



CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

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Hi,

I've seen "both sides now." For most of my life the 1969 song by Joni Mitchell, "Both Sides, Now" has been one of my all time favourites. It has had great meaning for me often changing over the years of listening. It has changed again now with Covid-19. The 'both sides'

that I see are the majority on one and a tiny minority on the other, those wanting to get the vaccine and those not wanting it – with some type of ephemeral cloudy barrier between. The power of a democracy is that voice is given to minorities, even when they are way out of line with that of the vast majority. That's good. But what's not good is when the tiny minority can be proven wrong and when they hold the whole rest of society hostage to their erroneous beliefs. This past week saw, in Canada, anti-vaxxers protesting at hospitals across the country and even harassing and impeding health workers and patients. I'm embarrassed to be reporting this.

But, [listening to Joni from 1969](#) and contemplating [her amazing "Both Sides, Now" lyrics](#) off her *Clouds* album gives me hope:

Rows and flows of angel hair
And ice cream castles in the air
And feather canyons everywhere
Looked at clouds that way

But now they only block the sun
They rain and they snow on everyone
So many things I would have done
But clouds got in my way

I've looked at clouds from both sides now

From up and down and still somehow

It's cloud illusions I recall

I really don't know clouds at all

...

Oh, but now old friends they're acting strange

And they shake their heads and they tell me that

I've changed

Well something's lost, but something's gained

In living every day...

(The [song continues on to elicit more beautiful images and emotions](#))

Yes, there are many ugly divisions sweeping our world, and they're murky and cloudy; among them the facts and fiction of Covid, the haves and have nots of vaccines, and the huge societal losses, in lives damaged, DALYS, dollars and lives lost, all because of the pandemic. The spiking numbers of Covid-19 in so many regions is testament to the divisions among us, despite 5.8 billion vaccines given. Now we listen sarcastically to repentant politicians and dying anti-vaxxers. This time last year we were hoping and praying for a vaccine. We presently have several excellent ones and yet, because of divisions sowed by many ill meaning persons, we continue to have widespread disease, illness and death from a tiny life form we can only see with [super magnifying electron microscopes and more recently, chemiscopes](#).

Both sides are real; having two sides is dangerous. Somehow we need to come together, everyone, and see through the clouds to beat this thing and triumph over it together.

In today's ***Planetary Health Weekly*** (#37 of 2021) and as we reach the end of summer, there is so much interesting global health and ecological wellness news to keep up with, including:

- The world's central banks are fuelling the climate crisis,
- Banking on climate chaos: world's top 60 banks have pumped USD 3.8 trillion in fossils since Paris (2015),
- Coronavirus Updates:
 - At stake, the public's health: on the role of conflicting interests and disclosure in epidemiology,
 - PAHO launches new collaborative platform to produce Covid-19 vaccines in Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - Unvaccinated teachers in Ontario to be tested twice a week for Covid,
 - Unvaccinated, unmasked teacher infected more than half of students in class with Covid-19, CDC reports,
 - He smeared Dr. Fauci and called the pandemic a lie; now this Florida lawmaker is hospitalized,
 - China to donate 100 million vaccine doses to developing countries by end of 2021, Denmark becomes only European country with no Covid curbs,

- Speed, decisiveness, cooperation: how a tiny Taiwan village overcame Delta, Covid-19 cases continue to rise in the Caribbean, THEN
- New UN nuclear test ban chief says goal is to bring pact into force,
- Manatees are starving en masse as Florida's ecosystem crumbles,
- The severe weather event we routinely ignore: poor air quality,
- After Ida, toxic smoke from Shell's Norco plant in Louisiana creates apocalyptic landscape,
- International partners collaborate to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,
- More than 50 NGOs endorse call for \$130BN in annual renewable energy investment to electrify Africa,
- Why is life on Earth still taking second place to fossil fuel companies?
- Oil industry launches lobbying blitz as U.S. congress targets fossil fuel subsidies,
- After Greta Thunberg's strike, adults are still failing children on climate,
- Indigenous protests blocked 1.6 billion tonnes of emissions per year,
- "The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis" (new UNICEF report),
- Case study: Mozambique LNG projects,
- Poor countries say lack of vaccines may exclude them from COP26 climate talks,
- Green groups call for COP26 climate talks to be postponed due to Covid-19,
- Eating one hotdog takes 35 minutes off life,
- New book: "World Scientific Encyclopedia of Climate Change – Vol. 1: Case studies of climate risk, action and opportunity",
- Many predicted some kind of 'Covid slide' in learning – test results show how bad it is,
- Amid the pandemic, more college students are experiencing burnout, and lastly
- ENDSHOTS of "Clouds, Both Sides" amid latest charts and stats of Covid-19 in Canada and around the world.

Please do keep reading. Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



Hawkrigg Lane, Ontario at Sunset
September 15, 2021

World's Central Banks Are Fueling The Climate Crisis



Image credit: Oil Change International report cover,
Laura Upshaw, Pixabay

The world needs every weapon in its climate arsenal to tackle the unprecedented existential threat of climate change. [Oil Change International](#) (along with an

impressive list of collaborators) has just released a [report](#) that shows how central banks are fueling the climate crisis. The report looks at 12 central banks including the Bank of Canada.

The [Fossil Fuel Financing in Canada](#) report exposes the Big Five—RBC, TD, BMO, CIBC, Scotiabank—as major culprits in Canada’s rising emissions trajectory. “Canadian banks have provided over thirteen times more financial support to the fossil fuel industry CAD \$700 billion—than the federal government has spent on its plan to meet its Paris climate commitments, with no end in sight,” said Keith Stewart, senior energy strategist with Greenpeace Canada.

But to date, little attention has been focused on the world’s central banks and their role in financing the ongoing expansion of fossil fuels, the major driver of climate change. **Read more at** [Below 2C](#)

Banking On Climate Chaos: World's Top 60 Banks Pump USD 3.8 Trillion In Fossils Since Paris



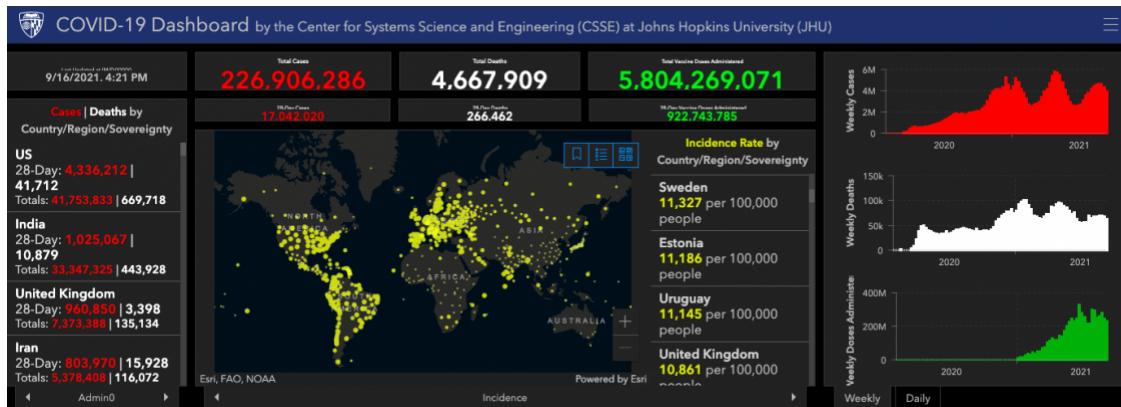
Credit: Below 2C

Despite a massive global drop in fossil fuel demand and production during the pandemic, banks’ 2020 fossil fuel financing numbers still remained above 2016 levels, and the overall trend of the last five years is still heading in the wrong direction. The world’s big banks continue to fuel climate chaos in spite of their commitment to the principles of the Paris Agreement of 2015.

"Banking on Climate Chaos" also scores banks’ fossil fuel policies, and analyzes the recent wave of bank financed emissions commitments — finding that “net zero” commitments are a reluctant admission that banks are major emitters, but no substitute for immediate steps to phase out financing of fossil fuels, and that banks must avoid relying on “net zero” schemes that violate human rights and Indigenous rights. The report also highlights case studies around the world where banks’ fossil fuel financing harms communities on the ground, from the Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Minnesota, to the EMBA Hunutlu coal plant in Turkey.

JPMorgan Chase comes out on top as the world’s WORST banker of climate chaos. In the last five years alone, Chase has dumped well over a quarter TRILLION dollars

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



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

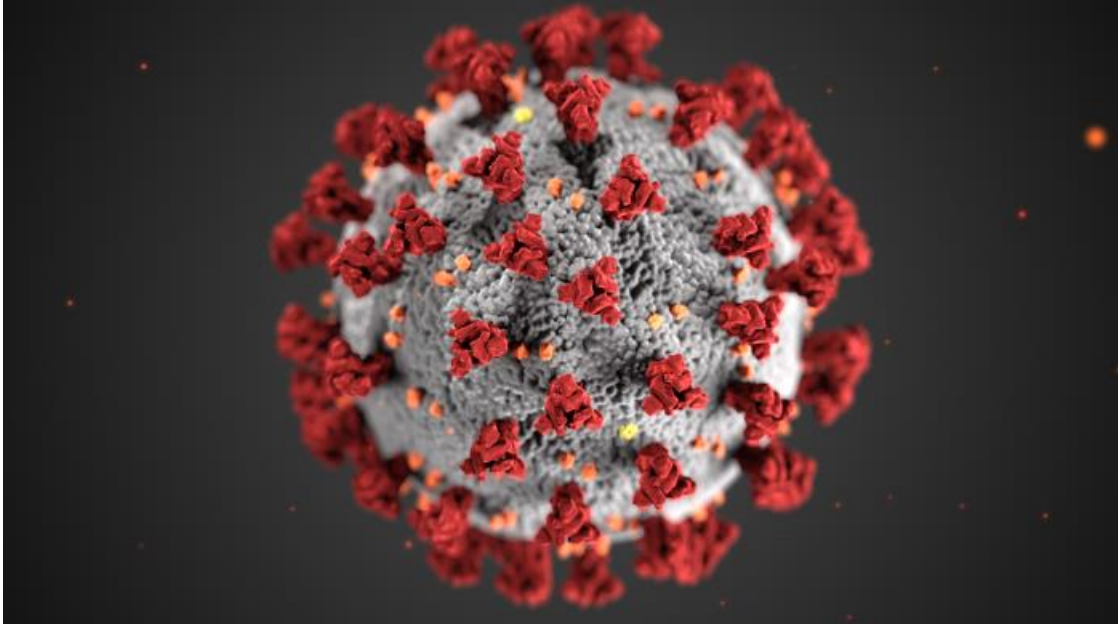
Globally it's been, more or less, the same for the last months, better here, worse there. It is dire, including here in some Canadian provinces, where learning from the past and respecting science takes a back seat. Those unvaccinated and the Delta variant keep it all going, and many hospitals and health care workers are in crisis. Sadly, too, is the lack of vaccines in poor countries.

Over the last week there were about 3.9 million new cases of Covid-19 (down slightly) and 65,000 new deaths (up substantially); and about 210 million people received a vaccine, or an average of almost 30 million doses per day (down ~25%). At this rate the world will need six more 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

At Stake, The Public's Health: On The Role Of Conflicting Interests And Disclosure In Epidemiology



SARS-CoV-2. Credit: CDC

Science can be misused either intentionally, through error, or from bias. For instance, distortion and disinformation practices regarding scientific methods and evidence were intentionally employed by the lead industry in the early 1900s, and since the 1950s, by the tobacco industry. The International Network for Epidemiology in Policy (INEP) just released their Position Statement on Conflict-of-Interest (COI) to help deal with the misuse of epidemiological science. Practices associated with COI have been adopted by a range of entities including businesses, agencies, academic institutions and non-profits. In particular, COI is observed across a range of industries where self-interest includes financial stakes, liability protection, political interests and other motivations.

COI is typically created in the scientific community by confidential financial incentives, the award of scientific grants and contracts, or by promises of job security. Rather than conducting impartial analysis, scientists in a COI situation may produce and disseminate misinformation and suppress data so that the association of cause-and-effect is obscured and denied. In addition to individual researchers, COI can similarly affect scientific journal authors, reviewers, editors, and involve corporate sponsors of journals. The effects of COI can include the undermining of scientific integrity, the erosion of public trust in the science of epidemiology, and harm to workers, the public and the environment. **Read more at [Epidemiology in Policy](#).**

MORE SPECIFIC COVID-19 STORIES:

At PAHO: [PAHO Launches New Collaborative Platform To Produce COVID-19 Vaccines In Latin America And The Caribbean](#)

At The Star: [Unvaccinated Teachers In Ontario To Be Tested Twice A Week For COVID, Some At Pharmacies](#)

At CNN: [Unvaccinated, Unmasked Teacher Infected More Than Half Of Students In Class With Covid-19, CDC Reports](#)

At SCMP: [China To Donate 100 Million Vaccine Doses To Developing Countries By End Of 2021, Says Xi Jinping](#)

At Aljazeera: [Denmark Becomes Only European Country With No COVID Curbs](#)

New UN Nuclear Test Ban Chief Says Goal Is To Bring Pact Into Force



Credit: Britannica

The new head of the U.N. nuclear test ban treaty organization says his goal is to have the treaty enter into force, which would require ratification by eight countries -- the U.S., China, Iran, Israel, Egypt, India, Pakistan and North Korea.

"I remain optimistic, but I'm also realistic," Robert Floyd said at a recent news conference. "I don't underestimate the challenge."

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, known as the CTBT, has 196 member states — 185 that have signed the treaty and 170 that have ratified it. But the treaty has not entered into force because it needs ratification by the eight non-ratifying nations that had nuclear power reactors or research reactors when the U.N. General Assembly adopted the treaty in 1996. **Read more at** [AP News](#)

Manatees Are Starving En Masse As Florida's Ecosystem Crumbles



Credit: Philip Stasik

As Florida's fragile ecosystems crumble under the ravages of climate change, beloved local wildlife is finding it hard to survive. That became especially evident when the bodies of 677 manatees washed up along the state's east coast between December 2020 and May 2021, [as the *Orlando Sentinel* reports](#). The winter is usually tough for the local manatee population, but experts examining the bodies quickly realized that the culprit was starvation — and the result of pollution alongside the effects of [human-induced climate change](#).

Many surviving manatees in the area find themselves in similarly bad shape. As they lose fat, the manatees become less buoyant and, coupled with their hunger, often struggle to surface for air. Officials on the ground, who lack experience handling such a massive die-off, reported gruesome scenes like manatees weighing half as much as they should, suffering from organ failure, and even

having their own bones pierce their skin from the effort of pushing themselves up to breathe.

Rescue groups are trying to tend to the survivors, but each manatee requires about a year of expensive, labor-intensive rehabilitation before they can head back out into the wild. **Read more at [Futurism](#)**

The Severe Weather Event We Routinely Ignore: Poor Air Quality



Credit: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

The evidence that air pollution affects our mental health goes far beyond the literary or the subjective. A [2019 review of studies conducted between 1974 and 2017](#) found that long-term exposure to bad air was associated with depression, anxiety and suicide risk. A [2012 study](#) found that New York City children exposed to high levels of urban air pollutants in utero were more likely to develop depression, anxiety and attention problems. A [study in Cincinnati seven years later](#) found that for children, even short-term exposure to poor air quality could be linked to suicidal thoughts, intense stress and sadness. A [more recent study, released by the Yale School of Public Health](#) this year, found bad air quality linked to increased numbers of mental health outpatient visits, based on data from two large hospitals in Nanjing, which is one of many extremely polluted cities in China.

Some of these effects are neurological: Poor air quality can [reshape our brains](#) in [dangerous](#) ways, which is why children and adolescents, with brains still developing, are [especially vulnerable](#). These effects are seen in [laboratory mice](#), who are probably not terribly susceptible to existential dread but nonetheless become depressed and unmotivated when exposed to the particulates in polluted air. But for humans, our understanding and experience almost certainly makes matters worse. Depression and anxiety are a rational response to poor air quality:

Not being able to breathe outdoors is awful! And the visual impact of smog on the human spirit that Mrs. Gaskell describes, although it might be hard to quantify, is very real. **Read more at [The New Republic](#)**

After Ida, Toxic Smoke From Shell's Norco Plant In Louisiana Creates Apocalyptic Landscape



Credit: Julie Dermansky

For [over a century](#), the Shell Norco Manufacturing Complex has dominated Norco, Louisiana's skyline as it refines up to 10.1 million gallons of oil a day and produces up to 3.33 billion pounds of ethylene a year.

Shell's Norco refinery was one of multiple Louisiana oil refineries that [shut down](#) on Friday, August 27 as Hurricane Ida gained strength crossing the Gulf of Mexico's [unusually warm waters](#). Ida made landfall on Sunday, August 29 as a Category 4 hurricane — and remained a hurricane for 16 hours after its official landfall, [maintaining strength](#) as it passed over the swampy southern Louisiana coastline.

After Ida passed, black smoke darkened the skies over Norco, rising from bright red flares.

Refinery flares can add to air pollution in the wake of natural disasters. “Some of the area’s refineries started shutting down operations leading up to Harvey, including ExxonMobil, Petrobras, Shell, and Chevron Phillips Chemical,” DeSmog [reported](#) in 2017. “This process adds to air pollution because it leads to [flaring off excess toxic gases](#), together with natural gas and oxygen, to keep the chemicals from building up to dangerous pressures.” Black carbon released by flares can be a [powerful](#) — if short-lived — greenhouse gas in its own right. **Read more at [DESMOG](#)**

GOOD NEWS

International Partners Collaborate To End Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated Fishing



Credit: U.S. COAST GUARD / Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew West

The 2021 Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Exchange (meeting) was conducted virtually from Hawaii, with a focus on the global problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The event took place Sept. 8-9, and was moderated by retired Navy Capt. Larry Osborn, Navy League Pacific Region vice president, and hosted by the East West Center, the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and the Pacific Forum.

The Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Exchange (IMSE) is produced annually by Navy League of the United States Honolulu Council. The enduring IMSE theme is “building partnerships for security, stability and prosperity.” IMSE’s purpose is to provide a forum for senior leaders, subject matter experts and interested members of the general public to engage in dialogue about maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

The two-day event concentrated on the problems created by IUU fishing and the solutions available to counter the illegal fishing and the impacts on this vital global food resource. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, IUU fishing is a pervasive, far-reaching security threat. **Read more at [Seapower](#)**

MORE GOOD NEWS

Dark Continent No More: More Than 50 NGOs Endorse Call For \$130BN In Annual Renewable Energy Investments To Electrify Africa



Credit: Waldo Swiegers/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Roughly R1.8-trillion annually until 2050. That is the price one study has said it would cost for the African continent to end its energy poverty and be 100% powered by renewable energy. An undoubtedly staggering figure, but the costs of inaction and continued pumping of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, however, are becoming increasingly clear and stark.

As the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's ["Code red for humanity" report](#) made abundantly clear: without immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting global warming to 1.5°C or even 2°C — thresholds at which we can expect ["dangerous climate change"](#) — will be beyond reach.

Cognisant of this, Friends of the Earth Africa (FoE), a collective of organisations working with grassroots communities on environmental and rights-based struggles in the African region, has published a new report saying the continent can "dismantle existing dirty energy systems to leapfrog Africa to 100% renewable energy for all" by 2050.

The plan, they say, would require more than 300 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable energy by 2030 — as agreed by the African Union — and more than 2,000 GW by 2050. This is especially important as the [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#) has said that the number of people living in Africa's cities is expected to expand by 600 million over the next two decades. **Read more at [Daily Maverick](#)**

OPINION

Why Is Life On Earth Still Taking Second Place To Fossil Fuel Companies?



Credit: Guy Bell/REX/Shutterstock

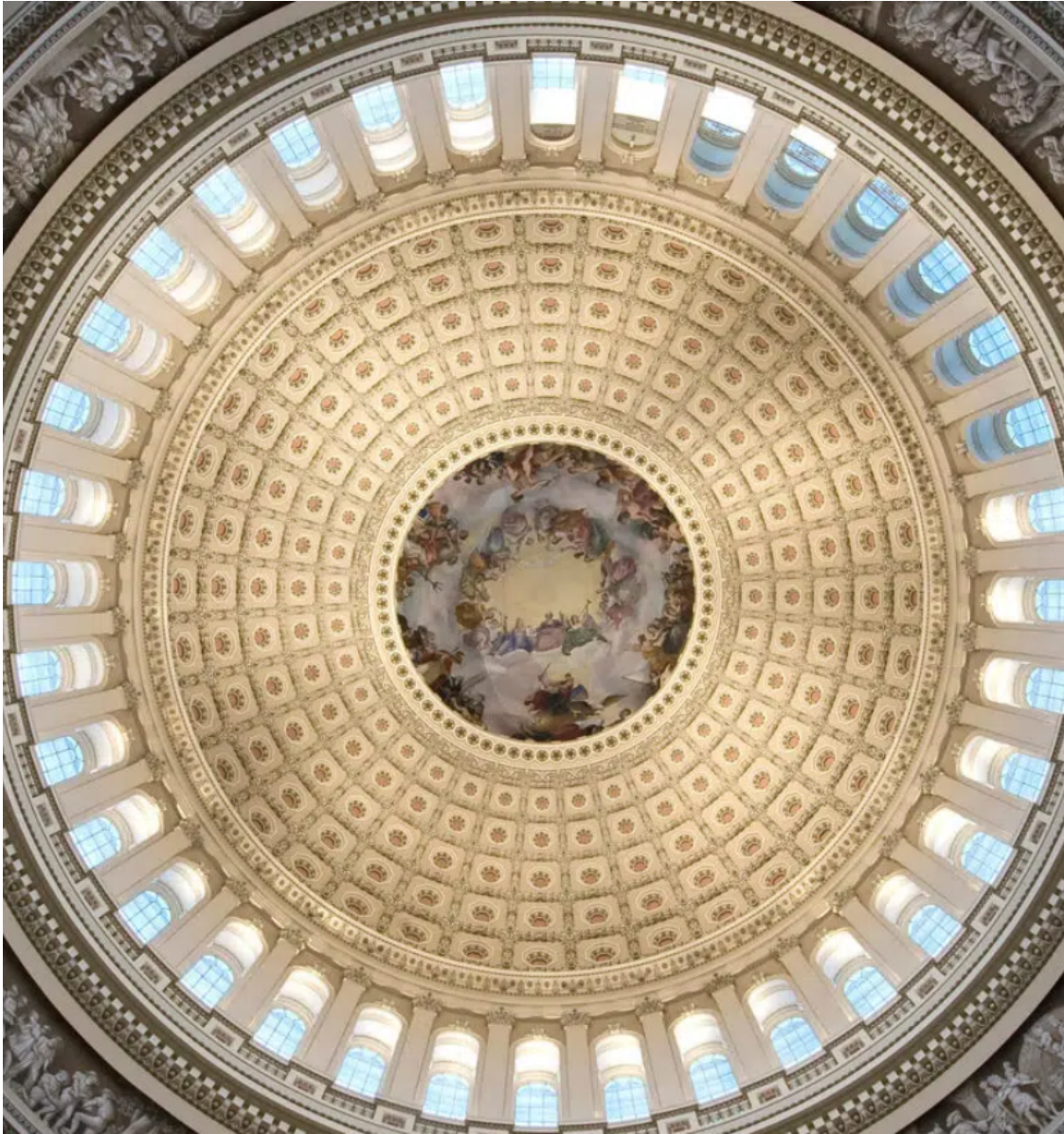
Astonishingly, it is still [government policy](#) to “maximise economic recovery” of oil and gas from the UK’s [continental shelf](#). According to the government’s [energy white paper](#), promoting their extraction ensures that “the UK remains an attractive destination for global capital”, which is “the best way to secure an orderly and successful transition away from traditional fossil fuels”. It’s hard to imagine a more perverse argument. But when you pursue incompatible aims, the first casualty is logic.

So, as our house burns, the U.K. government sends in the tanker trucks to spray petrol on the flames. Doubtless unswayed by the donations the Conservative party has received from [oil and gas companies](#), Boris Johnson appears to be on the point of approving the development of [a new oilfield](#) – the Cambo – in the North Sea. **Yet, as climate scientists have long explained, there is no realistic prospect of preventing more than 1.5C of global heating unless all new fossil fuel development is stopped.** In fact, existing projects [need to be retired](#). Nor can we achieve the government’s official aim of [net zero emissions by 2050](#). This target, incidentally, in another sign of the gulf between knowing and doing, bears no relationship to the [temperature goals](#) in the Paris agreement. It urgently needs to be replaced with a more stringent measure, but no one in power is prepared to discuss it. **Read more at [the Guardian](#)**

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

Oil Industry Launches Lobbying Blitz As

Congress Targets Fossil Fuel Subsidies



Credit: [U.S. Government](#)

The oil industry has embarked on a lobbying blitz in an effort to derail any attempts by the U.S. Congress to repeal fossil fuel subsidies as part of a much [broader assault](#) by corporate interests on the \$3.5 trillion budget package that Democrats are currently drafting.

In particular, the oil industry is worried about the potential loss of one specific subsidy that they receive: the intangible drilling cost (IDC) deduction. **This allows companies to deduct from their taxes the costs of drilling new wells.**

The industry's fear follows a [letter](#) sent to Democratic leadership on August 30, by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), the Chair of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, and Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA), who chairs the subcommittee on Environment. The letter, signed by 50 other Democrats from the House of Representatives, specifically calls for the removal of the IDC deduction as part of the budget reconciliation process underway. The tax giveaway is worth [billions](#) of dollars each year, and makes up a large portion of the \$20.5 billion that Democrats are targeting.

"Fossil fuel subsidies have been embedded in our tax code for over a hundred years, enriching oil and gas companies and their lobbying firms at the expense of our planet. It comes as no surprise to see Big Oil currently working overtime to

protect these benefits,” Congressman Ro Khanna’s office told DeSmog in a statement. “What’s different now is that we have a real chance to end the worst of these subsidies in the Build Back Better Act and I’m committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to do so.” Read more at [DESMOG](#)

SEE ALSO:

At NY Times: [After Greta Thunberg’s Strike, Adults Are Still Failing Children On Climate](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

Indigenous Protests Blocked 1.6 Billion Tonnes Of Emissions Per Year



Credit: Rob87438/Wikimedia Commons

Blockades, lobbying, media campaigns and other forms of advocacy grounded in Indigenous rights have stopped or delayed nearly 1.6 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year, or nearly 25% of the combined emissions of the United States and Canada, the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) and Oil Change International conclude in a blockbuster report issued Wednesday.

“From the struggle against the Cherry Point coal export terminal in Lummi territory to fights against pipelines crossing critical waterways, Indigenous land defenders have exercised their rights and responsibilities to not only stop fossil fuel projects in their tracks, but establish precedents to build successful social justice movements,” the IEN [writes](#) in a newsletter to supporters.

“Given the current climate crisis, Indigenous peoples are demonstrating that the assertion of Indigenous rights not only upholds a higher moral standard, but provides a crucial path to confronting climate change head-on and reducing emissions.” **Read more at [the Energy Mix](#)**

Quote Of The Week



Louisiana National Guard rescue people in LaPlace, Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

[Credit: The National Guard.](#)

Much of Louisiana is without power after Hurricane Ida. And New York, Philadelphia, and other parts of the northeast just suffered catastrophic flooding. All of those disasters unfolded within days of each other, and come after several months of global climate-fueled catastrophes, ranging from floods in [China](#) and [Germany](#), to wildfires in western USA/Canada and [Siberia](#).

“The legislative stakes are being turbocharged by ecological breakdown.” As climate disasters like these continue to mount, it is creating **“a visceral rage at the fossil fuel industry because it’s common knowledge now that they are the stakeholders that are standing in the way of rapid progress and they have delayed action in order to preserve their short-term profits. They’re losing their grip on the narrative. When they do finally lose their grip totally, the backlash is going to be intense and it’s going to be swift.”** Pointing to (U.S.) federal support for fracking, **“If there was ever a moment in the history of fossil fuel production to close these tax loopholes it would be right now.”**

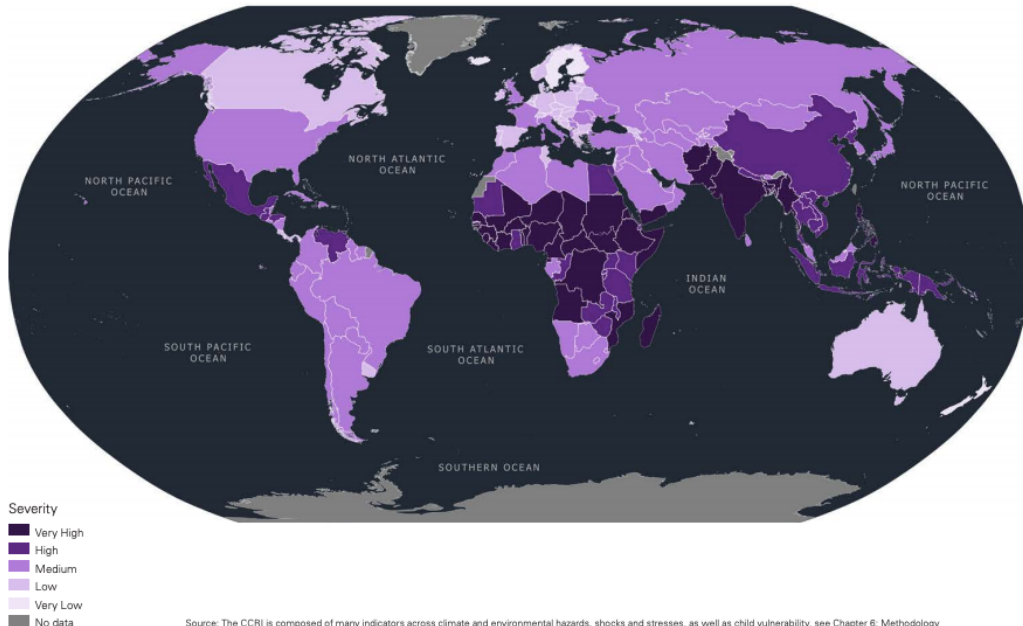
Read more at DeSmog

Upcoming Events

- September 16-18, 2021: [North American Refugee Health Conference \(NARHC\)](#) (Temerty 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 Climate Crisis Is A Child Rights Crisis"



Credit: UNICEF

UNICEF's just released report "Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis" presents many excellent climate crisis figures and the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), which uses data to generate new global evidence on how many children are currently exposed to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses. A composite index, the CCRI brings together geographical data by analyzing 1) exposure to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses; and 2) child vulnerability. The CCRI helps to understand and measure the likelihood of climate and environmental shocks or stresses leading to the erosion of development progress, the deepening of deprivation and/or humanitarian situations affecting children or vulnerable households and groups.

[Read more at UNICEF](#)

FYI #2

Case Study: Mozambique Liquidfied Natural Gas (LNG) Projects



Credit: Alfredo Zuniga / AFP via Getty Images

The LNG industry in Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado province is currently made up of three major offshore and partly onshore projects to extract and then liquefy gas for export: [Rovuma LNG](#), led by Eni and ExxonMobil; [Mozambique LNG](#), led by Total; and [Coral South floating LNG](#) (FLNG), led by Eni.

The gas isn't expected to be extracted until 2024, and only 12% of it will be used in Mozambique — and yet communities in the gas region have reportedly been suffering from the impacts of the industry for years. They have been [forced to move from their homes](#) to make way for Total's onshore support facilities and airport, housed in the 27-square-mile (70-square-kilometer) Afungi LNG Park.

Total [relocated](#) over 550 families from their homes to build this park, moving fisherfolk far from the ocean and compensating farmers with land a tenth of the size of what they'd had, far from their new houses. Formerly self-sustaining villages have been left [without livelihoods](#) and are reliant on food parcels. Total's promises of jobs have proven to be hot air: the only jobs community members have received have been short-term construction, cleaning and other unskilled jobs. On top of the violence already faced by the region given the ongoing violent conflict in Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique's LNG communities also face [brutality](#) from the heavy-handed military, whose priority is protecting the industry.

Read more at the Rainforest Action Network

Poor Countries Say Lack Of Vaccines May Exclude Them From Climate Talks



Credit: REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/Illustration

The world's poorest and least developed countries (LDCs) have asked for more help to meet vaccination and quarantine requirements and costs to ensure they can take part in next month's global climate conference, COP26, in Glasgow, Scotland.

The talks aim to spur bigger commitments to start reducing manmade greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and keep the rise in the global average temperature since pre-industrial times to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6F), to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

"Delegates from the LDC Group remain concerned about the logistics of getting to Glasgow," Sonam Phuntsho Wangdi of Bhutan, chair of the group of the 46 Least Developed Countries, said in a statement. "Our countries and our people are among the worst affected by climate change – we must not be excluded from talks deciding how the world will deal with this crisis, determining the fate of our lives and livelihoods."

Some 20 LDCs such as Ethiopia, Haiti and Bangladesh are on Britain's coronavirus "red list", which means their delegates will have to quarantine in a hotel for up to 10 days before attending the COP 26 talks, which run from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12.

Britain has said it will pay the quarantine costs of delegates from red list countries, and has cut the time to five days from 10 for those who are vaccinated.

SEE ALSO:

At Reuters: [Green Groups Call For COP26 Climate Talks To Be Postponed Due To COVID-19](#)

See More at Reuters

FYI #4

Eating 1 Hot Dog Takes 35 Minutes Off Life, Study Suggests



Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

Researchers have released a nutritional index aiming to inform guidelines and help Americans achieve healthier and more environmentally stable diets. The index ranked foods by minutes gained or lost off healthy life per serving, with processed meats and sugary drinks among the biggest offenders.

Findings included over 5,000 foods in the US diet classified by health burden and environmental impacts.

“We use the results to inform marginal dietary substitutions, which are realistic and feasible,” authors wrote. “We find that small, targeted, food-level substitutions can achieve compelling nutritional benefits and environmental impact reductions.”

The foods studied ranged from 74 minutes lost to 80 minutes gained per serving. Sugary drinks, hot dogs, burgers and breakfast sandwiches were linked with most minutes of healthy life lost, whereas fruits, non-starchy and mixed vegetables, ready-to-eat cereals and cooked grains were associated with the largest gains.

More specifically, researchers found that consuming one 85-gram serving of chicken wings translated to 3.3 minutes of life lost, owing to sodium and harmful trans fatty acids, while a beef hot dog on a bun resulted in some 36 minutes lost “largely due to the detrimental effect of processed meat.” What’s more, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were associated with an increase of 33 minutes.

Foods like salted peanuts, baked salmon and rice with beans were also associated with gains between 10 and 15 minutes.

[Read more at NY Post](#)

FYI #5: SEPTEMBER READING

**"World Scientific Encyclopedia of
Climate Change - Volume 1: Case
Studies of Climate Risk, Action,
and Opportunity"**

WORLD SCIENTIFIC ENCYCLOPEDIA OF **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Case Studies of Climate Risk, Action, and Opportunity

Volume 1

Jan W. Dash, PhD editor



 **World Scientific**

[Credit: Book Cover](#)

The Climate Change Encyclopedia responds to the outstanding risk, survival and ethical issue of our time, requiring action and providing opportunity. Primary-source expert authors write in a unique case-study structure that enables the Encyclopedia to be approachable, informational and motivational for the public. The key focus areas are Climate Change and Finance, Economics, and Policy, with many other related climate categories included. The over 100 case studies provide realistic and interesting views of climate change, based on authors' published papers, reports and books, plus climate-related activities of organizations. This inspiring work can enhance optimism and courage to act urgently and persistently on the climate crisis, with foresight for a livable future.

[Read More at World Scientific](#)

Many Predicted Some Kind Of 'Covid Slide' In Learning. Test Results Show How Bad It Is



Credit: CNN

Children are heading back to school with the academic cost of the pandemic now being laid bare. Tumbling test scores reveal how much learning was not absorbed by students driven to virtual schooling when their classrooms were closed overnight, often staying shut for over a year. As school buildings finally reopen to in-person learning across the country, teachers and administrators are looking at how to get back on track.

Many predicted [some kind of "Covid slide"](#) mimicking the annual "summer slide" seen when students are annually out of the classroom, but the new results show how bad it is.

Reading scores in the fall of 2020 had been largely on par with previous years, and [researchers thought literacy might not be impacted so badly](#) by the changes to schooling. But by the spring of 2021, reading scores were between 3 and 6 percentile points lower. And median math achievement dropped 8-12 percentile points compared to pre-pandemic levels, [an analysis by NWEA found](#).

See also at Undark: [Amid the Pandemic, More College Students Are Experiencing Burnout](#)

Read More at CNN

ENDSHOTS

CLOUDS, FROM BOTH SIDES NEAR SEGUIN, ONTARIO

September 15/16, 2021

Amid Latest World and Canadian COVID-19 Stats & Charts



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Last updated: September 16, 2021, 19:20 GMT

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

Coronavirus Cases:

227,599,325

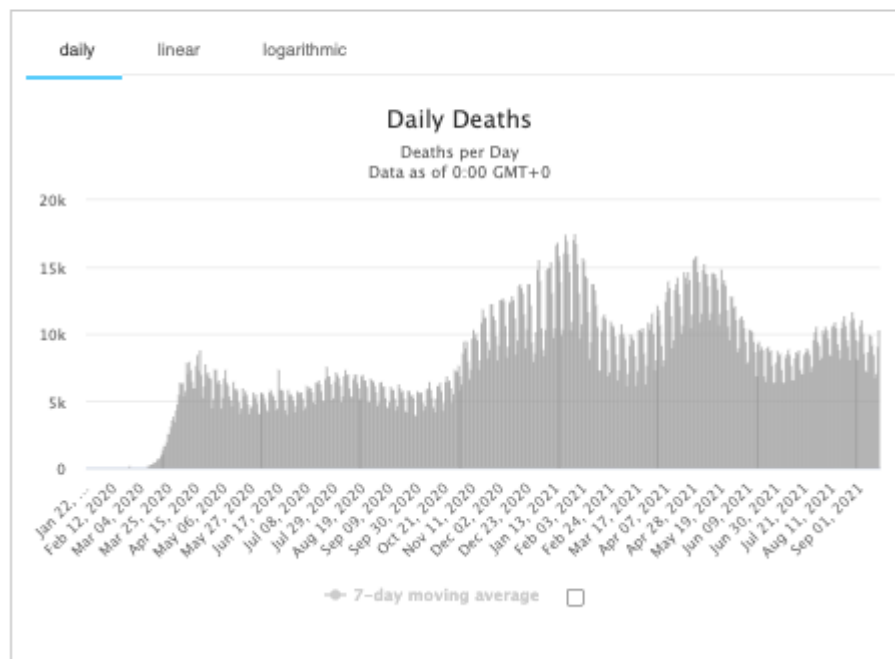
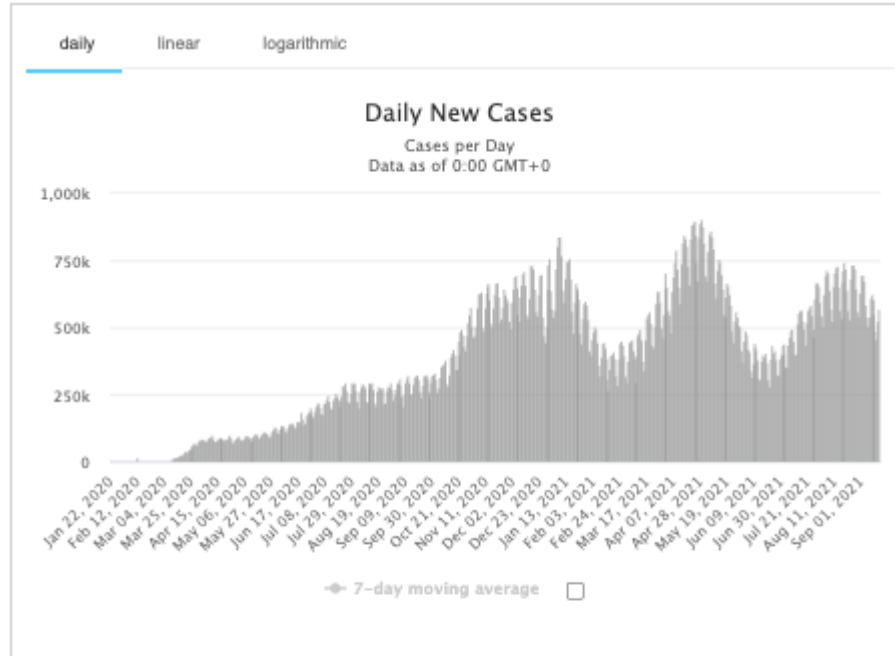
[view by country](#)

Deaths:

4,678,981

Recovered:

204,309,371



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

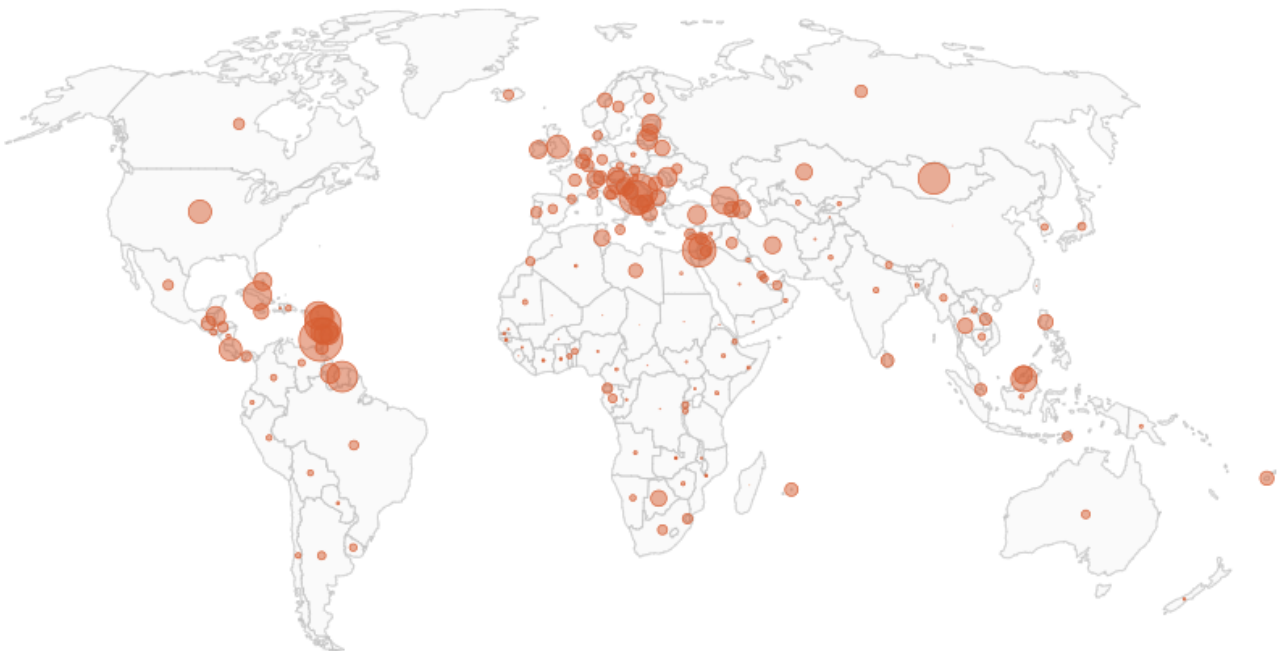


COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS & VACCINATIONS (Sept. 16, 2021) below:

Source:https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

More than
4,666,000
people have died from
the coronavirus worldwide

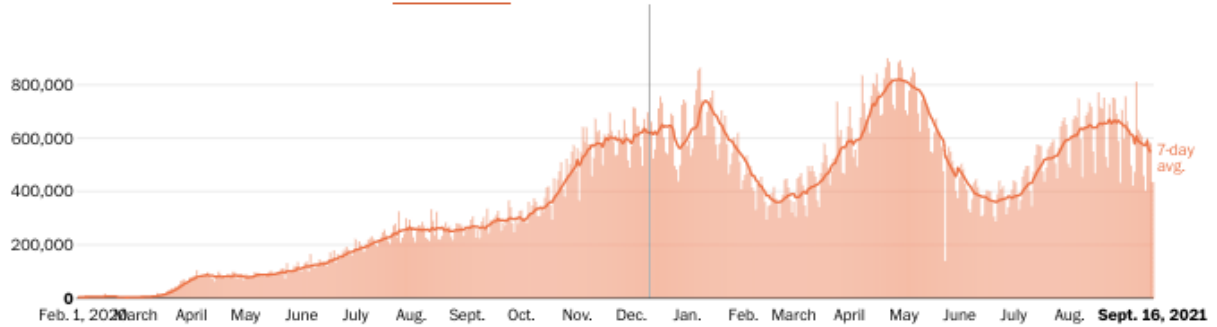
More than **227 million** cases have been reported.



New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths Cases

At least 226,754,798 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Where the virus is surging

Deaths

Cases

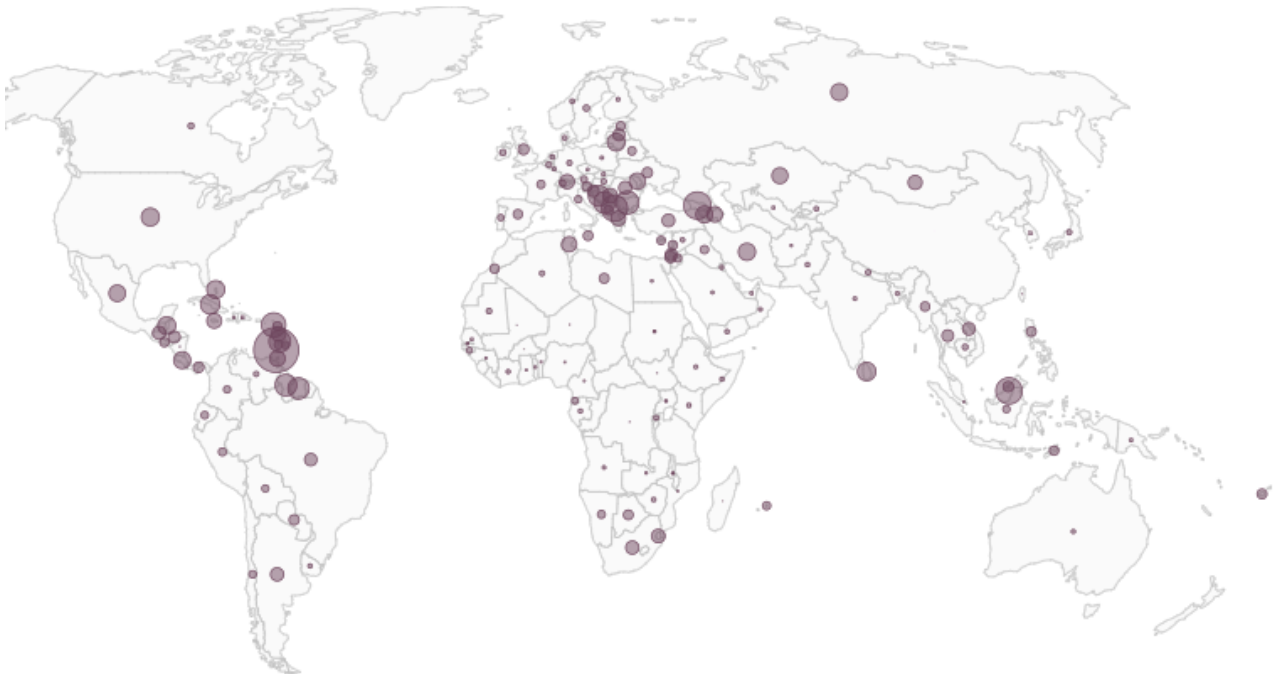
Adj. for population

Totals

Since last week

Cumulative

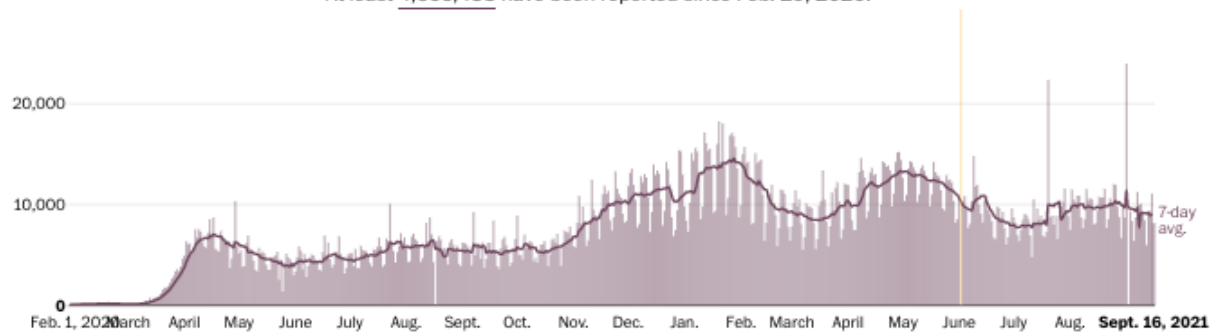
0.1 1 2
REPORTED DEATHS PER 100K



New daily deaths reported across the world

Deaths Cases

At least 4,666,453 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



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

Global hot spots for reported deaths per capita

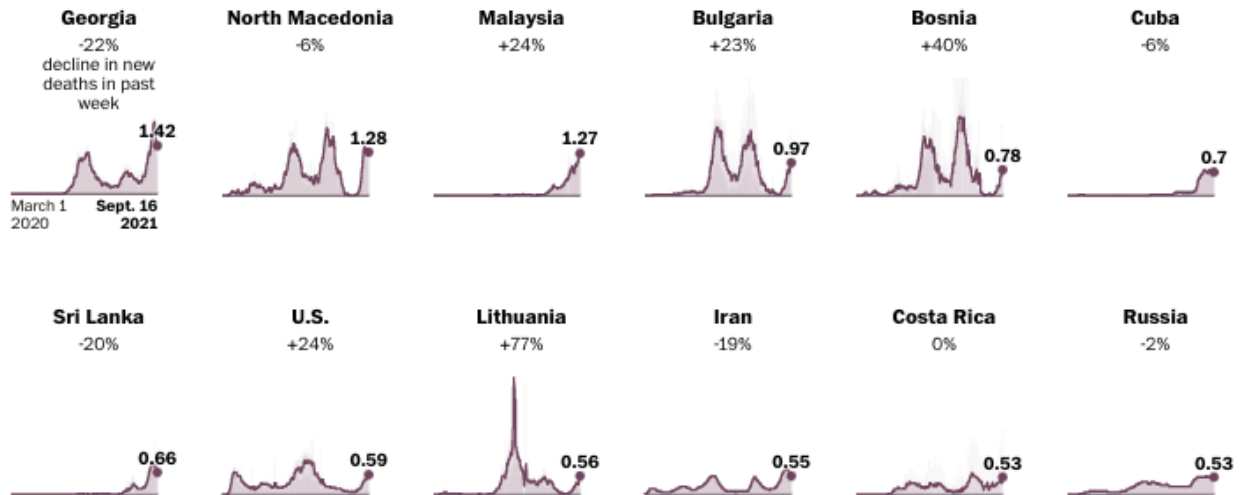
— 7-day rolling average of daily new deaths per 100,000 residents

Deaths

Cases

Adj. for population

Totals



Compare countries by new daily reported cases per 100k

Deaths

Cases

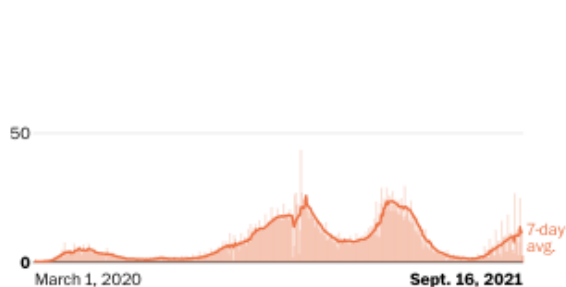
Adj. for population

Totals

Select a country:

Canada

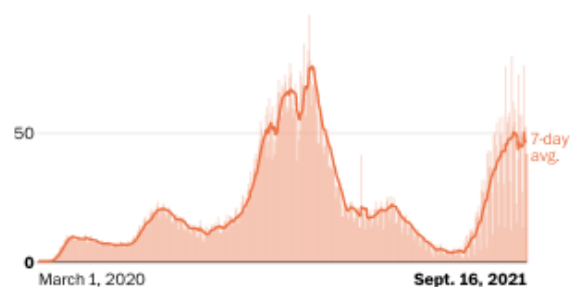
At least 1,568,253 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

U.S.

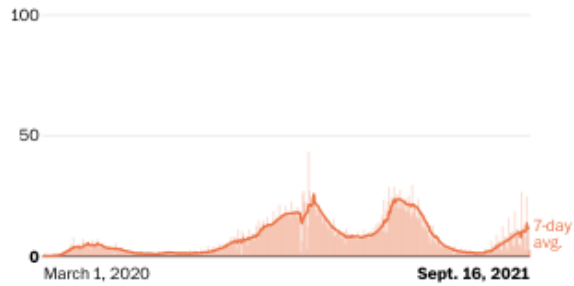
At least 41,621,191 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Canada

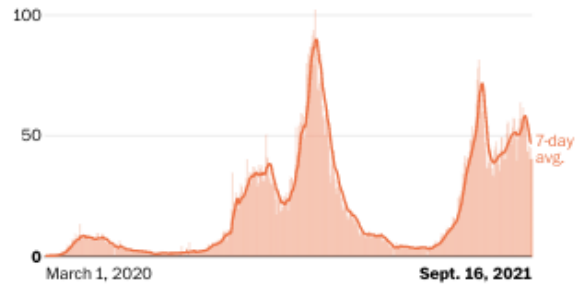
At least 1,568,253 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Britain

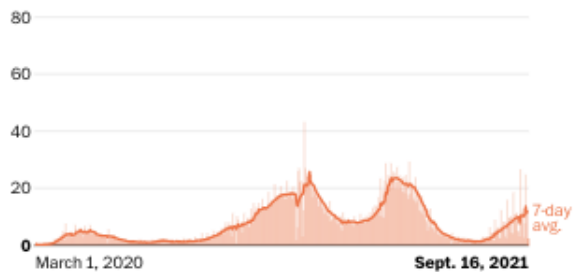
At least 7,373,388 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Canada

At least 1,568,253 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Cuba

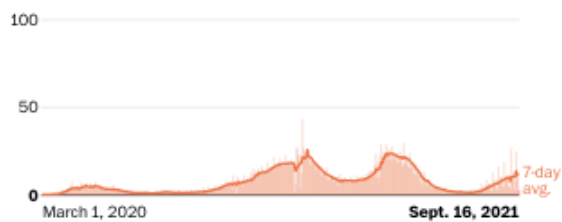
At least 776,125 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Canada

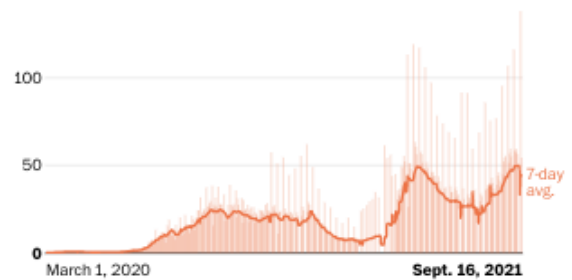
At least 1,568,253 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Costa Rica

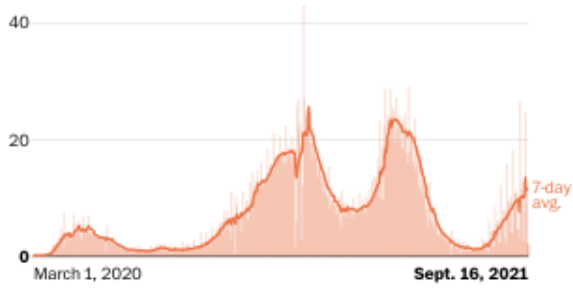
At least 499,461 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Canada

At least 1,568,253 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Vietnam

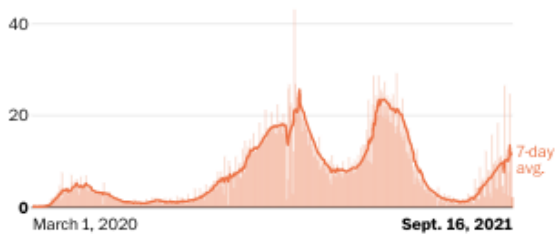
At least 656,129 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

Canada

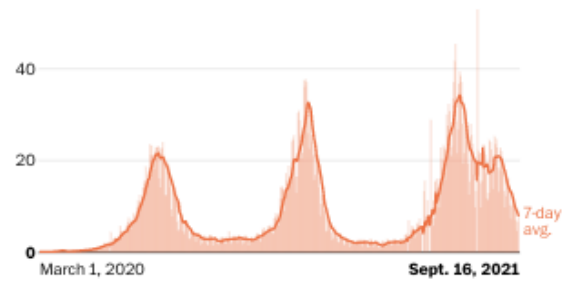
At least 1,568,253 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Select a country:

South Africa

At least 2,869,201 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



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

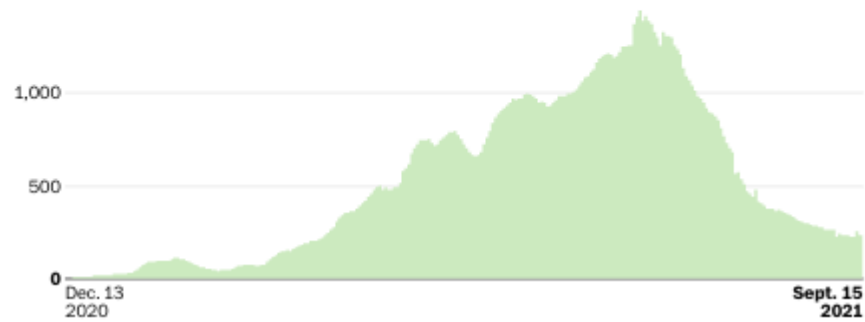
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

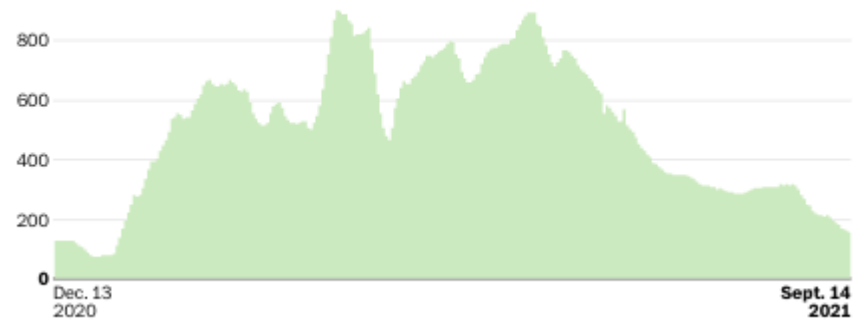
Show by

Canada



Show by

Britain



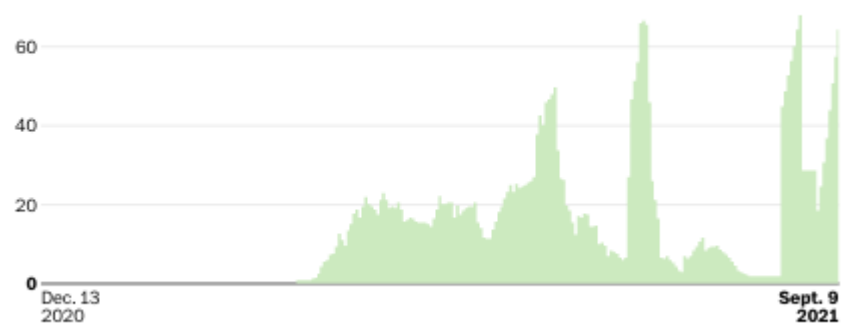
Show by

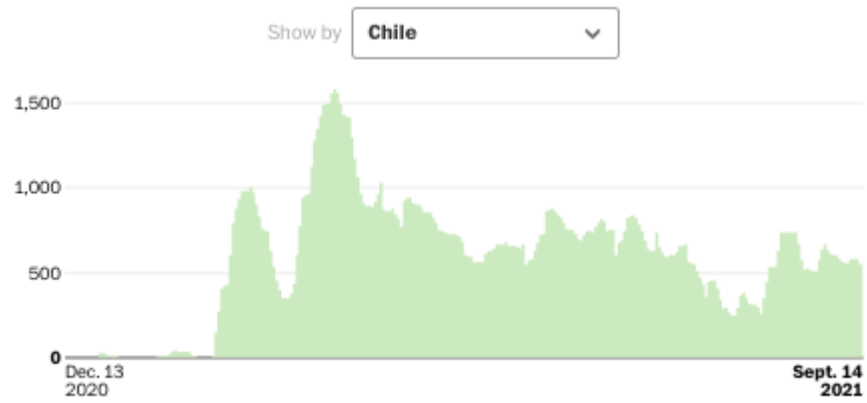
Taiwan



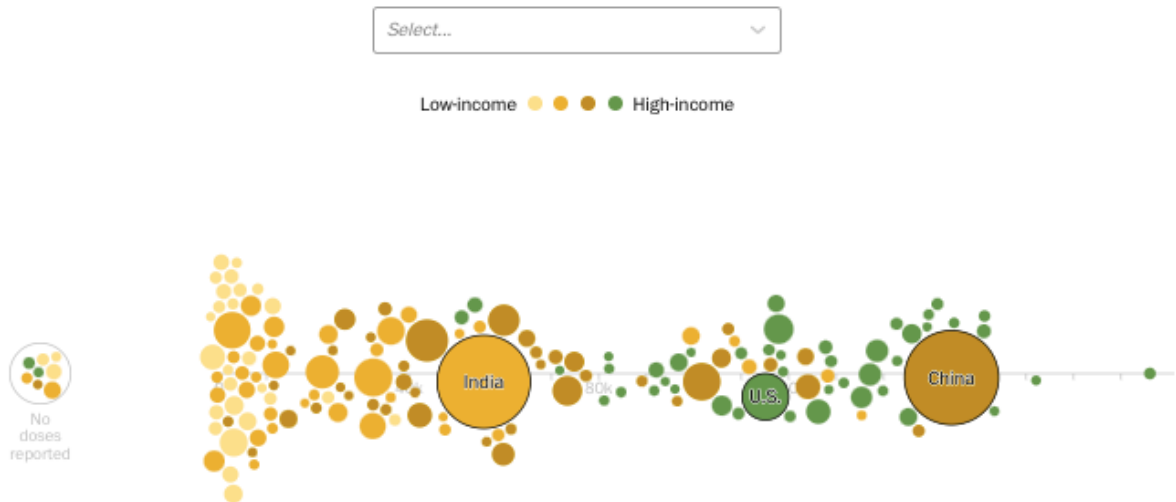
Show by

Uganda





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





Source of Canadian Data Below (September 15, 2021):
<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirustracker/>

Canada

Cases Deaths Hospitalizations ICU

In Canada 1,559,410 cases have been reported.

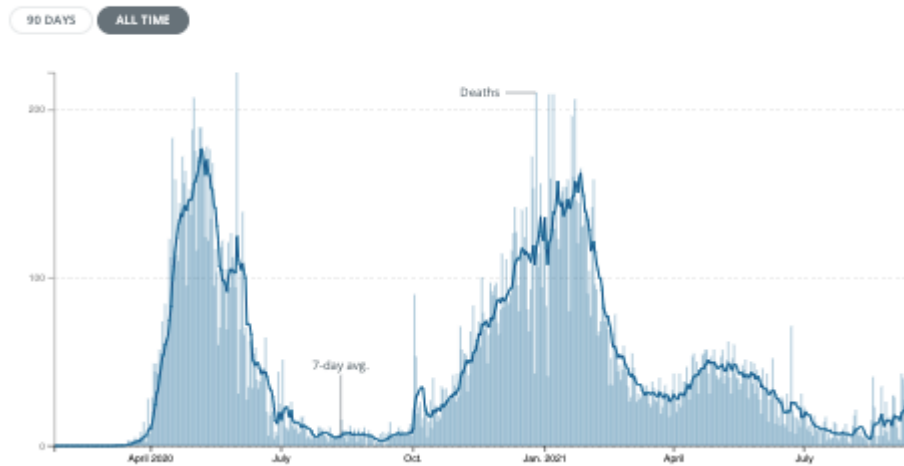
90 DAYS

ALL TIME

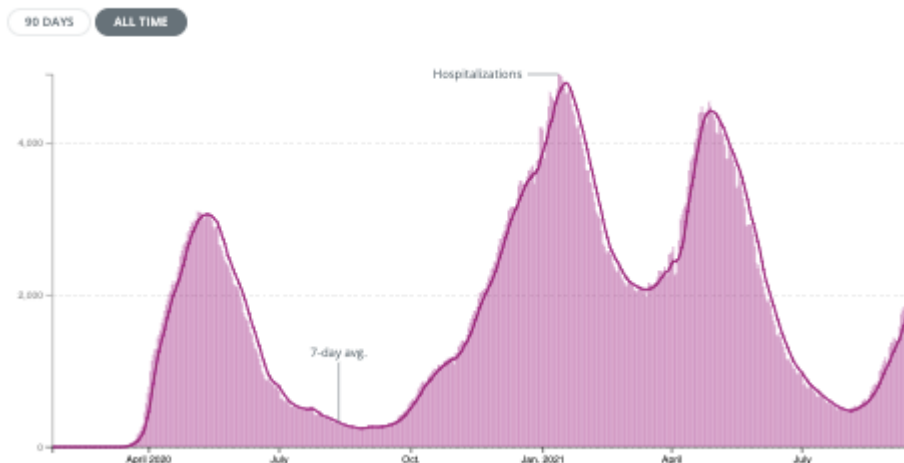


Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.

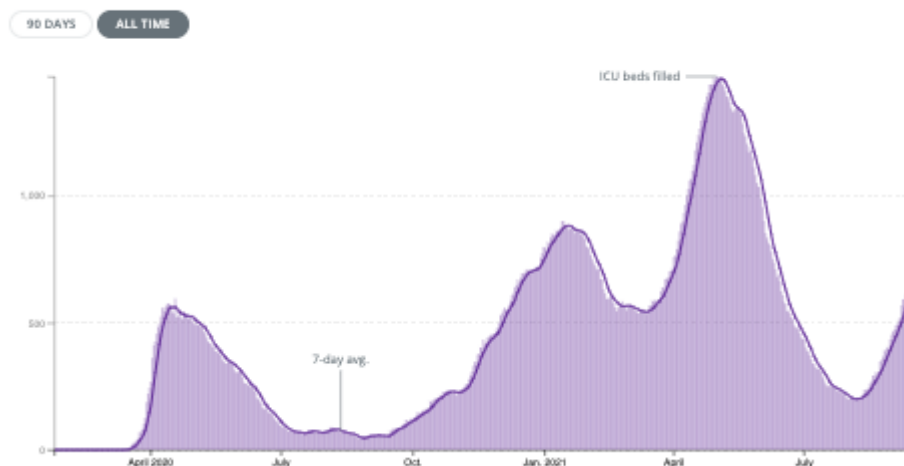
In Canada 27,305 deaths have been reported.



In Canada there are currently 2,094 people hospitalized.



In Canada there are currently 690 ICU beds filled.



In the past week in Canada...

New cases



There were 30,123 new cases, an increase of 15 per cent. That's 79.2 cases per 100,000 people.

Active cases



The number of active cases rose 13 per cent.

Deaths



There were 198 deaths, or 0.5 per 100,000 people, an increase of 37 per cent.

Hospitalizations



Hospitalizations rose 16 per cent and ICU beds filled rose 17 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	54,589,972	74.73%	68.74%	<div></div>
Alberta	5,674,732	67.39%	60.53%	<div></div>
British Columbia	7,643,973	77.47%	70.73%	<div></div>
Manitoba	1,951,305	73.09%	68.39%	<div></div>
New Brunswick	1,135,104	76.39%	68.75%	<div></div>
Newfoundland and Labrador	800,416	81.17%	73.02%	<div></div>
Nova Scotia	1,478,410	78.47%	72.48%	<div></div>
Ontario	21,283,180	74.87%	69.37%	<div></div>
Prince Edward Island	248,935	81.41%	74.33%	<div></div>
Quebec	12,686,736	76.83%	71.11%	<div></div>
Saskatchewan	1,508,026	67.50%	60.43%	<div></div>
Northwest Territories	68,114	77.95%	72.96%	<div></div>
Nunavut	45,347	61.24%	53.84%	<div></div>
Yukon	65,694	79.41%	76.29%	<div></div>

Source: CBC News.



More Than 5.83 Billion Shots Given: Covid-19 Tracker

In the U.S., 382 million doses have been administered

Updated: September 16, 2021, 5:22 AM EDT



Vaccine Tracker

[Global](#)

[U.S.](#)

[U.S. Vaccine Demographics](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Covid-19 Tracker](#)

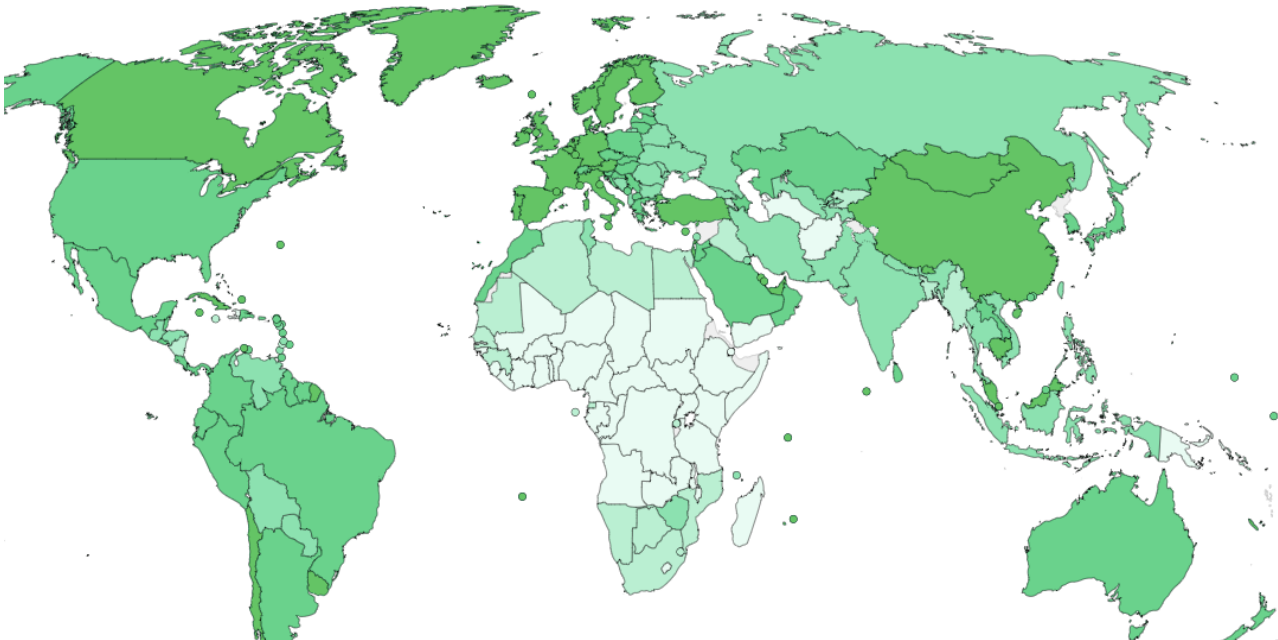
The biggest vaccination campaign in history is underway. More than **5.83 billion doses** have been administered across 184 countries, according to data collected by Bloomberg. The latest rate was roughly **30.3 million doses a day**.

In the U.S., **382 million doses** have been given so far. In the last week, an average of **787,751 doses per day** were administered.

World Map of Vaccinations

More than 5.83 billion doses have been administered—enough to fully vaccinate 37.9% of the global population

no data 5 15 30 60% of population covered



The Path to Immunity Around the World

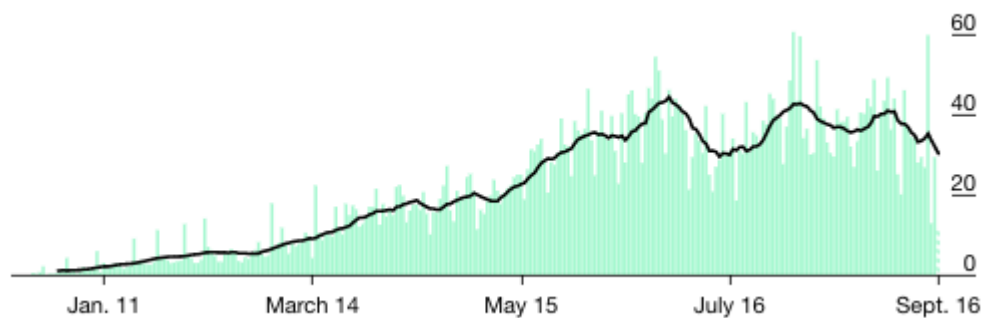
Globally, the latest vaccination rate is **30,326,612 doses** per day, on average. At this pace, it will take another **6 months** to cover **75%** of the population.

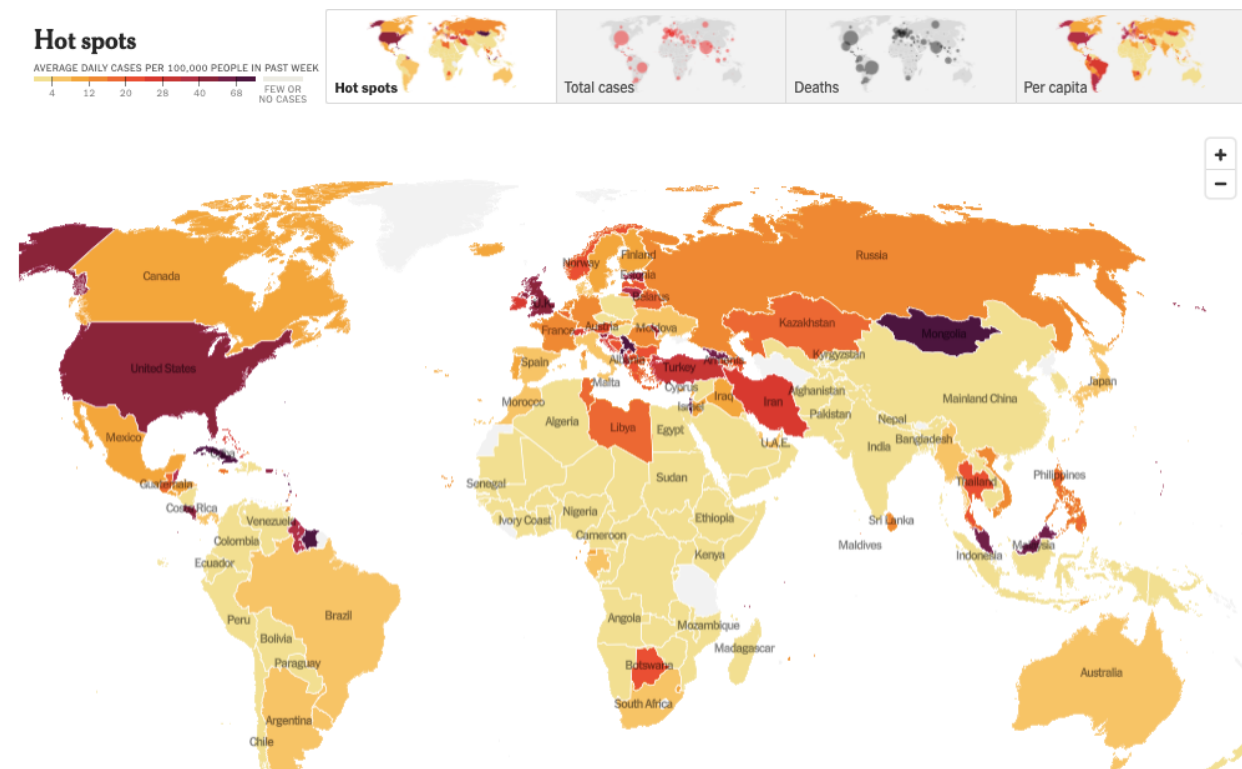
Select another location...



/ Average daily rate estimate

Doses administered: 80M

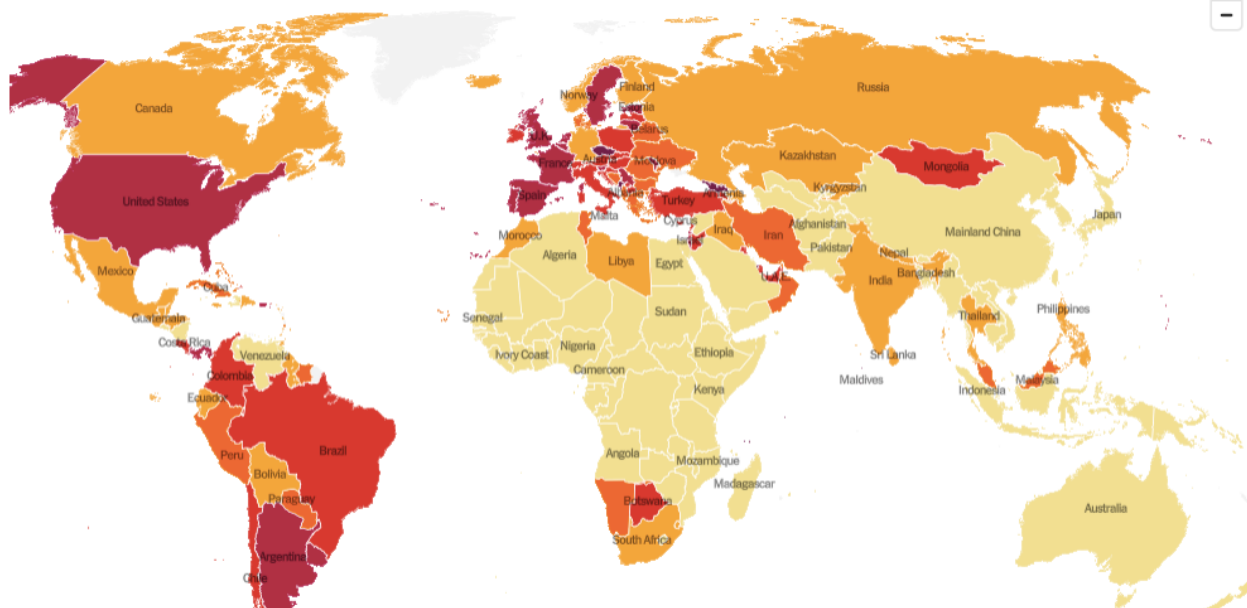
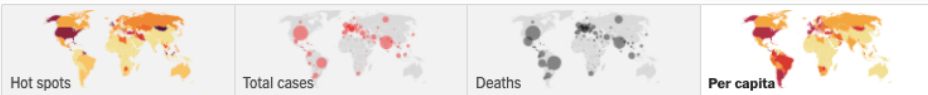




Cases per capita

SHARE OF POPULATION WITH A REPORTED CASE

1 IN 60 1 IN 14 1 IN 7 FEW OR NO CASES

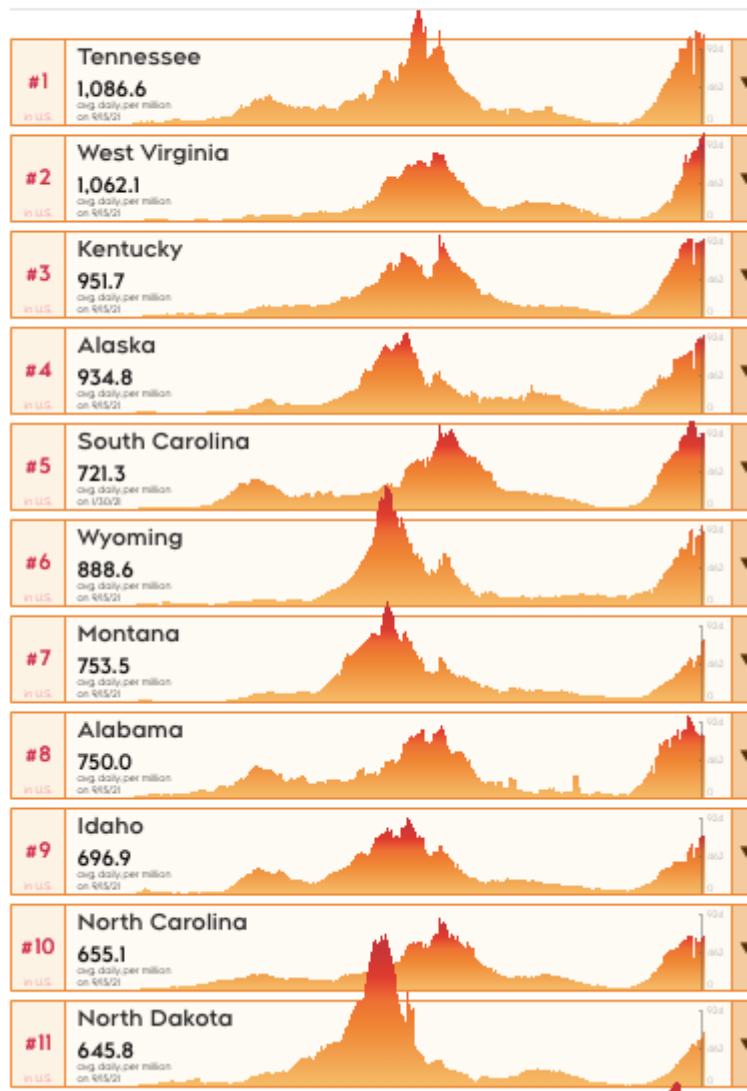


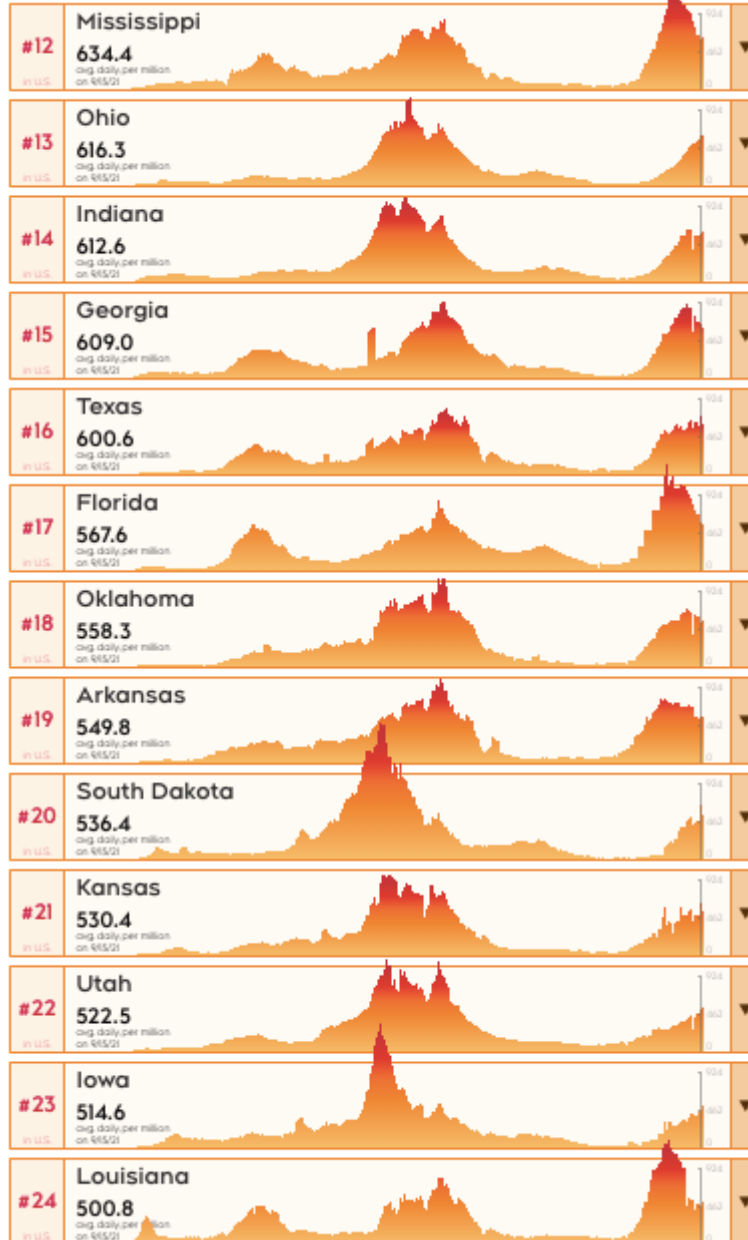
Source of Canadian and U.S. Comparative Data Below (Sept. 16, 2021):
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-in-the-u-s-how-do-canada-s-provinces-rank-against-american-states-1.5051033>

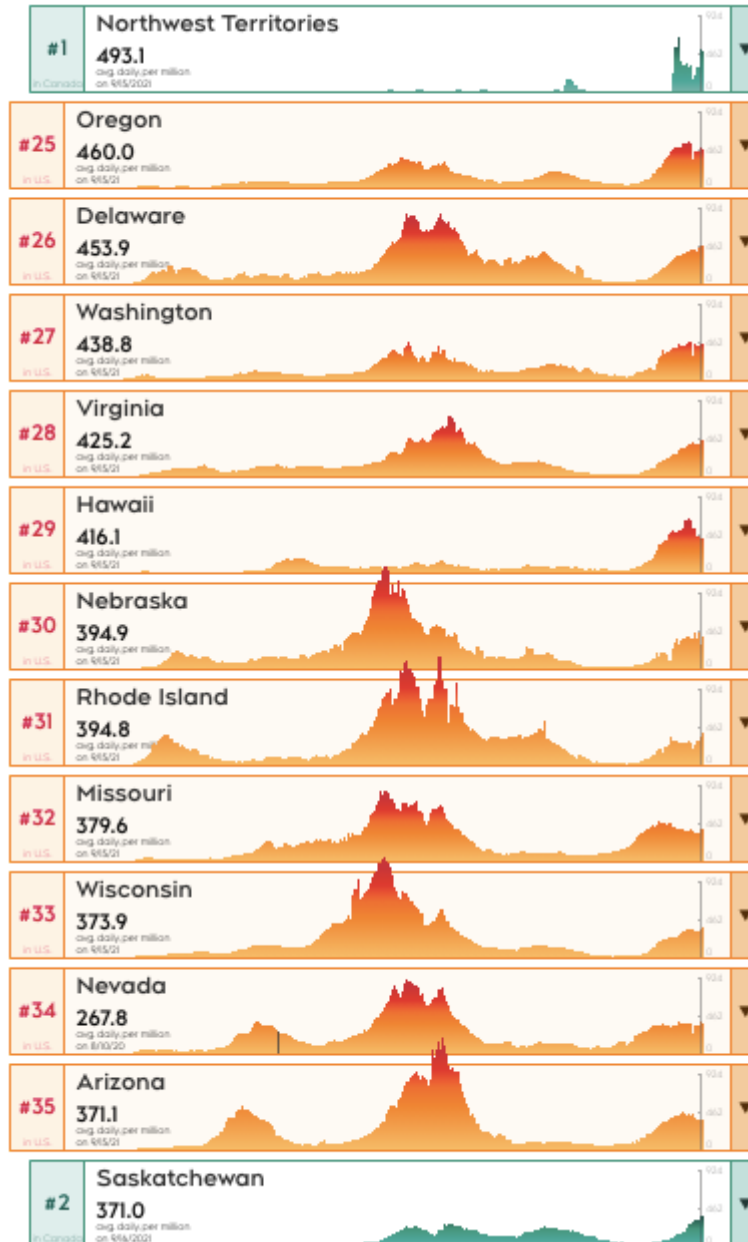
Comparing COVID-19 in states and provinces

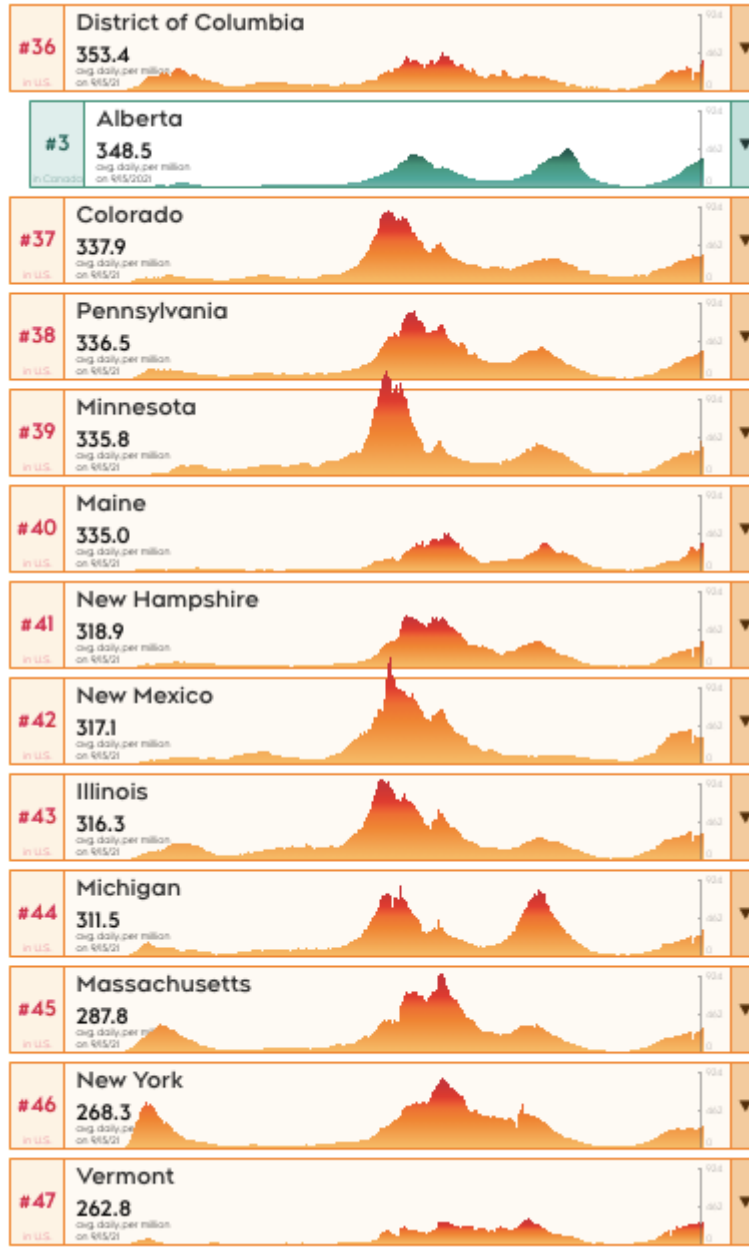
Showing 7-day avg. cases, per million

Ranked by highest current cases Scale: all same









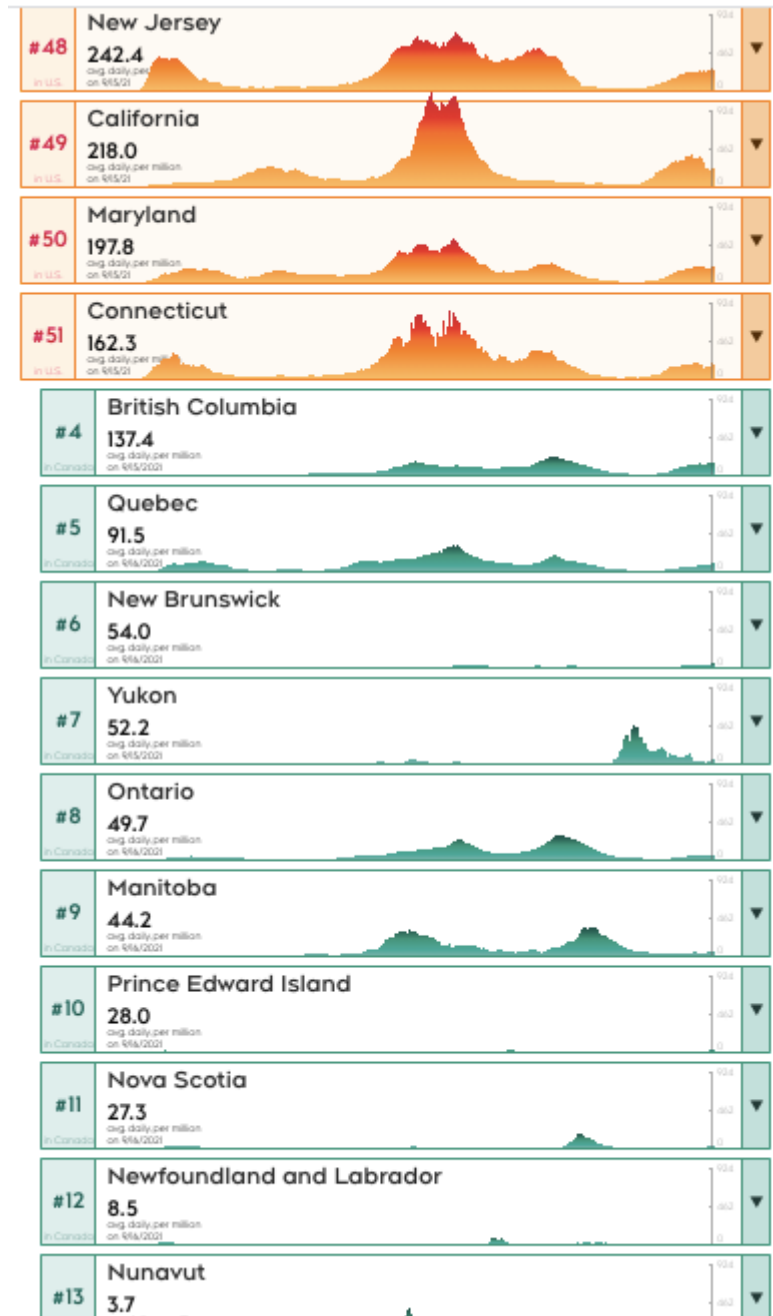




Photo Credits: David Zakus



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Production: Julia Chalmers & Aisha Saleem

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Website, Index and Advisory: Eunice Anteh, Gaël

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CONTACT US TO COMMENT OR SUBSCRIBE AT:

planetaryhealthweekly@gmail.com

david.zakus@utoronto.ca

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