

PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY



CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

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October 14,

Hi,

The seasons are changing quickly. But, what if we don't change along with them, what if we don't immediately start reducing our ecological footprint by using much less fossil fuels and switching to green and renewable energy sources? What if we just keep carrying on as we did yesterday, if we don't not slow down our polluting and consumptive ways, but instead kept adding more and more CO₂ and other GHGs to the atmosphere? What if we keep assaulting Earth even more than we've done already in the last 100 years? What will happen? What will the most alive place in our entire universe do? Will it do anything to protect all its life? Well, it's already started. Earth, not being stupid, will just keep on changing its climate patterns until all our polluting activity ceases, until it stops us in our tracks from choking the life out of her, until it floods, burns and starves us off its vulnerable skin. [It's happening now, it's fighting back](#) and we know why, and unless we change, Earth will just get angrier. We must change some of our customary ways of thinking and get on with a new program if we don't want the fight to get totally out of our control. Let's stop choking our unique fragile home thinking we can win; we must learn to reduce our fossil fuel consumption and ultimately learn to live, basically, without it.

All this too just as we are coming to realize that we are not winning the fight against the pandemic, despite our advanced tools and learning. How ironic is it that two of the richest and smartest countries in the world have the worst Covid situation going on right now. The USA and UK have been defying all common sense. With their great universities, huge technological prowess and so many institutions of achievement and learning, how could they still be having many tens of thousands of new cases each day some eighteen months into it?

Everyone is in all this together, dealing with the climate crisis and pandemic, and only by all getting along and joining forces can we beat it. And where are our leaders?

In today's *Planetary Health Weekly* (#41 of the year) read on about for environment and health updates and vignettes of leadership, including:

- Health science journal editors call for emergency action to limit global temperature increases, restore biodiversity and protect health,
- Anthroposphere (the natural zone of human responsibility – and first word about the unified global ecology of the necessary new mode of human civilization,
- Looking forward to COP26 and
- Climate change: women must be heard at COP26,
- CORONAVIRUS UPDATES:
 - More than 150,000 Canadians have 'long Covid,'
 - Jacinda Ardern has come crashing back to Earth,
 - Covid-19 deaths surge in Russia, as most Russians shun vaccines and hope for natural immunity,
 - New Chinese vaccine could bolster global arsenal,
 - Booster vaccines are actually pretty common,
 - Largest study of masks yet details their importance in fighting Covid-19,
 - Every health care worker needs to be vaccinated without exception – or find another job,
 - Vatican orders all employees to get vaccine or submit to testing (and Pope says getting vaccinated is a moral imperative),
 - YouTube expands Covid move to block all anti-vaccine content,
 - Hacker reveals right-wing health care network made millions off ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine, and
 - Mother-of-four who proudly posted that she was 'unmasked, unmuzzled and unvaccinated' dies of Covid-19 at age 40, THEN
- Head of UNAIDS: How Covid-19 affects the fight against HIV/AIDS and how to fight inequalities,
- Nearly two dozen species of birds, fish and other wildlife are to be declared extinct and removed from the endangered species list,
- An oil spill off the California coast destroyed a wildlife habitat and caused dead birds and fish to wash up on Huntington Beach,
- China is financing infrastructure projects around the world – many could harm nature and Indigenous communities,
- In world first top beef supplier approves methane-busting feed additive that reduces gas by 55%,
- Close cousins of SARS-CoV-2 found in a cave in Laos yield new clues about pandemic's origins,
- Church's apology must come from the top,
- China won't build more coal plants abroad Xi Jinping says,
- Indigenous Climate Action,
- Quote by famous author that ending some of our culture is not the end of hope,
- Why Facebook won't stop pushing propaganda,

- How to protect ourselves against Facebook's failures and Instagram puts growth ahead of children Senator tells executive,
- Mapped – where are the world's ongoing conflicts today?
- Volvo plans to go leather free in of it EVs by 2030,
- A brief history of the Gombe Chimanzee War,
- Canadian book recognized "Health Equity in a Globalizing Era: Past Challenges, Future Prospects," Blindness Etiquette, and lastly
- ENDSHOTS of Roadside Autumn Scene north of Parry Sound amid the latest Covid-19 stats and charts from Canada and around the World.
- I hope you'll keep reading. Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



Roadside Scene, Highway 400 Just North of Parry Sound, Ontario
October 13, 2021

BMJ (Collective) Editorial: Call For Emergency Action To Limit Global Temperature Increases, Restore Biodiversity, And Protect Health



Credit: David Simonds

The United Nations General Assembly in September 2021 will bring countries together at a critical time for marshalling collective action to tackle the global environmental crisis. They will meet again at the biodiversity summit in Kunming, China, and the climate conference (Conference of the Parties (COP)26) in Glasgow, UK. Ahead of these pivotal meetings, we—the editors of health journals worldwide—call for urgent action to keep average global temperature increases below 1.5°C, halt the destruction of nature and protect health. Health is already being harmed by global temperature increases and the destruction of the natural world, a state of affairs health professionals have been bringing attention to for decades. The science is unequivocal: a global increase of 1.5°C above the preindustrial average and the continued loss of biodiversity risk catastrophic harm to health that will be impossible to reverse. Despite the world’s necessary preoccupation with COVID-19, we cannot wait for the pandemic to pass to rapidly reduce emissions. Reflecting the severity of the moment, this editorial appears in health journals across the world. We are united in recognising that only fundamental and equitable changes to societies will reverse our current trajectory. [Read more at BMJ](#)

SEE ALSO:

At Not-Two Is Peace: [Anthroposphere \(The Natural Zone of Necessary Human Responsibility\).](#)

My communication in *Not-Two Is Peace* is a direct address to humankind-as-a-whole, because of the now profoundly changed situation of humankind—a situation that is not really being acknowledged and understood to be the case. In the present time, the social, political, economic, and religious domains of the human sphere are all characterized by a kind of “fundamentalism of the old days”, a kind of “retro world”—and this is creating a disaster, because

humankind has not shifted in its understanding to account for the real situation that now exists. The current situation is one in which the prior unity of humankind is self-evident-but that prior unity is not being acted upon. Instead, people are still hoisting the old “flags” and looking for “victory”.

When human beings were rather independent (or disconnected) from one another and living in tribal groups-isolated by geography, and not so much face-to-face-nation-states and all kinds of “tribalism” (religious, social, economic, and political) could represent a positive human and ecological influence, each within its own domain. However, in the present time, such “tribalism” can no longer function positively. In the present time, “tribalism” is producing disaster.

Nation-states came into being through the chaotic process of the unfolding of history, in a time when humankind-as-a-whole was not yet interconnected. In that historical situation, the Earth itself, as a natural domain, provided the only “grid” of interconnectedness. The Earth carried on its own natural processes-but, the more human beings became globally connected, the more they interrupted the natural Earth-process. As a result, there are many things happening to the Earth that are the direct result of human intervention. In previous epochs of history, human beings did not intervene in the natural Earth-process to such a degree. Thus, the natural Earth-process, which once held everything together in a kind of order (or unity), is now globally interrupted--along with the entire process of life altogether. Therefore, the Earth is no longer holding things together.

At UN: [COP 26 - It's Almost Here](#)

The latest round of global climate talks will take place from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom. Thousands of government delegates and people from civil society, business and the media will gather to advance climate action. The world will be watching and demanding that national leaders rise to the moment, given the mounting climate crisis and far-reaching consequences for a livable future. Science confirms we have reached a “code red” for our world.

COP: What’s that?

COP stands for the conference of the Parties to the [1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), which set the stage for all international cooperation on climate. The COP is the top decision-making body for implementing the Convention and follow-up instruments like the [2015 Paris Agreement](#). Generally meeting once a year, the COP reviews national reports on emissions reductions and other climate measures. Glasgow will host the twenty-sixth COP. Learn [more](#).

What’s at stake?

Under the presidency of the United Kingdom, COP26 must be a turning point. It must deliver bold, large-scale and rapid actions by national leaders, for people and the planet. Countries must come together and collaborate to rebuild trust, re-energize action, and deliver in full on the promises made in the Paris Agreement.

Three top priorities are:

Keep global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius through rapid, bold emissions cuts and [net-zero commitments](#).

Increase international finance for [adaptation](#) to at least half the total spent on climate action.

Meet the existing commitment to provide \$100 billion in international [climate finance](#) each year so that developing countries can invest in green technologies, and protect lives and livelihoods against worsening climate impacts.

What's happening day by day?

While government talks are the heart of the COP, it also features an array of activities, such as theme days, side events, report launches and exhibits. Keep an eye out for pop-up demonstrations. Expect to see and hear from government and business leaders, activists, celebrities, youth advocates, community changemakers and more from every part of the world.

For more on the meeting agenda and schedule, check [here](#). Get prepared with this [comprehensive list](#) of events and exhibits. Explore the "[green zone](#)" that will feature side events open to the public.

See also at The Elders: [Climate Change: Women Must Be Heard At COP26](#)

SARS-CoV-2 & COVID-19 UPDATES



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

Globally, the situation continues dire in many countries.

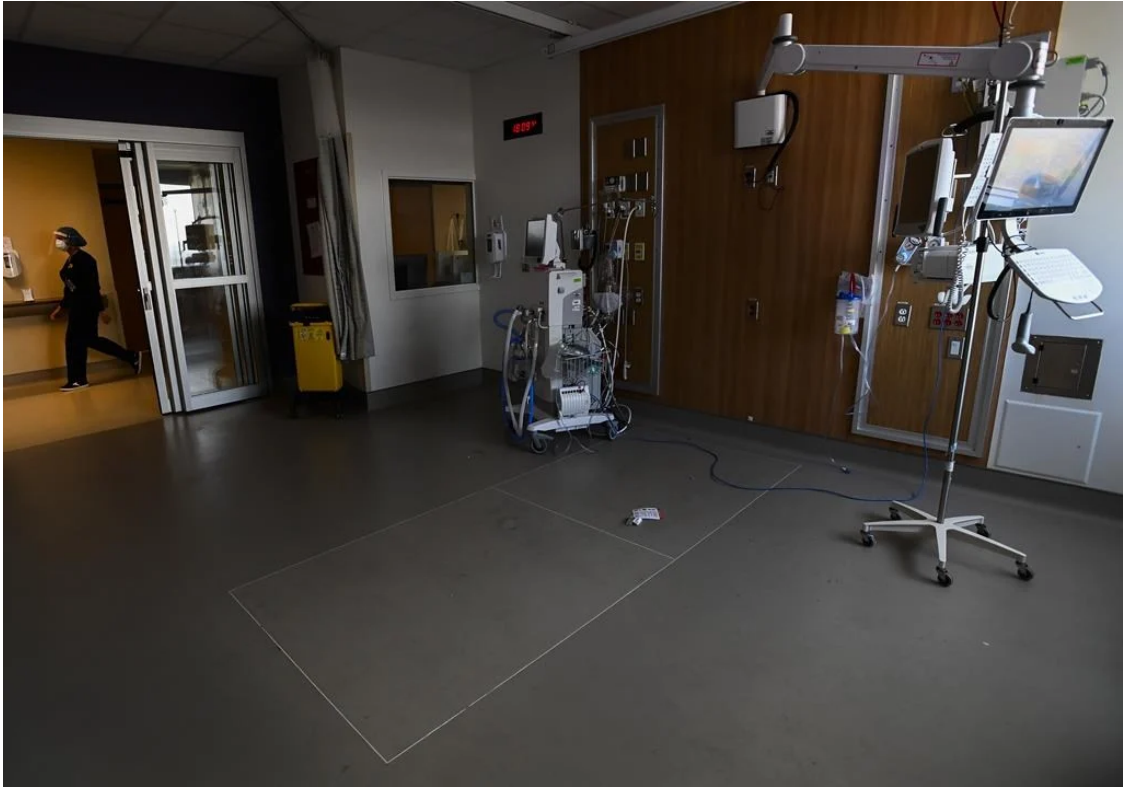
Over the last week there was little change in Covid-19 cases and a slight change in deaths, with about 3 million new cases and 48,000 deaths (down ~12%). About 181 million people received a vaccine, or an average of some 25 million doses per day, still impressive. At this rate the world will need another 7 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

More Than 150,000 Canadians Have

'Long Covid'



Credit: The Canadian Press/Nathan Denette

More research is needed to understand the so-called "long [COVID](#)" condition and the burden it poses on the health-care system. The Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, a group that provides guidance to the province on the pandemic, said the post-COVID-19 symptoms affect about 10% of those infected and can last from weeks to months.

"There is under-recognition both for the public but also among clinicians of this condition because it is hard to define and quantify and because we don't have a lot of information around it," said Fahad Razak, the lead author of their new report.

A conservative estimate suggests about 150,000 Canadians who contract the novel coronavirus experience long COVID-19 symptoms, Razak said. In Ontario, between 57,000 and 78,000 people are affected.

The most common of more than 200 different symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, general pain or discomfort, anxiety and depression. Razak said individuals experiencing such symptoms have difficulty performing daily activities and require increased health-care resources.

Read more at [National Observer](#)

READ MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

At Telegraph: [Jacinda Ardern Has Come Crashing Back To Earth](#)

At Daily Kos: [COVID-19 Deaths Surge In Russia, As Most Russians Shun Vaccines And Hope For Natural Immunity](#)

At Science: [New Chinese Vaccine Could Bolster Global Arsenal](#)

At Discover Magazine: [Booster Vaccines Are Actually Pretty Common](#)

At NBC News: [Largest Study Of Masks Yet Details Their Importance In Fighting Covid-19](#)

At Globe and Mail: [Every Health Care Worker Needs To Be Vaccinated Without Exception – Or Find Another Job](#)

At Axios: [Vatican Orders All Employees To Get Vaccine Or Submit To Testing](#)

At Aljazeera: [YouTube Expands COVID Move To Block All Anti-Vaccine Content](#)

At Daily Kos: [Hacker Reveals Right-wing Health Care Network Made Millions Off Ivermectin And Hydroxychloroquine](#)

At Daily Mail: [Mother-Of-Four Who Proudly Posted That She Was 'Unmasked, Unmuzzled, And Unvaccinated' Dies Of COVID-19 At Age 40](#)

From [Winnipeg Free Press](#) (Oct. 8, 2021):

- Canada's chief public health officer has shot a dose of optimism into the country's fight against the fourth wave of COVID-19. Dr. Theresa Tam said the efforts made to slow the spread where the virus is surging appear to be working. She said hard lessons must be learned about the risks of removing public health measures too soon, particularly in areas where not enough people have been vaccinated. She also emphasized how basic measures, like masking, should remain in place to avoid another surge in the winter. Tam said it's promising that more than 80% of Canadians eligible to receive a shot are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, however, there are still six million eligible Canadians who are not properly immunized.

- The union representing RCMP officers says it will support decisions by members "to be vaccinated or not" against COVID-19 following a federal order that Mounties be immunized. The Liberal government announced this week that core public servants, including members and reservists of the RCMP, must be vaccinated or face suspension without pay as early as Nov. 15. Brian Sauvé, president of the National Police Federation, said Friday the union expected a more "meaningful and authentic" dialogue with the government on the policy.

- The number of Americans getting COVID-19 vaccines has steadily increased to a three-month high as seniors and people with medical conditions seek boosters, and government and employer mandates push more workers to take their first doses. Demand is expected to spike in a few weeks if regulators authorize the Pfizer vaccine for elementary school children, and some states are reopening mass vaccination clinics in anticipation. The total number of doses being administered in the U.S. is climbing toward an average of one million per day, almost double the level from mid-July, but still far below last spring. The increase is mainly due to boosters, with nearly 10% of the nation's over-65 population already getting third shots, but there are signs of increased demand from other groups as well. Last Thursday, 1.1 million doses were given, including just over 306,000 to newly vaccinated people, said Dr. Cyrus Shahpar, the White House COVID-19 data director.

- Russia's daily coronavirus death toll hit a new record last Friday amid the country's sluggish vaccination rate and the government's reluctance to tighten restrictions. Russia's state coronavirus task force reported 936 new deaths on Friday, the highest daily number since the start of the pandemic. It was a third straight day when daily COVID-19 deaths topped 900. Russia already has Europe's highest death toll in the pandemic — more than 214,000 — and the authorities' conservative way of recording COVID-19 fatalities suggests the actual number could be even higher. On Friday, the government's task force reported 27,246 new confirmed cases, just slightly less than Thursday's number of 27,550, which was the highest so far this year.

Head Of UNAIDS: How COVID-19 Affects The Fight Against HIV/AIDS — And How To Combat Inequities



WINNIE BYANYIMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNAIDS / PHOTO COURTESY OF UNAIDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened global inequities. The world's poor have bore the brunt of national lockdowns and will struggle to recover and poorer countries have been unable to rollout comprehensive vaccination campaigns because of a grossly unequal distribution of vaccines. On top of this COVID-19 has also derailed progress against diseases that affect poor people.

Imraan Valodia sat down for a conversation with Winnie Byanyima, the Executive Director of UNAIDS.

Read more at [Good Good Good](#)

Nearly Two Dozen Species Of Birds, Fish And Other Wildlife Are To Be Declared Extinct And Removed From The Endangered Species List



RUSSELL KUNDEL/GETTY IMAGES GROUP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Credit: Getty Images

The ivory-billed woodpecker, along with 22 other species of birds, fish, mussels and other wildlife, is set to be declared extinct and removed from [the endangered species list](#), US wildlife officials announced Wednesday.

"For the species proposed for delisting today, the protections of the (Endangered Species Act) came too late, with most either extinct, functionally extinct, or in steep decline at the timing of listing," the US Fish and Wildlife Service said. Also slated for delisting are the Bachman's warbler, two species of freshwater fishes, eight species of Southeastern freshwater mussels and 11 species from Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. Read more at [CNN](#)

An Oil Spill Off The California Coast Destroyed A Wildlife Habitat And Caused Dead Birds And Fish To Wash Up On Huntington Beach



PATRICK T. FALLON/AP/GETTY IMAGES

Credit: Getty Images

A swath of the Southern California coast is covered with oil after 3,000 barrels' worth gushed into the Pacific Ocean -- devastating some of the local wildlife, officials said.

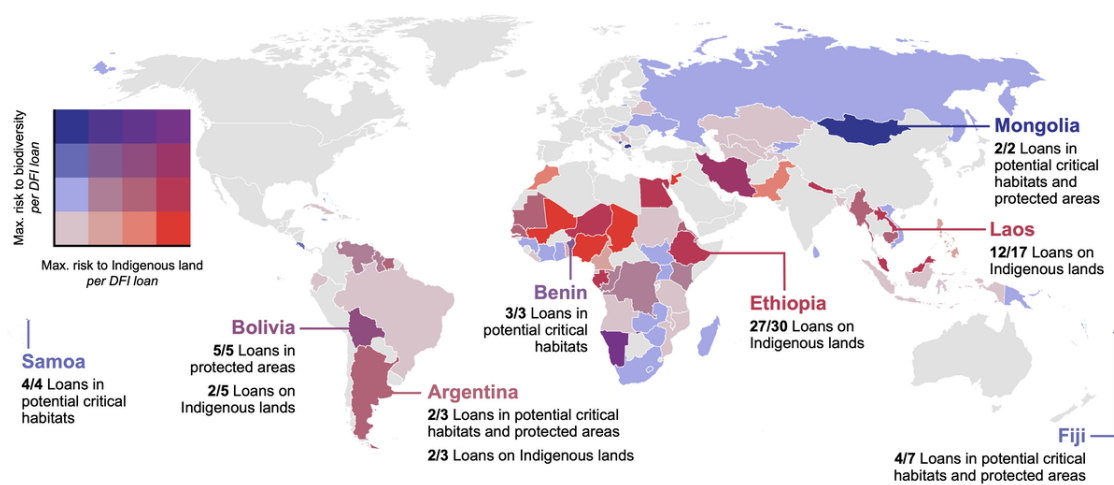
A pipeline breach occurred about 5 miles off the coast of Huntington Beach, Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley said Sunday.

"We've started to find dead birds and fish washing up on the shore," Foley said. "The oil has infiltrated the entirety of the [\(Talbert\) Wetlands](#). There's significant impacts to wildlife there. These are wetlands that we've been working with the Army Corps of Engineers, with the Land Trust, with all the community wildlife partners to make sure to create this beautiful, natural habitat for decades. And now in just a day, it's completely destroyed."

"This response is currently a 24/7 operation and response efforts are scheduled to continue until federal and state officials determine that the response to the crude oil spill is complete," the US Coast Guard statement read.

Read more at [CNN](#)

China Is Financing Infrastructure Projects Around The World – Many Could Harm Nature And Indigenous Communities



Credit: Adapted from Yang, et al., 2021

China is shaping the future of economic development through its [Belt and Road Initiative](#), an ambitious multi-billion-dollar international push to better connect itself to the rest of the world through trade and infrastructure. Through this venture, China is providing over 100 countries with funding they have long sought for roads, railways, power plants, ports and other infrastructure projects.

This mammoth effort could generate [broad economic growth](#) for the countries involved and the global economy. The World Bank [estimates](#) that recipient countries' gross domestic product could rise by up to 3.4% thanks to Belt and Road financing.

But development often expands human movement and economic activity into new areas, which can promote [deforestation](#), illegal [wildlife trafficking](#) and the spread of [invasive species](#). Past initiatives have also sparked conflict by [infringing on Indigenous lands](#). These projects were often approved without the [recognition or consent](#) of local Indigenous communities.

In a [newly published study](#), our team of [development economists](#) and [conservation scientists](#) mapped the risks Chinese overseas development finance projects pose for Indigenous lands, threatened species, protected areas and potential critical habitats for global biodiversity conservation. We found that more than 60% of China's development projects present some risk to wildlife or Indigenous communities.

Read more at [the Conversation](#)

GOOD NEWS

In World First, Top Beef Supplier Approves Methane-Busting Feed Additive That Reduces Gas by 55%



Cow in Colombia, Credit: Gabriel Porras

In response to global warming concerns across the planet, the world's largest beef exporter has approved the sale of a feed additive that cuts methane emissions from beef and dairy cattle. Regulators in Brazil and Chile have granted full market authorization for Royal DSM's Bovaer to be given to cows as well as sheep and goats.

The methane-reducing additive obtained this first approval after a 10-year collaboration called Project Clean Cow, and its success in [48 scientific trials](#) on farms in 13 countries across 4 continents—peer-reviewed studies (such as [this one in 2020](#) at UC Davis) that were published in scientific journals.

"A beef trial with Bovaer at Sao Paulo State University (UNESP) in Brazil conducted in 2016-2017, showed enteric methane emission reductions up to 55%, which highlights the potential for radically more sustainable cattle farming in Latin America to further lower their carbon footprint," said Mauricio Adade, president DSM Latin America. Read more at [Good News Network](#)

MORE GOOD NEWS

Close Cousins Of SARS-CoV-2 Found In A Cave In Laos Yield New Clues About Pandemic's Origins



Credit: PLACEBO365/ISTOCK

When SARS-CoV-2 was discovered in early 2020, some researchers initially suspected it might have been engineered in a laboratory and accidentally escaped, in part because a region of the viral surface protein that latches onto human cellular receptors had an uncanny fit. “It looked kind of strange, right?” says Edward Holmes, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Sydney. “People were saying, well, maybe that’s been selected in a lab.”

Now, however, the discovery of three coronaviruses in bats living in limestone caves in Laos adds substantial weight to existing evidence that the virus was not engineered, Holmes says. The three viruses, reported in a [preprint on Research Square](#) on 17 September, are the closest relatives to SARS-CoV-2 found to date, and they are the first discovered that are nearly identical in that key region. “The core, functional part of SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin,” says Linfa Wang, a bat coronavirus researcher at the Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore. “It’s proven.”

Read more at [Science](#)

OPINION

Church's Apology Must Come From The Top



Credit: Eduardo Verdugo/The Associated Press Files

Calls for a papal apology have intensified since revelations regarding unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools earlier this year in Canada — beginning in May when ground-penetrating radar identified what is believed to be the remains of 215 children buried at the former Catholic-run residential school in Kamloops, B.C.

Late last month, days ahead of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Canada's Roman Catholic bishops took a bold step by "unequivocally" apologizing to Indigenous people for the horrors of Canada's residential school system. Along with acknowledging "the grave abuses that were committed by some members of our Catholic community; physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and sexual," the bishops pledged to work with Indigenous people toward arranging a long-sought papal visit.

The bishops' apology is an important first step, but it falls far short of what is needed, and what has been requested. Their action does not free the Pope from an obligation to apologize; in fact, it heightens the pressure because it makes clear the church understands, and accepts, the anguish it inflicted on Indigenous people.

It is long past time for an apology from the man who is the head of the worldwide Catholic church and the Vatican City State. History shows the pope has been willing to do the right thing in the past; if there is to be true reconciliation in this country, he must find the grace to do it again. Read more at [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

China Pledges To Stop Building New Coal Energy Plants Abroad



Credit: Getty
Images

President Xi Jinping made the announcement in his virtual address at the United Nations General Assembly on September 22.

China has been funding coal projects in countries like Indonesia and Vietnam under a massive infrastructure project known as the Belt and Road initiative. But it has been under pressure to end the financing, as the world tries to meet Paris climate agreement targets.

"China will step up support for other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy, and will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad," Mr Xi said in a video recording at the annual summit. No further details were provided, but the move could limit the expansion of coal plants in many developing countries under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Read more at [BBC](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

Indigenous Climate Action



iNDiGENOUS
CLiMATE ACT!ON

Credit: Indigenous Climate Action

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is an Indigenous-led organization guided by a diverse group of Indigenous knowledge keepers, water protectors and land defenders from communities and regions across the country. We believe that Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge systems are critical to developing solutions to the climate crisis and achieving climate justice.

ICA works on connecting and supporting Indigenous communities to reinforce our place as leaders driving climate change solutions for today and tomorrow. We model our work and organizational structure on systems of free, prior and informed consent and self-determination. By providing communities with knowledge and resources, we can inspire a new generation of Indigenous climate leaders building solutions centered around our inherent rights and cultures.

Read more at [Indigenous Climate Action](#)

Quote Of The Week



As much as *Bewilderment* is a book about the processes of human suffering, it also contends with sorrow of the planetary kind, as mass extinction looms, environmental breakdown barrels along and anti-science forces rule the roost.

"I cannot be hopeful for the present," Powers says. "We can't continue to live this way, but the ending of the culture we've created is not the end of hope."

Books Are Empathy Machines, Says Richard Powers

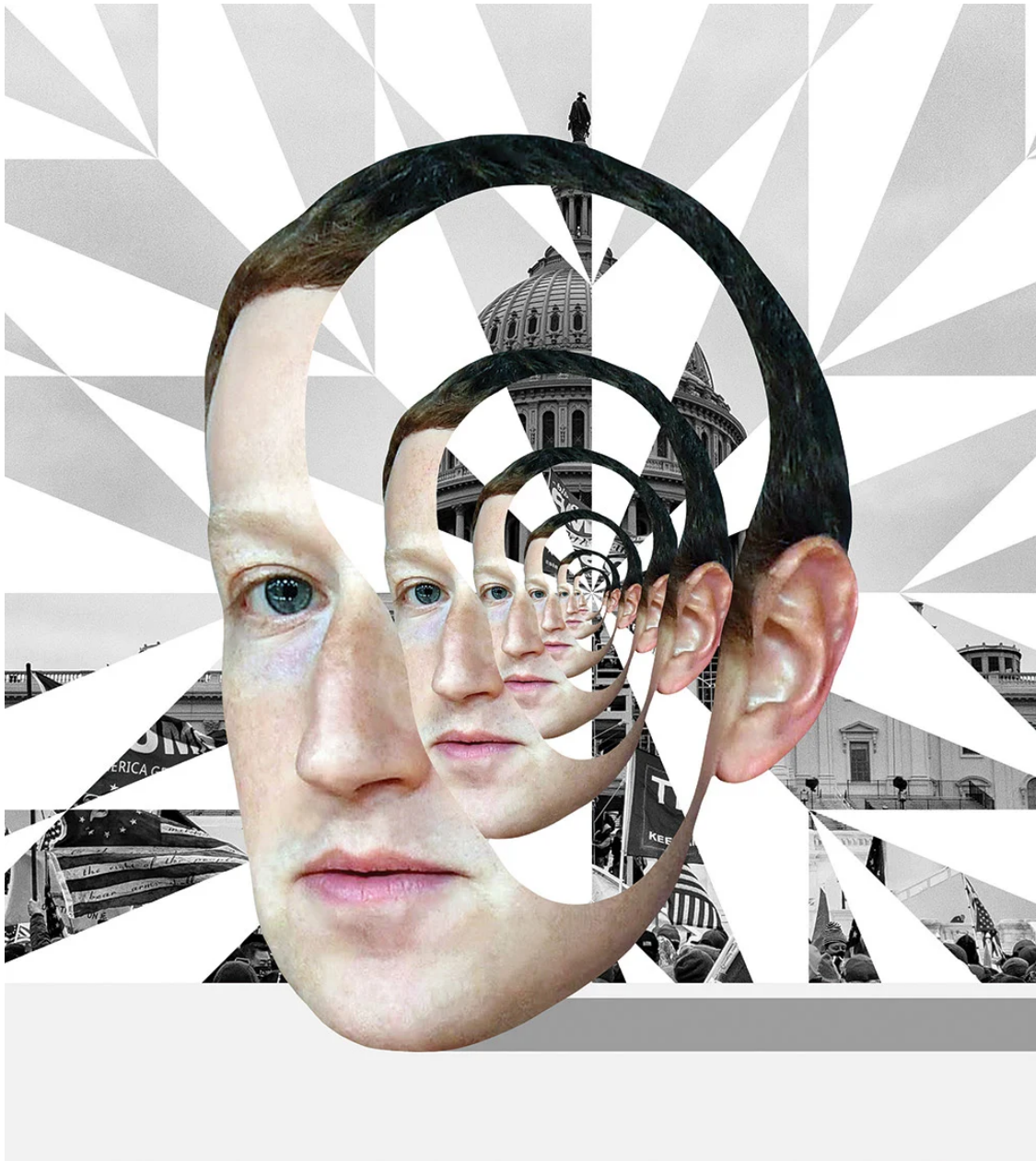
Read on for more of what the Pulitzer winner says about his destabilizing, hopeful new novel, 'Bewilderment.'

Read more at the Tyee

Upcoming Events

- October 31 - November 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.
- March 28th-April 1st, 2022: Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Social Justice. (Virtual Satellite Sessions: March 21st-25th, 2022)
- 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
- April 23 - 25, 2022 : 8th International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies for Ageing Well and e-Health

Why Facebook Won't Stop Pushing Propaganda



Credit: Matthieu Bourel

The way social media companies tell it, their robots are benevolent, serving only your best interests. You've clicked on your cousin's recipes but not your friend's fitness bragging? Here is more pasta and less Chloe Ting. You've shown an interest in Trump and also fanciful pottery? Here are some [MAGA garden gnomes](#).

The founding narrative of social media companies is that they merely provide a space for you, dear user, to do and see what you want. In reality, as the people who work at these companies know quite well, technology reflects the biases of those who make it. And when those who make it are corporations, it reflects corporate imperatives. In Facebook's case, those imperatives—chief among them, to grow faster than anyone else—have played out with especially high stakes, making the company one of the world's most significant threats to

democracy, human rights and decency. Facebook has been proved to be a vehicle for election disinformation in many countries (see: [Brexit](#), Trump, [Duterte](#)). It has been an organizing space and megaphone for violent extremism and genocidal hate (see: [Kenosha](#), [Myanmar](#), [Sri Lanka](#), and [Afghanistan](#)).

Its power is so far-reaching, it shapes elections in small-town Alabama and helps launch mobs into the Capitol. It reaches you whether or not you are on social media, because, as Jones says, what happens on Facebook doesn't stay on Facebook. That's why one of the most significant battles of the coming years is over whether and how government should regulate social media. So far, the debate has been mostly about whether companies like Facebook should censor particular posts or users. But that's largely a distraction. The far more important debate is about the algorithmic decisions that shape our information universe more powerfully than any censor could.

SEE ALSO:

At CNn: [How To Protect Ourselves Against Facebook's Failures](#)

At Press reader: [Instagram Puts Growth Ahead of Children, Senator Tells Executive](#)

Read more Mother Jones

FYI #2

Mapped: Where Are the World's Ongoing Conflicts Today?

Where are the World's Ongoing Conflicts?

Conflicts are categorized according to the definitions laid out by the Council on Foreign Relations.

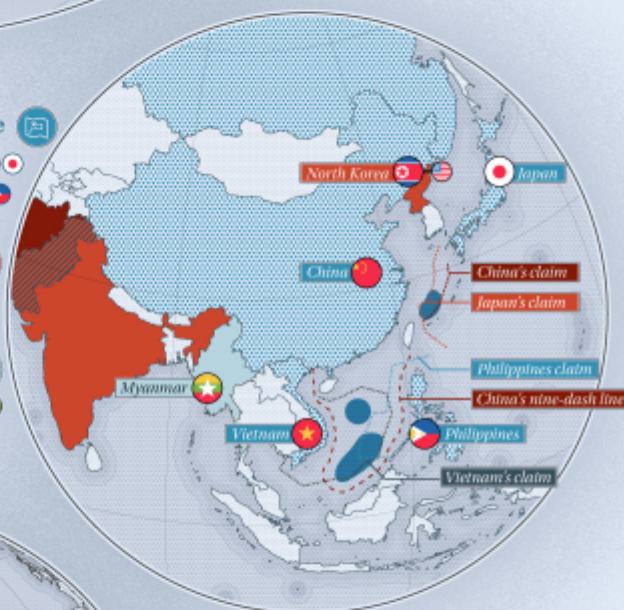
We currently live in one of the most peaceful eras in history, but that doesn't mean that there is an absence of violence.

Here's a look at 27 of the world's ongoing conflicts as of 2021.



Around 80% of the world's current conflicts are concentrated in Asia and Africa.

The most prevalent forms of conflict today are civil wars and territorial disputes.



Around the Mexican midterm elections, 89 politicians were killed during the



Credit: Visual Capitalist

We live in an era of relative peace compared to most of history, however, this does not mean that there are no conflicts in the world today.

This map using data from the Council on Foreign Relations ([CFR](#)) reveals where the world's 27 ongoing conflicts are today, and what type of conflicts they are.

[Read more at Visual Capitalist](#)

FYI #3

Volvo Plans To Go Leather Free In All Of Its EVs By 2030



Volvo Cars announced that it plans to make all of its fully electric models completely leather-free by 2030, as part of “an ethical stand for animal welfare.”

That includes a target to use 100% renewable energy by 2025, and to make 25% of the material in Volvo models out of recycled and “bio-based content” by then, on the way to what it’s targeting as a fully circular business—in which materials are continually reused—by 2040. But it notes that just removing leather, in the complex supply chains involved in making cars, doesn’t make them necessarily vegan.

[Read More At Green Car Reports](#)

FYI #4

A Brief History Of The Gombe Chimpanzee War



Credit: Steffen Foerster/Shutterstock

For centuries, it was long accepted that humans were the only creatures complex enough to wage war. Sure, other animals might occasionally scuffle over food, territory and other resources, but true war in the

anthropomorphic sense, intact with all its violence, brutality and tribalism, was thought to be a unique component of human nature. Perhaps then, it shouldn't be surprising that this notion was challenged by our closest living relatives.

Gombe National Park lies on the western edge of Tanzania, bordered by the vast blue expanse of Lake Tanganyika. Famed primatologist [Jane Goodall](#) won renown here for her groundbreaking studies of the native chimpanzee population. The park is also home to a tribe of chimpanzees that Goodall named the Kasekela, and for a bloody time in the 1970s, this tribe turned the woodlands, valleys and rainforests of the park into a battlefield during the first-ever documented chimpanzee war.

[Read more at Discover Magazine](#)

FYI #5: OCTOBER READING: BOOK RECOGNITION - Named 2021 'Medical Book of the Year' by the British Medical Association

"Health Equity in a Globalizing Era:
Past Challenges, Future Prospects"
by: Ronald Labonté and Arne
Ruckert.



Credit: Book Cover

- Using a political economy approach, this title presents new connections between aspects of globalization and health equity
- Based on case studies to facilitate an analytical approach to globalization, economics and health
- An easy-to-follow guide for implementing policy solutions that improve health equity outcomes at local and global scales
- Ideal for senior undergraduate and graduate students in global health programs, global health scholars and practitioners in government policy and health/development NGOs.

See More at Oxford University Press

FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Blindness Etiquette



Credit: iStock/Weedesign

It doesn't have to be awkward. Here are some tips to help you make rewarding connections with people around you who have sight loss:

Be natural

When you're talking to someone who's blind, act like you normally would with anybody.

- Introduce yourself by name and wait for them to offer their hand to be shaken.
- Speak in a normal tone, speed and volume.
- Address them directly. Don't just talk to the person they're with or, in the case of someone who's Deafblind, their intervenor.
- Feel free to use sight-related phrases like "see you later" or "watch out."

Be inclusive

Include people who are blind in activities and events. They probably enjoy the same things you do – they just do them differently.

Keep accessibility in mind so a person who is blind can participate on an equal footing. This may mean making sure a physical space is free of clutter and hazards, or having printed materials available in the person's format of choice.

Be considerate

- Don't make someone who's blind guess your voice. Introduce yourself by name every time you greet them.
- Offer to be a sighted guide when in a new, unfamiliar or crowded environment. But never assume someone needs a guide. Never grab them without permission.
- Never pet or distract a working guide dog.

Be descriptive

Giving someone who's blind descriptive cues can help make things, places and social situations more accessible.

- Verbally acknowledge when someone has entered or left a room or a conversation. Around a table, do introductions to identify who's sitting where.
- When you're giving directions, be as specific as you can. Instead of saying, "The door is over there," say: "The door is on your right, about 20 feet down the hallway."

At meals, describe how food is arranged on the plate. Use the face of a clock as a reference: "Your salad is at four o'clock and your steak is at 10 o'clock."

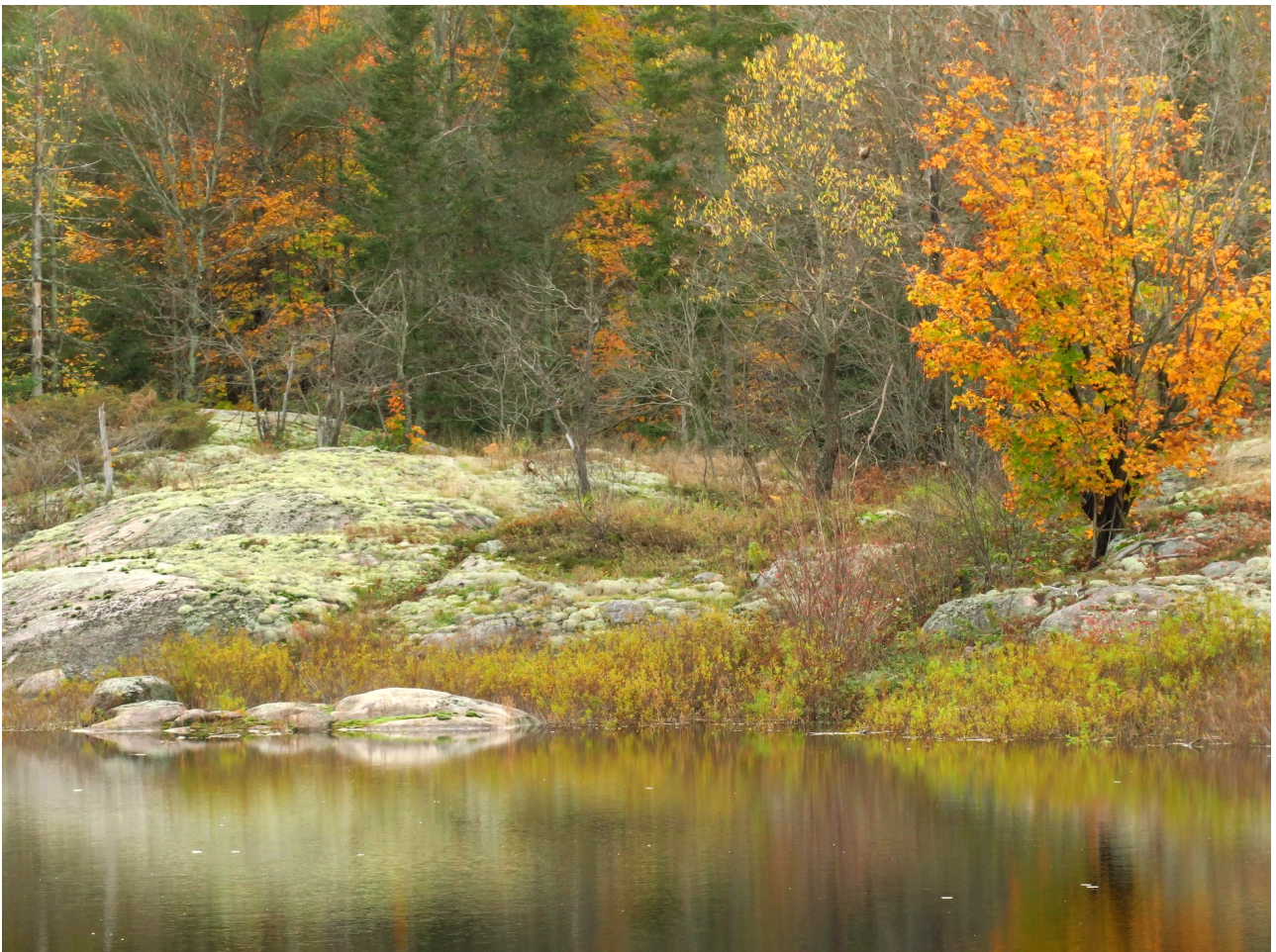
[Read More at CNIB](#)

ENDSHOTS

*ROADSIDE SCENES, HIGHWAY 400
JUST NORTH OF PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO*

OCTOBER 13, 2021

Amid Latest World and Canadian COVID-19 Stats & Charts



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

Coronavirus Cases:

240,273,339

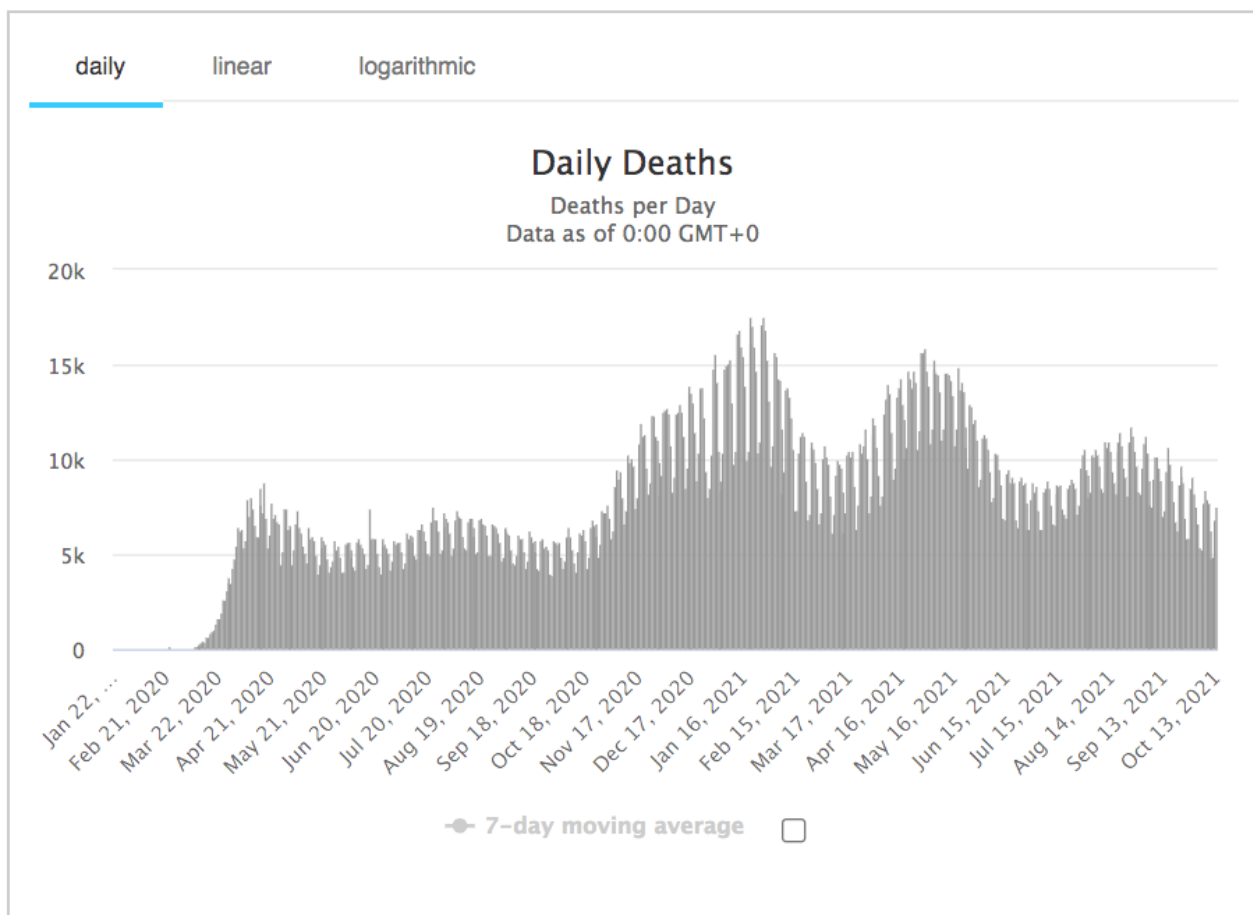
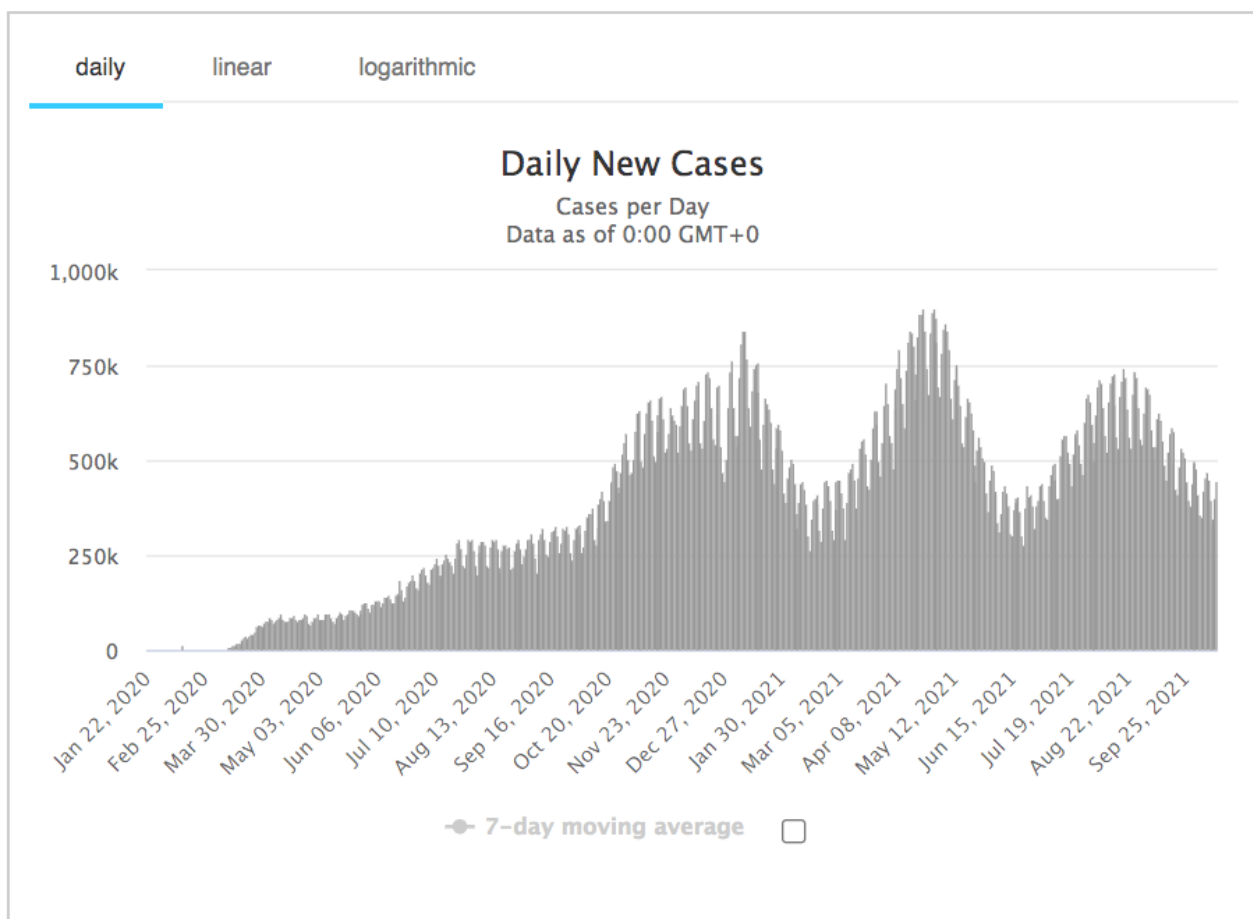
[view by country](#)

Deaths:

4,894,615

Recovered:

217,570,985



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



COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS & VACCINATIONS (October 14, 2021) below:
Source:https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus

More than
4,878,000
people have died from
the coronavirus worldwide

More than **239 million** cases have been reported.



Beaver Dam

Where the virus is surging

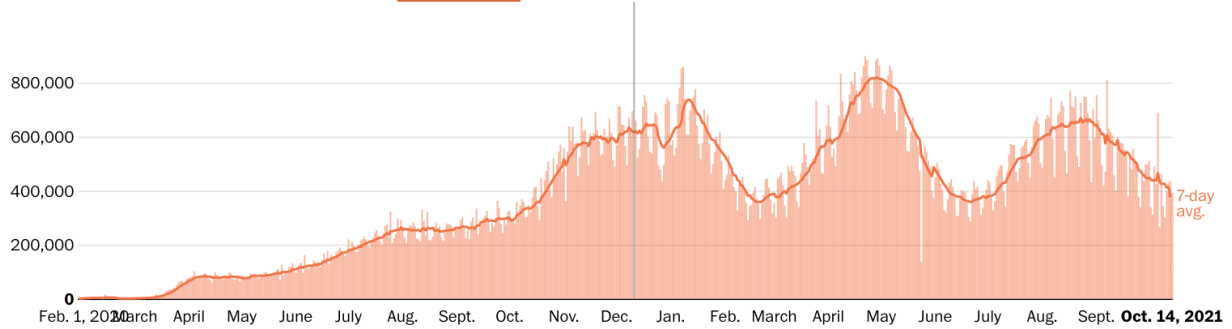


New daily reported cases across the world

Deaths

Cases

At least 239,346,629 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.



Where the virus is surging

Deaths

Cases

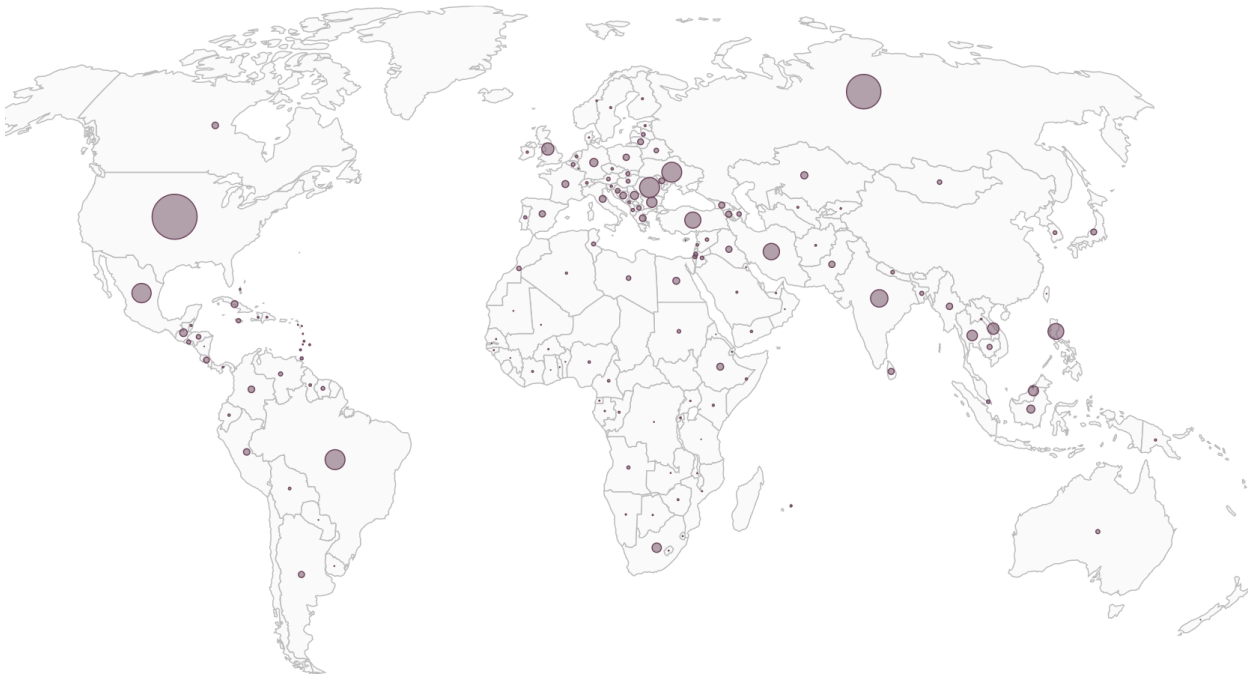
Adj. for population

Totals

Since last week

Cumulative

100 1,000 5,000
REPORTED DEATHS

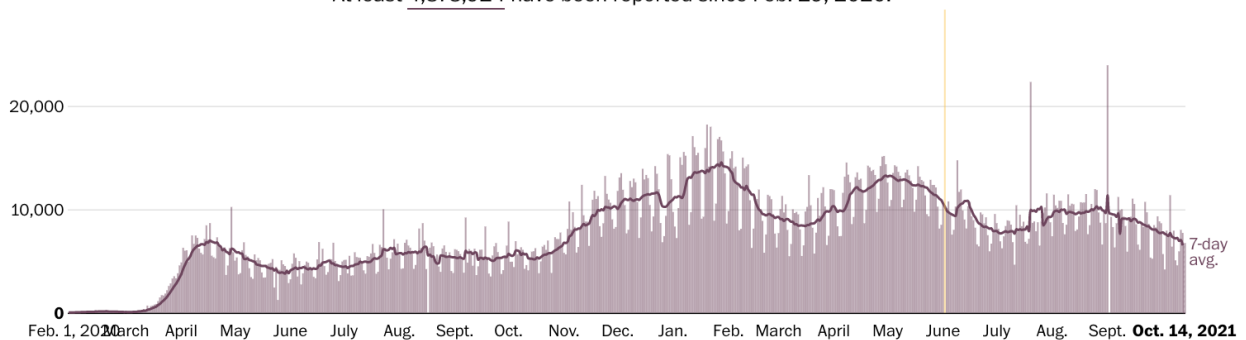


New daily deaths reported across the world

Deaths

Cases

At least 4,878,924 have been reported since Feb. 29, 2020.

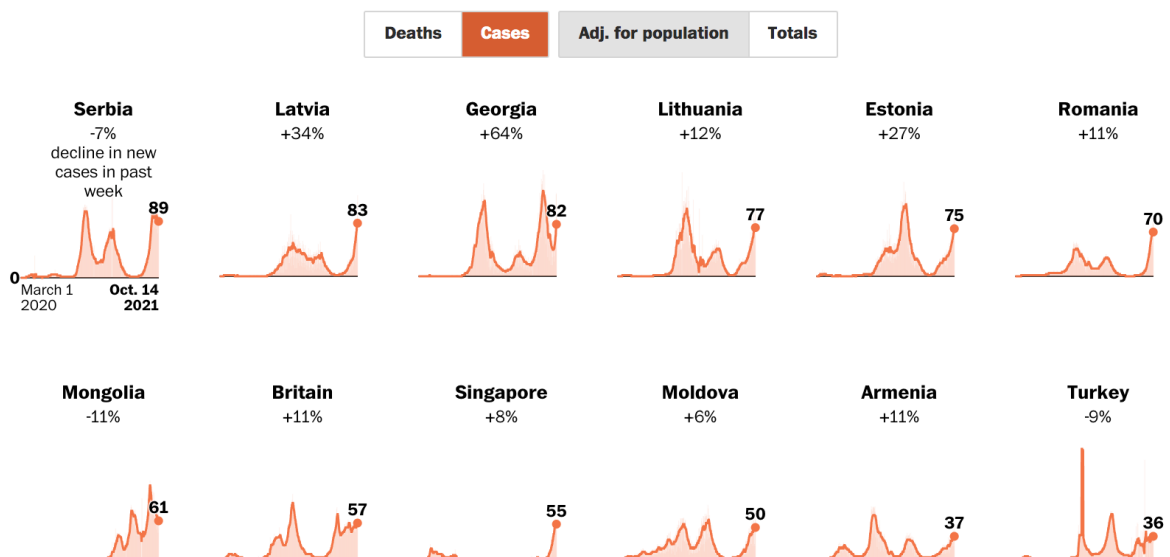


Data anomalies:



Global hot spots for reported cases per capita

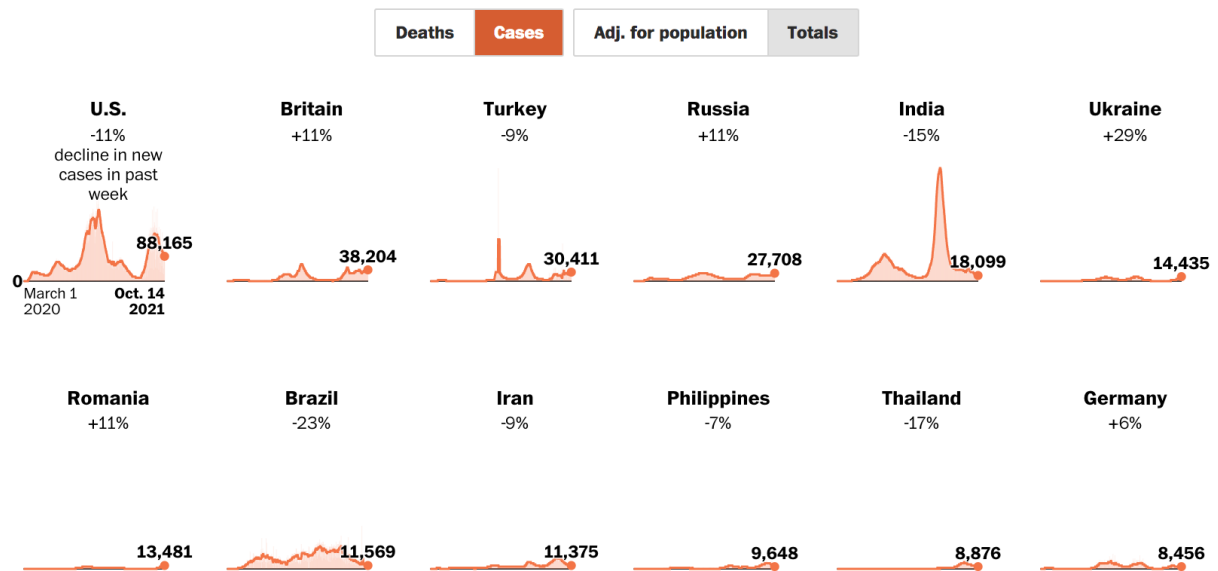
— 7-day rolling average of daily new reported cases per 100,000 residents



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

Global hot spots for reported cases

— 7-day rolling average of daily new reported cases



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





Global Vaccination Rates

Country	Total doses given	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination
Malta	844,723	96.1%	96.0%
UAE	20,552,839	97.0%	86.7%
Portugal	16,104,710	87.4%	85.5%
Singapore	9,736,175	80.8%	79.8%
Spain	70,859,558	80.4%	78.5%
Iceland	558,483	78.1%	76.7%
Denmark	8,808,728	76.7%	75.5%
Chile	33,522,333	84.2%	75.2%
Ireland	7,264,266	76.6%	75.2%
Uruguay	6,435,339	79.4%	75.1%
Belgium	16,719,897	75.2%	73.8%
Cambodia	25,772,396	82.2%	73.6%
Canada	57,310,773	78.3%	73.3%
Seychelles	148,402	78.6%	72.3%
Italy	86,868,846	76.2%	69.6%
Norway	7,882,143	78.3%	69.1%
Malaysia	46,252,254	77.1%	68.1%
Britain	94,492,698	73.7%	67.7%
France	96,590,046	75.6%	67.4%
Bahrain	2,684,265	68.7%	66.5%
Mongolia	4,388,414	69.9%	66.2%
Finland	7,813,026	75.5%	66.0%
Japan	177,622,120	74.7%	66.0%
Sweden	14,066,547	70.0%	65.8%
Germany	109,319,623	68.7%	65.4%
Bhutan	1,083,271	76.7%	65.3%
Greenland	76,470	71.1%	64.9%
Mauritius	1,686,047	68.7%	64.5%
Maldives	740,902	72.8%	64.3%
Israel	15,685,237	68.4%	62.9%
Austria	10,982,143	65.4%	61.9%
Andorra	102,032	70.4%	61.9%
Switzerland	10,715,429	65.6%	61.2%
South Korea	70,348,260	77.7%	61.2%
Liechtenstein	47,151	65.1%	60.7%

Monaco	49,980	68.5%	59.8%
Saudi Arabia	44,219,652	69.5%	59.6%
Lithuania	3,291,649	63.6%	58.9%
Greece	12,347,016	60.8%	58.6%
Hungary	—	60.6%	58.2%
Ecuador	21,254,562	67.0%	57.6%
Sri Lanka	27,285,321	67.6%	57.6%
U.S.	404,371,247	65.6%	56.6%
Czechia	11,887,287	57.3%	56.4%
Cuba	23,149,042	85.0%	56.1%
Turkey	113,183,300	65.5%	56.1%
Fiji	1,090,963	66.8%	55.7%
El Salvador	8,062,316	65.4%	55.5%
Morocco	43,122,611	63.1%	55.1%
Panama	5,277,886	69.5%	54.6%
Estonia	1,392,591	57.8%	54.5%
Turkmenistan	7,580,976	73.6%	54.0%
Australia	31,679,382	71.0%	53.9%
Argentina	54,353,322	67.6%	53.5%
New Zealand	6,044,813	71.1%	51.8%
Poland	38,043,351	52.6%	51.7%
Slovenia	2,192,542	54.5%	50.5%
Brunei	552,265	77.5%	50.0%
Latvia	1,728,488	51.4%	47.6%
Costa Rica	5,921,089	69.8%	47.5%
Brazil	249,340,259	73.2%	47.2%
Cyprus	1,188,888	50.0%	47.0%
Dominican Republic	12,229,780	57.5%	46.6%
Oman	5,254,466	59.5%	46.1%
Antigua and Barbuda	98,840	55.6%	45.3%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	48,755	48.8%	42.9%
Croatia	3,496,972	45.7%	42.8%
Serbia	6,678,484	44.1%	42.2%
Slovakia	4,745,156	45.3%	41.7%
Azerbaijan	9,037,099	48.9%	41.2%
Peru	30,240,477	52.5%	40.5%
Trinidad and Tobago	1,160,173	43.2%	39.9%

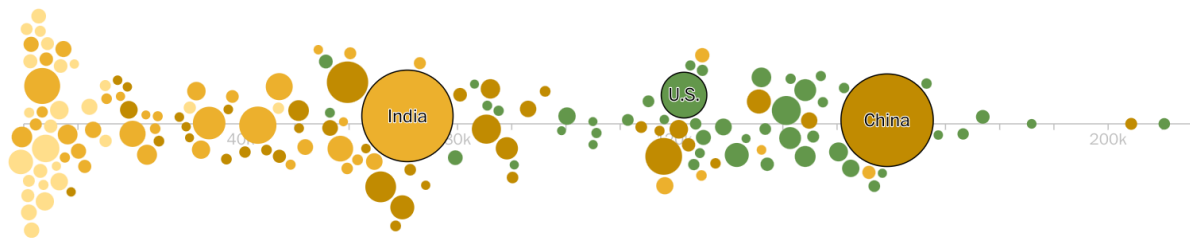
Barbados	255,645	49.6%	39.3%
Mexico	108,947,179	52.8%	38.9%
Kazakhstan	14,898,507	42.8%	37.7%
Colombia	43,315,450	55.7%	37.4%
Belize	344,463	51.2%	37.0%
Montenegro	477,395	40.4%	36.3%
North Macedonia	1,544,531	38.2%	35.9%
Tunisia	8,540,640	45.5%	35.2%
Thailand	61,995,809	51.6%	34.9%
Jordan	7,199,291	37.7%	33.6%
Russia	95,156,230	34.5%	31.4%
Suriname	421,648	41.2%	31.4%
Moldova	1,446,037	—	30.8%
Dominica	48,091	36.5%	30.3%
Bolivia	6,931,689	37.8%	30.1%
Cape Verde	460,484	52.3%	29.9%
Albania	1,810,433	33.9%	29.5%
Laos	—	41.6%	29.0%
Romania	10,814,828	31.9%	28.8%
Guyana	593,900	47.1%	28.8%
Paraguay	4,836,914	40.3%	28.4%
The Bahamas	224,531	33.2%	25.7%
Honduras	5,817,602	34.2%	25.5%
West Bank and Gaza	2,301,812	—	25.1%
Georgia	1,889,200	27.0%	23.8%
Timor-Leste	761,656	36.2%	22.7%
Nepal	14,852,777	29.3%	22.6%
Philippines	50,936,703	—	22.0%
Indonesia	162,097,315	37.9%	22.0%
Venezuela	16,127,242	34.8%	21.7%
Tajikistan	4,362,853	26.4%	20.4%
Lebanon	3,081,683	24.6%	20.4%
Taiwan	18,766,730	59.3%	20.3%
Iran	57,676,540	49.4%	20.2%
India	965,904,347	50.6%	20.1%
Bulgaria	2,607,096	—	19.7%
Eswatini	258,552	19.8%	19.1%

Canada is up to 13th place globally for rate of

vaccines given per 100,000 population; Britain way up to 18th; U.S. up at 43rd; Cambodia is in 12th place



Low-income High-income



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

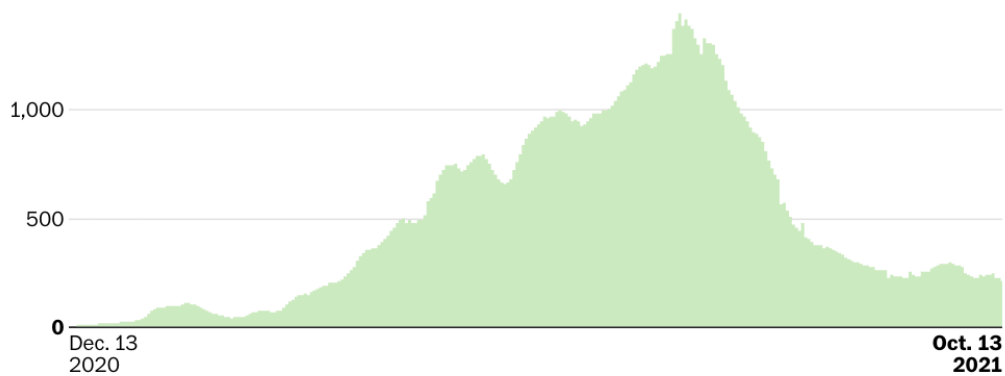
Adj. for population

Totals

Reported doses administered per day

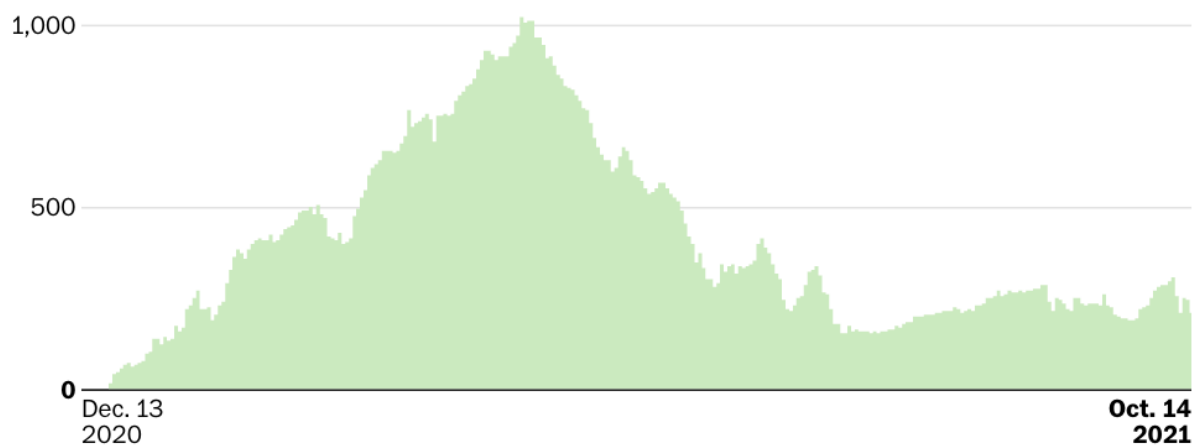
Show by

Canada

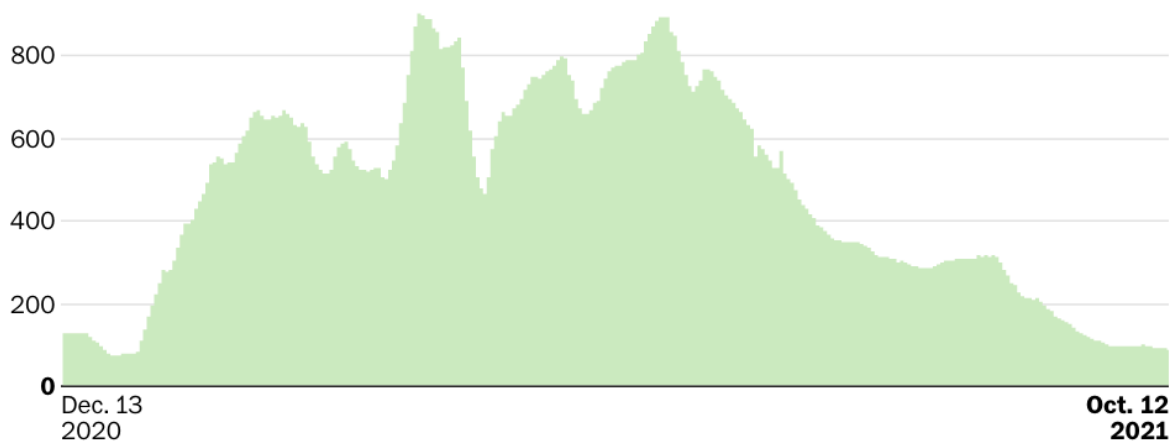


Show by

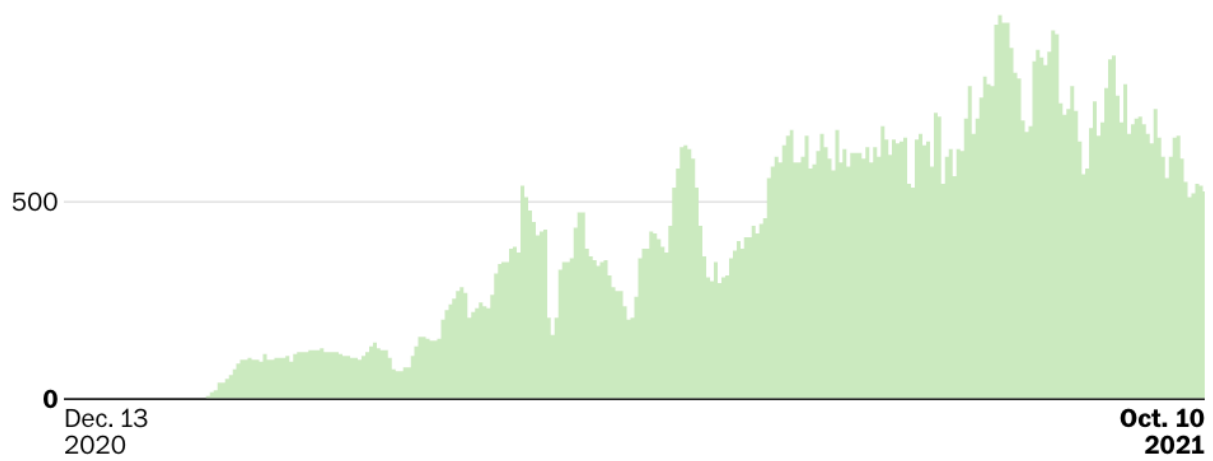
U.S.



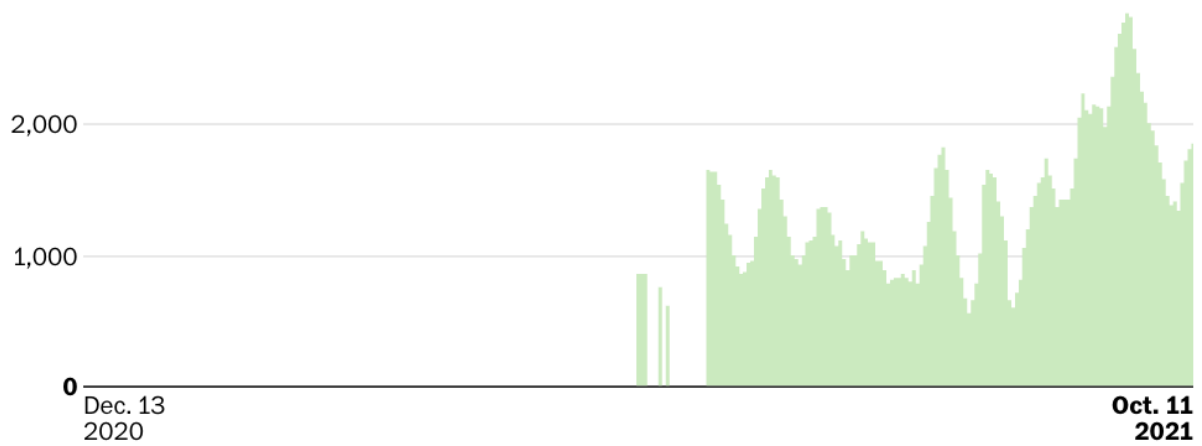
Show by **Britain** ▼



Show by **Brazil** ▼

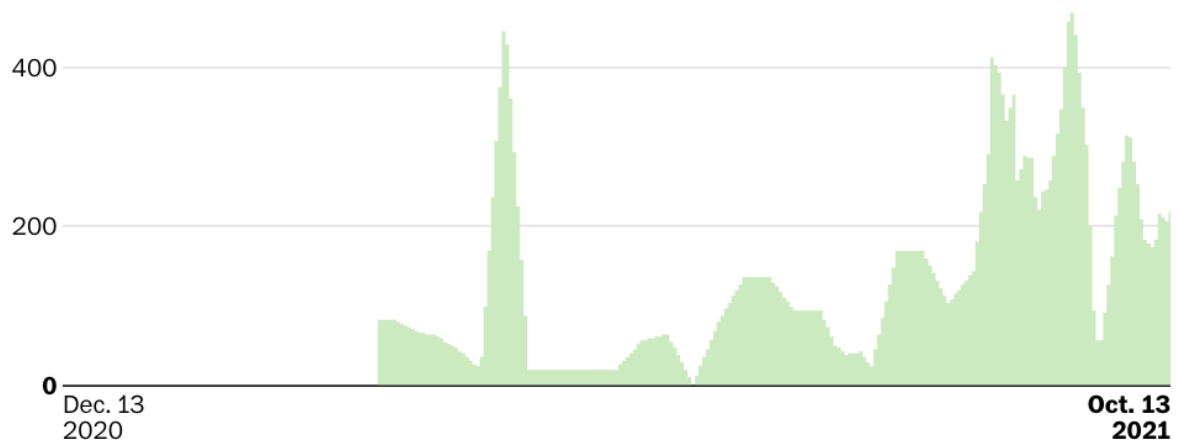


Show by **Cuba** ▼



Show by

Jamaica



Source of Canadian Data Below (October 13, 2021):
<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirustracker/>

Canada

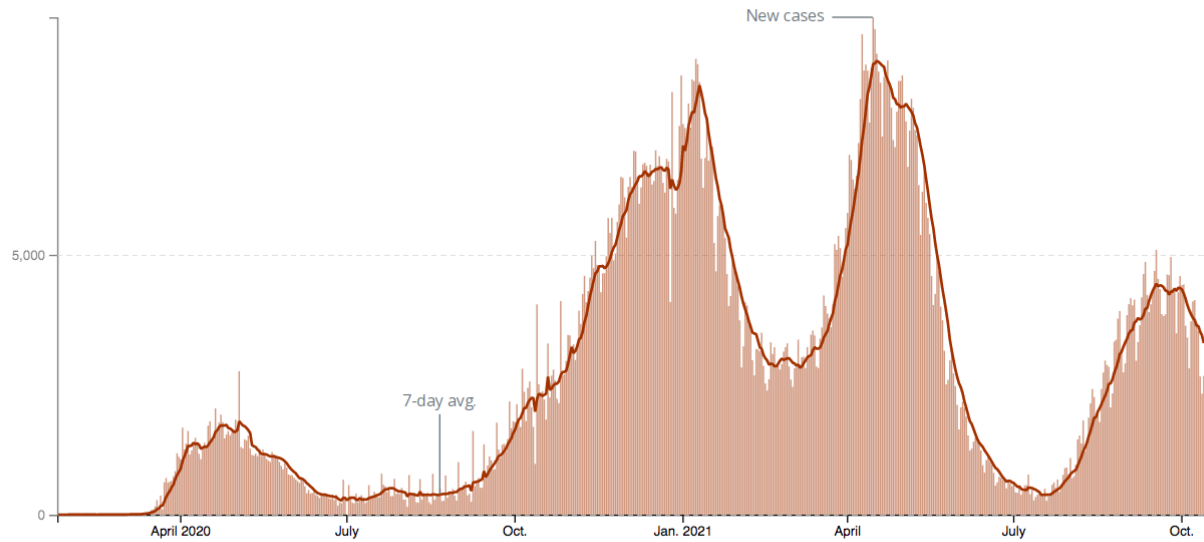


Cases Deaths Hospitalizations ICU

In Canada 1,670,241 cases have been reported.

90 DAYS

ALL TIME

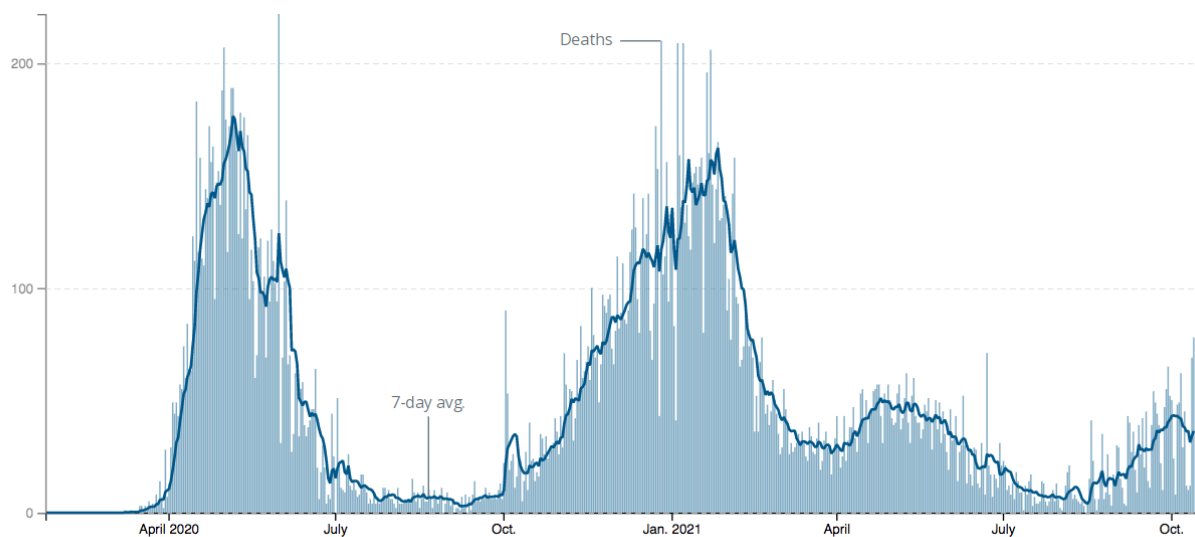


Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.

In Canada 28,367 deaths have been reported.

90 DAYS

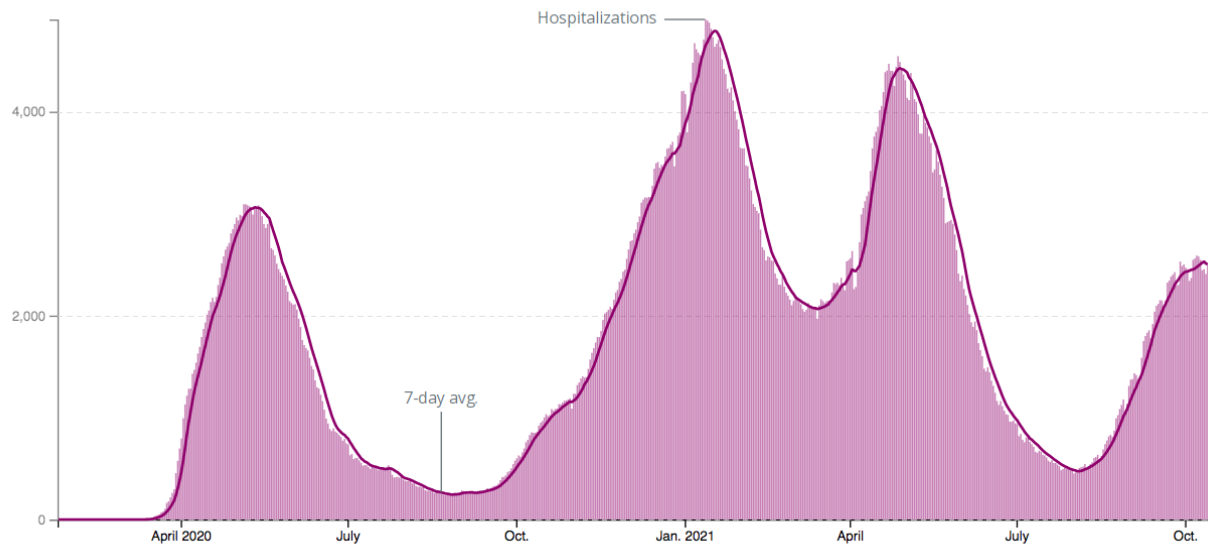
ALL TIME



In Canada there are currently 2,495 people hospitalized.

90 DAYS

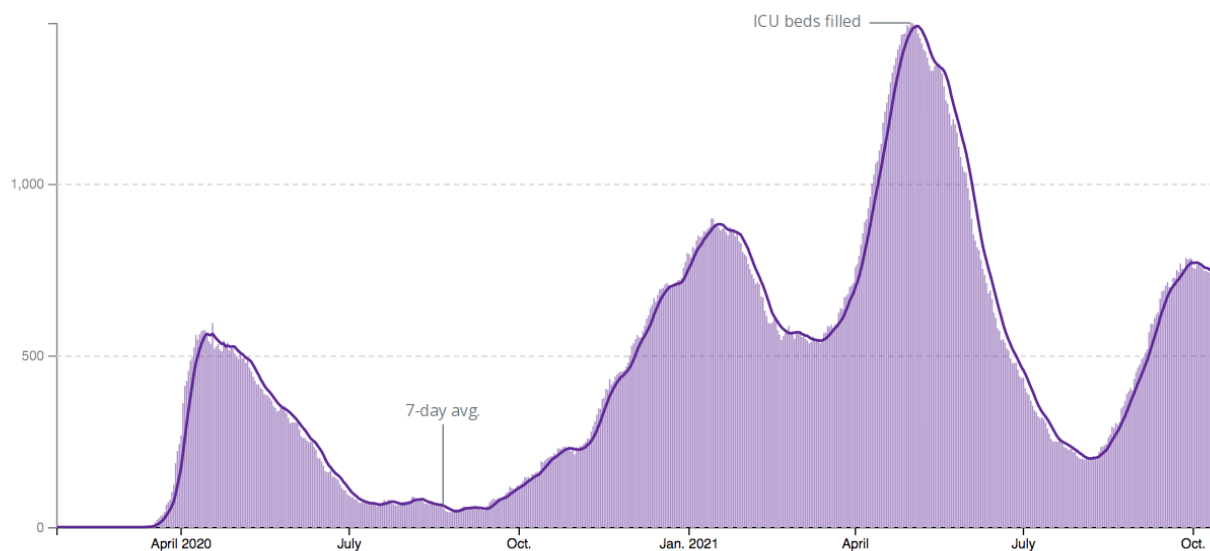
ALL TIME



In Canada there are currently 737 ICU beds filled.

90 DAYS

ALL TIME



In the past week in Canada...

New cases



There were 23,105 new cases, a decrease of 14 per cent. That's 60.7 cases per 100,000 people.

Active cases



The number of active cases declined 14 per cent.

Deaths



There were 255 deaths, or 0.7 per 100,000 people, a decrease of 13 per cent.

Hospitalizations

















Hospitalizations declined 4 per cent and ICU beds filled declined 1 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	57,123,702	76.91%	71.86% 
Alberta	6,259,239	72.34%	64.55% 
British Columbia	7,991,932	79.01%	73.55% 
Manitoba	2,029,644	74.72%	71.13% 
New Brunswick	1,203,178	80.30%	72.15% 
Newfoundland and Labrador	838,523	84.08%	77.29% 
Nova Scotia	1,540,851	80.32%	75.00% 
Ontario	22,148,068	76.71%	72.68% 
Prince Edward Island	260,024	81.69%	76.20% 
Quebec	13,055,771	78.17%	73.56% 
Saskatchewan	1,611,847	72.24%	64.38% 
Northwest Territories	70,372	79.47%	75.18% 
Nunavut	47,467	64.08%	56.39% 
Yukon	66,786	78.56%	76.03% 

Source: CBC News.



Source of World Covid-19 Vaccination Data Below, (October 14, 2021):
<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/>

rd party ad content

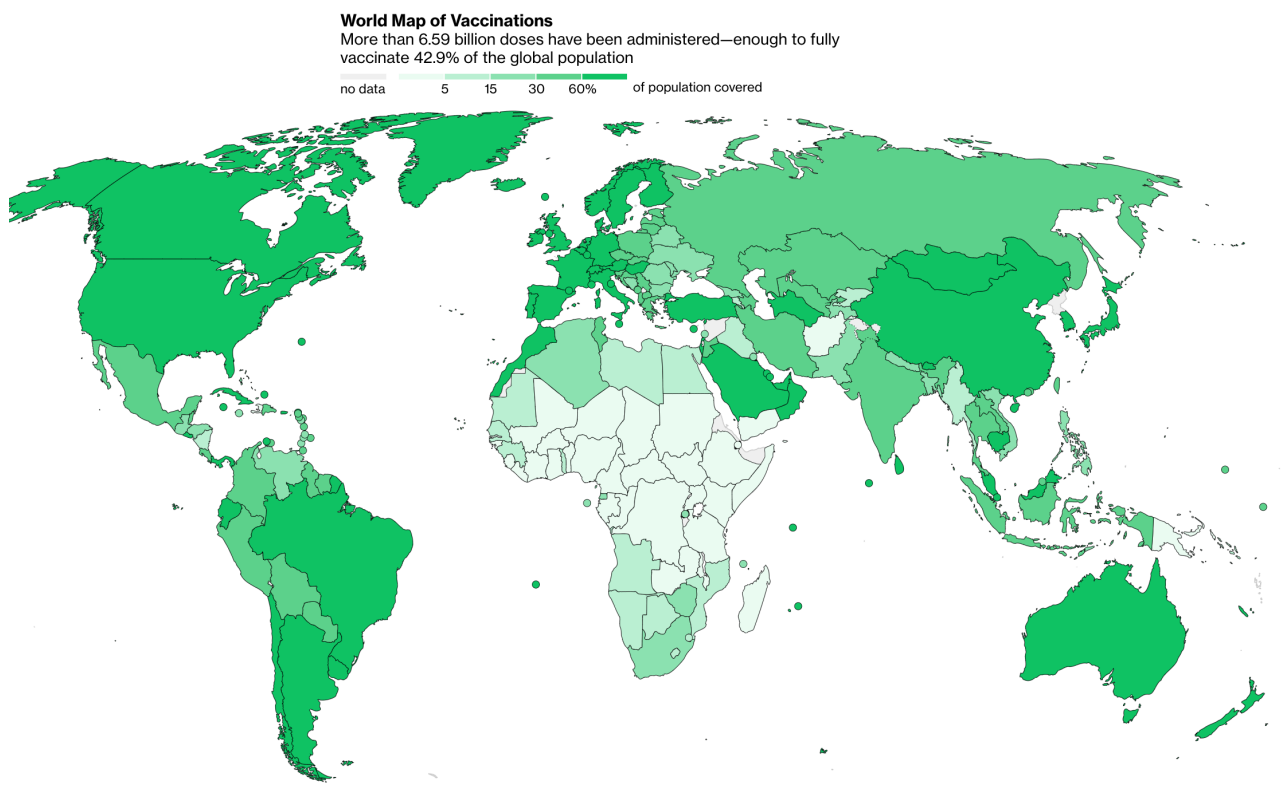
More Than 6.59 Billion Shots Given: Covid-19 Tracker

In the U.S., 404 million doses have been administered

Updated: October 14, 2021, 6:33 AM EDT

The biggest vaccination campaign in history is underway. More than **6.59 billion doses** have been administered across 184 countries, according to data collected by Bloomberg. The latest rate was roughly **24.1 million doses a day**.

In the U.S., **404 million doses** have been given so far. In the last week, an average of **801,889 doses per day** were administered.

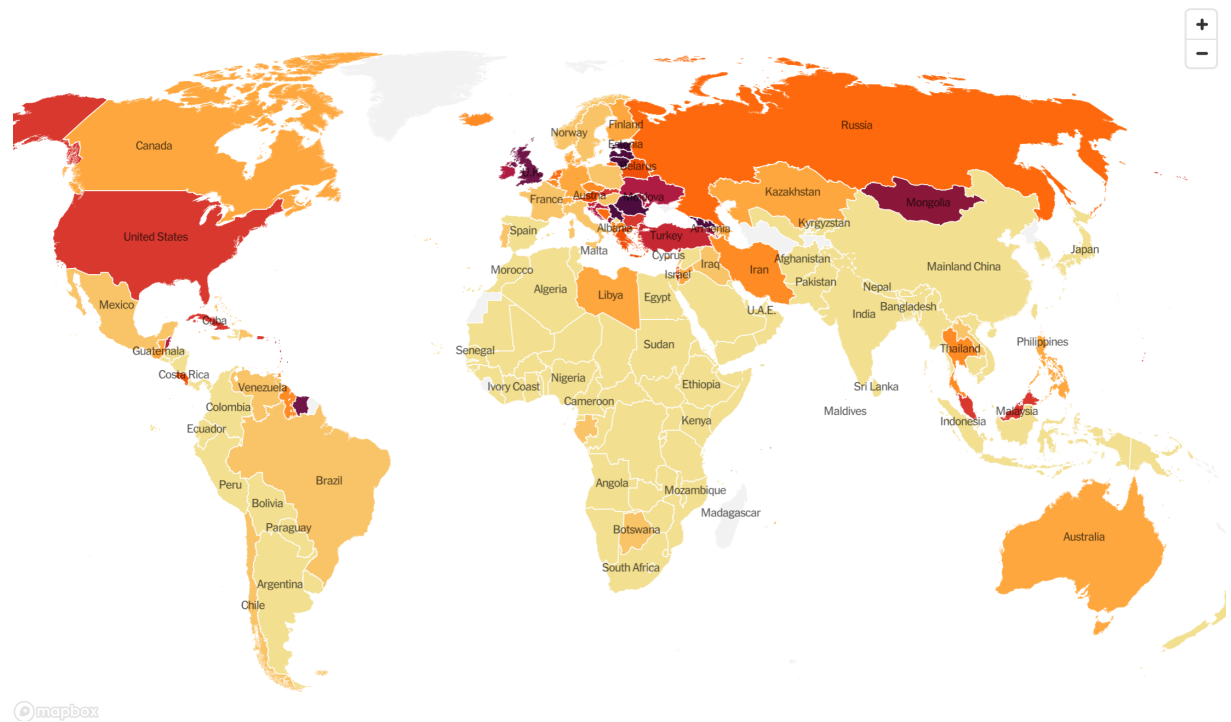
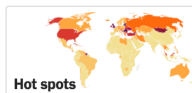


Source of World Data Below (October 14, 2021):
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-cases.html>

Hot spots

AVERAGE DAILY CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE IN PAST WEEK

4 12 20 28 40 68 FEW OR NO CASES

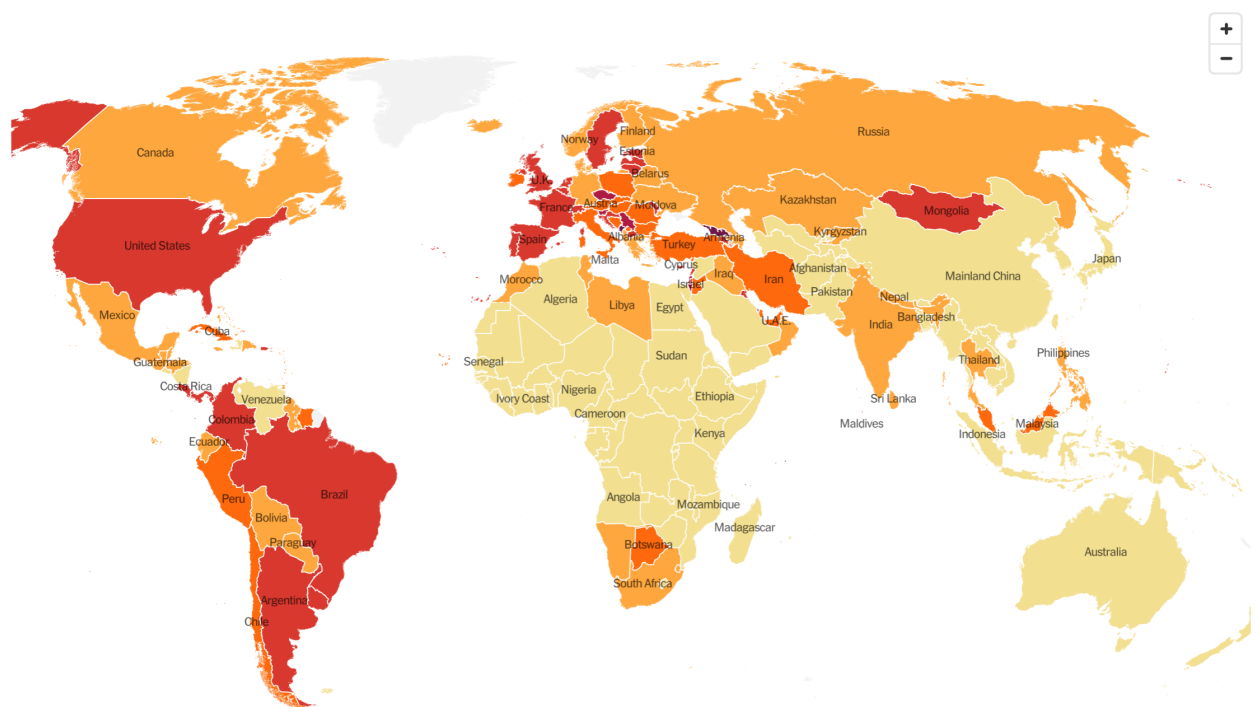
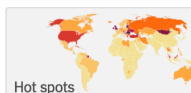


mapbox

Cases per capita

SHARE OF POPULATION WITH A REPORTED CASE

1 IN 45 1 IN 11 1 IN 6



mapbox

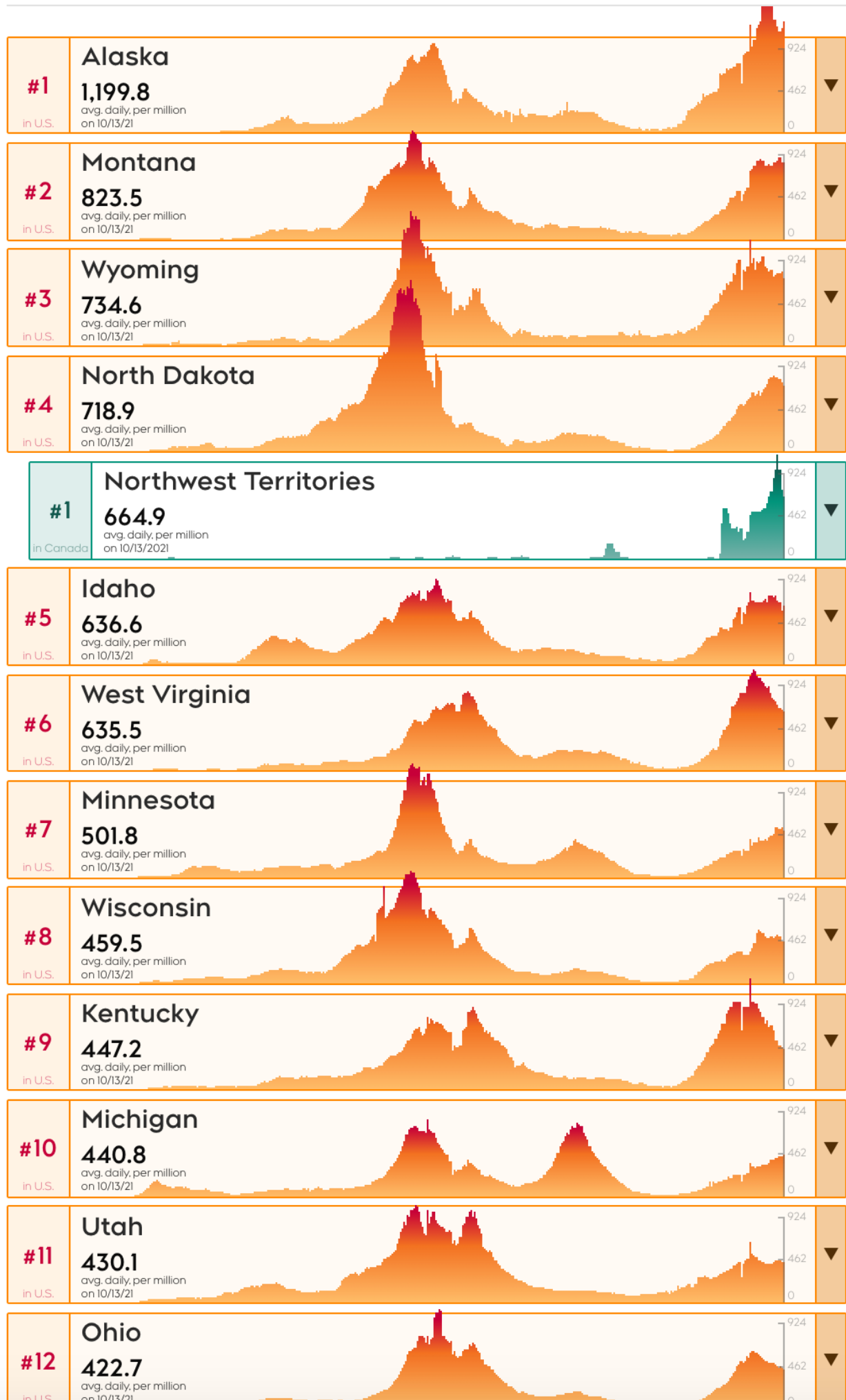


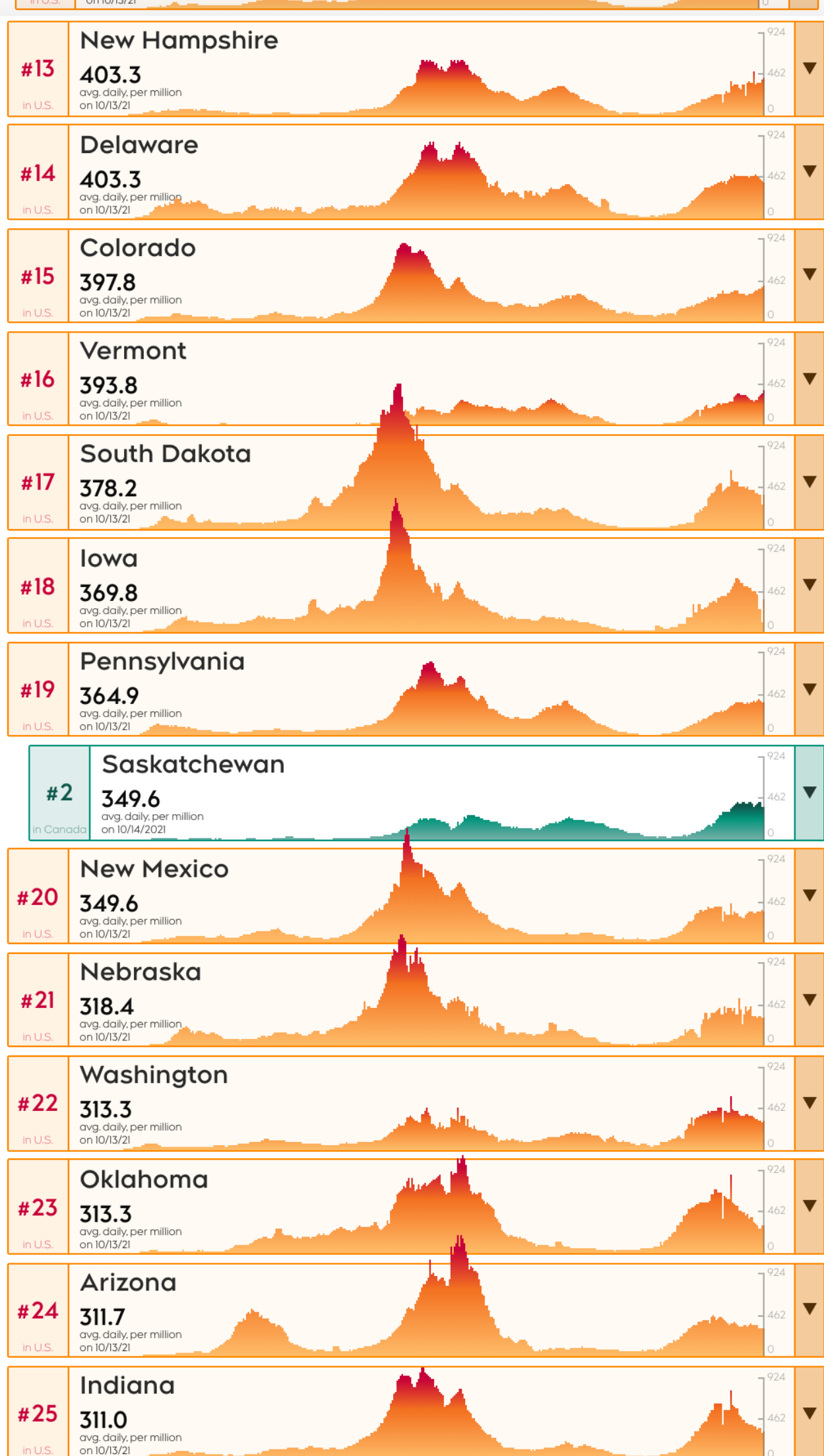
Source of Canadian and U.S. Comparative Data Below (Oct. 14, 2021):
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-in-the-u-s-how-do-canada-s-provinces-rank-against-american-states-1.5051033>

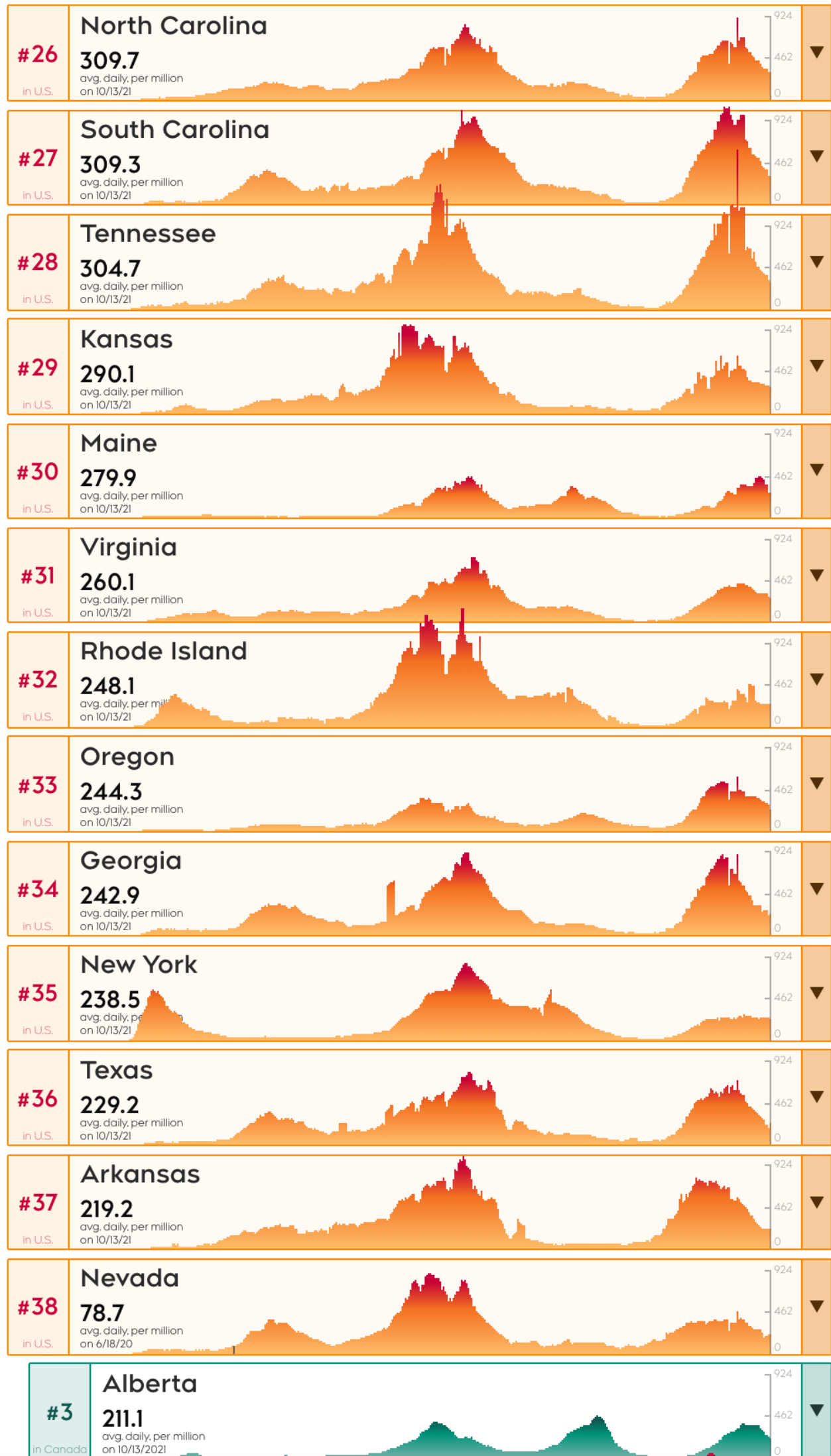
Comparing COVID-19 in states and provinces

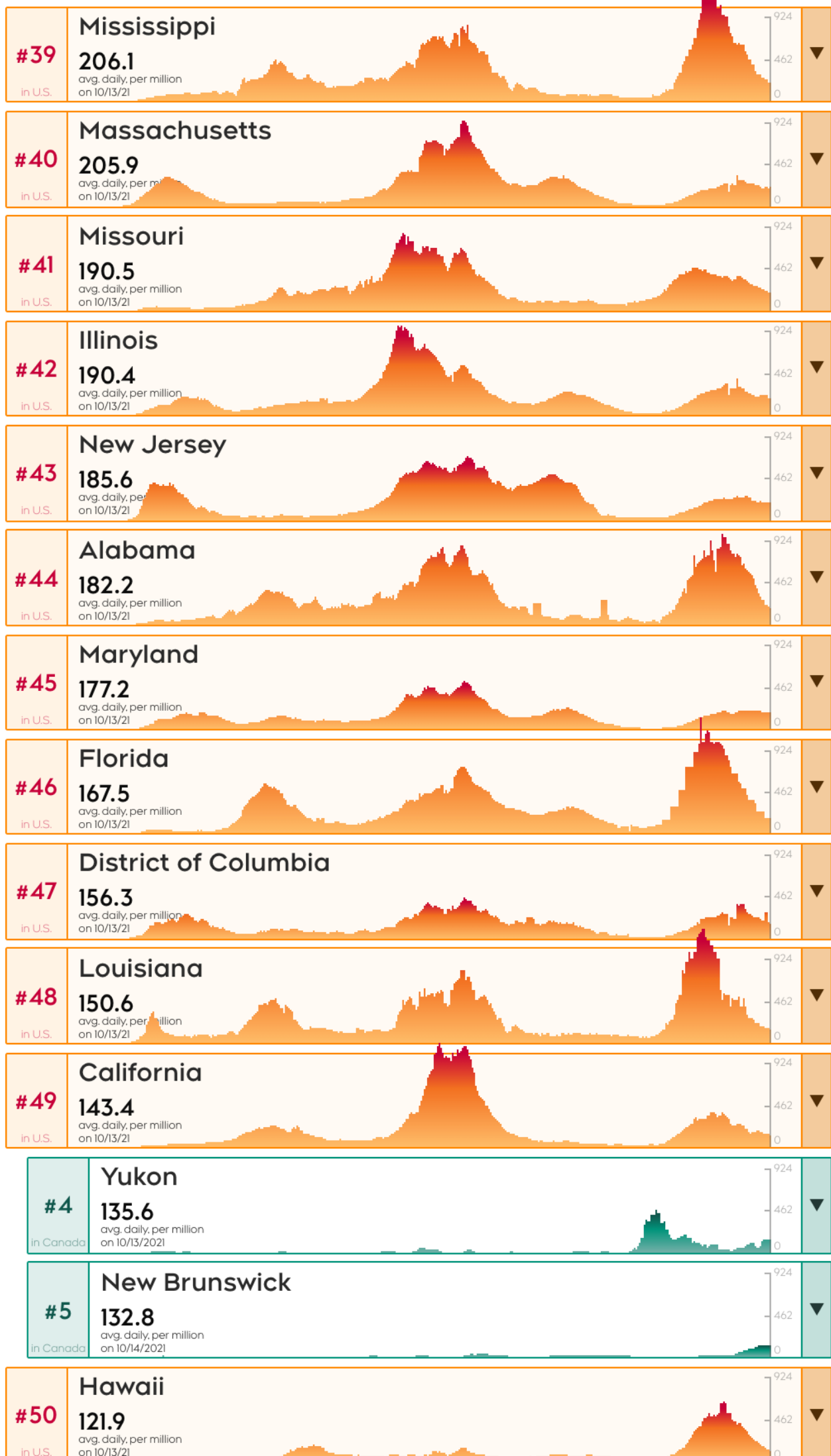
Showing 7-day avg. cases, per million

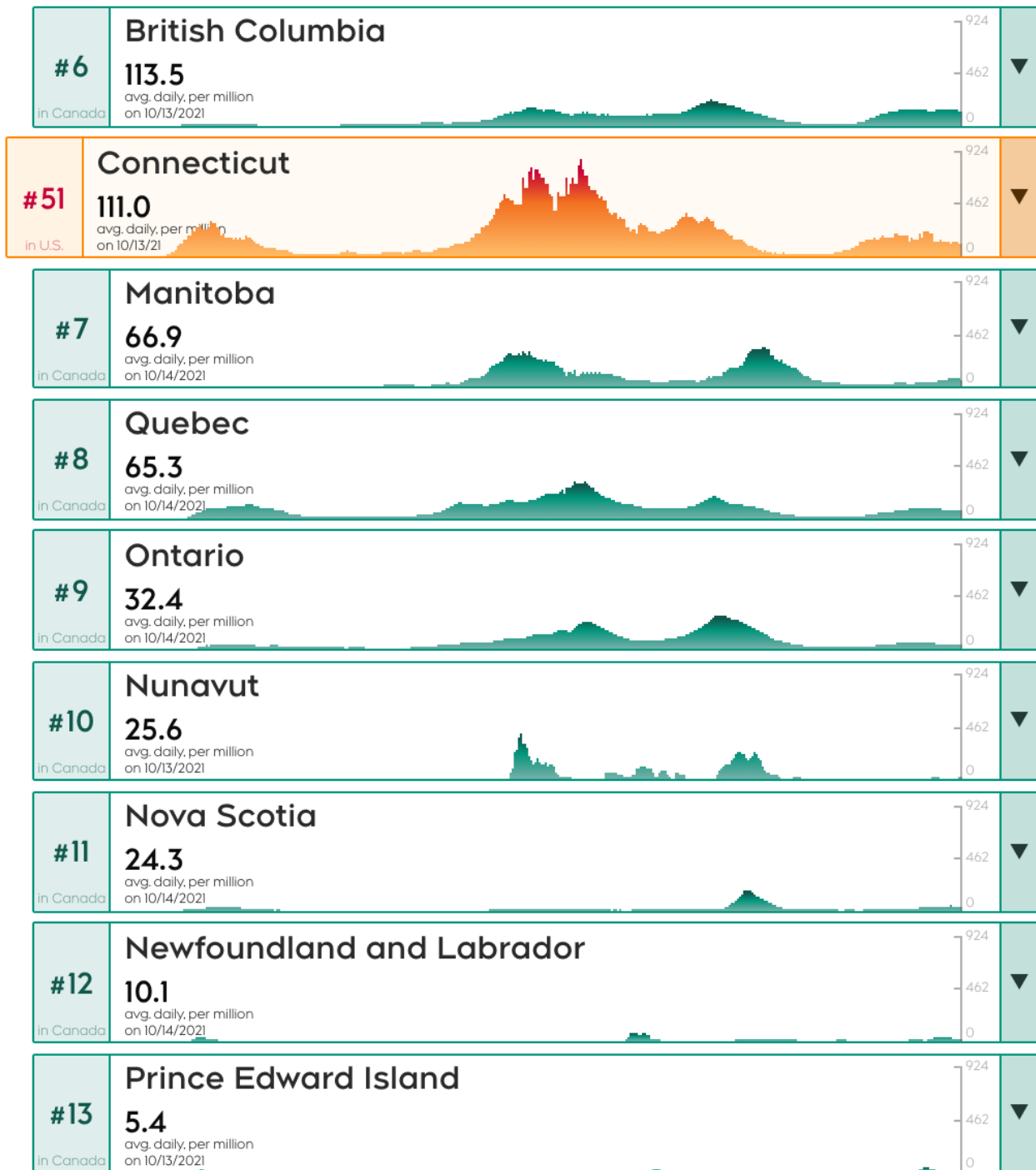
Ranked by highest current cases Scale: all same











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.



Photo Credits: David Zakus



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