

CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

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August 12,

Hi,

We've been warned again. Did we need it, considering all the evidence in our faces these past couple of months? I venture, yes, we certainly need it and more. The new [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) report just released](#) updates its last report's dire conclusions and presents seven more years of data and evidence. What's striking is its conclusion that human activities 'unequivocally' are the cause of the climate crisis and that political leaders have failed to act appropriately. We already know it's our lifestyles, our luxury and lack of leadership that continue us on our way down the rabbit hole. Our governments, and we too, have long known about the warming effects of greenhouse gases (mainly carbon dioxide, but methane too) on our planet. With global and local temperatures rising faster than ever expected, though they were predicted, things are now not only bad but are predicted to get even worse, all over the world. Particularly hard hit, and to be continued, is Canada where temperatures have been rising at double (or more) the global average and we are suffering.

And just to mention, the IPCC is the world's leading scientific organization for climate change reporting. It was formed in 1988 and now includes 195 country members. Its mission is "to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts." The IPCC "reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of climate change. It does not conduct any research nor does it monitor climate related data or parameters." As stated on the IPCC's web page: "Because of its scientific and intergovernmental nature, the IPCC embodies a unique opportunity to provide

rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision makers. By endorsing the IPCC reports, governments acknowledge the authority of their scientific content. The work of the organization is therefore policy-relevant and yet policy-neutral, never policy-prescriptive." The IPCC has continually produced state-of-the-art documents, relying on thousands of volunteer scientists, including this most recent one this past week. Each word of the report's 42 page summary (and as with all its publications) must be agreed on by all members. We should be seriously listening to this. Are you there Ottawa, Washington, London, Rome, Athens, Moscow, Istanbul, Beijing, Cairo, Dhaka, Manila, Jakarta, Brasilia, etc. etc.?

Our governments, business and financial leaders must get on board the ship before we have to take to the lifeboats. They must stop enticing, subsidizing and financing the extraction and use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuel exploration, extraction and use must stop, sometime very soon. It's unrealistic to expect it tomorrow, but where's our plan, as we Canadians are the biggest fossil fuel users in the world per capital? Why keep financing it? Why not invest in green renewable technologies and the jobs of tomorrow. Why not do it before everyone else does and leaves us behind to roast? We need to enact plans to transition oil sector workers to other areas. Last month [one of the world's leading asset managers](#) said that the coming green technology sector will be worth \$50 trillion. Where is Canada's plan to get a part of that? We have one of the world's greatest education systems and we're not using it well. Leadership and following is about making tough decisions. It's now time for this. So many Canadians want it; we demand it.

Our governments need to get their act together (and for sure super quickly) to phase out coal electrical generation upon which millions of Canadians still rely, especially in western Canada. We need major industrial and organizational realignment. One of the most interesting things I learned in my PhD studies was about population ecology theory, important in the field of my major, organization behaviour. It basically states, and has been backed up by empirical studies, that if organizations don't change and adapt to their external environment they will perish, just like what happens in the natural world. Through our profligate use of fossil fuels we are now testing that theory, in our organizations and societies.

As I heard this morning on the radio - if you're thinking of running for elected office and the environment is not one of your top three priorities, don't run. And I'd add to everyone, if it's not one of your own personal priorities, don't walk. We need leadership at all levels in our countries to meet the climate crisis head on, not just promises for the future, but with real action now backed by real dollars, euros, pounds, yuan, rubles, schillings, reals and energy.

In today's ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#32 of 2021) we see clearly many of these challenges. Check out:

- MIT predicted in 1972 that society will collapse this century; new research shows we're on schedule,
- CORONAVIRUS UPDATES:
 - Why the conundrum of vaccinating children is so hard to crack,

- Germany offers booster shots in September,
 - Predicting viral evolution may let vaccines be prepared in advance,
 - Tracking Covid-19 excess deaths across countries,
 - The Burmese army is making a bad pandemic,
 - CIHR video on the importance of getting vaccinated,
 - Covid-19 rapid evidence reviews, and
 - Covid-19 Living Evidence Profile #5: What went well and what could have gone better in the Covid-19 response in other countries, as well as what needs to go well in the future, THEN
- 1.6 billion disposable masks entered into our oceans in 2020,
 - How Covid-19 changed the approach to HIV,
 - What's killing the world's shorebirds?
 - Prairie drought could threaten global food supplies,
 - Idealistic teen finessed a Green New Deal for a community on Vancouver Island,
 - Biden targets 50% EVs by 2030 as automakers aspire to a lesser goal **and** U.S. EV sales have been record-breaking so far in 2021,
 - Canada is a warning: more and more of the world will soon be too hot for humans **and** The climate crisis is here, steadily getting worse, and should be treated like an emergency,
 - Women shine as leaders, yet their absence at top levels of public service threatens pandemic recovery,
 - The Indigenous children who died at Canada's residential schools and The story of a national crime,
 - Quote on the climate emergency by Michael Mann,
 - The Lancet, China and the origins of coronavirus,
 - Scientists Warning Europe,
 - Lawsuit recalls how Elon Musk was king of rooftop solar and then lost it,
 - Heatwave causing biggest glacier melt in Washington state in a century,
 - Greenland suspends its 50-year oil exploration strategy due to environmental concerns,
 - New Book: "War Doctor: Surgery on the Front Line" by David Nott,
 - Global education summit falls \$1B short, and lastly ENDSHOTS of "Around and Near the House at Whitefish Lake, Ontario" amid the latest Covid-19 stats and charts from Canada and around the world.

Please keep reading despite the heat...

Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



Sunrise, Whitefish Lake, Ontario
August 9, 2021

MIT Predicted in 1972 That Society Will Collapse This Century. New Research Shows We're on Schedule



Credit: GETTY

A remarkable new study by a director at one of the largest accounting firms in the world has found that a famous, decades-old warning (Limits to Growth, 1972) from

MIT about the risk of industrial civilization collapsing appears to be accurate based on new empirical data.

As the world looks forward to a rebound in economic growth following the devastation wrought by the pandemic, the research raises urgent questions about the risks of attempting to simply return to the pre-pandemic 'normal.' **Read more at [The Overpopulation Project](#).**

Read Also at The Guardian: [Yep, it's bleak, says expert who tested 1970s end-of-the-world prediction](#)

SEE ALSO:

At ScienceMag: [The Emergence Of Heat And Humidity Too Severe For Human Tolerance](#)

At World Economic Forum: [3 billion People Could Live In Places As Hot As The Sahara By 2070 Unless We Tackle Climate Change](#)

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



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

Globally, the situation remains dire, despite lots of vaccination and lack of vaccine. Cases of Covid-19 are still ripping through many countries and rates are rising (thanks to the Delta variant); and too many countries still have too little access to vaccines. Over the last week there were about 4.4 million new cases of Covid-19 (up slightly again) and 67,000 new deaths (about the same); and about 269 million people received a vaccine, or an average of almost 42 million doses per day (down ~8% the opposite of last week). At this rate the world will need another 6 months to achieve 75% coverage.

*(See **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

Why the Conundrum of Vaccinating Children is So Hard to Crack



Credit: A girl receiving a coronavirus vaccination in Utrecht, Netherlands, earlier this month CREDIT:

Patrick van Katwijk/BSR Agency/Getty Images

Of all the debates raging about Covid-19, the question as to [whether children should be vaccinated](#) is perhaps the most interesting and consequential of the moment. It entails not just a difficult call over vaccine safety but [delicate ethical arguments to do with teenage consent](#) and adult self-interest. The minefield of long Covid cannot be avoided; vaccine passports and school closures are pertinent; and those with a conspiratorial bent are already raising dark issues to do with vaccine supply and malign state influence.

If you consider, too, that we may [never get to herd immunity without vaccinating children](#), I'd say it was the perfect midsummer family dinner conversation. Most experts think the delta variant has pushed the herd immunity threshold to 95% or more.

The debate got going a couple weeks ago in the U.K. when, after long deliberation, its Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised ministers not to vaccinate children and young people under the age of 18 en masse.

In its carefully argued statement, the JCVI says its “main consideration” was the number of “deaths and hospitalisations” in the population as a whole. School closures and long Covid were also considered but the data was thin.

Dr Peter English, a former editor of *Vaccines in Practice*, spoke for many when he said the JCVI had taken too narrow a view of the benefits of vaccination to children.

“Knowing how JCVI, and the people on the committee, work, I am sure that they know that the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people amounts to far more than just hospitalisations and deaths,” he said.

Others praised the committee for putting the medical issues facing children front and centre, noting that it made its decision “in the context of very high vaccine uptake” in the wider adult population. This can be read as a simple statement of fact, or as a polite way of saying that we should not vaccinate children to protect adults who won't protect themselves.

Others suggested a shortage of vaccines in the UK may have influenced the JCVI. But while it is probably true that we do not currently have enough jabs to cover children it is also almost certainly a red herring.

A final argument for the family dinner table might be a global one, although this was not considered by the JCVI which is concerned only with UK policy. “Is the whole world more important than your locale?” asked Dr Mark Toshner, a respiratory physician and lecturer at the University of Cambridge. “I think it is [and] I think it is a moral outrage that... we are even having the debate about vaccinating kids before sorting out vulnerable populations [around the world]. **Read more at [Telegraph](#).**

READ MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At Al Jazeera: [Germany to Offer COVID Booster Shots in September](#)

At Economist: [Predicting Viral Evolution May Let Vaccines be Prepared in Advance](#)

At Washington Post: [Europe Has Caught Up To The U.S. On Coronavirus Vaccinations — And Is Deploying Near-Mandates To Get Further](#)

At Economist: [Tracking Covid-19 Excess Deaths Across Countries](#)

At Economist: [The Burmese Army is Making a Bad Pandemic](#)

At Washington Post: [CIHR Video on The Importance of Getting COVID-19 Vaccinations “Ask a Scientist: Should I consider getting vaccinated against COVID-19?”](#)

At NCCMT: [COVID-19 Rapid Evidence Reviews](#)

It is critical for public health organizations to work together across jurisdictions during this challenging time and share our efforts in response to COVID-19. To minimize duplication of efforts and facilitate collaboration within public health across Canada, the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools in the Faculty of Nursing at

McMaster University has and continues to develop a collection of research papers on recent evidence.

At McMaster: [COVID-19 Living Evidence Profile #5 \(Version 2: 15 July 2021\)](#)
[Question What Went Well and What Could Have Gone Better in the COVID-19 Response in Other Countries, as Well as What Will Need to go Well in Future Given any Available Foresight Work Being Conducted?](#)

1.6 Billion Disposable Masks Entered Our Oceans in 2020



Credit: Credit: National Integrated Drought Information System

Following the World Health Organization's formal declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments around the world quickly mandated the use of face masks in public spaces. This led to a massive demand shock, prompting factories to begin producing disposable masks at full capacity. The majority of these masks were produced in China, and in April 2020, the country reported a staggering [daily production](#) figure of **450 million** masks. Globally 52 billion disposable face masks were produced in 2020. **Read more at [Visual Capitalist](#).**

How COVID-19 Changed the Approach to HIV



Credit: A peer navigator talks to a client about HIV treatment. Photo by: [USAID Central Asia](#) / CC BY-ND

As the pandemic spread across the globe, lockdowns and other restrictions designed to curb [COVID-19](#) raised other health risks, particularly in people living with HIV, who feared their access to lifesaving services might be interrupted. Instead, new methods — often designed by patients — of meeting their needs, began cropping up in communities of people living with HIV around the world.

The emergence of these models of [differentiated service delivery](#) during the pandemic — including across the global south — is one of the [central themes](#) of the [International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science](#) in July. Government officials and civil society organizations detailed the client-centered approaches they have introduced to better serve people living with HIV or to prevent people from acquiring the virus while reducing the burden on national health systems at a moment when they are particularly fragile. **Read more at [Devex](#).**

What's Killing the World's Shorebirds?



Credit: UNAIDS

Four gun-toting biologists scramble out of a helicopter on Southampton Island in northern Canada. Warily scanning the horizon for polar bears, they set off in hip waders across the tundra that stretches to the ice-choked coast of Hudson Bay.

Helicopter time runs at almost US\$2,000 per hour, and the researchers have just 90 minutes on the ground to count shorebirds that have come to breed on the windswept barrens near the Arctic Circle. Travel is costly for the birds, too. Sandpipers, plovers and red knots have flown here from the tropics and far reaches of the Southern Hemisphere. They make these epic round-trip journeys each year, some flying farther than the distance to the Moon over the course of their lifetimes.

The birds cannot, however, outfly the threats along their path. [Shorebird populations have shrunk](#), on average, by an estimated 70% across North America since 1973, and the species that breed in the Arctic are among the hardest hit. The crashing numbers, seen in many shorebird populations around the world, have prompted wildlife agencies and scientists to warn that, without action, some species might go extinct.

Read more at [Scientific American](#)

Prairie Drought Could Threaten Global

Food Supplies



Credit: Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservatory

The ongoing drought in Canada's prairie provinces is devastating farms and revealing potential future repercussions for the both the global and domestic food system.

"It's going to take longer for the realization of how bad things are today to fully flow out to the plethora of crop users around the world," [writes](#) The Western Producer.

Meanwhile, Global News [says](#) a drought impacts [report](#) recently issued by Statistics Canada "pointed to record-high temperatures and a lack of rainfall as having debilitating effects on farmers' abilities to produce." In Alberta, for example, only 36.6% crops are listed as "good to excellent," compared to the five-year average of 74.1%. The report notes a general concern among farmers that the drought comes at "at the worst time of crop development," as some crops are either maturing faster than normal or stagnating.

Ranchers across the prairies are struggling, as well, as grazing lands and hay crops yield less feed than usual. With limited supply, demand for feed is driving up prices and pushing producers to sell their cattle, [writes](#) CBC.

Losses from the drought will also affect buyers downstream. Reuters [says](#) bakers are already paying higher prices for dwindling red spring wheat—when they can find it—and bread prices are expected to increase as much as 6.5% by year's end. There will be international impacts, as well. Canada is the world's largest producer of some crops, like canola, and is among the top 10 beef exporting countries in the world, [reports](#) the New York Times. Reuters notes that North America's red spring wheat harvest accounts for more than half of the world's supply. **Read more at [The Energy Mix](#)**

GOOD NEWS

Idealistic Teens Finessed a Green New Deal for Coastal Community (on Vancouver Island)



Credit: Teera Noisakran / Pacific Press / Sipa USA

Tell us about your project.

I had just finished Grade 12 when I read Naomi Klein's book *On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal*. While it made sense to me, I thought nothing less than country or even worldwide change would matter. It felt like a dull worry in the background since I did not believe there was anything I could do. But then, just by chance, I saw a flyer sent by the Council of Canadians in our family's mailbox. It said local government action might inspire senior levels of government to act, and on its website, suggested residents could encourage local councils to adopt a Green New Deal. This is a small town, and I was on a gap year. Cumberland has only a mayor and four councillors, one of whom I knew, so it felt doable.

Coun. Vickey Brown encouraged me, but I was nervous because she explained I would have to make a speech to council. She also pointed out that to have an impact, it needed to be more than just me. **Read more by Lister de Vitré at [National Observer](#).**

MORE GOOD NEWS

Biden Targets 50% EVs By 2030 as U.S. Automakers 'Aspire' To a Lesser Goal



Credit: Steffi Loos/Getty

President Biden recently signed an executive order to make 50% of new vehicles sold by 2030 zero-emission. Behind that, the automakers provided a backdrop statement that appeared to undercut the order itself. In coordination with the announcement, Ford, GM, and Stellantis (the parent of Chrysler) expressed a “shared aspiration” to achieve 40% EVs by 2030—with EVs in their definition including battery electric, hydrogen fuel-cell, and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Actual compliance details for the standards, [widely anticipated for weeks](#), still weren't released at the time of writing. Covering model years 2023 through 2026 and extending potentially to 2031, they're expected to bring the national fleet closer to the targets previously followed by the Obama administration, but it depends largely on some of the compliance particulars and credit framework as to whether the Biden rules might be more stringent in actual application or not. **Read more at [Green Car Reports](#).**

See Also at GreenCar Reports: [US EV Sales Have Been Record-breaking So Far In 2021, Despite Supply Chain Issues](#)

OPINION

Canada is a Warning: More and More of the World Will Soon Be Too Hot for Humans



Credit: People resting at a cooling station during a heatwave in Portland, Oregon, June 2021.

Photograph: Kathryn Elssesser/AFP/Getty Images

The climate crisis means that summer is a time of increasingly dangerous heat. This week in the Pacific north-west, temperature records are not just being broken, they are being obliterated. Temperatures reached a shocking 47.9C in British Columbia, Canada. Amid temperatures more typically found in the Sahara desert, 577 have died of heat stress In B.C. alone, with “roads [buckling and power cables melting](#)”. **Read more at [the Guardian](#).**

Read also at Daily Kos: [The Climate Crisis is Here, Steadily Getting Worse, and Should be Treated like an Emergency](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

Women Shine as Leaders, Yet Their Absence at Top Levels of Public Service

Threatens Pandemic Recovery



Credit: Niloo138 | iStock

Editorial | Getty Images

While a number of high-profile women leaders have been in the spotlight globally for their impactful COVID-19 response, women make up less than 1 in 3 of top leadership positions in public administration globally, according to new data by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Gender Inequality Research Lab (GIRL) at the University of Pittsburgh. Leaving women out of these critical decision-making roles and processes, including in COVID-19 efforts, is threatening an inclusive and green recovery from the pandemic.

The latest Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) report, the first comprehensive in-depth research into the issue covering 170 countries, finds that persistent gaps remain and women continue to hit glass ceilings and glass walls that stop them from advancing to positions at the highest levels of power and influence. Though there's been progress on women's representation overall in public administration in many countries, women in all regions of the world are still significantly outnumbered by men in leadership and decision-making positions. On average women are 46% of public administrators, but hold only 31% of top leadership positions and comprise only 30% of senior managers. **Read more at [UNDP](#).**

[Click here to access the full report: Global Report on Gender Equality in Public Administration](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

The Indigenous Children Who Died at Canada's Residential Schools



Credit: HANDOUT/REUTERS

In recent months, headlines about the discovery of bodies in unmarked graves on the sites of residential schools have horrified the public in Canada, and around the world – but they capture only part of a multigenerational injustice that has been described as a “cultural genocide”.

About 150,000 Indigenous children are believed to have attended the government-funded boarding schools, which were mostly run by the Catholic church. The schools existed for more than a century and were specifically designed to separate children from their families and their culture; the last closed in 1996. Thousands of survivors have described appalling physical and sexual abuse. Those who died are largely believed to have suffered malnutrition, disease or neglect. Their families were often not told that they had died.

While more than 1,100 bodies have been found so far, many more are expected, after years of work by Indigenous communities to force the searches to take place. Some estimates suggest 15,000 children may have died in the schools. Others say the true figure could be much higher. **Read more at [The Guardian](#).**

See Also at The Tyee: [‘The Story of a National Crime’](#) A century ago, Dr. Peter Bryce, Canada's first medical officer of health, demonstrated that residential schools were designed to kill. Canada's government ignored him.

Quote Of The Week



Credit: Trees on a farm, stripped bare from drought and grasshoppers, in Grant County, N.D., in July 1936. (Arthur Rothstein)

“Ironically, one of the regions for which we predict the greatest increases (in heat stress) is the Pacific Northwest (as much as a tripling under a high carbon emissions scenario), which was struck by the infamous ‘heat dome’ this summer,” wrote Michael Mann, an author of the study and a climate scientist at Pennsylvania State University.

“The extreme weather events this summer are a reminder that the impacts of climate change could well be worse than the models currently suggest,” wrote Michael Mann. “These events could well exceed our adaptive capacity, underscoring the urgency of actions to prevent a worsening of the climate crisis, i.e. rapid decarbonization of our economy.”

Read more at Washington Post

Upcoming Events

- 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 20 – December 3, 2021: [Humanitarian Water Engineering Intensive Online Course](#) (Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research, York University, Toronto - Registration closes September 3)
- September 27 - October 1, 2021: [12th European Congress On Tropical Medicine And International Health: Global Challenges In Health, Migration And Equity](#)
- Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2021: [Net Zero Festival by Business Green](#) (London and Online)
- October 6-8, 2021: [Public Health 2021: Annual conference of the Canadian Public Health Association](#)
- November 1-12, 2021: [2020/2021 UN Climate Change Conference](#) UNFCCC COP26 - Postponed in 2020 and now to be held November 1-12, 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 for Physios in Global Health.
- April 1-3, 2022: CUGH 2022 Global Health Conference- Hybrid: [Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Social Justice](#) (Los Angeles, California). Virtual Satellite Sessions: March 21-25, 2022; In-person Satellite Sessions: March 31, 2022

FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

The Lancet, China and the Origins of Coronavirus



Credit: The Lancet's editor-in-chief Richard Horton appears on CCTV (Photo: China Central Television)

Right from its first issue in 1823, the *Lancet* was more than just an ordinary medical journal. Its founding editor, the dyspeptic surgeon and coroner Thomas Wakley, purposefully gave the journal the name of a sharp scalpel that could cut away useless, diseased tissue: he used it as a campaigning organ, to push back against injustice, bad ideas and bad practice.

What bothered Wakley most was the establishment. Not only did the Royal College of Surgeons care little about quacks and snake-oil salesmen, but its members were also engaged in corruption and nepotism, ensuring that their cronies got the best positions and filling their pockets with lecture fees. Wakley wrote in 1838 of the 'mercenary, goose-brained monopolists and charlatans' who won privileges that should have been due to merit. This system was 'the canker-worm which eats into the heart of the medical body'.

The purpose of the *Lancet*, back in 1823, was to slice away the immorality and complacency of the medical establishment. Although there are many similarities between Wakley and Horton (Richard Horton, the current Editor-in-Chief) — both using catty editorials to attack their opponents, though only the latter with access to Twitter — Wakley would have been stunned to see that his journal now exemplifies that establishment. It embodies an unaccountable or only partially accountable elite that does often make progress, but fails abjectly to face up to its many faults.

Read more at Spectator

FYI #2

Scientists Warning Europe



Credit: Scientists Warning Europe

We start the action here.

Scientists Warning Europe represents the science and the thousands of scientists who have signed the three [Scientists Warnings to Humanity](#). In order to represent these scientists, we are organising events, campaigns and climate activities to drive real, science-led action.

Read more at the Guardian

FYI #3

Inside Clean Energy: Lawsuit Recalls How Elon Musk Was King of Rooftop Solar and Then Lost It



Credit: Elon Musk, chief executive officer of Tesla Inc., waves while departing court during the SolarCity trial in Wilmington, Delaware, on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Credit: Samuel Corum/Bloomberg via Getty Images

For two days this week, much of the financial media was paying close attention to a Delaware courtroom where Tesla CEO Elon Musk faced intense questioning about the 2016 merger of Tesla with SolarCity.

Because of Musk's celebrity and tendency to say wild things, much of the coverage treated this as an [entertaining performance](#), but the case touches on a pivotal moment in the U.S. solar market that set the stage for where we are today.

In 2016, SolarCity was the dominant player in the U.S. market but it was running out of money. Musk, who was chairman and a major shareholder of both Tesla and SolarCity, helped to engineer Tesla's \$2.6 billion purchase of the solar company. The deal may have saved SolarCity, but some shareholders are now suing Musk, arguing that the transaction amounted to a bailout of SolarCity that was not in the best interests of Tesla.

[Read More on Inside Climate News](#)

FYI #4

Heatwave Causing 'Biggest Glacier Melt in Washington State in a Century'



Credit: Mt Rainier seen from Air Force One in 2012 (AFP via Getty Images)

The record-breaking heatwave in the US northwest and Canada is causing what's thought to be the biggest [glacier melt](#) in [Washington state](#) in a century. Milky, sandy water has been reported running into [Puget Sound](#), an inlet of the Pacific Ocean. Scientists say it could be rocks and minerals from melting [glaciers](#).

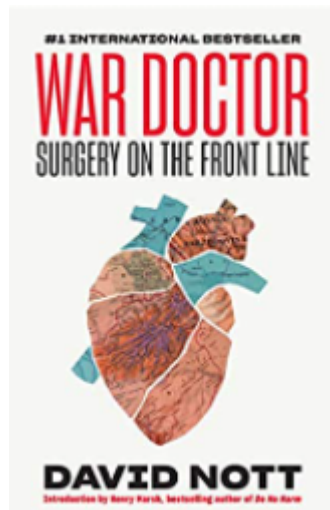
See Also at Globe and Mail: [Greenland suspends its 50-year oil exploration strategy due to environmental concerns](#)

Read more at Independent

FYI #5: JULY READING - NEW BOOK

"War Doctor: Surgery on the Front

Line” by David Nott



Credit: Book Cover

For more than 25 years, Welsh surgeon David Nott has volunteered in some of the world's most dangerous conflict zones. From Sarajevo under siege in 1993 to clandestine hospitals in rebel-held eastern Aleppo, he has carried out lifesaving operations in the most challenging conditions, and with none of the resources of a major metropolitan hospital. He is now widely acknowledged as the most experienced trauma surgeon in the world.

War Doctor is his extraordinary story, encompassing his surgeries in nearly every major conflict zone since the end of the Cold War, as well as his struggles to return to a “normal” life and routine after each trip. Culminating in his recent trips to war-torn Syria—and the untold story of his efforts to help secure a humanitarian corridor out of besieged Aleppo to evacuate some 50,000 people—*War Doctor* is a heart-stopping and moving blend of medical memoir, personal journey, and nonfiction thriller that provides unforgettable, at times raw, insight into the human toll of war.

[Read More on Amazon](#)

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Global Education Summit Falls \$1B Short; Boris Johnson Blamed



Credit: University of Bristol

Campaigners reacted with disappointment after late July's Global Education Summit fell short of raising the \$5 billion in financing that is said to be needed to help remedy the schooling crisis amid the [COVID-19](#) pandemic.

NGO leaders said the U.K. government, which hosted the event alongside Kenya, had to shoulder responsibility for the failure Thursday, arguing that the nation had undermined its leadership position by cutting its aid budget and [numerous education programs](#) with it.

Donations amounted to around \$4 billion for a five-year funding cycle for the [Global Partnership for Education](#), or GPE, despite world leaders repeatedly citing the importance of education for youngsters across the world and acknowledging how many had been forced out of school over the past year and a half.

Read More at Devex

ENDSHOTS

"Around and Near the House at Whitefish Lake, Ontario"

August 9-12, 2021

Amid Latest World and Canadian COVID-19 Stats & Charts



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Last updated: August 12, 2021, 18:11 GMT

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

Coronavirus Cases:

205,870,231

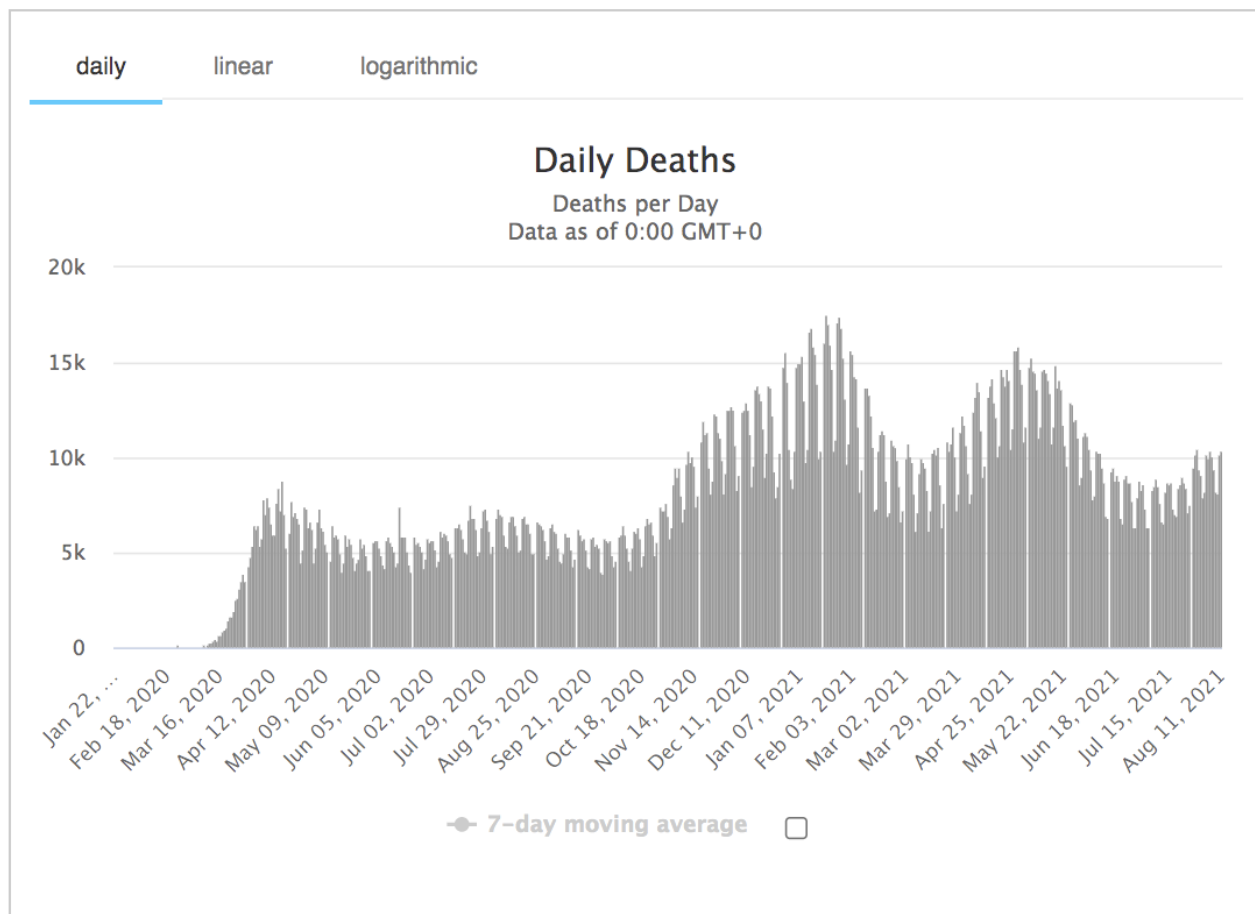
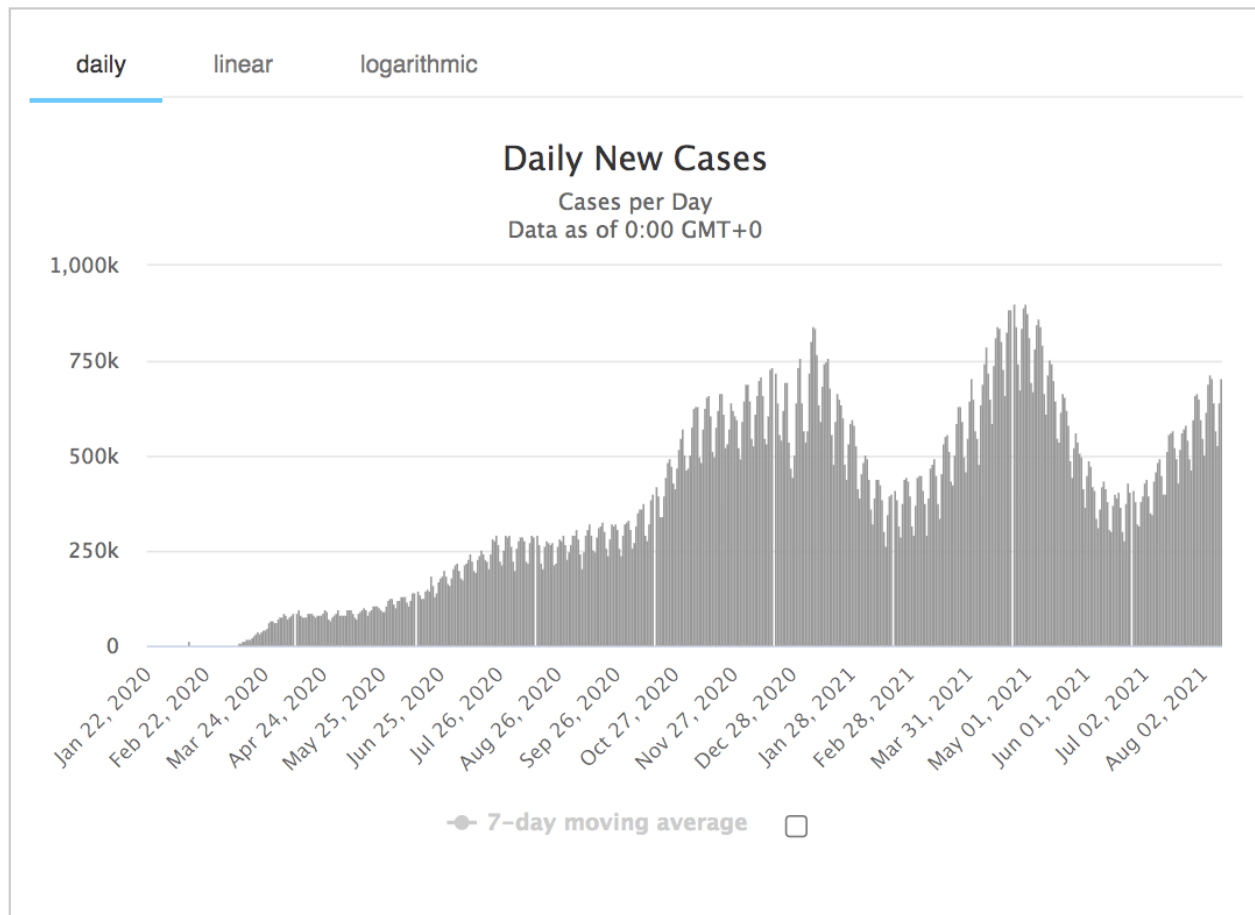
[view by country](#)

Deaths:

4,343,204

Recovered:

184,818,245



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



COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS & VACCINATIONS (August 12, 2021) below:
Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

More than
4,329,000
people have died from
the coronavirus worldwide

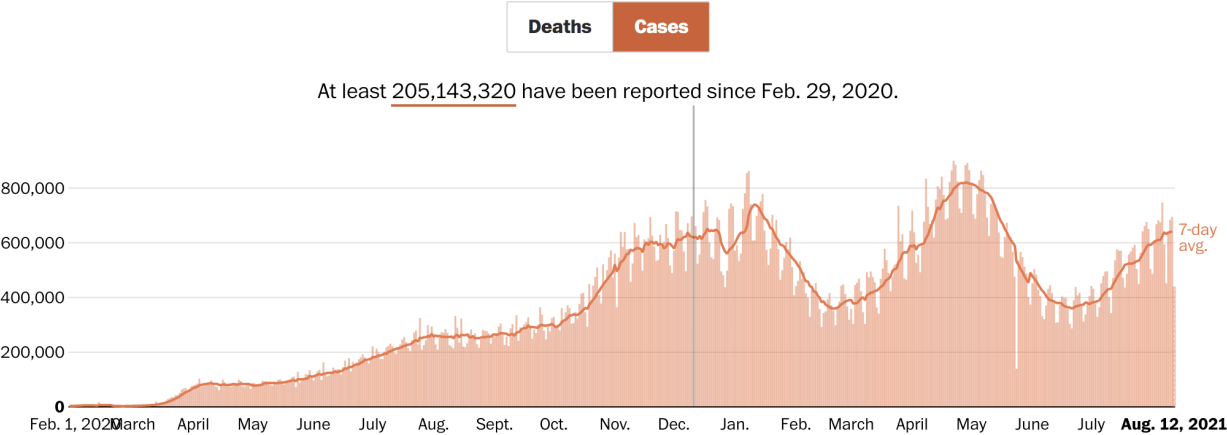
More than **205 million** cases have been reported.



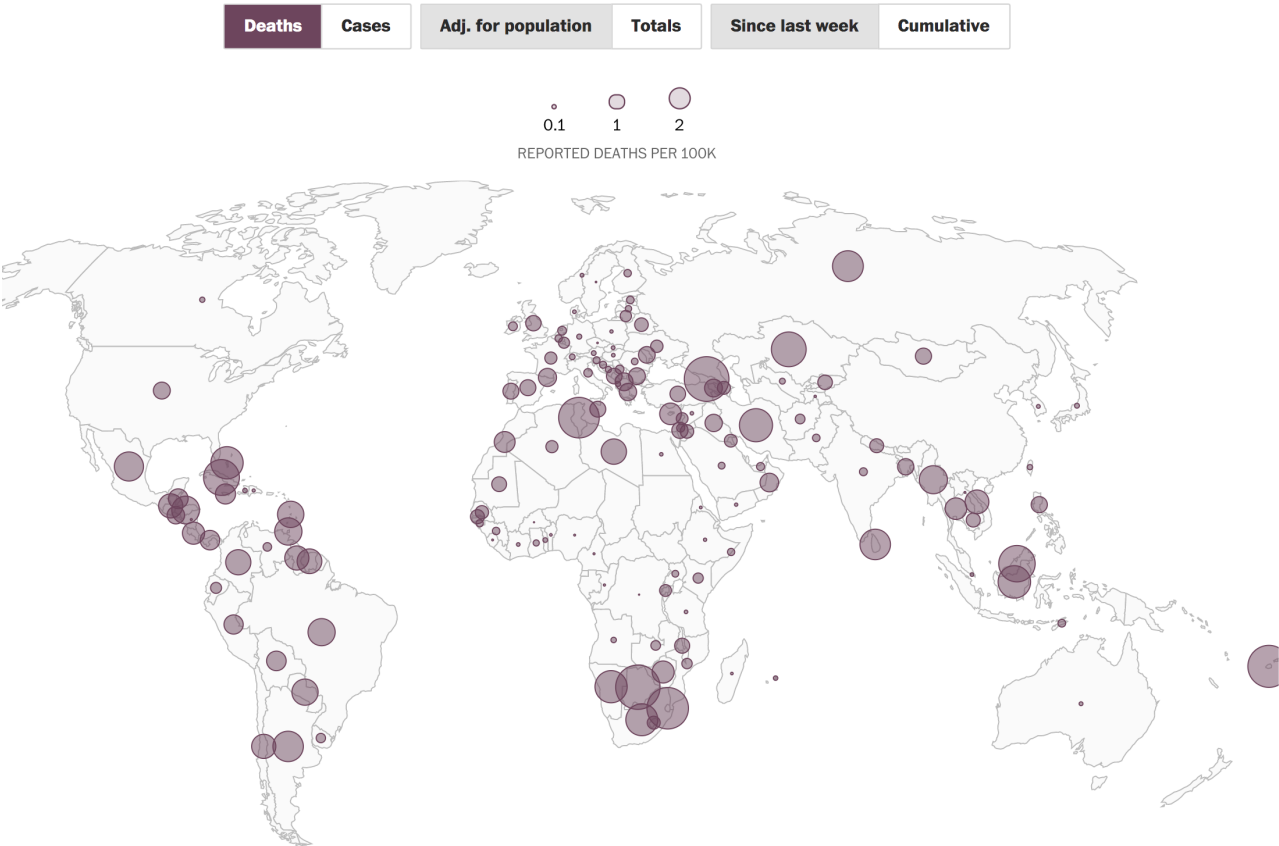
Where the virus is surging



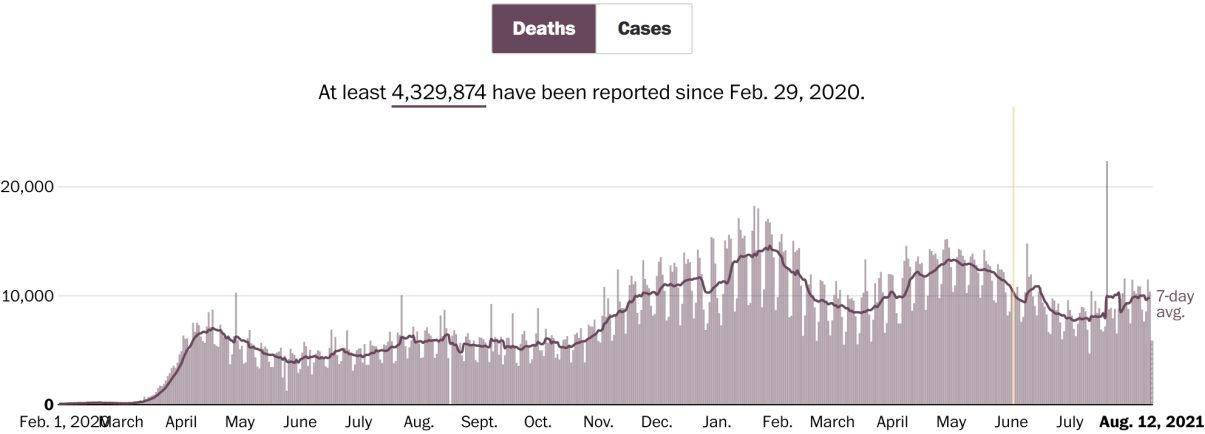
New daily reported cases across the world



Where the virus is surging



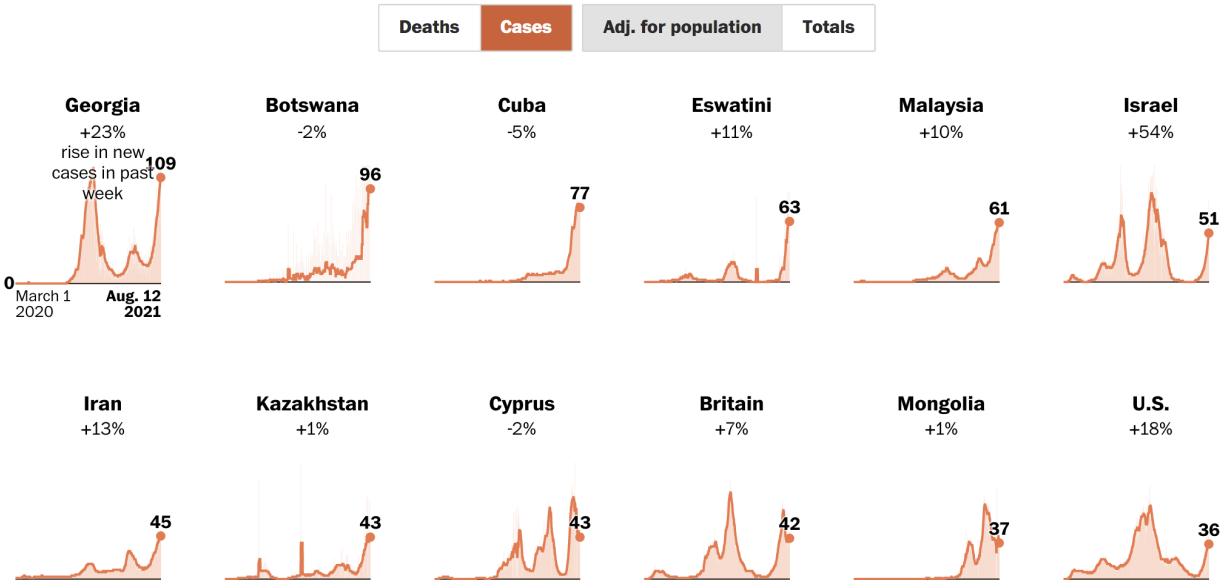
New daily deaths reported across the world





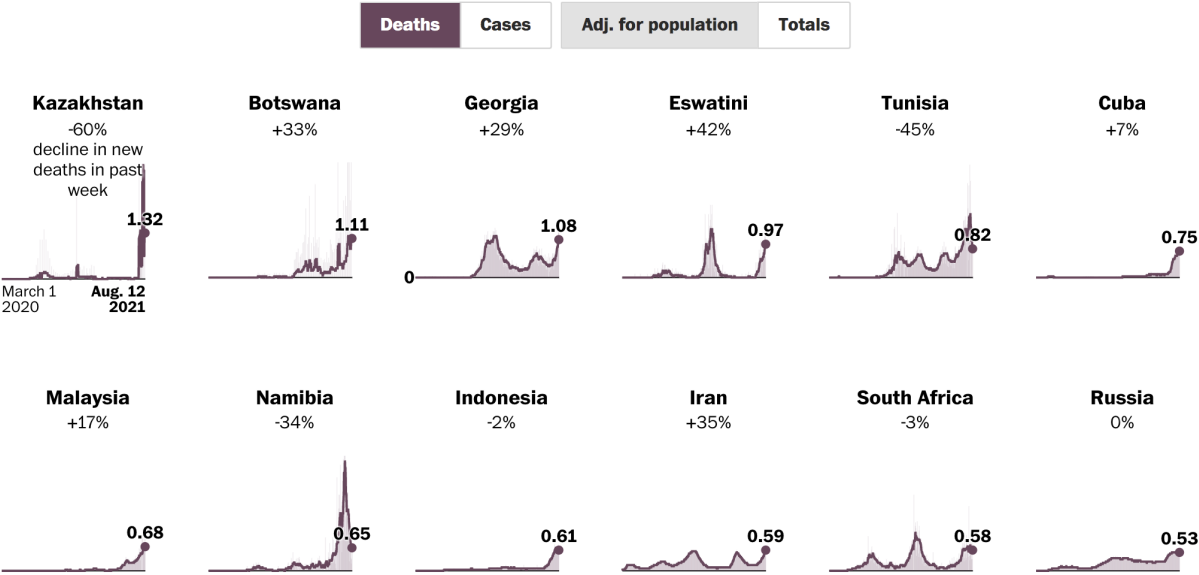
Global hot spots for reported cases per capita

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



Global hot spots for reported deaths per capita

7-day rolling average of daily new deaths per 100,000 residents



Note: Only countries with a population of more than 1 million are shown.



Global Vaccination Rates

Country	Total doses given per 100k	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination
Malta	176,829	92.0%	90.9%
UAE	176,509	82.3%	73.5%
Iceland	132,075	76.2%	70.7%
Seychelles	143,822	74.1%	69.7%
Singapore	142,420	76.3%	68.3%
Uruguay	143,187	75.1%	68.0%
Chile	138,695	74.2%	67.2%
Qatar	142,601	77.2%	65.4%
Belgium	134,293	71.8%	65.4%
Portugal	127,797	72.5%	63.1%
Canada	135,647	72.6%	63.1%
Denmark	136,094	74.1%	62.8%
Bahrain	140,953	65.9%	62.7%
Bhutan	132,373	70.0%	62.3%
Mongolia	130,779	68.6%	62.2%
Spain	127,297	71.9%	61.6%
Ireland	126,225	70.0%	60.8%
Israel	132,001	64.4%	59.7%
Britain	130,126	70.5%	59.6%
Netherlands	121,585	68.4%	57.6%
Italy	120,936	66.7%	56.5%
Hungary	—	58.0%	56.3%
Germany	115,894	62.8%	56.1%
Austria	113,559	60.5%	55.5%
Luxembourg	119,061	64.2%	54.9%
Maldives	114,776	61.6%	53.2%
Liechtenstein	106,242	54.9%	52.1%

Greenland	117,892	66.5%	51.4%
France	117,422	67.5%	51.4%
Greece	101,773	54.3%	50.8%
U.S.	106,388	59.1%	50.3%
Monaco	113,079	62.8%	50.3%
Switzerland	107,207	55.5%	49.8%
Czechia	101,530	54.2%	48.9%
Lithuania	102,595	54.7%	47.9%
Poland	92,676	49.3%	47.4%
Mauritius	102,479	57.0%	45.5%
Sweden	109,141	64.0%	45.1%
Andorra	106,750	62.8%	44.0%
Dominican Republic	98,278	52.6%	41.1%
Finland	109,596	68.8%	40.8%
Cyprus	86,491	46.1%	40.4%
Cambodia	90,136	51.7%	40.3%
Slovenia	85,579	45.3%	40.2%
Serbia	80,768	41.3%	39.5%
Norway	109,077	70.0%	39.1%
Estonia	89,711	51.2%	38.5%
Slovakia	80,246	42.3%	38.0%
Croatia	77,416	41.1%	37.7%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	82,655	45.1%	37.6%
Latvia	73,615	42.0%	37.2%
Turkey	95,457	51.2%	36.9%
Japan	84,807	48.5%	36.3%
Antigua and Barbuda	71,500	39.4%	32.1%
Morocco	73,901	43.1%	30.8%
Saudi Arabia	90,176	59.7%	30.5%
Malaysia	80,951	51.2%	29.8%

El Salvador	76,717	48.6%	28.2%
Barbados	63,098	35.0%	28.1%
Dominica	56,331	29.0%	27.3%
Colombia	60,866	39.6%	26.4%
Montenegro	56,451	30.7%	25.7%
Romania	49,312	26.3%	25.6%
Cuba	96,349	41.4%	25.1%
Jordan	56,273	31.9%	24.4%
Kazakhstan	56,091	31.8%	24.3%
Azerbaijan	55,304	32.4%	22.9%
Brazil	74,709	54.3%	22.5%
Mexico	57,826	40.7%	22.0%
Kuwait	56,463	34.5%	21.9%
North Macedonia	47,164	26.1%	21.1%
Moldova	41,830	21.3%	20.5%
Fiji	77,632	57.6%	20.1%
Argentina	78,435	58.5%	19.9%
Russia	47,107	27.3%	19.8%
Ecuador	76,849	57.2%	19.7%
Albania	44,855	25.2%	19.6%
Peru	46,662	27.3%	19.3%
Australia	56,039	36.9%	19.1%
Guyana	53,156	34.6%	18.5%
Trinidad and Tobago	49,316	31.0%	18.3%
Panama	75,054	56.8%	18.3%
New Zealand	46,640	29.4%	17.3%
Costa Rica	72,184	55.1%	17.1%
Laos	35,906	19.0%	16.9%
Bolivia	42,379	25.7%	16.7%
South Korea	55,909	42.2%	15.9%

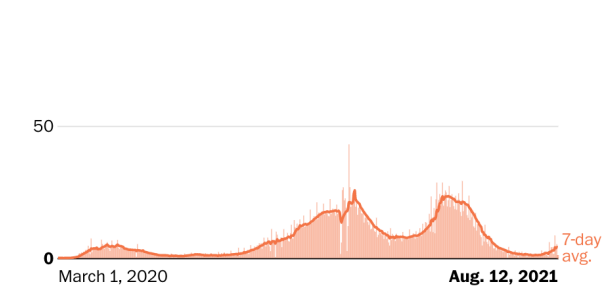
**Canada is in 11th place globally for completed
vaccination rate; U.S. is 31st**



Select a country:

Canada

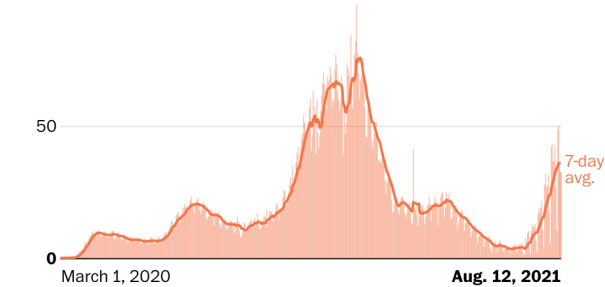
At least 1,453,342 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

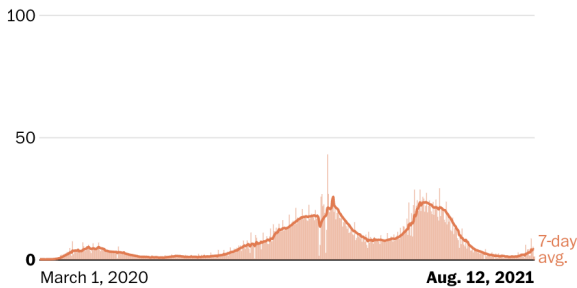
U.S.

At least 36,311,722 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



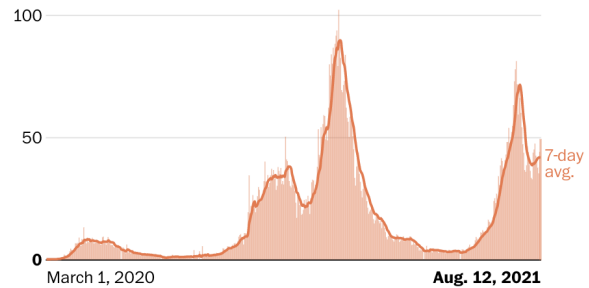
Select a country:

Canada

At least 1,453,342 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

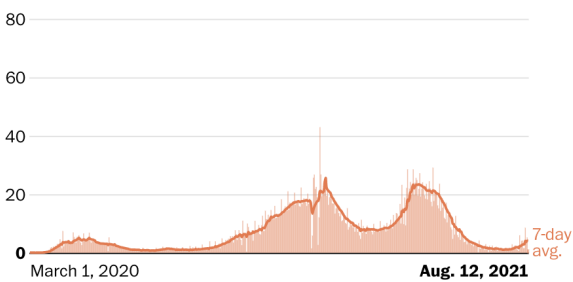
Select a country:

Britain

At least 6,208,745 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

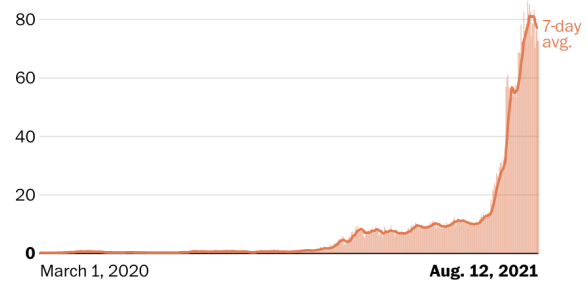
Select a country:

Canada

At least 1,453,342 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

Select a country:

Cuba

At least 491,904 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

Compare countries by new daily reported cases per 100k

Deaths

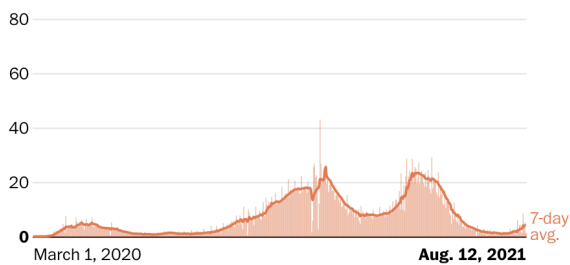
Cases

Adj. for population

Totals

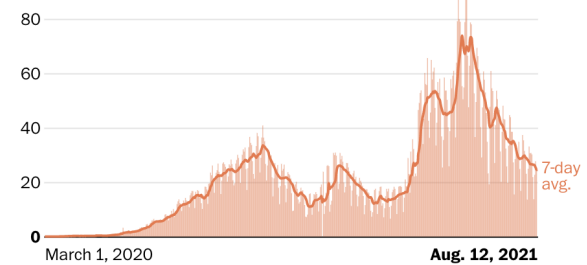
Select a country:

Canada

At least 1,453,342 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

Select a country:

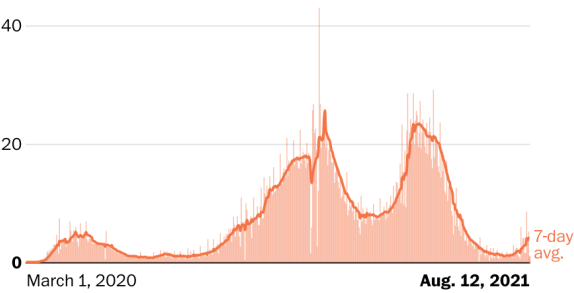
Argentina

At least 5,052,884 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

Select a country:

Canada

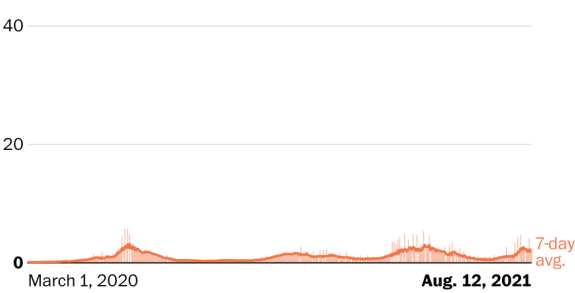
At least 1,453,342 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Pakistan

At least 1,085,294 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



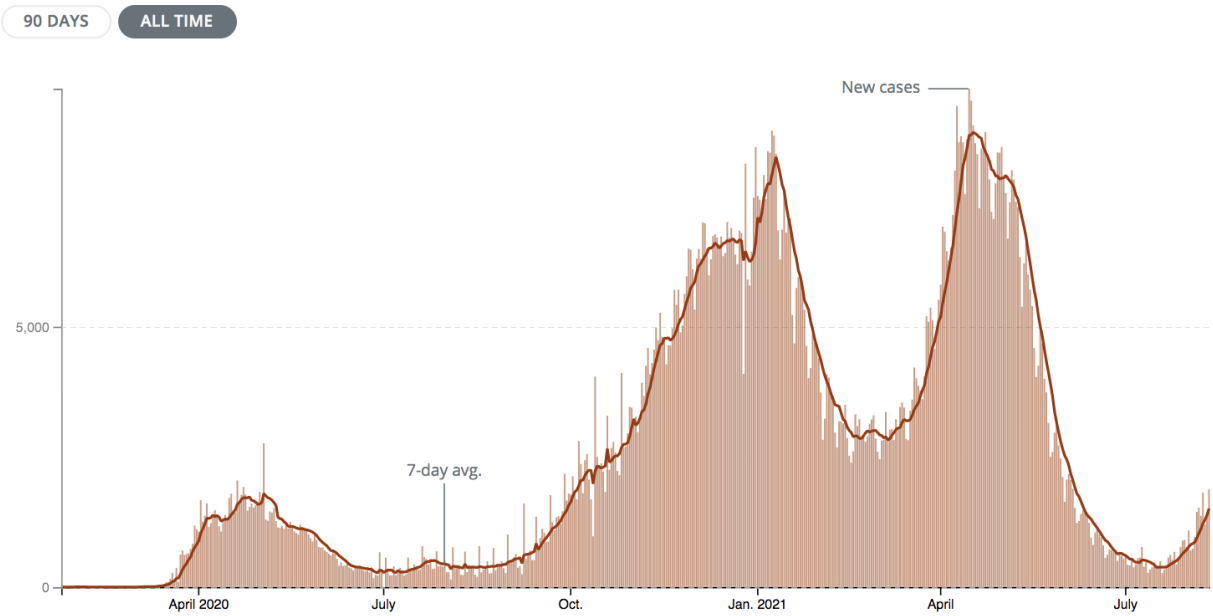


Source of Canadian Data Below (August 11, 2021):
<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirustracker/>

Canada

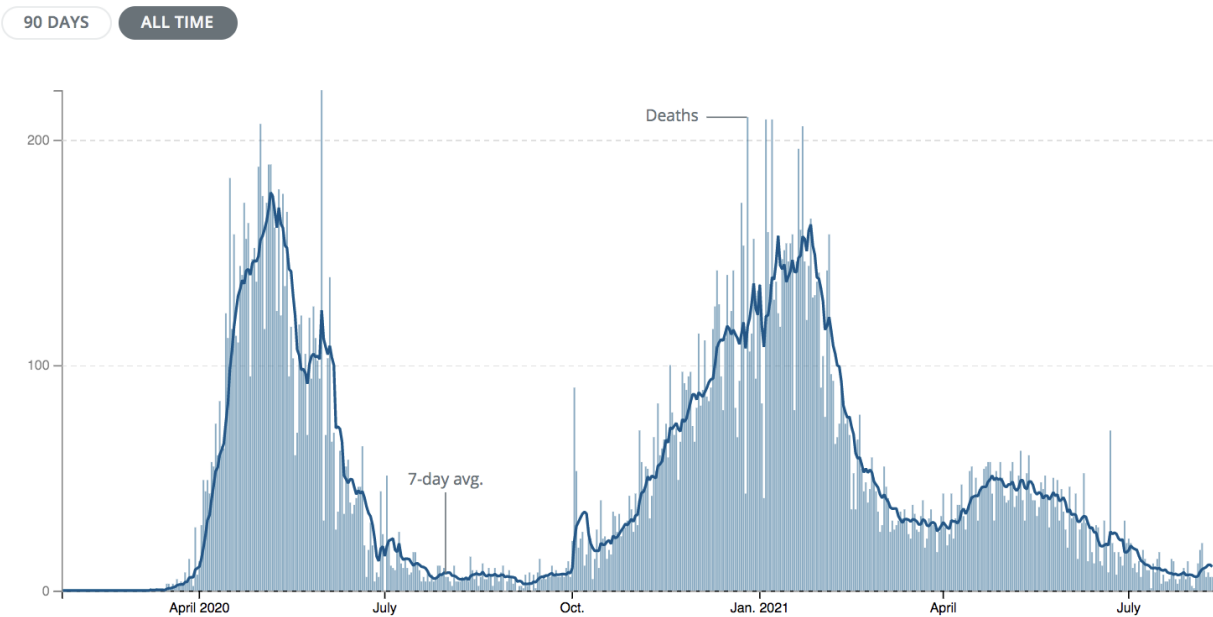
Cases Deaths Hospitalizations ICU

In Canada 1,445,305 cases have been reported.

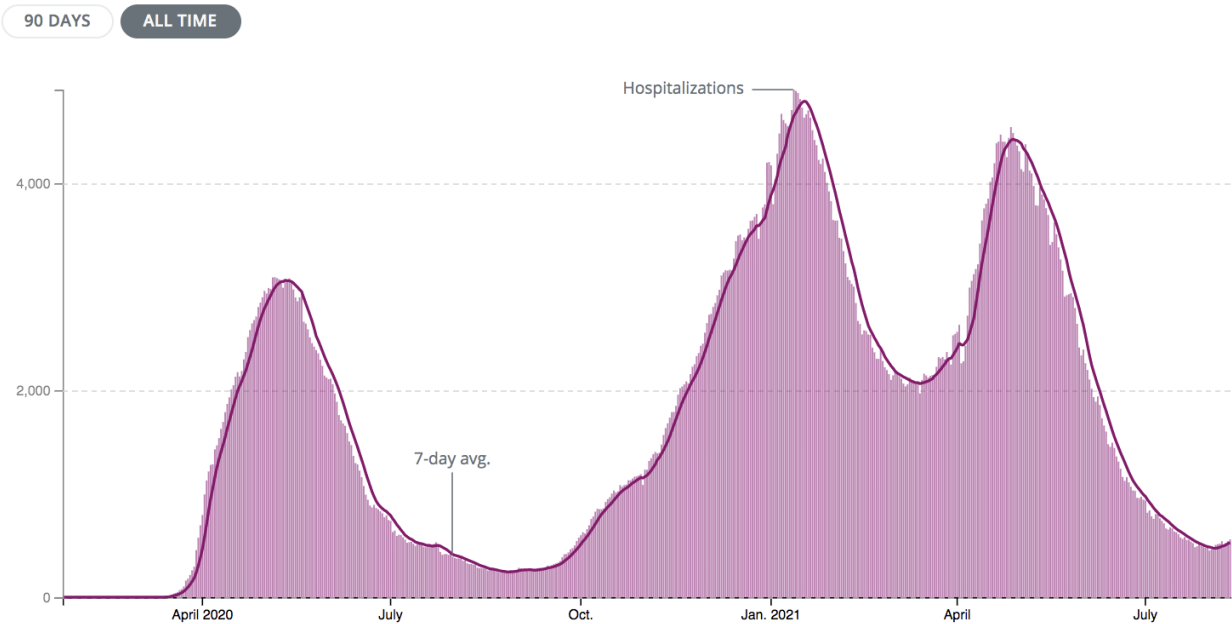


Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.

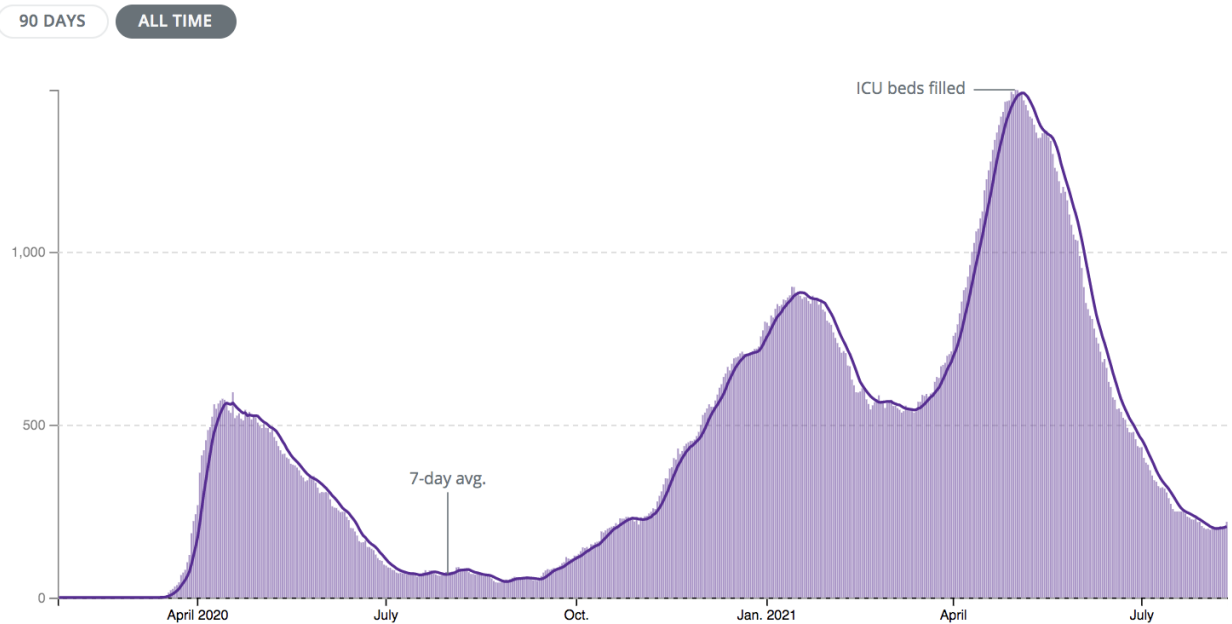
In Canada 26,688 deaths have been reported.



In Canada there are currently 559 people hospitalized.



In Canada there are currently 219 ICU beds filled.



In the past week in Canada...

New cases

↑

There were 10,571 new cases, an increase of 75 per cent. That's 27.8 cases per 100,000 people.

Active cases

↑

The number of active cases rose 66 per cent.

Deaths

↑

There were 74 deaths, or 0.2 per 100,000 people, an increase of 64 per cent.

Hospitalizations

↑

Hospitalizations rose 9 per cent and ICU beds filled rose 10 per cent.



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	Percentage of people given at least one dose	Percentage of people fully vaccinated
Canada	51,055,516	71.68%	62.48%
Alberta	5,406,352	64.89%	56.97%
British Columbia	7,114,250	73.93%	63.97%
Manitoba	1,847,321	70.15%	63.47%
New Brunswick	1,064,911	73.65%	62.52%
Newfoundland and Labrador	724,037	78.68%	60.44%
Nova Scotia	1,403,617	76.21%	67.10%
Ontario	20,047,911	71.78%	64.09%
Prince Edward Island	222,436	78.92%	60.26%
Quebec	11,616,214	73.59%	61.87%
Saskatchewan	1,436,522	65.11%	56.74%
Northwest Territories	64,729	74.10%	69.31%
Nunavut	43,158	58.56%	50.96%
Yukon	64,058	78.11%	73.72%

Source: CBC News.



Great Blue Heron

Source of World Covid-19 Vaccination Data Below (August 12, 2021):
<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/>

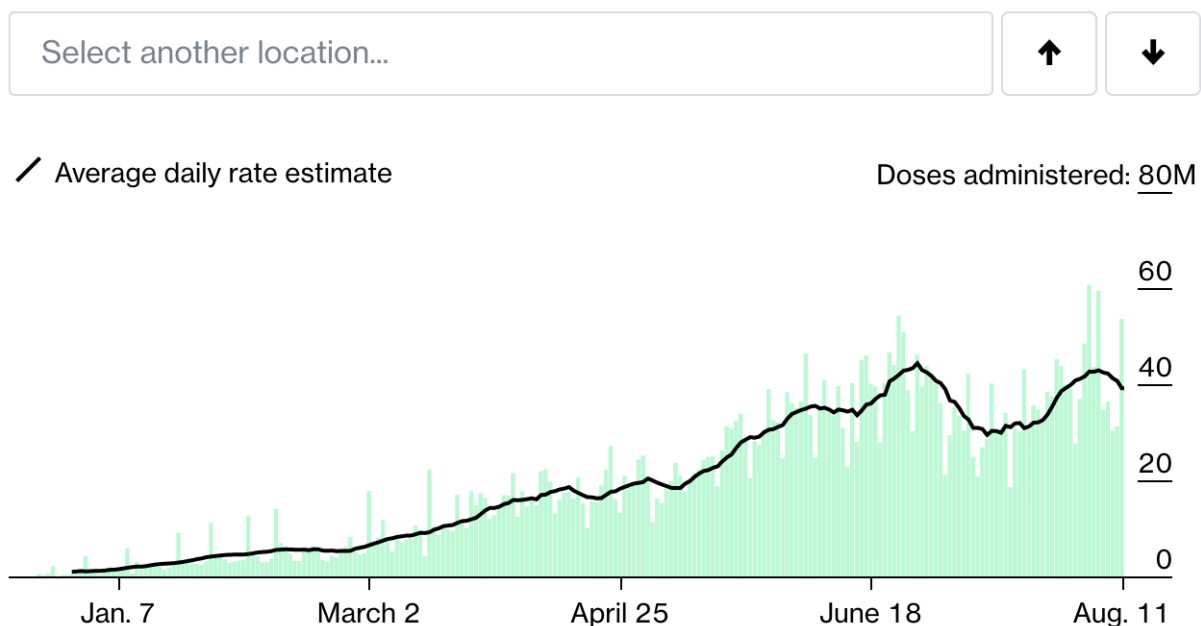
More Than 4.56 Billion Shots Given: Covid-19 Tracker

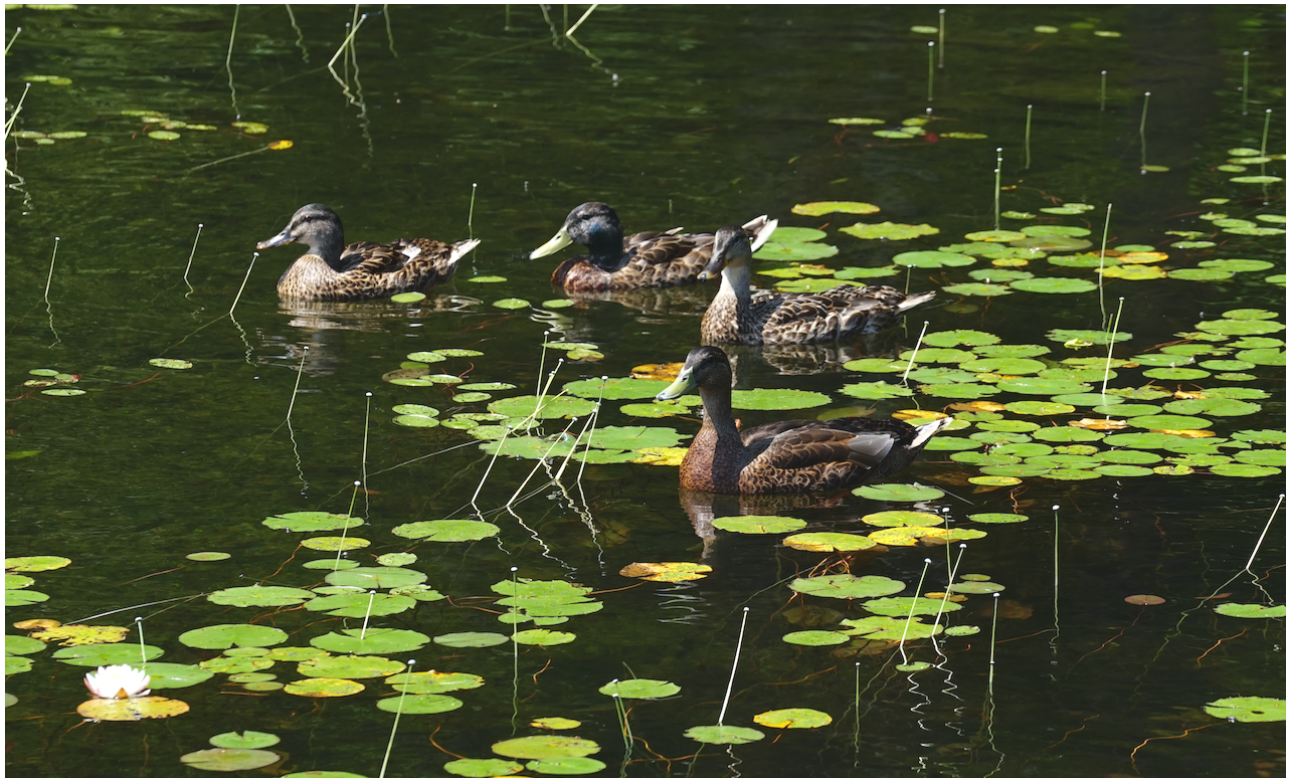
In the U.S., 353 million doses have been administered

The biggest vaccination campaign in history is underway. More than **4.56 billion doses** have been administered across 183 countries, according to data collected by Bloomberg. The latest rate was roughly **39.1 million doses a day**.

In the U.S., **353 million doses** have been given so far. In the last week, an average of **729,009 doses per day** were administered.

Globally, the latest vaccination rate is **39,128,200 doses** per day, on average. At this pace, it will take another **6 months** to cover **75%** of the population.





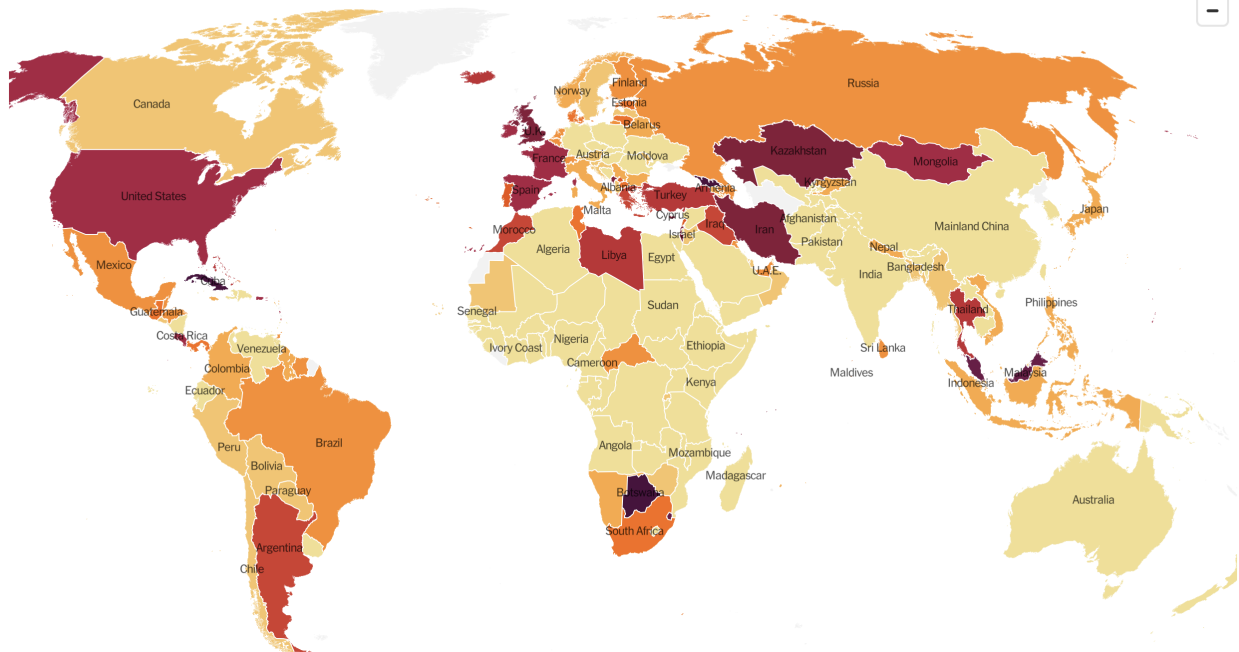
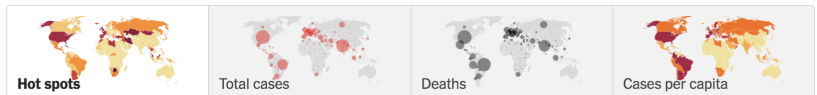
Source of World Covid-19 Data Below (August 12, 2021):
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-cases.html>

Hot spots

AVERAGE DAILY CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE IN PAST WEEK

4 12 20 28 40 68

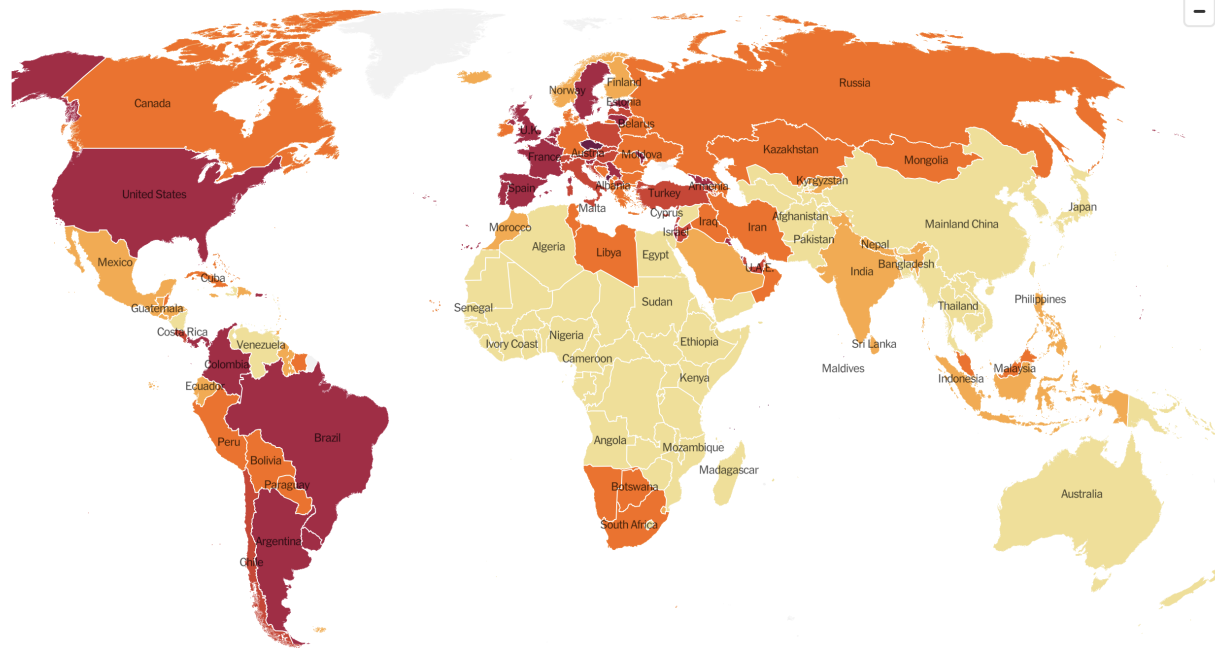
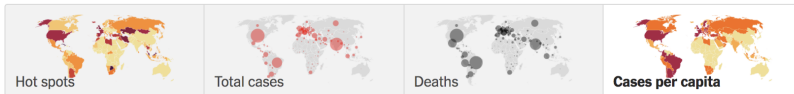
FEW OR NO CASES



Cases per capita

SHARE OF POPULATION WITH A REPORTED CASE

1 IN 80 1 IN 15 1 IN 8 FEW OR NO CASES



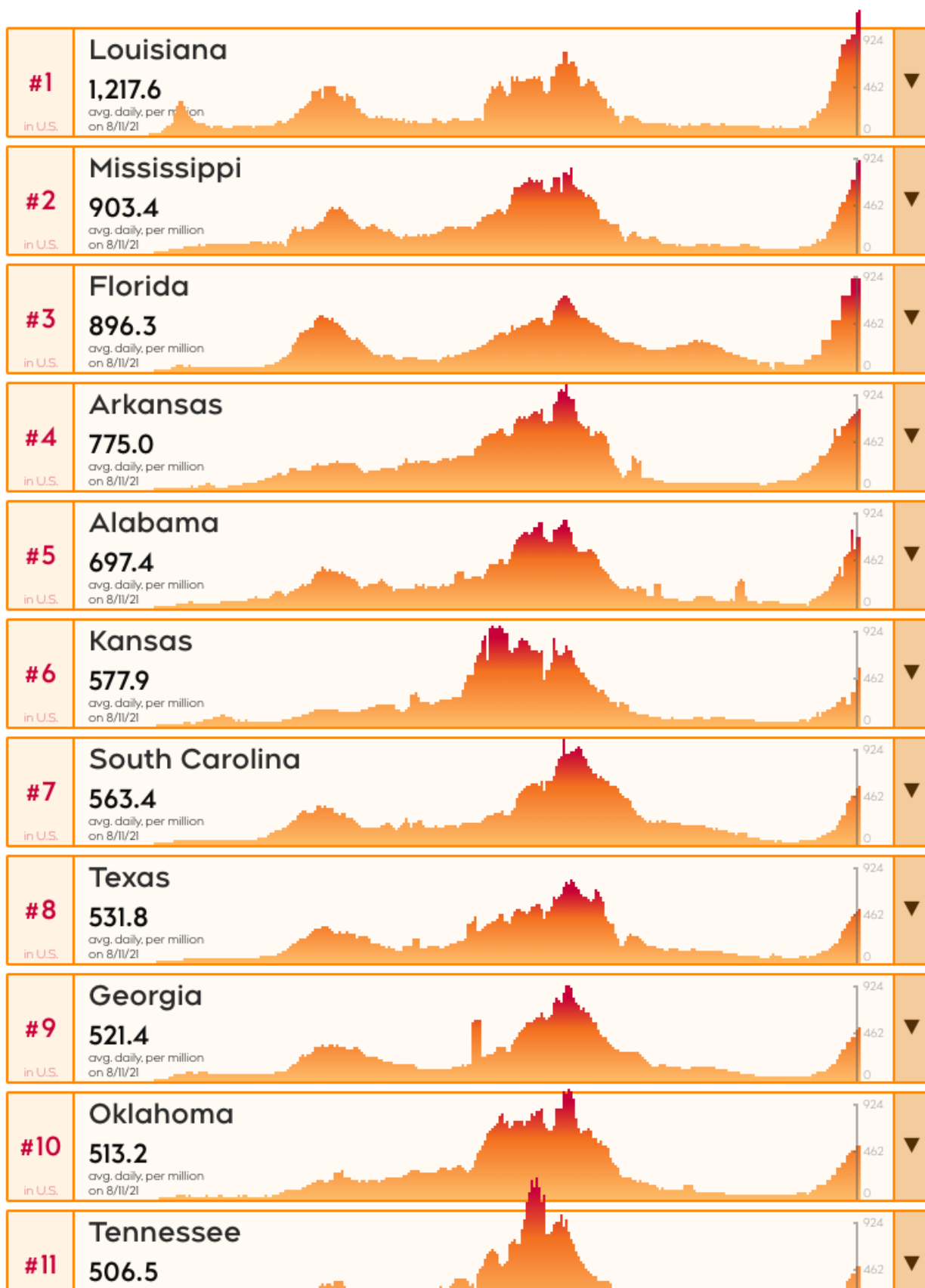
Source of Canadian and U.S. Comparative Data Below (Aug. 12, 2021):
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-in-the-u-s-how->

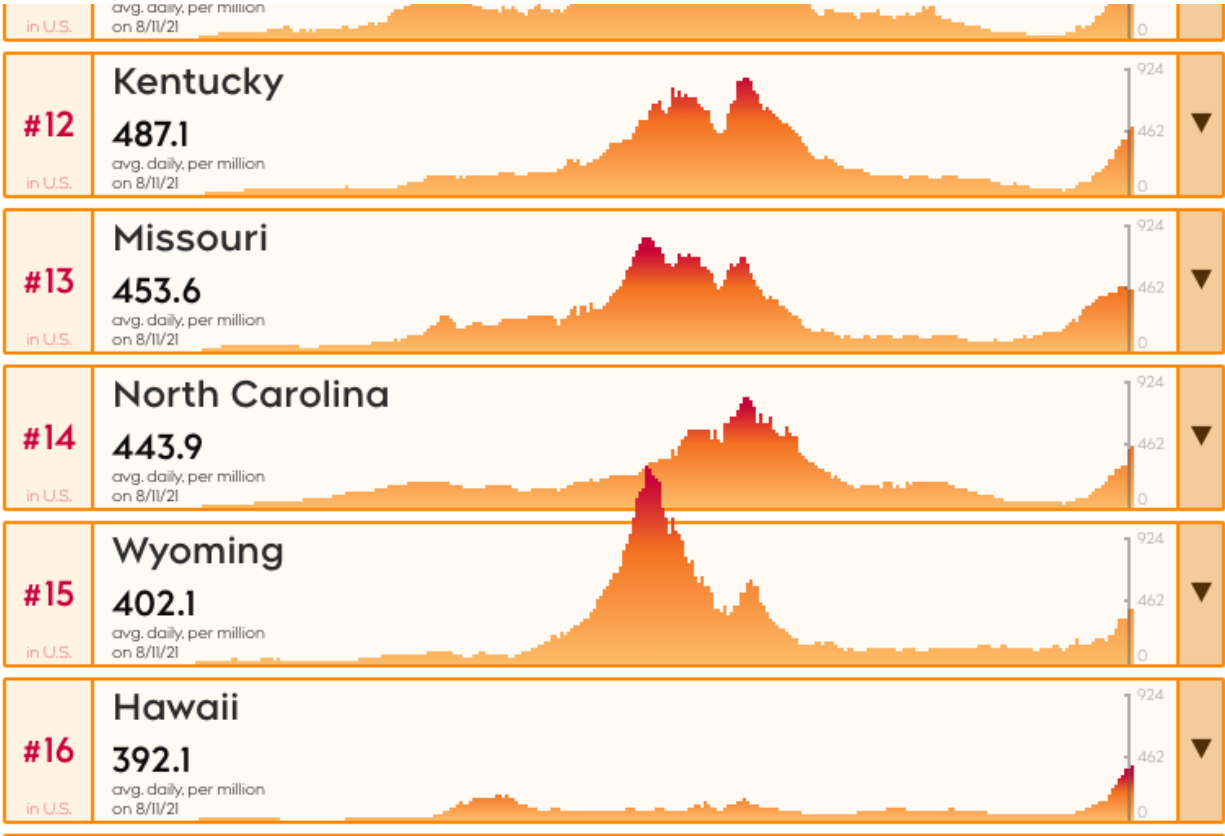
[do-canada-s-provinces-rank-against-american-states-1.5051033](#)

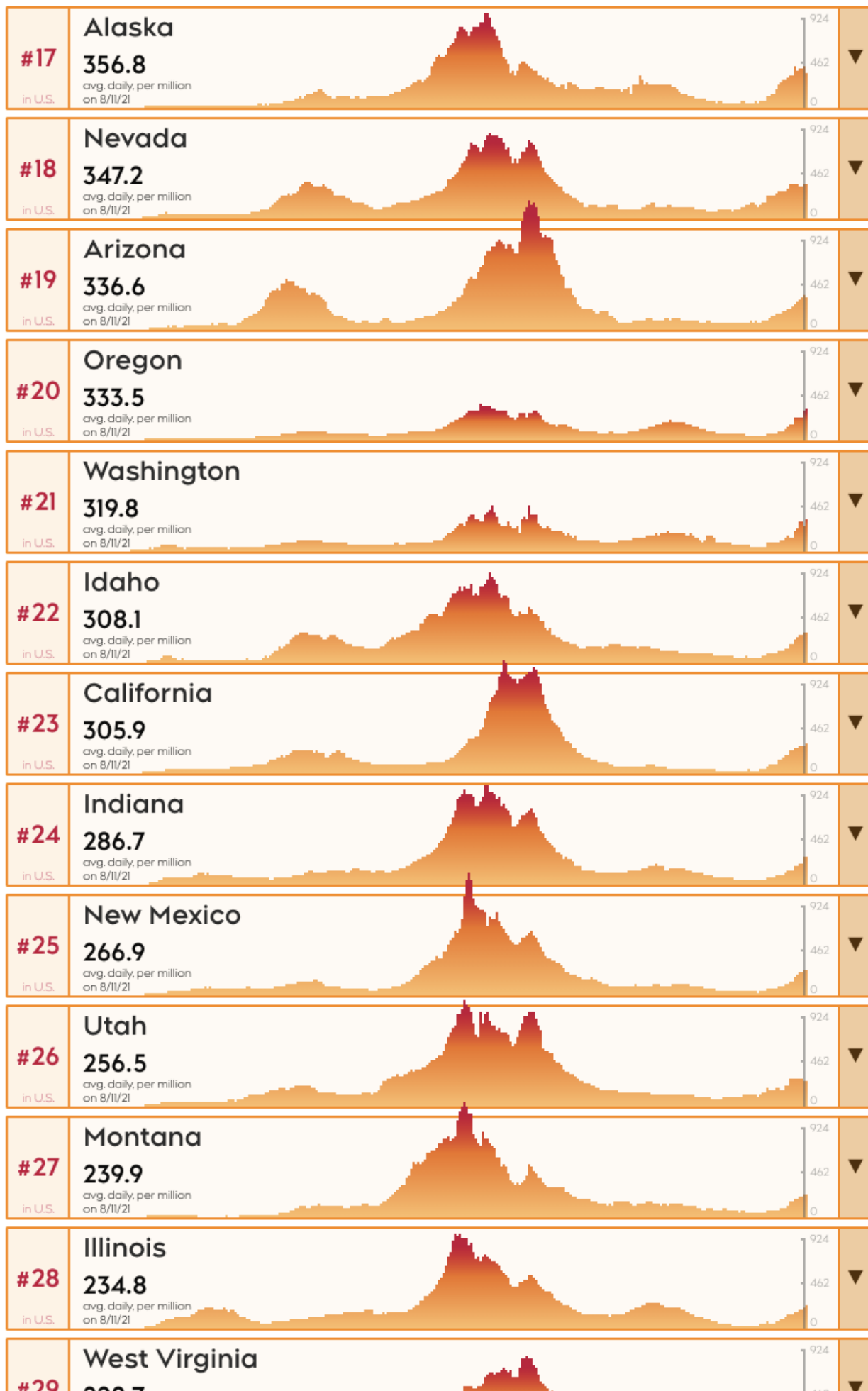
Comparing COVID-19 in states and provinces

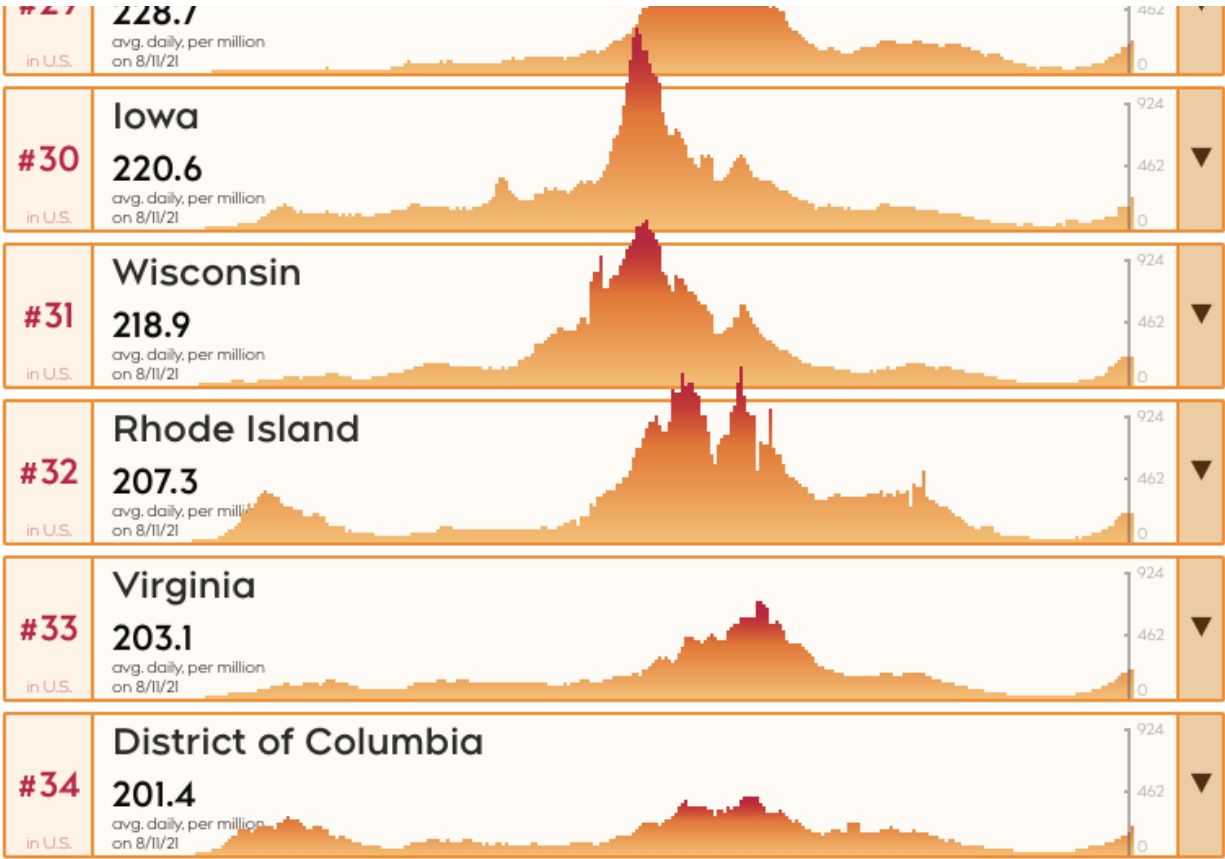
Showing 7-day avg. cases, per million

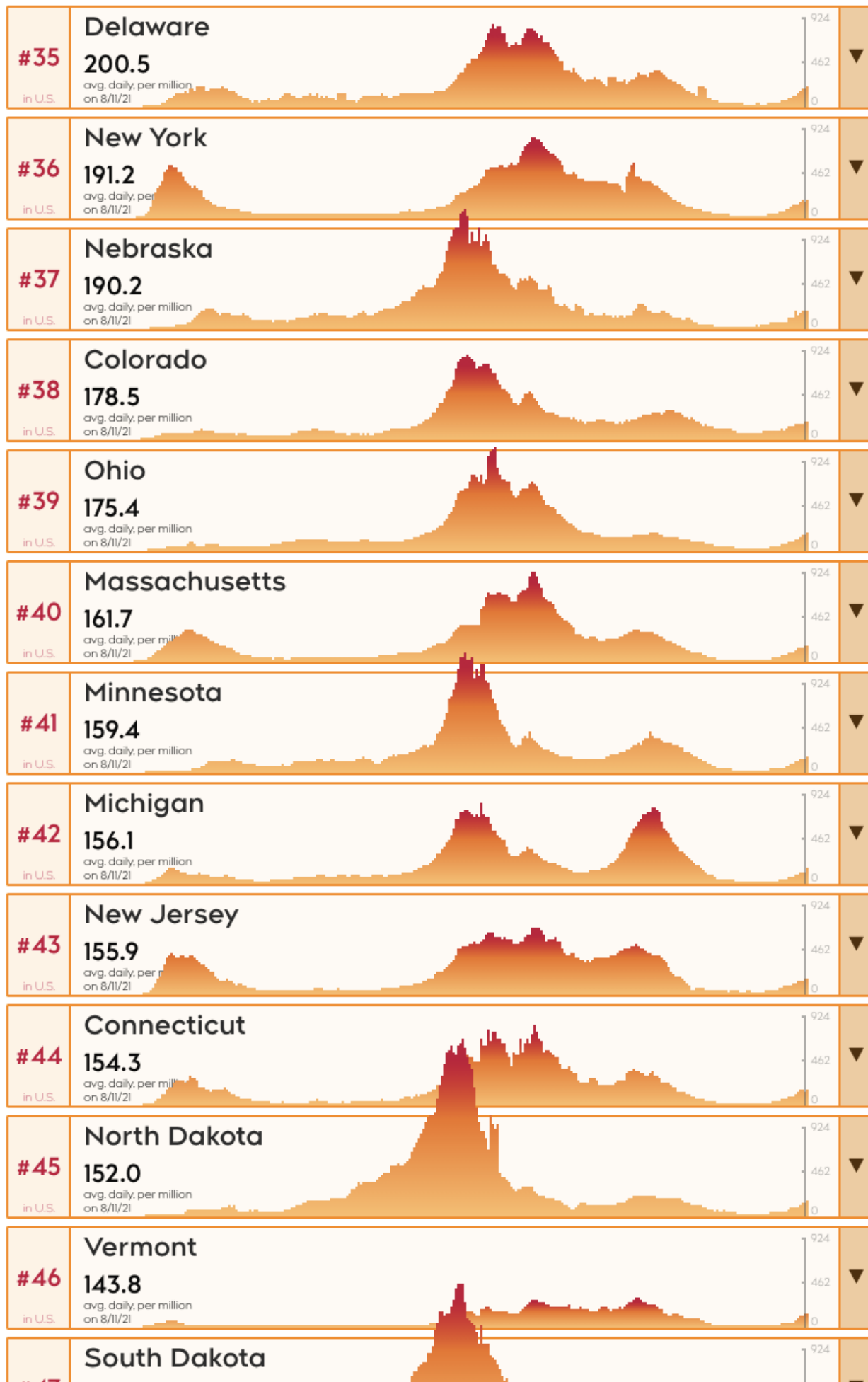
Ranked by highest current cases Scale: all same

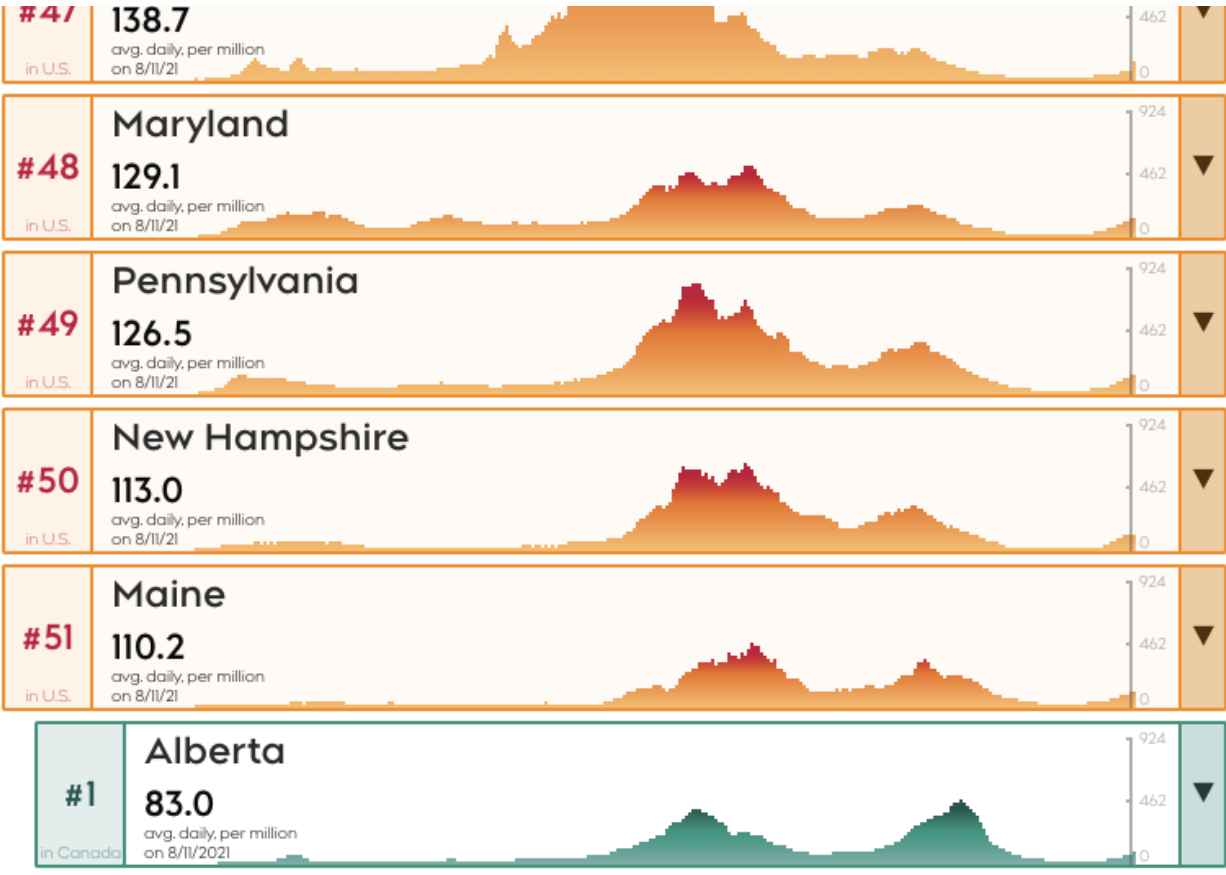


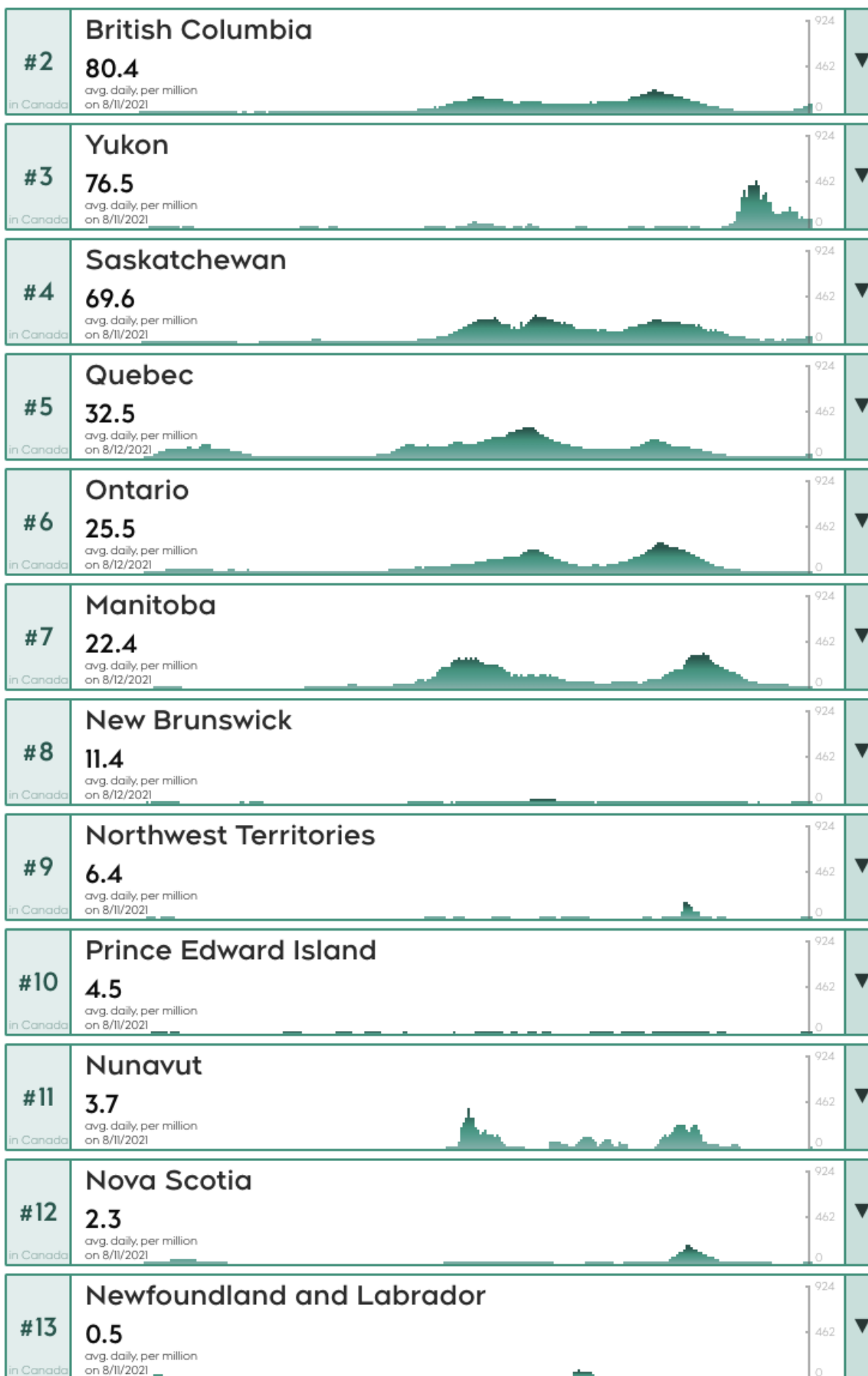












U.S. data is collected daily from the [COVID-19 Data Repository](#) by the Center for Systems

Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University. Canadian data is collected by CTV News based on daily provincial reports.



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