

# COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

## 9th Jun 2020

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### News Highlights

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#### **New Zealand close to corona elimination as cases dwindle**

[New Zealand, which has reported no new Covid-19 cases for more than two weeks](#), moved to level one, the lowest of a four-tier system that requires no social distancing and no limits on public gatherings. Borders remain closed to foreigners but [no restrictions will be placed on sizes of crowds at rugby games scheduled to be played this coming weekend](#).

#### **WHO chief urges world to continue fight as cases rise worldwide**

More than 136,000 new cases were reported worldwide on Sunday, the biggest daily increase ever, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage through the world as it has over the past 6 months. [Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General, said that the situation is 'worsening' and that countries could not afford to be complacent](#).

#### **India emerges from lockdown despite consistent rise in cases**

India reopened malls and temples in several cities on Monday as the country emerged from a 10-week lockdown that has rendered millions unemployed and thrown the economy out of gear. However, [total Covid-19 cases have risen sharply to 256,611, despite the lockdown, with the state of Maharashtra alone having a total of 85,975 cases and more than 3,000 deaths](#).

#### **Italy tests new coronavirus tracing app with Germany set to follow**

Italy and Germany are making plans to launch their own Covid-19 contact tracing apps over the next few days, as countries around the world work on their strategies to track and trace as they emerge from lockdown. [Italy's app has already been downloaded by two million people](#) and the German app, [which would use bluetooth to alert users when they have been in contact with an infected person](#), will be rolled out in the next week.

### Lockdown Exit

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#### **Coronavirus in Ireland: Holohan insists time is right to ease lockdown**

Now is the right time to ease Covid-19 restrictions, the chief medical officer has said, despite the view of dozens of medics and scientists who say Ireland has to eliminate and not live with the coronavirus. Tony Holohan said that the National Public Health Emergency Team was always willing to listen to those with a "different perspective" but that the country could not restrict movement for ever. Other countries that have lifted restrictions, such as France, have yet to record a resurgence in cases. The authorities have never claimed that any level of infection among the public is tolerable, Dr Holohan said. There is a "very low level of infection" in Ireland now and "if we can get down to zero we will be very pleased"

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coronavirus-in-ireland-holohan-insists-time-is-right-to-ease-lockdown-cjcm5s7d9>

#### **Coronavirus latest: Half of population in Italy hotspot tests positive for antibodies**

More than half the residents of Bergamo have come into contact with the disease, a new study has

shown. Brazil now has more than 700,000 infections, the second-highest number after the US.

<https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-latest-half-of-population-in-italy-hotspot-tests-positive-for-antibodies/a-53737668>

### **COVID-19 cases yet to peak in Pakistan: Imran Khan**

Pakistan's coronavirus cases are expected to peak by the end of July or August, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday. Addressing the nation, he warned the country of "a very difficult time" ahead if people continued to ignore the standard operating procedures (SOPs), Geo News reported. The prime minister said that the entire world has now understood that lockdowns are not a solution for the COVID-19 pandemic. "We already know that the virus will spread, the trend that our experts have observed is that it spreads, then peaks and then the curve flattens. And the purpose behind flattening the curve is to reduce pressure on hospitals," Dawn quoted Khan as saying.

<https://www.afghanistannews.net/news/265385641/covid-19-cases-yet-to-peak-in-pakistan-imran-khan>

### **Tunisia orders lifting of coronavirus lockdown**

Tunisia's president has ordered the lifting of a nationwide coronavirus lockdown. The decision came after health authorities said they continued to see a drop in the number of new infections. The country has record 1 087 coronavirus cases and 49 related deaths to date

<https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/tunisia-orders-lifting-of-coronavirus-lockdown-20200608>

### **New Zealand lifts COVID-19 restrictions crowds free to attend Super Rugby Aotearoa**

Crowds will be permitted to attend the opening round of Super Rugby Aotearoa this weekend, after New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed the country would shift to Alert Level 1 from midnight Monday [NZT]. In what is believed to be a first since the coronavirus pandemic put most professional sports on hold, there will be no restrictions on the size of the crowd that can attend this weekend's opening games between the Highlanders and Chiefs in Dunedin (Saturday), and the Blues and Hurricanes in Auckland (Sunday). New Zealand has not had a new COVID-19 case for 17 days, and there are no longer any active cases of the virus across the country.

[https://www.espn.co.uk/rugby/story/\\_/id/29280090/new-zealand-lifts-covid-19-restrictions-crowds-free-attend-super-rugby-aotearoa](https://www.espn.co.uk/rugby/story/_/id/29280090/new-zealand-lifts-covid-19-restrictions-crowds-free-attend-super-rugby-aotearoa)

### **New Zealand's star tourism attraction struggles as visitors stay away post-Covid**

For now, with New Zealand's borders shut to almost all foreigners, only people already in the country can visit Queenstown. In the past, New Zealanders have avoided Queenstown as it has so many international tourists. Now the town is trying to lure them there -- Boulton even did a bungee jump to mark the easing of the country's coronavirus restrictions in May. Over a recent holiday weekend, businesses reported seeing a boom as people from around the country descended on the town. But, Boulton says, businesses "won't survive" on domestic travelers alone. He's hoping that the trans-Tasman bubble will be up and running by July for the ski season, where Australians make up 30-40% of customers. "This really is make or break," he says, adding that if there is no trans-Tasman bubble by July, more businesses will fail and more jobs will be lost.

<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/queenstown-tourism-new-zealand-coronavirus-intl-hnk/index.html>

### **New Zealand lifts all Covid restrictions, declaring the nation virus-free**

At midnight local time (12:00 GMT), all of New Zealand moved to level one, the lowest of a four-tier alert system. Under new rules, social distancing is not required and there are no limits on public gatherings, but borders remain closed to foreigners. New Zealand has reported no new Covid-19 cases for more than two weeks. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told reporters she did "a little dance" when she was told the country no longer had any active virus cases. "While we're in a safer, stronger position, there's still no easy path back to pre-Covid life, but the determination and focus we have had on our health response will now be vested in our economic rebuild," Ms Ardern said. "While the job is not done, there is no denying this is a milestone. So can I finish with a very simple, 'Thank you, New Zealand'."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-52961539>

### **Action! Film-makers back to work in New Zealand after coronavirus**

New Zealand's capital has had an extra buzz of excitement over the past week since Hollywood director James Cameron and his crew flew in to film the much-anticipated sequel of the epic science-fiction film "Avatar".

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-newzealand-movies/action-film-makers-back-to-work-in-new-zealand-after-coronavirus-idUKKBN23E0X8>

### **UK ministers face legal challenge for refusal to order PPE inquiry**

Ministers are facing a high court legal challenge after they refused to order an urgent investigation into the shortages of personal protective equipment faced by NHS staff during the coronavirus pandemic. Doctors, lawyers and campaigners for older people's welfare issued proceedings on Monday which they hope will lead to a judicial review of the government's efforts to ensure that health professionals and social care staff had enough PPE to keep them safe.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jun/08/uk-ministers-face-legal-challenge-for-refusal-to-order-ppe-inquiry>

### **France 'looks to increase fines for littering' amid coronavirus waste**

France is reportedly looking to increase fines for people caught dropping litter - including face masks and gloves. The proposal comes amid concerns over waste linked to the coronavirus pandemic, which has been found washed up on the country's beaches. Littering fines could increase to €135 (£120), according to French media. Brune Poirson, a junior environment minister, told AFP news agency a draft decree would propose harsher sanctions for those caught dropping rubbish on the floor, Le Monde reported.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/france-coronavirus-fines-waste-increase-littering-face-masks-gloves-a9552946.html>

### **Covid-19: Singapore and France agree to keep supply chains for essential food open and connected**

Singapore and France have agreed to maintain open and connected supply chains for essential food supplies during the Covid-19 pandemic. Both countries affirmed their intention to do so in a joint statement by Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Chan Chun Sing and France's Minister of Agriculture and Food Didier Guillaume on Monday (June 8).

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/covid-19-singapore-france-agree-to-keep-supply-chains-for-essential-food-open-and>

### **Vietnam reports two new coronavirus cases, taking tally to 331**

Vietnam on Monday reported two new coronavirus infections, both of which were imported cases involving Vietnamese citizens returning from Mexico who were quarantined on arrival, its health ministry said. The Southeast Asian country has gone 53 days without a domestically transmitted infection and has a total of 331 cases, with no deaths, the ministry said. Over 90% of the confirmed cases have recovered.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-vietnam/vietnam-reports-two-new-coronavirus-cases-taking-tally-to-331-idUKKBN23F00Z>

### **Germany gets ready to launch coronavirus tracing app**

Germany's Health Minister Jens Spahn says a mobile phone app to help trace coronavirus infections in a bid to keep the spread under control will be made available to the public in the coming days. Alongside shutting down public life for around two months, Germany's 'track and trace' system has played a huge role in slowing the spread of Covid-19 to stop it from overwhelming the country's health system. And the rollout of an app, which would use bluetooth to alert smartphone users when they have been in contact with someone infected with the virus, is considered crucial in the fight

against the pandemic as Germany continues to relax lockdown measures. "We will present the app in the course of next week," said Spahn in an interview with regional newspaper RP Online published on Monday June 8th.

<https://www.thelocal.de/20200608/germany-gets-ready-to-launch-coronavirus-tracing-app>

### **Football in Vietnam returns to crowded stadiums**

Football in Vietnam returned this weekend to packed crowds as the Covid-19 threat in the country appears to have abated. In one of three opening V.League 1 games played on Friday, the stadium in Nam Dinh was close to its 30,000 capacity. Hand sanitiser was available and stewards performed temperature checks on fans, who were asked to wear masks, however, few face masks were seen, Reuters reports.

<https://www.sportbusiness.com/news/football-in-vietnam-returns-to-crowded-stadiums/>

### **Italy rolls out covid-19 tracing app**

Italy begins testing the Immuni contact-tracing app, designed to help contain fresh outbreaks of covid-19, begins on Monday 8 June after getting the green light from the country's privacy ombudsman. The first trials of the app will begin in the regions of Abruzzo, Liguria, Le Marche and Puglia, with Immuni expected to be in nationwide use by 15 June. The app, which has been available since 1 June, has so far been downloaded by more than two million people in Italy, according to the nation's special commissioner for the coronavirus emergency, Domenico Arcuri.

<https://www.wantedinrome.com/news/italy-rolls-out-covid-19-tracing-app.html>

### **Boris Johnson's government has the worst approval rating in the WORLD for handling of coronavirus**

Britons rate PM even lower than Americans rate Donald Trump, YouGov found. That is despite the US death toll dwarfing even the UK's at more than 110,000. Just 41 per cent of Britons say the government is handling the crisis well

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8399799/Boris-Johnsons-government-worst-approval-rating-WORLD-handling-coronavirus.html>

### **A Million Volunteers Help Thailand Curb Coronavirus Infections**

The nation -- the first to detect the illness outside of China -- has kept infections to about 3,100. New daily Covid-19 cases were mostly in the single digits for the past month, allowing officials to relax the lockdown gradually. Restaurants and shopping malls are open again and many hotels are accepting bookings from domestic tourists. As activity picks up, one part of the strategy to avoid a second virus wave is a network of more than 1 million health volunteers who monitor for cases so action can be taken quickly.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-06-08/a-million-volunteers-help-thailand-curb-coronavirus-infections>

### **Back to school for some, clubbing for others as Spain loosens restrictions**

Some schools in the capital Madrid reopened for primary pupils on Monday and seniors preparing for university-entrance exams will return on Tuesday. Other regions are allowing different age groups to return. Children across the country were granted the right to play outside at any time of day, offering some relief after months spent indoors. A recent study showed nearly one in six children has felt regularly depressed during the crisis. Nightclubs reopened in much of Spain though a widely mocked ban on dancing will be enforced to prevent infections.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-spain/back-to-school-for-some-clubbing-for-others-as-spain-loosens-restrictions-idUKKBN23F1MW>

### **Moscow mayor says to lift all major coronavirus restrictions this month**

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said on Monday that all major restrictions relating to the novel coronavirus would be lifted in the Russian capital in June. Writing on his personal website, Sobyenin

said beauty salons and veterinary clinics could open from June 9, museums and outdoor areas at cafes from June 16, and gyms and restaurants from June 23

<https://nationalpost.com/pmnh/health-pmn/moscow-mayor-says-to-lift-all-major-coronavirus-restrictions-this-month>

### **As India reopens, one state outnumbers China in coronavirus cases**

As India begins to reopen more public spaces after a 10-week lockdown, its western state of Maharashtra has crossed a grim milestone by having more coronavirus cases than China. India's health ministry on Monday said Maharashtra - the country's most industrialised state - now has a total of 85,975 coronavirus cases, including more than 3,000 deaths.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/06/india-reopens-state-outnumbers-china-coronavirus-cases-200608085903395.html>

### **India reopens more public spaces despite record virus infections - The Jakarta Post**

Malls and temples reopened in several cities across India on Monday despite the country recording a record daily number of new coronavirus infections, with the pandemic expected to ravage the country for weeks to come. After a 10-week lockdown the government has risked lifting some restrictions in a bid to ease the devastating blow to the economy dealt by the coronavirus. But the number of new cases rose by 9,983 to 256,611, according to government figures announced Monday, putting the country of 1.3 billion on course to overtake Britain and Spain among nations with the highest number of infections.

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/06/08/india-reopens-more-public-spaces-despite-record-virus-infections.html>

### **Government seeking to increase social gathering limit to 50**

Due to the Coronavirus Crisis, the public in Denmark has had to limit their social gatherings to a maximum of ten people in recent months. But that could well change in the very near future after PM Mette Frederiksen sent a letter to members of Parliament proposing increasing the limit to 50 on June 8. The letter also revealed the government proposes additional increases to the gathering limit - up to 100 on July 8 and then to 200 on August 8.

<http://cphpost.dk/?p=114604>

### **France identifies 150 coronavirus clusters, many in health centres and hospitals**

France has identified 150 coronavirus clusters, many of them in health centres, officials have reported.

<https://www.thelocal.fr/20200608/france-identifies-150-coronavirus-clusters-many-in-health-centres-and-hospitals>

### **America Is Giving Up on the Pandemic**

Americans may wish the virus to be gone, but it is not. While the outbreak has eased in the Northeast, driving down the overall national numbers, cases have only plateaued in the rest of the country, and they appear to be on the rise in recent days in COVID Tracking Project data. Twenty-two states reported 400 or more new cases Friday, and 14 other states and Puerto Rico reported cases in the triple digits. Several states—including Arizona, North Carolina, and California—are now seeing their highest numbers of known cases.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2020/06/america-giving-up-on-pandemic/612796/>

## **Exit Strategies**

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### **Qatar to lift coronavirus restrictions in four phases**

Qatar will start lifting coronavirus restrictions under a four-phase plan starting June 15. Government spokesperson Lolwa Rashed al-Khater said on Monday that some mosques would be allowed to reopen from June 15 and some stores in malls will also be allowed to reopen if certain conditions are met.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/06/qatar-lift-coronavirus-restrictions-phases-200608200635130.html>

### **Coronavirus: Plan dropped for all primary pupils back in school**

The plan for all primary school years in England to go back to school before the end of term is to be dropped by the government. There had been an aim for all primary pupils to spend four weeks in school before the summer break. But it is no longer thought to be feasible and instead schools will be given "flexibility" over whether or not to admit more pupils. Head teachers' leaders said it had never been a practical possibility. It comes after Health Secretary Matt Hancock conceded at Monday's Downing Street briefing that secondary schools in England may not fully reopen until September "at the earliest".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-52969679>

### **Spain Looks to a New Kind of Tourism After COVID-19**

Antonio Pérez, the present day mayor of Benidorm, said last year the town attracted 16 million tourists but as it tries to recover what is left of this season, the emphasis must be on safety. "We are working on a series of protocols in hotels, for the beaches and in restaurants so that people can feel safe when they come here," he told VOA in a telephone interview. Pérez said cleaning hotels, making staff and customers wear masks, enforcing social distancing in restaurants, bars and even nightclubs will be essential. Avoiding crowding on the beaches will also be imperative. Known as the Manhattan of the Costa Blanca, Benidorm is famous for its skyscraper-like hotels. The close proximity of guests in these buildings is likely to prove a problem until an effective vaccine is found for COVID-19

<https://www.voanews.com/europe/spain-looks-new-kind-tourism-after-covid-19>

### **Canary Islands Considers Paying for Tourist's Covid-19 Tests Before Arriving to Spain This Summer**

The Canary Islands are considering paying for Covid-19 tests as they gear up to welcome tourists in Spain after the pandemic. The Canary Islands have had one the most positive epidemiological evolutions in Spain during the coronavirus crisis and therefore the region is a top contender for welcoming tourists during the summer season. The tests will be conducted before the passengers at their original destination even board their flight. This decision to test passengers falls under the umbrella of marketing the Canary Islands as a safe and Covid-free destination.

<https://www.euroweeklynews.com/2020/06/08/canary-islands-considers-paying-for-tourists-covid-19-tests-before-arriving-to-spain-this-summer/>

### **Saudi Arabia considers limiting haj pilgrims amid COVID-19 fears**

Saudi Arabia could drastically limit numbers at the annual haj pilgrimage to prevent a further outbreak of coronavirus after cases in the country topped 100,000, sources familiar with the matter said on Monday. Some 2.5 million pilgrims visit the holiest sites of Islam in Mecca and Medina for the week-long haj, a once-in-a-lifetime duty for every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it. Official data show haj and the lesser, year-round umrah pilgrimage earn the kingdom about \$12 billion a year. Saudi Arabia asked Muslims in March to put haj plans on hold and suspended umrah until further notice.

<https://morungexpress.com/saudi-arabia-considers-limiting-haj-pilgrims-amid-covid-19-fears>

### **Iran urges people to wear face masks amid fears of new coronavirus wave**

Iran's health ministry urged people on Monday to wear face masks in public areas, following warnings that the Islamic Republic could face a new wave of coronavirus infections, reported Reuters. Health officials said last week there could be a second, stronger wave of novel coronavirus infections if people ignored social distancing rules.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20200608-iran-urges-people-to-wear-face-masks-amid-fears-of-new-coronavirus-wave/>

### **South African schools reopen as COVID-19 lockdown is eased**

Most schools in South Africa have reopened and pupils in their final years of primary and secondary school are allowed to return.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/06/south-african-schools-reopen-covid-19-lockdown-eased-200608114354812.html>

### **Video: Thai businesses develop robots to adapt to coronavirus era**

The coronavirus outbreak has accelerated the development of the robotics industry in Thailand, as companies race to devise solutions to meet increased hygiene and medical needs. Robotics is one of 10 strategic sectors that the government wants to focus on, but the industry's development had been slow until now. The coronavirus pandemic has moved things forward rapidly and companies have now developed robots that can take body temperatures, check mask usage, as well as conduct remote medical examinations.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Technology/Video-Thai-businesses-develop-robots-to-adapt-to-coronavirus-era>

### **Cuba declares coronavirus pandemic 'under control'**

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel has declared the coronavirus pandemic "under control" after the island nation registered an eighth straight day without a death from COVID-19. It paves the way for an announcement next week on Cuba's strategy to gradually lift its lockdown. The country of 11.2 million has recorded just under 2,200 cases and 83 deaths from the virus. With 1,862 people having recovered, Cuba has only 244 active cases

<https://www.france24.com/en/20200608-cuba-declares-coronavirus-pandemic-under-control>

### **Hong Kong eases travel restrictions—but only for its business elite**

Hong Kong is lifting restrictions on travel to mainland China—but only for premier business executives. And the easing of mandatory quarantine rules only works one way. On Monday, the city's financial services secretary Christopher Hui Ching-yu relaxed travel restrictions for executives at the top 480 companies listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange, providing more leeway to firms whose corporate travel between the mainland and Hong Kong has been curtailed by 14-day mandated quarantines as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The companies getting the free pass include Chinese tech giants like Alibaba and Tencent, state-owned enterprises like the Chinese oil giant Sinopec, and the international bank HSBC. In total, the 480 firms represent roughly 95% of the total market capitalization of the 2,107 companies listed on Hong Kong's exchange.

<https://fortune.com/2020/06/08/hong-kong-travel-restrictions-mainland-china-companies-hkex/>

### **Coronavirus shutdowns prevented 60 million infections in the USA, study says**

Researchers found the USA may have been able to avoid an additional 4.8 million confirmed coronavirus cases, which translates to about 60 million more infections, as a result of statewide lockdowns and mandated social distancing restrictions, according to the report published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Nature.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/06/08/covid-19-us-lockdown-prevented-60-m-coronavirus-infections-study-says/5317334002/>

## **Partisan Exits**

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### **Pakistan's former PM Abbasi, Railways Minister Rashid test positive for COVID-19**

Pakistan's former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and incumbent Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad were tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday, making them the latest amongst the country's top politicians to contract the virus that has infected over one lakh people in the country.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/pakistans-former-pm-abbasi-railways-minister-rashid-test-positive-for-covid-19-96315>

### **Government seeking to increase social gathering limit to 50**

Due to the Coronavirus Crisis, the public in Denmark has had to limit their social gatherings to a

maximum of ten people in recent months. But that could well change in the very near future after PM Mette Frederiksen sent a letter to members of Parliament proposing increasing the limit to 50 on June 8. The letter also revealed the government proposes additional increases to the gathering limit - up to 100 on July 8 and then to 200 on August 8.

<http://cphpost.dk/?p=114604>

## **Continued Lockdown**

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### **'Hunger is worse than corona': Sudanese demand end to lockdown**

Sudan is facing growing demands to end the restrictions from a population mired in poverty and facing annual inflation of nearly 100 percent - as well as fielding complaints that promised aid for poorer Sudanese has failed to materialise. "We demand that the lockdown is lifted immediately so that we can ... get on with our lives, because hunger is worse than corona," said Othman, who is a daily wage earner. The government said the lockdown, extended in the capital Khartoum until June 18, has helped to stem the spread of the virus. Sudan has reported 6,081 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, with 359 deaths.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/hunger-worse-corona-sudanese-demand-lockdown-200608144103592.html>

### **Abu Dhabi extends ban on movement in and out of the emirate and between cities**

Abu Dhabi will extend by one week a ban on movement in and out of the emirate and between its major cities introduced on June 2, the local government media office said on Monday. The ban applies to all residents of Abu Dhabi, the largest member of the United Arab Emirates federation, with exceptions made for those working in vital sectors. Movement within, but not between, the mentioned cities of al-Ain, al-Dhafra and Abu Dhabi is allowed outside the hours of a nightly curfew already in force to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-emirates/abu-dhabi-extends-ban-on-movement-in-and-out-of-the-emirate-and-between-cities-idUSKBN23F2NX>

### **Two sides of the coronavirus crisis in Spain: One half of the country has five times as many cases as the other**

Phase 2 areas reported nearly four times as many coronavirus deaths in the last week as those in Phase 3

<https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-06-08/two-sides-of-coronavirus-crisis-in-spain-one-half-of-the-country-has-five-times-as-many-cases-as-the-other.html>

### **Spain's macro study shows just 5.2% of population has contracted the coronavirus**

A second set of tests conducted in Spain as part of a macro coronavirus study show that 5.2% of the population has developed antibodies after exposure to the virus, according to results released on Thursday. This is up just 0.2 percentage points from the results of the first wave of the study, which were released on May 13. The results indicate no major resurgence of the virus in this period, and confirm geographical variations observed the first time around. They also underscore the role of asymptomatic spreaders and the greater presence of the coronavirus in large cities. The eight-week seroprevalence study is being conducted by the Carlos III Health Institute, a public research agency. It comprises three waves of testing on a random sampling of households across Spain, and is due to end in late June. Between May 18 and June 1, researchers tested 63,564 individuals, a large sample size compared with similar studies conducted worldwide.

<https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-06-05/spains-macro-study-show-just-52-of-population-has-contracted-the-coronavirus.html>

### **Thailand reports 7 more coronavirus cases, all in quarantine**

Thailand confirmed seven new coronavirus infections and no new deaths on Monday, with the new cases found in quarantine, taking the country to two weeks without a local transmission. Thailand

has reported 77 cases in the past 14 days and all were contained after being imported from overseas, said Taweessin Wisanuyothin, a spokesman for the government's Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration. The total number of confirmed cases stands at 3,119, with 58 deaths.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-thailand/thailand-reports-7-more-coronavirus-cases-all-in-quarantine-idUKL4N2DLOZE>

### **Honduras extends coronavirus curfew by one week to June 14**

Honduras has extended a curfew by one week through June 14 in order to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, security ministry spokesman Jair Meza said on Sunday. Meza made the announcement on national television even as the Central American country is about to begin the gradual re-opening of its economy on Monday.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-honduras/honduras-extends-coronavirus-curfew-by-one-week-to-june-14-idUKKBN23F08B>

### **Chile COVID-19 toll jumps sharply after new cases added**

Chile revised its death toll linked to the novel coronavirus outbreak sharply higher on Sunday, adding fatalities from databases that previously had not been included. Health Minister Jaime Mañalich said 653 additional deaths linked to COVID-19 had to be counted, bringing the total number to 2,290. That included 96 new deaths announced in the Sunday daily report. Chile has one of the highest numbers of cases in Latin America, which has become an epicenter of the pandemic even as countries worldwide have begun to reopen. Brazil, Peru and Mexico have also been hard hit by the virus.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/international/chile-covid-19-toll-jumps-sharply-after-new-cases-added-846944.html>

### **Thailand 'State of Emergency' may be extended**

The state of emergency may be extended while schools and airports will reopen and there will be long holidays next month, according to Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam. "It is possible to extend the imposition of the emergency decree. It is being considered. The choice is to either extend or end it. However, measures will be reduced. For example, the curfew will be lifted and crowd gathering will be allowed. The emergency decree may remain in effect for the sake of swift solutions," Mr Wissanu said.

<https://www.pattayamail.com/coronavirus/thailand-state-of-emergency-may-be-extended-303225>

### **Coronavirus: UK daily deaths drop to pre-lockdown level**

The UK has recorded its lowest daily rise in the number of coronavirus deaths since before lockdown on 23 March, latest government figures show. A further 55 people died after testing positive with the virus as of 17:00 BST on Sunday, taking the total to 40,597. This included no new deaths announced in both Scotland and Northern Ireland for the second consecutive day. However, there tends to be fewer deaths reported on Mondays, due to a reporting lag over the weekend. The number of new UK cases on Monday - 1,205 - is also the lowest number since the start of lockdown.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52968160>

## **Scientific Viewpoint**

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### **Lockdowns may have averted 3 million deaths in Europe by curbing Covid-19: Study**

In a modelling study of lockdown impact in 11 nations, Imperial College London scientists said the draconian steps, imposed mostly in March, had "a substantial effect" and helped bring the infection's reproductive rate below one by early May. The reproduction rate, or R value, measures the average number of people that one infected person will pass the disease on to. An R value above 1 can lead to exponential growth. The Imperial team estimated that by early May, between 12 and 15 million people in the 11 countries - Austria, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland - had been infected with COVID-19. By comparing the

number of deaths counted with deaths predicted by their model if no lockdown measures had been introduced, they found some 3.1 million deaths were averted.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/lockdowns-may-have-averted-3-million-deaths-in-europe-by-curbing-covid-19-study/articleshow/76269187.cms>

### **Vietnam's Richest Man Plans Ventilator Exports for Covid-19 Cases**

Vuong believes his company, Vingroup JSC, can do it faster and for less money. Using an open-source design from device maker Medtronic Plc, Vingroup submitted a working ventilator for regulator approval in mid-April. While the company waits for Vietnam's regulators to give the go-ahead, ventilators are rolling off the assembly line. Vingroup's ventilators cost around \$7,000 in Vietnam, 30% less than Medtronic's own model. The company also says it could produce as many as 55,000 a month as soon as the government approves them and plans to export them wherever there's demand. Vingroup says it'll donate several thousand to Ukraine and Russia, where Vuong has long-standing business ties.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-06-08/vietnam-s-richest-man-plans-ventilator-exports-for-covid-19-cases>

### **Brazil 'driving in the dark' on COVID-19 as data scandal deepens**

Brazil drew further criticism for its handling of the coronavirus pandemic on Monday after it published contradictory figures on fatalities and infections, deepening a scandal over the country's COVID-19 data. The discrepancy followed recent decisions to remove from a national website a trove of data about the country's outbreak, and to push back the daily release of new numbers late into the evening and after the country's main television news program. "By changing the numbers, the Ministry of Health covers the sun with a sieve," Rodrigo Maia, speaker of the lower house, said on Twitter. "The credibility of the statistics needs to be urgently recovered. A ministry that manipulates numbers creates a parallel world in order not to face the reality of the facts," he added.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-brazil/brazil-sows-further-confusion-by-releasing-contradictory-se-ts-of-covid-19-data-idUKKBN23F1NX>

### **Coronavirus: Situation 'worsening' says WHO chief, urges world not to let up on fight**

New coronavirus cases had their biggest daily increase ever as the pandemic worsens globally and has yet to peak in central America, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday, urging countries to press on with efforts to contain the virus. "More than six months into the pandemic, this is not the time for any country to take its foot off the pedal," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told an online briefing.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/coronavirus/2020/06/08/Coronavirus-Situation-worsening-says-WHO-chief-urges-world-not-to-let-up-on-battl>

### **EU watchdog assessing Gilead application for COVID-19 ...**

The European health regulator said on Monday it had received an application from U.S. drugmaker Gilead Sciences Inc for approval of its antiviral drug, remdesivir, as a potential COVID-19 treatment in Europe. "The assessment of the benefits and risks of remdesivir is being performed under a reduced timeline and an opinion could be issued within weeks," the European Medicines Agency said in its statement.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200608132514-sbe4z/>

### **Coronavirus update: Experts watch cases in India, Brazil, South Africa**

I asked a handful of public health experts Monday to identify some of the international hot spots they are concerned about. There was a lot of overlap in their responses, which indicates to me there is a clear group of places that we should be keeping a close eye on for the foreseeable future. Data for each country's stats pulled from Our World in Data on Monday, June 8.

<https://www.vox.com/2020/6/8/21284315/coronavirus-cases-update-us-india-brazil-south-africa>

## **Coronavirus Resurgence**

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### **Poland to suspend operations at 12 coal mines on COVID-19 outbreak**

Poland will close 12 coal mines on June 9 for three weeks due to an outbreak of coronavirus infections at coking coal miner JSW's Zofiowka site over the weekend, state assets minister Jacek Sasin said June 8. "There will be a temporary shutdown of production in all coal mines in which coronavirus is noted today and whose crews have not been fully tested for the presence of coronavirus. This means we will stop production from tomorrow in two JSW mines and in 10 PGG coal mines," Sasin told a news conference. All miners would remain on full pay during the stoppage and deliveries to customers would not be threatened, Sasin said.

<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/coal/060820-poland-to-suspend-operations-at-12-coal-mines-on-covid-19-outbreak>