

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

28th Sep 2020

News Highlights

Johnson pledges money while Modi offers India's vaccine production facilities to fight Covid-19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a pre-recorded speech to the UN General Assembly that [India would use its considerable vaccine production and delivery capacity to help other nations in the fight against Covid-19](#). Meanwhile, in his own speech, UK Prime Minister [Boris Johnson urged nations to come together and pledged hundreds of millions of pounds to the World Health Organization](#), making the UK the largest country-donor just months after the U.S. froze its own funding to the WHO

Vitamin D could hold key to ward off coronavirus deaths

A new study has indicated that people who take a daily dose of Vitamin D are less likely to die or experience complications from coronavirus. [Scientists at Boston University have found that having the vitamin supplement, which is linked to higher levels of immune cells in the blood](#), seems to prevent the immune system from overreacting with cytokine storms when the coronavirus invades the body

WHO warns of two million Covid-19 deaths despite vaccine

As the global death toll from the coronavirus pandemic approaches a million, the WHO has warned that without drastic action, the toll could reach two million or higher before an effective vaccine is used. [More than 32 million cases of the infection have been discovered globally and several countries have already reported second waves](#), with concerns now abounding about a rising caseload as winter approaches in the northern hemisphere

Argentians flock to Uruguay, an outlier in pandemic crisis

Close to 20,000 Argentians have moved to neighbouring Uruguay since the pandemic began in March, [choosing to live in a country that has successfully managed to suppress coronavirus numbers so far](#). Uruguay, which took drastic lockdown measures early on in the pandemic, has only about 2,000 cases of Covid-19, [far better numbers compared to neighbouring Brazil and Argentina, which total more than four million infections](#).

Lockdown Exit

Every 250th person on Earth now infected with coronavirus

The number of Covid-19 cases have surged to more than 32.4 million or 0.4 per cent of the Earth's total population - meaning nearly every 250th person has already contracted coronavirus. The current world population is 7.8 billion (as of September 2020), according to the most recent United Nations estimates elaborated by Worldometer. The number of active cases continues to rise rapidly, increasing by about 5 lakh this week. Active cases now account for 23.3 per cent of the overall case count.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=755252>

India offers Covid vaccine production facilities to the world

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged at the United Nations on Saturday that his country's vaccine production capacity would be made available globally to fight the Covid-19 crisis. "As the largest vaccine-producing country of the world, I want to give one more assurance to the global community today," Mr Modi said in a pre-recorded speech to the UN General Assembly. "India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis." Mr Modi said India was moving ahead with Phase 3 clinical trials – the large-scale trials considered the gold standard for determining safety and efficacy – and would help all countries enhance their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of vaccines.

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/india-offers-covid-vaccine-production-facilities-to-the-world-1.1083851>

Minnesota marks 2,000 COVID-19 deaths, hits daily case high

Minnesota recorded a grim milestone on Saturday as health officials reported that over 2,000 people have died from COVID-19. The state also posted an all-time high for cases reported in a day with 1,478 people testing positive for the virus. The Minnesota Department of Health recorded 10 new deaths, sending the statewide tally of COVID-19 deaths to 2,004 people. Despite the worrisome marker, the rate of deaths has slowed in recent months after spikes in May and June. Roughly 72% of deaths in the state have been among residents of long-term care or assisted-living facilities.

<https://www.chron.com/news/article/Minnesota-marks-2-000-COVID-19-deaths-hits-daily-15599854.php>

Coronavirus: Boris Johnson urges world to unite against COVID-19 and stop comparing death rates

Boris Johnson has urged the world to unite against coronavirus, suggesting it had made nations seem "selfish" and apparently warning against the comparison of countries' death rates. In a pre-recorded speech to the United Nations General Assembly, the prime minister said "the very notion of the international community looks tattered" nine months into the COVID-19 pandemic. "Unless we unite and turn our fire against our common foe, we know that everyone will lose," he said. "The inevitable outcome will be to prolong this calamity and increase the risk of another."

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-boris-johnson-urges-world-to-unite-against-covid-19-and-stop-comparing-death-rates-12082621>

After The Covid-19 Deluge, A Bankruptcy Tidal Wave?

The number of people filing for bankruptcy could set records next year. And, while bankruptcy reform artificially spurred the 2005 record of nearly 2.1 million cases filed, this peak will be all about the reality of a Covid-19-blasted economy. That's a bankruptcy tidal wave of a different color. So far, 2020 has avoided a surge of personal bankruptcies. In fact, total bankruptcy filings year to date trail the 2019 figures.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/advisor/2020/09/23/after-the-covid-19-deluge-a-bankruptcy-tidal-wave/>

Perth campaigner says lack of clarity over Covid-19 measures is leaving blind people unable to shop safely

A Perth disability campaigner fears a lack of clarity over coronavirus restrictions in shops are making it extremely difficult for blind people to visit stores safely. Jon Attenborough, who can only see shapes and colours, feels he is no longer able to go shopping on the high street by himself due to the visual nature of the majority of restrictions implemented by stores. The campaigner has called for shops to adopt a uniform approach to the guidelines to help people with impaired visibility safely navigate stores on their own. "Going into shops was difficult before the restrictions were put in place but with some shops there's now queues you don't know about or a one-way system and it's very difficult to know which way to go.

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/perth-kinross/1593529/perth-campaigner-says-lack-of-clarity-over-covid-19-measures-is-leaving-blind-people-unable-to-shop-safely/>

New CSP Covid-19 rehabilitation standards launched

They apply to anyone with rehabilitation needs- aged 18 or over - who has or has had Covid-19, and are relevant to people at all stages of their Covid-19 recovery, their families and carers. This is whether their care is managed in community settings throughout or if they were admitted to hospital at any stage. There are seven quality standards: Needs assessment, rehabilitation planning and review - Personalised rehabilitation - Self-management - Communication and information - Coordinated rehabilitation and care pathways - Evaluation, audit and research - Personal protective equipment and infection control

<https://www.csp.org.uk/news/2020-09-25-new-csp-covid-19-rehabilitation-standards-launched>

Coronavirus: World leaders must overcome differences to fight COVID-19, PM to warn

Boris Johnson will warn the coronavirus pandemic has divided the international community, as he pledges hundreds of millions of pounds to the World Health Organisation to fight future viruses. In a speech at the UN General Assembly later, the prime minister will warn that countries must work together and overcome the divisions created by the global health crisis or risk it spiralling out of control. Mr Johnson will also make a large financial commitment to the WHO, making the UK the largest country-donor to the organisation just months after Donald Trump froze US funding.

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-world-leaders-must-overcome-differences-to-fight-covid-19-pm-to-warn-12081925>

China delivers more COVID-19 preventive supplies to Zambia

China delivered more COVID-19 preventative materials to Zambia. Li Jie, Chinese Ambassador to Zambia, said on Friday the international community still needs to support Zambia as the country has continued to see a rise in both new cases and deaths. He said the two countries have been all-weather friends for a long time and that the two sides have been united in fighting the pandemic since it broke out in the southern African nation. "These supplies have just arrived in Zambia by air. I am handing over them to the Ministry of Health. I believe they will play a positive role in the treatment of critically ill patients and the protection of medical staff," he said.

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/09/26/china-delivers-more-covid-19-preventive-supplies-to-zambia/>

Coronavirus: Two million deaths 'very likely' even with vaccine, WHO warns

The global coronavirus death toll could hit two million before an effective vaccine is widely used, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned. Dr Mike Ryan, the WHO's emergencies head, said the figure could be higher without concerted international action. Almost one million people have died with Covid-19 worldwide since the disease first emerged in China late last year. Virus infections continue to rise, with 32 million cases confirmed globally. The start of a second surge of coronavirus infections has been seen in many countries in the northern hemisphere as winter approaches.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-54303628>

Ranking countries' likelihood to secure a future coronavirus vaccine

As soon as drugmakers began testing their coronavirus vaccine candidates, rich countries moved aggressively to lock in deals guaranteeing millions doses for their populations. A global coalition of international organizations is trying to ensure that doesn't leave poor countries out in the cold. We've mapped where 15 countries, plus the European Union, stand when it comes to their likelihood of having access to a vaccine once it proves safe and effective against the virus. Their position is based on the money they have invested in vaccine research and development, the deals secured with pharmaceutical companies developing vaccines and their participation in the COVAX scheme, ran by Gavi, the vaccine alliance; the World Health Organization; and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a partnership that provides early-stage investment in multiple vaccines candidates.

<https://www.politico.com/interactives/2020/ranking-countries-coronavirus-vaccine/>

Exit Strategies

"Will Centre Have 80,000 Crore For Covid Vaccines" Adar Poonawalla Asks

Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of the Serum Institute of India - the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines by volume and which is conducting trials of Covid vaccine candidates ahead of mass production - took to Twitter today to highlight challenges in vaccine production and distribution in the country. "Quick question: will the Government of India have 80,000 crores available over the next one year? Because that is what the Ministry of Health needs to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in India. This is the next concerning challenge we need to tackle," Mr Poonawalla said.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/coronavirus-vaccine-does-government-have-80-000-crore-for-covid-vaccines-adar-poonawalla-asks-2301453>

Covid-19 restrictions: 'South Asian weddings should have 400 guests - not 15'

The new 15-guest limit would be "out of the question" for South Asian weddings, according to an events manager who has lost all his bookings since March. Arum Javed said Monsoon Venue Group, in Birmingham, was on "shaky ground". Before Covid-19, British Asian weddings were traditionally lavish affairs, with multiple events that would tend to have 300 guests as a minimum. On Tuesday it was announced the maximum number of people allowed at weddings was being cut from 30 to 15. The change came as the government outlined a new set of restrictions aimed at limiting another rise in cases of the coronavirus.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-54271395>

Covid-19: What has it meant for the 'busiest' trains?

Newly released figures have revealed the 10 most overcrowded trains in England and Wales. Among them was the 07:16 service from King's Lynn, in Norfolk, into London King's Cross. But has coronavirus changed things? Spoiler alert. It has. The data released by the Department for Transport on Thursday suggested nearly one in five train passengers had to stand due to overcrowding during the morning rush hour. But these latest figures are for last autumn and seem to reflect a different world from today's Covid-19 reality. Great Northern, which runs the King's Lynn to King's Cross service, had told us it had already been working hard to reduce crowding before the pandemic struck. The government's figures show the service was running at 165% capacity when it was measured last year.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-54291982>

Covid-19: Swansea soprano stars in drive-in London opera

A night at the opera might summon up images of people in suits and ballgowns sitting in stalls and boxes overlooking a stage. But when she performs in Europe's first drive-in opera this weekend, Welsh soprano Natalya Romaniw will be singing to an audience sitting in their cars. Ms Romaniw, from Swansea, is starring in Puccini's *La bohème*, in the grounds of London's Alexandra Palace. The 32-year-old said she felt "lucky to be performing again". Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, performances have been cancelled with many venues remaining closed due to social-distancing measures.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-54299008>

U.S. Midwest sees surge in COVID-19 cases as four states report record increases

Four U.S. states in the Midwest reported record one-day increases in COVID-19 cases on Saturday as infections rise nationally for a second week in a row, according to a Reuters analysis. Minnesota reported 1,418 new cases, Montana 343 new cases, South Dakota reported 579 and Wisconsin had 2,902 new cases. In the last week, seven mostly Midwest states have reported record one-day rises in new infections -- Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Minnesota and Utah reported record increases two days in a row.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa/u-s-midwest-sees-surge-in-covid-19-cases-as-four-states-report-record-increases-idUKKBN26H0XN>

Coronavirus: Sea swims help with lockdown mental health

A sea swim before dawn to help those struggling with mental health issues has been attracting more than 100 people every week. Chris Reeves set up the Win the Morning, Win the Day group on social media six weeks ago, offering to meet up in Gosport with anyone wanting to get some exercise and talk about their problems. The group meets every Friday at 05.30 BST and Chris has imposed coronavirus safety measures, such as splitting people into groups of six and enforcing staggered starts to the walk. The idea is now gaining popularity, with groups also starting in Leeds, Manchester and Bahrain.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-hampshire-54243762>

Pro-Trump supporters protest against 'Coronavirus Death Scoreboard' installed at a Chicago park

At least 50 pro-Trump supporters held a protest on Friday in Northbrook, Illinois. The event was in response to a 'Coronavirus Death Scoreboard' sign that had been installed by a liberal group, Peaceful Communities, last week. Peaceful Communities said the sign was meant to be a reminder about the pandemic, but Trump supporters have perceived it as an attack on him. The sign was vandalized five times within six days after it debuted. The protest was organized by Peter C., a local high school student who is involved in local conservative politics.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8775841/amp/Pro-Trump-supporters-protest-against-Coronavirus-Death-Scoreboard-installed-Chicago-park.html>

5 common coronavirus misconceptions and the science you need to know

Since the beginning of 2020, when we first started hearing about a new coronavirus, eventually dubbed SARS-CoV-2, our understanding of what it is, how it infects people, who it infects and how we can protect ourselves have all evolved as our knowledge has grown. But that evolution -- and the changing information and recommendations that accompanied it -- has also sown confusion, and in some cases, deliberate disinformation. "Just as Covid-19 has spread around the world, so too have rumors, untruths and disinformation. And they can be just as dangerous," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, said on Wednesday.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/26/health/coronavirus-myths-science-gupta/index.html>

Coronavirus: Children behind rising demand for tests in England

Demand for coronavirus tests has almost trebled among young children in England this month - but only 1% were found to have the virus, figures show. In the first two weeks of September, more than 200,000 under-nines were tested, according to government's test-and-trace programme. That is nearly three times as many as in the previous fortnight. A large study review has also confirmed that children are less likely to be infected than adults. But the role that children and adolescents play in transmitting the virus "remains unclear", it said.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54296567>

Italy avoids Europe's dramatic Covid-19 surge but for how long?

The first Western country to be struck by the devastating coronavirus pandemic, Italy is today an outlier in Europe with limited new cases compared with neighbours. The question is why, and will it last. While France reported a record 16,096 new Covid-19 infections on Thursday and Spain over 10,000, Italy's number has for weeks remained below 2,000. It has carried out fewer tests -- some 120,000 per day, versus France's 180,000 -- but not enough to explain the sharp difference in new infections. Experts largely point to the success of a severe and lengthy lockdown, combined with a collective trauma. Horrifying memories of coffins stacked up as cemeteries in the north overflowed and intensive-care beds ran out appear to have ensured Italians stick diligently to the rules, many even wearing masks in situations where it is not obligatory.

<https://www.thelocal.it/20200926/italy-avoids-europes-dramatic-virus-uptick-but-for-how-long>

'Italy showed the epidemic could be turned around': WHO

The World Health Organization has paid tribute to Italy's response to the coronavirus pandemic, which it said had showed the world the outbreak could be contained. In a new video shared on Friday, the WHO presented Italy as a successful case study for tackling Covid-19 – even as the country recorded its highest number of new cases since lockdown ended. "Italy showed the epidemic's trajectory could be turned around through commitment, coordination and communication across government and communities, a resilient public health system and by following a science-based response," the UN's health agency said.

<https://www.thelocal.it/20200925/italy-showed-the-epidemic-could-be-turned-around-who>

'We're suddenly drowning in people': Argentinians flock to Uruguay amid pandemic

"It started as a trickle when the pandemic first hit Argentina, but now we're getting over 20 calls a day," she said from her office in Uruguay's luxury beach resort of Punta Del Este. Valls runs a thriving business guiding well-off Argentinians through the red tape of acquiring Uruguayan residence – a skill she learned arranging her own residency application after marrying a Uruguayan lawyer last October. "The pandemic hit us like a sledgehammer – we are suddenly drowning in people wanting to come here," said her husband Diego Torres. About 15,000 to 20,000 Argentinians are estimated to have moved to Uruguay since the pandemic began in March – a number equivalent to about 0.6% of Uruguay's population of 3.5 million.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/20/uruguay-argentina-coronavirus-pandemic>

Uruguay is winning against covid-19. This is how

Uruguay is Latin America's positive outlier in a region ravaged by the pandemic. Luke Taylor explains how simple measures and following the science has put it head and shoulders above richer countries in fighting the novel coronavirus. Latin America continues to suffer some of the worst tolls of covid-19, with over seven million recorded infections¹ accounting for nearly half of all daily deaths.² But in the region's Southern Cone there is a clear outlier wedged between Brazil to the west, with over 3.5 million confirmed cases, and Argentina to the east, with half a million. Somehow, Uruguay has a lid on the pandemic. Its relatively small population of 3.5 million made controlling the transmission of covid-19 easier but never guaranteed its success—Panama, home to four million in Central America, has recorded over 100 000 cases and 2000 related deaths.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3575>

Unhappy With Your Old Life? Pandemic Frees Formerly Office-Bound Workers to Experiment With New Ones

Back in July, Chelsea Alexander Paul and her husband, Evan, sat down in their San Francisco apartment and made a spreadsheet of places where they could live and work for the same amount of money or less. The Pauls had lived in the city for four years and once lockdowns began, they spent months working from their one-bedroom home in the Mission District. As of now, their offices won't reopen until August 2021, freeing them up to focus on a place with better work space and more outdoor activities. "It felt like what we had in the city wasn't really there anymore and isn't going to be there for a little while," said Ms. Paul, who is 32 and senior marketing lead at the Sheryl Sandberg & Dave Goldberg Family Foundation.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/unhappy-with-your-old-life-pandemic-frees-formerly-office-bound-workers-to-experiment-with-new-ones-11601118000>

Canadian snowbirds' plans to head south for winter derailed due to coronavirus

A couple of years ago, Renee Huart-Field and her husband packed up their lives in Bracebridge, Ont., in pursuit of the retirees' dream. And for a while, they were living it. The couple loaded most of their worldly possessions into a trailer, and with their two golden retrievers in tow, started splitting their time between two picturesque destinations.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7350146/canadian-snowbirds-head-south-coronavirus/>

Coronavirus vaccine: Who will be first to get jab? Draft list revealed

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<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-vaccine-who-will-be-first-to-get-jab-draft-list-revealed-12081391>

Partisan Exits

Wuhan bounces back to lead fight against claims coronavirus is China's fault

China gives Wuhan a 'hero city' makeover: pool parties to the fore — and wet markets out of sight - restaurants and bars are thronged, people swim in the Yangtze river and jog along its banks. Life seems strikingly normal in Wuhan, ground zero of the coronavirus pandemic. Four months after the central Chinese city recorded its last infection, children have returned to school and the shopping centres are buzzing. "Wuhan, we can" proclaimed stickers pressed onto the arms of passers-by during a tightly orchestrated tour for foreign businessmen and media this month. The city once synonymous with China's pandemic failings is the focus of a Communist Party propaganda blitz hailing "victory" over the virus. The turnaround is dramatic.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/wuhan-bounces-back-to-lead-fight-against-claims-coronavirus-is-chinas-fault-wdrnqdsmk>

One in five will refuse Covid vaccine when it becomes available

A fifth of people in the UK say they are unlikely to get a coronavirus vaccine if one is approved, a study highlighting "concerning" levels of misinformation has found. Three-quarters (78%) of 17,500 adults surveyed by University College London (UCL) researchers said they would be "likely" to get vaccinated, with 49% saying they were "very likely" to do so. But 22% said this was unlikely, and one in 10 said this was "very unlikely", with factors including worries about unforeseen effects, preferences for natural immunity, concerns about commercial profiteering, and mistrust of vaccine benefits.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/uk-news/one-five-refuse-covid-vaccine-18987832>

Covid-19: Fewer than 0.1% fined for no masks on trains

Fewer than 0.1% of people stopped by police for not wearing masks on trains received a fine, figures have revealed. British Transport Police (BTP) said it stopped 14,726 people from 15 July to 15 August for failing to comply, resulting in 14 fixed penalty notices. The rules, introduced in June, state anyone travelling on public transport must wear a face covering. BTP said enforcement in the form of fixed penalty notices was only used as a "last resort". It said, from 30 July to 8 September, officers recorded 50,729 "interventions" with passengers not wearing face coverings, with 3,545 - 7% - of those told to leave the train.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-54295612>

Coronavirus: Even scientists can't agree on how society should fight COVID-19

Remember those early days in the COVID journey, where everyone talked about "following the science"? Looking back, it seems almost childishly naïve. Back then we were only just learning about concepts like "the R rate" or "T cell immunity," and Zoom quizzes were a novel way to spend an evening rather than something to shudder about. Now, six months after the first lockdown and facing rising infection levels again, we are cynical COVID-19 veterans. We now know that our scientists - like our politicians - are fallible. They disagree. We can't just blithely "follow the science" because there is no such thing as "the science" - just different interpretations of incomplete evidence.

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-even-scientists-cant-agree-on-how-society-should-fight-covid-19-12082007>

Tory split on coronavirus has seen off any joined-up strategy

It would help if the cabinet could agree. Yet for the past seven months it has remained deeply

divided, squabbling over the scientific advice and what Covid-19 might mean for the nation's health and jobs. Britons have become familiar with a bewildering, almost weekly stream of tactical policies, twisting this way and that, many of them in direct opposition to each other. There was no better example than Rishi's dinners, the eat out to help out (EOTHO) subsidy that sent millions of people into pubs, restaurants and cafes during August. With only a few rules in place dictating how businesses should conduct themselves, it became a feeding frenzy. While many establishments invested in thermometer guns to test customers on entry, and rejected people calling themselves Minnie Mouse for the purpose of track and trace, many did not.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/sep/26/tory-split-on-covid-and-economy-saw-off-joined-up-strategy>

Coronavirus: police break up anti-lockdown protest in London

Police have broken up a protest in central London after thousands of people defied their advice and demonstrated against lockdowns, mass vaccinations, mandatory wearing of face masks and other coronavirus restrictions. The protest, organised by campaign groups including Save Our Rights UK, was called to mark six months since the passage of the Coronavirus Act, which gave the government wide-ranging powers to enact restrictions intended to curb the spread of the virus. Protesters began gathering from about midday, with the first speaker saying the demonstration was meant to be peaceful, and that it had been negotiated beforehand with the Metropolitan police, with a full health and safety impact assessment filed in advance.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/26/london-lockdown-protesters-urged-to-follow-covid-rules>

Coronavirus: Italy president fires back at Boris Johnson over COVID remark

Italy's president has hit back at Boris Johnson after he suggested the UK had higher coronavirus infection rates because it was a more "freedom-loving country". In parliament this week, the prime minister was quizzed about why Germany and Italy appeared to have lower COVID-19 rates than Britain.

<https://news.sky.com/story/we-also-care-about-seriousness-italy-president-fires-back-at-boris-johnson-over-covid-remark-12080672>

Spain's Covid response is plunged into chaos

Spain's response to the worst resurgence of coronavirus in Europe was plunged into chaos on Friday as Madrid regional authorities defied a national government call to put the whole capital city under new restrictions. The dispute highlights the governance crisis that has accompanied the pandemic in Spain and the lack of political consensus over how to handle it. It signals a more difficult phase of managing coronavirus around the world as winter looms and infections accelerate, with efforts to build up locally differentiated responses and people more reluctant to comply with harsh restrictions on public life and business activity.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e64c4e37-e085-42f2-b2b0-b956129e83f8>

Boris Johnson's 10pm pubs curfew was based on 'back of a fag packet calculations'

Insiders said new restrictions departed from advice given by PM's top scientists Sage 'increasingly frustrated' they are being both overruled and scapegoated Measures announced Tuesday force pubs and restaurants to close at 10pm

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8775199/Boris-Johnsons-10pm-pubs-curfew-based-fag-packet-calculations.html>

Trump Administration Took \$300 Million From CDC For Covid-19 Coronavirus Ad Campaign, Report Says

Gee what should you do with \$300 million during the ongoing Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic that has already killed over 200,000 Americans? Support medical and public health research into better understanding the virus, its spread, and its control? Improve testing and surveillance? Deliver more masks and personal protective equipment to health care personnel and others? How about start an

advertisement campaign to "defeat despair" that features video interviews with Trump administration officials and celebrities? After all, why deal with a problem when instead you can make people believe that it is not a problem?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2020/09/26/trump-administration-took-300-million-from-cdc-for-covid-19-coronavirus-ad-campaign-report-says/>

Coronavirus: Whitty and Vallance faced 'herd immunity' backlash, emails show

As the UK introduces fresh restrictions on social contact to curb the spread of coronavirus, controversy continues to rage about whether the government had initially considered trying a very different approach. At the start of the pandemic, the government's chief scientific adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance, spoke about "herd immunity" - the idea that once enough of a population had been exposed to the virus, they would build up natural immunity to it. Sir Patrick and the government have both insisted this was never official policy. The government also denies there was any delay in locking down the country, as some critics have suggested. Emails obtained by the BBC reveal the alarm among the government's top scientific advisers at the reaction to Sir Patrick's words. In one email from March, Sir Patrick asks for help to "calm down" academics who have expressed anger at his repeated references to herd immunity and the delays in announcing a lockdown.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-54252272>

Rising Virus Cases in Europe Spark Political Clash in Spain

The pressure mounting on European leaders to contain the resurgent coronavirus pandemic boiled over in Spain as the region reemerges as a global hot spot. Tensions erupted into a public spat, with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government urging local Madrid officials to lock down the entire city. The proposal was promptly rebuffed by the capital region's administration, which is controlled by the biggest opposition party to Sanchez's coalition. Europe's biggest economies are experiencing a disquieting spike in infections, adding to risks weighing on a slowing recovery. Officials in Italy and France are facing new questions about intensive-care capacity, and U.K. daily cases remained at the highest level yet. Italy reported more than 1,900 new infections, the most since May 1.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-24/france-daily-coronavirus-cases-jump-to-record-16-096>

The bogus Steve Bannon-backed study claiming China created the coronavirus, explained

A controversial new study getting attention in US conservative media claims the coronavirus was created in a Chinese lab — but the group behind the report is intimately linked to a prominent Trump ally and known China hawk: Steve Bannon. And all I spoke to said the study is deeply flawed. The article popped up on September 14 on Zenodo, a website for scientists and academics to upload their work before it has gone through any formal peer-review process. Right-wing media outlets like the New York Post quickly seized on the paper's conclusion that the virus that causes Covid-19 was potentially man-made at a Chinese facility. The study's lead author, the 36-year-old Yan Li-Meng, has already appeared on Tucker Carlson's Fox News show to say the Chinese government "intentionally" released the virus into the world. That's an explosive allegation that if true would crack the unsolved mystery of the coronavirus's origins. But despite the boldness of the paper's claims, there's considerable evidence that Chinese researchers didn't bioengineer SARS-CoV-2 and that the government didn't deploy it as a bioweapon.

<https://www.vox.com/2020/9/18/21439865/coronavirus-china-study-bannon>

Continued Lockdown

NHS Covid-19 app refuses to let users enter negative test results and insists they STAY in 14-day quarantine in flaw that has affected 60,000 people in 24 hours

App tells users to self-isolate if they alert it to any coronavirus-like symptoms But if they fail to book a test through the app they then cannot enter the results This means they are unable to turn off a

warning advising them to self-isolate The Department of Health said that they had now fixed the problem

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8775527/NHS-Covid-19-app-bug-refuses-let-users-enter-negative-test-results.html>

Military to support Birmingham's Covid-19 testing

Military support is being brought in to help with the coronavirus testing programme in Birmingham. About 100 military personnel will aid Birmingham City Council with its "drop and collect" testing programme. At a weekly briefing, the council's deputy leader said it would assist civilian efforts to maximise the numbers of tests able to be done. It comes as the number of cases in the city reached 107.6 per 100,000 people - the highest in the West Midlands. The "drop and collect service" sees tests dropped off at a resident's door and then collected by staff and is aimed at areas with high rates of infection, to provide a service to people who can't leave their homes and to encourage those who may not be proactive in getting tested.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-54307196>

Coronavirus: Israel tightens second lockdown amid acrimony

Israel has tightened restrictions on its population in the fight against coronavirus, one week after a second lockdown came into effect. From Friday afternoon, businesses not officially considered essential were ordered closed, and travel restricted to 1km (0.6 miles) from people's homes. Other planned rules which would affect protesters and synagogue-goers have not yet been approved amid acrimony. Covid-19 cases in Israel have continued to rise despite the latest lockdown. A new record of more than 8,000 infections for a single day were recorded on Thursday in Israel, which has one of the highest rates of infections per capita in the world.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-54278293>

Coronavirus: More than a quarter of UK under stricter rules

More than a quarter of the UK population is set to be under stricter coronavirus rules, as new measures come into force this weekend. From Saturday in England, households in Leeds, Wigan, Stockport and Blackpool are banned from mixing in each other's homes or gardens. In Wales, Llanelli became subject to new rules at 18:00 BST, with Cardiff and Swansea to follow 24 hours later. It comes as the rate at which the virus is spreading appears to be speeding up. There have been 6,042 new coronavirus infections in the UK over the past 24 hours, according to the latest government figures - and 34 deaths among those who tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 28 days. It marks the fourth consecutive day that new infections across the UK have topped 6,000.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54304659>

UK Government local coronavirus testing site opens in Edinburgh

A new walk-through coronavirus testing centre has opened in Edinburgh. The new facility is being provided by the UK Government as part of a UK-wide drive to continue to improve the accessibility of coronavirus testing for local communities. The centre, in the Usher Hall, will offer pre-booked tests for those with coronavirus symptoms. The new site is situated so as to be easily accessible without a car. Those being tested will be required to follow public health measures, including social distancing, not travelling by taxi or public transport, practising good personal hygiene and wearing a face covering throughout, including while travelling to and from the testing centre.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-local-coronavirus-testing-site-opens-in-edinburgh>

Scientific Viewpoint

People could suffer impact of having Covid for years, professor warns | ITV News

A specialist in infectious diseases has warned that people could suffer from the impact of having coronavirus for years, with many experiencing prolonged symptoms. Professor Sam McConkey,

associate professor and head of the Department of International Health and Tropical Medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), said some patients continue to have “significant dysfunction” of the lungs, heart or brain up to three or six months later. Those recovering from Covid-19 have reported feeling faster heart rates than usual, others suffer panic attacks, while some say they cannot walk as far and some have reported having “brain fog” and difficulty concentrating.
<https://www.itv.com/news/2020-09-27/long-covid-people-could-suffer-impact-of-having-coronavirus-for-years-professor-warns>

Johnson & Johnson becomes fourth coronavirus vaccine study to enter final stages in the US

Johnson & Johnson is starting a huge final study today to determine if a single-dose coronavirus vaccine can provide protection against the disease. The vaccine candidate, which was developed by Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, is the fourth US company to begin Phase 3 trials in the US, following Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech and AstraZeneca. From Wednesday, 60,000 volunteers across the US, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru will be involved with testing of the vaccine.
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/coronavirus-vaccine-study-us-final-stages-a4554431.html>

China says WHO gave blessing for coronavirus vaccine emergency use programme

The World Health Organization supported China's campaign to vaccinate certain people against coronavirus in July while clinical trials were still under way, a Chinese health official said on Friday, although some experts have expressed concern about the move.
<https://uk.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-china-who/update-2-china-says-who-gave-blessing-for-coronavirus-vaccine-emergency-use-programme-idUKL3N2GM26U>

It may take several tries to find right COVID-19 vaccine, PAHO director says

It may take several tries to find the right vaccine for COVID-19, the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) director Carissa Etienne said on Wednesday, as she urged countries to begin preparing vaccination plans. Global reported infections of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, are climbing toward 32 million, according to a Reuters tally, while deaths approach 1 million. Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are reporting about a million new infections every two weeks. "We hope scientists do uncover an effective vaccine that offers lasting protection against COVID but it may take a few tries before we find the right one," Etienne said during PAHO's weekly virtual press conference. "Early vaccines may only provide partial protection or may not work for everyone. We don't yet know which vaccine will be found safe and effective and how it will work," she said.
<https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/world/it-may-take-several-tries-to-find-right-covid-19-vaccine-paho-director-says-500912/>

China begins emergency use of Covid-19 vaccine despite safety concerns

Hundreds of thousands of people in China have been given a coronavirus vaccine despite the fact it has not been finally approved by regulators. The move has prompted concerns among onlookers that China is pushing ahead to gain an edge in the race to develop a successful vaccine without following proper safety measures. Chinese companies Sinopharm and SinoVac have given vaccine shots to more than 350,000 people in recent months and that number is likely set to rise.
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/china-emergency-use-covid19-despite-safety-concerns-a4556976.html>

'It's going to end' — Dr Anthony Fauci tells Ireland a Covid vaccine could arrive in 2020

Donald Trump's top coronavirus expert still believes there is a chance a Covid-19 vaccine could arrive this year. Dr Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the US, offered the positive assessment during an appear on The Late Late Show in Ireland. Speaking to host Ryan Tubridy, urged people to “hang in there” just a little longer. “This is

going to end," he told the RTE presenter. "We should know by the end of this calendar year – let's say November, December – whether we have a safe and effective vaccine that can then be started to be deployed," he added. "Once we get vaccines distributed in the population – we won't be completely avoiding and not adhering to public health measures – but clearly, they will be much less restrictive.

<https://www.irishpost.com/news/its-going-to-end-dr-anthony-fauci-tells-ireland-covid-vaccine-could-arrive-in-2020-193804>

COVID-vaccine results are on the way – and scientists' concerns are growing

Two weeks ago, the UK trial of a leading vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford and pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca restarted after a six-day pause to investigate safety concerns. Halted trials of the same vaccine in South Africa and Brazil have also since resumed, but the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not yet given the green light for US studies to start again. The trial's sponsors have so far released few details about what caused the pause, and why the trial was allowed to resume. Some scientists say this lack of transparency could erode public trust in the vaccine.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02706-6>

Carriers of two genetic mutations at greater risk for illness and death from COVID-19

Researchers suggest that carriers of the genetic mutations PiZ and PiS are at high risk for severe illness and even death from COVID-19. These mutations lead to deficiency in the alpha1-antitrypsin protein, which protects lung tissues from damage in case of severe infections. Other studies have already associated deficiency in this protein with inflammatory damage to lung function in other diseases.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/09/200926145205.htm>

Test Results From NHS Or Government Labs Can't Be Linked With Covid-19 App, Official Admits

Tens of thousands of test results delivered each day by NHS or Public Health England (PHE) labs can't be linked with the official Covid-19 app, officials have admitted. An issue with the long-awaited technology – which arrived on Thursday months later than hoped – means that Pillar 1 test results, which are provided by the NHS and PHE, cannot be connected to the app. On Friday, 210,375 tests were taken – 61,481 of which were handled by PHE and the NHS.

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/health/medical/test-results-from-nhs-or-government-labs-cant-be-linked-with-covid-19-app-official-admits/ar-BB19rQTY>

England's coronavirus tracing app positive test result function fixed but problems continue

An issue preventing users of the NHS Covid-19 app in England logging a positive test result has now been resolved. However, people who book a test outside the app still cannot log negative results. Concerns were expressed when it emerged people tested in NHS hospitals or Public Health England (PHE) labs or those taking part in the Office for National Statistics infection survey could not enter their results on the newly-launched app.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/coronavirus-tracing-app-outage-fixed-positive-results-a4557111.html>

Vitamin D 'cuts chance of coronavirus death by half', study finds

Patients who take a daily dose of vitamin D are less likely to experience complications and die from coronavirus, according to a new study in the US. The vitamin was linked to higher levels of immune cells in the blood and much lower inflammatory markers, scientists at Boston University's school of medicine found. This meant there were far fewer cytokine storms, a potentially deadly overreaction of the immune system sparked by coronavirus that overloads the blood with proteins.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-treatment-vitamin-d-deficiency-risk-a4556891.html>

Coronavirus: London placed on Covid-19 watch-list as cases rise

London has been added to the government's Covid-19 watch-list following a rise in cases in the city, officials have said. All boroughs have been classed as areas of concern, but no additional restrictions have been announced. Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said the city was at "a worrying tipping point" with hospital admissions increasing. Councils in the city have urged residents to abide by current restrictions. The watch-list, published each week, categorises local councils seeing a higher infection rate as "areas of concern", "areas of enhanced support" or "areas of intervention". Tighter restrictions are usually introduced for areas in the third category.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-54296597>

China's annual production capacity of COVID-19 vaccines expected to reach 610 million doses by end-2020, official says

China's annual production capacity of COVID-19 vaccines is expected to reach 610 million doses by end-2020, the country's National Health Commission said on Friday. Production capacity of the vaccines is forecast to reach 1 billion doses per year by 2021, Zheng Zhongwei, Director General of the Development Centre for Medical Science and Technology of the commission, told a news briefing.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-vaccine-idUKKCN26G10I>

178,000 people given the all-clear in mass test sparked by asymptomatic workers

Two men at Qingdao port test positive for Covid-19 after working night shift unpacking frozen food - Two ships put on temporary blacklist after coronavirus found on goods they were carrying

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3103171/coronavirus-178000-people-given-all-clear-mass-test-sparked>

Sanofi/Glaxo to Supply 70M Coronavirus Vaccine Doses in Canada

Sanofi SNY and its partner GlaxoSmithKline GSK announced an agreement with the government of Canada to supply up to 72 million doses of the adjuvanted COVID-19 vaccine that the companies are developing together, if approved. The vaccine will be produced at Glaxo and Sanofi's manufacturing sites in Canada. Sanofi's recombinant protein-based technology is being combined with Glaxo's pandemic adjuvant technology to develop an adjuvanted COVID-19 vaccine.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/sanofi-glaxo-supply-70m-coronavirus-145602352.html>

Coronavirus: NHS tracing app problem that left tens of thousands of tests unlogged has been fixed, government says

A problem that prevented tens of thousands of people from logging the result of their coronavirus tests on the new NHS contact-tracing app has been fixed, according to a Department of Health spokesman. In a statement, they said: "Everyone who receives a positive test result can log their result on the app. "A minority of people, such as hospital patients, who were unable to log their positive result can now request a code when contacted by NHS Test and Trace to input on their app." It came after the app's developers admitted it had not been able to link more than 60,000 coronavirus tests carried out in England on Friday - just under a third of the total - to its systems

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-nhs-tracing-app-problem-that-left-tens-of-thousands-of-tests-unlogged-has-been-fixed-government-says-12082178?via=indextdotco>

NHS Covid-19: App issue fixed for people who test positive

The government has fixed a problem with its new NHS coronavirus app in England and Wales which meant many positive test results were not being logged. Users were unable to record a positive test result, if they had booked a test elsewhere and not via the app. But the Department of Health said everyone who tests positive can now log it, however they booked the test. However, people who test negative are still unable to share their result if they did not book it via the app.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-54307526>

10000 UK volunteers to take part in new COVID-19 vaccine trials

More than 250,000 people in the UK have now volunteered to take part in COVID-19 vaccine trials through the NHS Vaccines Registry, tens of thousands of those volunteers will take part in the world's first Phase 3 study to test the effectiveness of the new Novavax coronavirus vaccine, more volunteers from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, as well as those with long-term health conditions, are being encouraged to be part of vaccine research

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10000-uk-volunteers-to-take-part-in-new-covid-19-vaccine-trials>

Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support in COVID-19: an international cohort study of the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization registry

Data for 1035 patients with COVID-19 who received ECMO support were included in this study. Of these, 67 (6%) remained hospitalised, 311 (30%) were discharged home or to an acute rehabilitation centre, 101 (10%) were discharged to a long-term acute care centre or unspecified location, 176 (17%) were discharged to another hospital, and 380 (37%) died. The estimated cumulative incidence of in-hospital mortality 90 days after the initiation of ECMO was 37.4% (95% CI 34.4-40.4). Mortality was 39% (380 of 968) in patients with a final disposition of death or hospital discharge.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)32008-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32008-0/fulltext)

Covid-19: What do scientists think of the PM's plan?

After dangling the possibility of a mini-lockdown to break coronavirus's chain of transmission, Boris Johnson has opted for a much softer strategy. The new Covid restrictions for England - which allow pubs and restaurants to remain open and households to continue mixing - have been met by scientists with responses ranging from praise to despair. Dame Anne Johnson, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at University College London, said it was essential to act quickly to stop the growth in the epidemic. She is "pleased" to see the government acting now, and says the change in messaging may be enough to change the virus's course.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54267837>

Genetic variants mimicking therapeutic inhibition of IL-6 receptor signaling and risk of COVID-19

Few effective therapeutic options are available for the treatment of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection. IL-6 receptor blockade has been proposed as one potential therapeutic strategy, and more than 40 clinical trials of anti-IL-6 receptor antibodies (including tocilizumab and sarilumab) in the setting of SARS-CoV-2 infection are underway (appendix p 2). Early evidence from observational studies and open-label, uncontrolled trials has suggested that IL-6 receptor blockers might confer benefit, particularly in patients with severe COVID-19.1

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanrhe/article/PIIS2665-9913\(20\)30345-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanrhe/article/PIIS2665-9913(20)30345-3/fulltext)

Flu vaccine demand seems up in northern hemisphere: WHO

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, there seems to be an increased demand for influenza vaccine in the northern hemisphere with some countries experiencing shortages, a World Health Organization (WHO) expert said on Friday. Dr. Ann Moen, WHO chief of the Influenza Preparedness and Response, said at a news briefing that at the same time, some parts of the southern hemisphere reported fewer influenza cases this year. "We've heard from specific countries saying that they were trying to get additional vaccines, and they were trying to source it. And some countries are having trouble sourcing additional vaccines," said Moen. She said WHO is helping countries manage prevention, control, and treatment of respiratory illnesses "holistically," including both influenza and COVID-19.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/health/flu-vaccine-demand-seems-up-in-northern-hemisphere-who/1985680>

Hidden immune weakness found in 14% of gravely ill COVID-19 patients

From the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientists baffled by the disease's ferocity have wondered whether the body's vanguard virus fighter, a molecular messenger called type I

interferon, is missing in action in some severe cases. Two papers published online in Science this week confirm that suspicion. They reveal that in a significant minority of patients with serious COVID-19, the interferon response has been crippled by genetic flaws or by rogue antibodies that attack interferon itself. "Together these two papers explain nearly 14% of severe COVID-19 cases. That is quite amazing," says Qiang Pan- Hammarström, an immunologist at the Karolinska Institute <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/09/hidden-immune-weakness-found-14-gravely-ill-covid-19-patients>

Coronavirus vaccine: Johnson & Johnson jab shows response in 98% of test participants

One of the numerous proposed coronavirus vaccines has produced a strong immune response in test subjects according to a report issued Friday. Johnson & Johnson's JNJ.N Covid-19 vaccine, called Ad26.COV2.S, was well-tolerated by subjects at two dosing instances in early-to-mid stage coronavirus clinical trials. It is the only Phase 3 Covid-19 vaccine trial in the US that is testing a single dose vaccine. Researchers said 98 per cent of participants in the study whose data was available had neutralising antibodies, which help the body fight off pathogens, a month after they received the vaccine.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/coronavirus-vaccine-trials-covid-19-johnson-b624918.html>

Trials of Russia coronavirus 'vaccine' show questionable results 'very unlikely' to be a coincidence

Initial reports on Sputnik V vaccine were published in the Lancet earlier this month. International scientists have flagged up several apparent anomalies. Graphs show the level of immune response in different people after taking the vaccine seems to be different in nature

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8770233/Trials-Russia-coronavirus-vaccine-questionable-results-unlikely-coincidence.html>

Merck, advancing single-dose and oral coronavirus vaccines, could still make Warp Speed: Bloomberg

The U.S. government's Operation Warp Speed has already inked COVID-19 vaccine research and manufacturing pacts with major vaccine players—excluding Merck & Co., that is. But the group's description of an as-yet-unnamed participant matches Merck's early-stage research, Bloomberg reports, indicating the drugmaker could still get in. Merck publicly entered COVID-19 vaccine research later than its peers through a buyout of the biotech Themis and a partnership with nonprofit research group IAVI. The company started phase 1/2 testing earlier this month with technology acquired in the Themis buy. The IAVI partnership uses the same platform as Merck's Ebola vaccine, which won FDA approval late last year. Merck's vaccines are live attenuated candidates, meaning they use weakened viruses that replicate in the body to generate an immune response. Merck is testing a vaccine that could be given orally, which would "help lower the barrier to vaccination should it be effective," Merck R&D chief Roger Perlmutter said on a July conference call.

<https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/merck-advancing-single-dose-and-oral-coronavirus-vaccines-could-still-make-warp-speed>

Czech coronavirus vaccine successfully passed first phase of testing on rodents

Czech researchers have successfully completed the first phase of vaccine development against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The prototype tested on rodents is safe and elicited an immune response, daily Lidove Noviny reported on September 23. The vaccine has been developed by the National Institute of Public Health (SZU), the Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (UHKT) with the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine (IKEM). Further development will depend on the decision of the Ministry of Health. The ministry announced the start of the development of the COVID-19 vaccine in early May. The news of the successful completion of the first stage was reported by the ministry's scientists on September 18.

<http://www.intellinews.com/czech-coronavirus-vaccine-successfully-passed-first-phase-of-testing-on-rodents-192697/>

Why so many people are hopeful about an mRNA coronavirus vaccine

The whole world is watching — including investors and public health specialists — as more than 30 biotech and pharmaceutical companies race to develop a safe Covid-19 vaccine. But there's a big question lingering over the process: How do we balance safety with speed? The process is moving quickly with several vaccine candidates entering late stage trials in a matter of months. Pfizer and biotech Moderna are two of the companies the White House has chosen to fast track through the FDA's regulatory process. Both companies are attempting to use messenger RNA, or mRNA, to produce their vaccines, a technology that has never before received regulatory approval....

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/25/race-for-coronavirus-vaccine-mrna-moderna-pfizer.html>

Sanofi isn't cutting corners in coronavirus vaccine development despite acceleration, CEO says

"We haven't changed anything in the way we do things, we've just accelerated," Sanofi CEO Paul Hudson told CNBC's Jim Cramer. Hudson expressed confidence in the company's coronavirus vaccine candidates, noting it produces about a billion doses of other vaccines each other. "We feel pressure to get it right and maintain the standards and to play a big part in helping people get back to normal," Hudson added on "Mad Money."

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/24/sanofi-ceo-paul-hudson-on-coronavirus-vaccine-development-timeline.html>

History Will Be "Severe Judge": Australia PM On Not Sharing Covid Vaccine

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Friday insisted that any nation that develops a Covid-19 vaccine share it universally, warning that history will be a "severe judge" if not. Morrison made the strongly worded appeal at the United Nations as the United States, a historic ally of Australia, resists global efforts to collaborate on a vaccine. "When it comes to a vaccine, Australia's view is very clear -- whoever finds the vaccine must share it," Morrison said in a message to the virtual UN General Assembly recorded in front of the iconic Sydney Opera House. "This is a global responsibility and it's a moral responsibility for a vaccine to be shared far and wide," he said.

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/australia-prime-minister-scott-morrison-on-not-sharing-coronavirus-vaccine-history-will-be-severe-judge-2301272>

AstraZeneca Signs Deal With Canada to Provide 20 Million Coronavirus Vaccine Doses

AstraZeneca signed a large coronavirus vaccine-delivery deal with Canada on Friday. The big pharmaceutical company will deliver up to 20 million doses of its coronavirus vaccine candidate, AZD1222. This isn't the first time AstraZeneca has signed a commitment to deliver enormous quantities of its coronavirus vaccine candidate before it's had a chance to prove itself safe and effective in a phase 3 clinical trial. In June, the company agreed to supply Europe with up to 400 million doses of AZD1222 with deliveries beginning by the end of the year. The company also has a deal with Brazil to provide around 30 million finished doses of the vaccine by December.

<https://www.fool.com/investing/2020/09/25/astrazeneca-signs-deal-with-canada-to-provide-20-m/>

Coronavirus: Potential vaccine passes another hurdle as 10,000 UK volunteers to test jab

Novavax has started its Phase 3 trial of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine in the UK. The US biotechnology firm is to enrol 10,000 people out of 250,000 volunteers aged between 18 and 84 over the next four to six weeks. The company joins AstraZeneca, Pfizer, and Moderna as its coronavirus vaccine candidate enters the final step of the regulatory approvals process.

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-second-covid-19-vaccine-to-begin-advanced-clinical-trials-in-the-uk-12080796>

Coronavirus: Hundreds of thousands in China given emergency use Covid vaccine

Hundreds of thousands of people in China have been given an emergency use coronavirus vaccine, raising serious welfare concerns among experts. An emergency use vaccine means they have been

given people to before final regulatory approval. It is unclear how many people have been given the vaccine, but the state-owned Sinopharm subsidiary CNBG has given the vaccine to 350,000 people outside its clinical trials, which have about 40,000 people enrolled, a top CNBG executive said recently. It has also provided tens of thousands of rounds of its CoronaVac for the Beijing city government. Another candidate being jointly developed by the military and CanSino, a biopharmaceutical company, has been approved for emergency use in military personnel.

<https://www.itv.com/news/2020-09-26/coronavirus-hundreds-of-thousands-in-china-given-emergency-use-covid-vaccine>

Johnson & Johnson Initiates Pivotal Global Phase 3 Clinical Trial of Janssen's COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate

Johnson & Johnson today announced the launch of its large-scale, pivotal, multi-country Phase 3 trial (ENSEMBLE) for its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, JNJ-78436735, being developed by its Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies. The initiation of the ENSEMBLE trial follows positive interim results from the Company's Phase 1/2a clinical study, which demonstrated that the safety profile and immunogenicity after a single vaccination were supportive of further development. These results have been submitted to medRxiv and are due to be published online imminently. Based on these results and following discussions with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), ENSEMBLE will enroll up to 60,000 volunteers across three continents and will study the safety and efficacy of a single vaccine dose versus placebo in preventing COVID-19.

<https://www.benzinga.com/pressreleases/20/09/n17618577/johnson-johnson-initiates-pivotal-global-phase-3-clinical-trial-of-janssens-covid-19-vaccine-candidate>

Pope wants Covid-19 vaccine preferential treatment for the poor and weakest

The poor and weakest members of society should get preferential treatment when a vaccine for the coronavirus is ready, Pope Francis told the United Nations on Friday. Speaking from the Vatican in a video address to the UN General Assembly, Francis said the worldwide pandemic had highlighted the urgent need to promote public health and ensure access to vaccines. "If anyone should be given preference, let it be the poorest, the most vulnerable, those who so often experience discrimination because they have neither power nor economic resources," he said. Francis has said rich countries should not hoard a coronavirus vaccine and the World Health Organization has warned against "vaccine nationalism", urging countries to join a global pact to share vaccine hopefuls with developing countries.

<https://en.mercopress.com/2020/09/26/pope-wants-covid-19-vaccine-preferential-treatment-for-the-poor-and-weakest>

Coronavirus mutation emerges that may outmaneuver mask-wearing and hand-washing

New preliminary research suggests a dominant strain of coronavirus may be more contagious than others. A virologist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) who reviewed the study said the findings suggest the virus may have become more contagious and could possibly be responding to health measures such as social distancing and mask-wearing. Other experts questioned the study, saying they have yet to identify a mutation that would change how infectious or deadly the virus is.

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/longevity/518336-coronavirus-mutation-emerges-that-may-outmaneuver-mask-wearing-and-hand-washing>

In the race for a Covid-19 vaccine, here come the tortoises

The race is not always to the swift, as the cocky hare learned in Aesop's classic fable, "The Hare and the Tortoise." Those handicapping the so-called competition to develop Covid-19 vaccines would do well to keep an eye on the slower runners in this pursuit. Corporate giants Sanofi and Merck, which got a relatively late start in developing Covid-19 vaccines, may seem far behind the frontrunners.

But experts say they also have such deep experience developing and testing vaccine candidates, and producing vaccine at commercial scale, that both could well close the gap considerably in the months ahead. Each is developing two vaccines, in partnership with others.

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/09/24/here-come-the-tortoises-in-the-race-for-a-covid-19-vaccine-slow-starters-could-still-win-out/>

Canada secures supply of COVID-19 drug remdesivir, more vaccine doses

Canada will see a dramatic resurgence of COVID-19 cases unless people limit contact with others in coming days, the country's chief public health officer warns. Dr. Theresa Tam said Tuesday the public has a vital role to play in helping health agencies limit the spread of the virus. "The challenge we face now is to stay the course no matter how weary we may feel," Tam told a news briefing in Ottawa. She made a special appeal to young Canadians, saying COVID-19 levels won't return to a slow burn without their help, given the incidence has been highest among people age 20 to 39 since late June..

<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/canada-secures-supply-of-covid-19-drug-remdesivir-more-vaccine-doses-1.1497615>

When Will We See a Covid-19 Vaccine for Kids?

The pandemic has many parents asking two burning questions. First, when can I get a vaccine? And second, when can my kids get it? It may come as a surprise that the answers are not the same. Adults may be able to get a vaccine by next summer. But their kids will have to wait longer. Perhaps a lot longer. Thanks to the U.S. government's Operation Warp Speed and other programs, a number of Covid-19 vaccines for adults are already in advanced clinical trials. But no trials have yet begun in the United States to determine whether these vaccines are safe and effective for children.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/21/parenting/kids-vaccine-coronavirus.html>

Coronavirus Resurgence

Experts are warning of a coming surge of Covid-19 cases in US

The US could see an explosion of Covid-19 cases as fall and winter set in, one expert says, joining a chorus of health officials who have warned about the challenges of the coming months. Two things will likely help drive that expected winter surge, according to Dr. Chris Murray, director of the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/26/health/us-coronavirus-saturday/index.html>

Coronavirus: More than 1,000 New Yorkers test positive in a day for first time since June

More than 1,000 New Yorkers have tested positive for Covid-19 in a single day on Friday. It was the first time since 5 June that the state has reported a daily case number that high. Positive cases in the state have been rising steadily over the last few weeks, according to ABC7. The rise may be attributed to the reopening of businesses and schools. The state was seeing an average of approximately 660 people test positive each day. The state reported it had averaged 817 positive tests per day in the seven-day period that ended Friday

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/coronavirus-new-york-cases-today-covid-19-andrew-cuomo-b628330.html>

Covid: Coronavirus cases in England up 60% in a week

The rate at which the Covid-19 virus is spreading appears to be speeding up. The R number, indicating how fast the coronavirus epidemic is growing, has risen from 1.1-1.4 to 1.2-1.5. An Office for National Statistics (ONS) survey estimated there were 9,600 new cases a day in England in the week to 19 September - up from 6,000 the week before and three times that being picked up by general testing. It comes as more restrictions come into effect in parts of England and Wales. On Friday, the daily number of positive cases in the UK picked up by coronavirus testing rose to a new high of 6,874, government figures show. A further 34 deaths were announced, although figures were

not available for Scotland because of a power cut at the National Records of Scotland.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/54296475>

Coronavirus: London placed on Covid-19 watch-list as cases rise

London has been added to the government's Covid-19 watch-list following a rise in cases in the city, officials have said. All boroughs have been classed as areas of concern, but no additional restrictions have been announced. Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said the city was at "a worrying tipping point" with hospital admissions increasing. Councils in the city have urged residents to abide by current restrictions. The watch-list, published each week, categorises local councils seeing a higher infection rate as "areas of concern", "areas of enhanced support" or "areas of intervention". Tighter restrictions are usually introduced for areas in the third category.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-54296597>

Iceland's infection rate spikes after French tourists blamed

Iceland's infection rate per 100,000 people has risen from 7.3 to 89.7 in 10 days French tourists have been linked to at least 100 cases at two bars in Reykjavik Nordic country was praised for its successful testing and tracing in the first wave Only one person is in hospital with Covid-19 and nobody has died of it since April

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8771765/Iceland-infection-rate-spikes-French-tourists-blamed.html>

UK will see 100 coronavirus deaths per day within three or four weeks claims SAGE expert

Professor Graham Medley from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, SAGE, said the high death toll was "inevitable" if the infection rate rises to 10,000 new infections per day. The 100 deaths per day is based upon a fatality rate from coronavirus remaining at 1 percent. This death rate is disputed as the World Health Organisation suggests fatalities from coronavirus is estimated at 0.5 percent.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1340396/UK-coronavirus-100-deaths-per-day-second-wave-sage-scientist>

Derry and Strabane COVID-19 cases double in ten days: 24 infections among people over 60 in the past week

In total 295 positive coronavirus cases have been registered in Derry and Strabane between September 19 and September 25, according to the latest Department of Health data that was released this afternoon. Since the pandemic began there have been 700 confirmed cases in Derry and Strabane. More positive COVID-19 cases were registered in the city and district in the past week than were recorded between the start of the pandemic and Sunday, September 6.

<https://www.derryjournal.com/health/derry-and-strabane-covid-19-cases-double-ten-days-24-infections-among-people-over-60-past-week-2984672>

50 patients infected with coronavirus and 14 dead: How Covid-19 ripped through one Irish hospital

More than 50 patients were infected with Covid-19 in a Dublin hospital over six weeks, and 14 of whom died, according to a pioneering genome study by Irish scientists. The patients in most cases caught the virus from healthcare workers, while an older patient who was agitated and "wandered" the corridors was identified as a potential "super spreader". The study, conducted at the height of the pandemic, investigated the genome sequences of 52 cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19 over March and April to track its transmission routes. The research sheds new light on how the virus spread across wards and between health workers and finds that, in most cases, the virus was spread to patients by healthcare workers — not the other way around.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus/50-patients-infected-with-coronavirus-and-14-dead-how-covid-19-ripped-through-one-irish-hospital-39564258.html>

Coronavirus: Madrid at serious risk without tougher rules, minister warns

The Spanish government has urged authorities in Madrid to tighten coronavirus restrictions across the city, warning of a "serious risk" to residents if they do not. Madrid extended restrictions in Covid-19 hotspots on Friday but rejected calls for a city-wide lockdown. On Saturday Spain's Health Minister Salvador Illa said current restrictions did not go far enough. He said it was "time to act with determination" to control the pandemic. "There is a serious risk for inhabitants, for the neighbouring regions," Mr Illa said, calling on the capital's regional authorities to "put the health of citizens first" and impose a partial lockdown on the entire city.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-54309649>

India's coronavirus infections surge to 5.82 million

India's coronavirus case tally surged to 5.82 million after it recorded 86,052 new infections in the last 24 hours, data from the health ministry showed on Friday. A total of 1,141 people died of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, the ministry said, taking mortalities to 92,290, which is a relatively low 1.6% of all cases. Globally, India has the second-highest number of coronavirus cases, behind the United States where infections crossed 7 million on Thursday.

<https://www.gulftoday.ae/news/2020/09/25/indias-coronavirus-infections-surge-to-582-million>

New Lockdown

Coronavirus: Students 'scared and confused' as halls lock down

Students have spoken of their worry and confusion at being locked down in their university halls, in a situation described by unions as "shambolic". Up to 1,700 students at Manchester Metropolitan University and hundreds at other institutions, including in Edinburgh and Glasgow, are self-isolating following Covid-19 outbreaks. In Manchester, students are being prevented from leaving by security. Universities UK said the wellbeing of students was "the first priority". Robert Halfon, the conservative chairman of the Education Select Committee, said 3,000 students were in lockdown at universities from Dundee to Exeter. He called for the government and its scientific advisers to reassure students and families by setting out the policy for England - and warned having students in lockdown at Christmas would cause "huge anguish".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54308329>

New restrictions for Wigan, Stockport, Blackpool and Leeds as coronavirus cases increase

New restrictions on household mixing brought in for Wigan, Stockport, Blackpool and Leeds London added as an area of concern as hospital admissions rise Teesside added as an area of enhanced support In close discussions with local leaders, the Health and Social Care Secretary, NHS Test and Trace, the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC), Public Health England (PHE) and the Chief Medical Officer for England have agreed to introduce local measures in parts of the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-for-wigan-stockport-blackpool-and-leeds-as-coronavirus-cases-increase>