



CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

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April 15,

Hi,

This last week was quite monumental for me, in that I got my first Covid-19 vaccination at a large temporary vaccination centre in downtown Toronto (see Endshots!!). It all took place in a very orderly, quick and professional manner, with the small lines moving and my injector being very friendly. It was a temporary moment of relief, until I soon afterwards realized that I need to wait at least two weeks for the effect and then that I need to return at the end of July, in some 16 weeks, for my second shot to infer the greatest immunity. And then later in the day, hearing about all the sad Covid-19 news from around the world and Canada, especially in Ontario where wards and ICUs are full of Covid-19 patients, a good amount of my hope for any soon to be normality vanished. But, I'm very thankful, and fortunately I haven't had any close battle with SARS-CoV-2 and with keeping to the public health rules as much as I can; I plan to make it to that second shot without any problems.

It's like reading about climate promises, with all the warnings on the wall, though the future scenarios are much more negative, for that crisis has no hope of vanishing for many decades to come, at best. I surely won't be around for that big change, but continue to hope and live with determination to help achieve that better world. Today though, and unlike with the pandemic, there are glimmers of positive news from around the world, including the new leadership in the USA. But not to get too excited as it's still a long uphill and likely very painful journey. I'm still waiting for more responsible leadership in our political and business sectors.

Read in today's ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#14 of the year), about:

- The background battle between industry, the Government of Canada and environmentalists over plastics regulation,
- Coronavirus Updates:
 - In the Covid-19 vaccine push, no one is speaking Gen Z's language,
 - Variant hunters race to find new strains,
 - The misinformed are less likely to get vaccinated,
 - New online tool ranks viruses' potential to infect humans to predict the next pandemic,

- The key difference between the British and EU approach to AstraZeneca's vaccine,
 - Historical dataset of subnational Covid-19 in the WHO European Region (interesting map animation),
 - Maharashtra reports record 63,294 Covid cases, 349 deaths,
 - India's second wave hits the whole world through declining vaccine export,
 - Africa pivots to J&J jab as continent plans Covid vaccination catch up,
 - Cuba may become the smallest country to make Covid-19 vaccines,
 - Chile's big coronavirus vaccine bet on China's Sinovac,
 - France drops AstraZeneca second dose for under-55s,
 - Tough days ahead for Iran in the grip of 4th Covid-19 wave,
 - U.S. enters a 4th wave as variants drive more coronavirus cases,
 - Covid-19 was the third-leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2020,
 - Effect of ivermectin on time to resolution of symptoms among adults with mild Covid-19, and
 - Mortality analyses graphics, THEN
- Oil firms knew decades ago fossil fuels posed grave health risks,
 - Provisional drug overdose death counts in the U.S. and Gun violence archive,
 - Tumbling regional birth rates in China signal scale of country's ageing,
 - Association between food insecurity and stressful life events among Canadian adults,
 - World Happiness Report is out with a surprising picture of global resilience,
 - Samburu elders in Kenya publicly declare end to FGM/C and child marriage,
 - Systematic change is needed in Canadian agriculture and why it matters,
 - Blackrock chief pushes a big new climate goal for the corporate world,
 - EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad,
 - In trying to contain Covid-19 we could be missing spread of HIV, hepatitis C and syphilis,
 - Quote on climate change from Canada's Supreme Court,
 - Doomscrolling can steal hours of your time – here's how to take it back,
 - Historical trends in global monthly surface temperatures (1851-2020) vizualized,
 - La Niña is officially declared over,
 - Nearly half of the U.S. is in drought and conditions are expected to grow worse,
 - NSW Australia beaches closed and waterways contaminated as floodwaters recede,
 - Australia floods claim lives as wild weather leads to waterfalls on Uluru,
 - New book: "The Meaning of Travel: Philosophers Abroad",
 - Using the Covid-19 pandemic to reimagine global health teaching in high-income countries, and
 - ENDSHOTS of My Vaccination Day in Toronto amid lots of Covid-19 stats and charts from Canada and the world.

I hope you'll keep reading. Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



The Backroom Battle Between Industry, Ottawa and Environmentalists Over Plastics Regulation



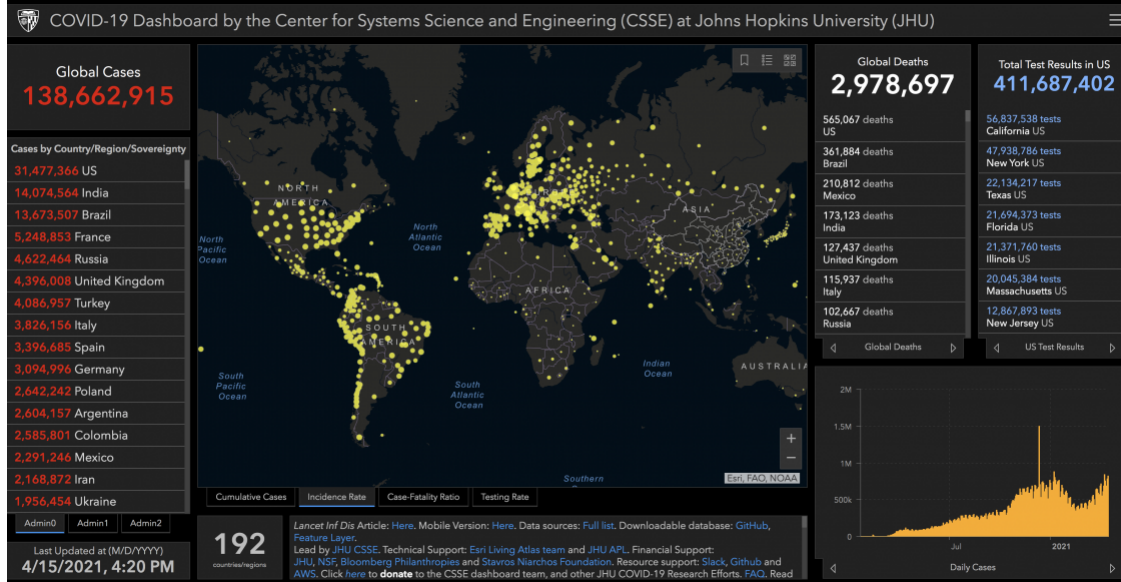
Credit: Will Rose/ Greenpeace

"Most recently, the plastic war has played out behind the scenes in Ottawa. Industry lobbyists are trying to dissuade the federal government from listing plastic as "toxic" under Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). To a layperson, the word toxic is associated with something poisonous and harmful to human health. However, under CEPA, it has a broader definition: A substance can be designated legally "toxic" if it harms either the environment and biodiversity, health or both. From a regulatory perspective, the designation is an agile tool allowing Ottawa to ban some plastics or plastic products and control others. Without it, the federal government would struggle to enforce its proposed plastics management [plan](#), first announced in October 2020.

Under the proposed rules, six hard-to-recycle, single-use plastic items will be banned, and the federal government and the provinces will be required to develop a national waste management plan. All plastic sold in Canada will also need to be made from at least 50 per cent recycled material by 2030.

The proposal has triggered intense lobbying from Canada's [\\$28-billion](#) plastics industry, which objects to any efforts to curtail production. Industry representatives have met dozens of times with federal officials in the past six months, according to official lobbying records." Read more at [National Observer](#)

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



So sadly, globally, it continues getting worse. Just two months ago there was evidence for optimism, but not any longer, except for the faith in vaccines, but their effect is yet to be perceived except for the saving of many elderly people, including here in Ontario.

Globally, over the last week there were about 5.1 million new cases of Covid-19 (up ~25%) and 85,000 new related deaths (up ~20%). The tragedy continues despite the deniers.

(See also ENDSHOTS at the end of this newsletter for various COVID-19 charts and stats from Canada and around the world.)

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

In the Covid-19 Vaccine Push, No One Is Speaking Gen Z's Language



Useful Covid-19 information isn't reaching the Instagram generation.

There's almost no messaging specifically tailored to them from federal or state public health officials. There's hardly anything official on Tik Tok. And even the limited efforts to reach them where they are — like Instagram's links to its ["Covid-19 information center"](#)— aren't working.

That lack of information is clearly having an impact. A [recent STAT-Harris Poll](#) finds that 21% of Generation Z — defined in the survey as young adults aged 18 to 24 — said they would not get vaccinated against Covid-19 and another 34% said they would "wait awhile and see" before getting vaccinated. The results come on the heels of an NBC-Morning Consult poll that found that 26% of Gen Z said they would not get the vaccine.

Numerous public health officials told STAT that the issue of growing vaccine reluctance among young people can be solved with a coordinated campaign of reliable, useful information that makes it both easy and enticing for young people to get vaccinated, even if they may not personally benefit much." Read more at [Stat News](#)

SEE MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At Wired: [Variant Hunters Race to Find New Strains Where Testing Lags](#)

At Axios: [Axios-Ipsos Poll - The Misinformed are less likely to get Vaccinated](#)

At CTV News: [Predicting the Next Pandemic: New Online Tool Ranks Viruses' Potential to Infect Humans](#)

At CAPX: [The Key Difference Between the British and EU Approach to AstraZeneca's Vaccine](#)

At Twitter: [Historical Dataset of Subnational Covid-19 in the WHO European Region \(interesting map animation\)](#)

At Times of India: [Maharashtra Reports Record 63,294 Covid Cases, 349 Deaths in One Day](#)

At Axios: [India's Second Wave Hits the Whole World Through Declining Vaccine Export](#)

At Telegraph: [Africa Pivots to J&J Jab as Continent Plays 'Covid Vaccination Catch Up'](#)

At Economist: [Cuba May Become the Smallest Country to Make Covid-19](#)

At South China Morning Post: [Chile's Big Coronavirus Vaccine Bet on China's Sinovac](#)

At Telegraph: [France Drops AstraZeneca Second Dose for Under-55s](#)

At Anadolu Agency: ['Tough Days Ahead': Iran in Grip of 4th COVID-19 Wave](#)

At Axios: [U.S. Enters a Fourth Wave as Variants Drive More Coronavirus Cases](#)

At JamaNetwork: [Effect of Ivermectin on Time to Resolution of Symptoms Among Adults With Mild COVID-19: A Randomized Clinical](#)

At John Hopkins: [Covid-19 Mortality Analyses](#)

Oil Firms Knew Decades Ago Fossil Fuels Posed Grave Health Risks, Files Reveal



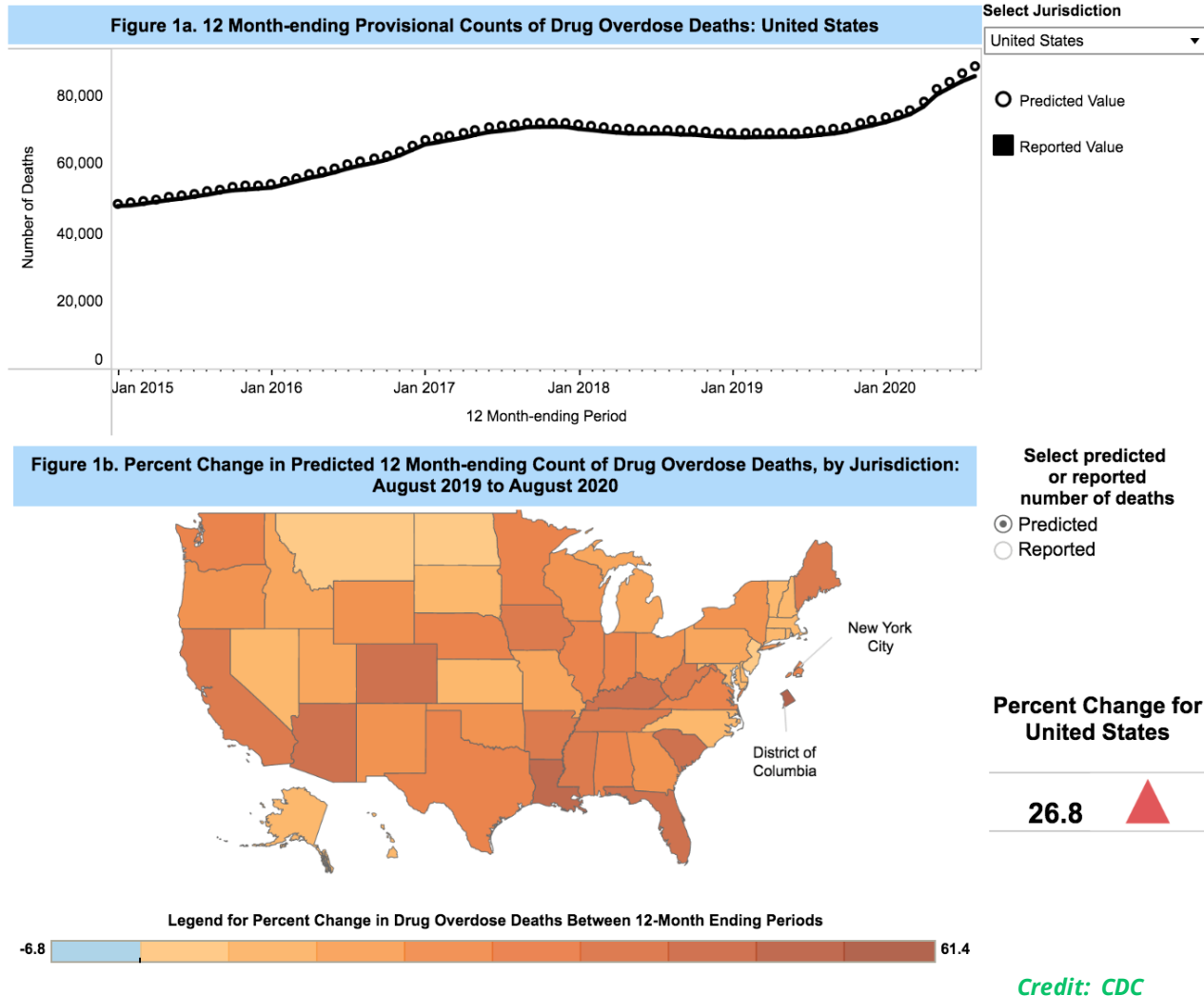
Credit: Mark Felix/AFP via Getty Images

The oil industry knew at least 50 years ago that air pollution from burning fossil fuels posed serious risks to human health, only to spend decades aggressively lobbying against clean air regulations, a trove of internal documents seen by the *Guardian* reveal.

The documents, which include internal memos and reports, show the industry was long aware that it created large amounts of air pollution, that pollutants could lodge deep in the lungs and be “real villains in health effects”, and even that its own workers may be experiencing birth defects among their children.

But these concerns did little to stop oil and gas companies, and their proxies, spreading doubt about the growing body of science linking the burning of fossil fuels to an array of health problems that kill [millions of people around the world each year](#). Read more at [the Guardian](#)

Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts in the U.S.



This data visualization presents provisional counts for drug overdose deaths based on a current flow of mortality data in the National Vital Statistics System. Counts for the most recent final annual data are provided for comparison.

These provisional data presented in this visualization include:

(a) the reported and predicted provisional counts of deaths due to drug overdose occurring nationally and in each jurisdiction; (b) a U.S. map of the percentage changes in provisional drug overdose deaths for the current 12 month-ending period compared with the 12-month period ending in the same month of the previous year, by jurisdiction; and (c) the reported and predicted provisional counts of drug overdose deaths involving specific drugs or drug classes occurring nationally and in selected jurisdictions." Read more at [CDC](#)

SEE ALSO: [U.S. Gun Violence Archive](#)

China Population: Tumbling Regional Birth Rates Signal Scale of Country's Ageing Crisis



Credit: KEVIN LIU/ GETTY IMAGES

Despite the delayed publication of national population data, a slew of local birth statistics in China has hinted at a growing population crisis in the world's most populous country.

Births are steadily falling in China and experts say they will only shrink further, putting pressure on Beijing's lofty development goals, "unless miraculous achievements" are made in increasing the number of newborns in the future.

With fewer workers and an increased elderly population requiring more savings to sustain spending in retirement, greater pressure on public finances is expected," the bank said. "As such, the more prepared an economy can be while still youthful, the more likely it is to age gracefully.

With lower potential output, assuming all else is equal, the goal to rapidly grow GDP per capita or the standard of living, is more difficult. Some Asian economies, such as China and Thailand, will still be in the 'middle income trap' when they rapidly age." Read more at [Yahoo News](#)

Association Between Food Insecurity and Stressful Life Events Among Canadian Adults



Credit: Vancouver Coastal Health

The COVID-19 pandemic and the related business closures and lockdowns have given rise to a series of unprecedented socioeconomic and health-related challenges, one of which is increasing food insecurity.

Throughout the pandemic, Statistics Canada has continued to collect and release data on food insecurity in Canada—including exploring the link between food insecurity and [mental health](#), [financial stability](#) and [Indigenous people living in urban areas](#).

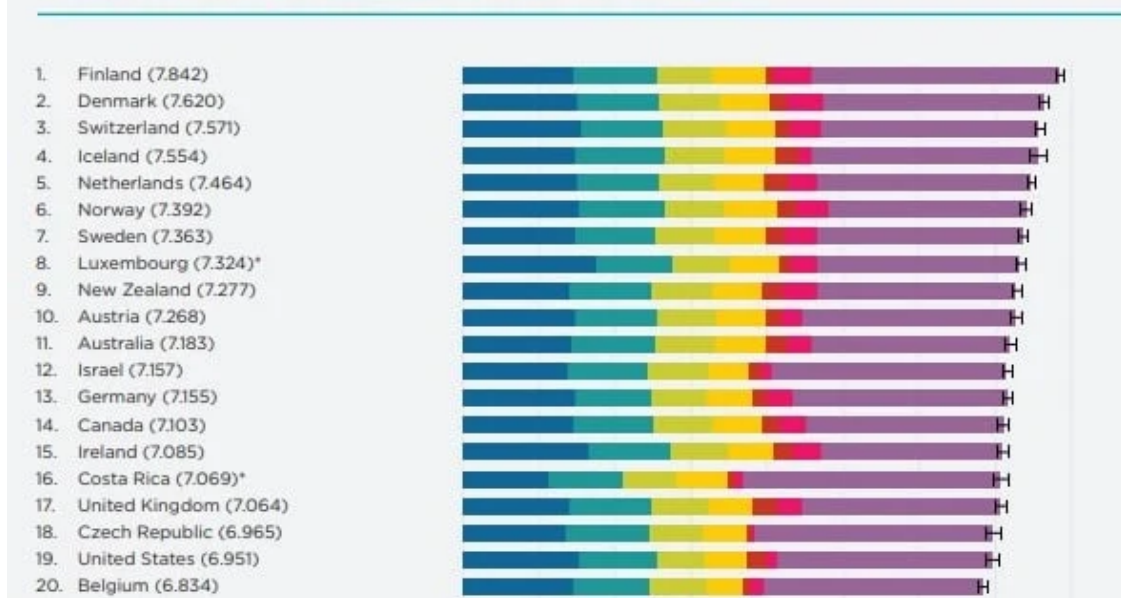
A new study, "[Association between Food Insecurity and Stressful Life Events among Canadian Adults](#)," looks at the characteristics of food insecure Canadians, focusing on how losing a job, suffering an injury or illness, or a combination of events can increase the risk of food insecurity. This release compares the food security outcomes of two different subpopulations: those who had experienced a stressful life event and those who had not.

Canadian adults who had experienced a worsening financial situation from 2016 to 2018 were about nine times more likely to be food insecure than those who had not. In 2018, almost one-third (30.2%) of adults whose financial situation worsened over the previous two years were food insecure, compared with 3.4% of those whose situation remained stable." Read more at [Stats Canada](#)

GOOD NEWS

World Happiness Report Is Out, With a Surprising Picture of Global Resilience

Figure 2.1: Ranking of happiness 2018-2020 (Part 1)



Credit: World Happiness

Report

In a conclusion that even surprised its editors, [the 2021 World Happiness Report](#) found that, amid global hardship, self-reported life satisfaction across 95 countries on average remained steady in 2020 from the previous year. The United States saw the same trend — despite societal tumult that yielded a national drop in positive emotions and a rise in negative ones. The country fell one spot, to 19th, in the annual rankings of the report, which was released Saturday.

The report is good news regarding global [resilience](#), experts say.

“I don’t want to leave an impression that all was well, because it’s not,” said one of the report’s editors, [Jeffrey Sachs](#), an economics professor and director at Columbia University. But while the use of national averages masks individual well-being disparities, Sachs said, the data suggests that “people have not thrown up their hands about their lives.” Read more at [Washington Post](#)

MORE GOOD NEWS

Samburu Elders in Kenya Publicly Declare End to FGM/C and Child Marriage



Credit: Amref Health Africa

"On March 5th, in Kenya, President Uhuru Kenyatta presided over a landmark declaration by 40 top clan elders of the Samburu Community who publicly announced an end to female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and child, early and forced marriage. Known as the Kisima Declaration, it is one of the outcomes of Amref Health Africa's USAID-funded initiative, Koota Injena, meaning "come, let's talk" in Borana.

FGM/C is one of the most severe forms of gender-based violence perpetrated on women and girls all over the world, and it has been practised for generations. The communities Amref Health Africa has partnered with for Koota Injena have similar patriarchal clan structures, which are the focal points of ancestral authority, cultural heritage, identity, norms and values. In these communities, the rates of FGM/C range from 61%-90%, and rates of child, early and forced marriage from 38%-85% in three-quarters of the sites. Community members who do not adhere to the practices of FGM/C and child marriage often face severe social consequences."

"We are committed to a future without FGM/C, a significant barrier to the rights and empowerment of girls. The declaration by Samburu clan elders today shows that our efforts to End FGM/C by 2030 are bearing fruit," says Dr. Githinji Gitahi, Global CEO, Amref Health Africa. "Sustainable change towards eradication of Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting must come from and be led by the communities themselves. We have learned from the Koota Injena project that changing

OPINION

Systemic Change Is Needed In Canadian Agriculture And Why It Matters To You



Credit: Equiterre

To ensure our food security in the context of the climate crisis, we need resilient farms that can sustain us all into the future.

But it's no secret that Canadian agriculture is facing significant challenges. Though production and productivity have improved dramatically over recent decades, herbicide and pesticide resistance is growing, soils are degrading and the unpredictable and extreme weather brought on by the climate crisis threaten to reduce yields. Meanwhile, farm debt is at a record high.

Our farmers and agricultural systems are the building blocks of our society. They work the land, they know that their soil is their future, their capital, and their legacy, and they are on the frontlines of a movement for change.

[The Power of Soil](#), An agenda for change to benefit farmers and climate resilience, in collaboration with [Greenbelt](#), takes a close look at how and why farmers adopt soil health practices and provides a foundation for rethinking Canada's agricultural and climate change policies and programs in support of greater soil health. It is a roadmap for change, through which Canada can help farmers adopt healthy soil practices, thus ensuring long term viability and resilience, while at the same time helping Canada meet its global climate change commitments." **Read more at [Equiterre](#)**

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

BlackRock Chief Pushes a Big New Climate Goal for the Corporate World



Credit: Damon Winter/The New York Times

A year ago this month, the BlackRock chief Laurence D. Fink wrote a letter to the world's C.E.O.s with an urgent message: Climate change will be "a defining factor in companies' long-term prospects." Underscoring his point, [he added](#), "We are on the edge of a fundamental reshaping of finance."

Coming from arguably the world's most powerful investor — BlackRock controls nearly \$9 trillion, making it far and away the largest such firm — this letter landed with seismic force in boardrooms across the globe. In the weeks that followed, Microsoft announced a plan to be carbon-negative by 2030, Salesforce pledged to conserve or restore 100 million trees over the next decade and even Delta Air Lines announced a \$1 billion effort to be carbon-neutral in 10 years.

Mr. Fink's latest annual letter to corporate leaders — which he sent out Tuesday morning, and which was obtained earlier by *The New York Times* — will again grab attention. And this year, with an even more ambitious blueprint for businesses that BlackRock invests in, it may have an even bigger impact.

Mr. Fink is now calling on all companies "to disclose a plan for how their business model will be compatible with a net-zero economy," which he defines as limiting global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial averages and eliminating net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. "We expect you to disclose how this plan is incorporated into your long-term strategy and reviewed by your board of directors," he wrote.

Many of BlackRock's rivals suggest that Mr. Fink's letters are simply good marketing, meant to insulate the firm from greater scrutiny. They may have that effect. But far more profoundly, Mr. Fink's letters have consistently helped change the topic of conversation in corporate boardrooms." Read more at [New York Times](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

In Trying To Contain COVID-19, We Could Be Missing Spread Of HIV, Hepatitis C And Syphilis



Credit: Bonnie Allen/CBC

For more than a year, the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted health-care workers and resources away from stopping the spread of other infectious diseases, including HIV, hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections such as syphilis.

Gary Lacasse, executive director of the Canadian AIDS Society, said there's been limited access to testing for HIV, hepatitis C, chlamydia and syphilis. "When you look across the country, the anecdotal evidence is that testing is almost non-existent," said Lacasse, adding that official statistics from Health Canada are always two years behind.

"The gains we have made over the past years are lost," Lacasse said. "That's what's really discouraging." While there's no national data about testing for infectious diseases beyond COVID-19, numbers released by the Saskatchewan government this month offer a glimpse of what one province is up against. Testing in Saskatchewan has plummeted and some infections have spiked. Experts are warning that it could take years to recover from this setback." Read more at [CBC](#)

In their 6-3 [decision](#), the **Supreme Court of Canada's majority** found that climate change causes harm beyond provincial boundaries, and so is a matter of national concern (and jurisdiction) under the "peace, order, and good government" clause of the Constitution. **And in an interesting aside, the court also pointed out that "global climate change is real, and it is clear that human activities are the primary cause."**

For More See: Alberta Premier [Jason Kenney, The Carbon Tax And The Art Of Losing A War](#)

The seriousness of the climate emergency meant that establishing minimum national standards for pricing carbon pollution "is of sufficient concern to Canada as a whole that it warrants consideration in accordance with the national concern doctrine," wrote Justice Wagner.

Climate change is a "threat of the highest order to the country, and indeed the world," he wrote. "The undisputed existence of a threat to the future of humanity cannot be ignored."

See Also: Canada's [Supreme Court Rules Federal Carbon Pricing Law Constitutional](#)

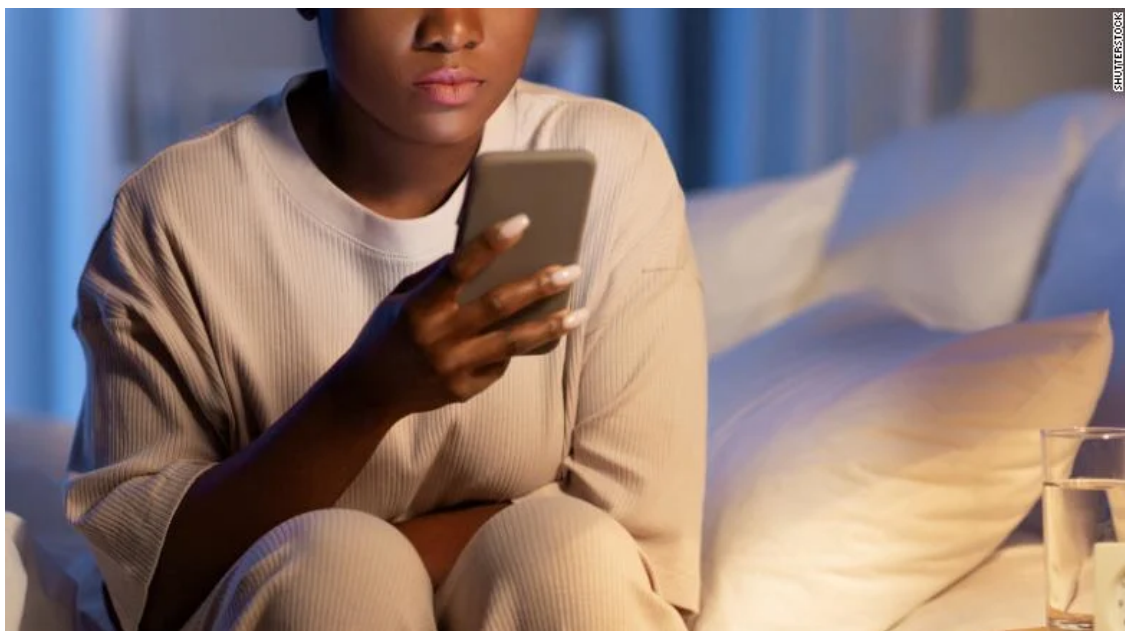
Upcoming Events

- April 25-30, 2021: [Planetary Health Week](#) (A Free Virtual Conference-Festival)
- May 11-13, 2021: [Conference on Covid-19 Emerging Ethical Issues in Higher Education: Experiences, Challenges, Solutions](#) Virtually from [Globethics.net East Africa](#) in collaboration with [The Catholic University of Eastern Africa: Centre for Social Justice and Ethics](#).
- May 12 - June 8, 2021: [CoPEH-Canada Multisite Course and Webinar Series on Ecosystem Approaches to Health](#) (8 sessions virtually)
- 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)
- June 29-30, 2021: [Telemedicine International Summit on Innovation & Technology](#)

- September 16-18, 2021: [North American Refugee Health Conference \(NARHC\)](#) (Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto). This year's conference will be offered completely online.
 - September 27 - October 1, 2021: [12th European Congress On Tropical Medicine And International Health: Global Challenges In Health, Migration And Equity](#)
 - October 6-8, 2021: [Public Health 2021: Annual conference of the CPHA](#)
 - November 1-12, 2021: [2020/2021 UN Climate Change Conference UNFCCC COP26](#) - Postponed in 2020 and now to be held November, 2021 (Glasgow, Scotland).
 - November 11, 2021: [Evidenced Based Research Being Carried Out in Low and Middle Income Countries](#) ADAPT will host their second online conference by Physios in Global Health. If you would like to contribute to this event, please contact ADAPT research officer: fiona@developingphysio.com
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FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

Doomscrolling Can Steal Hours Of Your Time -- Here's How To Take It Back



You're mindlessly scrolling on your phone after a long day at work, sifting through miles of negative posts. In what seems like minutes, hours have gone by. Doomscrolling has become a popular word over the past year to describe the habit of mindlessly scrolling through negative news. People lose their perception of time while scrolling on their phones, said Jeffrey Hall, professor of communication studies at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Hall has spent over 10 years studying technology use in conjunction with relationships and is the director of the Relationships and Technology Lab at The University of Kansas. The lab focuses on how people incorporate digital technology into their everyday communication."

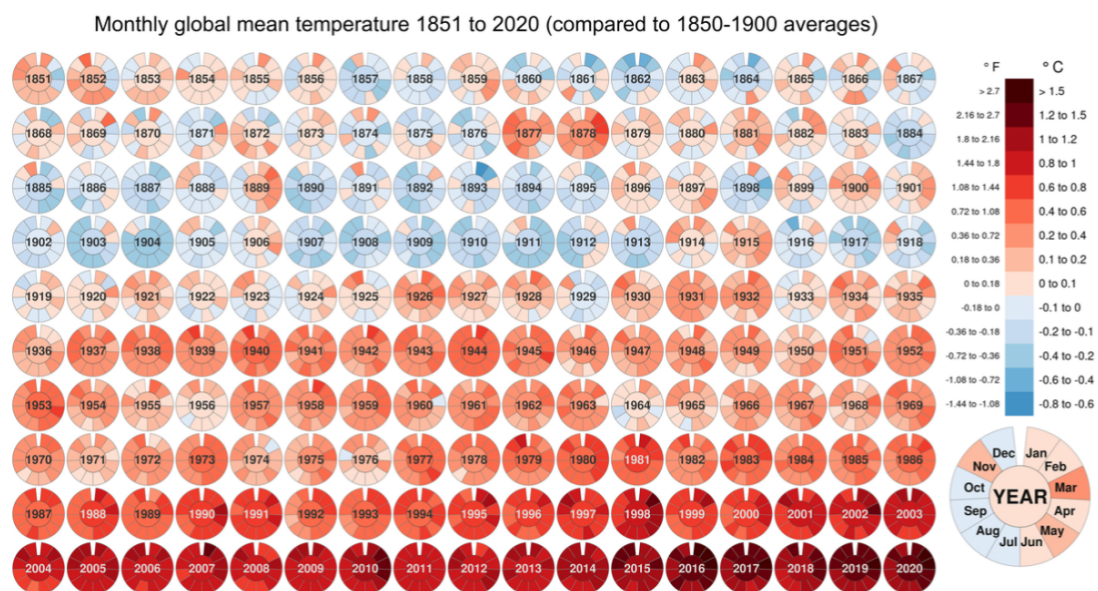
In this article Hall speaks on:

1. How people get sucked into Doomscrolling
2. Ways to prevent Doomscrolling
3. How people can have a more positive relationship with social media

[Read more at CNN](#)

FYI #2

Visualized: Historical Trends in Global Monthly Surface Temperatures (1851-2020)



Since 1880, the Earth's average surface temperature has risen by **0.07°C (0.13°F)** every decade. That number alone may seem negligible, but over time, it adds up. In addition, the rate of temperature change has grown significantly more dramatic over time—more than doubling to **0.18°C (0.32°F)** since 1981. As a result of this global warming process, environmental crises have become the most [prominent risks](#) of our time.

In this global temperature graph, climate data scientist [Neil R. Kaye](#) breaks down how monthly average temperatures have changed over nearly 170 years. Temperature values have been benchmarked against pre-industrial averages (1850–1900)."

[Read More Visual Capitalist](#)

FYI #3

Nearly Half The U.S. Is In Drought and Conditions Are Expected To Grow Worse, NOAA Says



Nearly half of the continental United States is in a moderate to exceptional drought, according to government forecasters, and conditions are expected to grow more severe and persistent over the next three months.

It's the most significant spring drought to grip the country since 2013 and will affect about 74 million people, scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said during a media briefing announcing their spring weather outlook.

The drought stretches from the Pacific Coast to the Great Plains and upper Midwest. The worst hit area is the Southwest, which experienced a La Niña event and a failed 2020 summer monsoon that exacerbated conditions. Hotter-than-average temperatures this spring and low soil moisture will fuel and expand drought conditions in the southern and central Great Plains and southern Florida, forecasters said. In the northern Plains, drought conditions could grow worse depending on how much rainfall the area experiences.

SEE ALSO: [La Niña Officially Declared Over](#)

Read More at CNBC

FYI #4

NSW, Australia Floods: Beaches Closed and Waterways Contaminated as Floodwaters Recede



Credit: 9News

Residents around New South Wales, Australia have been warned of hazardous materials washing up on beaches and contaminating waterways in the wake of the recent [flooding disaster](#). Debris and contaminated water from properties, farmland and industrial areas impacted by the floods are now being washed out. Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) have deployed specialist hazmat units to several locations where chemicals or other contaminants have been discovered.

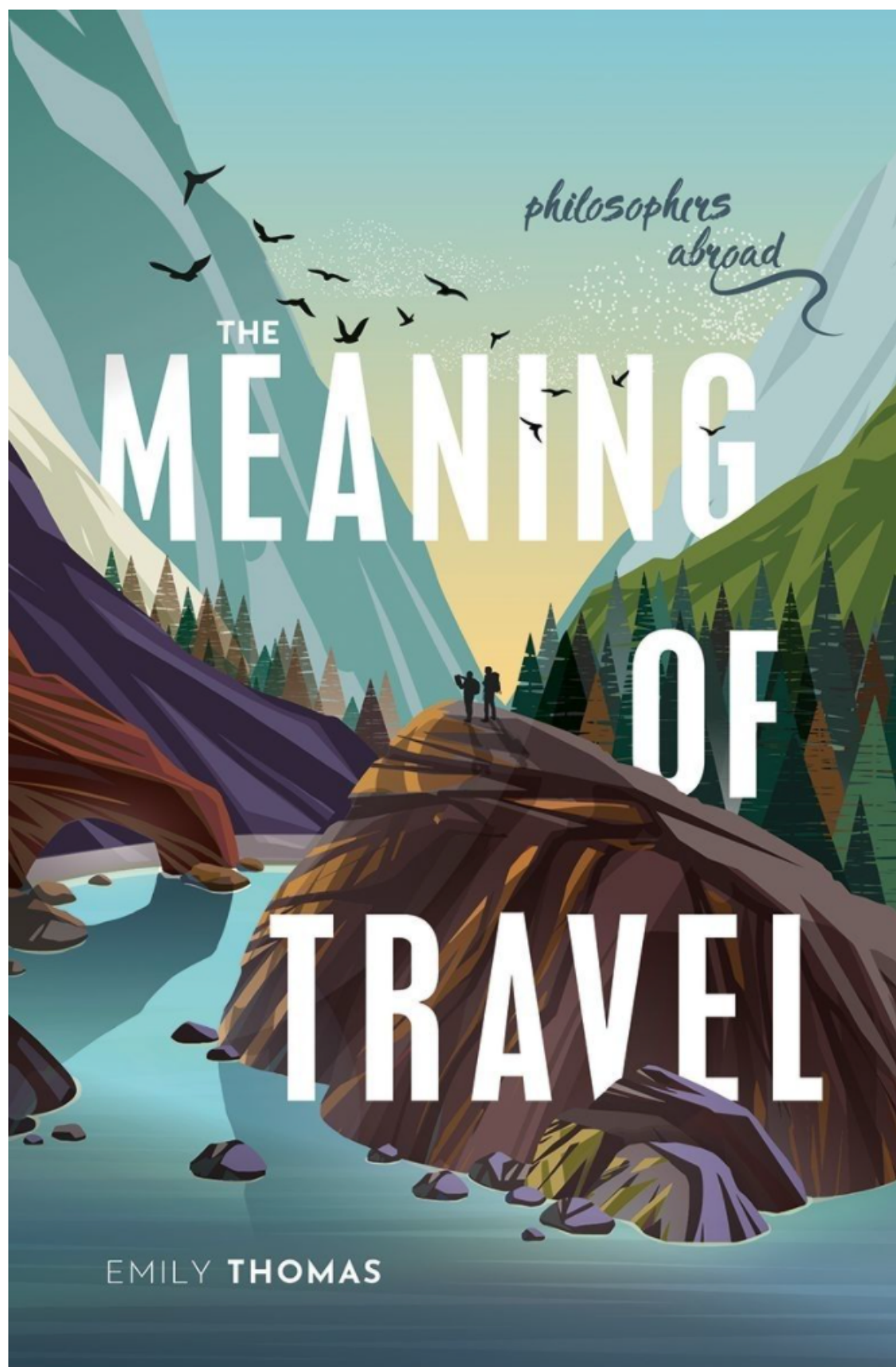
Beaches around the Central Coast have been closed with authorities warning debris and toxic floodwater runoff still "pose a risk" to the community. Crews had also responded to a large number of incidents where sewage had contaminated residential areas, while rotting animal carcasses, rotting vegetation and crop storages were also areas of concern.

SEE ALSO: [Australia Floods Claim Two Lives As Wild Weather Leads To Waterfalls On Uluru](#)

[Read More on 9News](#)

FYI #5: APRIL READING

"The Meaning of Travel: Philosophers Abroad" by Emily Thomas



Credit: Book Cover

"This is the finest kind of travel: not just across continents, but through time, space and our infinite minds. The journey is the joy, and Emily Thomas a terrific guide." - Mike Parker

How can we think more deeply about travel? This was the question that inspired Emily Thomas's journey into the philosophy of travel. Part philosophical ramble, part travelogue, "The Meaning of Travel" begins in the Age of Discovery, when philosophers first started taking travel seriously. It meanders forward to consider Montaigne on otherness, John Locke on cannibals, and Henry Thoreau on

wilderness.

On our travels with Thomas, we discover the dark side of maps, how the philosophy of space fuelled mountain tourism, and why you should wash underwear in woodland cabins. We also confront profound issues, such as the ethics of 'doom tourism' (travel to 'doomed' glaciers and coral reefs), and the effect of space travel on human significance in a leviathan universe.

The first ever history of the places where history and philosophy meet, this book will reshape your understanding of travel.

[Read More at Amazon](#)

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Using the COVID-19 Pandemic To Reimagine Global Health Teaching in High-Income Countries



Credit: Global Chamber

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we live, work and communicate. Global health teaching is no exception. Across universities, professors like the authors of this report have had to quickly redesign their courses, and deliver them virtually, even as the pandemic continues to bring new challenges every day. Out of that struggle, new learning opportunities have emerged.

Their collective experience suggests that despite the pandemic chaos and fatigue, global health teaching can be improved by using COVID-19 as a teachable moment to focus on equity and human rights as a central theme, and by integrating anti-racism and anti-oppression as core content and orientation in curriculum. The online format allows instructors to centre voices from the Global South, Indigenous scholars and individuals with lived experience of oppression and resilience. Remote teaching also helps reach wider and diverse audiences, including groups that may not be enrolled in traditional degree programmes. Learning from COVID-19, which is widening disparities within and across countries, global health teaching must educate students to address health disparities wherever they occur, not just in LMICs. While the online format offers many challenges, they believe there are ways to increase student engagement and reduce fatigue.

[Read more at BMJ](#)

ENDSHOTS

MY VACCINATION DAY IN TORONTO

April 10, 2021

Amid Latest COVID-19 Stats and Charts



Coronavirus Cases:

134,104,371[view by country](#)

Deaths:

2,907,122

Recovered:

108,069,698

ACTIVE CASES

23,127,551

Currently Infected Patients

23,026,542 (99.6%) **101,009** (0.4%)

In Mild Condition

Serious or Critical

[Show Graph](#)

CLOSED CASES

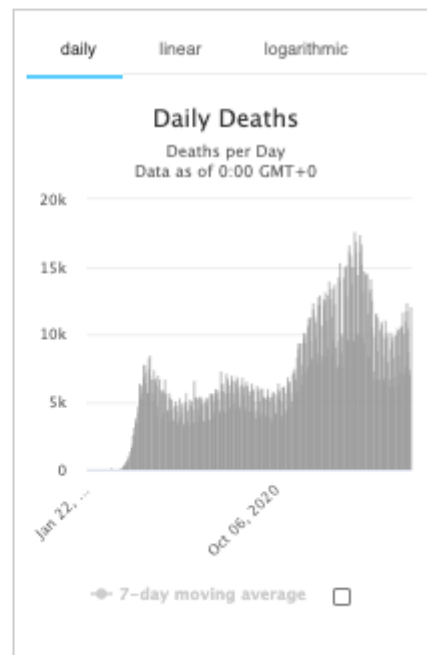
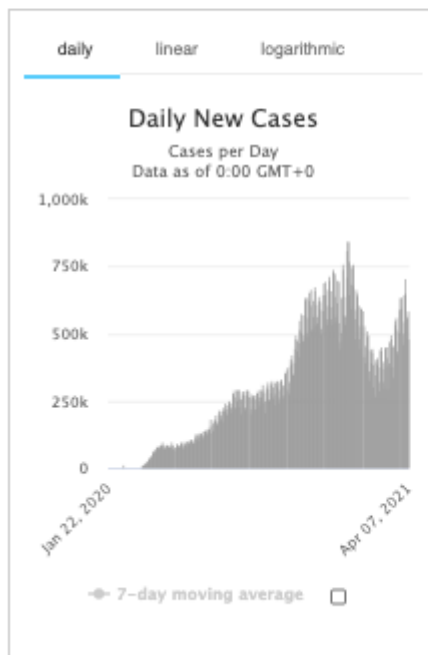
110,976,820

Cases which had an outcome:

108,069,698 (97%) **2,907,122** (3%)

Recovered / Discharged

Deaths

[Show Graph](#)Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>



COVID-19 CASES & DEATHS (April 9-15, 2021), as follows Source:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

More than
2,977,000
people have died from
the coronavirus worldwide

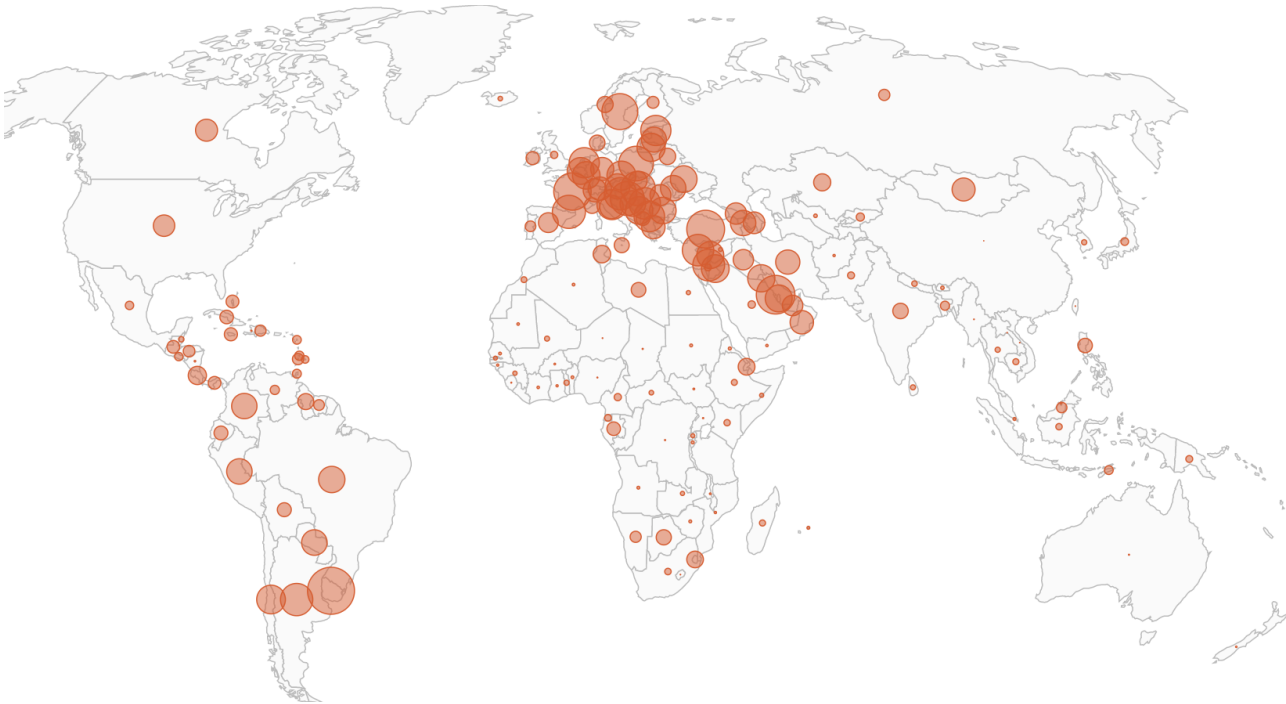
More than **139 million** cases have been reported.

Data as of April 15 at 5:25 p.m.

Where the virus is surging



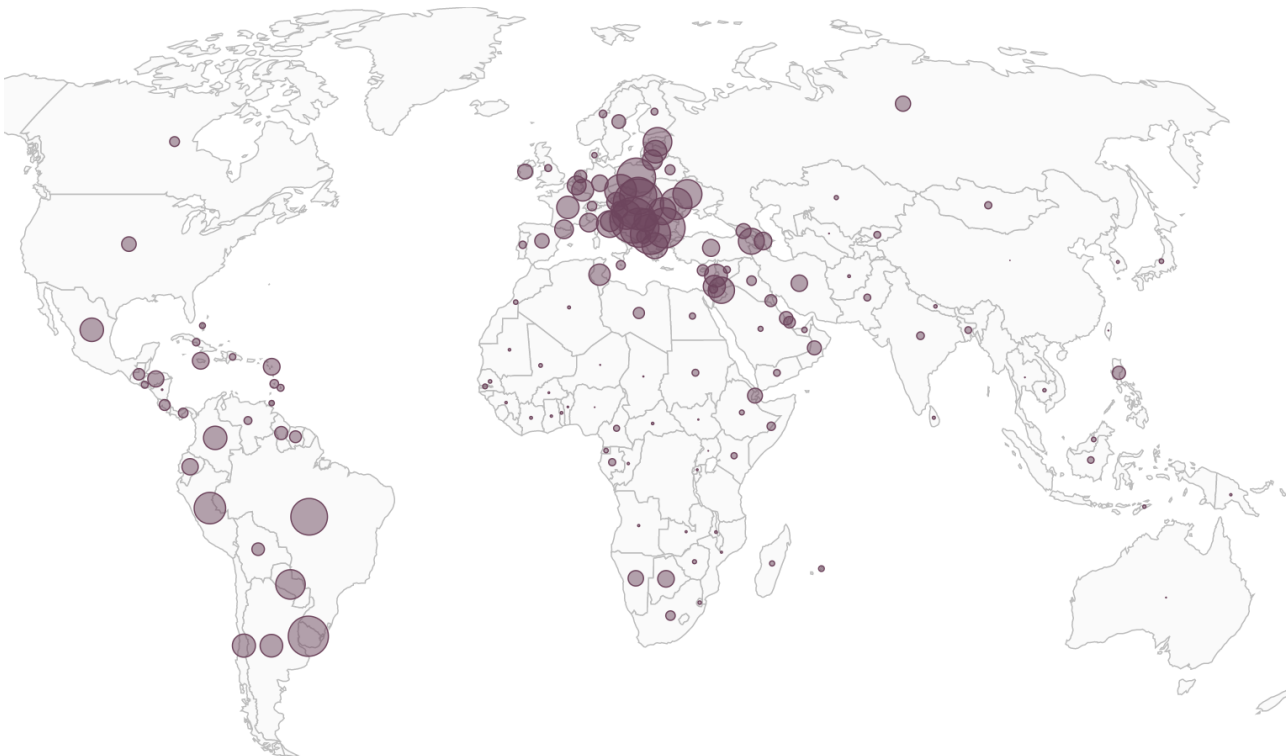
5 25 100
REPORTED CASES PER 100K



Where the virus is surging



0.1 1 2
REPORTED DEATHS PER 100K

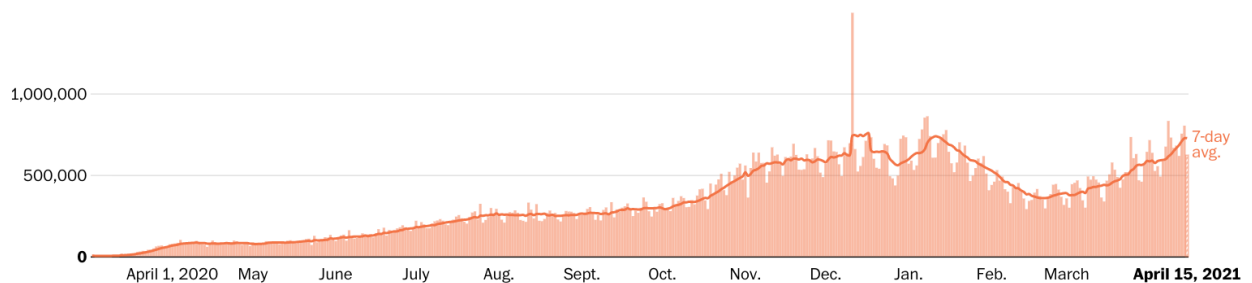




New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths Cases

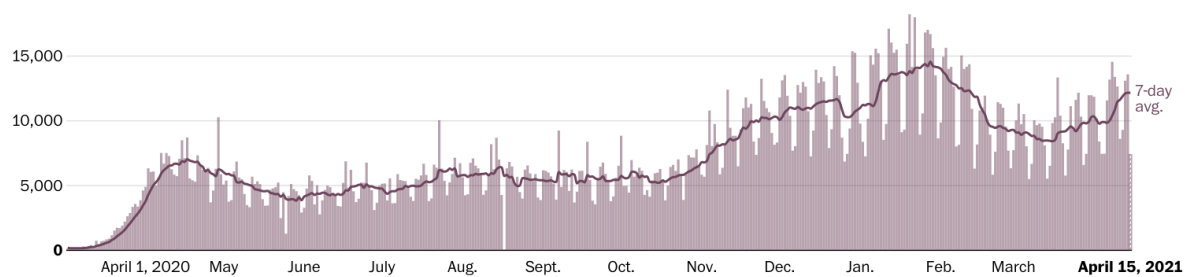
At least 138,636,308 have been reported since Feb. 29.



New daily deaths reported across the world

Deaths Cases

At least 2,977,664 have been reported since Feb. 29.





COVID-19 Vaccines

Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD & Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)

Updated March 17, 2021

Risks from having COVID-19

COVID-19 is a viral infection that mainly affects the lungs. People of all ages can be infected. The risk of getting COVID-19 may be higher for some people because of where they live or work. Older adults and people with a health condition are more likely to become severely ill from COVID-19. Even with mild illness, some people may have symptoms months after the infection is gone. COVID-19 infection can cause damage to the lungs, heart or brain. Long-term symptoms may include fatigue, shortness of breath, trouble concentrating, muscle aches, and other symptoms.

As the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 continues to change into new variants, it can spread infection more easily, and cause more serious illness. Different variants are now circulating in Ontario. Public health measures, such as physical distancing, and vaccines will protect you against these variants.

How the Vaccines Work

COVID-19 vaccines give our body instructions to boost our immune system to develop antibodies that will protect us from COVID-19 infection. COVID-19 vaccines are used for individuals 16 to 18 years of age and older, including seniors. Three of the vaccines approved for use in Canada require two-doses. The Janssen (*Johnson & Johnson*) vaccine only needs one dose. The vaccine does not contain the virus that causes COVID-19, and so it cannot give us this infection.

Vaccine Benefits

All COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to protect people against severe illness from COVID-19. It takes two weeks after vaccination for our body to build a good immune response. All vaccines are safe for people with health conditions such heart or lung problems, diabetes or high blood pressure. The vaccine is also safe for people with an auto-immune condition, or weakened immunity from illness or treatment, but the vaccine may not work as well in people with these conditions.

There is a small chance that you may still get COVID-19 after vaccination. Currently, there is no information on how long the vaccine's protection will last. A booster dose may be recommended in the future.

Vaccine ingredients / allergies

The vaccines contain lipids, salts, sugars and buffers. The vaccine does not contain eggs, gelatin, latex, preservatives, antibiotics, or aluminum. Allergies to the COVID-19 vaccines are rare. The vaccines are safe, even if you have food, drug or environmental allergies. Speak with your doctor first if you have severe allergies to polyethylene glycol, tromethamine or polysorbate.

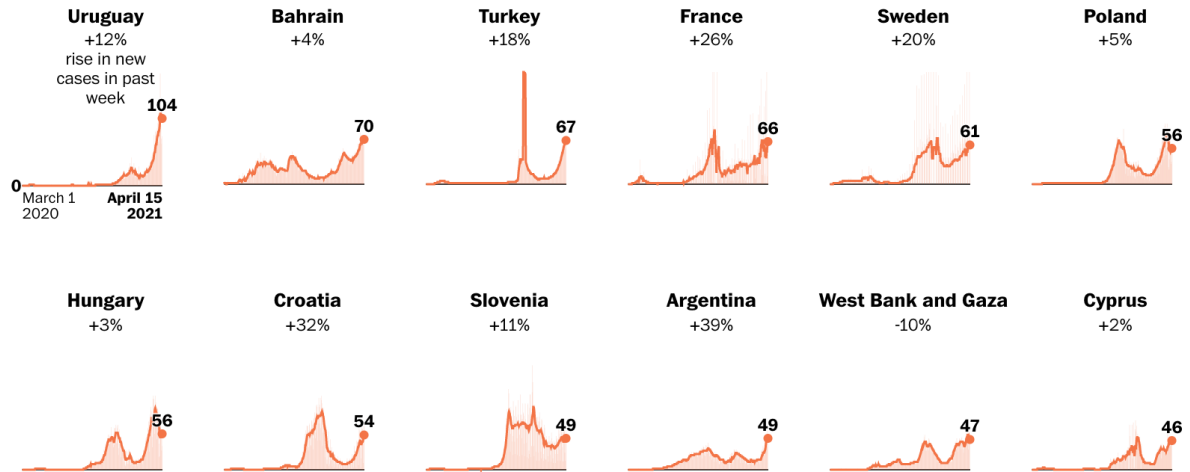


toronto.ca/COVID19

Global hot spots for reported cases per capita

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

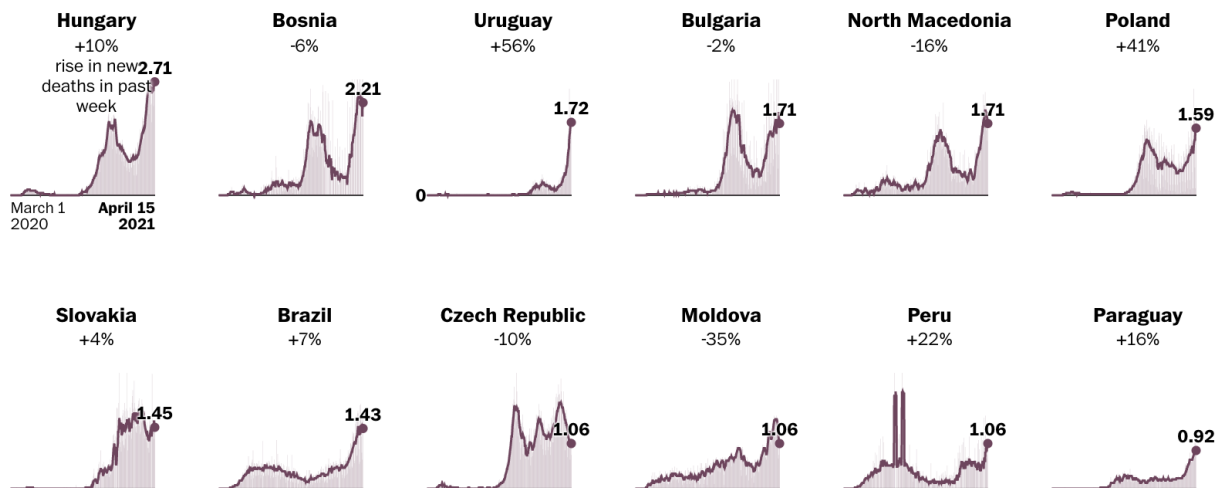
Deaths Cases Adj. for population Totals



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





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

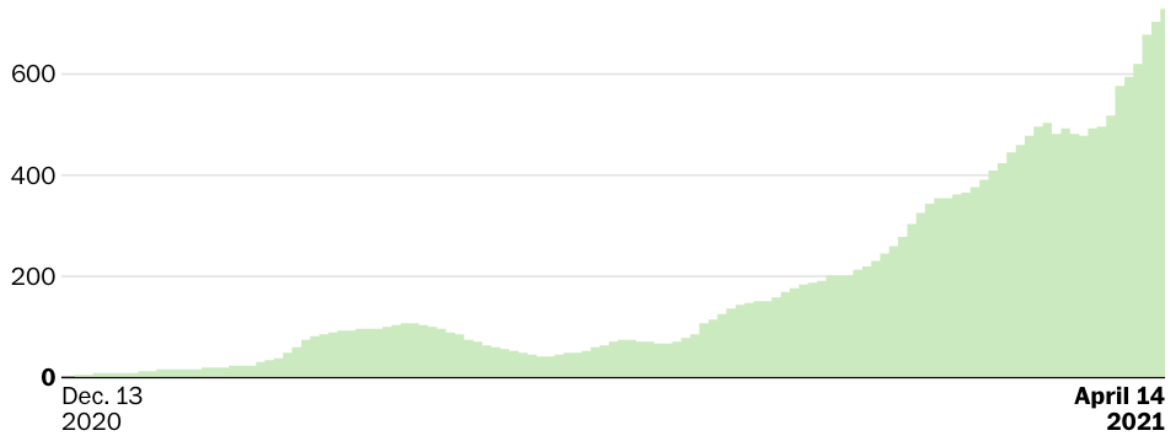
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by

Canada



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

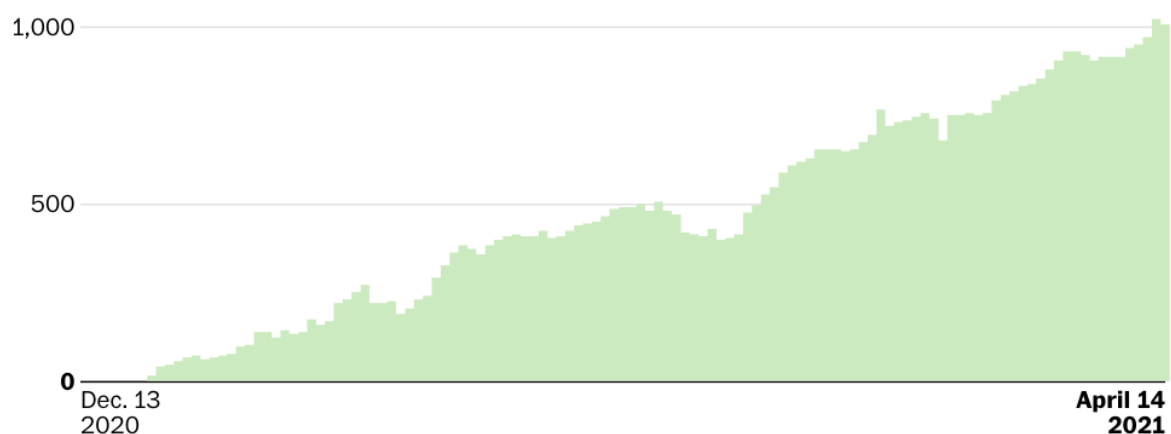
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by

U.S.



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

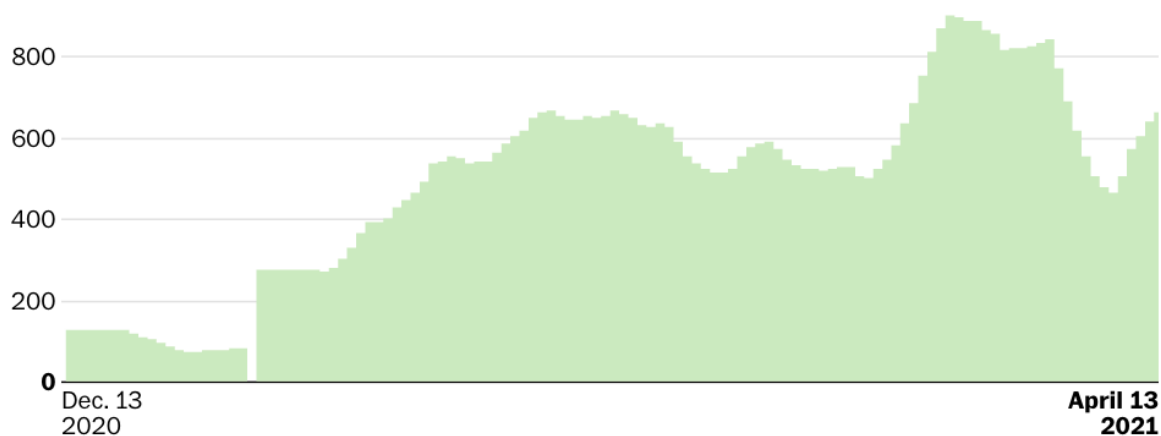
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by

Britain



Country ▼	Total doses given per 100k ▼	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated ▼	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination ▼
Seychelles	114,088	67.4%	46.7%
Israel	113,755	59.0%	54.8%
UAE	95,138	–	–
Chile	65,940	39.7%	26.3%
Bhutan	62,517	62.5%	–
Britain	60,593	48.4%	12.2%
U.S.	59,735	37.9%	23.6%
Bahrain	59,283	34.0%	25.3%
Malta	57,726	40.4%	17.3%
Maldives	55,320	50.6%	4.7%
Monaco	52,638	30.1%	22.6%
Hungary	45,206	31.6%	13.6%
Serbia	42,944	25.6%	17.3%
Qatar	40,941	–	–
Uruguay	34,325	27.9%	6.4%
Singapore	28,503	19.3%	9.2%
Antigua and Barbuda	27,604	27.6%	–
Iceland	26,414	18.6%	7.8%
Lithuania	26,122	19.0%	7.2%
Estonia	25,548	19.8%	5.7%
Dominica	25,159	24.7%	0.5%
Denmark	25,154	17.1%	8.0%
Austria	24,754	17.5%	7.3%
Andorra	24,713	–	–
Spain	24,292	17.5%	6.8%
Morocco	23,843	12.4%	11.4%
Canada	23,674	21.4%	2.2%
Finland	23,427	21.6%	1.9%
Germany	23,149	16.9%	6.2%
Turkey	23,101	13.9%	9.2%
Italy	23,098	16.2%	6.9%

Barbados	22,923	22.9%	–
France	22,888	16.9%	5.9%
Slovenia	22,883	16.8%	6.1%
Belgium	22,875	17.3%	5.6%
Luxembourg	22,803	16.7%	6.1%
Portugal	22,360	16.2%	6.2%
Norway	22,336	16.8%	5.6%
Slovakia	21,999	16.3%	5.7%
Netherlands	21,831	17.1%	4.8%
Greece	21,785	14.6%	7.1%
Ireland	21,779	15.4%	6.4%
Czechia	21,359	13.9%	7.5%
Sweden	21,149	15.0%	6.1%
Switzerland	21,081	13.1%	8.0%
Poland	20,990	15.4%	5.6%
Romania	19,832	12.3%	7.6%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	19,657	19.7%	–
Liechtenstein	19,501	–	–
Mongolia	19,446	–	–
Saudi Arabia	19,210	–	–
Greenland	18,038	10.4%	7.6%
Cyprus	15,287	10.9%	4.4%
Brazil	15,022	11.5%	3.6%
Croatia	14,884	12.1%	2.8%
Kuwait	14,377	–	–
Dominican Republic	14,060	8.5%	5.6%
China	12,822	–	–
Argentina	12,806	11.1%	1.7%
Panama	12,458	8.3%	4.1%
Azerbaijan	12,403	8.1%	4.3%
Costa Rica	11,625	7.0%	4.6%
Russia	10,367	6.5%	3.9%
Latvia	9,941	8.5%	1.4%

Canada is in 27th place globally for vaccines given per capita (39th last week)

Are you or could you be pregnant?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Are you breastfeeding?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Do you have any problems with your immune system or are you taking any medications that can affect your immune system (e.g., high dose steroids, chemotherapy)?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Do you have an autoimmune disease?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Do you have a bleeding disorder or are taking medications that could affect blood clotting (e.g., blood thinners)?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Have you ever felt faint or fainted after a past vaccination or medical procedure?

☒ No ☐ Yes

* Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, new onset of cough or worsening of chronic cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, difficulty swallowing, decrease or loss of smell or taste, chills, headaches, unexplained tiredness / malaise / muscle aches, nausea / vomiting, diarrhea or abdominal pain, pink eye, or runny nose or nasal congestion without other known cause or, for those over 70 years of age, an unexplained or increased number of falls, acute functional decline, worsening of chronic conditions or delirium

** Polyethylene glycol (PEG) can rarely cause allergic reactions and is found in products such as medications, bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrups, cosmetics skin creams, medical products used on the skin during operations, toothpaste, contact lenses and contact lens solution. PEG also can be found in foods or drinks, but is not known to cause allergic reactions from foods or drinks. Polysorbate may also cause allergic reactions because of cross-reactivity with PEG.

Consent to Receive the Vaccine

I have read (or it has been read to me) and I understand the 'COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet'.

- I have had the opportunity to ask questions and to have them answered to my satisfaction.
- I have had the opportunity to speak with my primary care provider regarding any special considerations that apply to me in respect of the COVID-19 vaccine.

☒ **I consent to receiving the vaccine**

Compare countries by new daily reported cases per 100k

Deaths

Cases

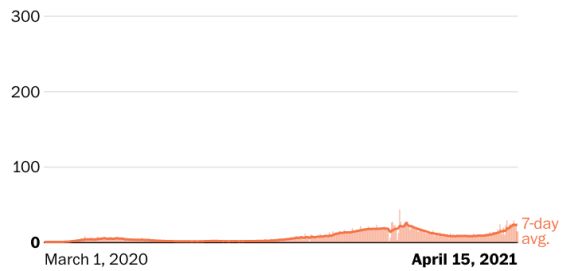
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

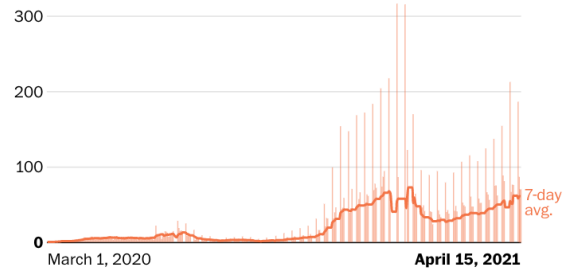
At least 1,099,872 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Select a country:

Sweden

At least 892,480 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Compare countries by new daily deaths reported per 100k

Deaths

Cases

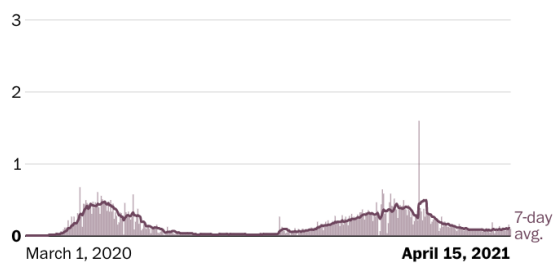
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

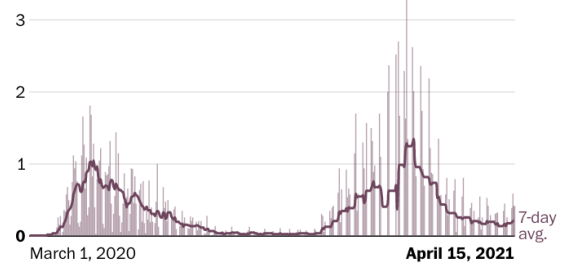
At least 23,458 have been reported since Feb. 29.



Select a country:

Sweden

At least 13,761 have been reported since Feb. 29.



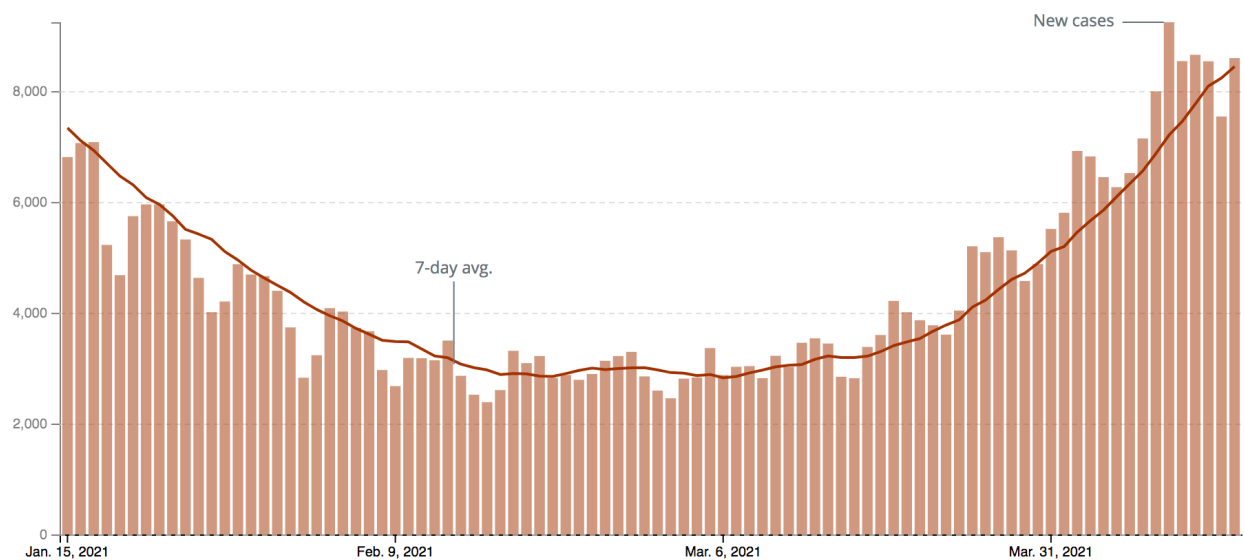


Source of Canadian Data Below (April 14, 2021):
<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirustracker/>

In Canada 1,087,152 cases have been reported.

90 DAYS

ALL TIME

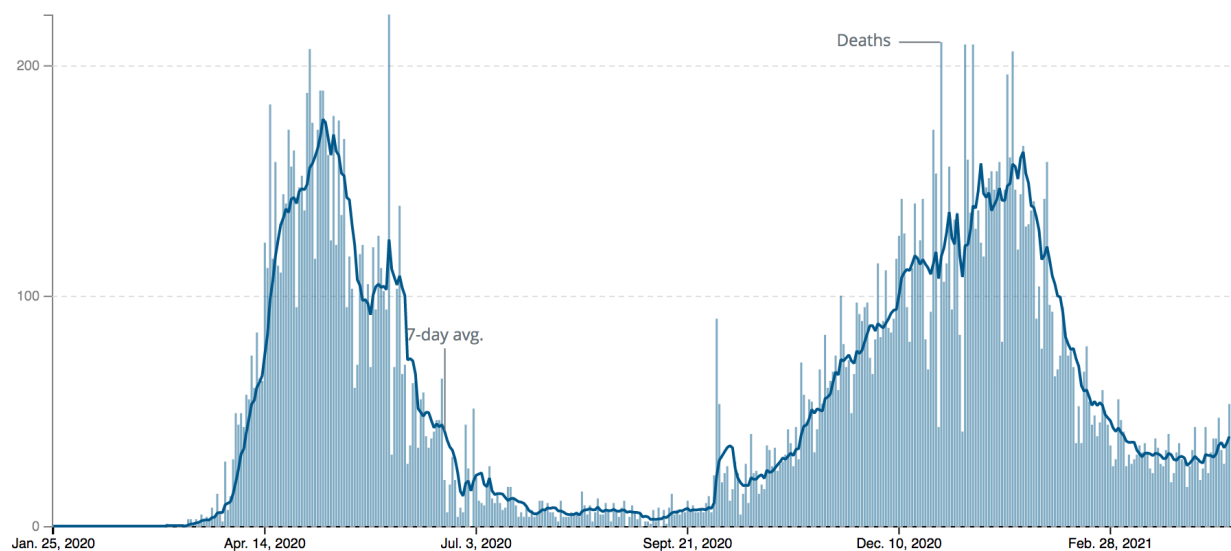


Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.

In Canada 23,444 deaths have been reported.

90 DAYS

ALL TIME



In the past week in Canada...

New cases



There were 59,113 new cases, an increase of 29 per cent. That's 155.5 cases per 100,000 people.

Active cases



The number of active cases rose 29 per cent.

Deaths



There were 272 deaths, or 0.7 per 100,000 people, an increase of 27 per cent.

Hospitalizations



Hospitalizations rose 23 per cent and ICU beds filled rose 18 per cent.

View as table

View as chart

Region	New cases in the last 7-days per 100K		Change in daily cases in the last 7-days	Total cases per 100K	Total cases
Canada	155.5	↑	29%	2,860.3	1,087,152
Alberta	204.5	↑	27%	3,715.6	164,531
British Columbia	153.2	↑	14%	2,232.3	114,870
Manitoba	64.1	↑	64%	2,575.6	35,533
New Brunswick	9.3	↑	11%	223.7	1,748
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.5	↑	550%	195.4	1,018
Nova Scotia	3.5	↑	3%	182.1	1,783
Ontario	190.2	↑	34%	2,707.1	398,835
Prince Edward Island	3.1	↑	400%	103.3	165
Quebec	130.9	↑	29%	3,860.1	331,031
Saskatchewan	162.5	↑	21%	3,148.4	37,084

CasesDeaths

View as table

View as chart

Region	New deaths in the last 7-days per 100K		Change in daily deaths in the last 7-days	Total deaths per 100K	Total deaths
Canada	0.7	↑	27%	61.7	23,444
Alberta	0.6	↑	125%	45.8	2,029
British Columbia	0.6	↓	−9%	29.6	1,521
Manitoba	0.8	↑	38%	69.2	954
New Brunswick	0.3	↑	100%	4.2	33
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.0	—	0%	1.2	6
Nova Scotia	0.0	—	0%	6.7	66
Ontario	0.9	↑	24%	51.7	7,610
Prince Edward Island	0.0	—	0%	0	0
Quebec	0.6	↑	29%	125.5	10,763
Saskatchewan	1.1	↑	44%	38.9	458



<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/>

More Than 848 Million Shots Given: Covid-19 Tracker

In the U.S., 198 million doses have been administered

Updated: April 15, 2021, 4:07 PM EDT



Vaccine Tracker

[Global ↗](#)

[U.S. ↗](#)

[U.S. Vaccine Demographics ↗](#)

[FAQ ↗](#)

[Covid-19 Tracker ↗](#)

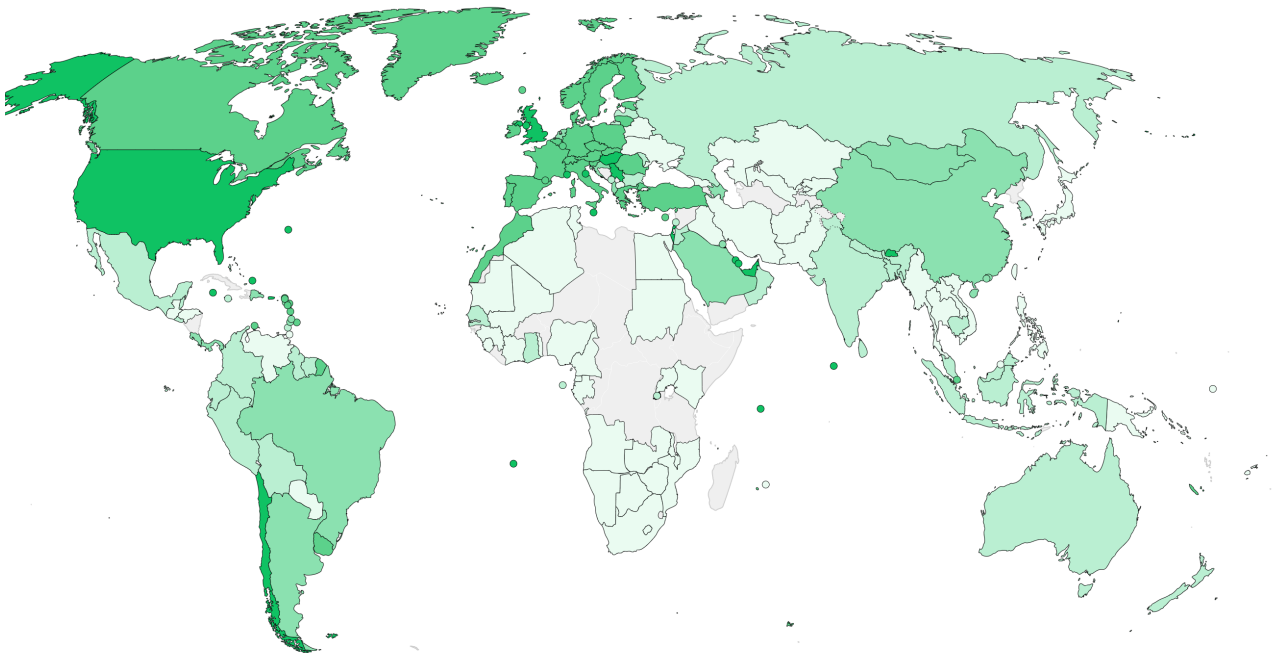
The biggest vaccination campaign in history is underway. More than **848 million doses** have been administered across 154 countries, according to data collected by Bloomberg. The latest rate was roughly **17.9 million doses a day**.

In the U.S., **198 million doses** have been given so far. In the last week, an average of **3.35 million doses per day** were administered.

World Map of Vaccinations

More than 848 million doses have been administered—enough to vaccinate 5.6% of the global population

no data 1 5 10 20% of population covered



Note: "Population covered" divides the doses administered for each vaccine type by the number of doses required for full vaccination. Data gathered from government websites, press conferences, public statements and Bloomberg interviews.

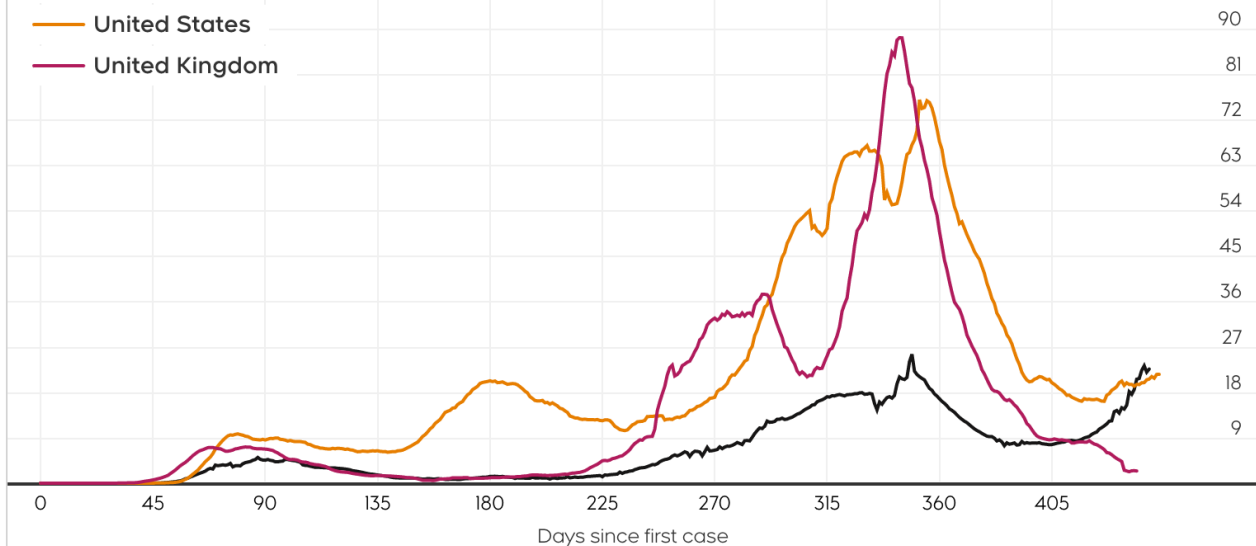


Source of World and Canadian Data Below (April 15, 2021):
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-curves-compare-canada-and-other-key-nations-1.4881500#link-top>

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada
— United States
— United Kingdom



Choose regions

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

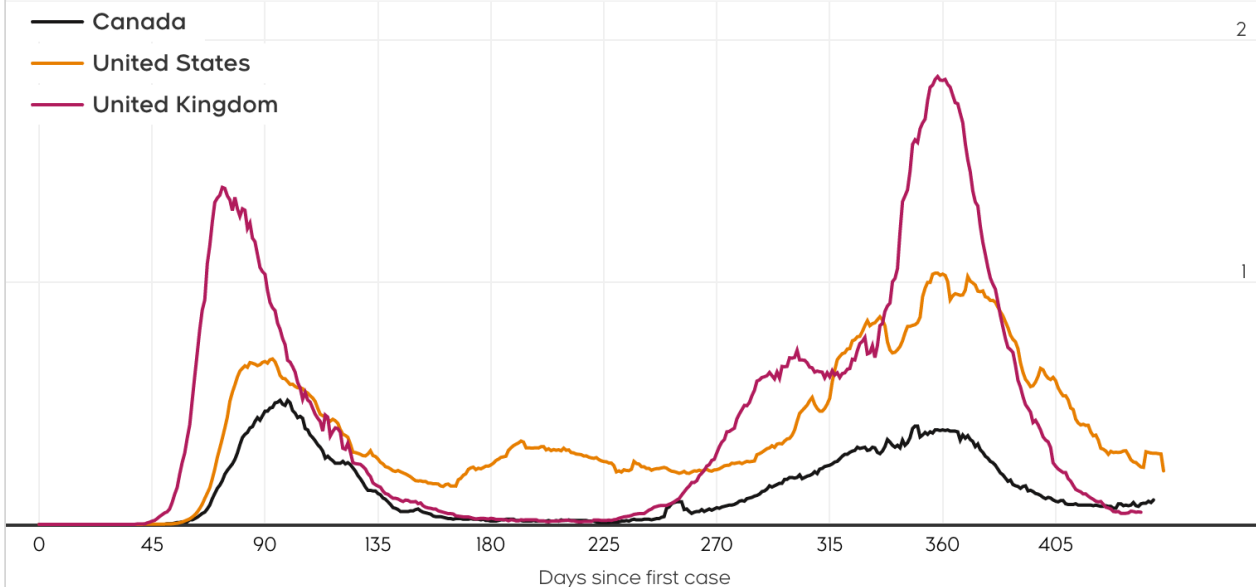
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

CTV NEWS

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada
— United States
— United Kingdom



Choose regions

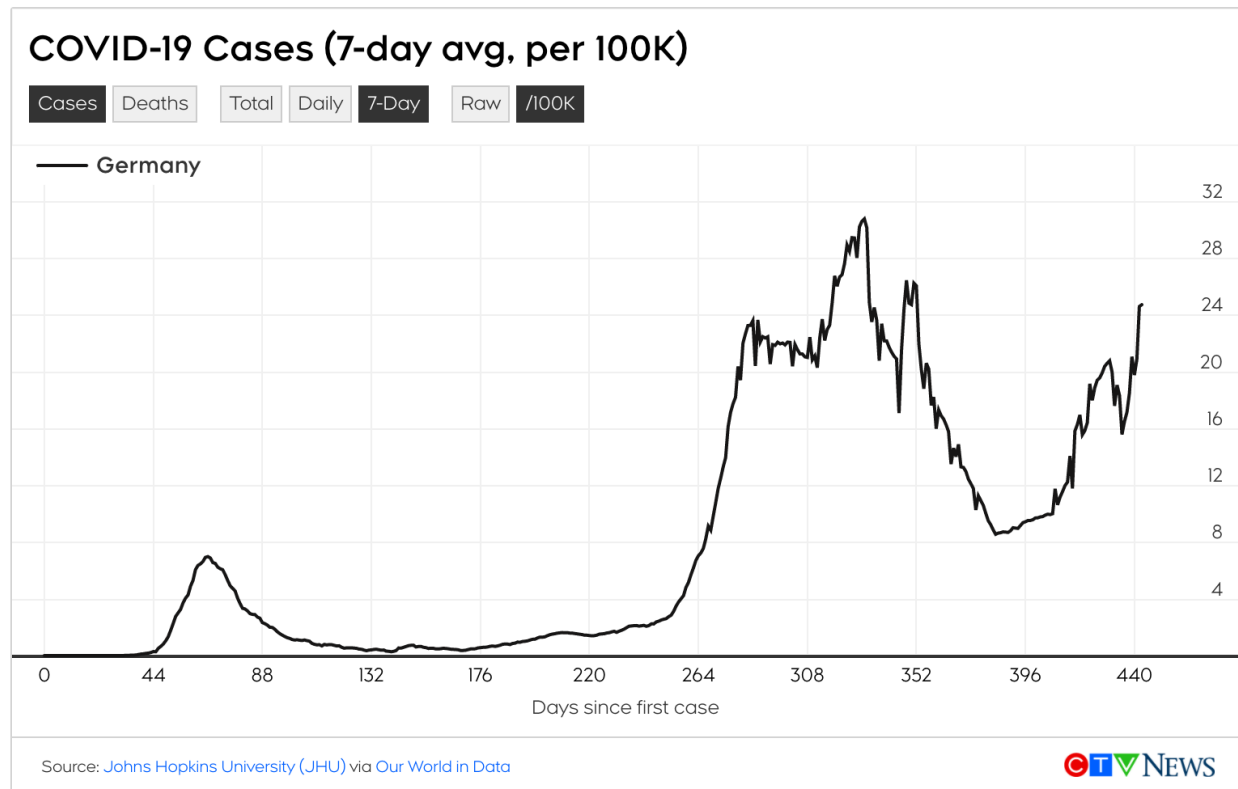
Canada

United States

United Kingdom

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

CTV NEWS



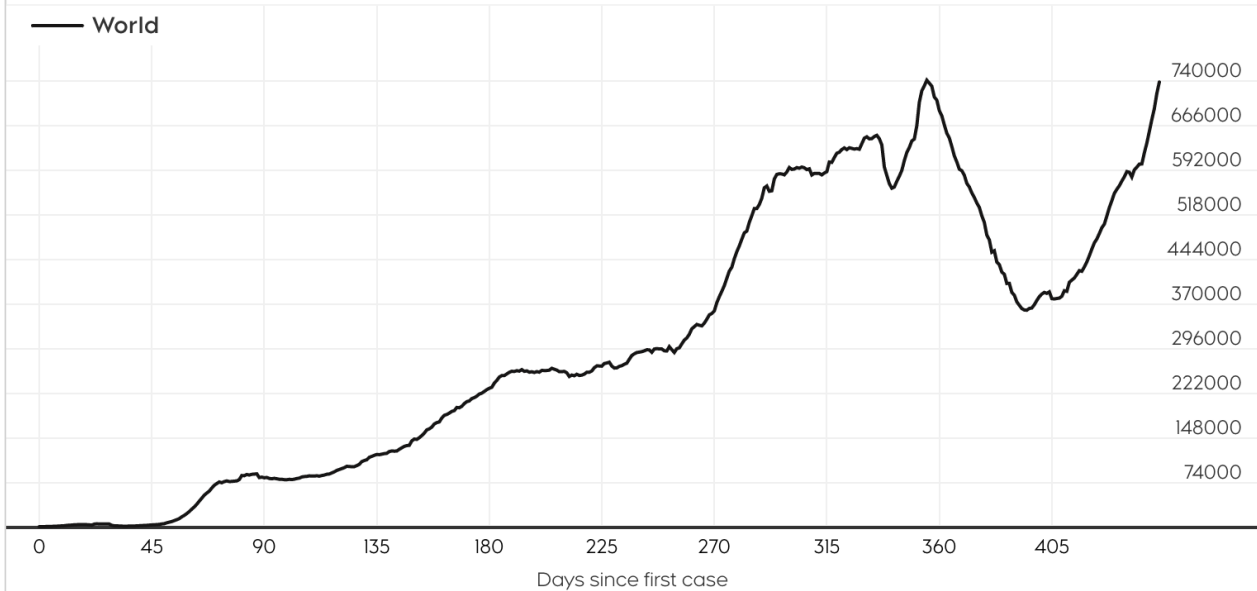
The country has been hit hard by COVID-19, but received attention early in the pandemic due to its low mortality rate compared to other European countries at the time. New infections also rose slower in Germany compared to its European counterparts for much of the year. All that changed during the second wave that hit European countries in the fall and stretched through the winter, leaving many asking [what happened](#) to the once-role model?

Between early October 2020 and early April 2021, cases in Germany soared to 2.94 million from around 300,000. Deaths soared to about 77,000 from 9,500 over the same six-month period.

COVID-19 Cases (7-day avg)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— World



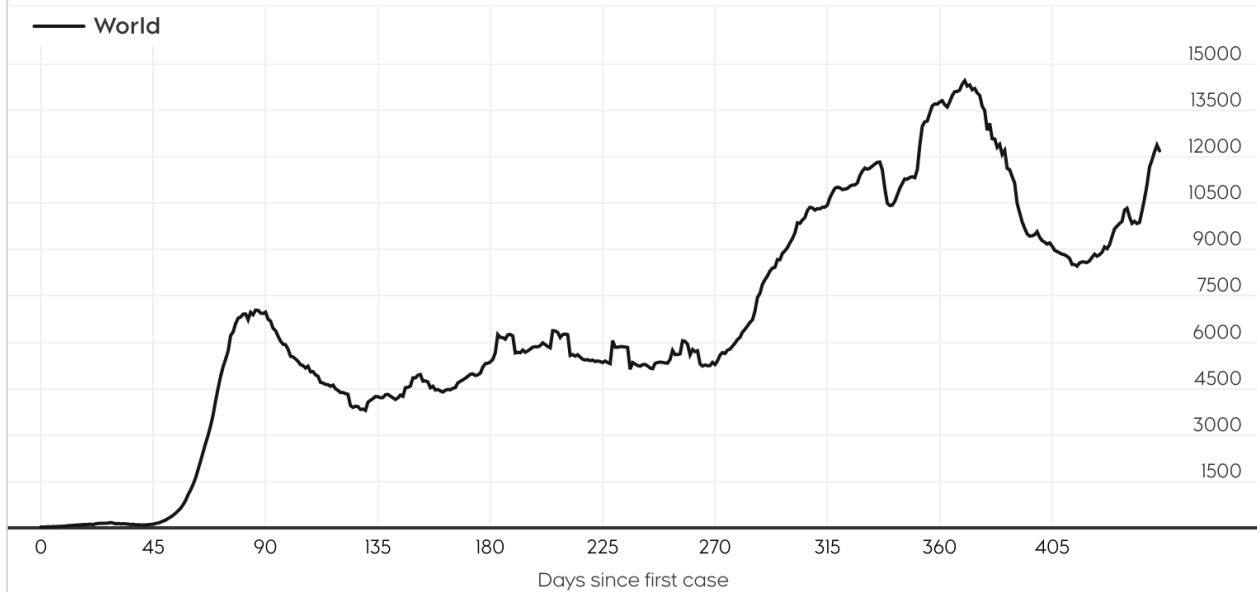
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

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 VACCINATION CLINIC

Pfizer

33

You are advised to stay in the aftercare area for:



15 mins



30 mins

2:12

Please stay in the aftercare area until: _____



toronto.ca/COVID19

Source of Canadian Data Below (April 15, 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

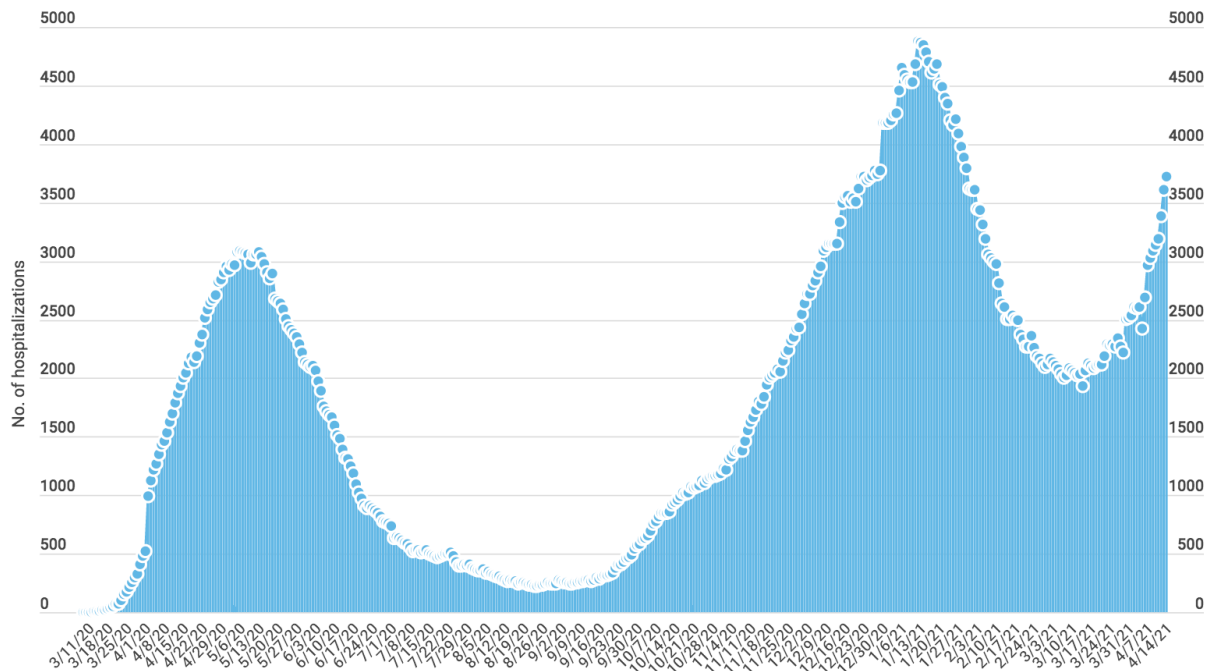
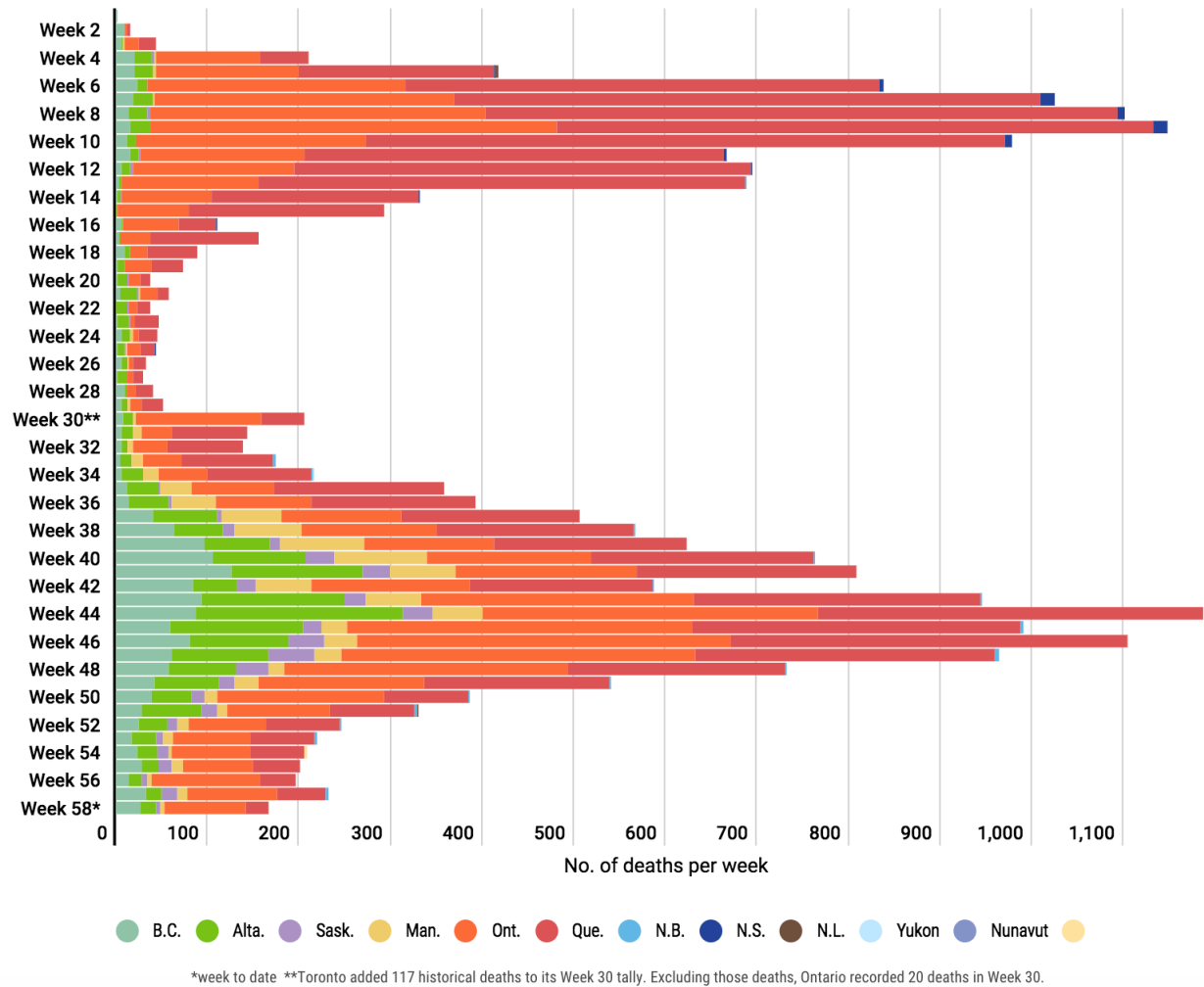


Chart source: COVID-19 Tracker Canada

On April 14, the national per capita average of cases again topped 200 per million population, on a 14-day rolling average. That's the first time the national rate has been that high since Jan. 17. It's also the 39th consecutive day in which that per capita rate has increased.

COVID-19 deaths in Canada

(starting the week of the first death on March 8)



On April 14, another 116 COVID-19 patients were admitted to hospital, bringing the national total to 3,721. That's an increase of 758 patients in just the past week. And it comes as Toronto area hospitals scramble to meet the demand, especially for intensive care treatment. "This is beyond what we've ever anticipated," **Dr. Steven Jackson, chief of staff at Mackenzie Health, told the *Toronto Star***. Already, ICUs at the two hospitals of Mackenzie Health, including one that is COVID-19-only, are full, and redeploying other staff, including surgeons, to care for those patients. "The projections show us something beyond our comprehension: That we will run out of capacity," Jackson said. "We don't want to institute the critical care triage protocols, where we actually have to ration care and decide what patient gets the life saving support, and which patient does not."



Photo Credits: David Zakus



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