



## CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

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<https://planetaryhealthweekly.com>

May 13,

Hi,

We all live and operate within an information ecosystem. We all have basic and often much more formal education. We listen to the radio, watch TV, read newspapers, books and pamphlets, watch movies, follow various social media and converse with family, friends, neighbours, and those we meet at work, in the classroom or on the street. We are constantly gleaning information, learning about what's around us, how we live, and building on what we already know. For all this to work well we must have an open mind.

We also know that this 'ecosystem' is just as polluted as the biological one, with dis- and misinformation coming at us now from so many directions, including any of those listed above. What do we trust, who do we trust, how much do we trust, do we trust at all? These are all valid questions these days as we try to make sense of the pandemic and the climate and other health, environmental and personal crises.

This issue of trust gets at the basic foundation of the information we process in our brains, heart and soul and it guides us in our journey. Ultimately, we are seeking peace, love and justice, and a healthy life and Earth. For without all that, what really is there? However we discern all this is ultimately important to how we move from day to day and conceive of the future that we want for ourselves and our descendants. Ultimately, we have a responsibility to answer the trust questions and get on with it, seeking truth in ways to create a better world. This may seem obvious but there are many putting up roadblocks against us, flooding our senses and minds with illegitimate and false information, hoping to deter us. This we must react against.

Such is the goal of the **Planetary Health Weekly**, including today's edition (#19 of the year as below). Week after week, the **PHW** share news that we trust will bring us to better understandings of what we, as the human race, are doing to both ourselves, or neighbours and our planet. This can be about searching for and



supporting each other in attaining living happy, healthy, peaceful and fulfilling lives, all in a way that doesn't take that away from someone else, either today or into the future - or it can be the opposite, how we are harming both body, mind and environment.

Though it's hardly new or news, but the pandemic is exposing many inequalities in our search. Paths forward should work to reverse this. The path may be clear, but its complexity is muddled by false information and harmful opinions. Please do keep reading and be informed about:

- Canada's big five banks are missing from the new net-zero banking alliance; Canada's five largest banks have a big fossil fuel problem; and In world's first, New Zealand to make banks report climate impact,
- CORONAVIRUS UPDATES:
  - Pandemic errors made Canadian Covid-19 outbreak far worse than it needed to be,
  - Immediate global ivermectin use can end pandemic say scientists,
  - Addressing the myths of Covid-19 vaccine (short video),
  - The impact of Covid-19 on the TB epidemic from community perspective,
  - Caricom foreign ministers agree on need for global solution to the pandemic,
  - For an Iraqi doctor, vaccination is bittersweet – it didn't come in time for her father,
  - India can learn from China's experience fighting Covid-19 say Dr. Fauci,
  - Kids are in crisis and mental health agencies are struggling to keep up,
  - Why Britain's regulator missed the link between the AstraZeneca jab and rare blood clots, THEN
- Remembering PHW blogger Jay Kravitz,
- Can young creatives convince big advertising to ditch big oil?
- An 'elite minority' is responsible for most aviation pollution, and should be penalized for it,
- Why is this pipeline company keeping its insurers a secret? Trans Mountain wins approval to keep insurers secret; and U.S. Midwest pipeline promises to return carbon dioxide to the ground,
- The sky's the limit – solar and wind energy potential is 100 times as much as global energy demand,
- Avoid anti-science 'happy talk' Fauci tells Nobel summit,
- When will my bank divest from fossil fuels?
- New Canadian law creates 'right' to healthy environment and further restricts toxins; and Will Trudeau's wager on carbon capture help or hurt the environment?
- Ontario government slammed for allowing gold mining claims in Grassy Narrows as mercury cleanup stalls,
- Big tree-mendous benefits to our planet by knowing your carbon footprint (see how to calculate it),
- Got climate anxiety? – ditching planet-heating habits may offer relief,
- The sustainability of healthcare – why aren't we talking about it?

- Australia's mice plague is horrific,
- Where do women hold the most and least political power? (infographic),
- New book: "I Am A Girl From Africa" by Elizabeth Nyamayaro,
- Canadian government launches CanCOVID to connect healthcare professionals, educators, researchers and policy-makers, and lastly
- ENDSHOTS of Backyard Spring Flowers amid Global and Canadian Covid-19 stats and charts.

Keep on reading. Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



**Backyard Magnolia**

**Toronto, Ontario, May 10, 2021**

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## **Canada's Big Five Missing From New Net-Zero Banking Alliance**



Credit: Vancity

Vancouver credit union Vancity was the only Canadian financial institution to join the recent launch of a new global banking coalition for net-zero emissions. **None of Canada's big five banks** were founding signatories of the UN-convened Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) that promised April 21 to align investment portfolios with science-based climate targets starting in 2030.

The alliance currently counts 43 banks from 23 countries, representing US\$28 trillion in assets, including global giants HSBC, Barclays, Bank of America, Citi, Morgan Stanley, BNP Paribas, Santander, Credit Suisse and Deutsche Bank. The Canadian Bankers Association, which represents over 60 domestic and foreign banks operating in Canada, including the big five banks — TD, BMO, Scotiabank, RBC and CIBC — said it has not taken a position on whether its members should join the net-zero alliance. "The decision to join groups like these is taken at the individual bank level," said Mathieu Labrèche, the association's director of media strategy." Read more at [National Observer](#)

#### SEE ALSO

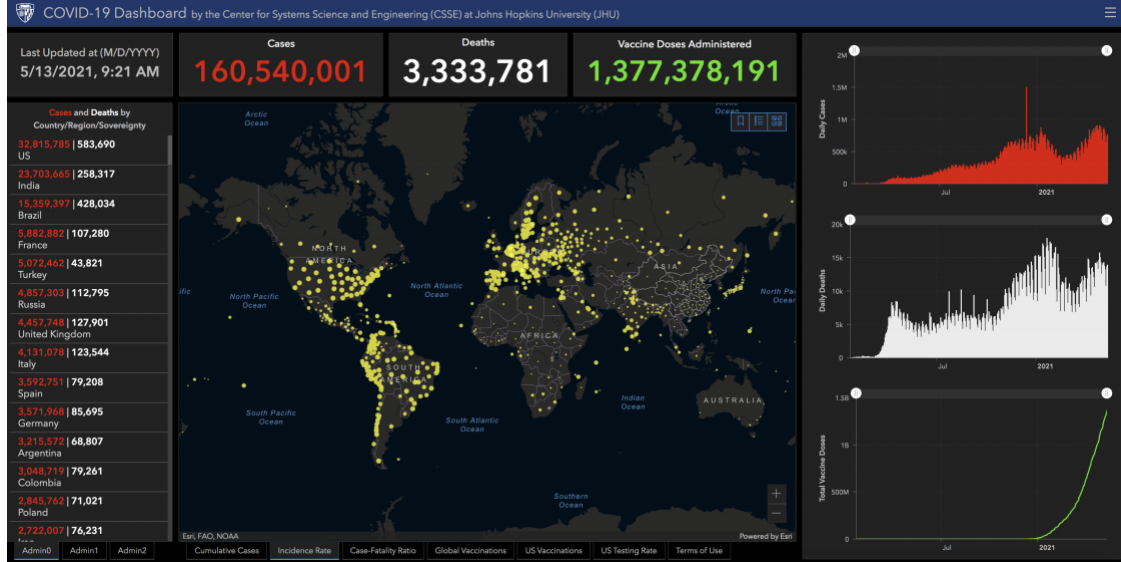
At National Observer: [Canada's Five Largest Banks Have A Big Problem — Fossil Fuels](#)

At Phys.org: [In World First, New Zealand To Make Banks Report Climate Impact](#)

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





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

*Once again, globally, it's continues to be terrible though slightly improved. Over the last week there were about 4.75 5.5 million new cases of Covid-19 (down 14%) and 82,000 new related deaths (10% down). But the pandemic continues to rage, including in South America where 6/12 of the global hot spot countries for deaths are found.*

*(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



**Pandemic Errors Made Canadian COVID-19 Outbreak Far Worse Than It Needed To Be, Committee Told**

Credit: DAVID KAWAI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poor intelligence gathering on [COVID-19](#), faulty risk assessments on the spread of the virus, and a Public Health Agency that lacked enough scientific expertise all helped make the pandemic worse in Canada than it should have been, a parliamentary committee heard Friday.

During several hours of testimony that was critical of the federal government's response to the outbreak, experts in national security, public health and medicine said many of the problems with Canada's pandemic response were avoidable. And those lessons can't be ignored as the government tries to distil the lessons from COVID-19 in hopes of preparing the country for a future health threat.

Wesley Wark, an adjunct professor at the University of Ottawa who is an expert in intelligence gathering and security, said the government failed to conduct proper risk assessments of the virus, and did not heed early evidence in 2020 that the pandemic was a serious threat.

Countries who fared better in the pandemic – such as Australia, New Zealand and Korea – all showed signs of taking the threat more seriously early on, implementing stricter measures weeks and months ahead of Canada, including travel restrictions, border closures, physical distancing and lockdowns.

"I think if we had taken more seriously all the evidence in front of our eyes about the spread of COVID-19 globally and had been willing to act on that, Canada could have been in a much better position to protect itself nationally and provincially by at the very latest the end of February (2020), if not earlier than that. And certainly not having to wait to go into mid-March before we took real action." Read more at [The Globe and Mail](#)

## READ MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At HealthEconomicTimes: [Immediate global ivermectin use can end pandemic say scientists](#)

At YouTube: [Addressing the myths of Covid-19 vaccine \(short video\)](#)

At StopTB: [The impact of Covid-19 on the TB epidemic from community perspective](#)

At NYCaribNews: [Caricom foreign ministers agree on need for global solution to the pandemic](#)

At WashingtonPost: [For an Iraqi doctor, vaccination is bittersweet – it didn't come in time for her father](#)

AT SCMP: [India can learn from China's experience fighting Covid-19 say Dr. Fauci](#)

At SCMP: [Vaccination drives stutter as new Covid-19 waves hit Vietnam and Thailand](#)

At TheStar: [Kids are in crisis and mental health agencies are struggling to keep up,](#)

At Telegraph: [Why Britain's regulator missed the link between the AstraZeneca jab and rare blood clots](#)

At SCMP: [What we know about the B.1.617 coronavirus variant sweeping across South Asia](#)

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## Remembering Our Blogger Jay Kravitz

Dr. Jay Kravitz, our regular, second Thursday of the month blogger, and great friend of the PHW Editor for at least 20 years, passed away suddenly and peacefully in his home a couple weeks ago. I will sorely miss him. He lived in a beautiful giant log farm home he constructed on the outskirts of Portland, Oregon. He was a humanitarian doctor, educator and public health specialist dedicated to global health. Goodbye Jay

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## Can Young Creatives Convince Big Advertising To Ditch Big Oil?



Credits: Kampus Production / Pexels

Some of the biggest contributors to global warming — if indirect ones — are the public relations firms and ad agencies in the pay of Big Oil and Big Auto. These companies not only market and promote products that consume vast amounts of fossil fuel, they also sometimes promote climate misinformation spread by fossil fuel companies.

But there is now the glimmering of a rebellion within the ranks. Tensions are heating up between the young “creatives” in the world of advertising and public relations and their clients — and between the younger generation at the ad agencies and the old-timers (think of the protagonists in the series *Mad Men*). And some younger folks inside the PR and ad industry are taking things a step further, engaging in a full-court press to get their colleagues in the creative departments at some of the biggest firms on Madison Avenue to pressure their bosses to quit working for fossil fuel companies.

One of the organizations spearheading this effort is a months-old group calling itself “Clean Creatives,” which has produced a [report](#) that lays bare the connections between the world’s largest PR and ad agencies and the fossil fuel industry, as well

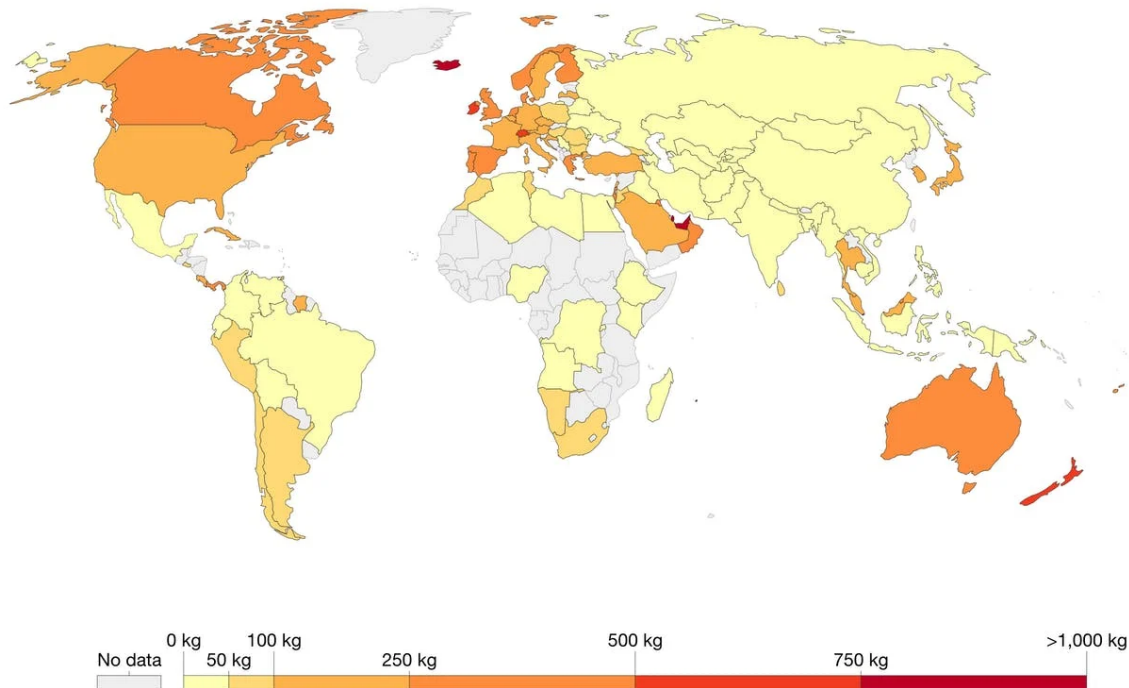


# An 'Elite Minority' Is Responsible For Most Aviation Pollution, and Should Be Penalized For It, Says NGO

Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international aviation, 2018

International aviation emissions are here allocated to the country of departure of each flight.

Our World  
in Data



Source: Graver, Zhang & Rutherford (2019). International Council of Clean Transportation (ICCT).

CC BY

An “elite minority” of frequent flyers cause most of the climate damage resulting from aviation’s emissions, according to Possible, a climate charity based in the United Kingdom. Their [report](#), which collated data from the top 26 countries that produce the highest aviation emissions, shows that most air travel, even within the richest of nations, is “down to a small, relatively well-off demographic taking ever more frequent leisure flights.”

In China, 5% of households take 40% of all the flights and in India just 1% of households take 45% of all the flights, the report said. In Indonesia, just 1 in 30 households take more than half of the total flights. Aviation accounts for 2.4% of global carbon dioxide emissions, according to the International Council on Clean Transport.

The climate charity recommends in its report imposing a [frequent flyer levy](#) which makes it incrementally more expensive for the “elite minority responsible for most of the environmental damage from flights” each time they fly. Campaigners say that this approach tackles the climate crisis fairly, ensuring people with greater responsibility for emissions make bigger changes. Other environmental groups, including Greenpeace, also support the idea of a levy.

“While the poorest communities are already suffering the impacts of a warming climate, the benefits of high-carbon lifestyles are enjoyed only by the few,” said Alethea Warrington, campaigner at Possible. “A progressive tax on aviation would treat frequent flying as the luxury habit it is. A lot of people travel. But only the privileged few fly often.” Read more at [Eco-Business](#)

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## Why Is This Pipeline Company Keeping Its Insurers A Secret?



*Credit: Marc Fawcett-Atkinson*

Nestled in the harbours of Vancouver, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation has lived for thousands of years within an inlet set against the mountain views of the Pacific Northwest. But across the water from Tsleil-Waututh Nation’s reserve, less than two kilometres away, is a jarring juxtaposition: an industrial terminal for the massive [Trans Mountain](#) oil pipeline.

Oil tankers have frequented the terminal weekly for years, and now it is being enlarged so [Trans Mountain](#) can triple the amount of oil it transports from the landlocked oilsands of Alberta to the West Coast. Last week, opponents of the project suffered a [major setback](#) in that struggle. In an expanding front of the climate movement, the initiative and allied environmental organizations have been targeting the insurers and other financial institutions that make pipelines and other fossil fuel projects possible, ramping up public pressure on the companies.

But in response, Canadian regulators have [agreed to a request from Trans Mountain](#) to keep the names of its insurers secret.” Read more at [National Observer](#)

**SEE ALSO**

## Trans Mountain Wins Approval To Keep Insurers Secret



Credit: Transmountain Pipeline/ Facebook

Canada's federal energy regulator has granted a request by the government-owned [Trans Mountain](#) oil pipeline to keep the names of the companies providing its insurance coverage a secret. Trans Mountain had until April 30 to file an updated certificate that normally would have disclosed the list of insurance companies backing the existing, 68-year-old pipeline. On Feb. 22, it asked the [Canada Energy Regulator](#) (CER) if it could [file the list confidentially](#) instead.

The regulator said [in a letter on Thursday](#) it had accepted Trans Mountain's arguments and concluded the company's "interest in confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure." The [Alberta government](#) and several business groups, including the [Canadian Energy Pipeline Association](#), the [Canadian Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Business Council of British Columbia](#), had backed the pipeline's request for insurer anonymity.

[Tsleil-Waututh Nation](#), which says the pipeline's expansion project endangers its traditional way of life on Burrard Inlet in the Vancouver region, swiftly condemned the move as a risky decision out of step with government transparency." Read more at [National Observer](#)

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### GOOD NEWS

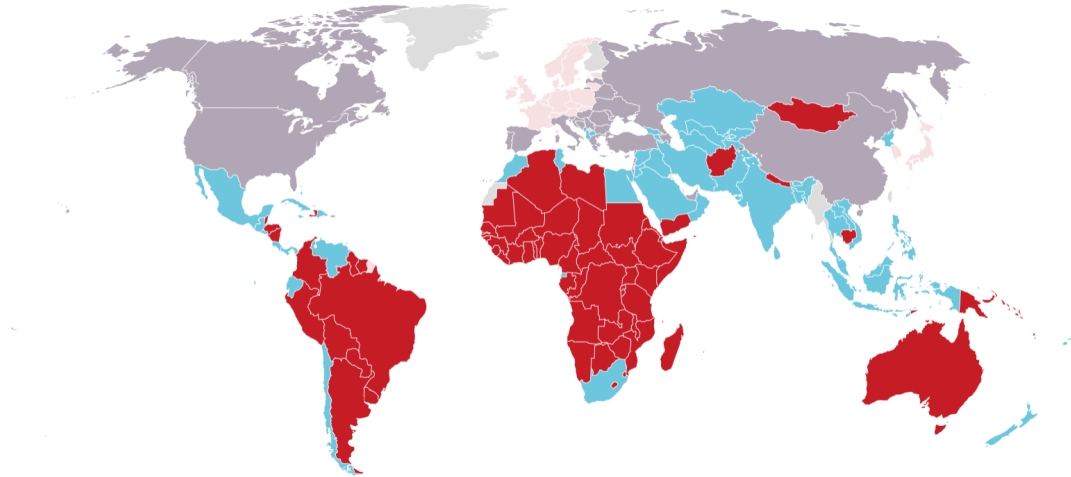
## The Sky's the Limit: Solar And Wind Energy Potential Is 100 Times As much



# As Global Energy Demand

## Share of land required to generate all energy from solar

■ 0.1% or less ■ Below 1% ■ Below 5% ■ Over 5%



*Credit:*  
*Carbon Tracker*

With current technology and in a subset of available locations we can capture at least 6,700 PWh p.a. from solar and wind, which is more than 100 times global energy demand.

Humans specialize in extracting cheap energy, and fast, as witnessed by the rapid development of shale gas. Now the opportunity has been unlocked, expect continued exponential growth of solar and wind deployment.

The technical and economic barriers have been crossed and the only impediment to change is political. Sector by sector and country by country the fossil fuel incumbency is being swamped by the rapidly rising tide of new energy technologies.

The fossil fuel industry cannot compete with the technology learning curves of renewables, so demand will inevitably fall as wind and solar continue to grow. At the current 15-20% growth rates of solar and wind, fossil fuels will be pushed out of the electricity sector by the mid-2030s and out of total energy supply by 2050." Read more at [Carbon Tracker](#)

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## MORE GOOD NEWS

## Avoid Anti-Science 'Happy Talk,' Fauci Tells Nobel Summit



Credit: Shealah Craighead

Fauci, 80, the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, has advised seven American presidents, from Reagan to Biden, on everything from HIV to Ebola to [COVID-19](#). At one point, he was one of the world's most frequently cited scientists, and has been called "America's doctor."

He appeared on a virtual panel April 27 alongside Nobel Prize laureates Jennifer Doudna, a biochemist known for developing CRISPR gene editing, and Peter Doherty, an Australian veterinary surgeon who has also worked in immunology, to talk about the pandemic and "solving problems with science."

Sticking with science's inconvenient truths, even if they rub politicians the wrong way, was a theme of the day, the second day in the three-day conference called "Our Planet, Our Future," and featuring scientific, policy and business leaders focused on tackling climate change and inequality.

On the panel, Doherty spoke about how climate change will make catastrophic events like the pandemic more frequent, in particular as mosquito-borne diseases are able to move farther from the equator as the planet heats up. He said action on climate change "threatens all sorts of economic imperatives," and demands that humans significantly change their behaviour — something he said was harder than it seemed.

"The most difficult things for human beings to do is once they've gained what they've seen as an advantage is actually to give up on that — or even to contemplate giving up on that," he said. Read more [National Observer](#)

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## OPINION

# When Will My Bank (RBC) Divest From Fossil Fuels?



Did you know that there are roughly [7.5 million grandparents](#) living in Canada? And many, like Lorraine Green, have become climate activists, deeply concerned about the legacy they will leave their grandchildren. We know that we're in a climate emergency that threatens their future and we ask why our governments and institutions are not acting on climate with the urgency that is needed. We're leaving no stone unturned and we're questioning many of our life choices including the way we do our banking. In a letter Lorraine is asking RBC, her bank and former employer, when it will divest from fossil fuels.

In 2020, she learned that RBC, her former employer and bank of over half a century, is one of the world's leading funders of fossil fuels and a grave threat to the survival of her five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

In the four years since the Paris Climate Agreement was signed in 2015, RBC and Canada's four other major banks – TD, Scotia, BMO, and CIBC – have allocated more than half a trillion dollars to fund an industry that is playing Russian roulette with our children's and grandkids' lives. As a former employee for 24 years, and still an RBC customer, she was shocked and angry to learn that her bank was #5 on 'The Dirty Dozen' list of 35 of the world's top private banks financing fossil fuels, thus accelerating the climate crisis.

The latest [Banking on Climate Chaos](#) Report, just released, shows RBC is still the largest funder of fossil fuels in Canada and 5<sup>th</sup> largest in the world, financing C\$208 billion since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2016, including C\$79 billion in fossil fuel expansion projects. Read more at [Below 2C](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

# New (Canadian Federal) Bill Creates 'Right' To Healthy Environment, Further Restricts Toxins





Credit: Canadian Environment and Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson pictured in December 2018  
(Photo from the office of the minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard)

The government's update of federal environmental-protection legislation will make "a healthy environment" a legal right, and change how the government assesses toxic chemicals to better protect human health.

Bill C-28, the Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act, was tabled in the House of Commons by Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson on April 13. It's meant to "modernize" the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, which the Liberals promised to do during the last election campaign. The current iteration of the Act dates back to 1999.

Bill C-28 asserts that "every individual in Canada has a right to a healthy environment," and compels the government to protect that right.

Nothing in Canadian law currently defines what makes an environment "healthy." But if the bill is passed, the government will have two years to both define it and decide how to protect it. It will do so using "research, studies, or monitoring activities," according to the bill. Lisa Gue, a researcher with the David Suzuki Foundation, told iPolitics on Tuesday she was "very encouraged" to see the government affirm environmental health as a right. "There are 156 countries in the world that have already recognized the right to a healthy environment in their laws, or in a legally binding treaty or constitution, so Canada is really in the small minority of countries that doesn't already recognize this right," Gue said.

Only two provinces, Ontario and Quebec, have laws recognizing the right to a healthy environment." Read more at [iPolitics](#)

**SEE ALSO:**

**At National Observer:** [Will Trudeau's Wager On Carbon Capture Help Or Hurt The Environment?](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

# Ontario Government Slammed for

# Allowing Gold Mining Claims in Grassy Narrows as Mercury Cleanup Stalls



**Credit: Unknown**

The Progressive Conservative government in Ontario is under fire after revelations of a new gold rush in Grassy Narrows First Nations territory even though suspected mercury dumps have yet to be cleaned up.

In the wake of a [front-page \*Toronto Star\* investigation by Sheila Wang](#) that found a dramatic increase in gold mining claims at the Grassy Narrows First Nation recently, the government conceded the mercury contamination dating back to the 1960s “must be properly addressed.”

“Indigenous communities are assessing the extent and location of mercury contamination, using funding approved by the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel from the \$85-million trust,” government house leader Paul Calandra said Tuesday. That money was committed by former premier Kathleen Wynne’s Liberals in 2017, which at the time blamed [“gross neglect”](#) by successive Tory, Grit, and NDP governments.

Between 1962 and 1970, a paper plant in Dryden dumped 10 tonnes of mercury into the Wabigoon River, contaminating the fish and poisoning local residents.”  
Read more at [Toronto Star](#)

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Credit: Shealah Craighead

## Quote Of The Week

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen told the Our Planet, Our Future (Nobel Summit) to invest in scientific education to help the younger generation “understand the pandemic — how it started, and how we can stop it.”

**“We must help them (the younger generation) understand how our planet works, and how to save it, with climate education in every school,” said von der Leyen. “A widespread scientific culture is the only antidote against a mentality that sees conspiracies everywhere.”**

The “Our Planet, Our Future” Summit included and featured scientific, policy and business leaders focused on tackling climate change and inequality.

READ MORE AT NATIONAL OBSERVER

## Upcoming Events

- 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.

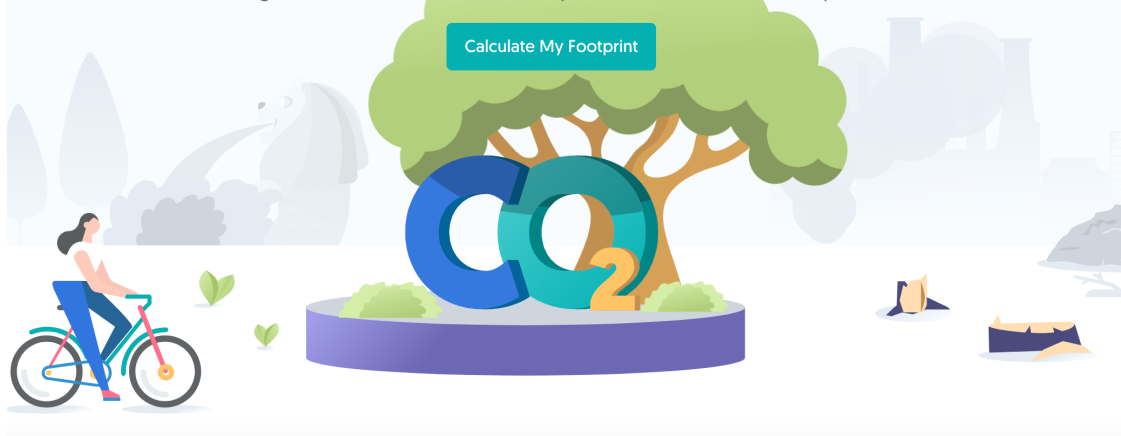
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## FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

**Bring Tree-mendous Benefits to  
Our Planet by Knowing Your  
Carbon Footprint**

## Bring Tree-mendous Benefits to Our Planet By Knowing Your Carbon Footprint

Do you know that it takes about 400 rain trees to absorb the carbon emissions from each person in Singapore annually? Learn more about the amount of carbon emissions you produce and how to reduce them. Let's bring tree-mendous benefits to our planet and make it a cooler place!



Credit: SPGroup

**Calculate your Carbon Footprint using this tool from SP Group!**

**SEE ALSO at EcoBusiness:**

**[Got Climate Anxiety? Ditching Planet-heating Lifestyle Habits May Offer Relief](#)**

Read More at SP Group

## **FYI #2**

**The Sustainability (i.e.,  
Decarbonization) of Healthcare: Why  
Aren't We Talking About It?**



Credit: Victoria Haldane, a researcher with the Centre for Sustainable Health Systems and founding member of Emerging Leaders for Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare (ELESH).

**Climate change is the greatest threat to health and well-being in the 21st century, contributing to rising cases of heat stroke, cardiorespiratory illnesses, and vector diseases globally, just to name a few. At the same time, the healthcare sector is part of the problem. If it were a country, it would be the fifth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. In addition, the global pandemic crisis triggered by Covid-19 has seen an explosion of the use of single-use personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing kits, generating unprecedented volumes of waste around the world.**

**Despite its outsized footprint, sustainability in the healthcare sector is a surprisingly under-covered issue in the media and global healthcare forums. In this Eco-Business podcast, Victoria Haldane, a researcher with the [Centre for](#)**



Listen at EcoBusiness Podcast

### FYI #3

## Australia's 'Mice Plague' Is Horrific. Consider Yourself Warned

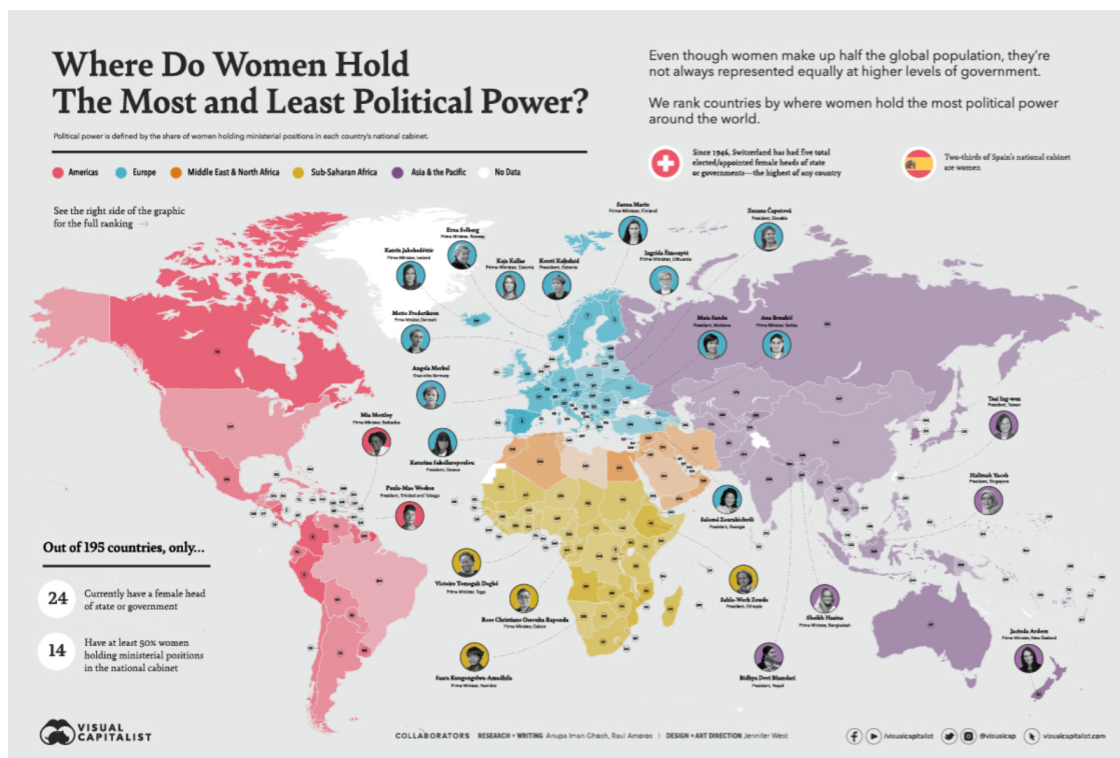


Credit: Sciencelimage

Millions of mice are wrecking havoc in Eastern Australia. The climate in the region has been predominantly dry the last five years, however recent change in environmental conditions has created an optimal breeding environment for the non-native house mouse. Farmers are especially worried as the mice pose a significant threat to their crops.

## FYI #4

# Where Do Women Hold the Most and Least Political Power?



Credit: Visual Capitalist

From the right to vote, to owning property and assets, women's legal and economic rights have come a long way. International Women's Day, held annually on March 8th is an opportunity to commemorate global improvements around gender equality. One big driver for this is women's **political participation**—however, progress in this area has not been distributed evenly worldwide.

In this map, we dig into how much political power women hold around the world. The [Council on Foreign Relations](#) pulls the latest data from UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to examine the shares of women holding ministerial positions in 195 national cabinets.

Here are the top five countries with the highest percentages of women's political power:

Spain: 66.7%

Finland: 61.1%

Nicaragua: 58.8%

Colombia: 57.9%

Austria: 57.1%

Even though women make up half the global population, they're not always represented at higher levels of government. Only **14 countries** have at least 50% women holding ministerial positions in the national cabinet. On the flip side, **nine countries** have 0% women in their national cabinet, such as Saudi Arabia and Thailand. The silver lining to this is that **Saudi Arabia** is actually [improving](#) in some areas of women's economic rights in recent years, such as granting more freedom of movement to travel and prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis on gender.

Read and See More at Visual Capitalist

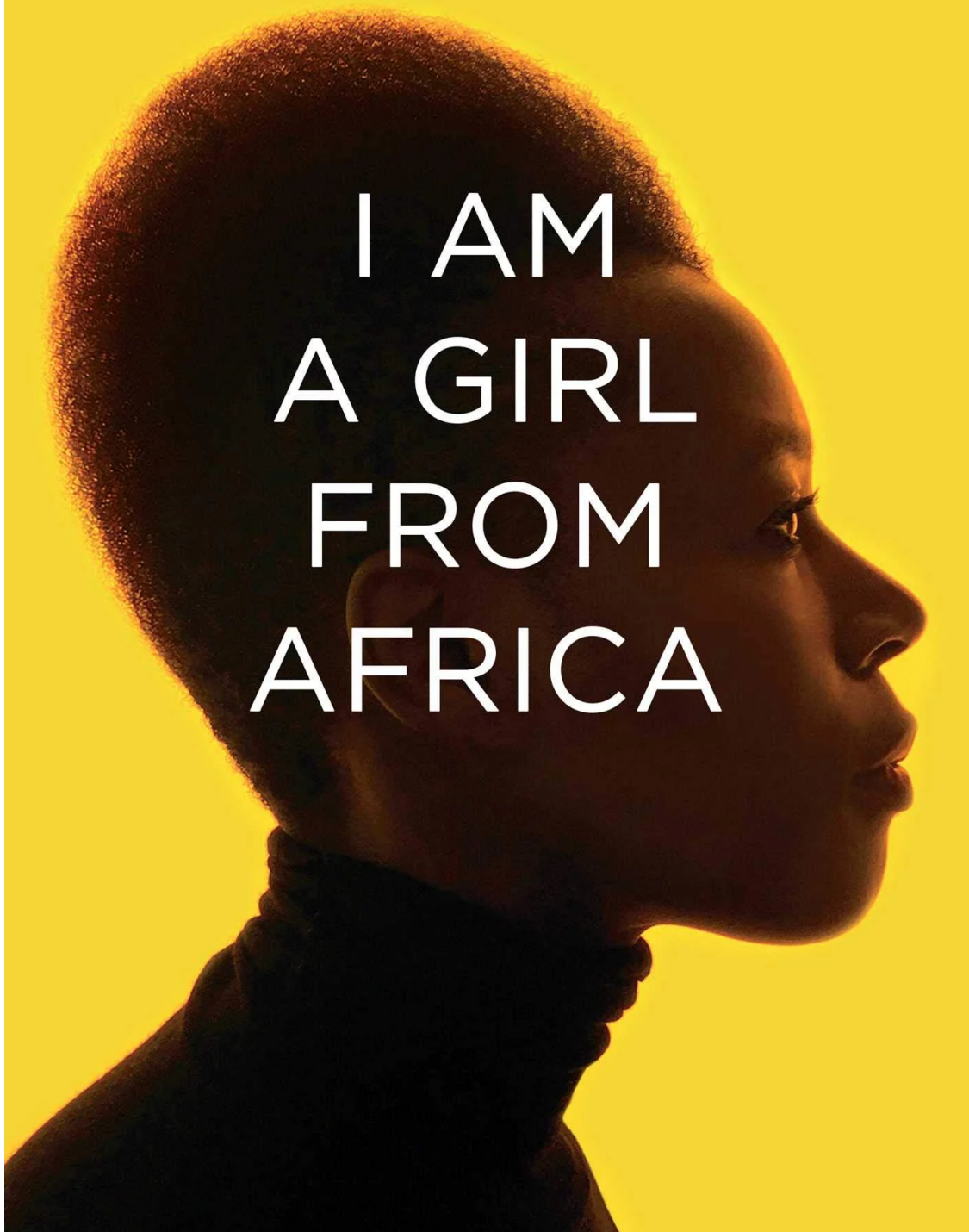
## FYI #5: MAY READING

### NEW BOOK: "I Am A Girl From Africa" by Elizabeth Nyamayaro



# Elizabeth Nyamayaro

a memoir



Credit: Bookcover, Simon and Schuster

**The inspiring journey of a girl from Africa whose near-death experience sparked a dream that changed the world.**

When severe draught hit her village in Zimbabwe, Elizabeth Nyamayaro, then eight, had no idea that this moment of utter devastation would come to define her life purpose. Unable to move from hunger, she encountered a United Nations aid worker who gave her a bowl of warm porridge and saved her life. This transformative moment inspired Elizabeth to become a humanitarian, and she vowed to dedicate her life to giving back to her community, her continent, and the

world.

Grounded by the African concept of *ubuntu*—"I am because we are"—*I Am a Girl from Africa* charts Elizabeth's quest in pursuit of her dream from the small village of Goromonzi to Harare, London, New York and beyond, where she eventually became a Senior Advisor at the United Nations and launched *HeForShe*, one of the world's largest global solidarity movements for gender equality. For over two decades, Elizabeth has been instrumental in creating change in communities all around the world; uplifting the lives of others, just as her life was once uplifted. The memoir brings to vivid life one extraordinary woman's story of persevering through incredible odds and finding her true calling—while delivering an important message of hope and empowerment in a time when we need it most.

[Read More at Simon and Schuster](#)

## FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

# Canadian Government Launches CanCOVID to Connect Health-care Professionals, Researchers, Policymakers



Credit: CanCOVID

Canadian researchers across the country have partnered to launch a rapid-response network to facilitate the nation's COVID-19 research and education effort. CanCOVID will expedite communications and collaborations between the scientific,

health care, and policy communities during the pandemic, making it easier for researchers to find each other, share what they know, and vet research results. "The scale of the COVID-19 challenge demands agile, transdisciplinary leadership," said Health Canada Science Advisor Cara Tannenbaum. "If ever the science community was going to step up for the government and achieve something of significance for Canadians, this is the moment."

**SEE ALSO:**

**At Western News:** [Network Rallies Research To Combat Pandemic](#)

Read More at CanCOVID

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## ENDSHOTS

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### ***SPRING FRONT & BACKYARD FLOWERS TORONTO, ONTARIO***

***May 10, 2021***

***Amid Latest World and Canadian COVID-19 Stats & Charts***





Coronavirus Cases:

**161,349,263**

[view by country](#)

Deaths:

**3,349,469**

Recovered:

**139,153,698**

## ACTIVE CASES

**18,846,096**

Currently Infected Patients

**18,741,419** (99.4%) **104,677** (0.6%)  
in Mild Condition Serious or Critical[Show Graph](#)

## CLOSED CASES

**142,503,167**

Cases which had an outcome:

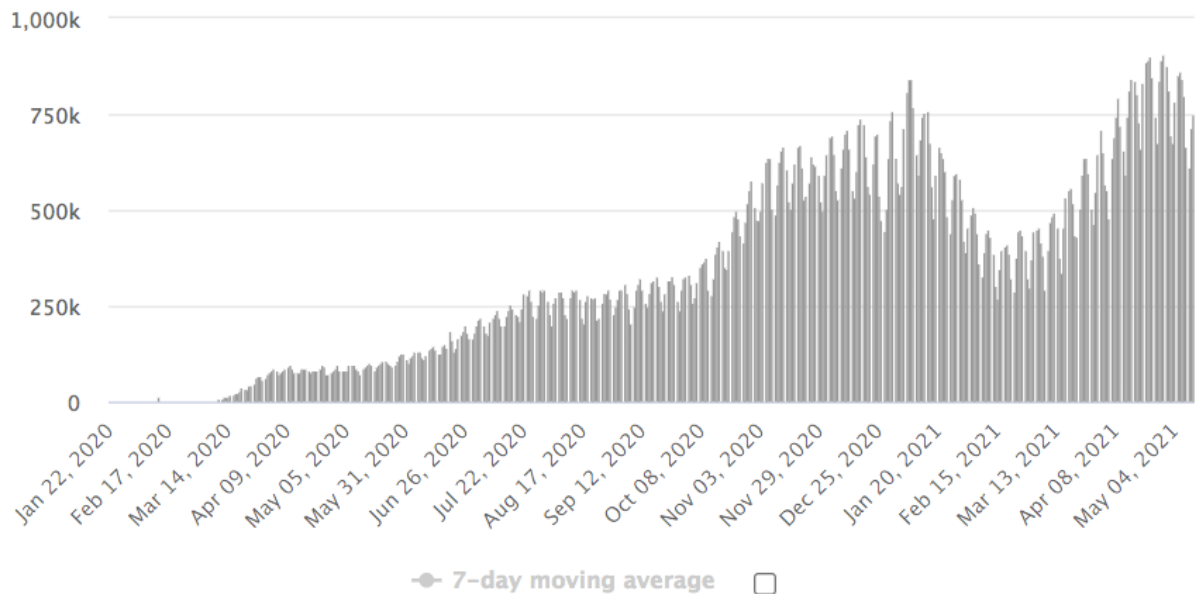
**139,153,698** (98%) **3,349,469** (2%)  
Recovered / Discharged Deaths[Show Graph](#)

daily

linear

logarithmic

## Daily New Cases

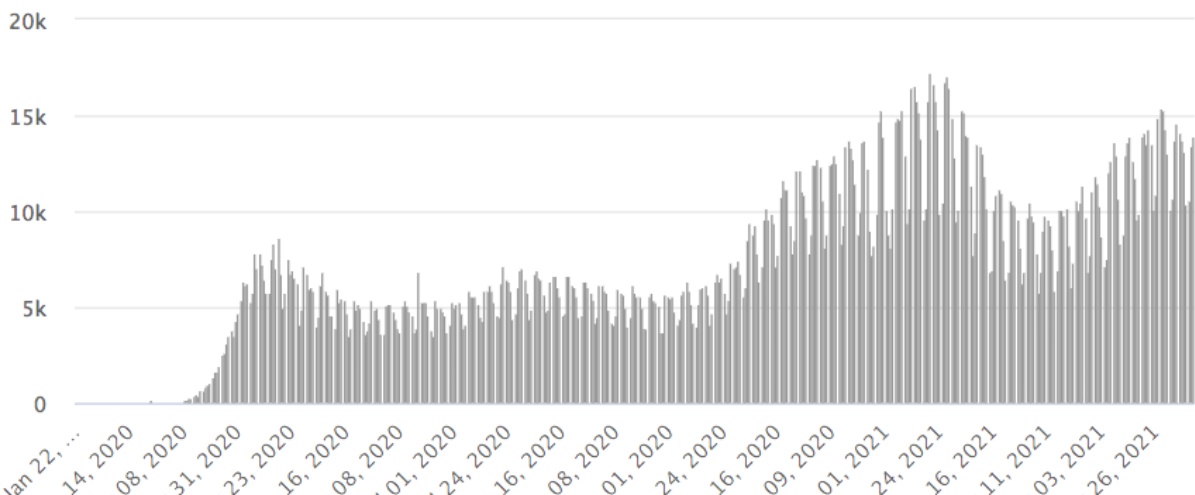
Cases per Day  
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0

daily

linear

logarithmic

## Daily Deaths

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

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

7-day moving average

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



COVID-19 CASES & DEATHS (May 13, 2021), as follows... Source:

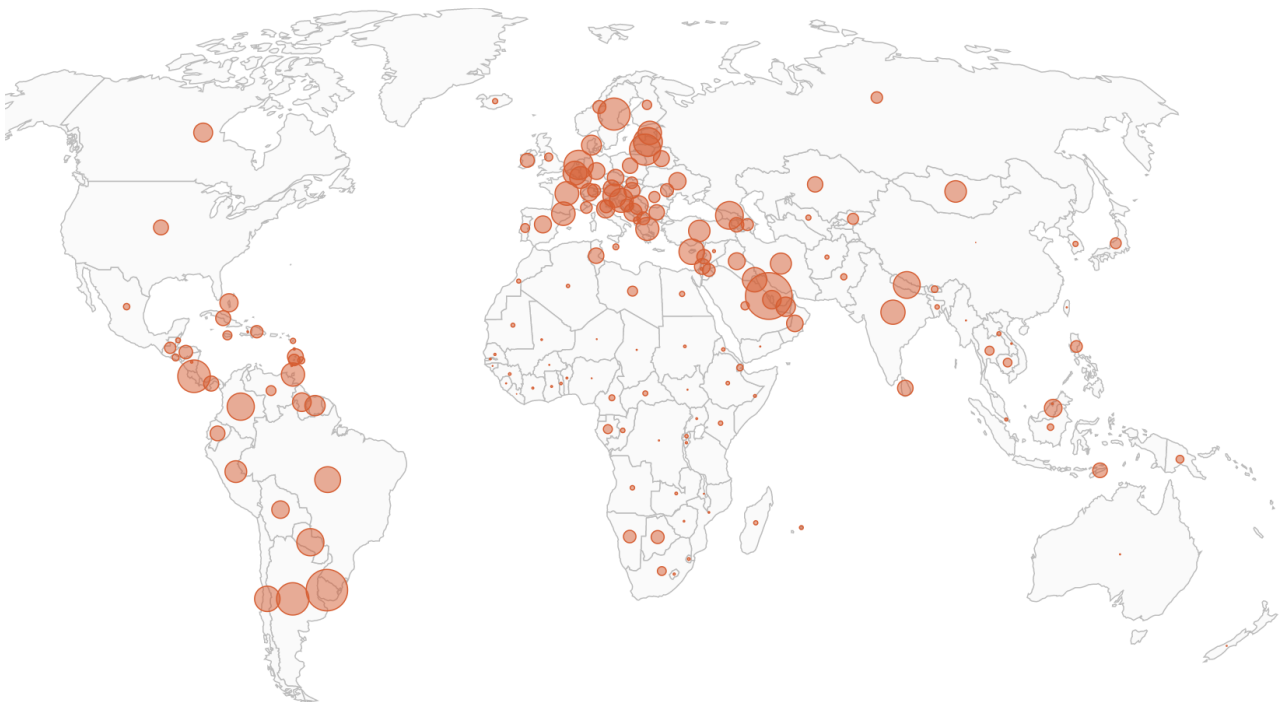


World

# More than 3,335,000 people have died from the coronavirus worldwide

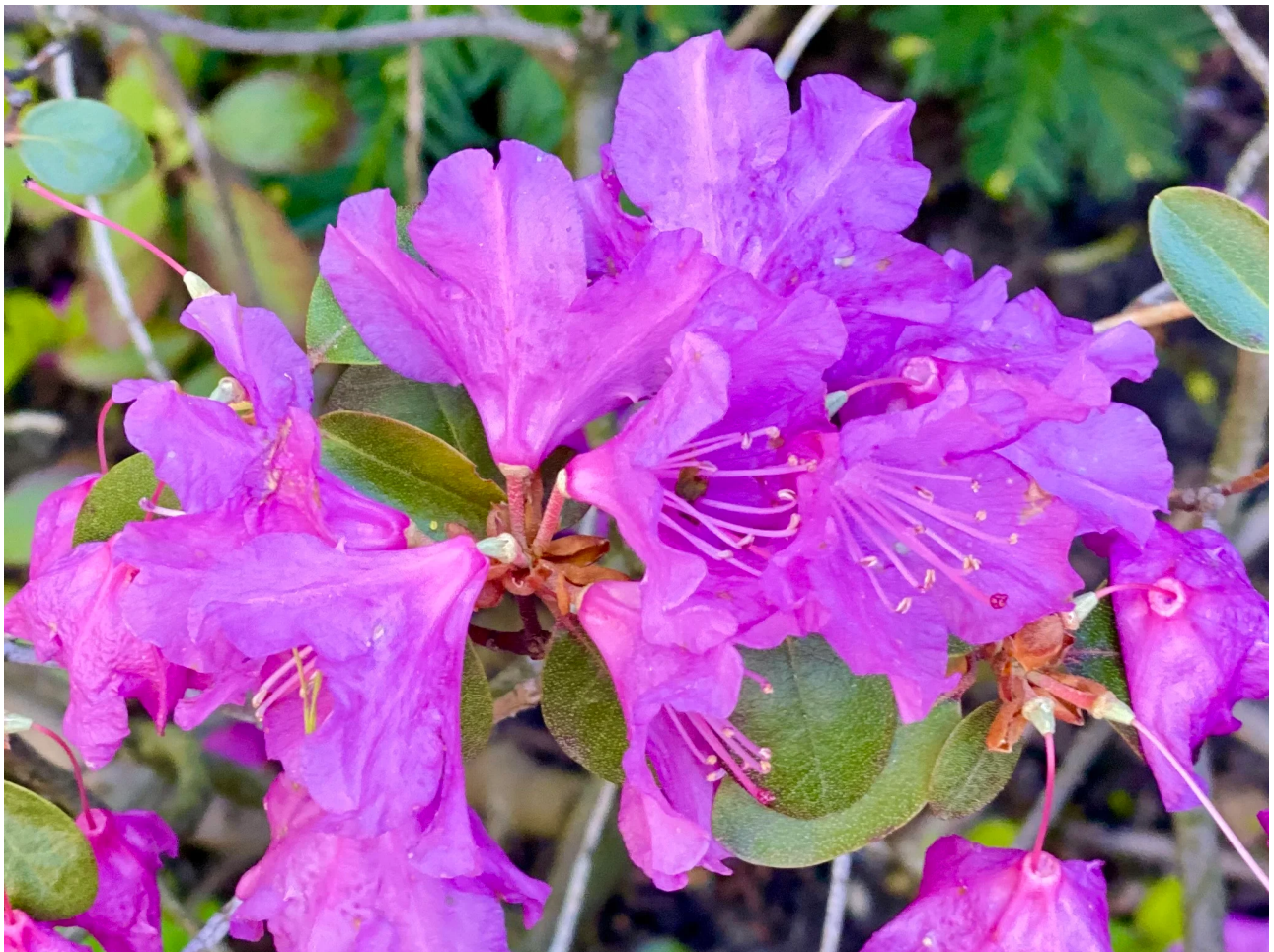
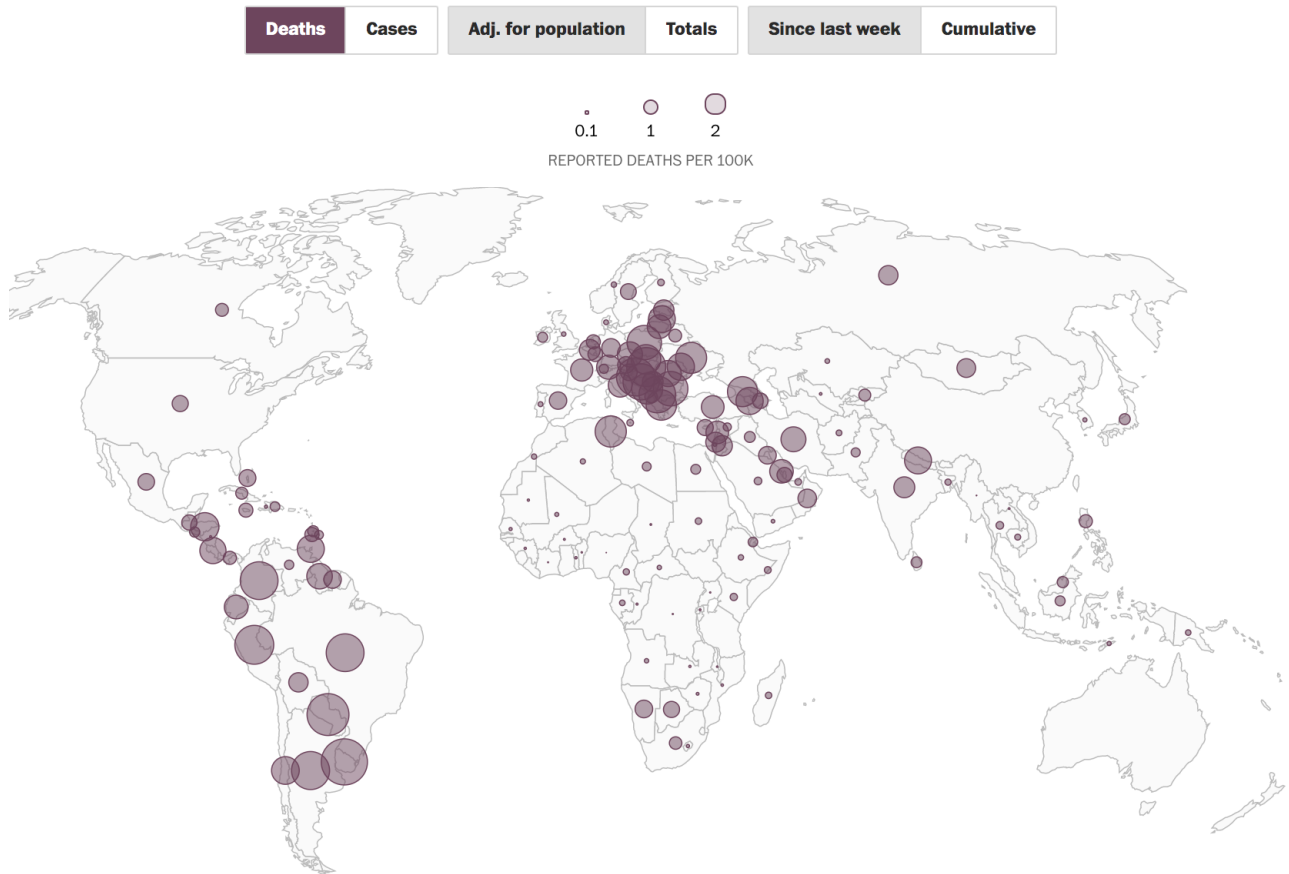
More than **161 million** cases have been reported.

Where the virus is surging





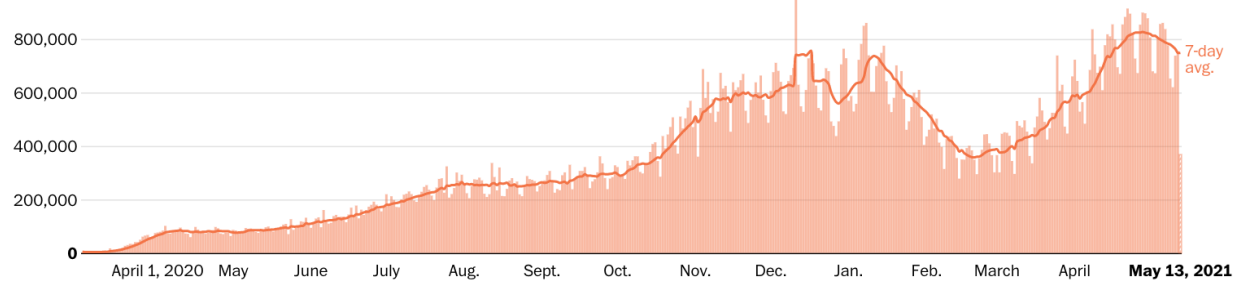
## Where the virus is surging



## New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths Cases

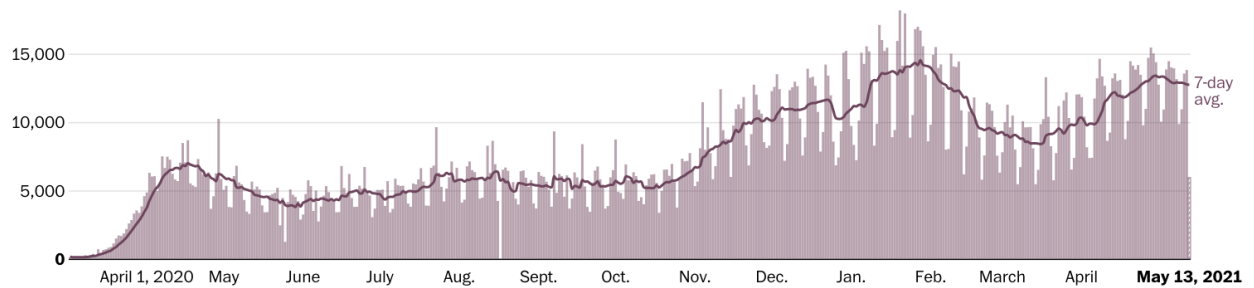
At least 160,781,189 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



## New daily deaths reported across the world

Deaths Cases

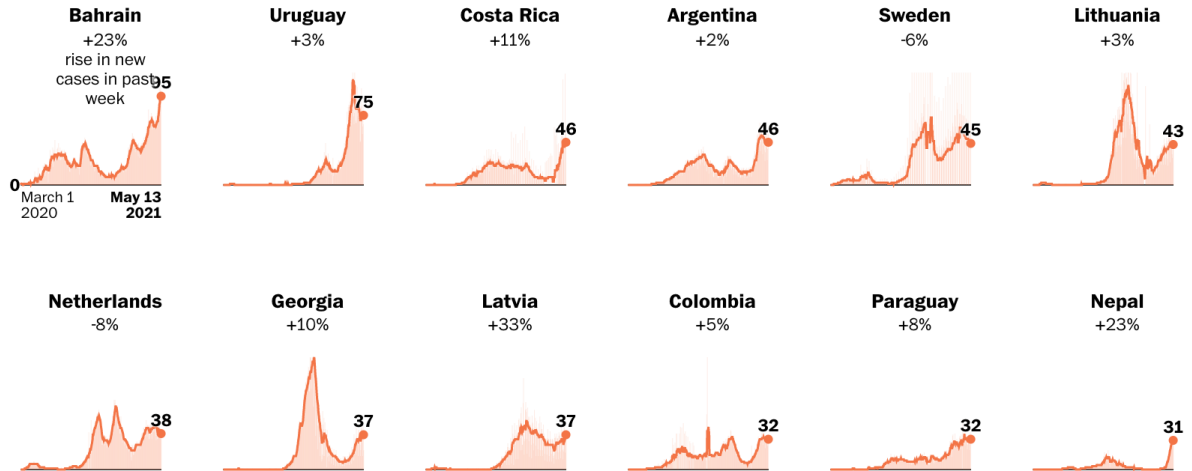
At least 3,335,991 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



## Global hot spots for reported cases per capita

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

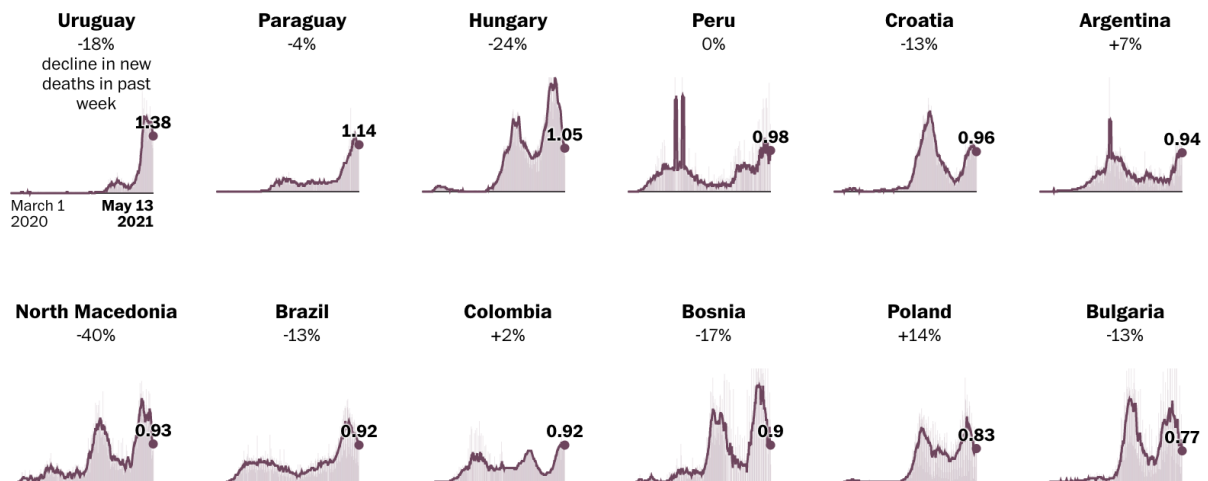
Deaths	Cases	Adj. for population	Totals
--------	-------	---------------------	--------



## 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

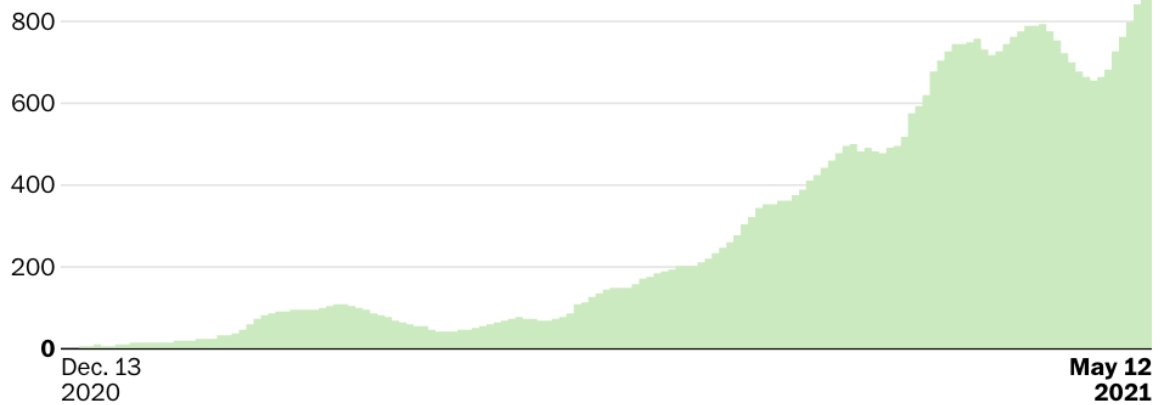
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

Show by

Canada



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

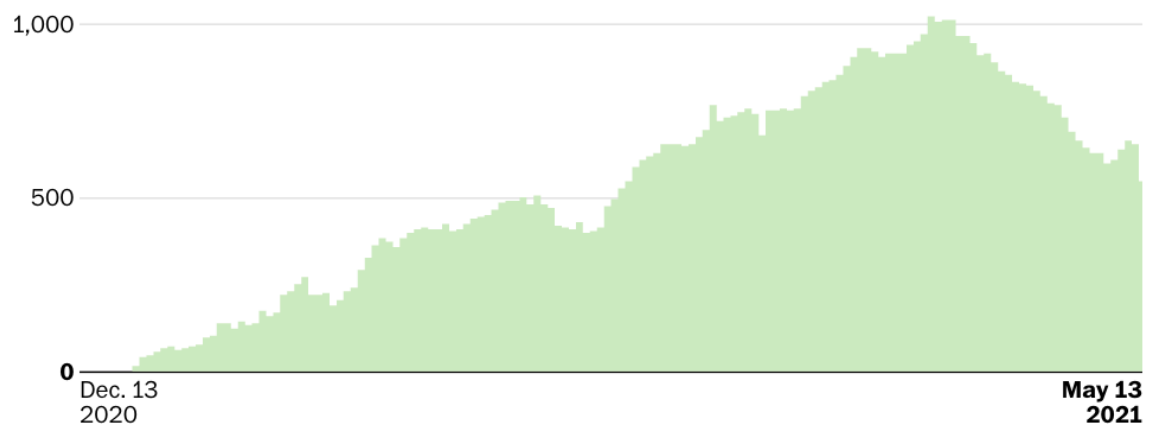
Adj. for population

Totals

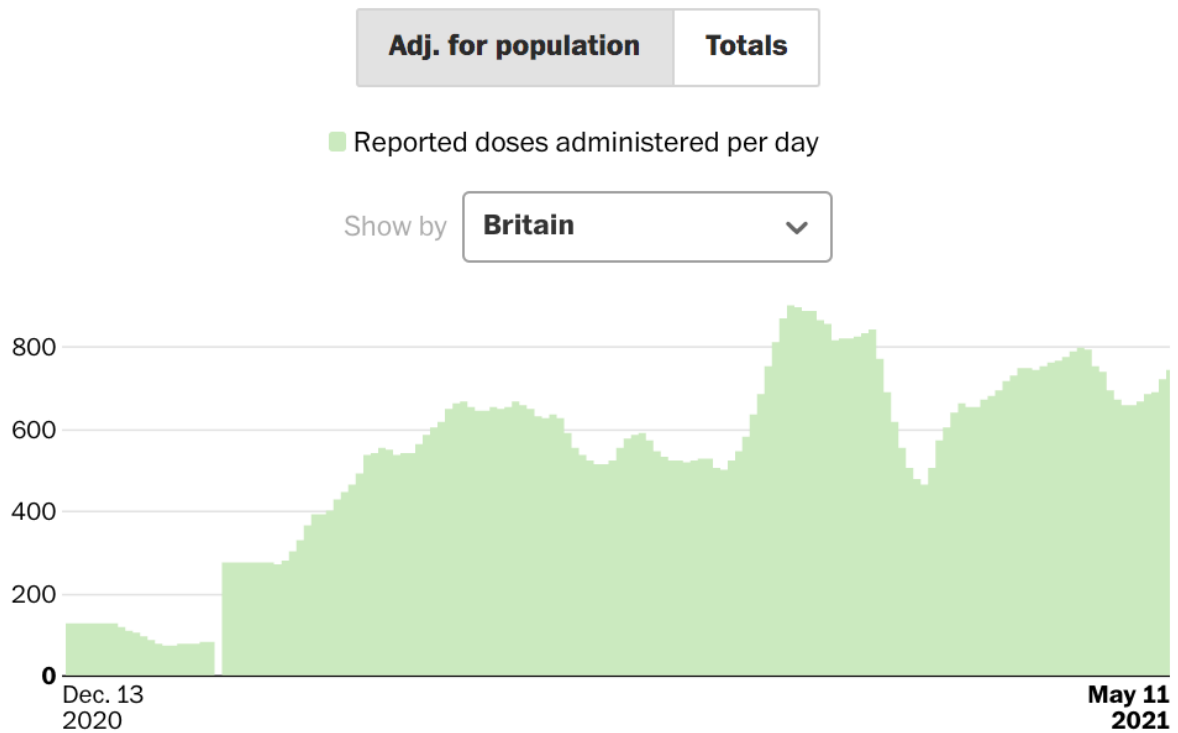
Reported doses administered per day

Show by

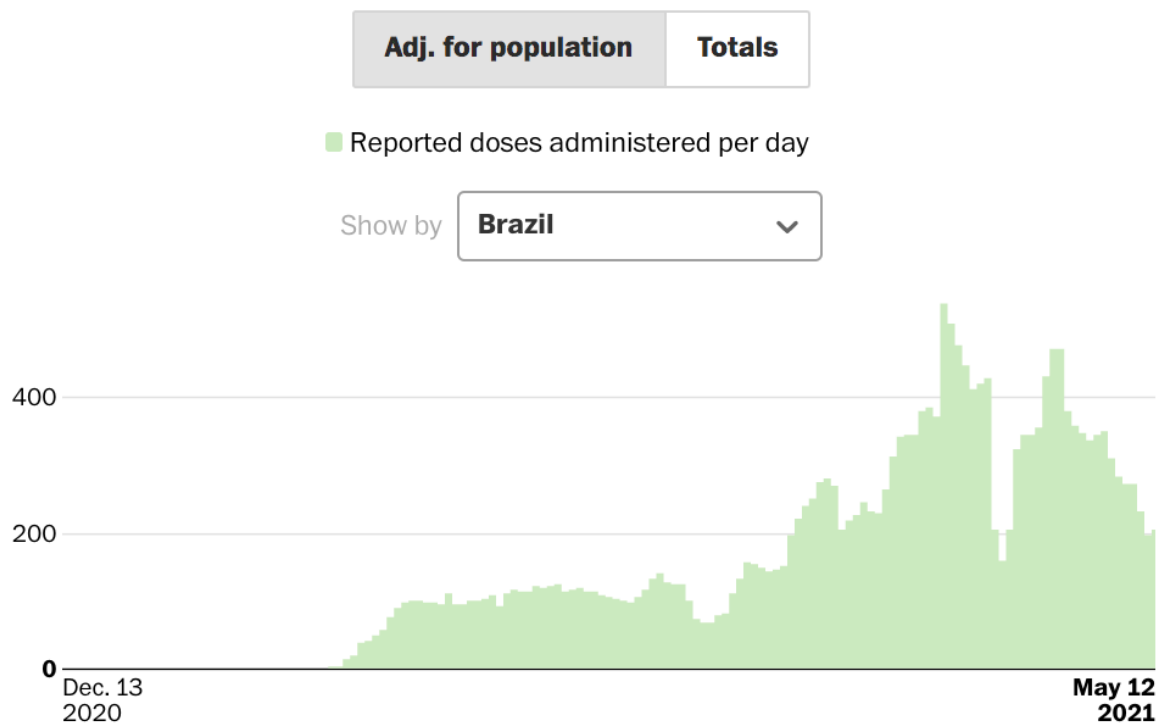
U.S.



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



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



Country	Total doses given per 100k	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination
Seychelles	131,095	69.7%	61.4%
UAE	116,339	–	–
Israel	116,198	60.0%	56.2%
Malta	88,991	60.7%	28.8%
Chile	84,763	46.3%	38.5%
Bahrain	84,276	48.3%	36.0%
Britain	81,038	53.4%	27.6%
Maldives	81,014	55.8%	25.2%
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>79,724</b>	<b>46.4%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>
Mongolia	72,779	53.1%	19.7%
Hungary	71,706	45.2%	26.5%
Qatar	67,501	40.6%	26.9%
Monaco	66,567	35.8%	30.8%
Bhutan	63,134	63.1%	–
Uruguay	61,460	36.1%	25.4%
Serbia	55,098	31.2%	23.9%
Iceland	54,917	40.1%	17.2%
Singapore	53,626	31.7%	22.0%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>44,972</b>	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Dominica	44,461	26.2%	18.3%
Lithuania	44,346	29.5%	14.8%
Germany	44,311	34.4%	10.0%
Spain	43,809	30.4%	13.8%
Denmark	42,796	26.8%	16.0%
Austria	42,179	31.0%	11.3%
Italy	42,133	29.4%	13.1%
Belgium	41,752	32.3%	9.7%
Luxembourg	41,245	29.6%	11.7%
Portugal	41,056	29.8%	11.3%
Estonia	40,937	28.6%	12.3%
Finland	40,820	36.5%	4.3%
France	39,974	27.7%	12.5%
Sweden	38,476	29.8%	8.7%
Ireland	38,099	27.9%	10.2%
Netherlands	38,013	29.3%	9.3%
Norway	37,796	28.2%	9.6%

Liechtenstein	37,794	26.1%	11.7%
Switzerland	37,650	25.1%	12.5%
Poland	37,593	27.9%	10.1%
Andorra	37,439	31.3%	6.1%
Greece	37,077	24.4%	12.7%
Slovenia	36,974	24.5%	12.4%
Czechia	36,561	26.6%	10.2%
Slovakia	34,785	23.6%	11.1%
Kuwait	34,228	–	–
Cyprus	33,373	25.5%	7.9%
Saudi Arabia	32,366	–	–
Romania	32,036	19.2%	12.9%
Antigua and Barbuda	31,743	31.7%	–
Turkey	30,384	17.6%	12.8%
Croatia	29,172	22.6%	6.6%
Morocco	28,614	16.4%	12.2%
Greenland	27,226	17.3%	9.9%
Barbados	26,286	26.3%	–
China	25,347	–	–
Dominican Republic	24,587	17.0%	7.6%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	24,571	24.3%	0.2%
Brazil	23,307	15.8%	7.5%
Latvia	23,142	18.2%	5.0%
Costa Rica	21,672	13.0%	8.7%
Albania	20,908	–	–
Argentina	20,882	17.5%	3.4%
Montenegro	20,196	15.0%	5.2%
Cambodia	18,617	11.8%	6.9%
Panama	18,349	12.3%	6.1%
El Salvador	18,093	15.0%	3.1%
Azerbaijan	17,235	10.1%	7.1%
Mexico	16,696	11.1%	7.4%
Russia	15,637	9.4%	6.2%
Bulgaria	14,848	9.7%	5.2%
Kazakhstan	13,264	9.5%	3.8%
Colombia	13,257	8.2%	5.0%
India	12,884	10.1%	2.8%
Belize	12,213	12.2%	–
Australia	11,088	–	–





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

Deaths

Cases

Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

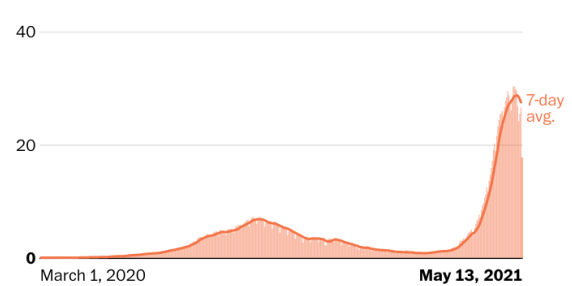
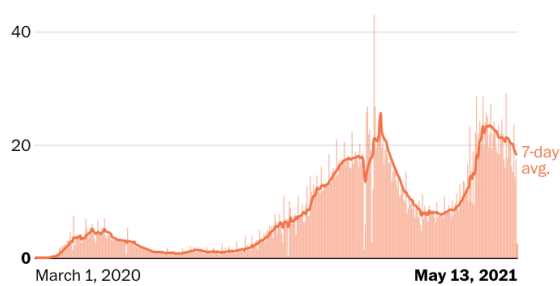
Canada

Select a country:

India

At least 1,315,324 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

At least 23,943,878 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



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

Deaths

Cases

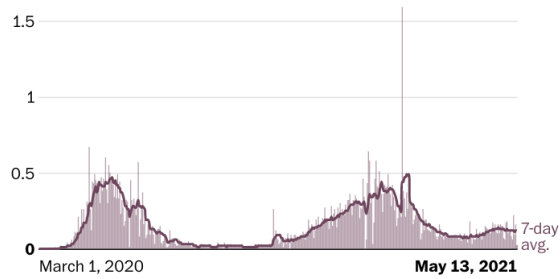
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

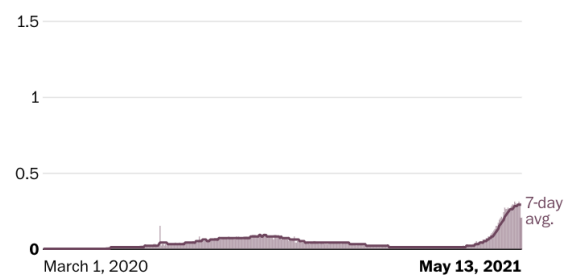
At least 24,761 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

India

At least 261,053 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



**Note: there is likely large under-reporting in India of both cases and deaths.**



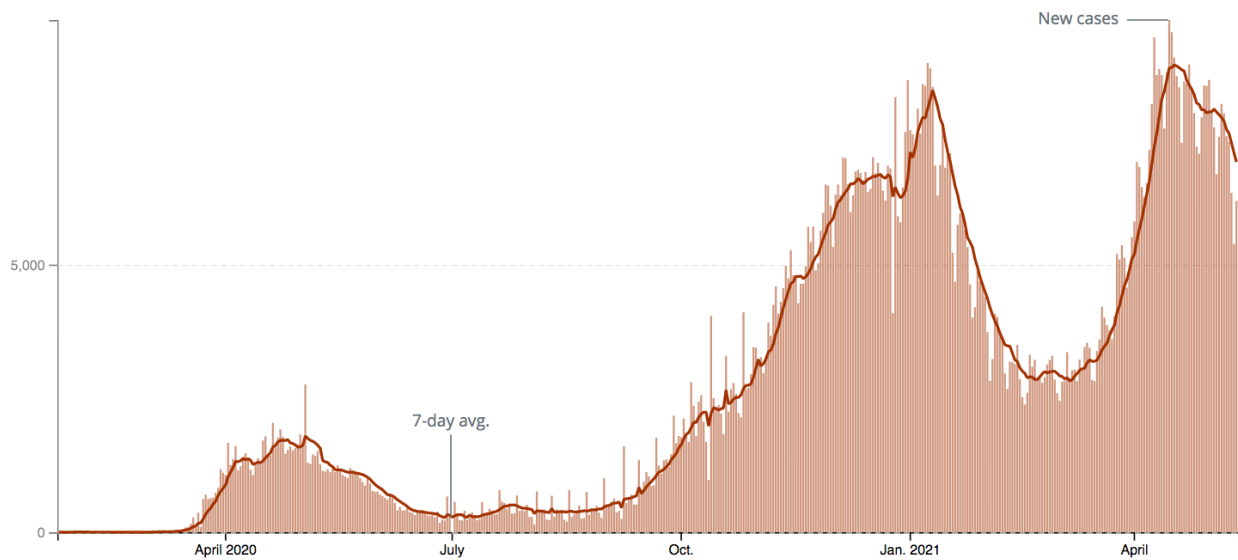


Source of Canadian Data Below (May 12, 2021):  
<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirustracker/>

**In Canada 1,305,770 cases have been reported.**

90 DAYS

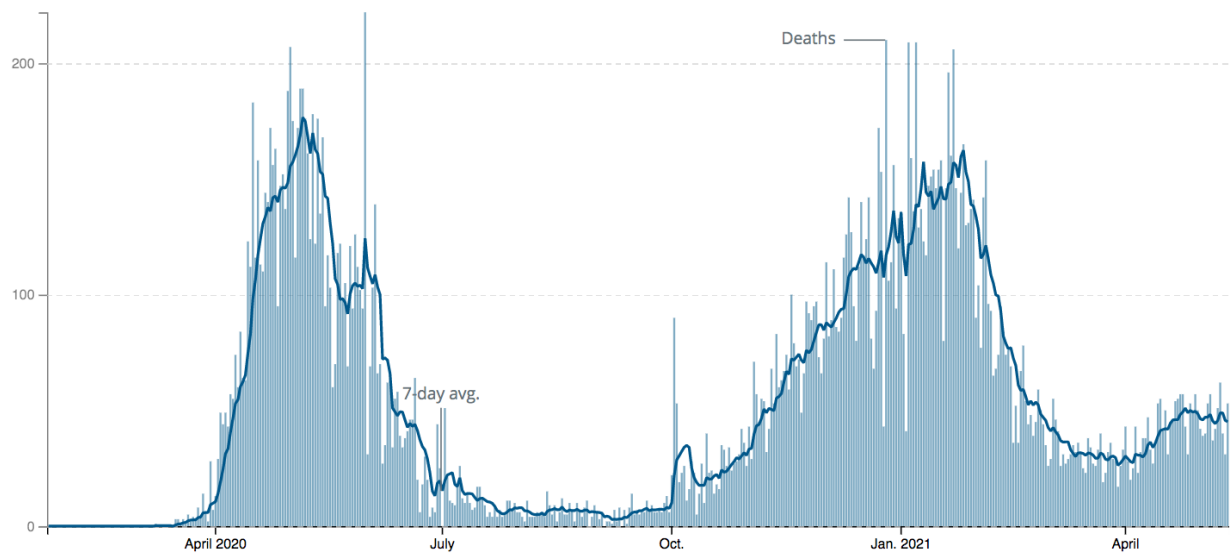
ALL TIME



**In Canada 24,765 deaths have been reported.**

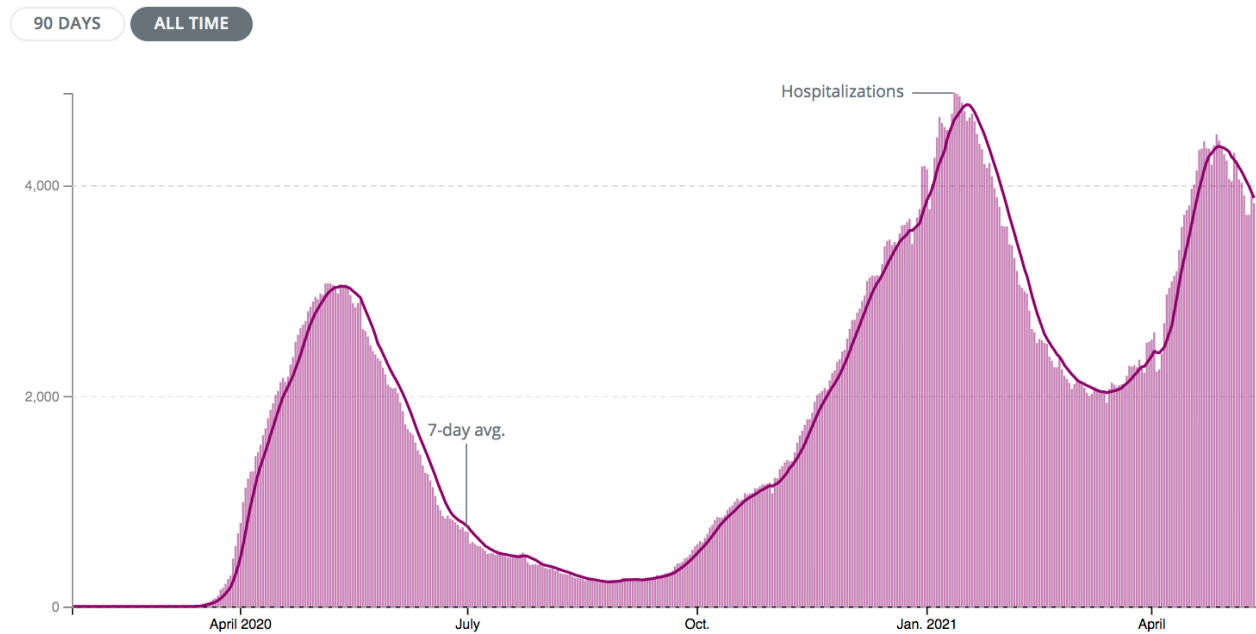
90 DAYS

ALL TIME

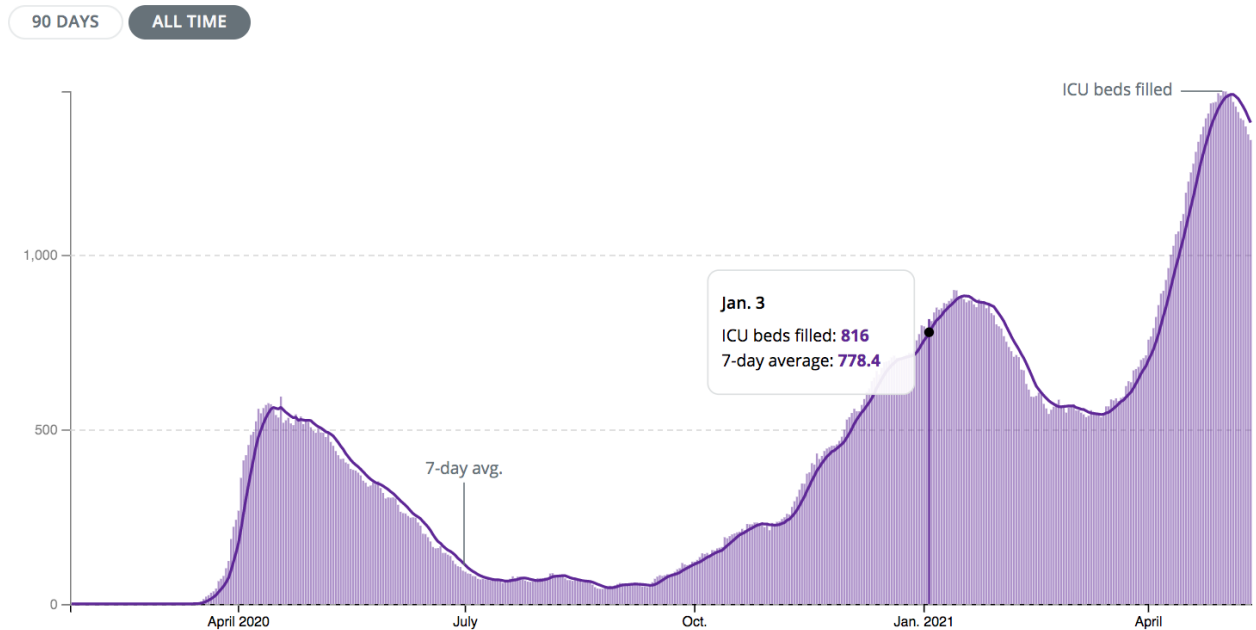




**In Canada there are currently 3,832 people hospitalized.**



**In Canada there are currently 1,329 ICU beds filled.**



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.

#### In the past week in Canada...

##### New cases



There were 48,431 new cases, a decrease of 11 per cent. That's 127.3 cases per 100,000 people.

##### Active cases



The number of active cases declined 6 per cent.

##### Deaths



There were 316 deaths, or 0.8 per 100,000 people, a decrease of 7 per cent.

##### Hospitalizations



Hospitalizations declined 6 per cent and ICU beds filled declined 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	127.3	↓	−11%	3,431.8	1,305,770
Alberta	286.5	↓	−11%	4,815.7	213,635
British Columbia	83.4	↓	−15%	2,663	137,223
Manitoba	221.9	↑	64%	3,123.8	43,137
New Brunswick	7.0	↓	−30%	258.3	2,020
Newfoundland and Labrador	10.0	↑	8%	221	1,150
Nova Scotia	114.2	↑	25%	439.1	4,301
Ontario	134.0	↓	−18%	3,384.6	499,412
Prince Edward Island	2.5	—	0%	117	187
Quebec	67.8	↓	−13%	4,200.1	360,201
Saskatchewan	123.3	↓	−10%	3,704.7	43,672
Northwest Territories	64.3	↓	−15%	252.6	114
Nunavut	137.0	↓	−13%	1,507.3	594
Yukon	4.7	↑	100%	199.1	84

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	0.8	↓	-7%	65.1	24,765
Alberta	0.5	↓	-28%	47.9	2,123
British Columbia	0.6	↑	72%	31.5	1,625
Manitoba	1.3	↑	64%	72.4	1,000
New Brunswick	0.3	↓	-33%	5.2	41
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.0	—	0%	1.2	6
Nova Scotia	0.2	—	0%	7.2	71
Ontario	1.3	↓	-6%	56.8	8,374
Prince Edward Island	0.0	—	0%	0	0
Quebec	0.6	↓	-21%	128.4	11,012
Saskatchewan	0.6	↓	-53%	43.1	508
Northwest Territories	0.0	—	0%	0	0
Nunavut	0.0	—	0%	10.2	4
Yukon	0.0	—	0%	4.7	2

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.



# Vaccines

The Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca-Oxford and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have been approved for use in Canada. Johnson & Johnson's is the first single-dose vaccine Health Canada has approved. The others require two doses for someone to be fully vaccinated.

Vaccinations		Doses distributed	
Region	Total doses given	People fully vaccinated	Percentage of population fully vaccinated
Canada	17,157,451	1,117,400	2.94% <div></div>
Alberta	1,975,341	320,751	7.23% <div></div>
British Columbia	2,277,318	115,295	2.24% <div></div>
Manitoba	591,497	78,027	5.65% <div></div>
New Brunswick	327,633	31,301	4.00% <div></div>
Newfoundland and Labrador	213,678	9,686	1.86% <div></div>
Nova Scotia	387,683	38,152	3.90% <div></div>
Ontario	6,629,363	407,600	2.76% <div></div>
Prince Edward Island	63,617	10,946	6.85% <div></div>
Quebec	4,014,843	-	-
Saskatchewan	537,044	46,770	3.97% <div></div>
Northwest Territories	49,811	22,501	49.85% <div></div>
Nunavut	39,353	12,879	32.68% <div></div>
Yukon	50,270	23,492	55.68% <div></div>



Source of Vaccination Data Below (May 12, 2021):

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

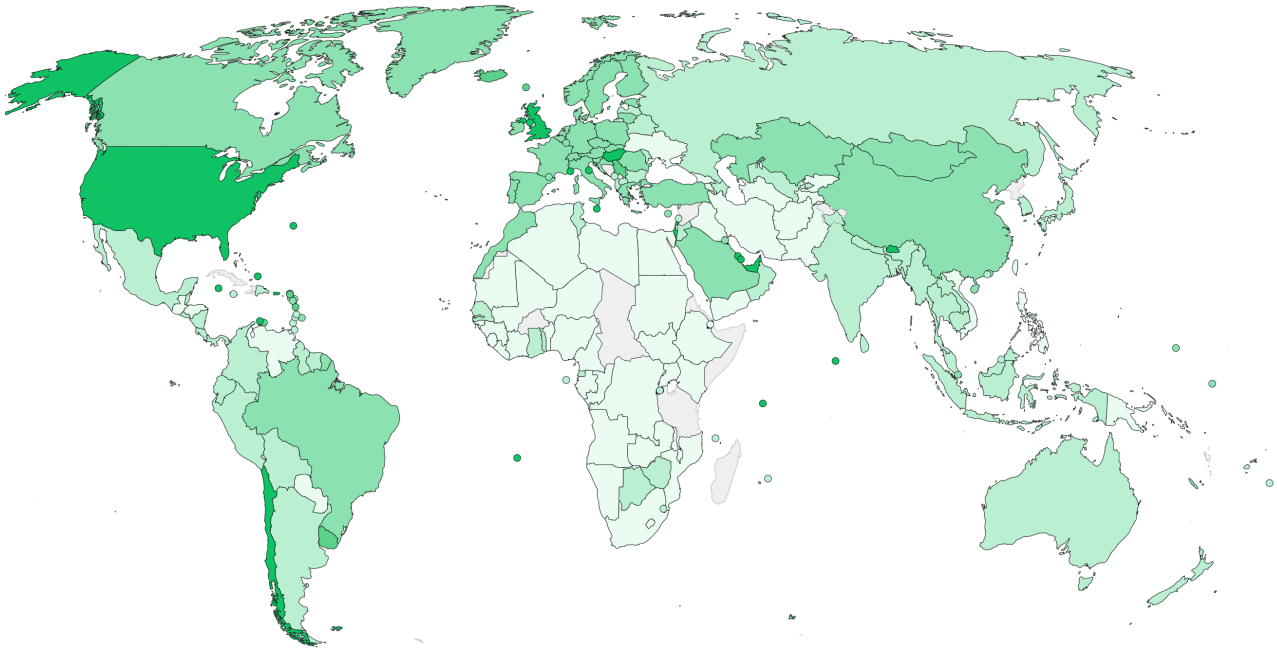
# **More Than 1.36 Billion Shots Given: Covid-19 Tracker**

**In the U.S., 265 million doses have been administered**

#### World Map of Vaccinations

More than 1.23 billion doses have been administered—enough to fully vaccinate 8.1% of the global population

no data 1 10 20 30% 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.

The biggest vaccination campaign in history is underway. More than **1.36 billion doses** have been administered across 175 countries, according to data collected by Bloomberg. The latest rate was roughly **22.3 million doses a day**.

### Uneven Access to Vaccines

Least wealthy Most wealthy

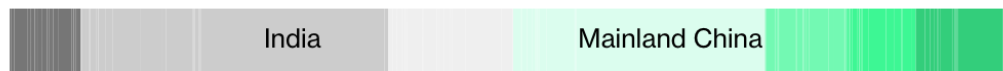
The wealthiest 27 places have **34.6%** of the vaccinations...

Vaccines



Hover for more comparisons

Population



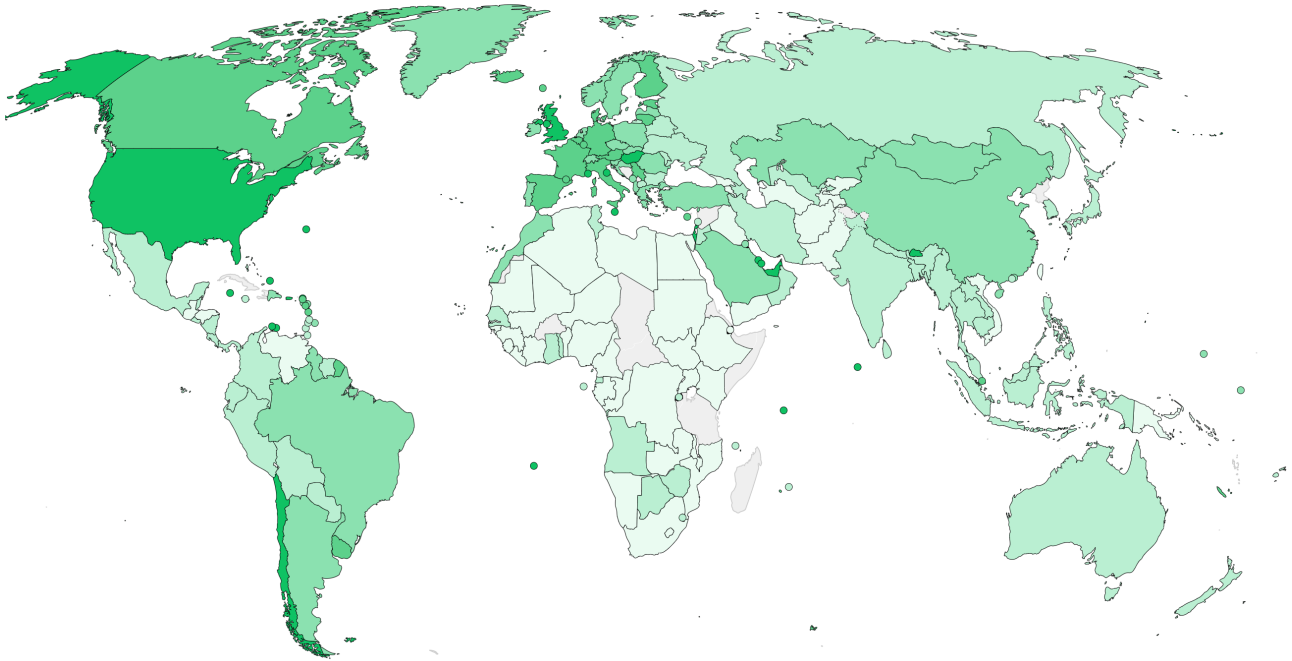
...but **10.5%** of the world's population



### World Map of Vaccinations

More than 1.36 billion doses have been administered—enough to fully vaccinate 8.9% of the global population

no data 1 10 20 30% 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.

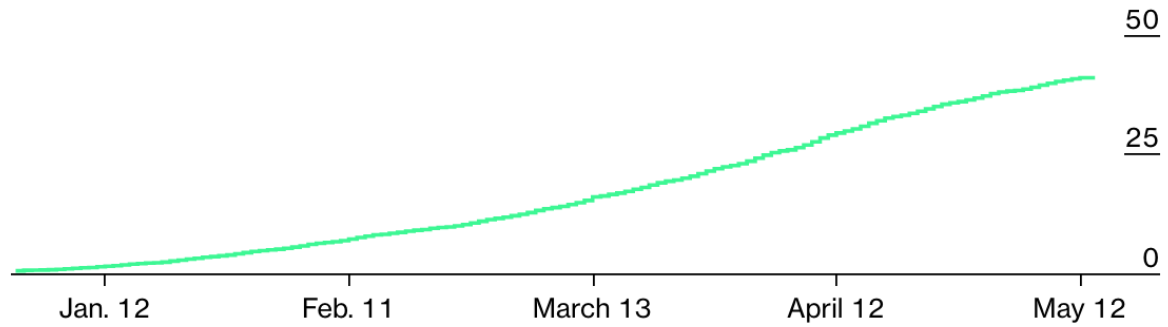
## Vaccinations vs. Cases

Covid rates have generally flattened or declined where vaccination rates are highest. Currently, **nine places** have administered enough shots to cover at least **40%** of the population.

United States (41.2% covered)

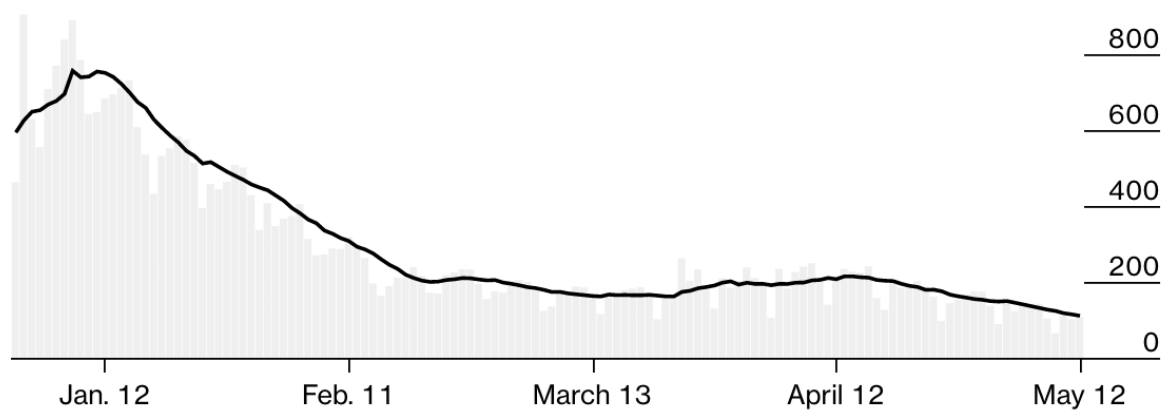


People covered: 75%



/ Seven-day average

New cases per million: 1,000



Note: "People covered" divides the doses administered for each vaccine type by the number of doses required for full vaccination. Vaccine data from Bloomberg's Covid-19 Tracker. Cases data: [Johns Hopkins University](#).

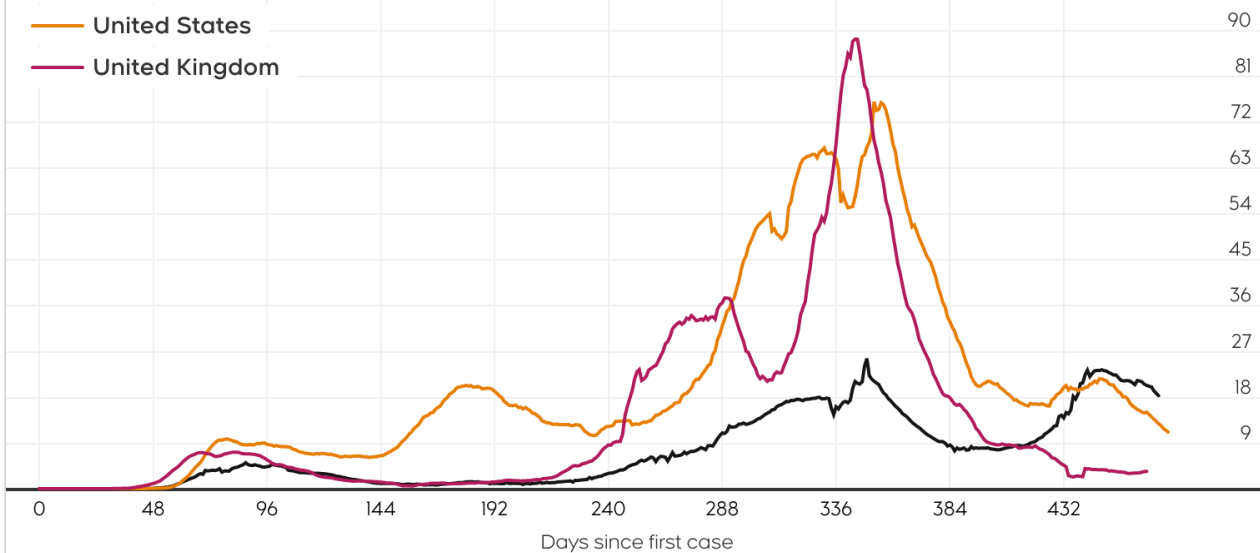


Source of World and Canadian Data Below (May 13, 2021):  
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-curves-compare-canada-and-other-key-nations-1.4881500#link-top>

## 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

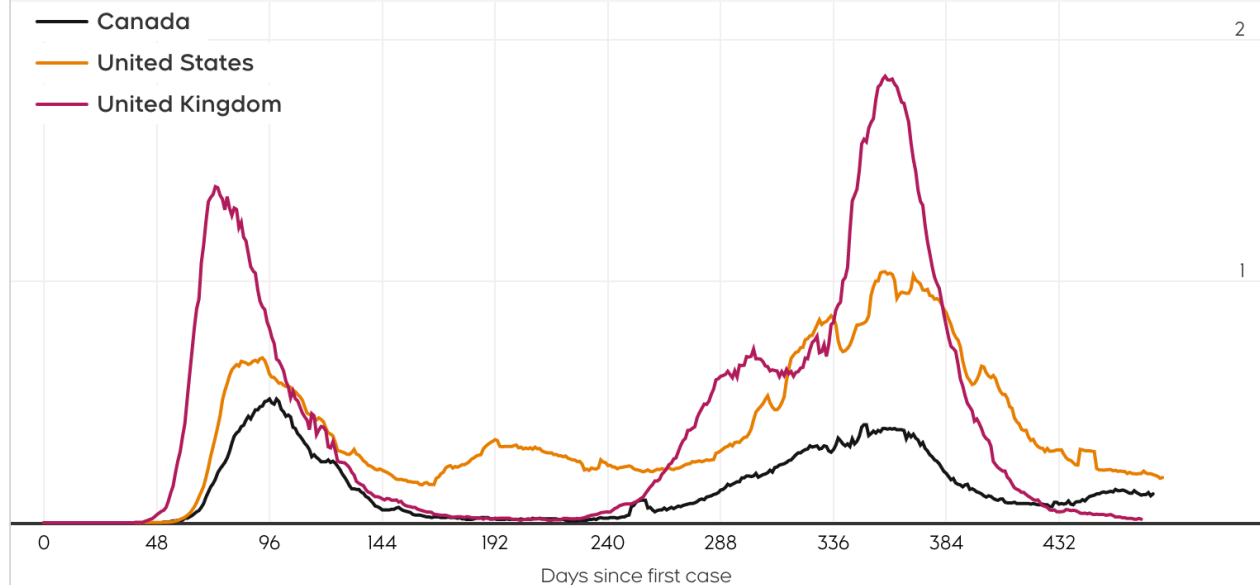
Source: Johns Hopkins University (JHU) via Our World in Data

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

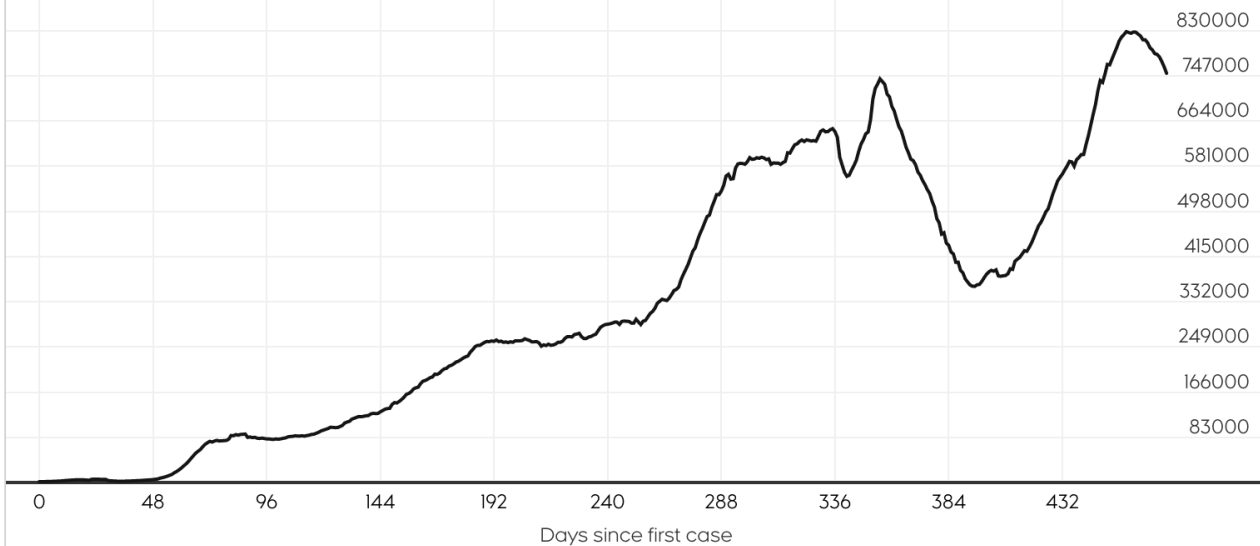
CTV NEWS



## COVID-19 Cases (7-day avg)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— World



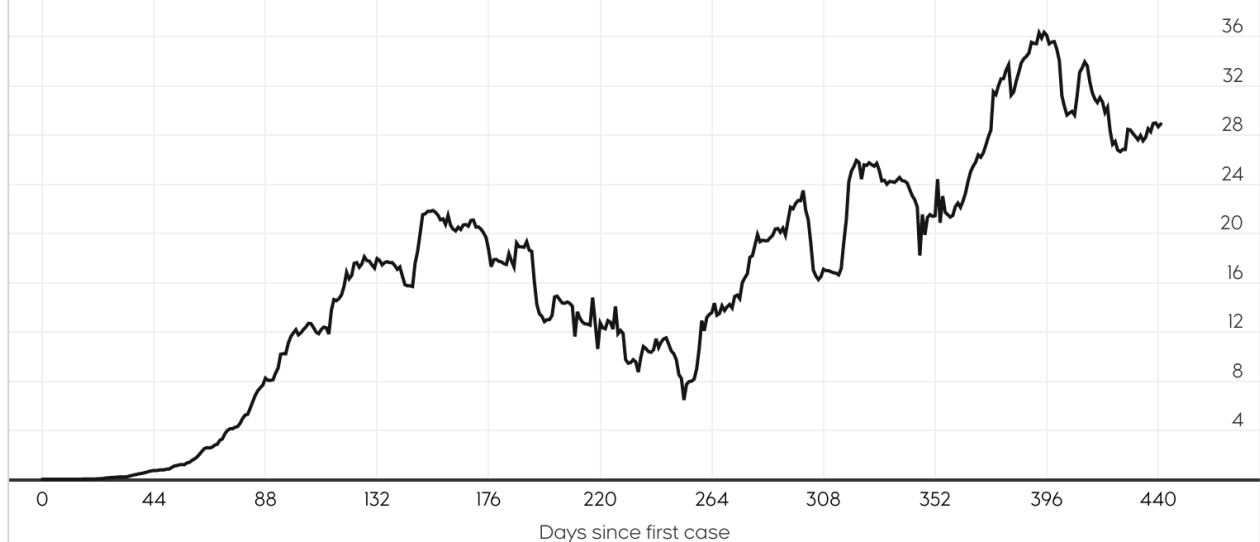
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Brazil



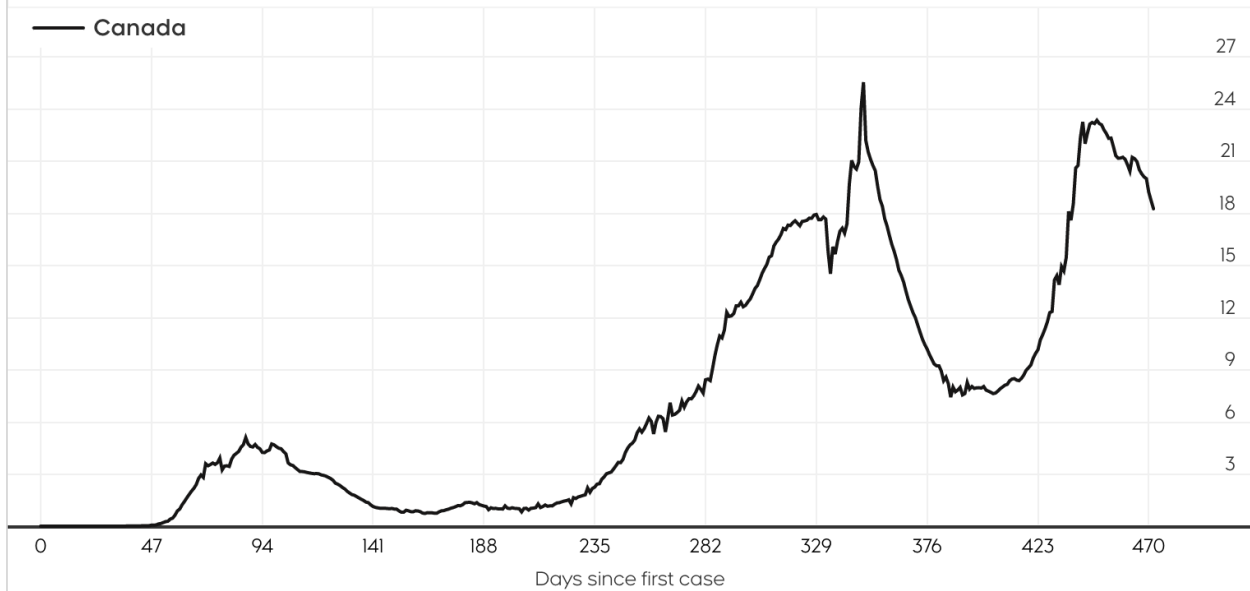
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— Canada



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

CTV NEWS

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

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— British Columbia

— Alberta

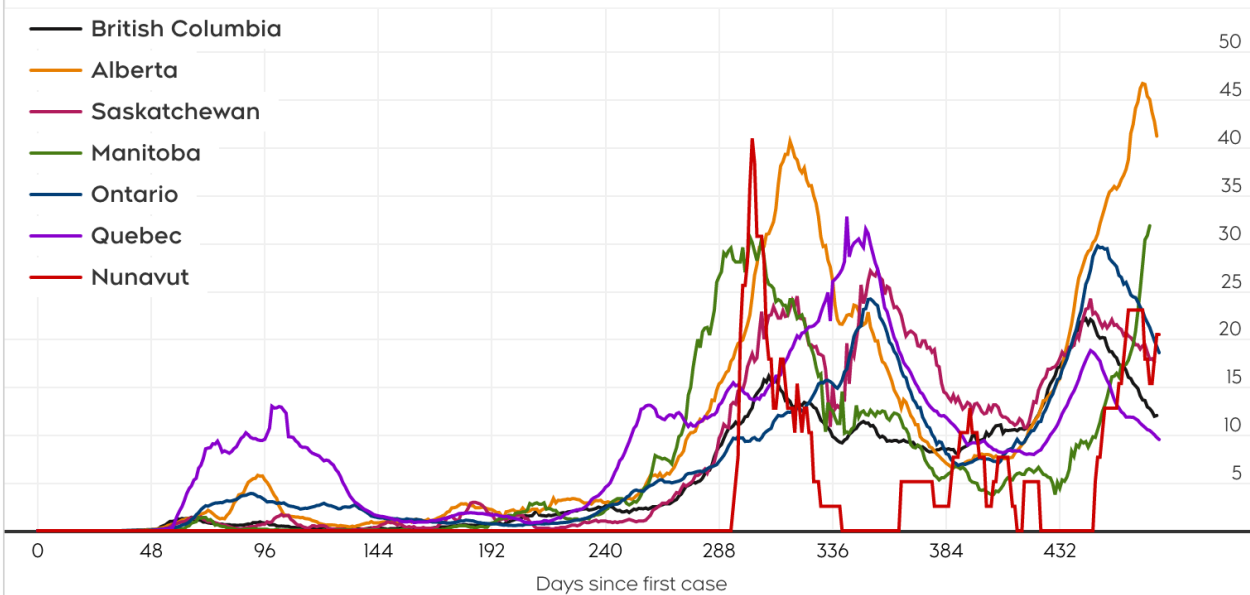
— Saskatchewan

— Manitoba

— Ontario

— Quebec

— Nunavut



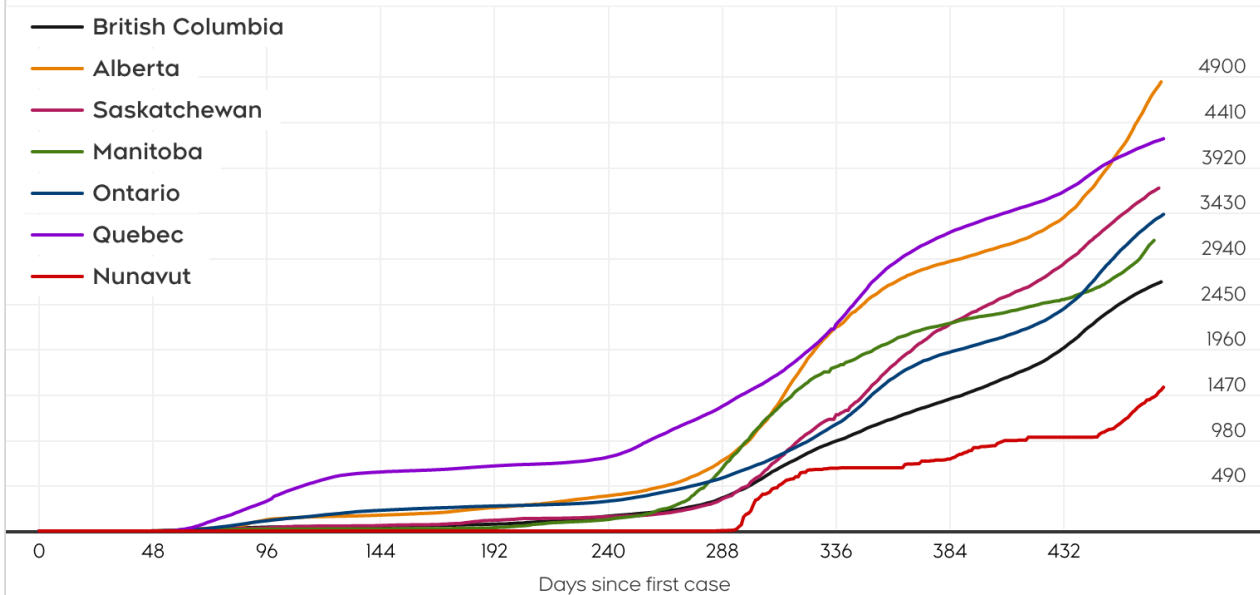
Source: [Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#) via [Our World in Data](#)

CTV NEWS

# COVID-19 Cases (Total)

Cases Deaths Total Daily 7-Day Raw /100K

— British Columbia  
— Alberta  
— Saskatchewan  
— Manitoba  
— Ontario  
— Quebec  
— Nunavut



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

CTV NEWS



Source of Canadian Data Below (May 13, 2021):

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

# No. of daily COVID-19 cases

Daily, starting on day Canada reported its 100th case

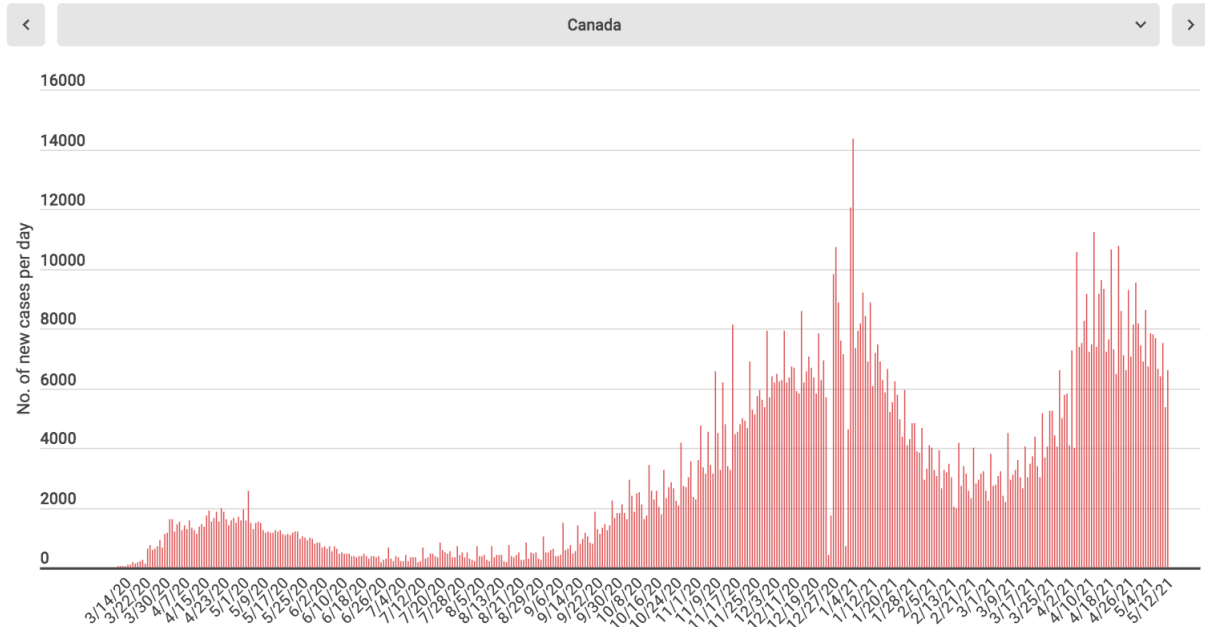
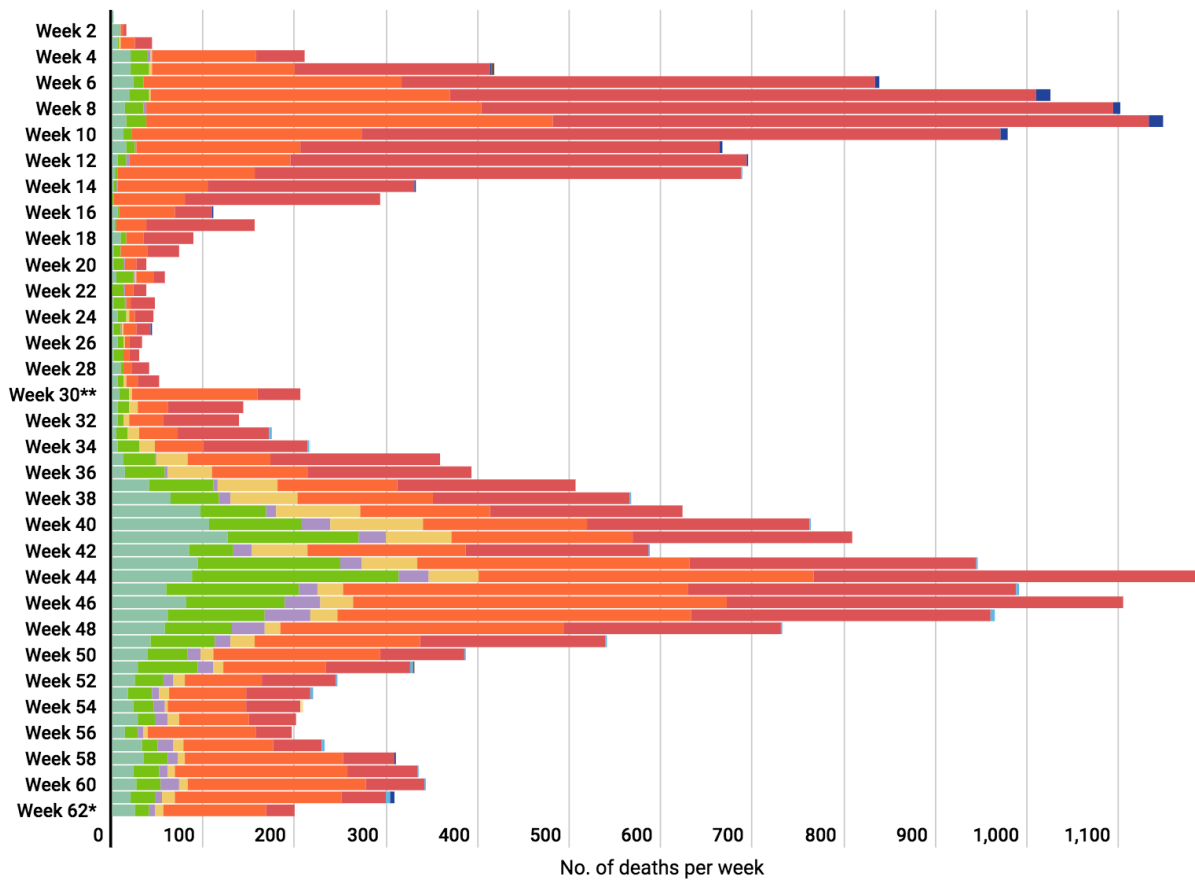


Chart by Patricia Treble. Source: Canadian federal and provincial coronavirus updates

## COVID-19 deaths in Canada

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



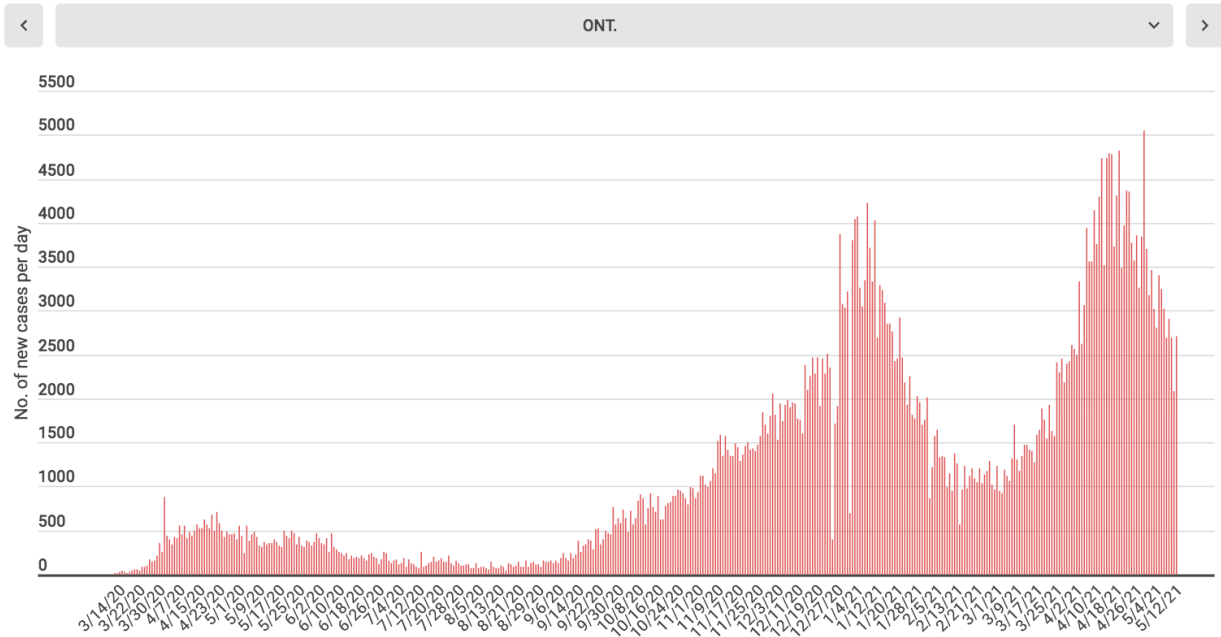
● B.C. ● Alta. ● Sask. ● Man. ● Ont. ● Que. ● N.B. ● N.S. ● N.L. ● Yukon ● Nunavut ●

\*week to date \*\*Toronto added 117 historical deaths to its Week 30 tally. Excluding those deaths, Ontario recorded 20 deaths in Week 30.



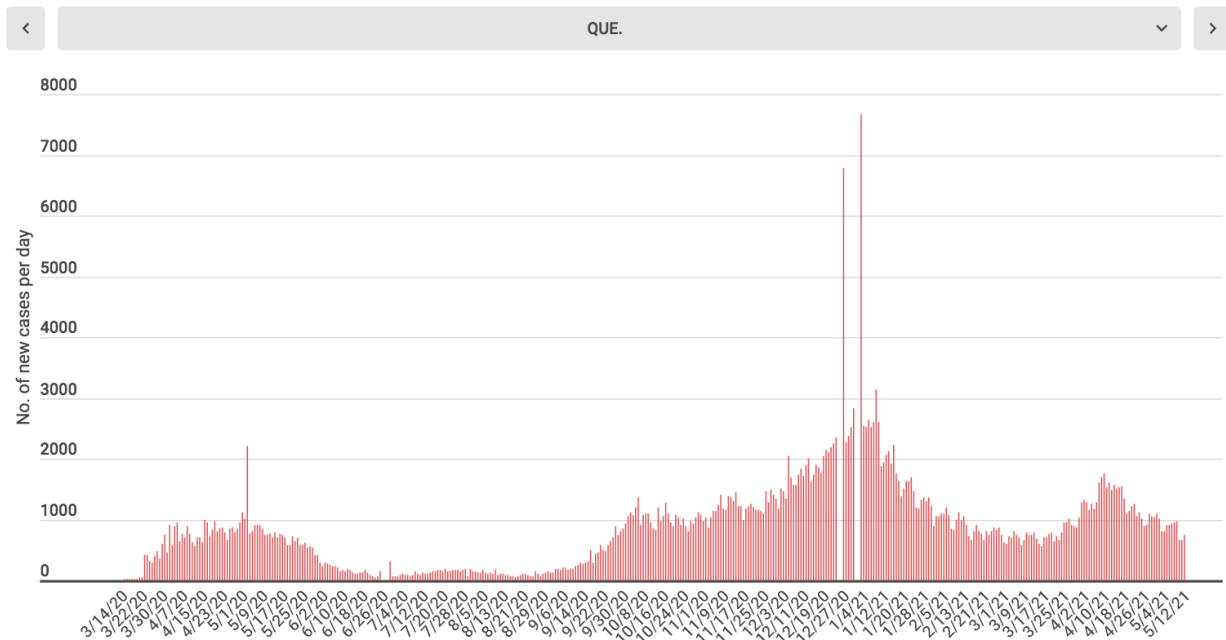
## No. of daily COVID-19 cases

Daily, starting on day Canada reported its 100th case



## No. of daily COVID-19 cases

Daily, starting on day Canada reported its 100th case



## No. of daily COVID-19 cases

Daily, starting on day Canada reported its 100th case

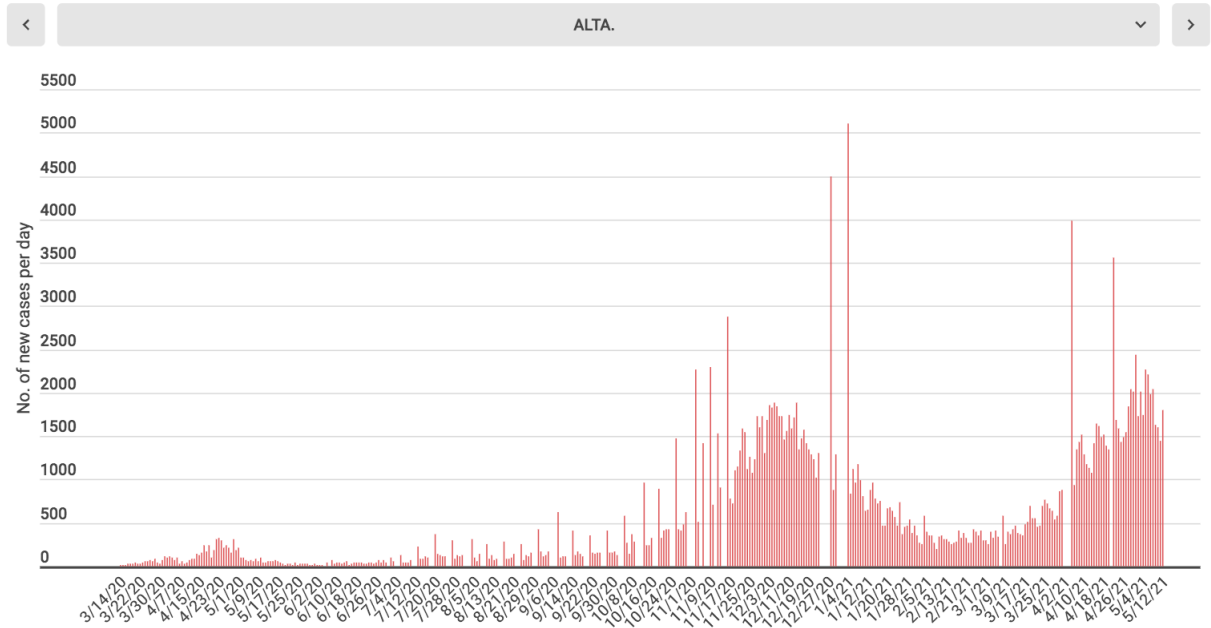


Chart by Patricia Treble. Source: Canadian federal and provincial coronavirus updates

## No. of daily COVID-19 cases

Daily, starting on day Canada reported its 100th case

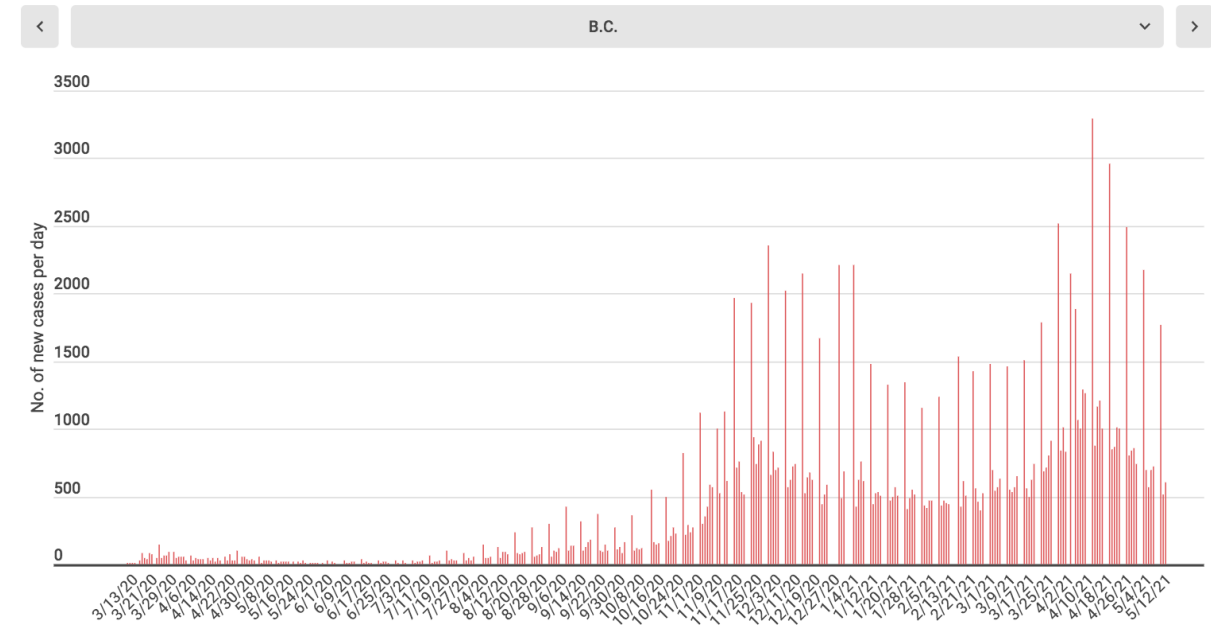


Chart by Patricia Treble. Source: Canadian federal and provincial coronavirus updates



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