



## CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS AND GLOBAL HEALTH

**Volume 7, Number 40**

<https://planetaryhealthweekly.com>

**October 7, 2021**

Hi,

Time never stands still as so evidently displayed by the start of the amazing Fall colours here in Ontario. With each passing day the colours intensify, become more brilliant before falling to the ground and becoming another stage of one of nature's cycles of sustainability. Another thing for sure, is that we know what is coming in another couple of months, or earlier! Nature continues its cycles, it's patterns of life, immortalized over millions of years. But we know that these cycles are changing, including our own passage. What are we becoming and where are we going now after almost two years of a horrible pandemic, repeated witnessing of devastating climate crisis outcomes, on-going systemic racism repeatedly raising its ugly head and growing political divisiveness. Will we get better at this or not?

What too does the majority think of the climate crisis? I think it's fair to say that most accept that it is happening and that we, collectively and individually, are the cause, with our relentless consumption of energy, minerals, wildlife and a cornucopia of consumer goods. We're as addicted to all this as with sugar. Or perhaps it's like drinking a salted beverage, the more we drink the more we want. Globally, with about 380,000+ new consumers born every day, offset by the average of 160,000 dying each day, we end up with an incredible [220,000 more persons each day on Earth](#), close to 10,000 each hour - all needing food, water, shelter, waste control, employment and desiring so much more. Our current societal default is growth, and now we have 7.7 billion people consuming so much more than the earth can sustainably provide. Consumption levels of fossil fuels, meat, clothing and even the internet are all trending upwards with serious ramifications. When will this growth paradigm crack?

We will do it before it does us in? That's the question of the decade, especially as we approach perhaps one of the most important meetings ever, the COP26 climate crisis conference in Glasgow starting at the end of this month.

We, at the **Planetary Health Weekly** will be closely monitoring this conference and I am fortunate enough to be planning to attend the last five days with media accreditation, hoping to bring you important and interesting inside stories and the big picture. Do stay with us as we start today (in PHW #40 of 2021) to bring you coverage of what we're hoping will be a positive milestone conference, one that will confront this ever increasing consumption and its resultant havoc all over the world.

Today, read on about:

- What is COP26 and why is it important?
- Glasgow climate summit at risk of failure UN chief warns, and
- Civil society fears COP26 exclusion,
- CORONAVIRUS UPDATES:
  - Denmark appears to have beaten Covid-19 for now; here's how it did it,
  - The pandemic's true death toll,
  - 'Lab-leak' and natural origin proponents face off-civilly-in forum on pandemic origins,
  - Closest known relatives of virus behind Covid-19 found in Laos,
  - Nosocomial outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant in a highly vaccinated population – Israel July 2021,
  - A Michigan doctor said 6 out of 8 patients who questioned his medical advice on Covid-19 have died,
  - Covid is killing rural Americans at twice the rate of urbanites,
  - Premier of Saskatchewan asks Prime Minister for health-care specialists to assist with province's dire Covid-19 response,
  - What patients need to know about rapid Covid testing,
  - A daily pill to treat Covid could be just months away,
  - "Unquestionably a game changer!" – antiviral pill cuts Covid-19 hospitalization risk, THEN
- "United In Science 2021: a multi-organization high-level compilation of the latest climate science information" (\*\*excellent reference),
- Africa CDC head 'honoured' by Biden's intent for PEPFAR nomination; and HIV program to get new head,
- China's carbon neutral goal: Foshan leads a silent revolution in green transport with its hydrogen trams; and China's climate cooperation smokescreen: a roadmap for seeing through the trap and countering with competition,
- WHO head Tedros apologizes as report details WHO sex abuse in DRC Ebola crisis,
- Vermont sues oil companies for allegedly falsifying climate information,



- These two young entrepreneurs are combating food waste with delicious vegan cookies,
- Vaccines showcase American extremism vs. legitimate authority,
- The Club of Rome calls on EU to adopt wellbeing economics instead of growth at all costs,
- First Nation's Gidimt'en checkpoint condemns violent arrests of land defenders in British Columbia on Canada's first "National Day of Truth and Reconciliation,"
- Quotes on the need to take a global view of the pandemic,
- Announcing 8<sup>th</sup> international conference announced on ICT for ageing well and e-health in April 2022,
- Why the story of climate change needs you on World News Day,
- Upcoming UN biodiversity convention meetings in October 2021 and April/May 2022,
- Warming trends: best-selling vegan burgers; the benefits of short buildings; tales from Mongolian trees; and better habitats for pollinators,
- What is Valley Fever and what are the symptoms as cases rise in SW USA?
- New novel: "Bewilderment" by Richard Powers; and Books are empathy machines says Richard Powers,
- Blindness etiquette, and lastly,
- ENDSHOTS of Autumn's amazing beginning in northern Ontario amid the latest world and Canadian Covid-19 stats and charts.

Please do keep reading. Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



**Tally-ho Swords Road, Ontario**

**October 2, 2021**

## What is COP26 and Why is It Important?



**Credit: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres gestures during an interview with Reuters at the United Nations Headquarters in Manhattan, New York City, U.S., September 15, 2021. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly**

### What is a COP?

The word 'COP' stands for 'Conference of the Parties'. In the climate change sphere, 'the Parties' are the governments (now 197) which have signed the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC). The COP brings these signatory governments together once a year to discuss how to jointly address climate change.

The conferences are attended by world leaders, ministers and negotiators but also by representatives from civil society, business, international organizations and the media.

The COP is hosted by a different country each year and the first such meeting – 'COP1' – took place in Berlin, Germany in 1995. Read more at [Chatham House](#)

### SEE ALSO:

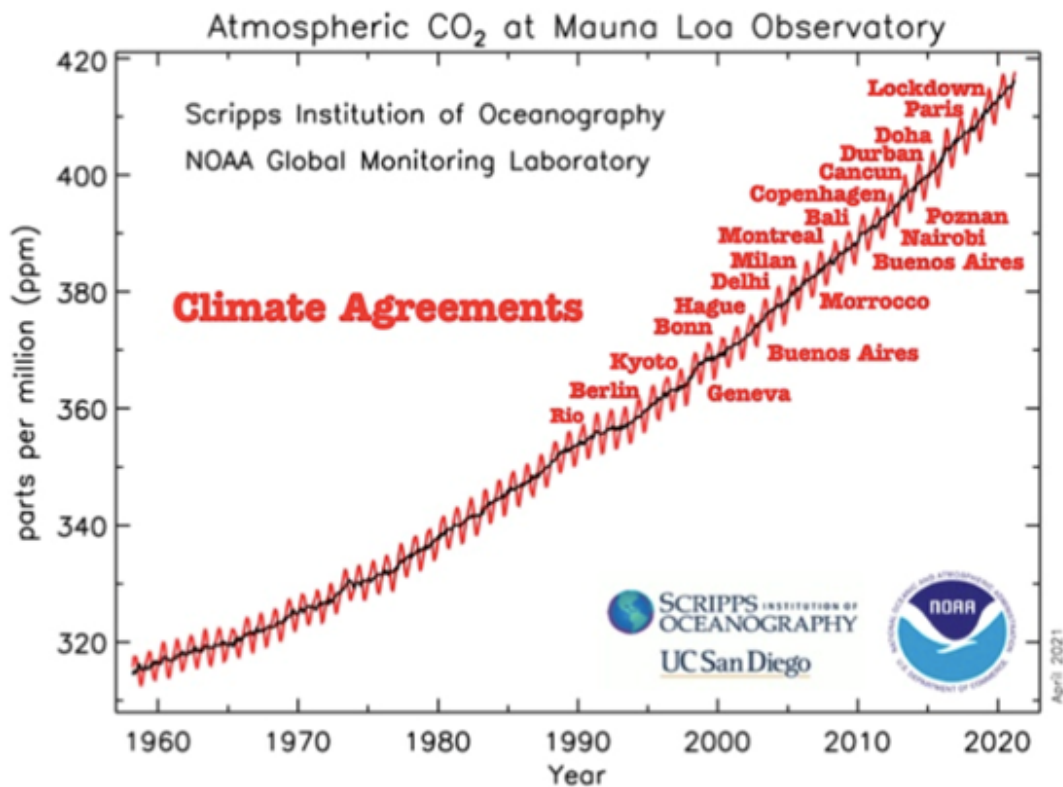
**At Reuters: [Glasgow climate summit at risk of failure, U.N. chief warns](#)**

The U.N. COP26 conference in Glasgow aims to wring much more ambitious climate action and the money to go with it from participants around the globe. Scientists said last month that global warming is dangerously close to spiralling out of control.

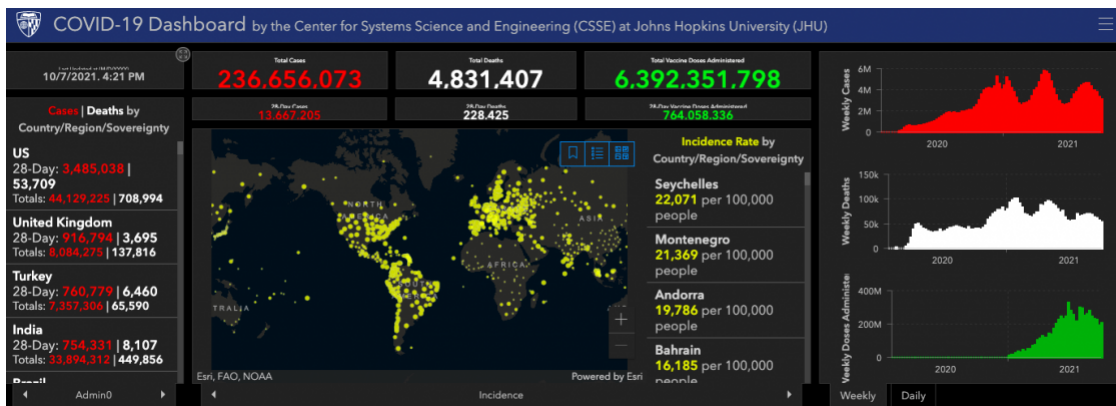
"I believe that we are at risk of not having a success in COP26," UN chief Guterres told Reuters in an interview at U.N. headquarters in mid September. "There is still a level of mistrust, between north and south, developed and developing countries, that needs to be overcome."

"We are on the verge of the abyss and when you are on the verge of the abyss, you need to be very careful about what the next step is. And the next step is COP26 in Glasgow," he said.

**And at Devex:** [Civil society fears COP 26 Exclusion](#)



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



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

**Globally, the situation continues dire in many countries.**

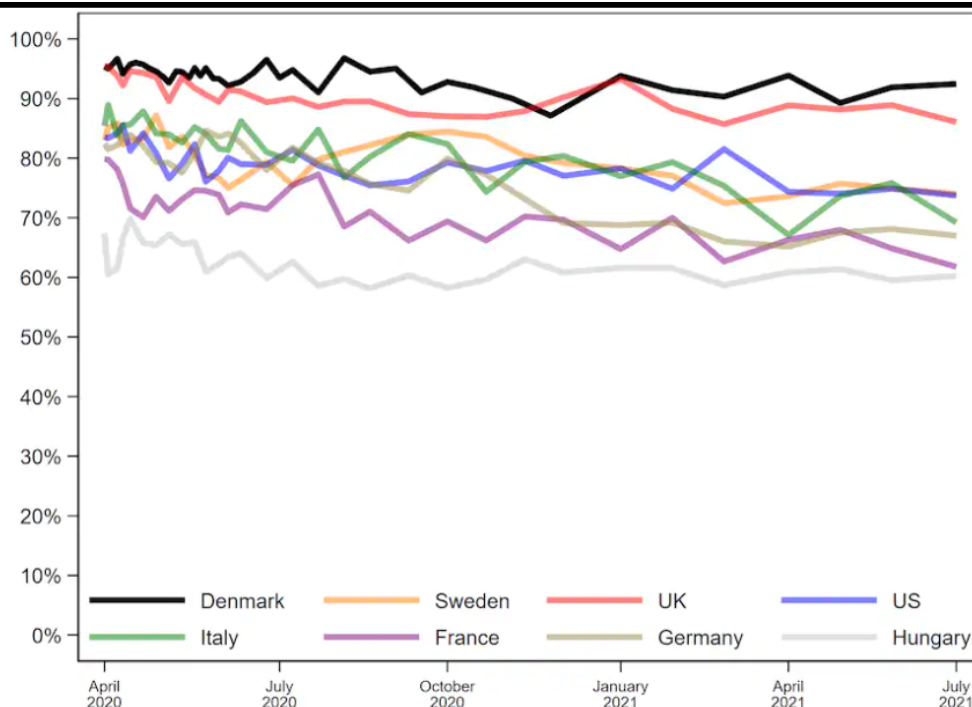
**Over the last week there was little change in Covid-19 cases and deaths, with about 3 million new cases and 53,000 deaths. About 170 million people received a vaccine, or an average of almost 24 million doses per day, while down about 20% from last week, still quite impressive. At this rate the world will need another 6 months to achieve 75% coverage.**

**(See ENDSHOTS at the end of this newsletter for various COVID-19 charts and stats from Canada and around the world.)**

**"It is the plague in seemingly all sincerity." Bob Woodward**

## Denmark Appears to Have Beaten Covid-19 - For Now. Here's How It Did It





**How much do citizens trust their national health authorities regarding the coronavirus crisis? The figure tracks the proportion of respondents who answered “To a certain degree” or “To a high degree.” Credit: HOPE project**

On Sept. 10, [Danish authorities](#) lifted all pandemic restrictions and pronounced that Covid-19 is no longer a “critical threat” in the country. Vaccination rates are high — 86% of all eligible citizens 12 and older have received at least one shot, and 95% of people 50 and older are fully vaccinated.

Denmark’s death toll during the pandemic was only 450 people per million citizens, compared to 1,982 per million in the United States. How did Denmark, and its 5.8 million people, beat the Covid-19 pandemic? **Read more at [Washington Post](#).**

## READ MORE COVID-19 STORIES:

Read more at: [The pandemic’s true death toll](#)

At Science: [‘Lab-leak’ and natural origin proponents face off—civilly—in forum on pandemic origins](#)

At Science: [Closest known relatives of virus behind COVID-19 found in Laos](#)

At Yahoo: [A Michigan doctor said 6 out of 8 patients who questioned his medical advice on COVID-19 have died](#)

At pbs: [COVID is killing rural Americans at twice the rate of urbanites](#)

At CBC : [Premier Moe asks Trudeau for health-care specialists to assist with province’s COVID-19 response](#)

At Chatelaine: [What parents need to know about rapid COVID testing](#)

At NBC: [A daily pill to treat Covid could be just months away, scientists say](#)

**At Science: 'Unquestionably a game changer!' Antiviral pill cuts COVID-19 hospitalization risk**

---

## "United In Science 2021: A Multi-organization High-level Compilation of the Latest Climate Science Information"



Credit: Article

This report has been compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on behalf of the United Nations Secretary General to bring together the latest climate science related updates from a group of key global partner organizations: WMO, Global Carbon Project (GCP), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), the Met Office (United Kingdom, UK) and the jointly sponsored WMO/ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO/International Science Council (ISC) and World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). The content of

each chapter is attributable to each respective entity. **Read more of this excellent report at [WMO](#)**

**SEE ALSO:**

**At Research Gate: [Scoping Future Outbreaks: a Scoping Review on the Outbreak Prediction of the WHO Blueprint List of Priority Diseases](#)**

---

## Africa CDC Head 'Honored' by Biden's Intent for PEPFAR Nomination



*Dr. John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Credit: Denis Balibouse/Reuters*

United States President Joe Biden [made official](#) his intent to nominate Dr. John Nkengasong, the head of the [Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to lead the [U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#). This follows news reports last week that the [nomination was expected](#). **Read more at [Devex](#).**

President Joe Biden said last week he plans to nominate virologist John Nkengasong to direct the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief—which will make him the first PEPFAR leader of African origin in its 18-year history. Born in Cameroon, Nkengasong is currently the inaugural head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Through the PEPFAR program, the U.S. government has spent more than \$85 billion on programs that have helped more than 50 countries with their HIV/AIDS responses, providing antiretroviral treatment to more than 18 million people. The International AIDS Society said it “applauds the appointment of a leader from the world’s most heavily HIV-affected region where many PEPFAR programs are implemented.”



---

## China's Carbon Neutral Goal: Foshan Leads a Silent Revolution in Green Transport with its Hydrogen Trams



Credit: Xue Yujie

Running on the western bank of the Xi River in Foshan city in southern China's [Greater Bay Area](#), a revolution in transport is quietly under way, one that the Chinese government hopes will slash kerbside pollution and pave the way for public transport to become truly emissions-free.

A tram running 6.6 kilometres from Cangjiang Road to Zhihu in the Gaoming district has been running since late 2019, powered by "blue" hydrogen. The project's first phase links 10 stations in a north-south direction, with the capacity for 1,350 passengers in five tram cars during rush hour. [Read more at SCMP.](#)

**See also:** [China's Climate Cooperation Smokescreen: A Roadmap for Seeing Through the Trap and Countering with Competition](#)

---



# Tedros Apologizes as Report Details WHO Sex Abuse in DRC Ebola Crisis



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of WHO, at a news conference in Lyon, France. Credit: Denis Balibouse/Reuters

[World Health Organization](#) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he takes “ultimate responsibility” for the behaviour of many aid workers employed by WHO who were accused of sexual exploitation and abuse while responding to the 10th Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which took place from 2018 to 2020. **Read more at [the Devox](#).**

---

## GOOD NEWS

## Vermont Sues Oil Companies for Allegedly Falsifying Climate Information



Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan, left, speaks in front of the Chittenden County Courthouse, in Burlington, Vt., on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/Wilson Ring

Vermont on Tuesday became the latest state to sue some of the country's top fossil fuel companies by alleging they misled the public about the impact their products have on [climate change](#). The state wants the companies to tell consumers that the use of [fossil fuel](#) products harms the environment, Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan said after the lawsuit was filed in Vermont Superior Court in Burlington. **Read the rest at [National Observer](#)**

---

## MORE GOOD NEWS

# These Two Young Entrepreneurs Are Combatting Food Waste With Delicious Vegan Cookies



Credit: ILLUSTRATION BY CARRA SYKES FOR THE GOODNEWSPAPER

If food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, behind the United States and China, the United Nations says. According to World Vision, the world's food waste could feed 2 billion people. Around the world, we see a growing awareness of the enormity of our food waste problem. It's now illegal for supermarkets in France to throw away edible food. South Korea, a country that used to recycle only 2% of its food waste, now recycles 95%.

A San Diego-based company is finding a way to take food waste and turn it into something new. Reyanne Mustafa and Kristian Krugman were working as servers when they noticed how much food restaurants throw away at the end of the day. Mustafa, whose background is in nutrition and sustainability, and Krugman, with a background in environmental science and psychology, knew they could do something to prevent throwing away so much edible food.

They started [SoulMuch](#), a company that makes cookies with untouched surplus ingredients from other local businesses. Read more at [good good good](#)

---

## OPINION

# Vaccines Showcase American Extremism vs. Legitimate Authority



Credit: Newsweek

The cure to extremism in America is for institutions to reassert their authority. Crazy ideas wither when people in charge stand up and reject them.

The University of Chicago has been largely spared "cancel culture" because it made clear it would sanction any students or others who tried to block conflicting viewpoints. Extremists similarly pause when they must bear the consequences of their anti-social acts.

Employers who mandate unpaid leave for the unvaccinated, such as United Airlines, have found that most employees prefer to keep their paychecks. President Joe Biden's vaccination mandate for employers with over 100 workers is controversial, but the mandates in other countries have been effective.

But any assertion of institutional authority is thought to be the enemy of freedom—an almost automatic violation of individual rights. Authority in America has been broadly replaced by a procedural framework. People with responsibility—including university presidents, principals, public officials and business managers—believe they can't enforce any values unless explicitly set forth in a rule, or can be proved by objective evidence. Who are they to judge? [Read more of this opinion piece at Newsweek.](#)

---

## SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY



# The Club of Rome Calls on EU to Adopt Wellbeing Economics Instead of Growth at All Costs



Credit: Club of Rome

The global pandemic that has been ravaging the world for the past two years has brought about unprecedented change, but also presents valuable opportunities for building back a more resilient and sustainable world. The Club of Rome calls on the European Commission to take the lead in designing new policies that go beyond a rigid focus on GDP growth, towards a focus on the wellbeing of people and the planet. **Read more at [Club of Rome](#).**

---

## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

### **GIDIMT'EN CHECKPOINT CONDEMNS VIOLENT ARRESTS OF LAND DEFENDERS ON THE FIRST "NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION"**



Credit: Facebook

MOST RECENT POST: In British Columbia, under 'Anuc niwh'it'en (Wet'suwet'en law) all Hereditary Chiefs of the five clans of the Wet'suwet'en have unanimously opposed all pipeline proposals and have not provided free, prior and informed consent to Coastal Gaslink to drill on Wet'suwet'en lands.

Over the past week, as Wet'suwet'en members of Cas Yikh and their supporters maintain control of a Coastal GasLink drill site that threatens their unceded territories, the RCMP has utilized excessive use of force and torturous pain compliance on land defenders, all on Canada's first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Gidimt'en chiefs and supporters have been defending a number of culturally significant archeological sites and the sacred headwaters of the Wedzin Kwa from destruction on unceded Cas Yikh (Grizzly House) territory belonging to the Gidimt'en clan of the Wet'suwet'en people. **Read more at [Facebook](#)**

---

## Quote Of The Week



Credit: JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

The WHO was scathing in its critique of producing third shots for some when so few people have had one. **“We will look back in anger, and we will look back in shame if we don’t now move to use the increasing production capacity that is coming online,”** said Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, **“to protect the most vulnerable, protect the frontline health workers around the world.”**

Instead of planning for widespread third doses, **said Dr. Alok Patel, a pediatric physician at Stanford Children’s Health,** the U.S. should send any excess doses to countries that desperately need them. **“The wealthiest nations in the world have an overabundance of vaccine supply, and there’s evidence that the United States has millions, if not hundreds of millions, of vaccines on top of what’s needed for all their citizens,”** he said. In addition to tragically unnecessary hospitalizations and deaths that come from not being vaccinated, he said, having huge swaths of unvaccinated people will also give rise to new variants. **“There is no way to beat this pandemic by purely looking on a domestic level. We need to do it on a global level. We’re doing ourselves a disservice by not actually paying attention to global vaccine equity.”**

Health experts are still focused on getting first and second doses to those who need them. **“The most important thing for everyone else to do, who hasn’t been vaccinated, is to go out and get vaccinated. We know it provides long-lasting protection against any variant that’s out there right now,”** says Patel.

Read more at New Republic

---

## Upcoming Events

---

- October 6-8, 2021: [Public Health 2021: Annual conference of the Canadian Public Health Association](#)
- 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

---

## FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

# Why the Story of Climate Change



# Needs You on World News Day



Low water level at Hong Kong's Tai Tam Upper Reservoir amid an unprecedented heat wave on 29 May 2018, exposing the yellow earth of the reservoir bed. Credit: Winson Wong

SEPTEMBER 28 MARKED the fourth [annual World News Day](#), a global campaign to support journalists and highlight the value of fact-based journalism in making the world a better place. This year, World News Day focuses on journalism's critical role in providing trustworthy information about an urgent issue that will define our lifetime – [climate change](#).

[Read more SCMP](#)

---

**FYI #2**

# Upcoming UN Biodiversity Convention Meetings -- 10October 11-15, 2021 (Part 1) and APRIL 25 - MAY 8, 2022 (Part 2)



Credit: Food Systems 4 People

The lead up to the UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China, provides the global community with further opportunities to galvanize efforts at all levels to build a better future in harmony with nature.

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has considered and approved revised dates for the following meetings:

- [Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

- Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#)
- Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the [Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization](#)

These meetings will now be held from 11 to 15 October 2021 (part 1, online only) and 25 April to 8 May 2022 (part 2, hybrid meeting), in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The dates were proposed based on consultations held through the Bureau members with their respective regions as well as consultations between the CBD Secretariat and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

The Secretariat remains committed to ensuring the successful and timely preparation of COP-15 and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. Ongoing discussions about the [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#), to be agreed in Kunming, are taking place between CBD Parties and a range of stakeholders. These discussions have revolved around two key documents, which highlight the opportunities needed to conserve biodiversity:

- the recently published [fifth Global Biodiversity Outlook](#), and
- the [updated zero draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#).

An integrated approach must be taken to guarantee that action is taken to employ the essential tools needed to reverse biodiversity loss and its impact on ecosystems, species and people. Key actions to support this approach include protecting critical habitats, improving water quality, controlling invasive species and safeguarding connectivity.

Read more at CBD

---

### FYI #3

## Warming Trends: Best-Smelling Vegan Burgers, the Benefits of



# Short Buildings and Better Habitats for Pollinators



A couple look at Paris skyline from the Montmartre area in Paris, on March 15, 2020. Credit: Stefano Rellandini/AFP via Getty Images

## Hmmm. Smells Like Burgers

Which brand of plant-based meat alternative best imitates the fatty aroma of cooked beef? A new study tested it out.

The research, conducted by scientists at Eastern Kentucky University and presented this week at an American Chemical Society meeting, found that the aroma from cooking a Beyond Burger was closest to the aroma of a beef hamburger, compared to other plant-based burger brands, including Impossible Foods' Impossible Burger and Morningstar Farms' Incogmeato burger. Both companies did not respond to requests for comment by the time of publication.

## Reconsidering the Climate-Friendly City Building

It has long been thought that cities with tall buildings that are densely packed are the most efficient and best for the environment. But a new study that looked at density and height separately found that dense cities packed with *low-rise* buildings are actually the most efficient and climate-friendly.

## Tales From Mongolian Trees

An analysis of tree rings in living and dead Siberian larch trees in Mongolia has allowed scientists to create a 750-year record of summer temperatures in the remote region, which is rapidly warming. Researchers at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory used a relatively new method of tree ring analysis called delta blue intensity, which uses blue light reflectivity to measure the density of tree rings and determine what the temperature was when they formed.

Summer temperatures in Mongolia are increasing at a rate three times higher than the global average and the region is experiencing longer and more intense droughts, affecting the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers there.

Davi compared what is happening in Mongolia to the southwestern United States, where a [decades-long drought](#) has led to low water levels in reservoirs like Lake Mead. "There are similar climate impacts happening in Central Asia. We just aren't hearing about them as much," Davi said.

## Building Back Better—For Pollinators

A new computer program puts the intricate knowledge that scientists have developed about bee needs and behavior into the hands of farmers and land managers, who can use that information to make smarter decisions for their local pollinator populations.

[Bee-Steward](#), a user-friendly software tool developed by researchers at the University of Exeter, allows landowners to see a map of their own farms, detailed down to every flower and tree. With this tool, landowners can test and see ways they can improve their pollinator habitat.

Read More At Inside Climate News

---

---

### FYI #4

## What Is Valley Fever and What Are the Symptoms as Cases Rise in Southwest U.S.





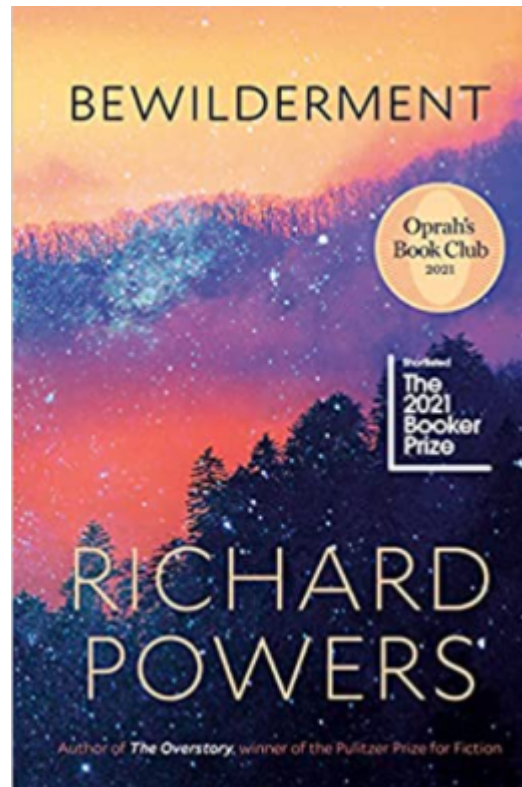
Valley fever is caused by the fungus *Coccidioides*, and usually refers to a medical condition in which the fungus enters the lungs. This fungus lives in dust and soil and has been found in southwestern and western U.S. states such as Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah as well as in Mexico and South America.

[Read more at Newsweek](#)

---

## FYI #5: END OF SEPTEMBER READING NEW BOOK

### "Bewilderment" by Richard Powers



Credit: Book Cover

**A heartrending new novel from the Pulitzer Prize-winning and #1 *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author of *The Overstory*.**

The astrobiologist Theo Byrne searches for life throughout the cosmos while singlehandedly raising his unusual nine-year-old son, Robin, following the death of his wife. Robin is funny, loving, and filled with plans. He thinks and feels deeply, and can spend hours painting elaborate pictures of the endangered animals he loves. He is also about to be expelled from third grade for smashing his friend in the face.

What can a father do, when the only solution offered to his troubled son is to put him on psychoactive drugs? What can he say when his boy comes to him wanting an explanation for a world that is clearly in love with its own destruction?

With its soaring descriptions of the natural world, its tantalizing visions of life beyond and its account of a father and son's ferocious love, *Bewilderment* marks Richard

Powers's most intimate and moving novel. At its heart lies the question: How can we tell our children the truth about this beautiful, imperilled planet?

[See More at Amazon](#)

---

## 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

---

**AUTUMN'S AMAZING BEGINNING**  
**WHITEFISH LAKE, ONTARIO**  
**OCTOBER 6, 2021**



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



## COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Last updated: October 07, 2021, 20:50 GMT

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

Coronavirus Cases:

**237,414,783**

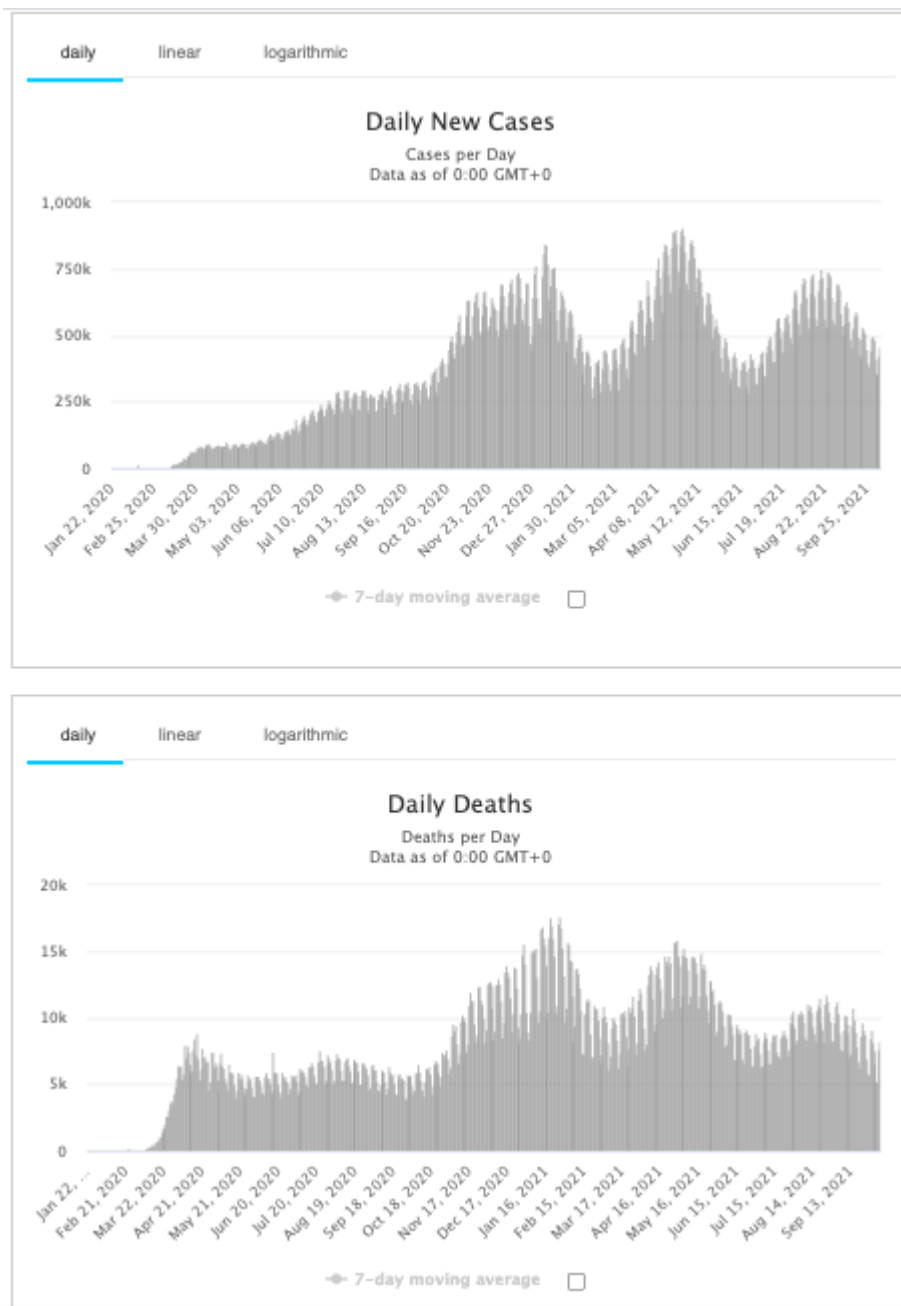
[view by country](#)

Deaths:

**4,845,955**

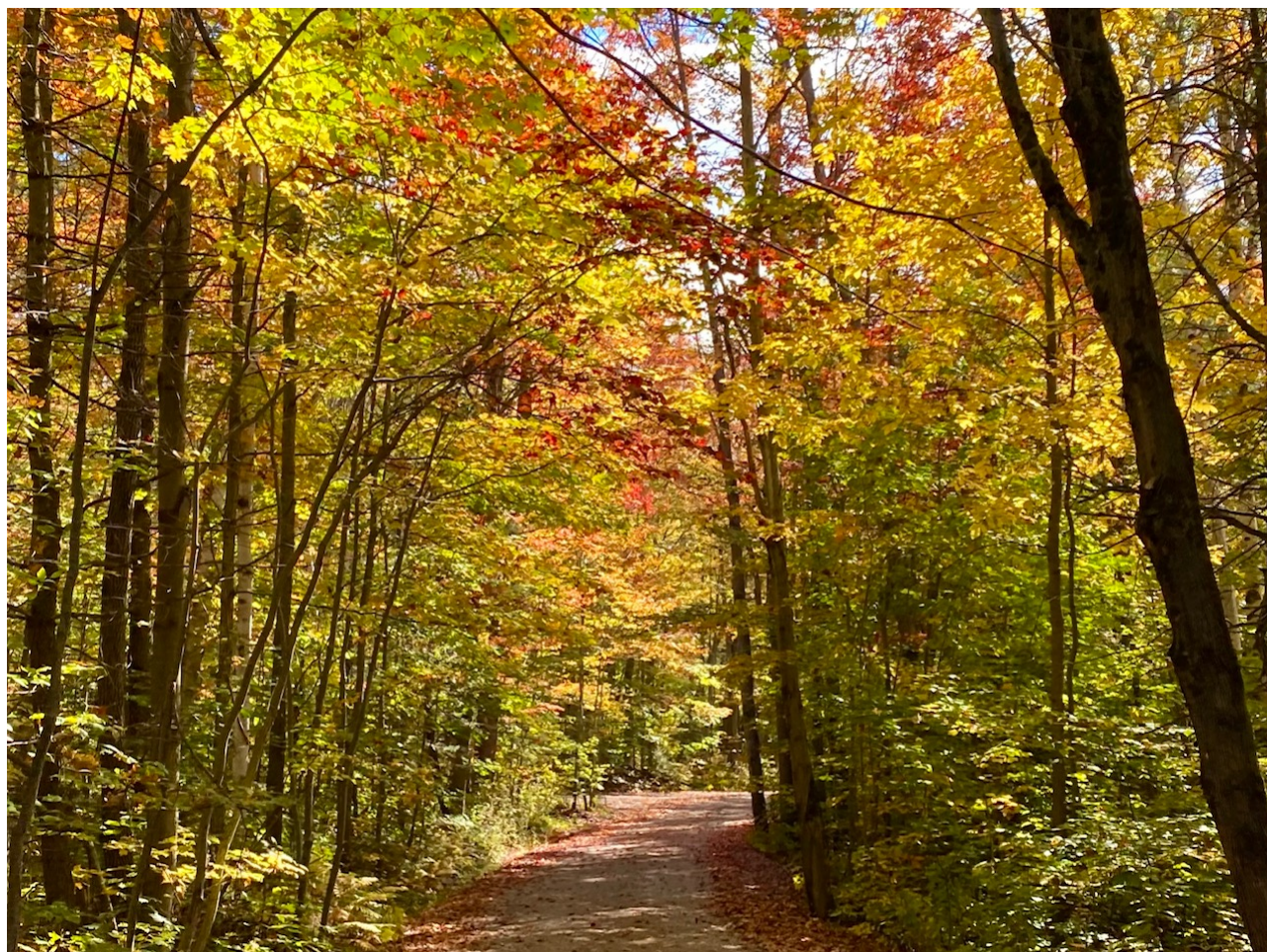
Recovered:

**214,521,357**



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





**COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS & VACCINATIONS (October 7, 2021) below:**  
**Source:**[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf\\_coronavirus](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/mapping-spread-new-coronavirus/?itid=sf_coronavirus)

**More than**  
**4,831,000**  
**people have died from**  
**the coronavirus worldwide**

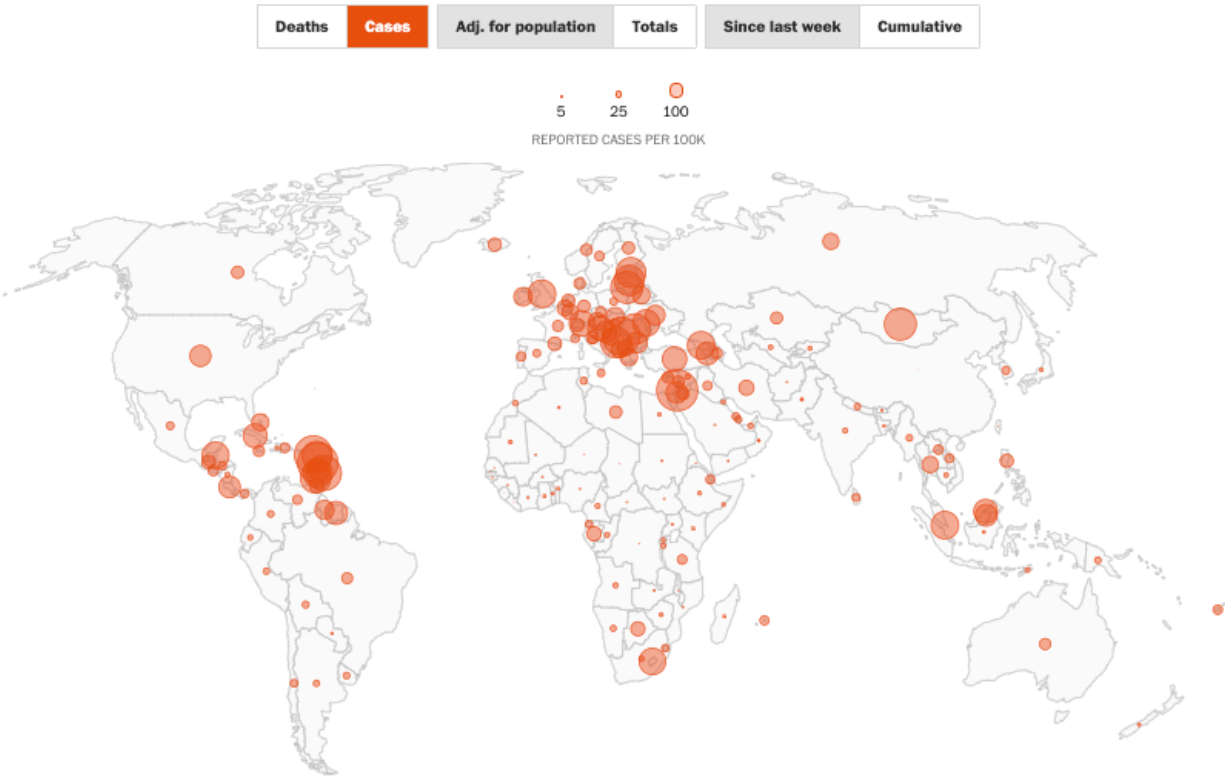
More than **237 million** cases have been reported.







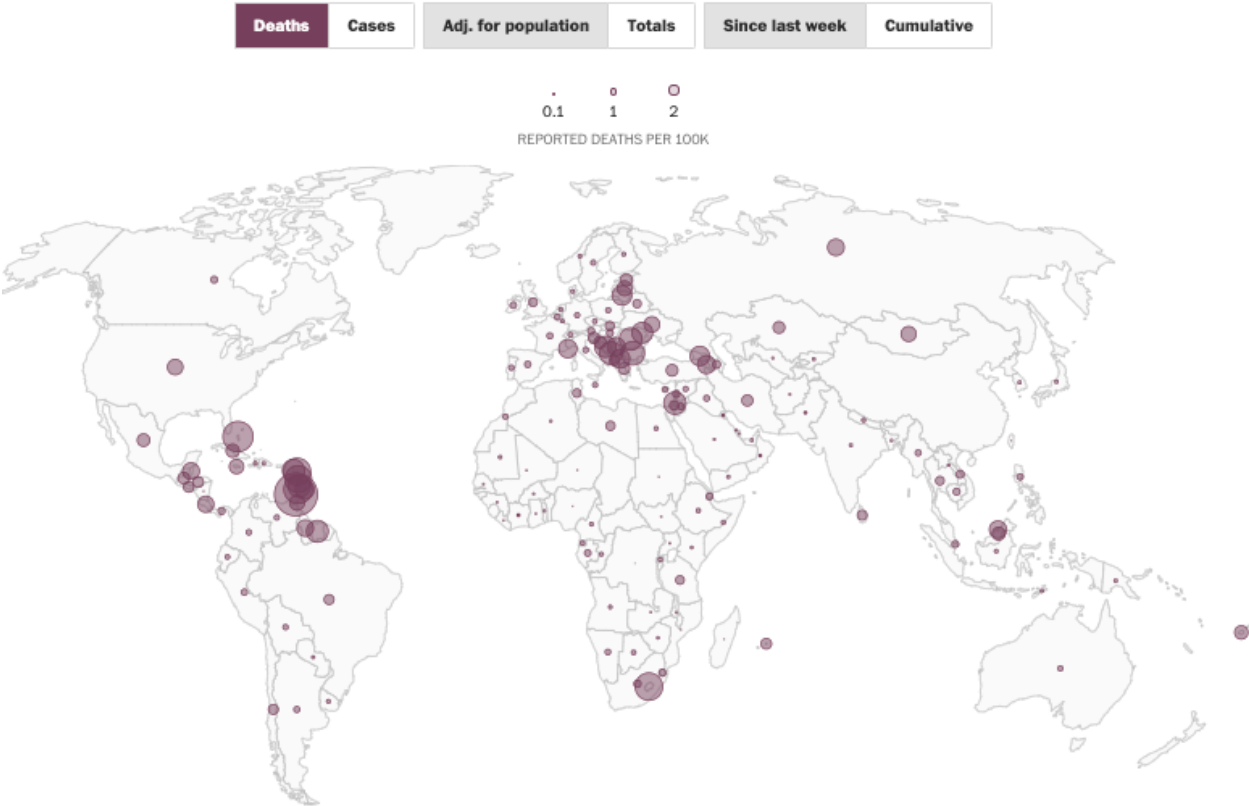
Where the virus is surging



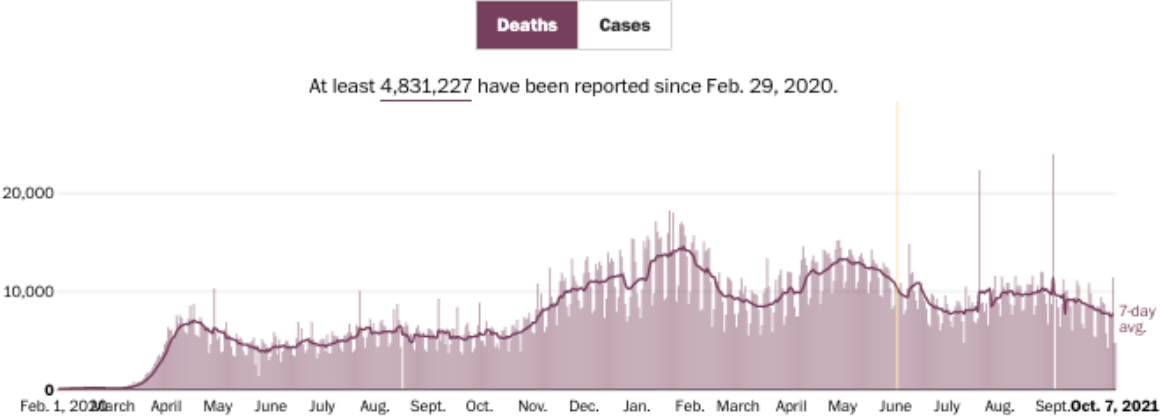
New daily reported cases across the world

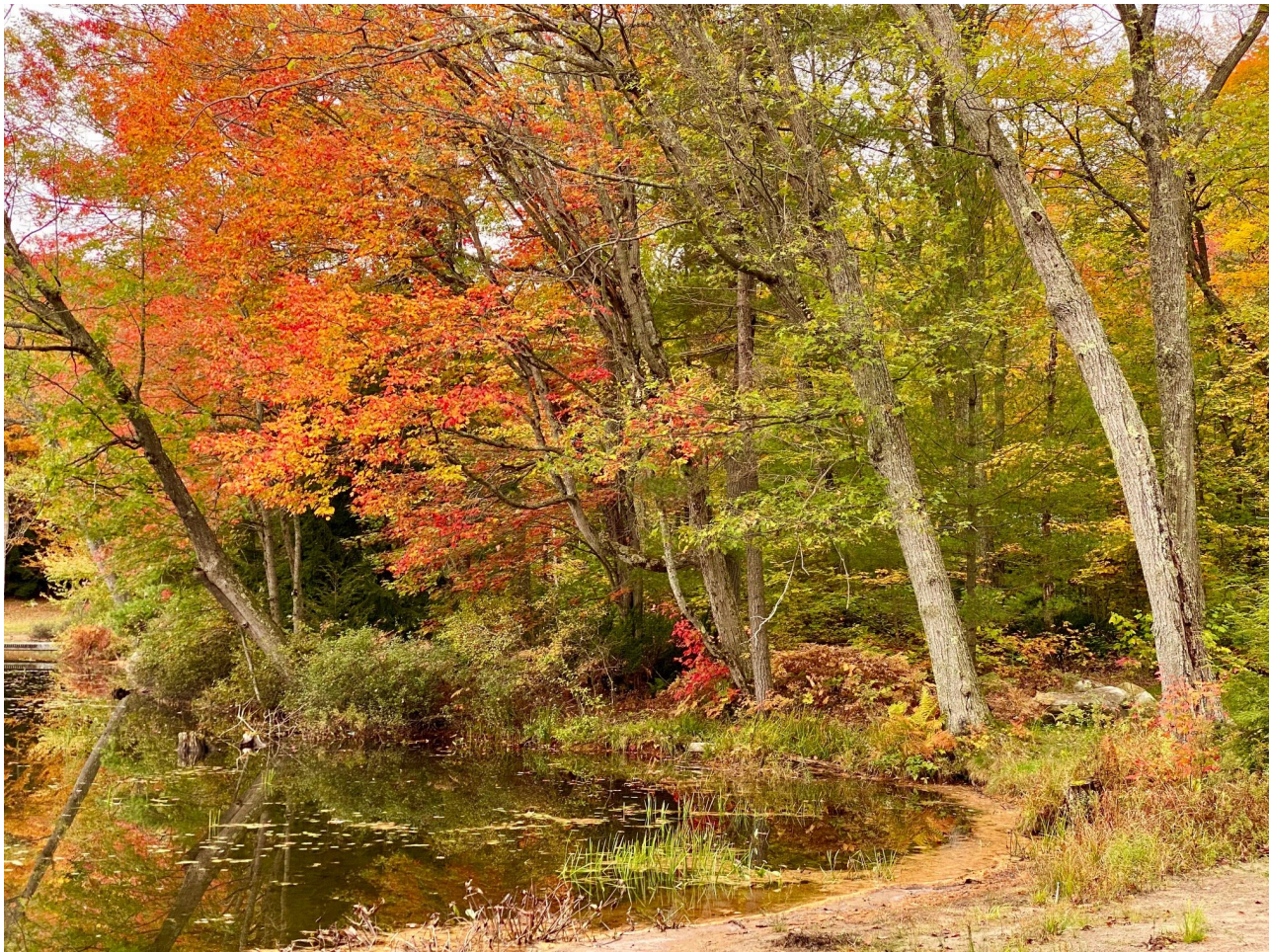


Where the virus is surging



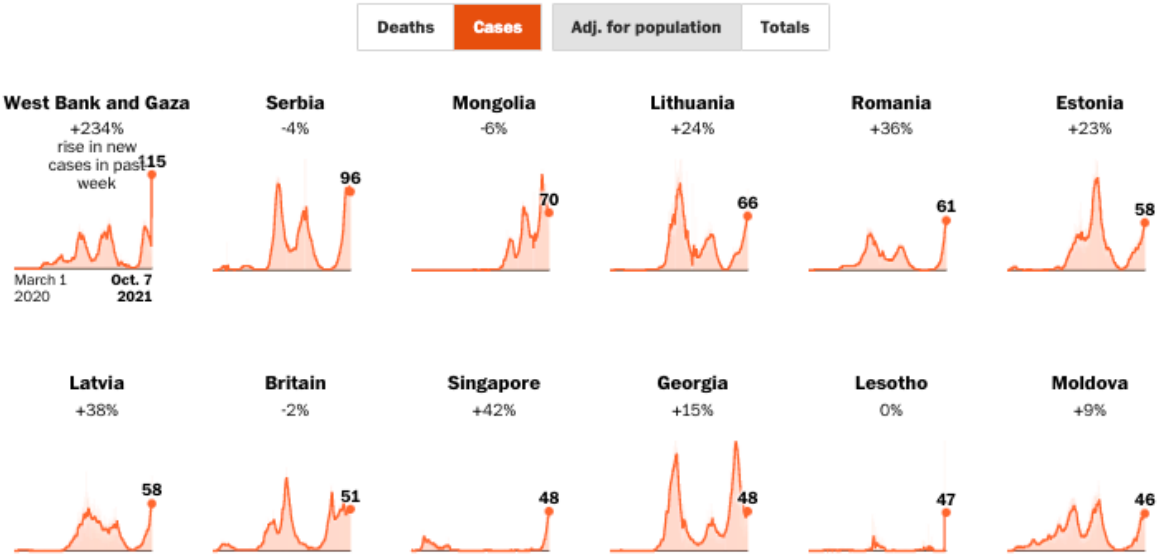
New daily deaths reported across the world





Global hot spots for reported cases per capita

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

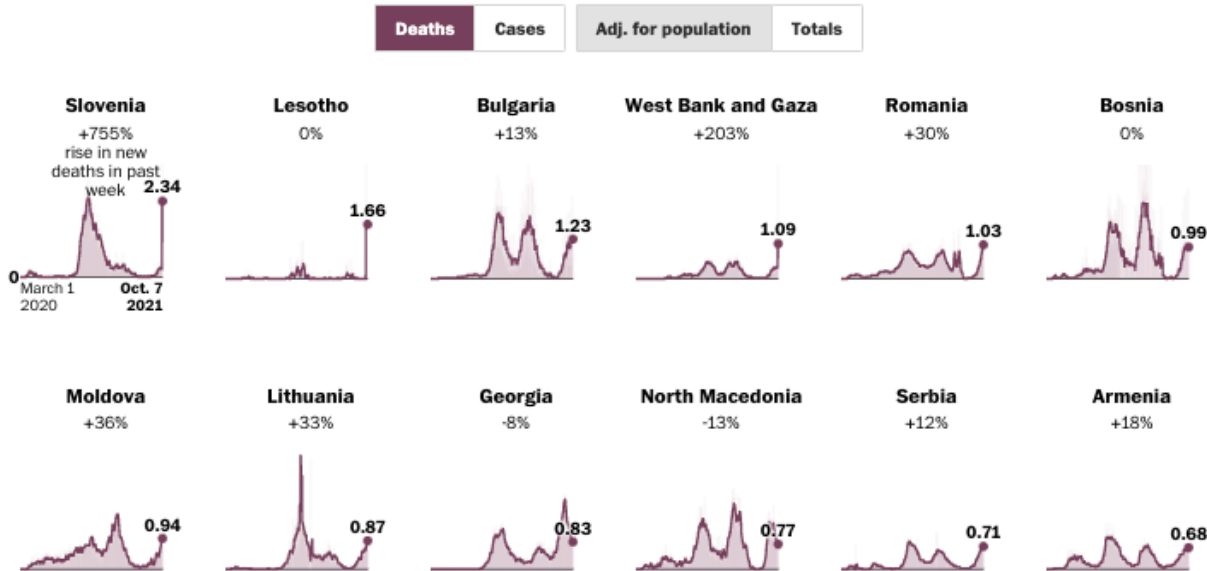


Note: Only countries with a population of more than 1 million are shown.



Global hot spots for reported deaths per capita

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



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



## Global Vaccination Rates



Country	Total doses given per 100k	Pct. of pop. partially vaccinated	Pct. of pop. completed vaccination
UAE	207,977	96.1%	85.6%
Cuba	191,303	84.0%	46.9%
Malta	185,395	95.2%	95.2%
Uruguay	183,442	79.1%	74.8%
Chile	172,558	82.5%	74.8%
Israel	171,064	68.1%	62.6%
Qatar	167,512	—	—
Singapore	163,076	80.4%	78.5%
China	158,572	—	—
Portugal	156,216	87.2%	85.0%
Bahrain	154,605	68.6%	66.2%
Iceland	153,497	78.0%	76.5%
Denmark	151,111	76.6%	75.3%
Canada	150,918	78.4%	72.5%
Seychelles	150,907	78.6%	72.3%
Spain	149,940	80.2%	78.2%
Cambodia	148,286	81.6%	67.5%
Norway	146,684	78.0%	68.7%
Ireland	146,491	76.4%	74.8%
Belgium	145,079	75.0%	73.5%
France	142,553	75.3%	66.8%
Italy	142,165	75.6%	68.7%
Bhutan	141,672	76.6%	65.1%
Malaysia	140,871	75.8%	65.5%
Britain	140,775	73.4%	67.4%
Finland	139,221	75.1%	64.1%

Netherlands	136,546	—	—
Maldives	136,145	72.7%	63.5%
Mongolia	135,957	69.8%	66.1%
Japan	135,583	72.7%	62.9%
Greenland	135,385	71.0%	64.4%
Sweden	135,029	69.8%	64.6%
Turkey	133,515	65.1%	54.7%
Andorra	132,265	70.4%	61.9%
Mauritius	130,800	67.6%	63.2%
Germany	130,623	68.4%	65.0%
South Korea	129,333	77.0%	55.1%
Monaco	128,272	68.5%	59.8%
Luxembourg	127,953	67.7%	—
Saudi Arabia	125,227	68.8%	56.5%
Liechtenstein	123,380	64.7%	60.5%
Panama	123,102	69.2%	53.9%
Switzerland	122,911	64.9%	59.7%
Austria	122,892	65.0%	61.4%
Sri Lanka	121,922	67.0%	54.9%
El Salvador	121,428	64.5%	54.7%
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>120,348</b>	<b>65.1%</b>	<b>56.2%</b>
Ecuador	120,279	65.3%	57.1%
Fiji	118,645	66.7%	52.0%
Brunei	118,249	71.6%	46.6%
Argentina	118,236	66.8%	51.6%
Australia	116,867	68.4%	48.5%
Lithuania	116,781	63.1%	58.4%
Brazil	115,418	72.4%	45.2%
Morocco	115,147	62.4%	52.8%



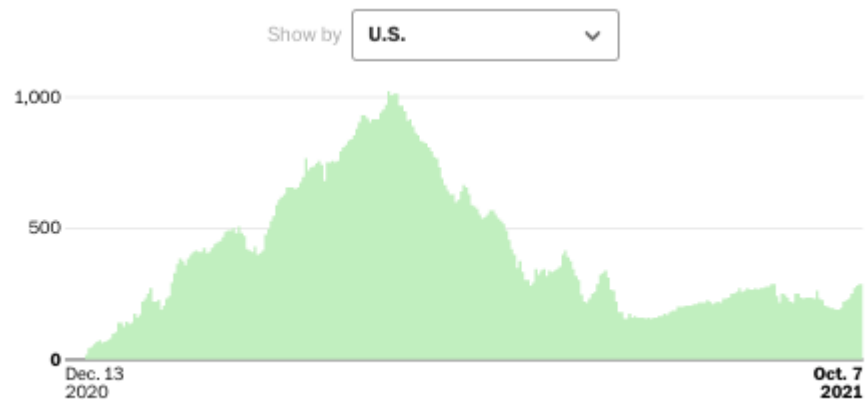
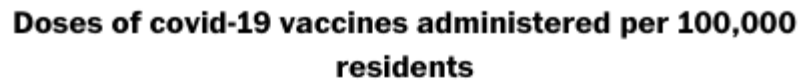
Greece	114,205	60.4%	57.9%
Costa Rica	114,120	68.7%	45.4%
New Zealand	112,633	68.8%	43.9%
Dominican Republic	111,878	56.8%	46.0%
Czechia	111,025	57.2%	56.1%
Estonia	104,142	57.5%	46.6%
Slovenia	103,222	54.2%	49.0%
Antigua and Barbuda	99,444	54.9%	44.6%
Oman	99,437	58.2%	41.2%
Poland	99,198	52.4%	51.5%
Cyprus	97,717	49.8%	46.6%
Serbia	95,117	44.0%	42.1%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	90,350	48.2%	42.2%
Azerbaijan	88,210	48.3%	39.9%
Latvia	87,560	49.3%	45.8%
Peru	87,052	50.4%	36.6%
Slovakia	86,655	45.1%	41.5%
Belize	86,521	50.9%	35.6%
Barbados	86,081	48.4%	37.7%
Croatia	85,082	—	—
Colombia	82,490	53.9%	34.8%
Mexico	81,955	51.5%	36.3%
Thailand	81,373	48.1%	31.0%
Trinidad and Tobago	79,805	42.2%	37.7%
Kazakhstan	78,440	41.9%	36.5%
Cape Verde	75,585	51.6%	25.7%
Montenegro	74,596	39.7%	34.9%
Guyana	74,066	46.5%	27.5%

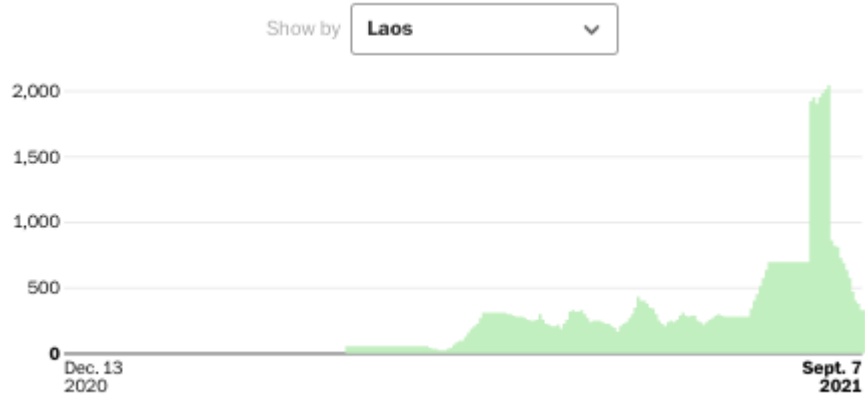
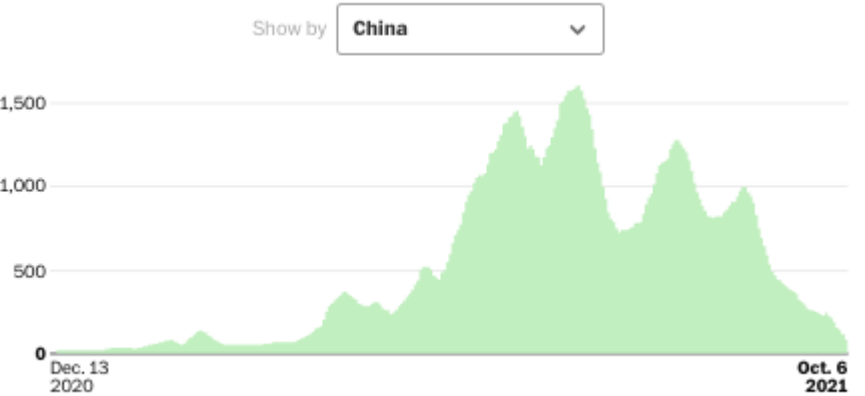
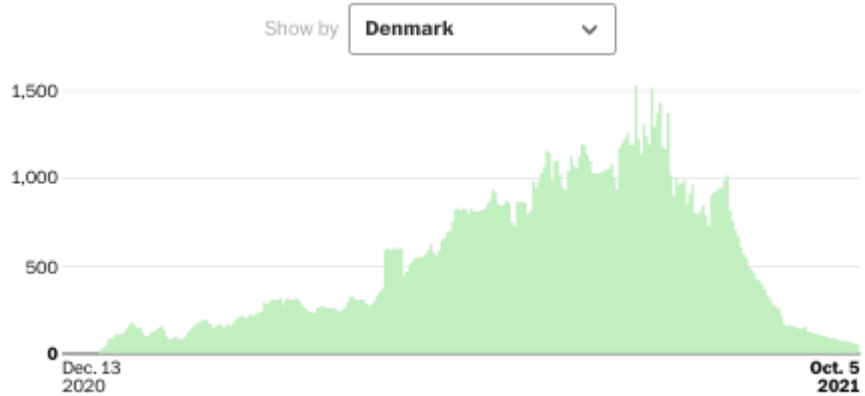
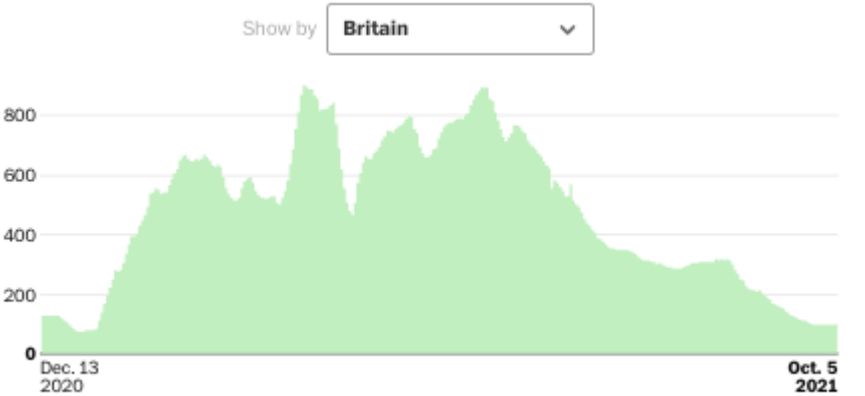
**Canada is now down to 14th place globally for rate of vaccines given per 100,000 population; Britain down to 25th; U.S. way down at 47th**



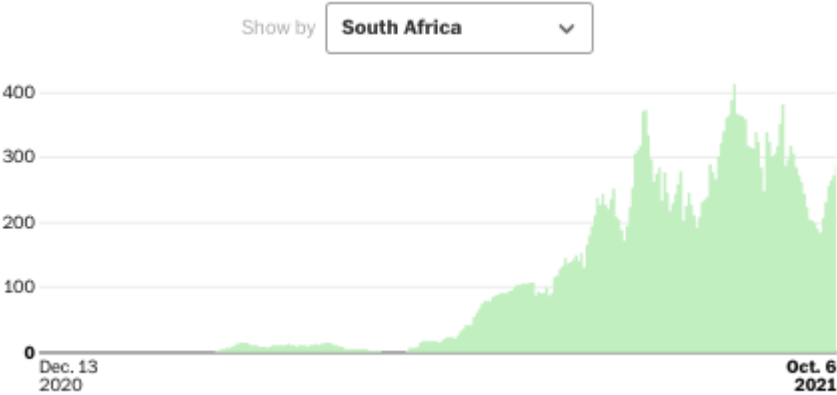












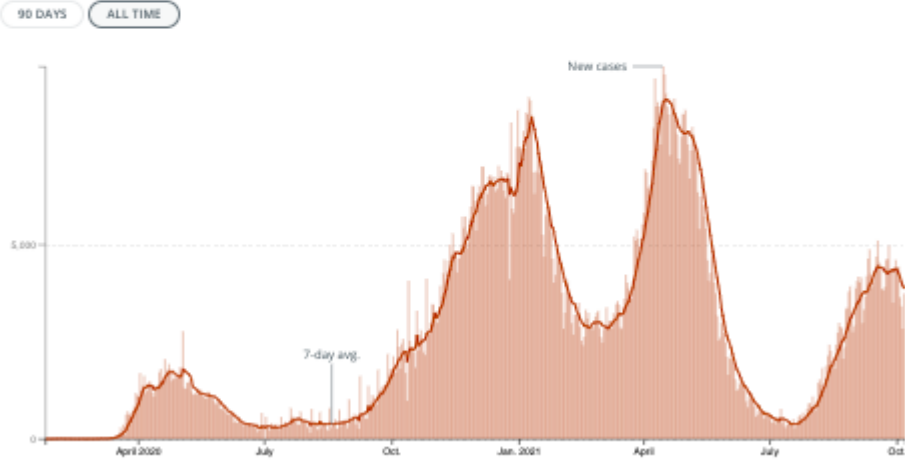


**Source of Canadian Data Below (October 6, 2021):**  
**<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirustracker/>**

# Canada

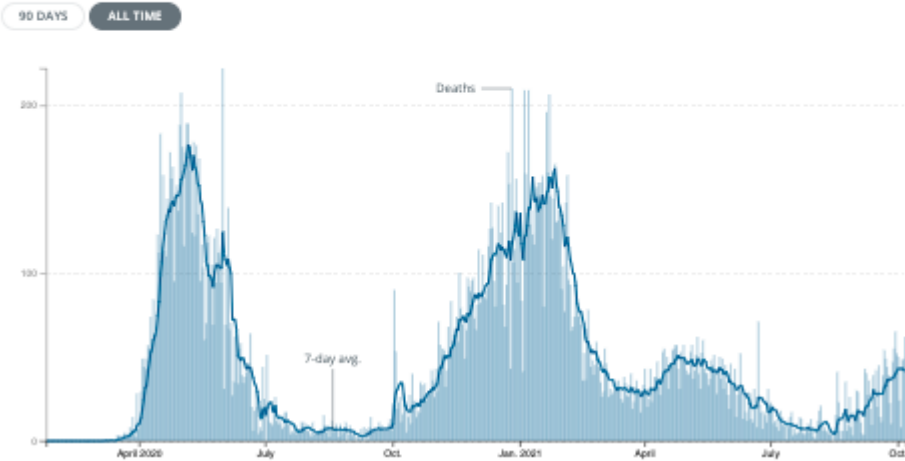
Cases Deaths Hospitalizations ICU

In Canada 1,647,153 cases have been reported.

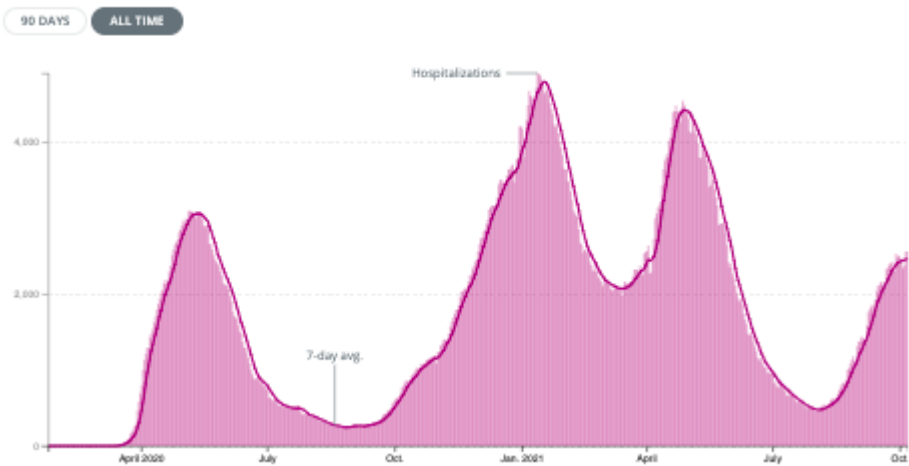


Cases Deaths Hospitalizations ICU

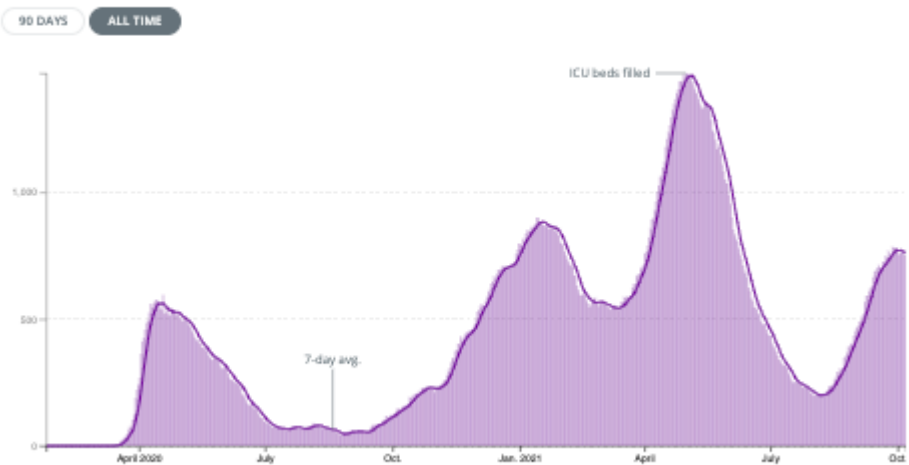
In Canada 28,112 deaths have been reported.



In Canada there are currently 2,559 people hospitalized.



In Canada there are currently 752 ICU beds filled.



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada.

In the past week in Canada...

<p><b>New cases</b></p> <p>↓</p> <p>There were 27,016 new cases, a decrease of 12 per cent. That's 71 cases per 100,000 people.</p>	<p><b>Active cases</b></p> <p>↓</p> <p>The number of active cases declined 6 per cent.</p>	<p><b>Deaths</b></p> <p>↑</p> <p>There were 293 deaths, or 0.8 per 100,000 people, an increase of 4 per cent.</p>	<p><b>Hospitalizations</b></p> <p>↑</p> <p>Hospitalizations rose 2 per cent and ICU beds filled declined 4 per cent.</p>
---	--	---	--









# 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	56,591,587	76.84%	71.50%	<div></div>
Alberta	6,155,243	71.74%	63.78%	<div></div>
British Columbia	7,908,832	79.63%	73.74%	<div></div>
Manitoba	2,006,487	74.44%	70.61%	<div></div>
New Brunswick	1,191,782	80.23%	72.16%	<div></div>
Newfoundland and Labrador	826,924	83.18%	76.20%	<div></div>
Nova Scotia	1,526,737	80.71%	75.16%	<div></div>
Ontario	21,974,193	76.64%	72.28%	<div></div>
Prince Edward Island	255,617	82.95%	76.77%	<div></div>
Quebec	12,977,065	78.09%	73.23%	<div></div>
Saskatchewan	1,585,374	71.12%	63.37%	<div></div>
Northwest Territories	69,751	79.54%	75.00%	<div></div>
Nunavut	46,959	63.43%	55.73%	<div></div>
Yukon	66,623	79.93%	77.29%	<div></div>

Source: CBC News.



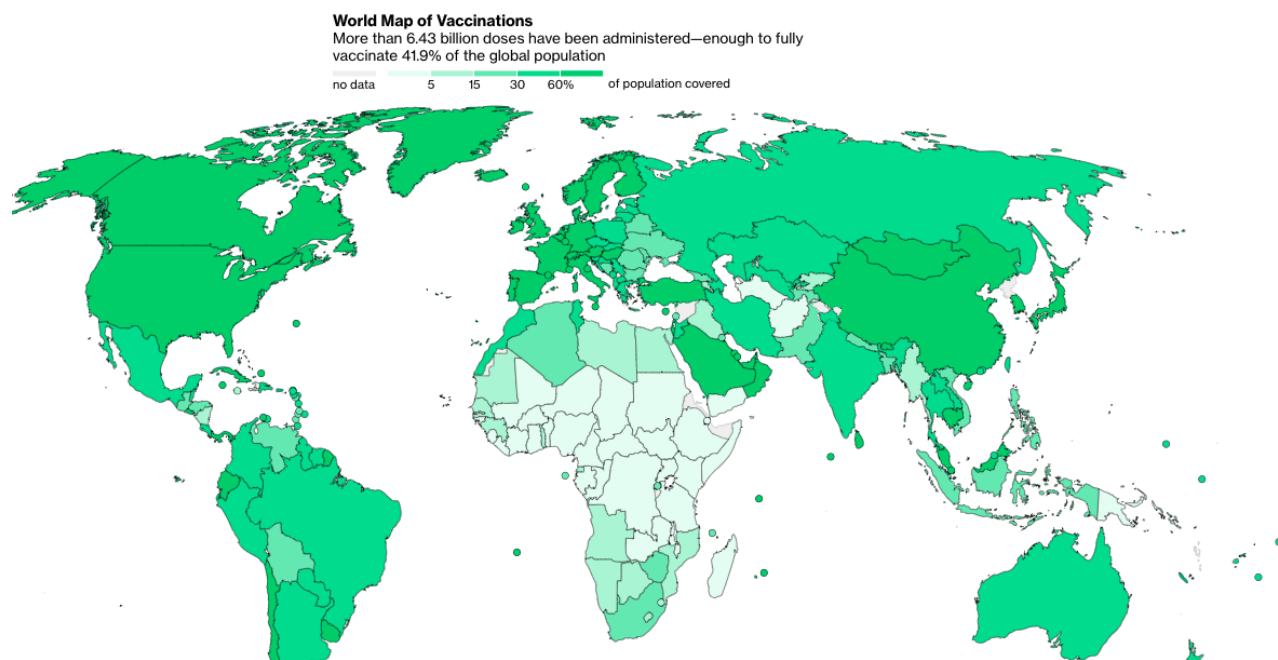


Source of World Covid-19 Vaccination Data Below, October 7, 2021):  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/>

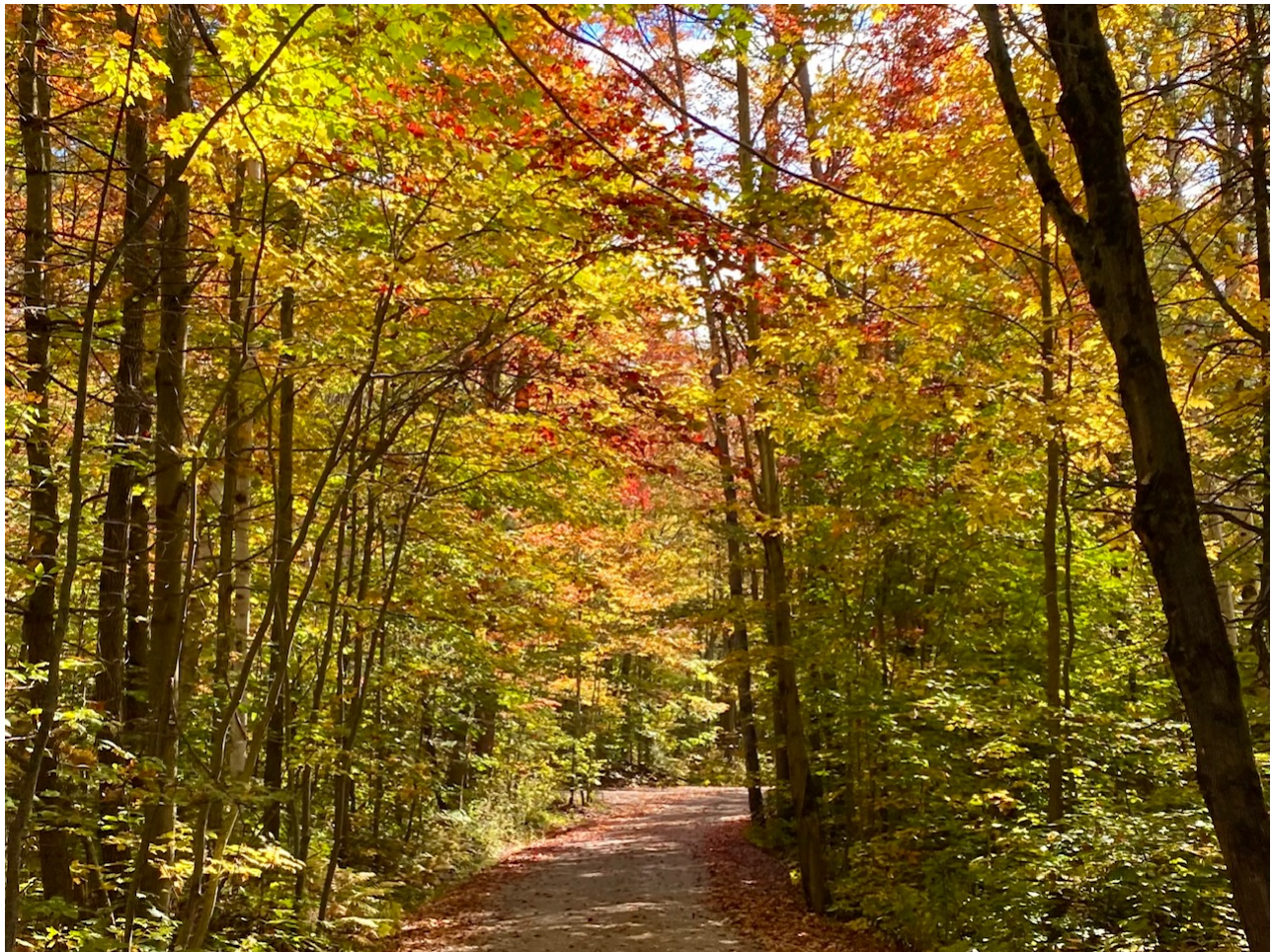
# More Than 6.43 Billion Shots Given: Covid-19 Tracker

In the U.S., 399 million doses have been administered

Updated: October 7, 2021, 12:33 PM EDT

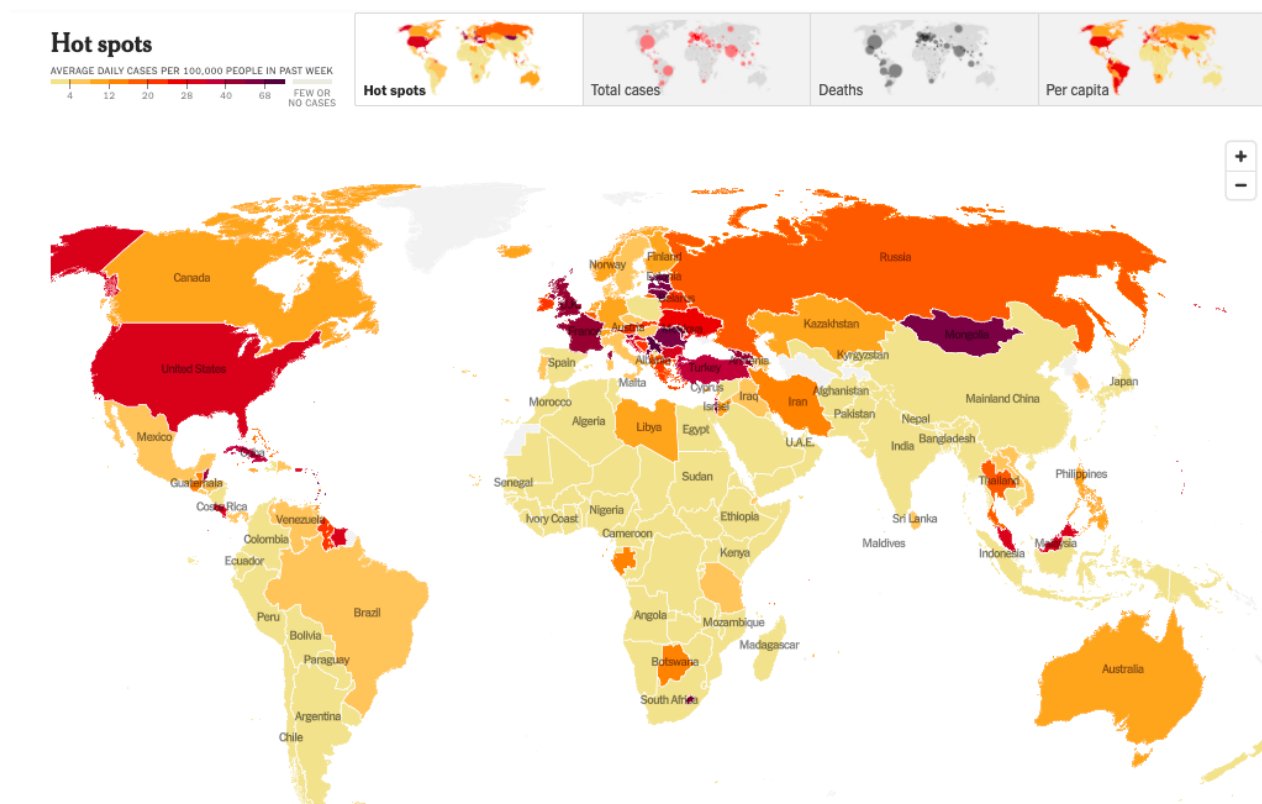




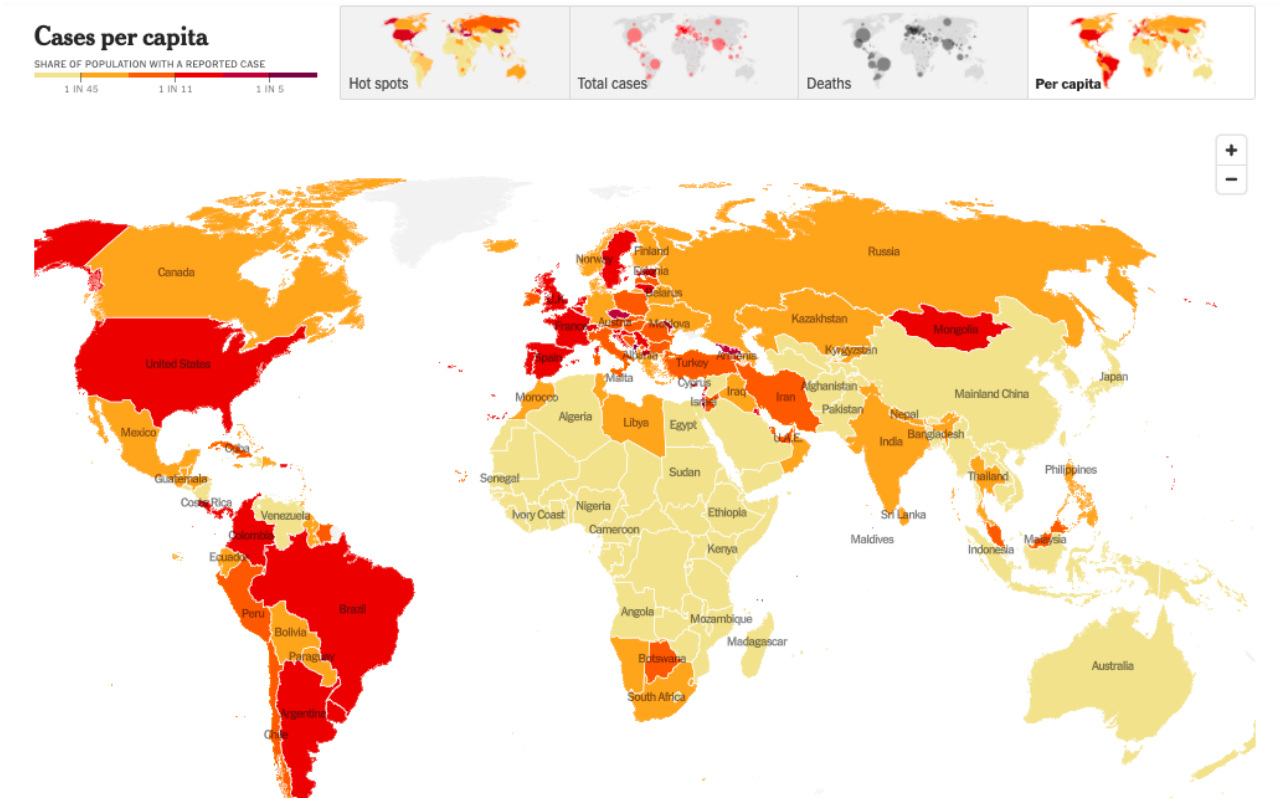


Source of World Data Below (October 7, 2021):

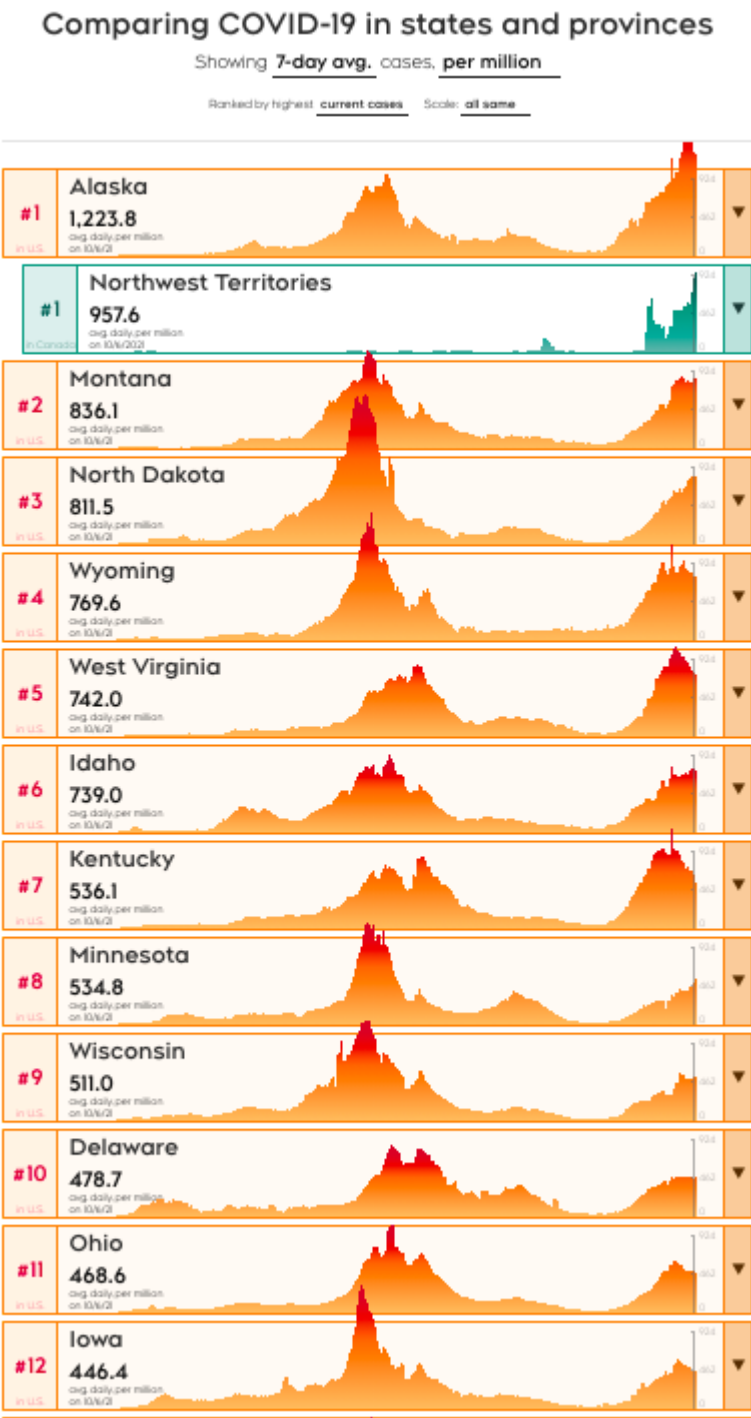
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-cases.html>

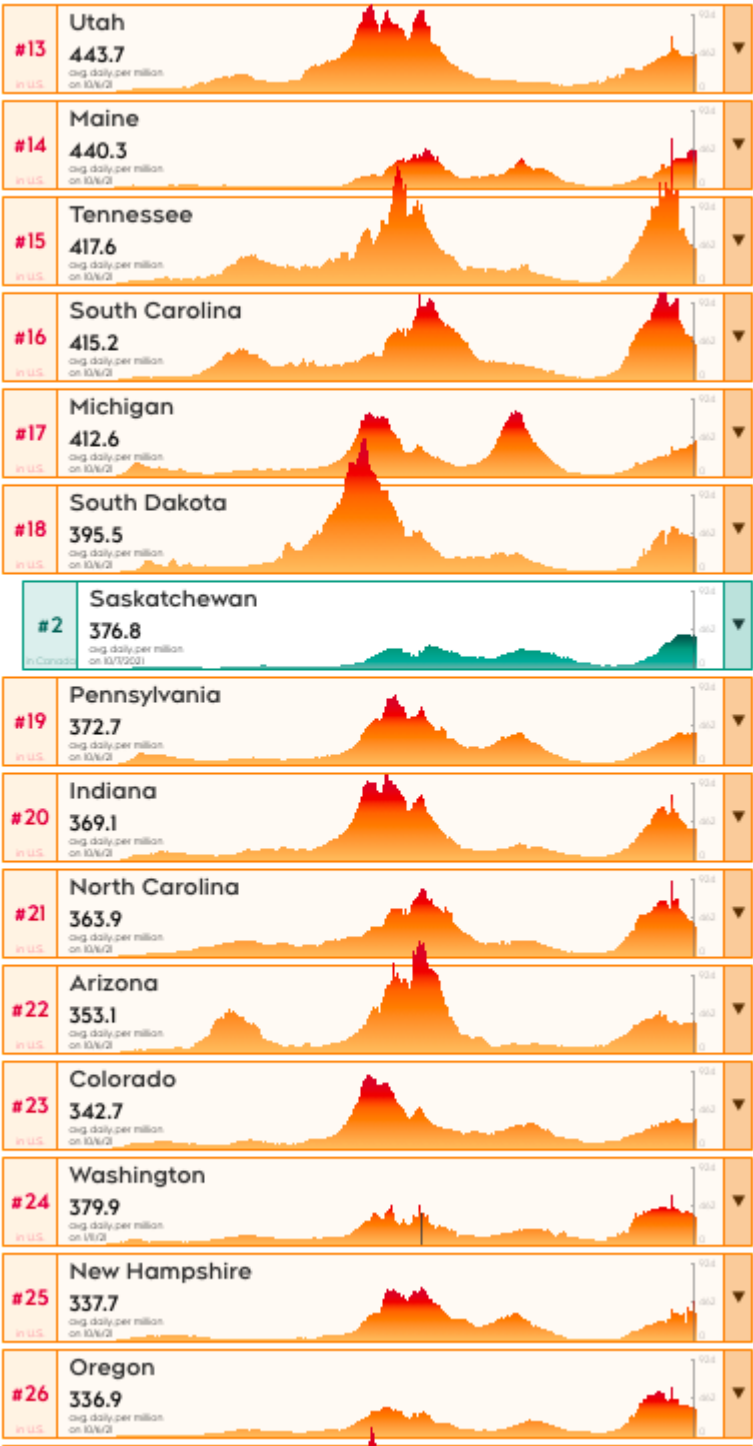




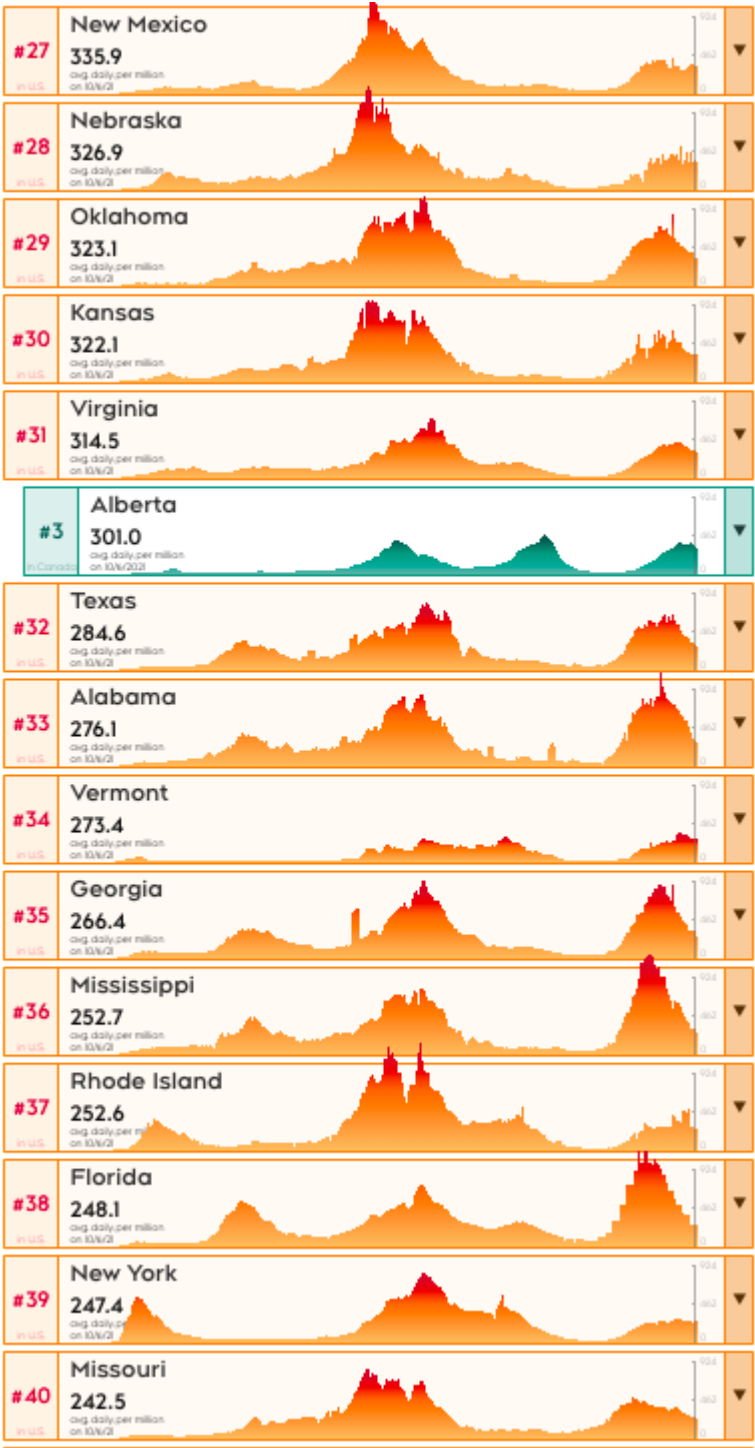


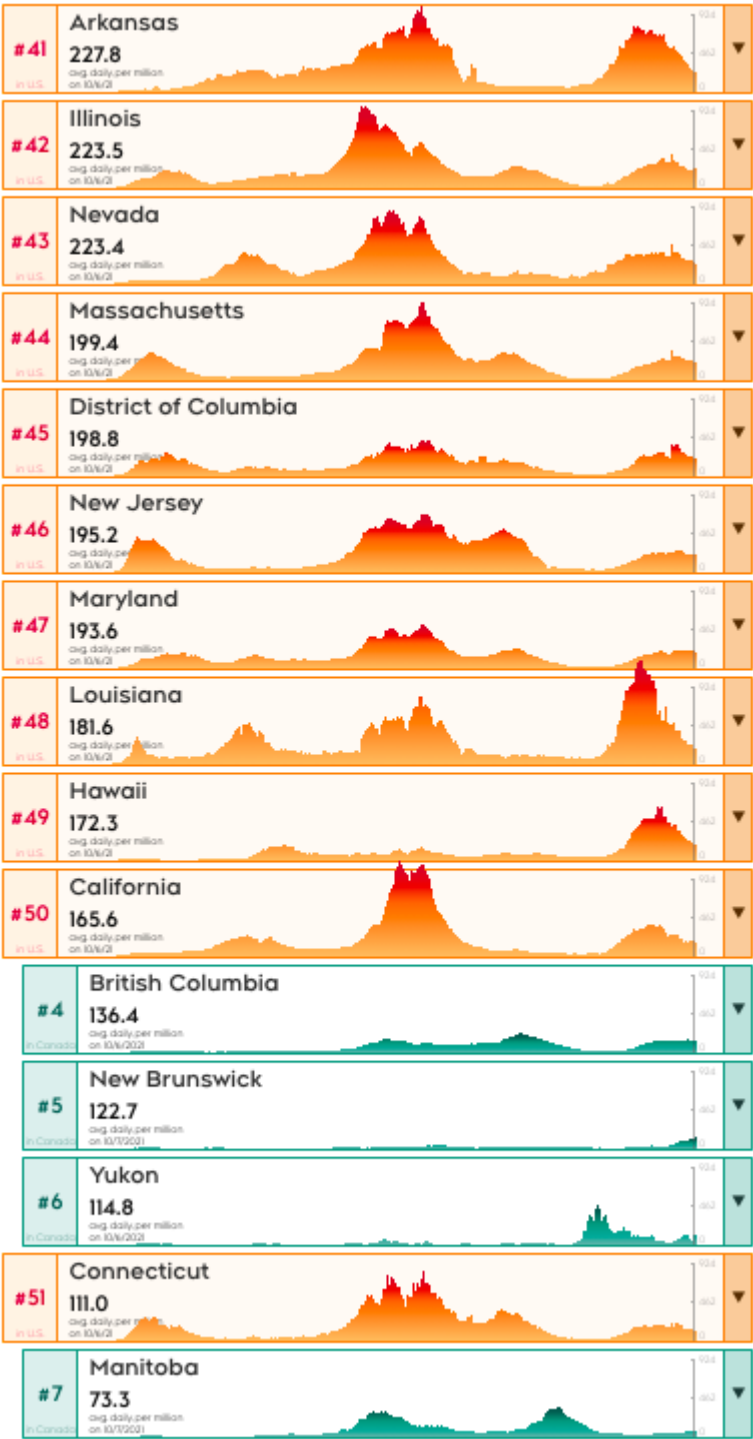
Source of Canadian and U.S. Comparative Data Below (Oct. 7, 2021):  
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-in-the-u-s-how-do-canada-s-provinces-rank-against-american-states-1.5051033>











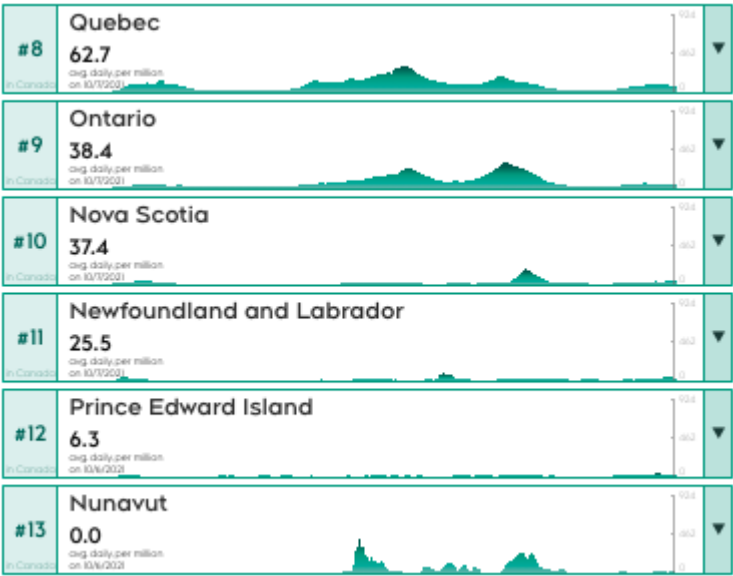






Photo Credits: David Zakus



|

**THANKS FOR READING THE FREE**  
**PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY**

**Current News on Ecological Wellness and Global Health**

**To Subscribe and for Archives of all Past Issues and Yearly Indexes**

**GO TO: [planetaryhealthweekly.com](https://planetaryhealthweekly.com)**

**Planetary Health Weekly**

49 Beresford Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M6S 3A9 Canada

**Publisher and Editor:** Dr. David Zakus

**Production:** Aisha Saleem & Julia Chalmers

**Social Media:** Shalini Kainth and Ishneer Mankoo

**Website, Index and Advisory:** Eunice Anteh, Gaël

Chetaille, Evans Oppong, Jonathan Zakus,  
Dr. Aimée-Angélique Bouka & Elisabeth Huang

**Blogs:** Dr. Jay Kravitz and Aisha Saleem

**CONTACT US TO COMMENT OR SUBSCRIBE AT:**

planetaryhealthweekly@gmail.com

david.zakus@utoronto.ca

**Copyright ©2021 - D&D Education Services, Inc.**

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

You received this email because you signed up on our  
website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

