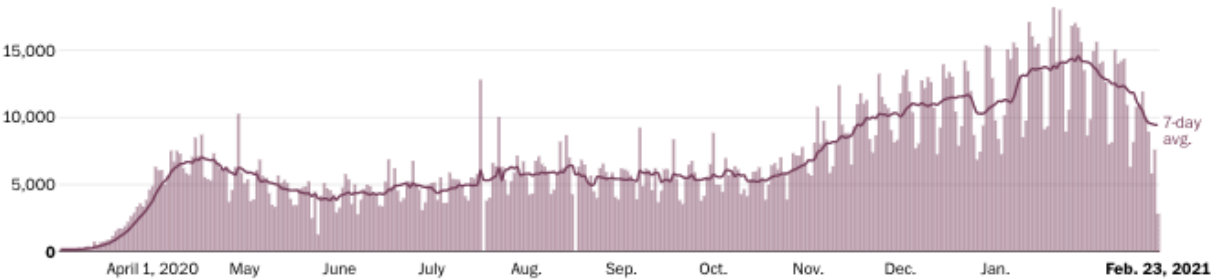


New daily deaths reported across the world

Deaths

Cases

At least 2,475,147 have been reported since Feb. 29.









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



World totals • Vaccinations • Map • Hot spots • Daily counts

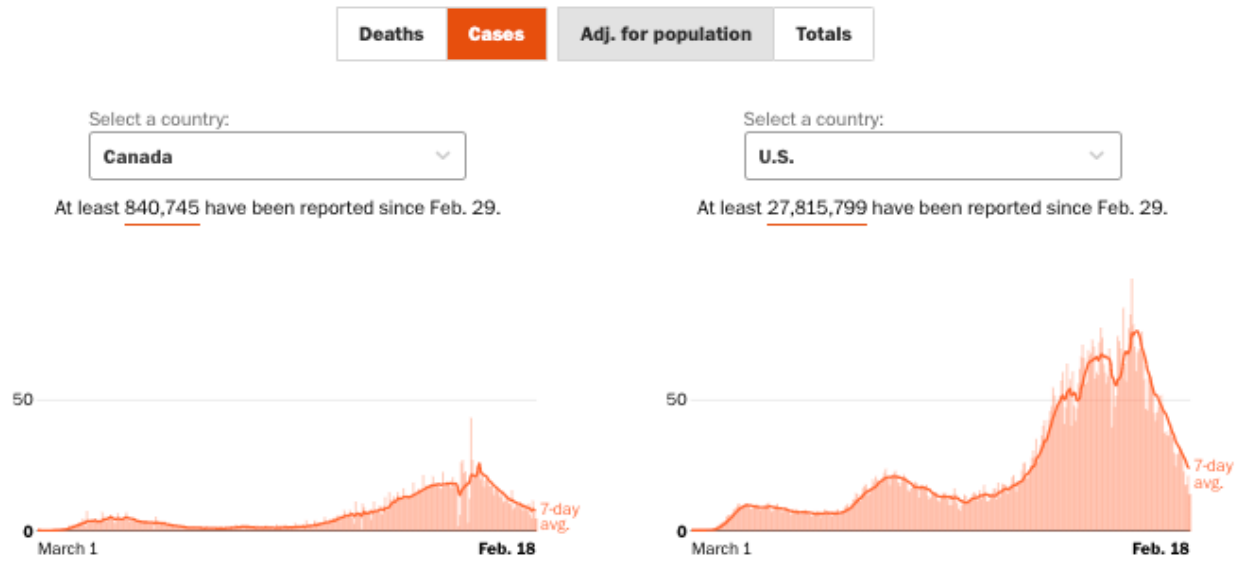
Country	Total doses given per 100k	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination
Israel	83,235	49.3%	34.0%
Seychelles	66,683	44.7%	22.0%
UAE	56,883	—	—
Britain	27,453	26.5%	0.9%
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>19,331</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
Bahrain	16,351	16.4%	—
Chile	15,799	15.5%	0.3%
Malta	14,590	9.9%	4.6%
Serbia	14,212	11.6%	2.6%
Maldives	13,877	—	—
Denmark	8,532	5.5%	3.0%
Turkey	8,195	6.9%	1.3%
Iceland	7,684	4.8%	2.9%
Romania	7,280	4.2%	3.0%
Norway	7,278	5.4%	1.8%
Poland	7,267	4.8%	2.5%
Switzerland	7,135	5.5%	1.6%
Morocco	7,062	7.0%	0.1%
Slovakia	7,012	5.1%	1.9%
Lithuania	6,967	4.5%	2.5%
Slovenia	6,907	4.5%	2.4%
Ireland	6,895	4.3%	2.6%
Greece	6,816	4.5%	2.3%
Hungary	6,784	4.7%	2.1%
Estonia	6,693	4.7%	2.0%
Portugal	6,624	4.2%	2.4%
Finland	6,593	5.2%	1.4%
Spain	6,564	4.0%	2.5%

Germany	6,280	4.1%	2.2%
Monaco	6,160	–	–
Singapore	6,153	4.3%	1.9%
Italy	5,985	3.8%	2.2%
Belgium	5,860	3.5%	2.3%
Austria	5,850	3.4%	2.2%
Barbados	5,757	5.8%	–
Sweden	5,696	3.9%	1.8%
France	5,557	3.8%	1.7%
Czechia	5,111	3.2%	1.9%
Luxembourg	4,998	3.8%	1.2%
Qatar	4,943	–	–
Cyprus	4,738	3.1%	1.6%
Netherlands	4,654	–	–
Greenland	4,596	4.6%	–
Kuwait	4,160	3.3%	0.9%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4,134</b>	–	–
Croatia	4,085	2.7%	1.4%
Liechtenstein	3,956	–	–
Brazil	3,330	2.8%	0.6%
China	2,899	–	–
Andorra	2,775	2.8%	–
Russia	2,701	1.5%	1.2%
Latvia	2,487	1.6%	0.9%
Costa Rica	2,005	1.1%	0.9%
Bulgaria	1,879	1.5%	0.4%
Sri Lanka	1,625	–	–
Argentina	1,607	1.0%	0.6%
Saudi Arabia	1,464	–	–
Bangladesh	1,416	1.4%	–
Nepal	1,406	–	–
Mexico	1,359	1.0%	0.4%

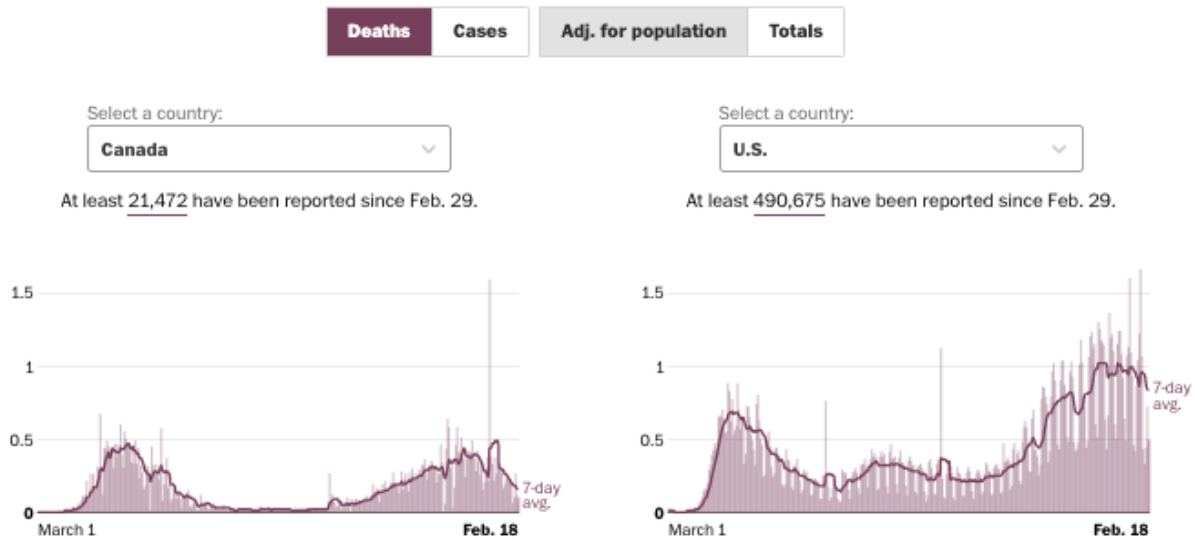


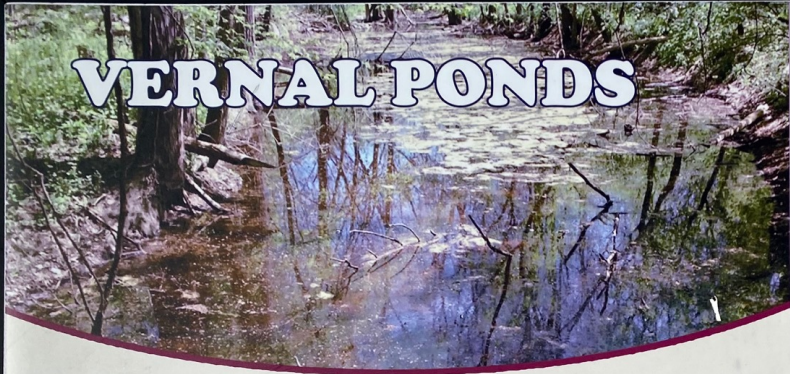


### Compare countries by new daily reported cases per 100k



### Compare countries by new daily deaths reported per 100k





## VERNAL PONDS






### What are they?

Vernal ponds are small isolated wetlands that occur in forested settings. Vernal ponds experience cyclical periods, typically filling with water in the spring or fall and drying during the summer or in drought years. Though relatively small, and sometimes overlooked, vernal ponds provide critical habitat for many plants and animals, including rare species and species with specialized adaptations for coping with temporary and variable hydroperiods. Amphibian species most dependent upon and most indicative of vernal pools in Ontario are the wood frog, spotted salamander and blue-spotted salamander.

### How to spot a vernal pond

- 1 They are flooded long enough and frequently enough, and dried out long enough and frequently enough, to harbour flora and/or fauna that have specialized adaptations or life cycles for coping with either lots of water, or very little water. Permanent fish populations do not occur in vernal ponds because they cannot survive.
- 2 They are small enough and/or shaded enough that natural community types such as marsh, southern wet meadow, wet prairie and so forth, do not become well established.
- 3 They lack permanent surface water connection to other water bodies.


Scan the QR codes to learn more about who lives in a vernal pond

WOOD FROG
SPOTTED SALAMANDER
BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER


### THE FROG'S LIFECYCLE IN A VERNAL POND

#### EGGS




The female frog lays thousands of jelly-covered eggs in the water. It takes approximately 10 days for the eggs to hatch.

#### TADPOLE




Eggs hatch into tiny tadpoles. They swim, eat and grow. The tadpole uses its tail to swim.

#### FROGLET AT 9 WEEKS




As the tadpole grows it sprouts rear legs. The froglet, as it is now called, grows and its tail begins to shrink.

#### FROGLET AT 12 WEEKS



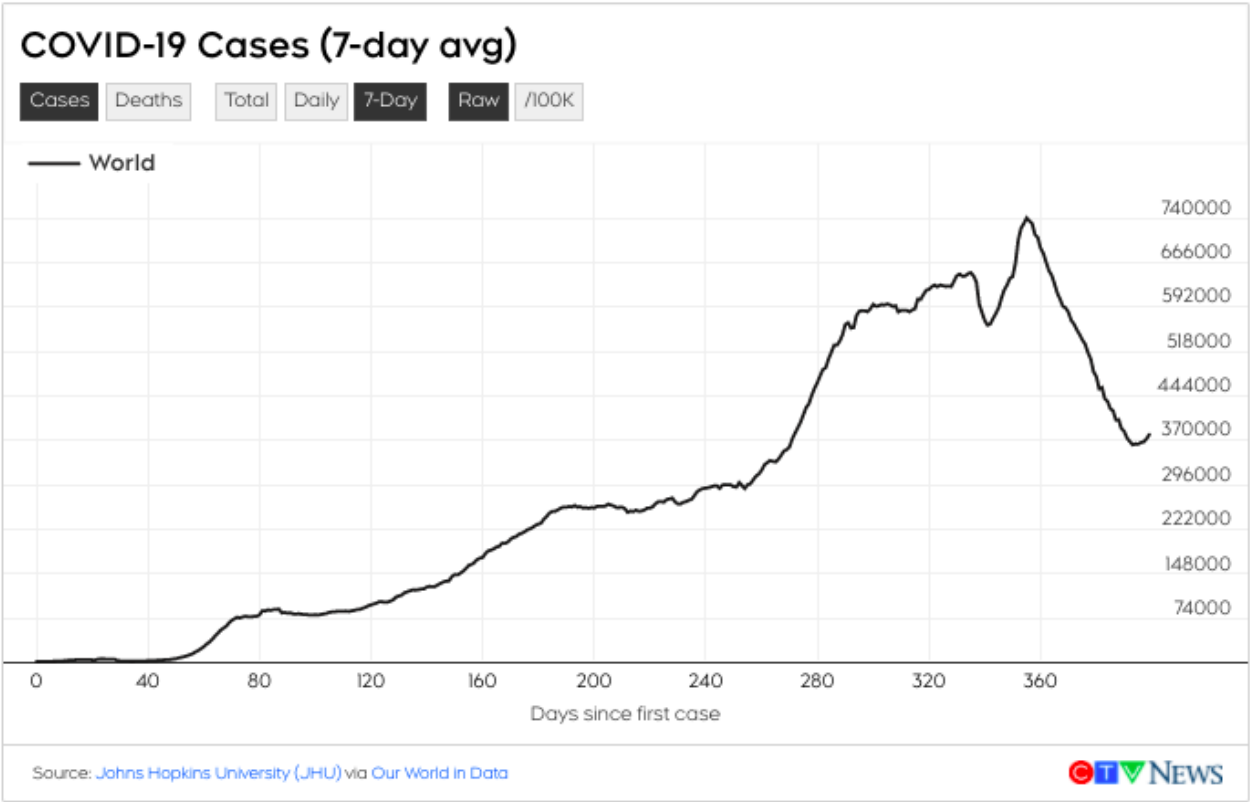
The froglet continues to grow and front legs appear. The lungs begin to develop. Its eyes and mouth grow larger its tail keeps shrinking.

#### FULL GROWN FROG

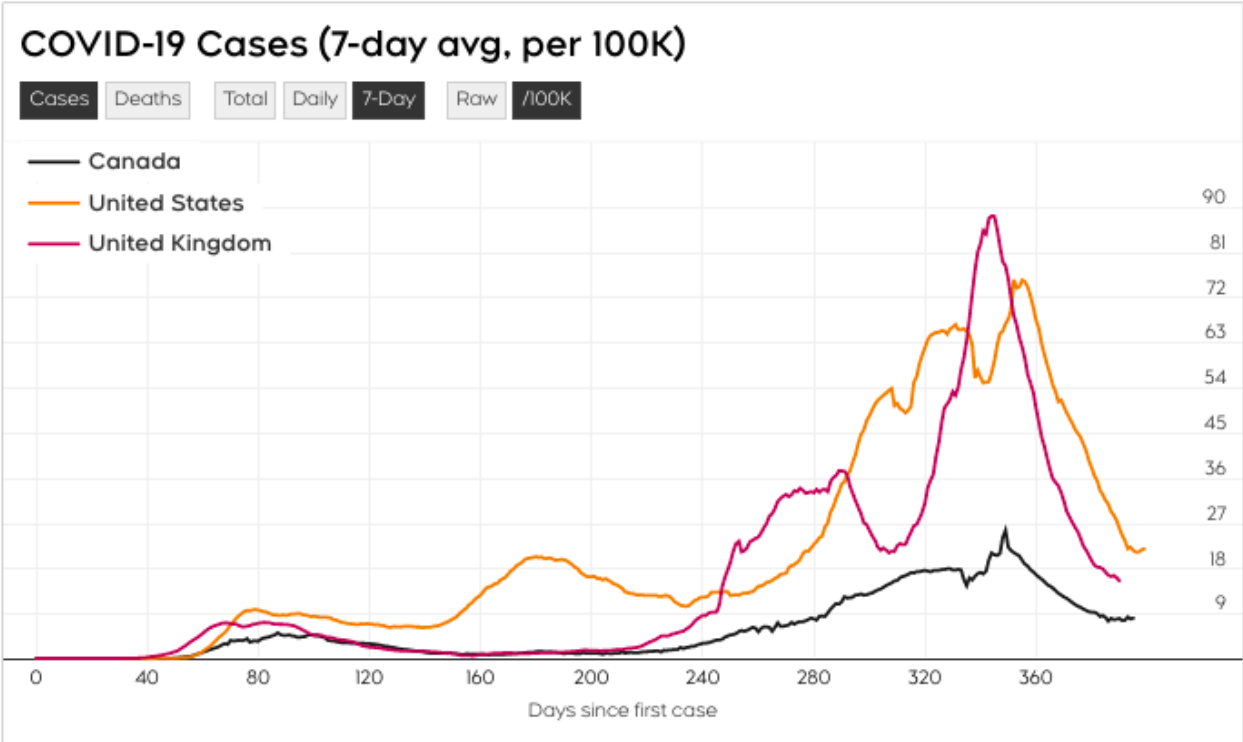


When the tail finally disappears the froglet becomes a frog. It can now leap onto the land and live outside the water. Frogs in Ontario hibernate through the winter. When spring arrives they will find a mate and lay another generation of frogs.

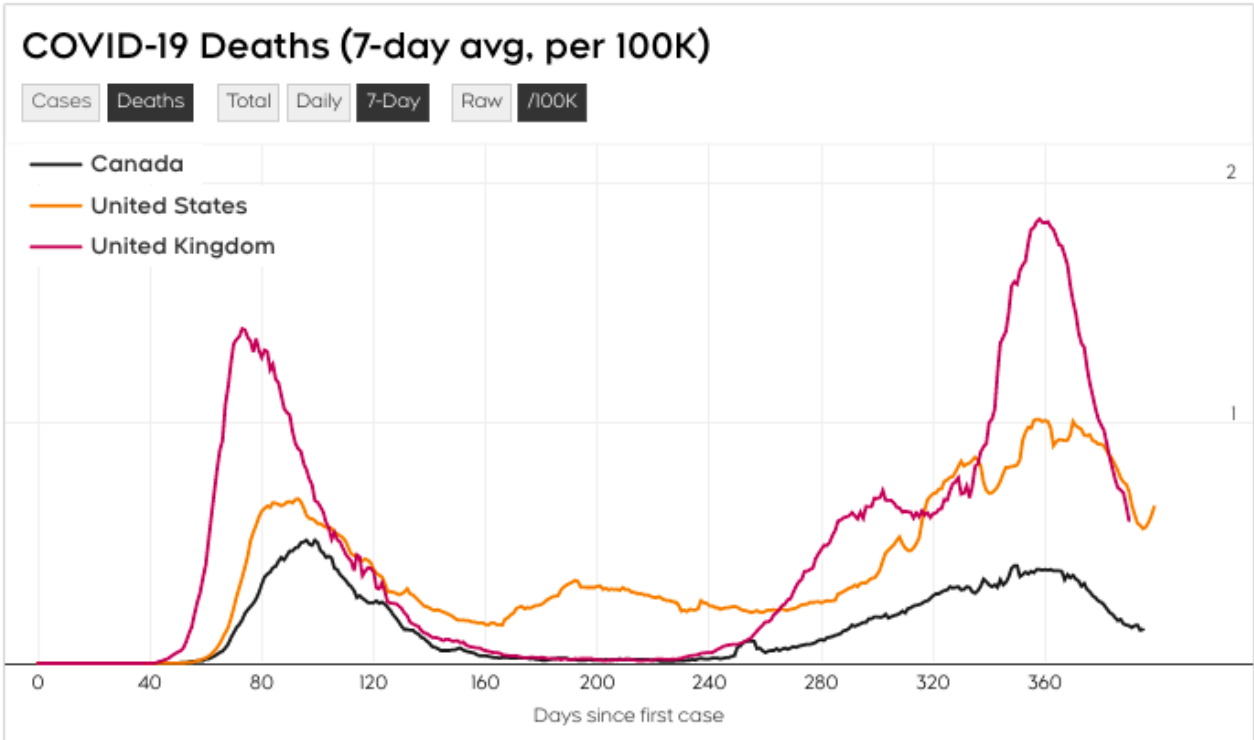
Source of World and Canadian Data Below (February 25, 2021):  
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-curves-compare-canada-and-other-key-nations-1.4881500#link-top>















# FASCINATING FACTS

Eastern White Pines are the tallest trees in Ontario. They can grow to 80 feet tall and can live over 250 years. It's a fast grower shaped like a pyramid at first. It then changes into an umbrella shape as it gets taller. It has soft, long, blue-green needles and big, brown, smooth cones that hold the seeds.

The pine tree is just one member of the big tree family known as conifers. Conifers are trees that produce cones that contain the seeds that grow more trees.

Cones have 50 - 80, thin, rounded scales, often encrusted with sticky white resin. The scales open to release the seeds when mature. Seeds are oval, with a long wing. Immature seed cones are green.

Bark on young trees is smooth and greyish-green, on older trees, bark darkens and becomes thick with broad ridges and plate-like scales.

Twigs are flexible, hairy, and green in their first year, turning smooth and orange-brown as they age.

Pine trees have long needles that help them keep water. This helps pine trees grow where other trees can't, because they don't need watering as often as other trees. Pine trees are called evergreens, because their needles stay green all year long.

In 1984, the Eastern White Pine became the official tree of Ontario. Found throughout the province, this tree was an important source of income and trade during Ontario's early days, and represents the province's vast forests.



## What animals might you see in a white pine tree?



Bald Eagles



Black Bears



Owls

What did you like best about the Humphrey Nature Trails?  
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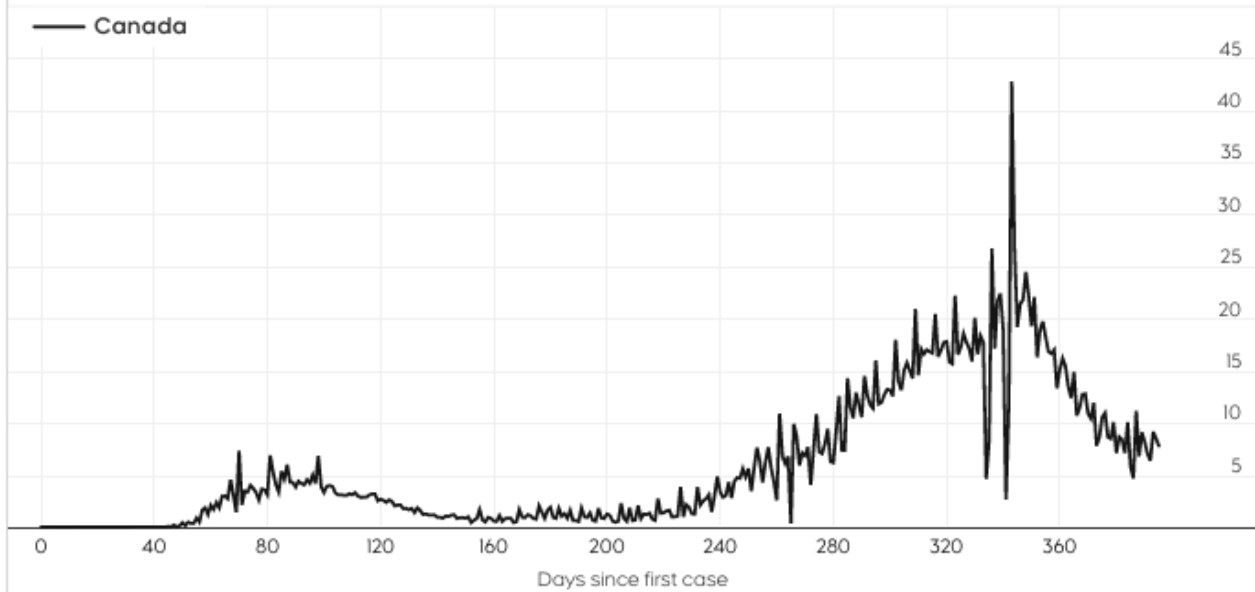


Overlooking Maple Lake

## COVID-19 Cases (Daily)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada



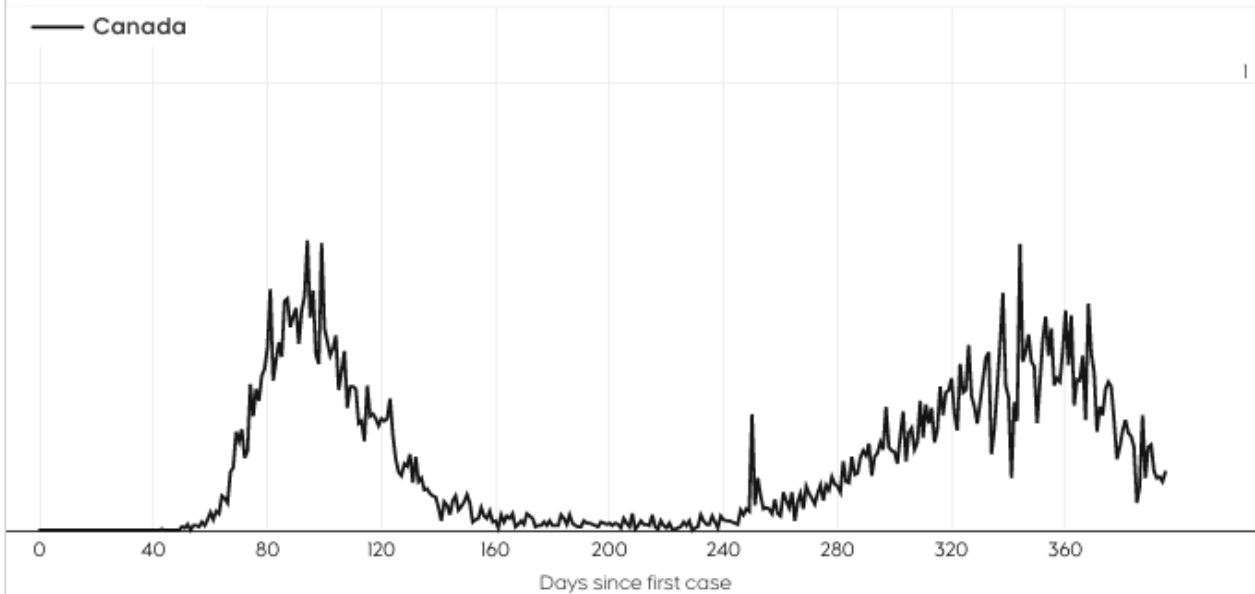
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

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## COVID-19 Deaths (Daily, 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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