



CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

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<https://planetaryhealthweekly.com>

April 29,

Hi,

This past week has seen various monumental events. Sticking with Covid-19 our hearts and thoughts go out to our Indian neighbours, along with those in Brazil... and many others in so many other countries, including here in Canada and in Ontario where the military and other provinces have been called to assist. The Covid-19 situation doesn't inspire hope. What hope there is, though, is with the vaccine roll out, which is pretty close to full blast but mainly in the richer countries, though a Cambodian friend in the north of his country just wrote me that he and his wife have now received both their doses. My second dose is still some 13 weeks away. Covid-19 not only dominates the news but chokes out much other important news, including environmental happenings. What is going on daily, with increasing emissions of CO₂ and other pollutants and the horrible rape of the oceans and forests the world over, among many other issues, are just missing from the mainstream. But if words were gold we'd be much richer this week after all the promises of reducing CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions last week at the Biden leaders' summit where fortunately China and the USA seemed to be on the same page.

But I mention the horrible rape of the oceans, now foremost in my mind after watching a most incredible movie, *"Seaspiracy"* on Netflix a few days ago. Despite its faults it's haunting and mind blowing, filled me with disgust and worry as we keep being told to eat more fish, eat more products of the sea, all without any word of what the oh so harmful fish catch is doing to our global source of life. After all, where would we be without properly functioning and healthy oceans? Seeing the destruction caused by the fishing industry (both at sea and on farms) was horrible and depressing. My pining for a nice fish dinner will now forever be haunted by the images and story presented without reservation.

While we rightfully emphasize the preservation of forests, often likened to our world's lungs, I was reminded that the forests are just one lung and the other to sustain life (and also produce oxygen and absorb CO₂) are the oceans. *Seaspiracy's* clear presentation of easy to understand evidence of wholesale destruction of life in the oceans is horrific and it basically calls for the end to all fisheries, or at minimum the type of destructive fishery that now dominates all the seas, with its

ability to catch and destroy more life than you can possibly imagine (do watch it if you can). As one person interviewed said, we all live on spaceship earth and we are now destroying the crew. I think it's fair to say that most people aren't aware of the huge destruction taking place, and at such a great pace, that we may never know what we're losing until it's too late. How will we, and/or our descendants, survive a highly probable cataclysmic destruction of the ocean's crew and the life enabling services they provide? I wish I had an answer; but one must hopefully come soon.

In today's ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#17 of 2021) you'll read and learn more about the giant morass we are quickly working towards, along with a few rays of hope; including:

- As leaders make bold climate pledges, critics say it's 'all just smoke and mirrors,'
- A big (Canadian) oil project in Africa threatens the fragile Okavango Region,
- CORONAVIRUS UPDATES:
 - Ethics of paid sick leave for the Covid-19 pandemic,
 - Evidence is mounting that Covid-19 can cause diabetes type II,
 - How exercise may help protect against severe Covid-19,
 - 'We thought polio was a hidden monster waiting to jump out and grab you,'
 - Noted Norwegian Covid conspiracy theorist dies of Covid,
 - 'Long Hauler' study shows Covid can kill months after infection,
 - India records world's highest one day surge in Covid cases,
 - Pyres are built on pavements as Covid overwhelms India's hospitals and crematoriums,
 - Oil demand to buckle in India as Covid surge wreaks havoc, THEN
- Blog: Student Voice with Aisha Saleem featuring Emily Pittelli's Global Health journey
- In the Atlantic Ocean subtle shifts (in the Gulf Stream) hint at dramatic dangers,
- Saving Fairy Creek (B.C.) and why ancient forests are worth more standing,
- A neglected source of household air pollution in Ethiopia,
- Meet a humble hero – the condom (2 minute video),
- Made in Quebec strawberries offer hope for food autonomy,
- Solar panel saves Arkansas school enough for teachers to get up to \$15k in raises and Solar awnings over parking lots help companies and customers,
- Biophobia in the city – are people fearful of nature less willing to protect it?
- China's plan to lift retirement age stokes workers' anxiety as demographic crisis looms,
- How Kahnawake's cross-border ironworkers are dealing with isolation from their families and community and Company behind Minnesota's harmful pipeline is allegedly paying police to harass Native women,
- Quote on world facing a 'moral test' over vaccine sharing,
- New event: CUGH Training Webinar - "Learn How to Combat Disinformation" on May 11,
- How fish-meal production is destroying Gambia's waters (10 minute video),
- Tell Canadian banks to stop funding fossil fuel companies,

- The countries with the most linguistic diversity (Infographic),
- Russia's Lake Baikal undergoes severe development pressures,
- New book - "The Perfect Nine: The Epic of Gikuyu and Mumbi,"
- Young Africans go online to preserve local languages and fight Covid-19 and Digital skills will prove vital in tackling global inequality, and lastly
- ENDSHOTS of early Spring flowers amid Global and Canadian Covid-19 stats and charts.

Wishing you a safe and good week of reading.

Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



Early Spring Magnolia

Toronto, April 24, 2021

**As Leaders Make Bold Climate Pledges,
Critics Say It's 'All Just Smoke and
Mirrors'**



Credit: Pqsels, CC0 1.0

Forty nations — producers of 80% of annual carbon emissions — made pledges of heightened climate ambition last week at US President Joe Biden’s Leaders Summit on Climate but activists pointed to the abysmal lack of action by those nations. World leaders took turns on Earth Day pledging increased ambition to battle climate change during President Joe Biden’s virtual Leaders Summit on Climate. But environmentalists — weary of gaping policy loopholes, conservation lapses, and the utter failure of governments to meet Paris Climate Agreement carbon reduction targets — called loudly for the gap to close now between promises and real climate action.

Yes, eco-advocates are thrilled the US is again engaged in climate leadership after four years in which the Trump Administration mocked and undermined climate efforts. But in a flood of statements, the impatience and frustration among activists were as evident as record warming, rising sea levels, and increasingly deadly storms, wildfires and drought.

“The Biden administration’s new climate target to halve emissions by 2030 is more ambitious than any previous commitment by the US government,” said Brandon Wu, ActionAid USA’s director of policy and campaigns. “Yet it is still deeply insufficient to meet the realities of the climate crisis.” Wu and others called on Biden to up US emission reduction pledges to 70 per cent by 2030 over a 2005 baseline, and to vastly increase its monetary support to help developing nations adapt to, and recover from, escalating climate impacts. The US, they noted, remains the historical leader in producing greenhouse gas emissions; it must do more.

Dave McGlinchey, chief of external affairs for the Woodwell Climate Research Center, added: “This summit could be a critical turning point in our fight against climate change, but we have seen ambitious goals before and we have seen them fall flat. Today’s commitments must be followed with effective implementation, and with transparent reporting and accurate carbon accounting. **Read more at:**

[EcoBusiness](#)

A Big (Canadian) Oil Project in Africa

Threatens Fragile Okavango Region



Credit: [The Okavango Delta - Anton Ivanov](#)

A Canadian company is drilling exploratory wells in Namibia for what could be a major oil and gas find. Local residents and conservationists fear the project could use up scarce water supplies and cause widespread ecological disruption downstream in the world-renowned Okavango Delta.

ReconAfrica, an oil and gas company headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, is currently drilling three test wells in the sedimentary Kavango Basin of Namibia. The company has a [license for an area](#) of 9,800 square miles, plus an adjacent area in neighbouring Botswana — 13,250 square miles in total. According to a 2019 [investor presentation](#) obtained by *National Geographic*, the company's goal is to drill hundreds of wells under a 25-year production license. Geochemist and ReconAfrica shareholder Daniel Jarvie estimated the basin has the potential to produce as much as [120 billion barrels of oil equivalent](#), which would make it one of the biggest global oil finds in recent years.

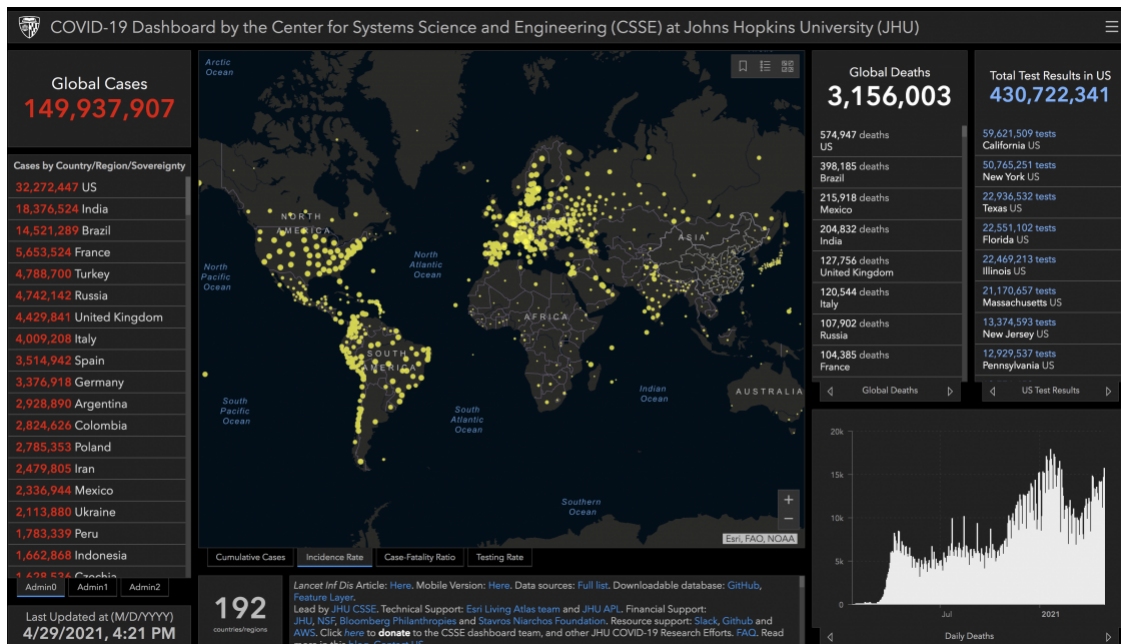
But ReconAfrica's plans are touching off mounting questions and opposition. The regions of Kavango East and Kavango West are home to 200,000 people — including the indigenous San — making a living from farming, fishing and tourism. A network of rigs, pipelines and roads would sprawl across an environmentally sensitive, semi-arid region that is home to Africa's largest remaining population of savanna elephants as well as numerous threatened or endangered wildlife species. In addition, the drilling — which may involve hydraulic fracturing, or fracking — also would encompass or border national parks and wildlife conservancies, and could threaten waterways that local communities rely on and that eventually flow into the renowned Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Although many of the inhabitants of the region say they do not necessarily oppose oil drilling, they are concerned that they have largely been left in the dark and will not gain financially from the oil play. Despite the scale of the project, the development is shrouded in a cloak of ambiguity. Many Namibians, including environmentalists and even some in government, were surprised when

ReconAfrica shipped an exploratory drilling rig to Namibia in late 2020. Though some local traditional leaders say they were consulted, that information often did not filter down to other community leaders or into many Kavango communities.

Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#)

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/ma...>

Oh my gosh - again. Globally (and including in Canada), it's terrible. Globally, over the last week there were again about 5.7 million new cases of Covid-19 and 91,500 new related deaths (up ~5%). The tragedy continues big time.

(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

The Ethics of Paid Sick Leave for the COVID-19 Pandemic



Credit: UToronto

Public health ethics principles support the provision of paid sick leave as a public health response to COVID-19. There is evidence that paid sick leave protects workers from infectious risk exposures in workplaces, enables workers who currently cannot comply with quarantine and isolation measures, and mitigates the disproportionate effect of such measures on workers who cannot work from home. During outbreaks, paid sick leave enables workers to quarantine and isolate without being unduly penalized financially. This is especially crucial for workers who are forced to choose between protecting co-workers and supporting themselves and their families. In the immediate post-pandemic phase, paid sick leave is an important measure to ensure smooth economic recovery, which is essential for the public's health. As a preventive strategy, permanent paid sick leave is a pandemic preparedness measure aimed at ensuring timely, effective and fair implementation of quarantine and isolation. **Read more at [UToronto](#)**

SEE MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At MedicalXPress: [Evidence Mounting That COVID-19 Can Cause Diabetes Type II](#)

At Bloomberg: [‘Long Hauler’ Study Shows Covid Can Kill Months After Infection](#)

At NY Times: [How Exercise May Help Protect Against Severe Covid-19](#)

At Globe and Mail: [‘We Thought Polio Was A Hidden Monster Waiting To Jump Out And Grab You’](#)

At DailyKos: [Noted Norwegian COVID Conspiracy Theorist Dies of COVID](#)

At Bloomberg: [India Records World’s Highest One-Day Surge in Covid Cases](#)

At Telegraph: [Pyres Built On Pavements As Covid Overwhelms](#)

At Bloomberg: [Oil Demand to Buckle in India as Covid Surge Wreaks Havoc](#)

Tracking COVID-19

905,992

New cases reported worldwide, April 28

3,155,907

Total deaths reported worldwide

379,308 in India

Most new cases today



1,106,002,709

Vaccine doses administered in 174 countries

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-23/india-s-covid-crisis-saps-fuel-demand-in-warning-to-oil-recovery?srnd=coronavirus>

Student Voices with Aisha Saleem: Emily's Journey in Global Health



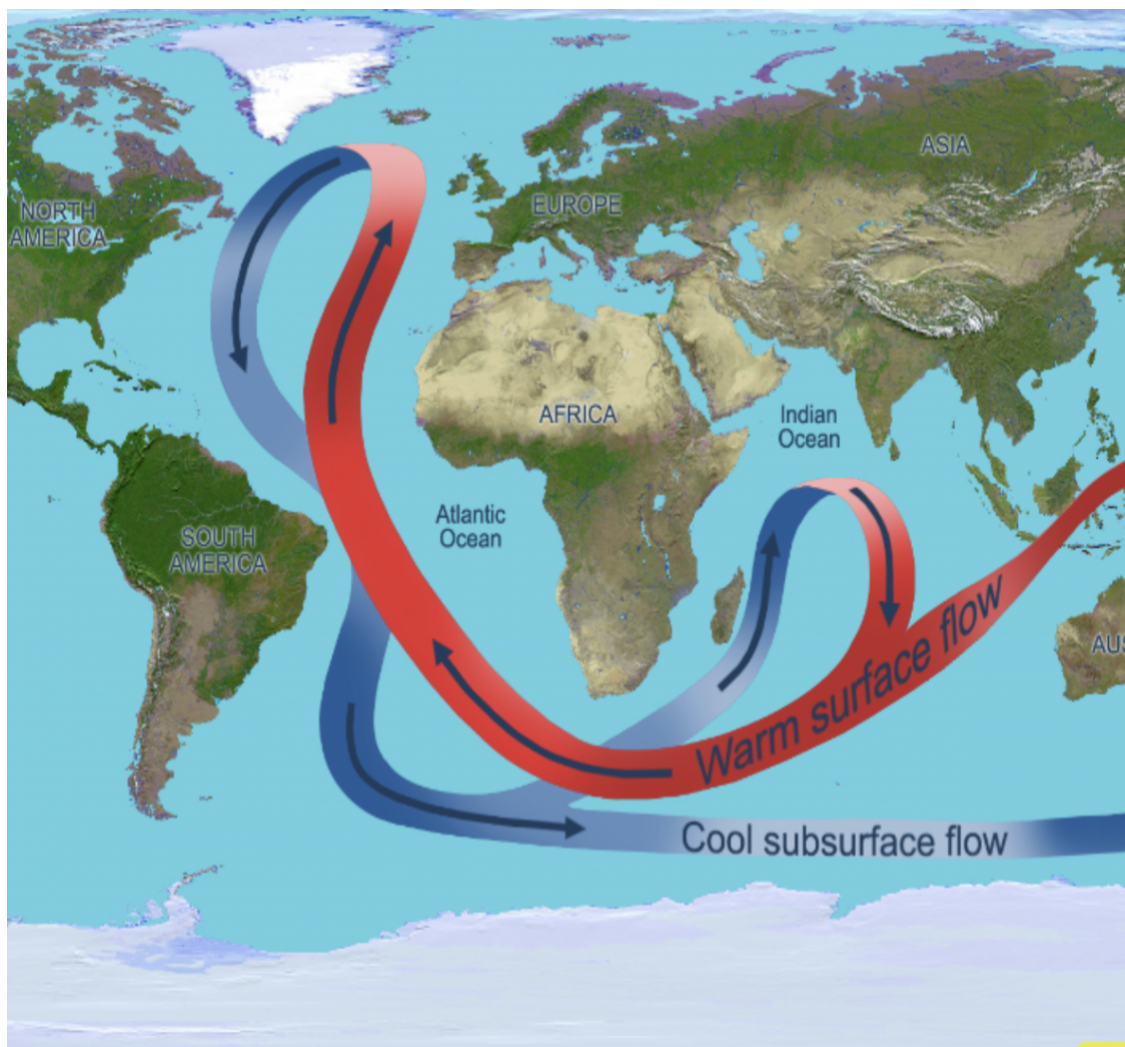
A Discussion with Emily Pittelli:

Hello! My name is Emily Pittelli, I am 23 years old and live in Toronto. I am currently a Global Health (BSc) student at York University set to graduate this June! During my time as a Global Health student, I have had the pleasure of specializing in

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, something I have a strong interest in. This program has allowed me to better understand the complex intersectionality that exists among the social determinants of health and how I can work to improve the health and welfare of communities holistically. For my final semester, I participated in a practicum with Mixed Company Theatre – Toronto's theatre for social change. Through this incredible experience I have gained great insight on how to use forum theatre – an innovative theatre technique that is highly collaborative and empowering – to promote community well-being and planetary health.

I have been working as a Patient Administrative Associate at Sunnybrook Hospital for 3.5 years and am grateful to be able to interact with patients, family members, and health professionals and support them in anyway I can, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, I am a lover of the dramatic arts and will always be a theatre kid at heart, I try to participate in as many drama-related activities I can fit in! Recently, my partner and I have taken the leap to move out and share a small basement apartment in The Annex, Toronto. Since then, I have been improving my cooking skills, going for long walks on Bloor St., and getting used to caring for my own home; an exciting but eye-opening experience! **Read more** at [Planetary Health Weekly Blogs](#)

In the Atlantic Ocean, Subtle Shifts (in the Gulf Stream) Hint at Dramatic Dangers



It's one of the mightiest rivers you will never see, carrying some 30 times more water than all the world's freshwater rivers combined. In the North Atlantic, one arm of the Gulf Stream breaks toward Iceland, transporting vast amounts of warmth far northward, by one estimate supplying Scandinavia with heat equivalent to 78,000 times its current energy use. Without this current — a heat pump on a planetary scale — scientists believe that great swaths of the world might look quite different.

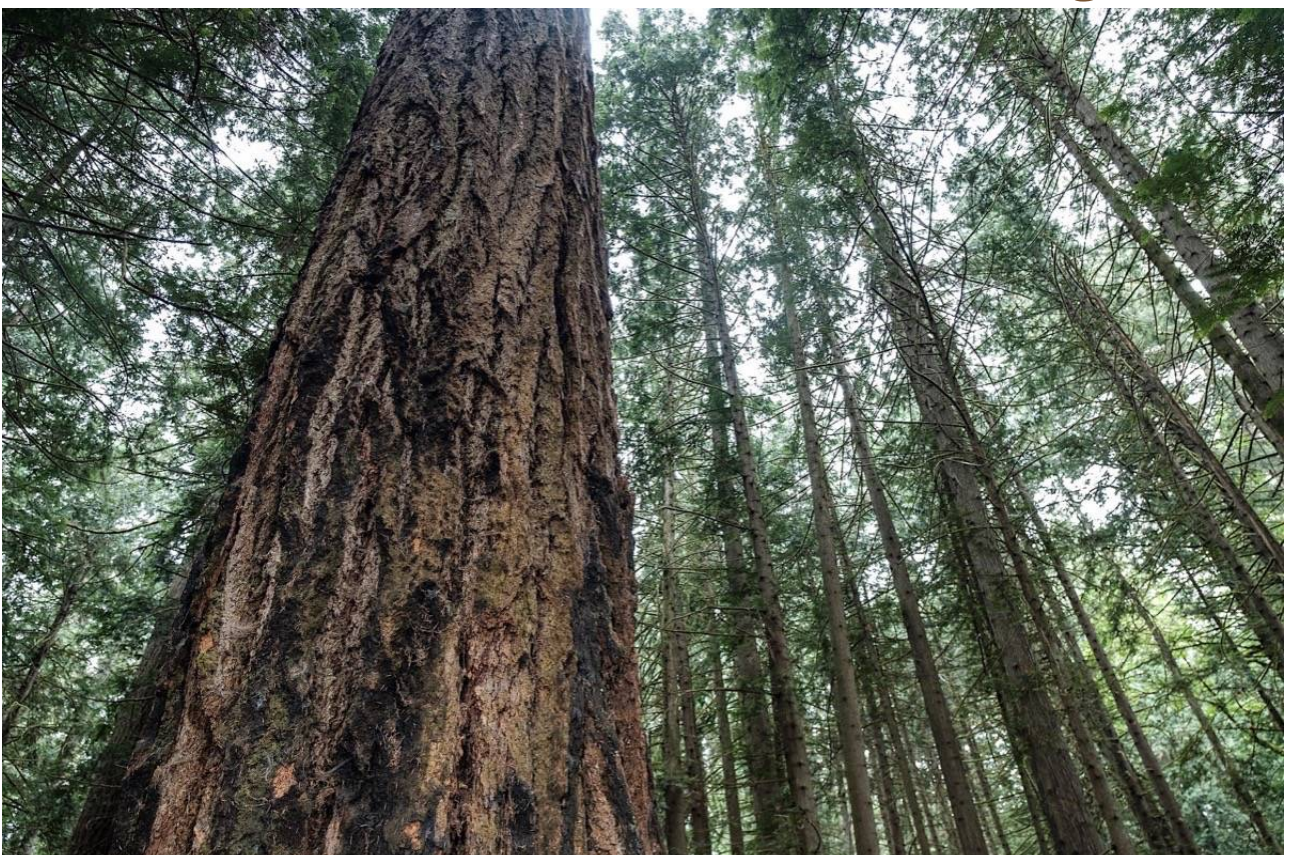
Now, a spate of studies, including one just [published](#), suggests this northern portion of the Gulf Stream and the deep ocean currents it's connected to may be slowing. Pushing the bounds of oceanography, scientists have slung necklace-like sensor arrays across the Atlantic to better understand the complex network of currents that the Gulf Stream belongs to, not only at the surface, but hundreds of feet deep.

The consequences could include faster sea level rise along parts of the Eastern United States and parts of Europe, stronger hurricanes barreling into the Southeastern United States, and perhaps most ominously, reduced rainfall across the Sahel, a semi-arid swath of land running the width of Africa that is already a geopolitical tinderbox.

The scientists' concern stems from their understanding of thousands of years of the prehistoric climate record. In the past, a great weakening or even shutdown of this arm of the Gulf Stream seems to have triggered rapid changes in temperatures and precipitation patterns around the North Atlantic and beyond.

Read more at [New York Times](#)

Saving Fairy Creek and Why Ancient Forests are Worth More Standing



British Columbia is home to 60 million hectares of temperate rain forest. In fact, it is part of the largest temperate coastal rainforest in the world: The Great Bear Rainforest. Yet, despite B.C.'s vast sweep of woodlands, ancient old growth forests that have never been logged are astonishingly rare. A recent study found that highly productive, intact old growth ecosystems make up less than 1% (860,000 hectares) of B.C.'s remaining forests. Distressingly, these ancient trees are still being cut down regardless of their rarity and importance. In the last few years there have been many promising reports and agreements centred around the protection of B.C.'s forest, but government action has been sluggish. The Great Bear Rainforest agreement was signed in 2016, an Old Growth Strategic Review Panel assessment was completed in 2019, and in 2020 the B.C. NDP made an election promise to honour that panel's recommendations and protect the most at-risk ancient forests within six months of receiving the report. Yet here we are in 2021, and the few remaining old growth trees are still being destroyed by logging every day.

Now, amid growing frustration at the loss of these invaluable ecosystems, a group of activists on Vancouver Island have taken it upon themselves to do what the NDP promised but failed to do: protect the ancient trees from logging. A group called the Rainforest Flying Squad has blockaded the Fairy Creek watershed on unceded Pacheedaht First Nation's territory for nearly eight months. Their objective is to stop the logging company Teal Jones from destroying this last precious 5150 acre area of rare intact old growth forest. **Read more at [Greenpeace](#)**

A Neglected Source Of Household Air Pollution: A Study Of Purposely Produced Household Smoke In Wollo, Ethiopia



Credit: [ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/JCARILLET](#)

Ill health associated with household air pollution (HAP) is increasingly recognized as a public health problem in sub-Saharan Africa. To date, attempts to reduce HAP have focussed on smoke from cooking fires and have ignored traditional cultural practices which generate purposely produced smoke (PPS). This study aimed to investigate PPS prevalence, reasons for use and safety perceptions. It was

conducted in Wollo, Ethiopia, and used a mixed methods approach of quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews with householders and healthcare workers.

PPS use was reported by 99% of survey respondents and it was considered a fundamental part of life. Although reasons for use included housekeeping, culture/religion and well-being, the famous coffee ceremony was most commonly cited (44% of respondents). Both householders and healthcare workers appeared to assume PPS is safe, except for people with certain underlying conditions. Healthcare workers felt the lack of evidence of harm from PPS meant there was no justification for intervention.

This study, the first in-depth study of PPS, has shown its use to be widespread, with many perceived benefits and thus a very important part of local culture in this sample Ethiopian community. Consequently, any public health interventions aimed at reducing household air pollution in this setting need to consider purposely produced smoke. **Read the more at [Oxford Academic](#)**

Meet A Humble Hero: The Condom (Short 2 minute video)



Credit: UNFPA

The condom is a three-time hero. It is the only contraceptive that fights HIV, as well as sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies. The Global Fund and UNFPA ensure condom availability worldwide as the largest public sector procurers – shipping more than 3.9 billion male and female condoms to 122 countries around the world in just four years. On International Condom Day we are celebrating this humble hero who saves lives and keeps people safe. **Watch at [Youtube - The Global Fund](#)**

GOOD NEWS

'Made in Quebec' Strawberries Offer Hope for Food Autonomy



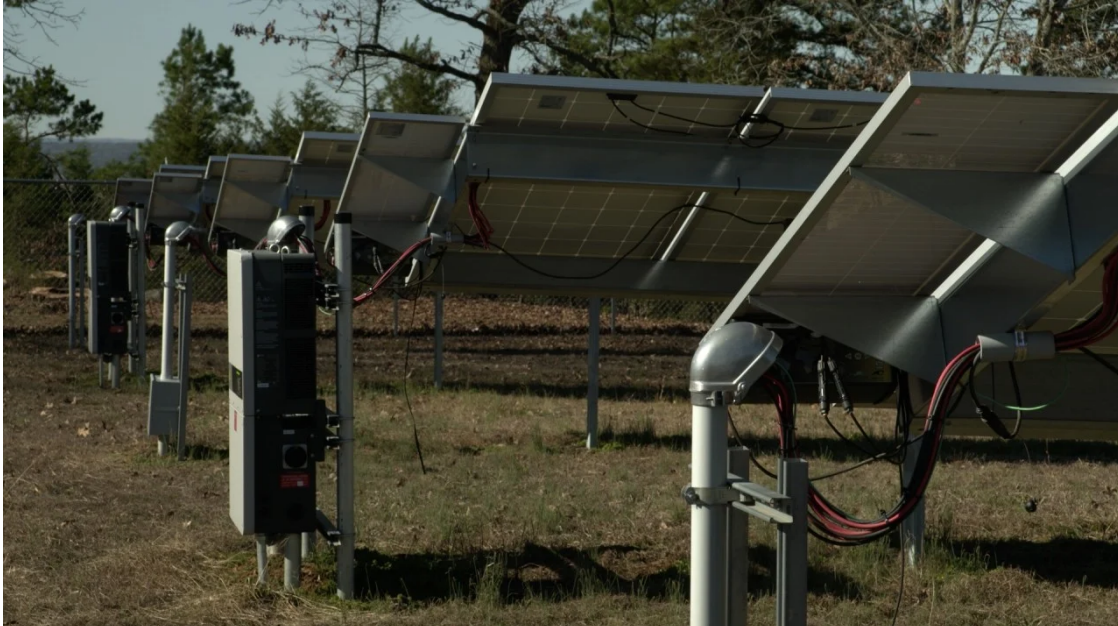
Credit: Christinne Muschi/Bloomberg

The pandemic, with its broken supply lines and closed borders, has been a worrying reminder of Quebec's dependence on imported food. Roughly 75% of its fresh fruits and vegetables, in fact, come from outside the province.

Inside a windowless metal cube in a building on the outskirts of the province's largest city, Montreal, Yves Daoust is trying to make a dent in those numbers. The cube houses some 3,800 strawberry plants arranged in vertical gardens, pollinated by bumble bees and brushed by morning dew. The carefully controlled environment is tracked by sensors and attempts to mimic ideal summer conditions year-round in a city where the average outdoor temperature in January is 13.6 degrees Fahrenheit (-10.2 degrees Celsius) and the winter cold doesn't let up until May. **Read more at [Bloomberg](#)**

MORE GOOD NEWS

Solar Panel Saves Arkansas School Enough For Teachers Get Up To \$15K In Raises



Credit: Kellen Harrel

Clean and renewable energy resources are the way of the future. In a small rural town in Arkansas, using clean energy has paid off - literally.

Teachers have it very hard, as it is a very challenging profession. Add in the fact that most are severely underpaid and you've got a double whammy. Now to compound that further, imagine being a school in a small town or city, in a small state. Attracting good quality teachers and keeping them becomes even harder.

In Batesville, by simply installing around 1,500 solar panels in and around the school saved it upwards of \$600,000 yearly. This money was then funneled back to the teachers, leading to massive salary raises allowing for better retention and recruitment of quality educators. Clean energy does indeed pay it seems." **Read more at [Kris 6 News](#)**

SEE ALSO at Solar Daily:

[Solar Awnings Over Parking Lots Help Companies And Customers](#)

OPINION

Biophobia in the City: Are People Who Are Fearful of Nature Less Willing to Protect It?



Credit: EB Podcast

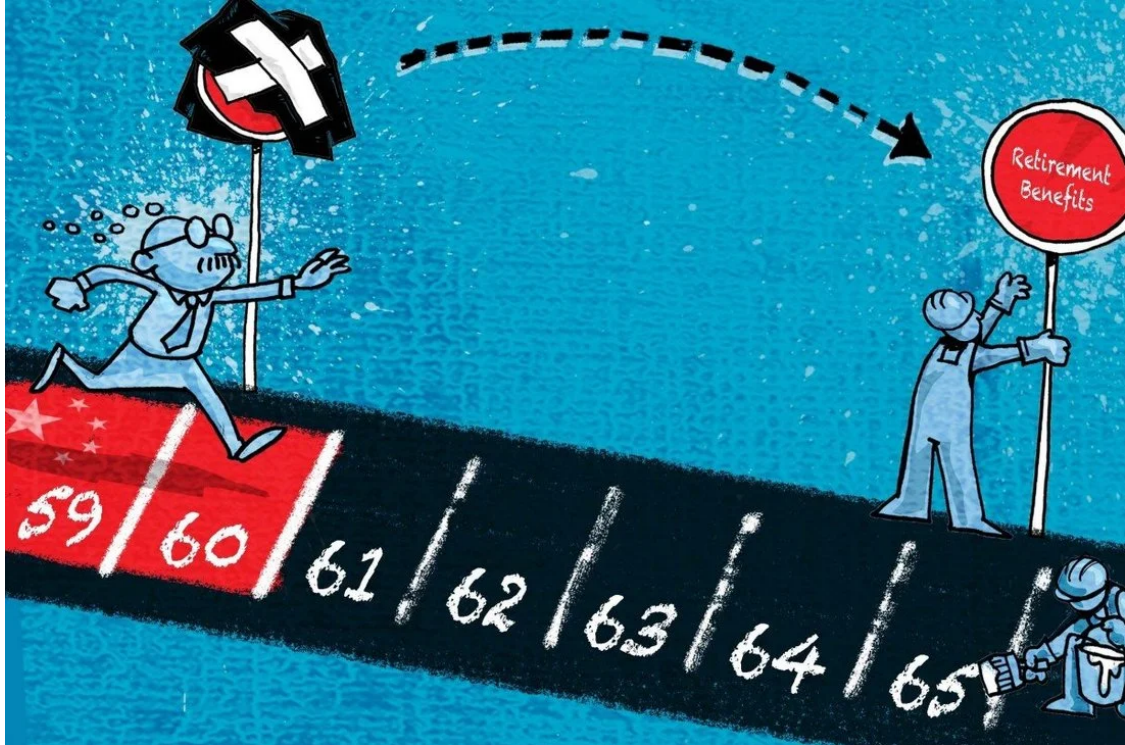
Eco-Business talks to environmental psychologist Dr. Denise Dillon about Singapore's uncomfortable relationship with nature, whether loving nature is essential for conservation, and why climate anxiety might actually be a good thing.

How do people relate to the natural world, and where does their fear and love for it come from? If people fear nature, are they less likely to want to protect it?

In cities, where people are less exposed to natural settings, there is a risk that the innate human affiliation with nature — known as biophilia — is lost, and a fear of nature — known as biophobia — becomes the primary state of mind for city-dwellers. **Listen and Read more at [EcoBusiness](#)**

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

China's Plan To Lift Retirement Age Stokes Workers' Anxiety as Demographic Crisis Looms



Credit: Henry Wong

Speculation is running rampant among Chinese about how many years of pension income may be lost after the government announced plans to gradually increase the nation's mandatory retirement age. The move has sparked deep concern among working and middle class citizens, many of whom may now have to work for years more than planned and are scrambling to get their finances in order. **Read more at South China Morning Post (from Hong Kong)**

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

How Kahnawake's Cross-Border Ironworkers Are Dealing With Isolation From Their Families, Community



Credit: Hogan Gilbert

Like many Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) families, Hogan Gilbert's has a rich history in ironwork, and the trade has taken him far from home. Gilbert and countless other ironworkers from Kahnawake, Que., near Montreal, travel roughly 600 kilometres up and down the I-87 highway every week to build New York City's bridges and skyscrapers. It's a longstanding tradition that has spanned multiple generations of Kanien'kehá:ka families.

But that part of ironwork life has changed drastically as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. With the closure of the Canada-U.S. border and strict public health measures, many have been isolated from their families, friends, and community. "Being here for so long really makes you miss town," said Gilbert, 31, a third-year apprentice with New York's Local 40 ironworkers union. "You don't know how much you appreciate home until it's not accessible anymore."

Now, after months of visits through windows or camping in yards to keep distance, the first doses of vaccines have arrived — and Kahnawake's ironworkers see an end to their isolation on the horizon. **Read more at [CBC](#)**

SEE ALSO at Daily Kos:

[Company Behind Minnesota's Harmful Pipeline Project Is Allegedly Paying Cops To Harass Native Women](#)



Credit: Jonathan Nackstrand/AFP

Quote Of The Week: World Faces A 'Moral Test' Over Vaccine Sharing, Warns Greta Thunberg

Speaking at a World Health Organisation (WHO) press conference, the 18-year-old said: **"The international community, governments and vaccine developers must step up their game and address the tragedy that is vaccine inequity. We have the tools we need to correct this great imbalance that exists around the world today in the fight against Covid-19. Just (as) with the climate crisis, those who are most vulnerable need to be prioritised and global problems require global solutions. Vaccine nationalism is what's running the vaccine distribution".**

Earlier this month Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, director of the WHO African region, said the continent was playing ["Covid-19 vaccination catch up"](#): out of the 690 million doses (now 1 billion) of vaccine administered globally, just 31.6m - less than 2% - have been given in Africa.

Ms Thunberg, who gained worldwide prominence for skipping school in protest at inaction over climate change, ruled out a "vaccine strike" over this inequity. **"This is a problem that needs to be addressed by the international community - governments and the vaccine developers."**

She added that everyone who is offered a jab should take one. **"Urging individuals to not take the vaccine, that would send the very wrong message."**

But Ms Thunberg stressed that pandemics would become more frequent unless the world alters its relationship with nature.

"Today up to 75 per cent of all emerging diseases come from animals, and as we are cutting down forests and destroying habitats we are creating the ideal conditions for diseases to spillover from one animal to another and then to us. We can no longer separate the health crisis from the ecological crisis and we cannot separate the ecological crisis from the climate crisis. It's all interlinked in many ways."

Read More at [The Telegraph](#)

Upcoming Events

- April 25-30, 2021: [Planetary Health Week](#) (A Free Virtual Conference-Festival)
- May 11, 2021: [CUGH Training Webinar: Learn How to Combat Disinformation](#), 11:00am-12:00pm EST
- 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

FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

How Fish-Meal Production Is Destroying Gambia's Waters

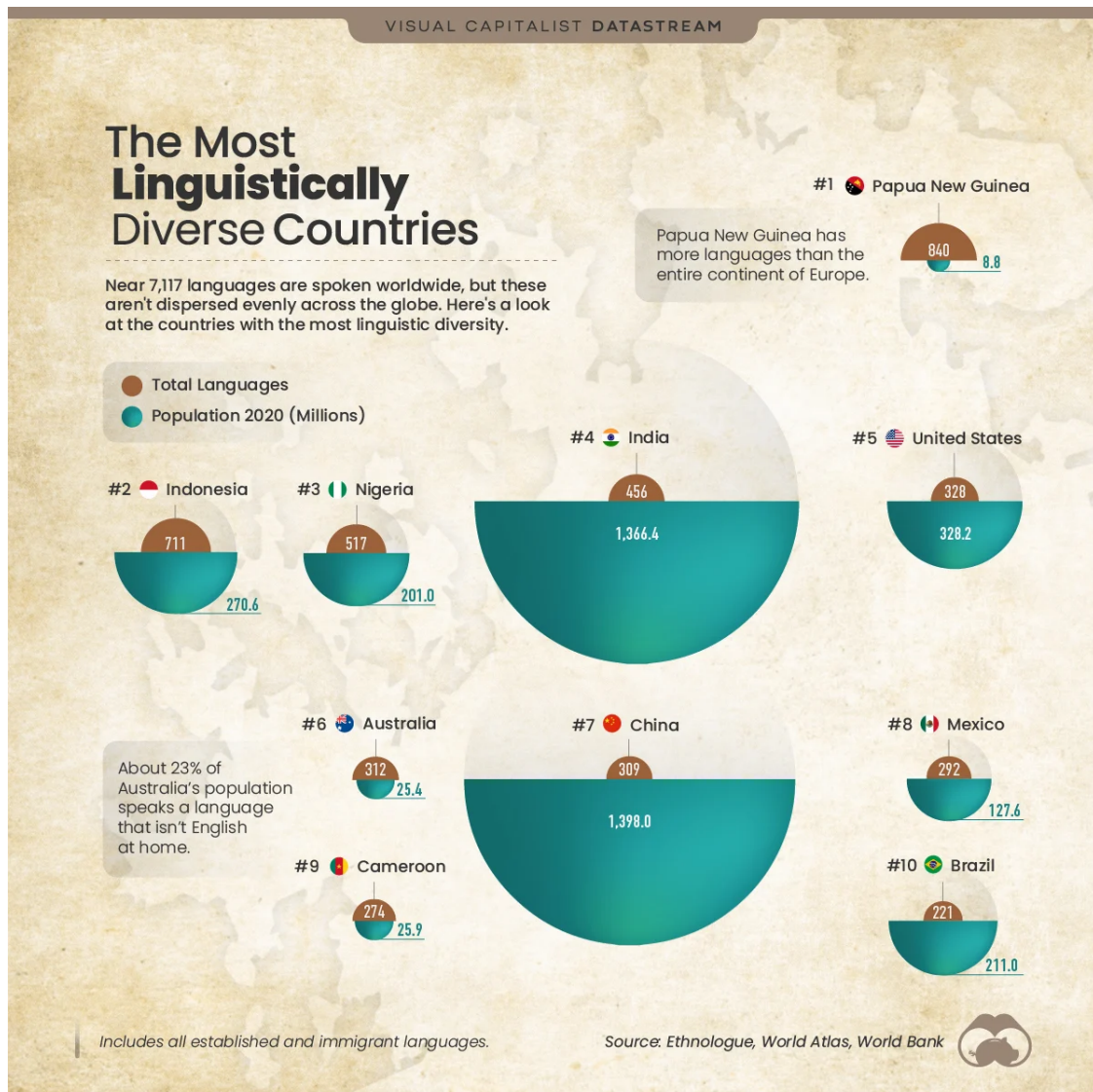


Credit: the New Yorker

Journalist Ian Urbina investigates the human and ecological cost of the booming fish-farming industry in the smallest country on mainland Africa.

Watch this 10 minute video at The New Yorker Documentary

Ranked: The Countries with the Most Linguistic Diversity



Credit: Visual Capitalist

Thousands of languages are spoken worldwide, but only a fraction are used widely. In fact, the speakers of **23 languages** account for more than half of the total global population. Despite this, there are still pockets around the globe that are rich in linguistic diversity. Here's a look at the top 10 countries where the most languages are spoken. These numbers include established and immigrant dialects.

Despite a population of just 8.8 million, Papua New Guinea comes in first with a total of 840 languages spoken across the country. To put things into perspective, that's almost 12% of the world's languages spoken in an area that's roughly the size of California. A likely reason for the country's linguistic diversity is its isolation from modern life. Over **80%** of Papua New Guinea's population lives in rural areas and has minimal contact with external influences or other tribes.

FYI #3

Tell Canadian Banks to Stop Funding Fossil Fuel Companies



Credit: The Denver Post via Getty Images

It's quite simple: without money from banks, oil & gas and coal companies can't keep polluting the planet.

Every year, Canadian banks **provide *tens of billions* of dollars to fossil fuel companies. And some of this money is *yours*** — banks invest it when you trust them with your savings.

The “Big Five” — RBC, TD, Scotiabank, BMO and CIBC — are all within the top 25 fossil fuel financiers in the world. Even since the Paris climate agreement was signed five years ago, urging for assertive global action to avoid climate catastrophe, they have steadily increased their support for fossil fuels.

Around the world, pressure on high-profile banks like JP Morgan Chase, HSBC and Barclays is increasing. It's time for Canadian banks to do their share in tackling the climate crisis, by contributing to end the age of dirty energy.

Tell the Big Five to stop funding fossil fuel companies.

FYI #4

Siberia's Sacred Lake Faces Challenges



Credit: Chris Brown/CBC

Lake Baikal in Siberia has become a top destination for Russian and foreign tourists. But many fear the influx of visitors and their garbage is imperilling it and there is deep mistrust over the Putin government's efforts to manage the issue. Once desperately poor and off the beaten track, Lake Baikal, the largest lake in Asia and the deepest in the world, has suddenly become one of the most popular places in Russia. But some here believe that popularity has come at too high a price for the area's ecology. Moreover, trying to strike the right balance has ignited a bitter fight with government officials trying to manage the growth.

[Read More at CBC](#)

FYI #5: END OF APRIL READING

The Perfect Nine: The Epic of
Gikuyu and Mumbi



“Language, any language, has a dual character: It is both a means of communication and a carrier of culture.”—*Kenyan author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o*.

This week, Thiong’o became the first author [nominated for an International Booker Prize](#) for work originally written in an indigenous African language. Thiong’o was nominated for *The Perfect Nine: The Epic of Gikuyu and Mumbi*, which he translated himself.

Thiong’o’s book is a blend of folklore and mythology that tells the origin story of the Gikuyu clan. Gikuyu and Mumbi, the first man and woman according to Kenyan legend, ask their nine daughters to choose their suitors by embarking with them on a treacherous quest. Along the way they are tested, making for an exhilarating feminist tale.

The shortlist was announced on April 22, and the winners of the prize, £50,000 split between the author and the translator, will be announced on June 2.

Available at Indigo

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Young Africans Go Online To Preserve Local Languages, Fight COVID-19



Credit: Bubblegum Club

"The words "facemask" and "hand sanitizer" are now familiar the world over, but for isiZulu speakers in South Africa those terms did not exist a year ago, until a group of volunteers took to the internet to create them.

From Wikipedia posts in indigenous tongues to digital word libraries, African language lovers are going online to preserve and create words and content for future generations - an effort that has been given added urgency by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Language is very important, it's the tool we use to communicate our understanding of the world," said Perrymason Adams, 29, an accountant in South Africa who volunteers with WikiAfrica, a project to increase Wikipedia content in African languages. With recurring lockdowns around the world to stem the spread of COVID-19, rights groups warn that the [digital divide separating those who can learn](#) and work online from those who cannot deepens already existing inequality.

Online access is growing rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa, with internet penetration in the region [surging to 25% of the population in 2019](#) against less than 1% in 2000, according to the World Bank. But research shows even Africans who can get on the web often struggle to find content they can relate to. According to the World Economic Forum, one of the main reasons many Africans do not go online when they can is ["lack of content in local languages"](#).

This is a big drive behind WikiAfrica Education, which since it was launched by the Moleskine Foundation in 2006 has contributed more than 40,000 written entries, as well as images, audio and video files, to the widely popular online encyclopedia. During the pandemic, translating information around social distancing, masks and sanitizers has become crucial, said Adams, who has volunteered to translate material to isiZulu and isiXhosa, another South African language."

SEE ALSO at CNBC:

[Digital Skills Will Prove Vital In Tackling Global Enequality: UNICEF Chief](#)

Read more at Thomson Reuters Foundation

ENDSHOTS

EARLY SPRING FLOWERS WHITEFISH LAKE, ONTARIO

April 27, 2021

Amid Latest World and Canadian COVID-19 Stats & Charts



Coronavirus Cases:

145,136,691[view by country](#)

Deaths:

3,079,917

Recovered:

123,154,972

ACTIVE CASES

18,901,802

Currently Infected Patients

18,791,945 (99.4%) **109,857** (0.6%)
In Mild Condition Serious or Critical[Show Graph](#)

CLOSED CASES

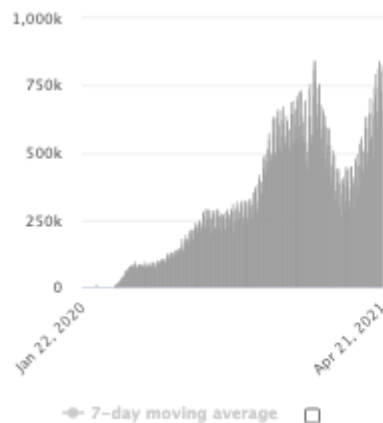
126,234,889

Cases which had an outcome:

123,154,972 (98%) **3,079,917** (2%)
Recovered / Discharged Deaths[Show Graph](#)

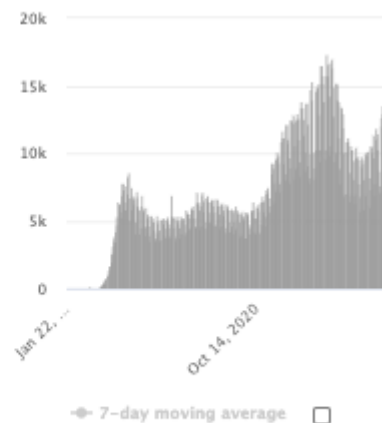
daily linear logarithmic

Daily New Cases

Cases per Day
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0

daily linear logarithmic

Daily Deaths

Deaths per Day
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

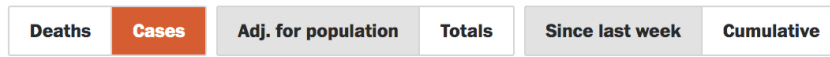


COVID-19 CASES & DEATHS (April 29, 2021), as follows... Source:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

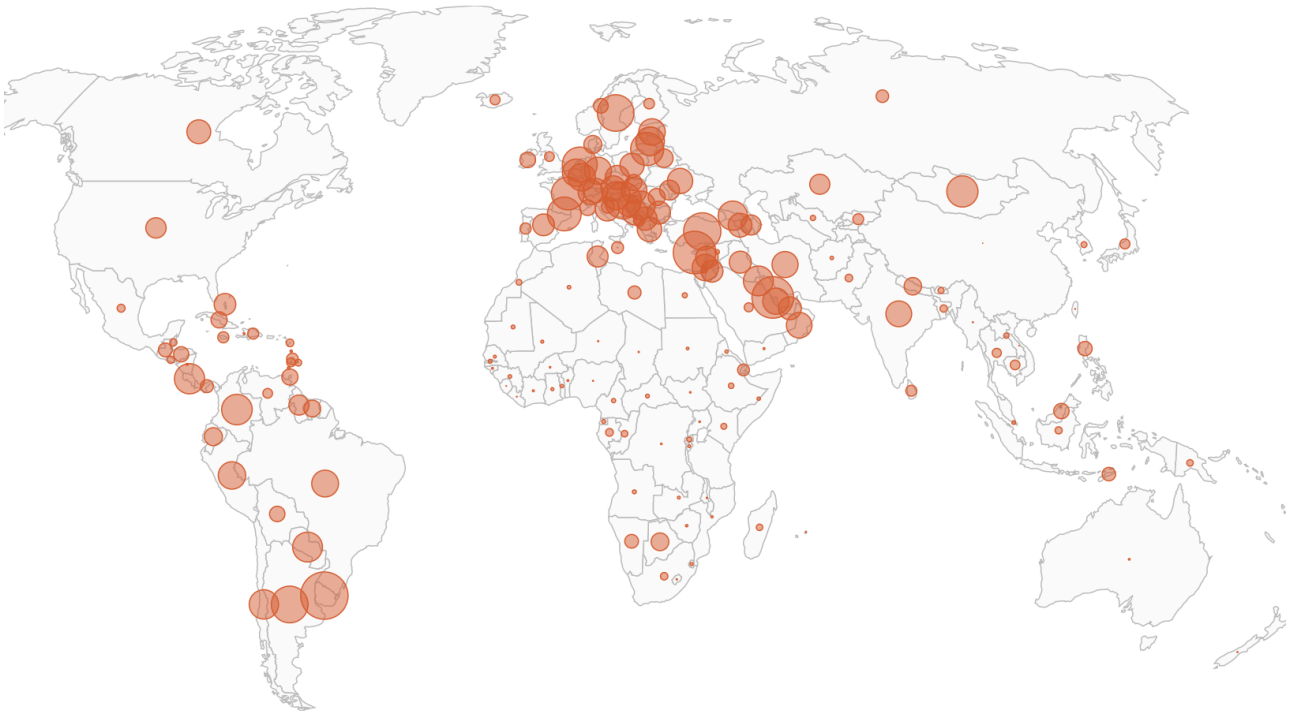
More than
3,155,000
people have died from
the coronavirus worldwide

More than **150 million** cases have been reported.

Where the virus is surging



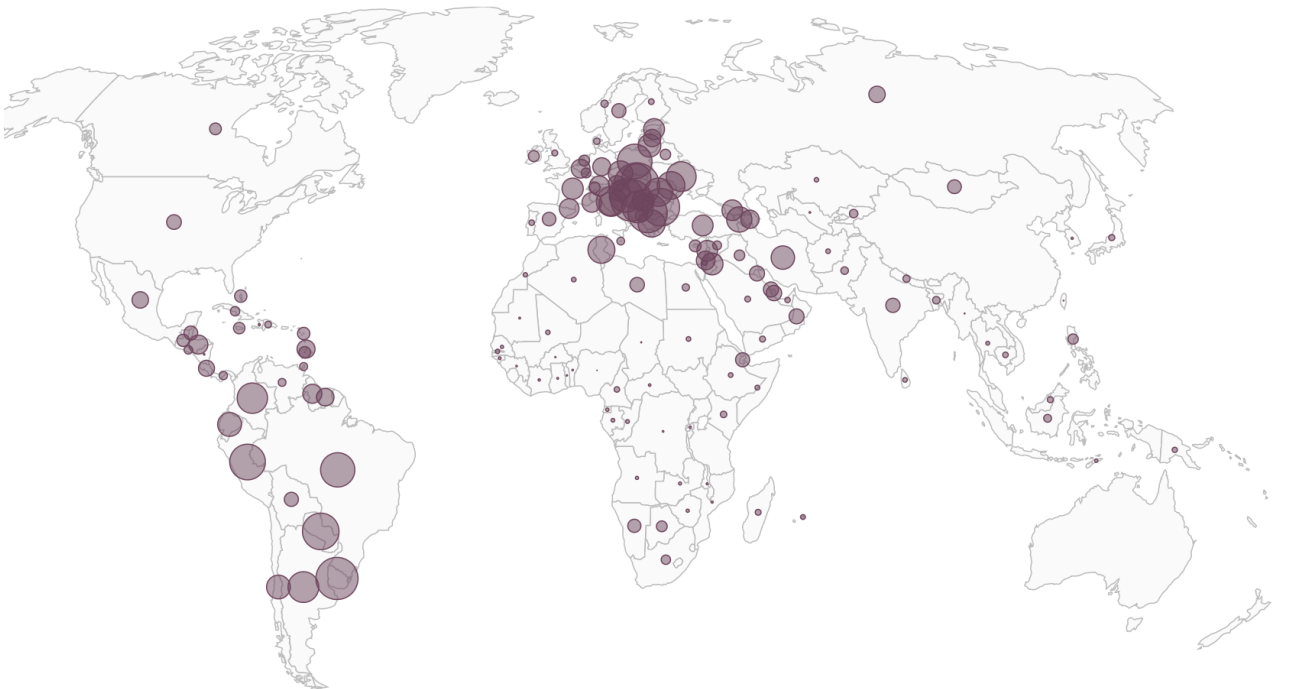
5 25 100
REPORTED CASES PER 100K



Where the virus is surging



0.1 1 2
REPORTED DEATHS PER 100K

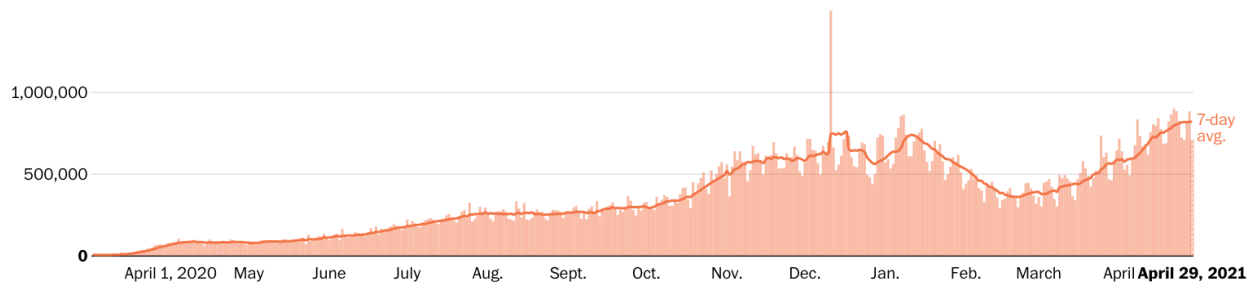




New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths Cases

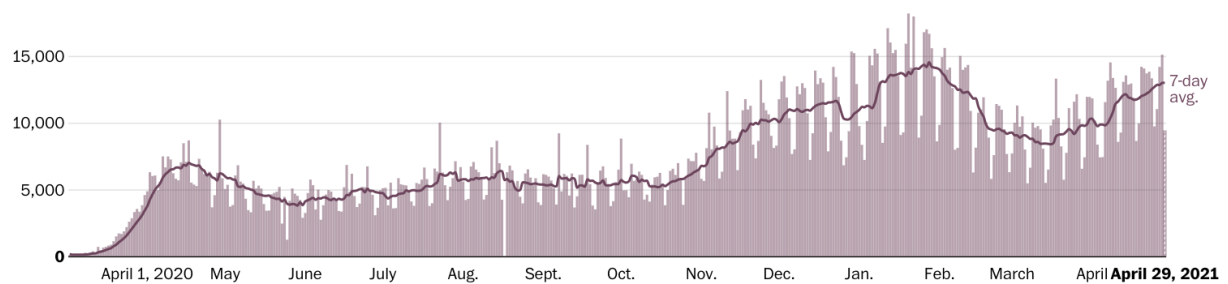
At least 149,900,607 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



New daily deaths reported across the world

Deaths Cases

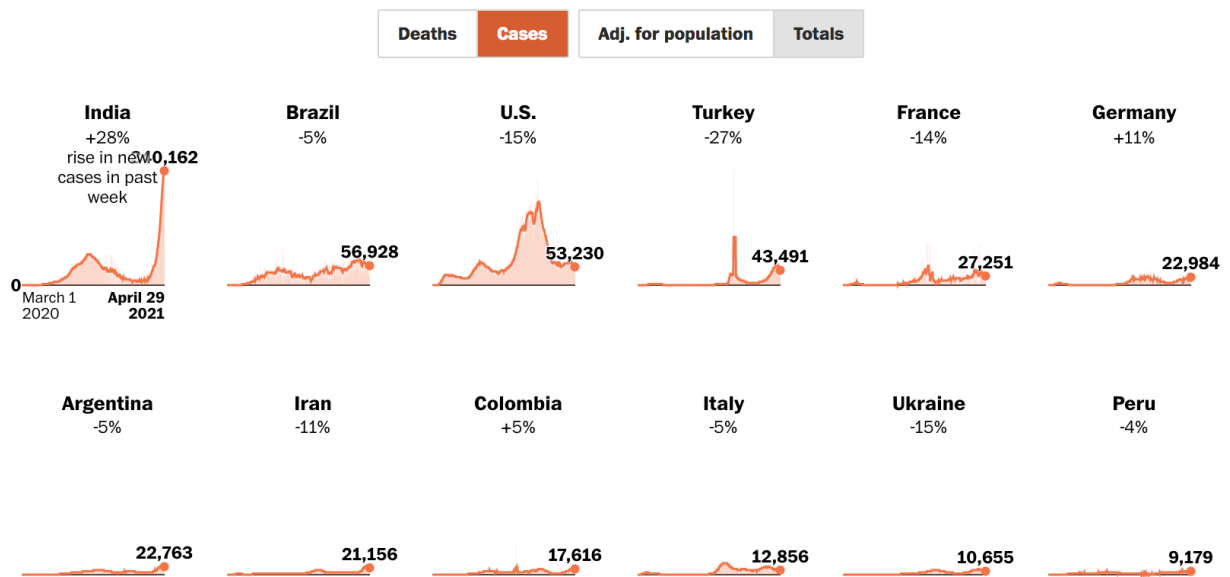
At least 3,155,089 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.





Global hot spots for reported cases

— 7-day rolling average of daily new reported cases



Global hot spots for reported deaths

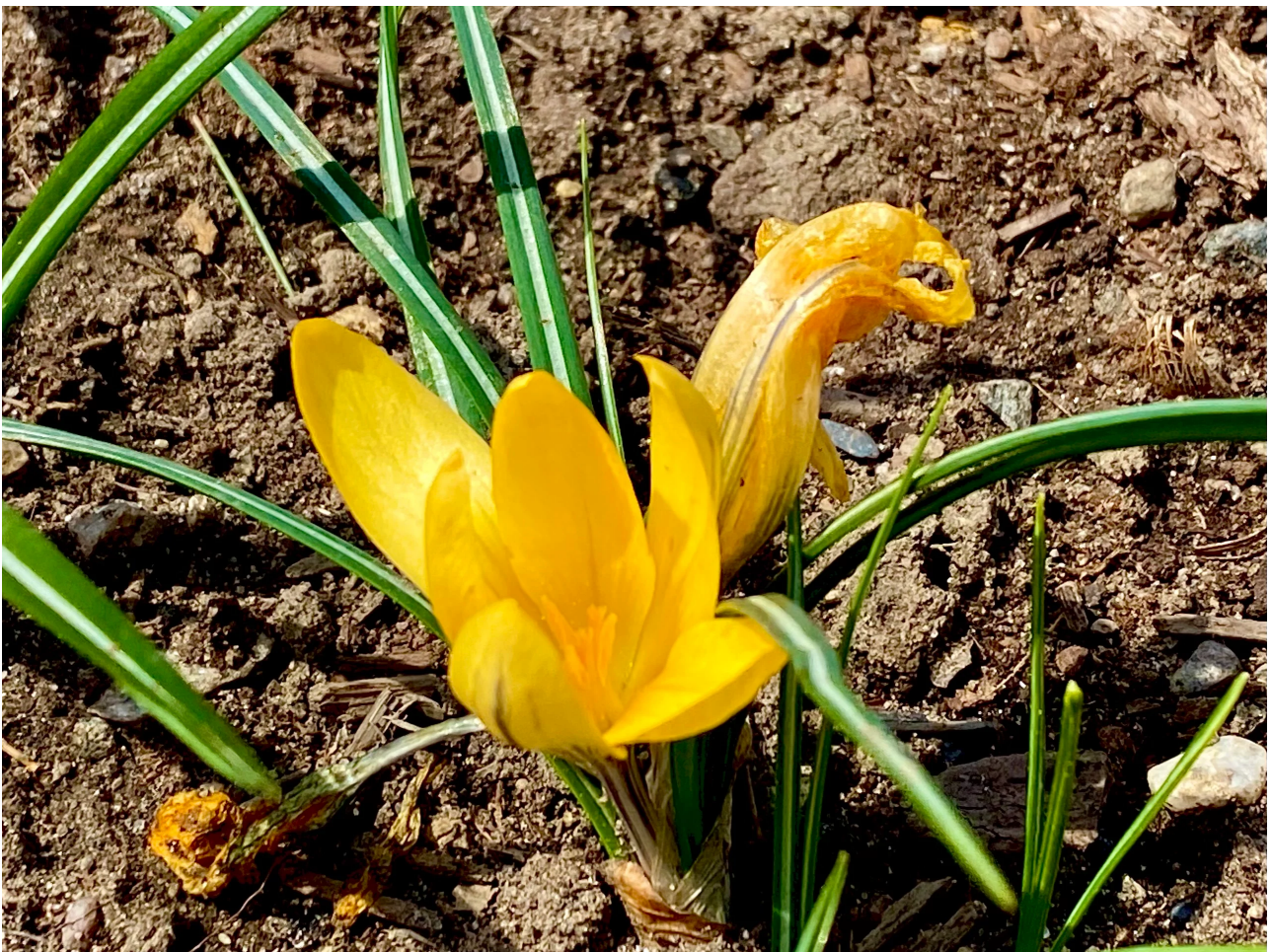
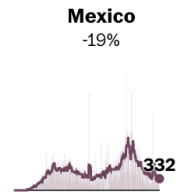
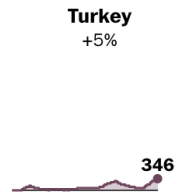
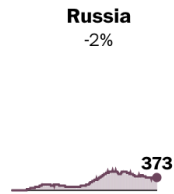
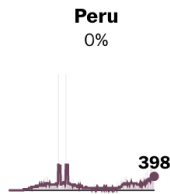
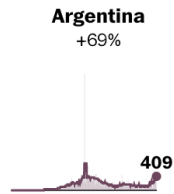
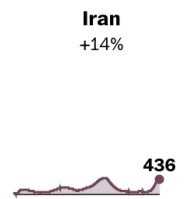
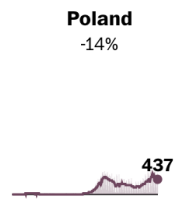
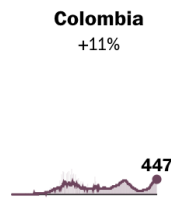
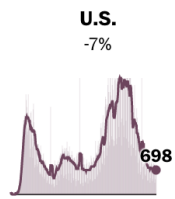
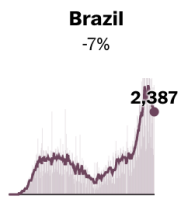
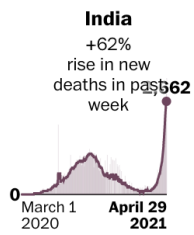
— 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths

Deaths

Cases

Adj. for population

Totals



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

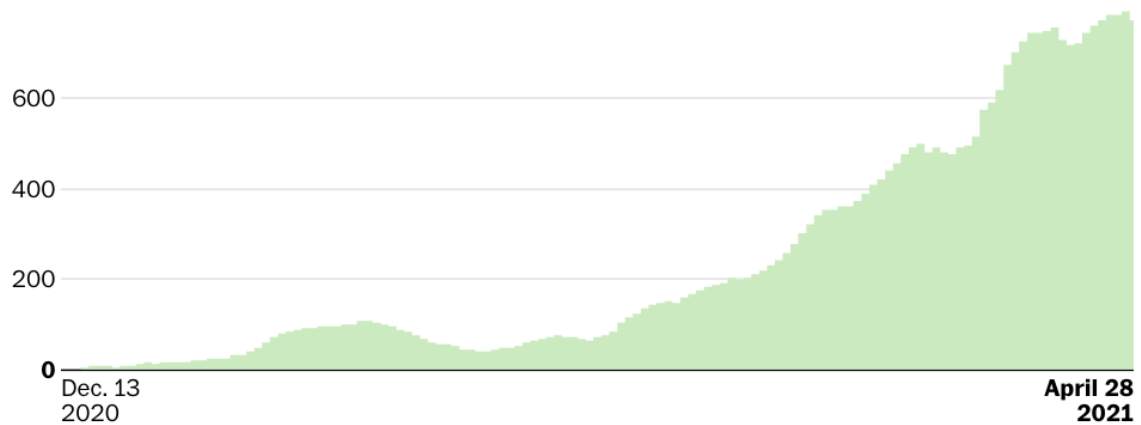
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by

Canada



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

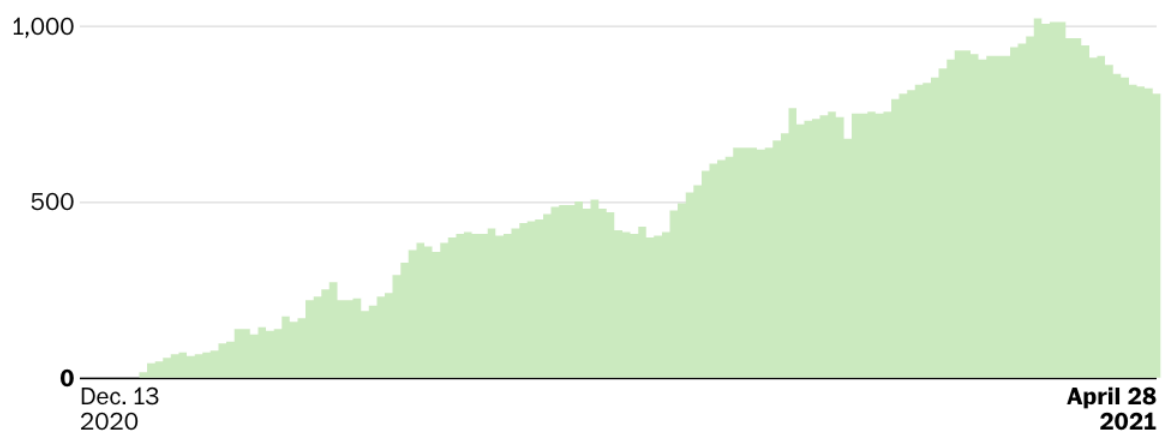
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by

U.S.



Doses of covid-19 vaccines administered

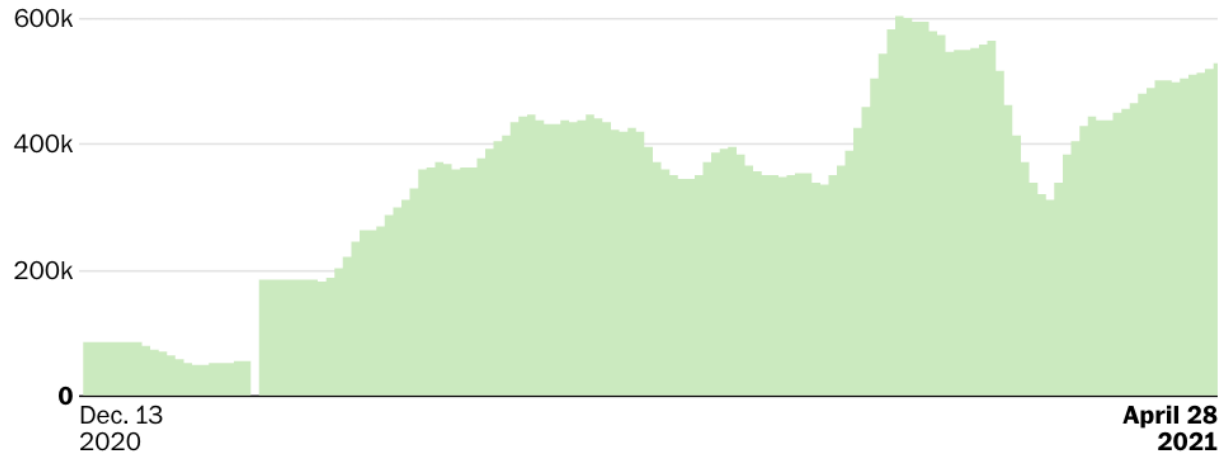
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by

Britain



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

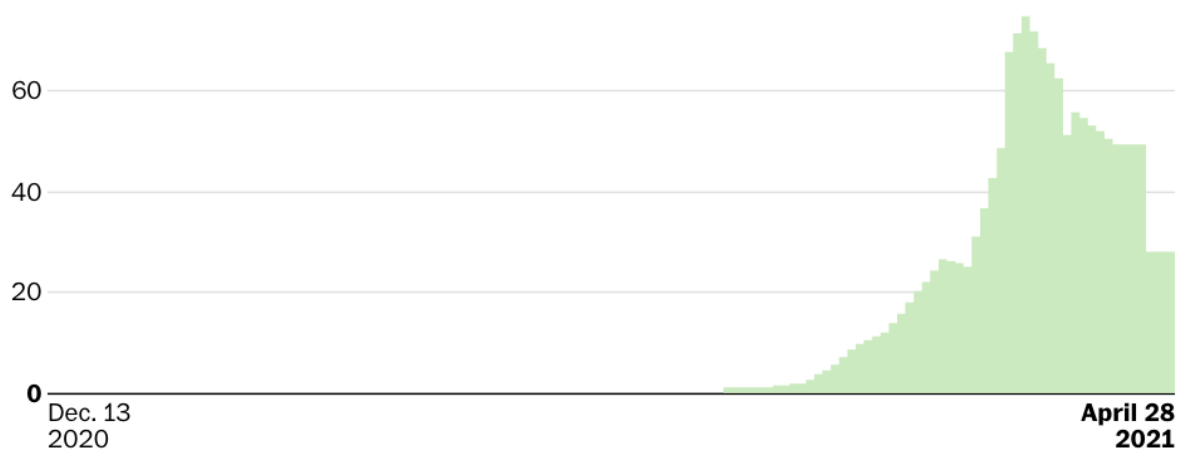
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by

Kenya



Country	Total doses given per 100k	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination
Seychelles	125,921	67.7%	58.2%
Israel	115,772	59.6%	56.1%
UAE	107,121	–	–
Chile	76,492	42.4%	34.1%
Malta	74,044	50.4%	23.7%
Britain	72,026	51.0%	21.0%
Maldives	71,573	54.4%	17.1%
U.S.	71,495	43.3%	30.0%
Bahrain	71,484	40.1%	31.4%
Bhutan	62,933	62.9%	–
Monaco	62,596	32.7%	29.9%
Hungary	58,269	39.6%	18.7%
Qatar	52,853	–	–
Uruguay	50,275	33.2%	17.1%
Serbia	49,107	28.9%	20.2%
Singapore	37,842	23.3%	14.5%
Andorra	34,241	28.2%	6.1%
Canada	34,122	31.3%	2.8%
Iceland	33,636	24.1%	9.5%
Mongolia	33,504	24.3%	9.2%
Austria	33,504	24.3%	9.2%
Germany	33,445	25.9%	7.5%
Denmark	33,214	22.4%	10.8%
Spain	32,665	23.9%	8.9%
Lithuania	32,657	23.6%	9.0%
Estonia	32,628	24.4%	8.3%
Dominica	32,025	25.3%	6.7%
Finland	31,831	28.9%	2.9%
Belgium	31,646	24.9%	6.8%
Italy	31,346	22.2%	9.2%
France	30,549	21.8%	8.8%
Portugal	30,483	22.3%	8.2%
Norway	30,388	24.1%	6.3%
Antigua and Barbuda	30,384	30.4%	–
Netherlands	30,381	–	–

Liechtenstein	30,135	20.4%	9.7%
Luxembourg	30,082	22.0%	8.1%
Sweden	29,787	22.6%	7.1%
Ireland	29,393	21.1%	8.3%
Poland	29,184	21.7%	7.5%
Slovenia	28,407	19.8%	8.6%
Switzerland	28,359	18.3%	10.1%
Czechia	28,201	19.0%	9.2%
Greece	28,083	19.6%	8.5%
Slovakia	27,731	19.2%	8.6%
Turkey	26,529	16.2%	10.3%
Saudi Arabia	25,819	–	–
Barbados	25,684	25.7%	–
Romania	25,382	16.0%	9.4%
Morocco	25,335	13.7%	11.7%
Greenland	24,628	15.8%	8.9%
Kuwait	23,769	–	–
Saint Kitts and Nevis	22,274	22.3%	–
Croatia	20,303	15.9%	4.4%
Cyprus	19,712	14.7%	5.0%
Brazil	19,428	13.4%	6.0%
China	17,450	–	–
Dominican Republic	17,201	9.9%	7.3%
Argentina	16,818	14.8%	2.0%
Costa Rica	16,223	10.7%	5.6%
Guyana	16,199	15.8%	0.4%
Albania	15,193	–	–
Panama	15,083	10.6%	4.4%
Latvia	14,785	12.4%	2.4%
Azerbaijan	14,527	9.5%	5.0%
Russia	13,191	8.3%	4.9%
Mexico	13,080	9.5%	4.8%
El Salvador	12,922	12.0%	0.9%
Cambodia	12,844	7.9%	5.0%
Bulgaria	11,128	8.4%	2.7%
India	10,762	9.0%	1.8%
Belize	10,507	10.5%	–
Montenegro	9,713	6.4%	3.3%

Canada is in 18th place globally for vaccines given per capita (20th last week)



Compare countries by new daily reported cases

Deaths

Cases

Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

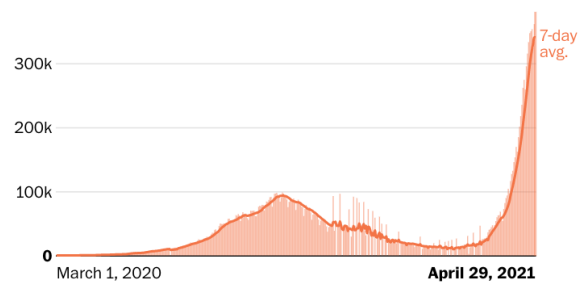
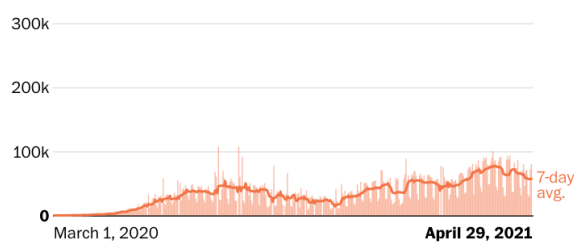
Brazil

Select a country:

India

At least 14,521,289 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

At least 18,376,524 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Compare countries by new daily deaths reported

Deaths

Cases

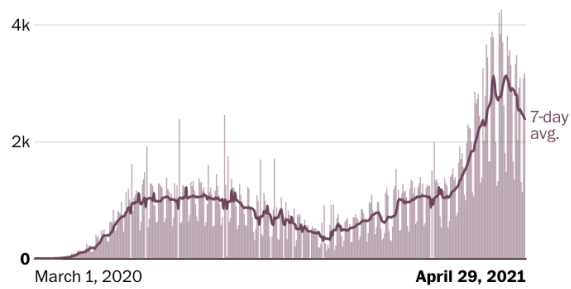
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Brazil

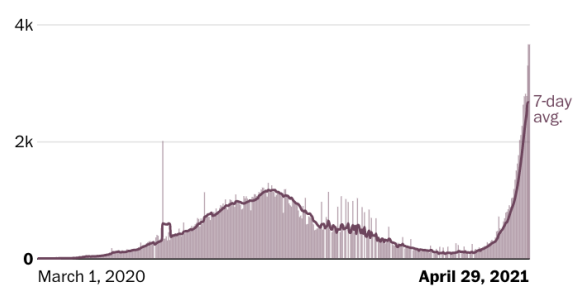
At least 398,185 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

India

At least 204,832 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



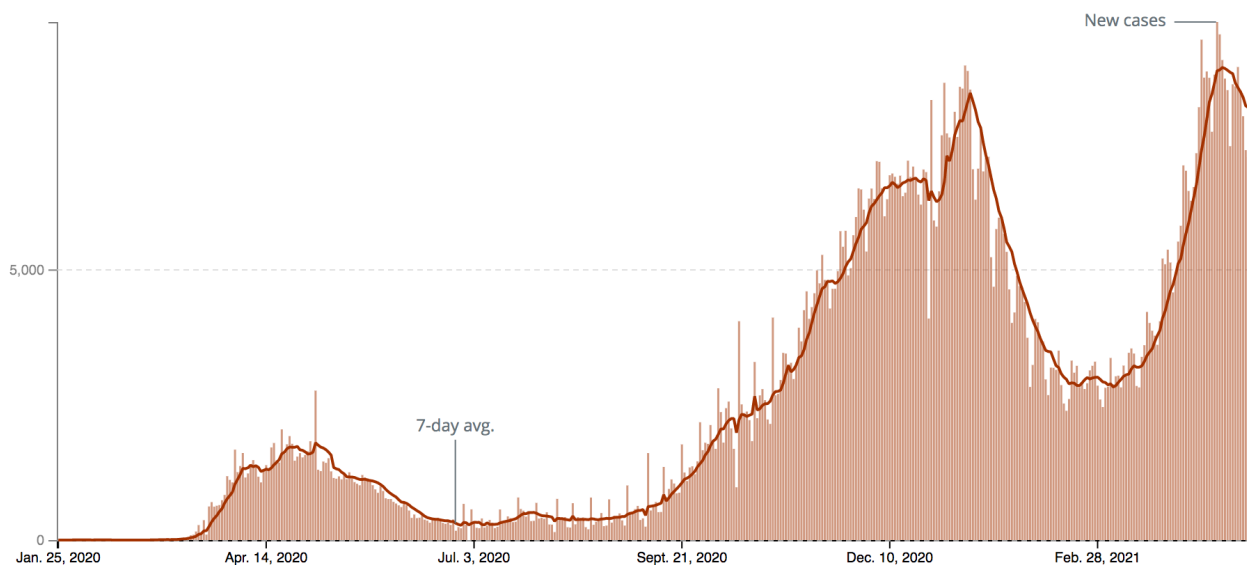


Source of Canadian Data Below (April 29, 2021):
<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirustracker/>

In Canada 1,202,737 cases have been reported.

90 DAYS

ALL TIME

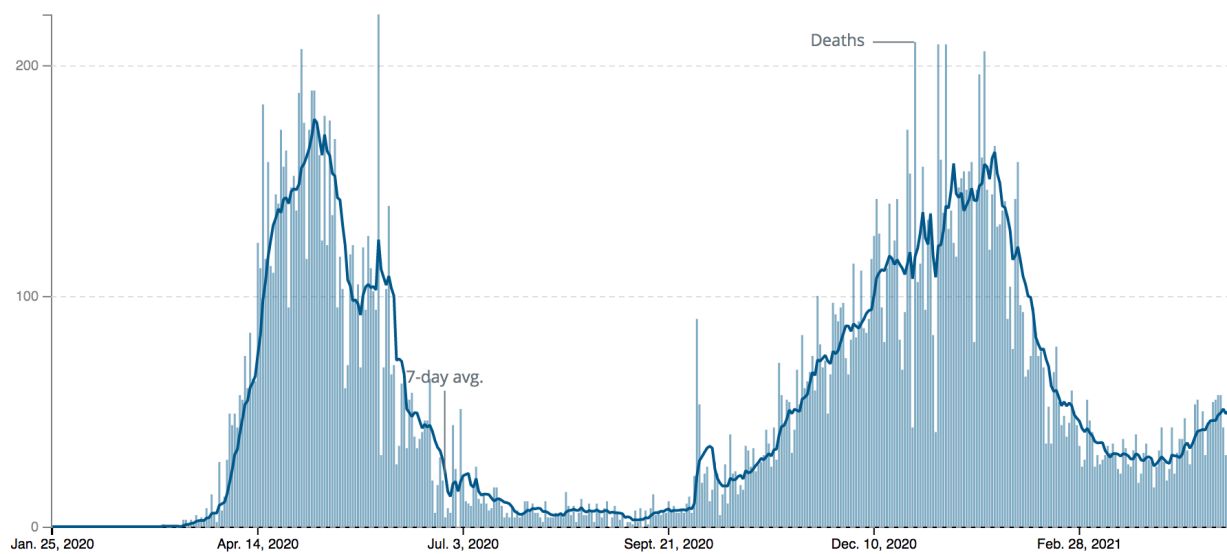


Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.

In Canada 24,116 deaths have been reported.

90 DAYS

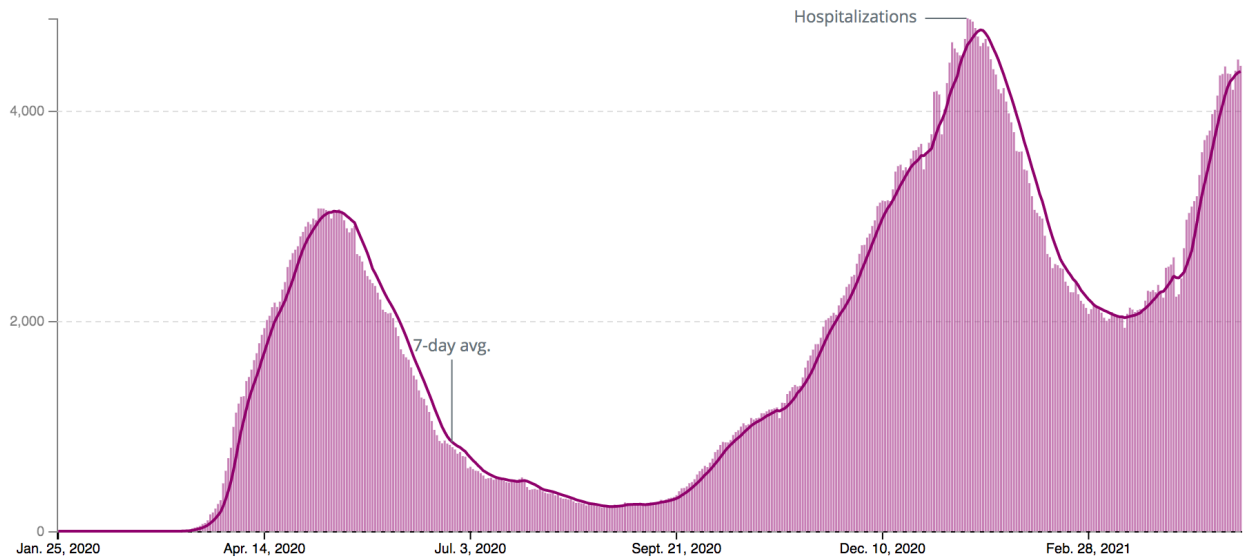
ALL TIME



In Canada there are currently 4,427 people hospitalized.

90 DAYS

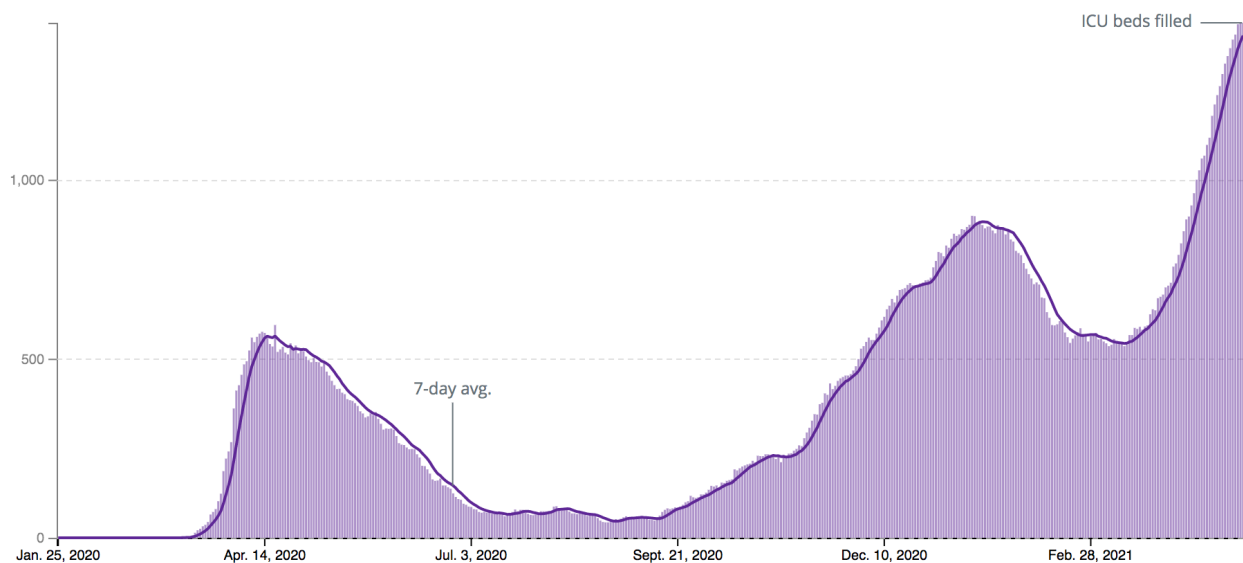
ALL TIME



In Canada there are currently 1,438 ICU beds filled.

90 DAYS

ALL TIME



In the past week in Canada...

New cases



There were 55,276 new cases, a decrease of 8 per cent. That's 145.3 cases per 100,000 people.

Active cases



The number of active cases declined 7 per cent.

Deaths



There were 350 deaths, or 0.9 per 100,000 people, an increase of 9 per cent.

Hospitalizations



Hospitalizations didn't change and ICU beds filled rose 7 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	145.3	↓	−8%	3,161	1,202,737
Alberta	258.1	↑	7%	4,208	186,679
British Columbia	119.1	↓	−11%	2,481.8	127,889
Manitoba	114.6	↑	45%	2,766.6	38,205
New Brunswick	11.0	↑	65%	241.2	1,886
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.3	↑	13%	201.8	1,050
Nova Scotia	44.3	↑	495%	233.8	2,290
Ontario	179.5	↓	−13%	3,087.8	455,606
Prince Edward Island	3.1	↓	−44%	112	179
Quebec	85.0	↓	−22%	4,054.2	347,690
Saskatchewan	146.8	↓	−3%	3,445.2	40,613
Northwest Territories	13.3	↑	200%	113	51
Nunavut	124.3	↑	44%	1,213	478
Yukon	7.1	↑	50%	192	81

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.

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	0.9	↑	9%	63.4	24,116
Alberta	0.5	↓	-9%	46.7	2,073
British Columbia	0.6	↑	20%	30.6	1,576
Manitoba	0.7	↑	43%	70.3	971
New Brunswick	0.3	↑	100%	4.6	36
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.0	—	0%	1.2	6
Nova Scotia	0.0	↓	-100%	6.8	67
Ontario	1.3	↑	11%	54.1	7,988
Prince Edward Island	0.0	—	0%	0	0
Quebec	0.8	↓	-7%	127.2	10,908
Saskatchewan	1.4	↑	55%	41.2	486
Northwest Territories	0.0	—	0%	0	0
Nunavut	0.0	—	0%	10.2	4
Yukon	2.4	↑	100%	4.7	2

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.



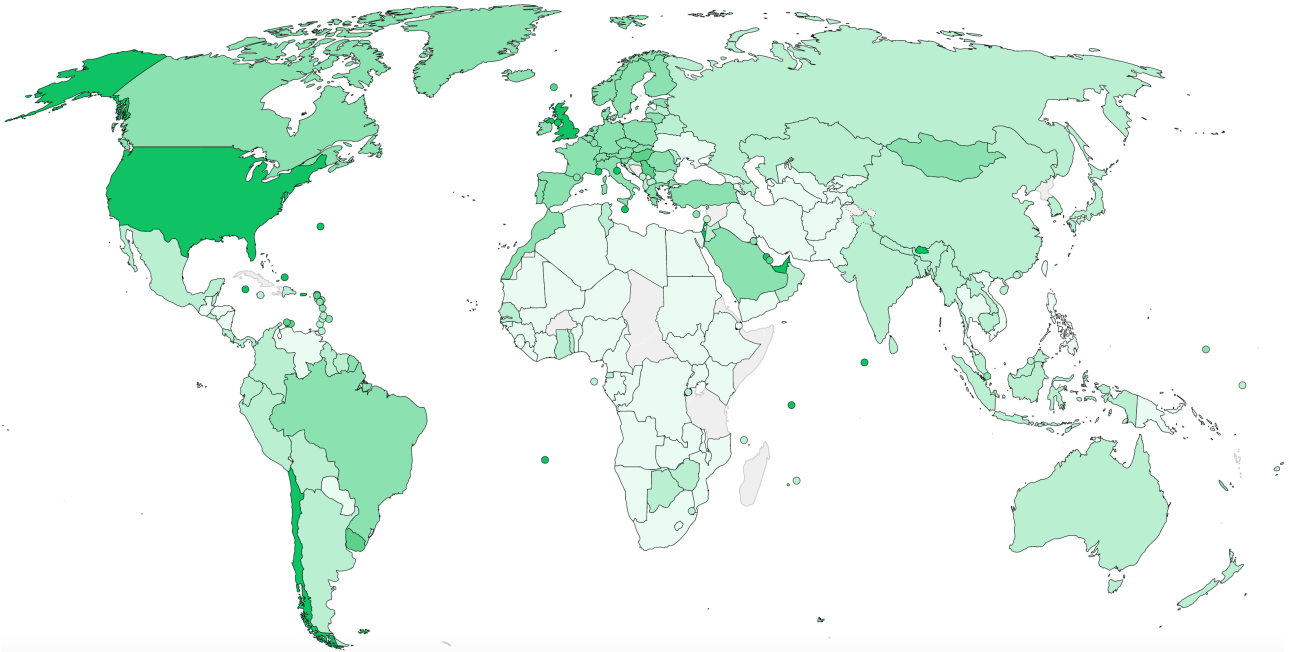
Source of Vaccination Data Below (April 29, 2021):

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

The biggest vaccination campaign in history is underway. More than **1.1 billion doses** have been administered across 174 countries, according to data collected by Bloomberg. The latest rate was roughly **19.7 million doses a day**.

In the U.S., **237 million doses** have been given so far. In the last week, an average of **2.63 million doses per day** were administered.

World Map of Vaccinations
More than 1.1 billion doses have been administered—enough to fully vaccinate 7.2% of the global population
no data 1 10 20 30% of population covered



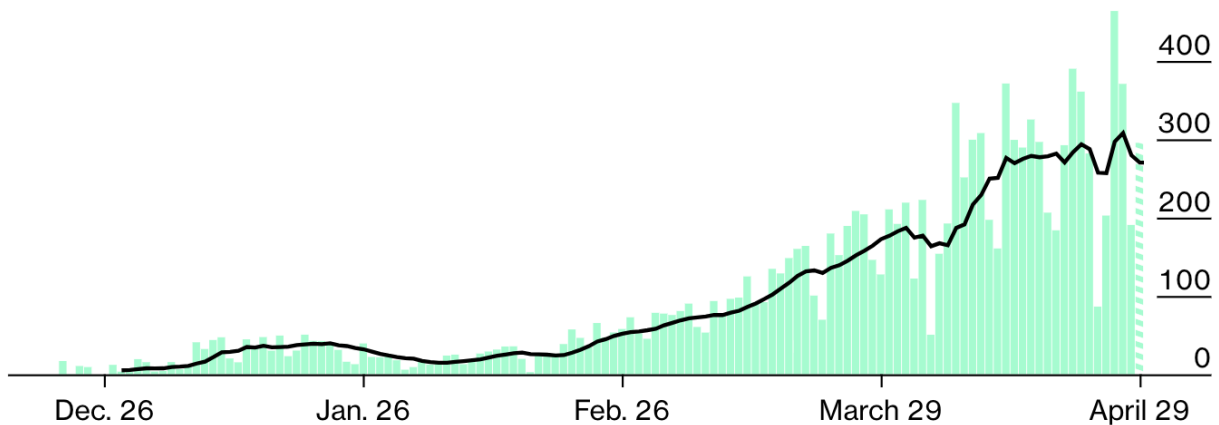
In **Canada**, the latest vaccination rate is **270,221 doses** per day, on average. At this pace, it will take another **5 months** to cover **75%** of the population.

Canada (5 months to 75% coverage) ×



/ Average daily rate estimate

Doses administered: 500K



Note: Immunity calculations take into account the number of doses required and the current rate of administration for each vaccine type. The “daily rate estimate” is a seven-day trailing average; interpolation is used for countries with infrequent updates. *Coverage may exceed 100% in some jurisdictions, as shots may be administered to non-residents. Data are from Bloomberg’s Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker.

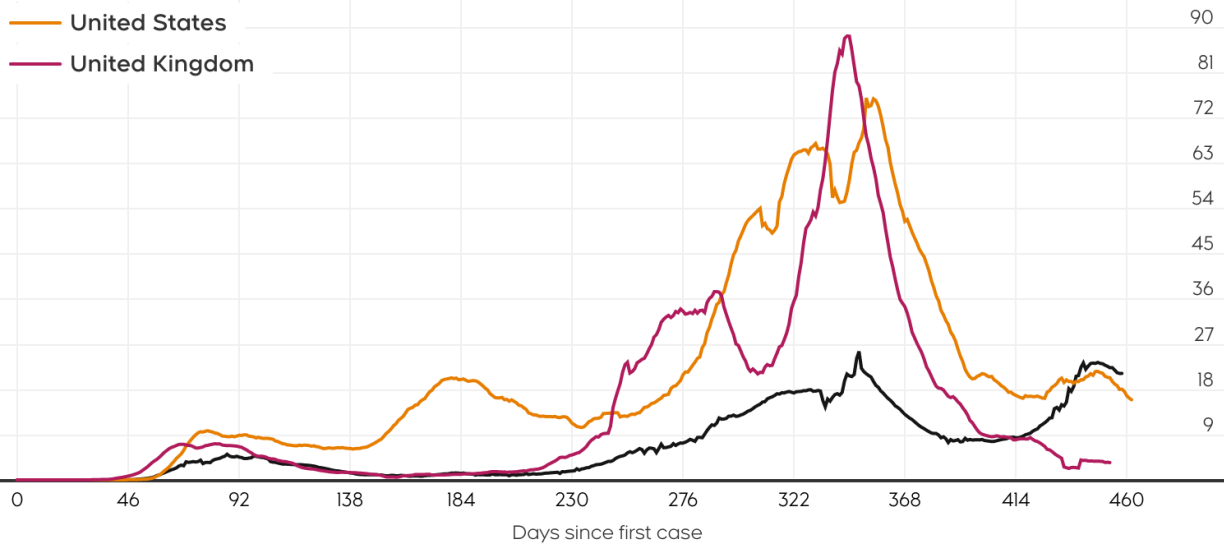


Source of World and Canadian Data Below (April 29, 2021):
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-curves-compare-canada-and-other-key-nations-1.4881500#link-top>

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

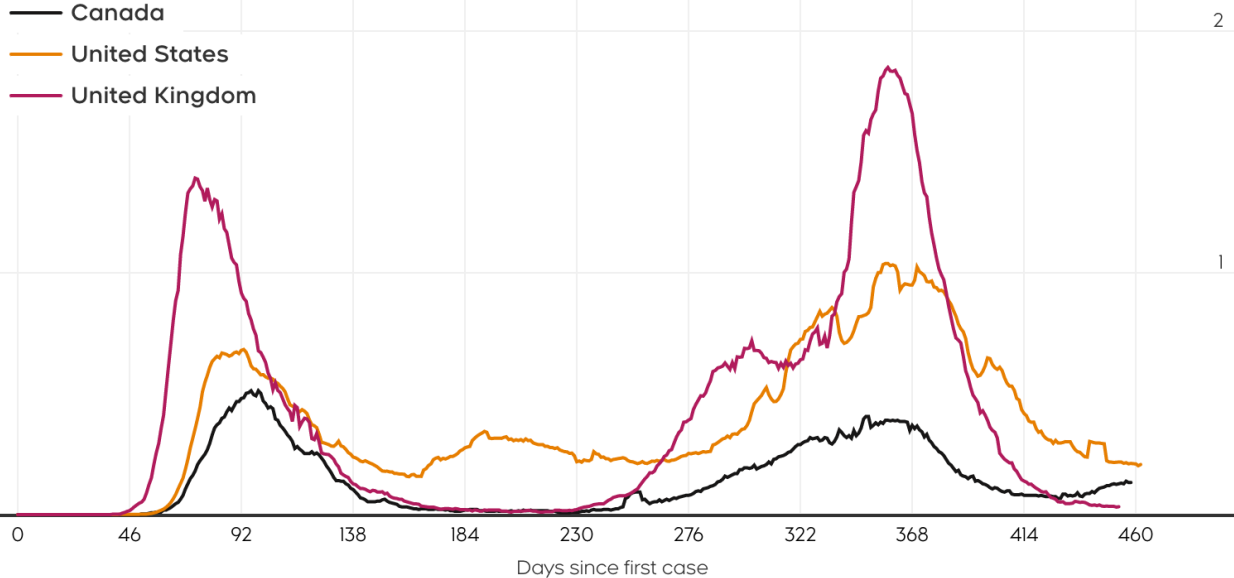
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

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

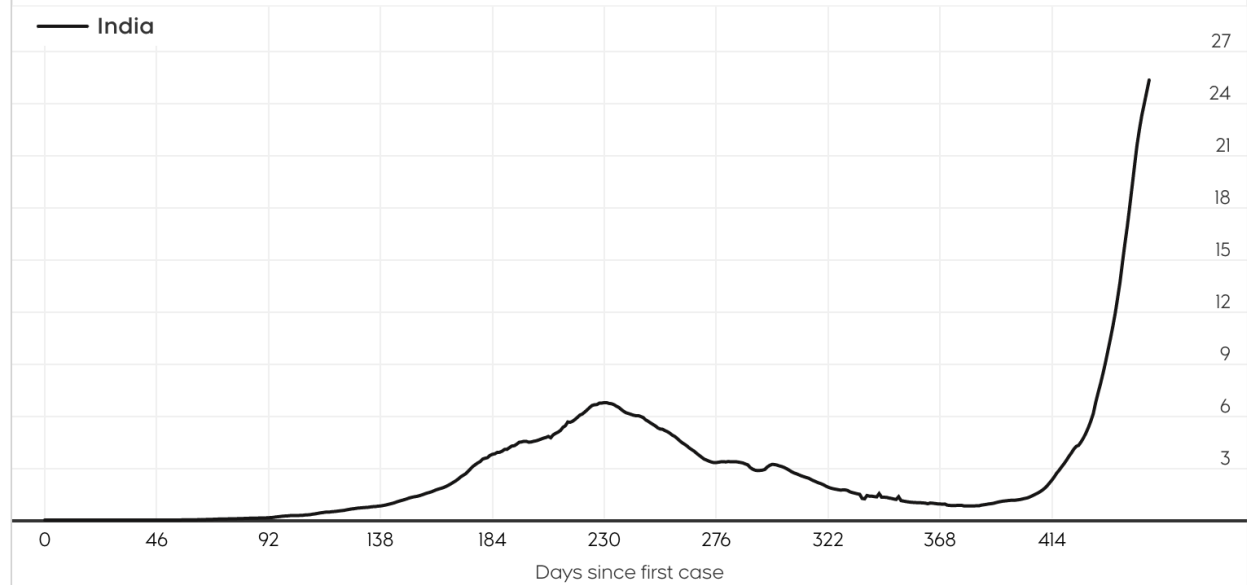
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

CTV NEWS

INDIA (TOP)

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K



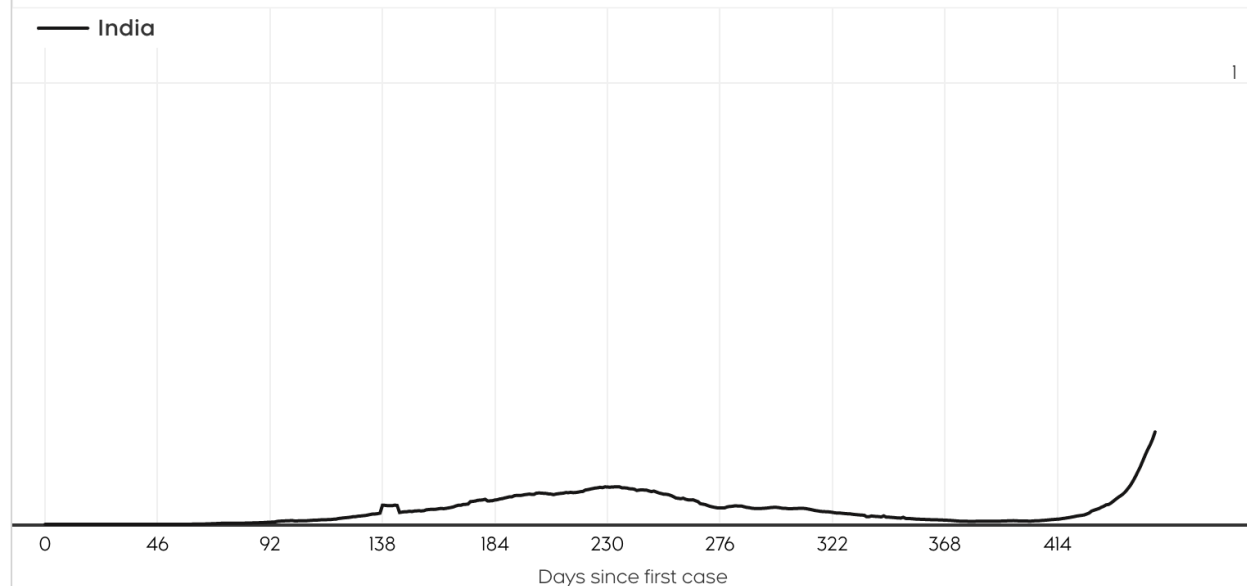
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)



INDIA (TOP)

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

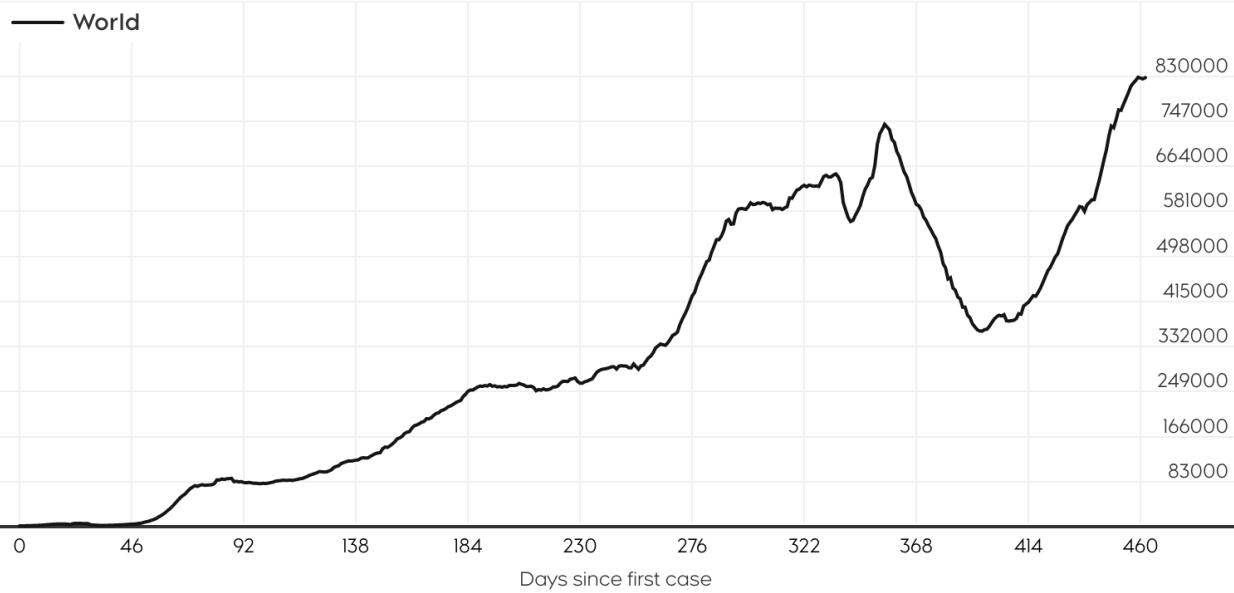


Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)



COVID-19 Cases (7-day avg)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K



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

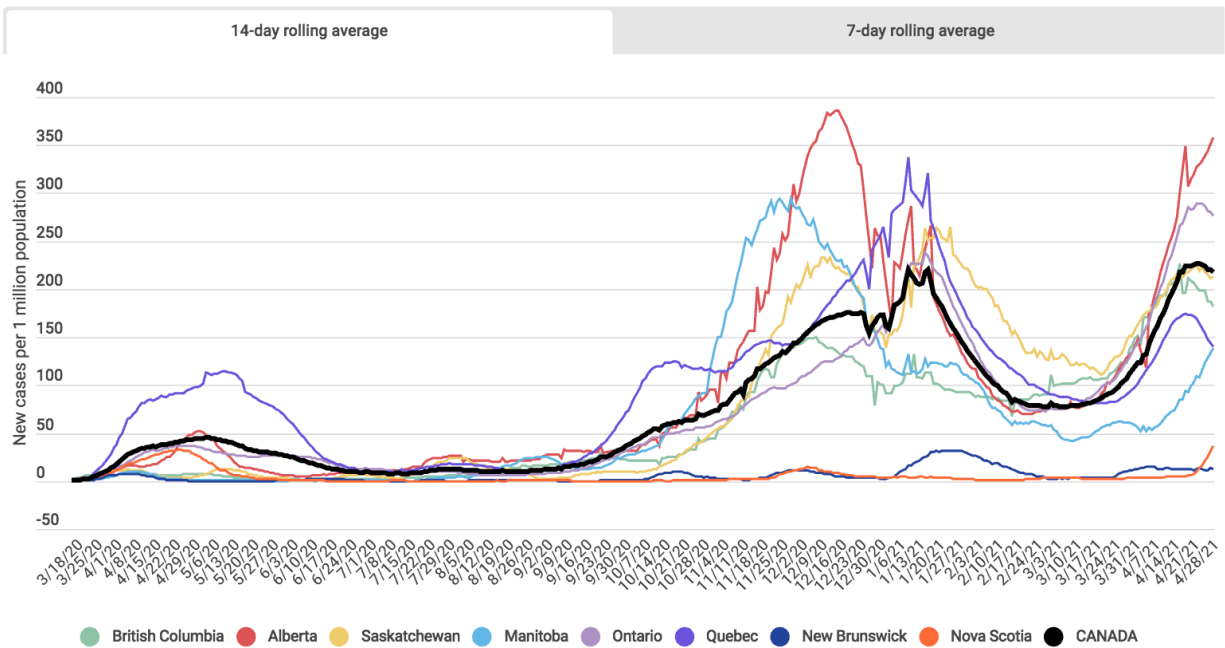




Source of Canadian Data Below (April 29, 2021):
<https://www.macleans.ca/society/health/covid-19-in-canada-how-our-battle-against-the-second-wave-is-going/>

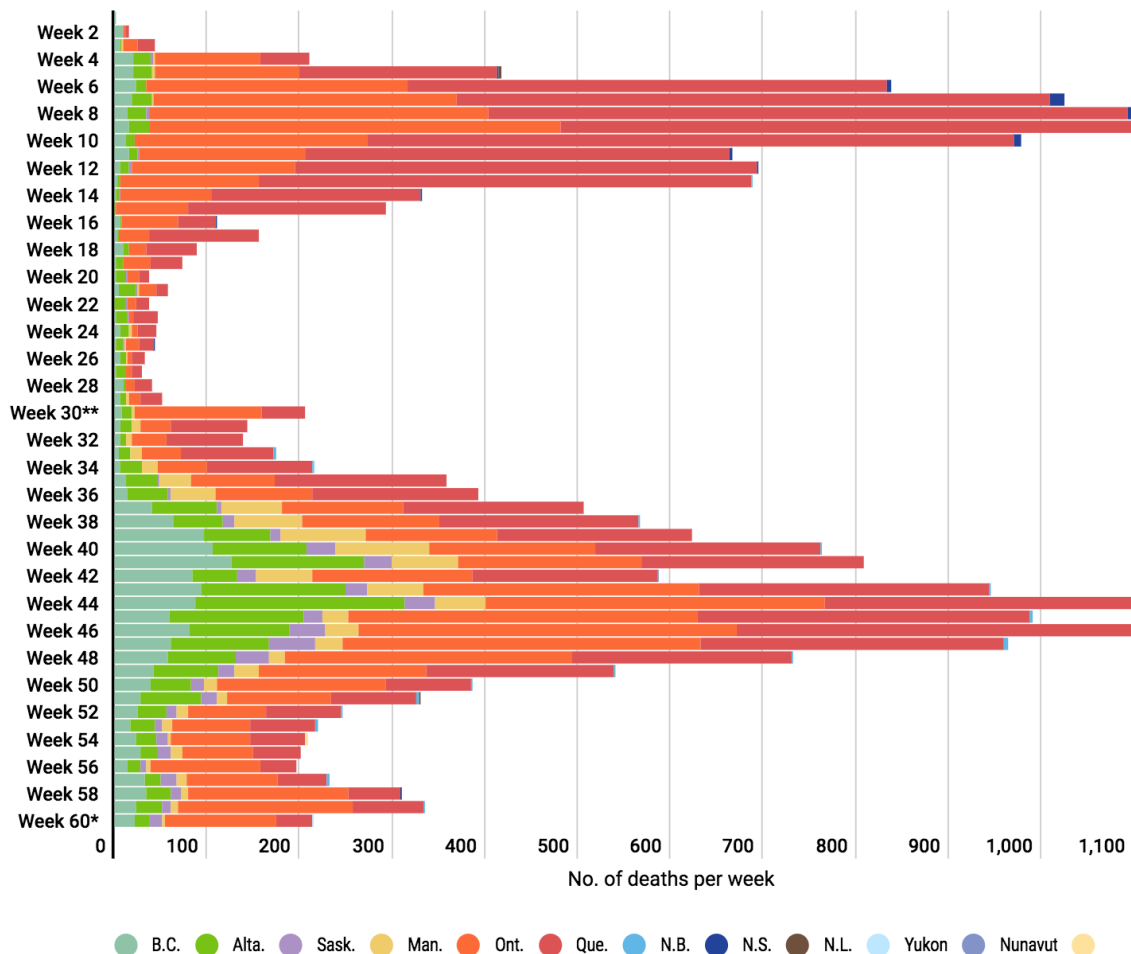
Comparing the daily COVID-19 caseload

Per 1 million population for provinces with 500-plus cases



COVID-19 deaths in Canada

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



No. of daily COVID-19 cases

Daily, starting on day Canada reported its 100th case

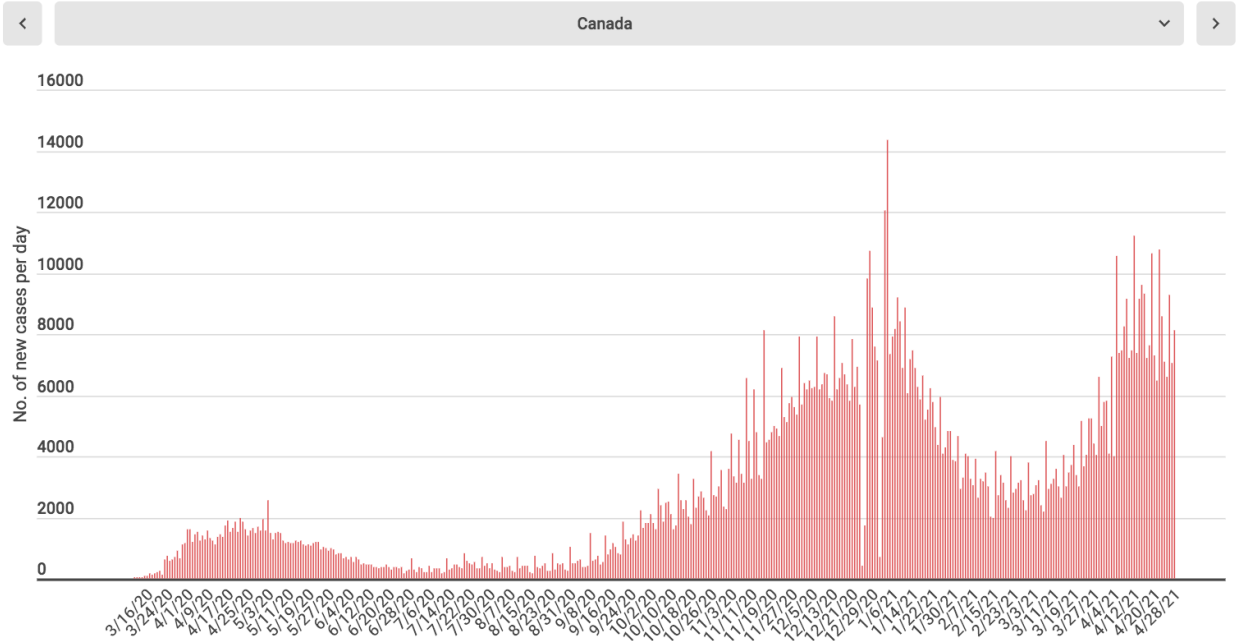


Chart by Patricia Treble. Source: Canadian federal and provincial coronavirus updates



Photo Credits: David Zakus



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