

# COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

## 18th Aug 2021

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### Overnight News RoundUp

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#### One Minute Overview

1. **Sources: US to recommend COVID vaccine boosters at 8 months** - After struggling for months to persuade Americans to get the COVID-19 vaccine, U.S. health officials could soon face a fresh challenge: talking vaccinated people into getting booster shots to gain longer-lasting protection as the delta variant sends infections soaring again. [As early as Wednesday, U.S. health authorities are expected to recommend an extra dose of the vaccine for all Americans eight months after they get their second shot.](#) . That means the biggest vaccination drive in U.S. history is about to get even more extensive.
2. **South African activists slam J&J for exporting vaccines** - Health activists in Africa have slammed Johnson & Johnson for exporting vaccines produced in South Africa to countries in Europe, [which have already immunized large numbers of their people and have even donated vaccines to more needy countries.](#) The one-dose J&J vaccines were exported from South Africa, where they had been assembled, despite the pressing need for vaccines across Africa, where less than 3% of the continent's 1.3 billion people have been fully vaccinated.
3. **New Zealand reports first community COVID case in six months** - New Zealand reported its first case of COVID-19 in the community in six months after a person tested positive in its largest city of Auckland. [The link between the case and the border or managed isolation has yet to be established.](#) the Health Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday, adding the case is now being investigated.
4. **What's safe to do during summer's Covid surge? STAT asked public health experts about their own plans** - With Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations spiking around the country, dreams of a summer like those many us had in mind just a short time ago have faded. [The fully vaccinated have been told to resume wearing masks indoors.](#) Companies and institutions are leveling vaccine mandates. And some municipalities are requiring people to show proof of vaccination to get into restaurants, bars, and gyms. Confusion abounds about what is safe to do. (For the unvaccinated, there's no confusion about what's most important to do: Get immunized.)
5. **Among France's poorest, once-lagging vaccine rates jump** - The poorest region in mainland France has managed to dramatically speed up its COVID-19 vaccination campaign in recent weeks, notably by opening walk-in pop-up centers to reach out to people where they live and work. [The multicultural, working-class region of Seine-Saint-Denis, north of Paris, initially struggled in getting the word out about vaccines to a population where many are immigrants who don't speak French or lack access to regular medical care.](#) But offering vaccinations at a highly visible location with easy access seems to be doing the trick.

### More protection: US likely to authorize COVID booster shots

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#### Sources: US to recommend COVID vaccine boosters at 8 months

After struggling for months to persuade Americans to get the COVID-19 vaccine, U.S. health officials could soon face a fresh challenge: talking vaccinated people into getting booster shots to gain longer-lasting protection as the delta variant sends infections soaring again. As early as Wednesday, U.S. health authorities are expected to recommend an extra dose of the vaccine for all Americans

eight months after they get their second shot, according to two people who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. That means the biggest vaccination drive in U.S. history is about to get even more extensive.

<https://apnews.com/article/business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-coronavirus-vaccine-21cd829d358e9b50b16515025dab2008>

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### **South African activists slam J&J for exporting vaccines**

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<https://apnews.com/article/europe-africa-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-9996bb1487e1197580070eaa44f3f420>

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### **New Zealand reports first community COVID case in six months**

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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/17/new-zealand-reports-first-community-covid-cases-in-six-months>

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### **What's safe to do during summer's Covid surge? STAT asked public health experts about their own plans**

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<https://www.statnews.com/2021/08/17/whats-safe-to-do-during-summers-covid-surge-stat-asked-public-health-experts-about-their-own-plans/>

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### **Among France's poorest, once-lagging vaccine rates jump**

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<https://apnews.com/article/europe-health-france-immigration-migration-608b50ade0bdfda242c1fe897f56397d>

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### **West Virginia University requiring masks indoors**

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West Virginia University is requiring masks to be worn in classrooms and labs for the next 30 days, saying not enough students and employees have submitted proof of vaccination against the

coronavirus

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/latest-sources-us-recommend-vaccine-boosters-79496809>

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### **U.S. to world leaders: Stop U.N. becoming COVID 'super-spreader'**

#### **U.S. to world leaders: Stop U.N. becoming COVID 'super-spreader'**

The United States is urging world leaders to send videos instead of traveling to New York next month for an annual high-level gathering at the United Nations, saying it would help prevent it "from being a super-spreader event" amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting of world leaders for the 76th U.N. General Assembly, starting Sept. 21, is shaping up to be a hybrid event of in-person speeches and video statements as global vaccination rates vary and the spread of COVID-19 variants sparks concern.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-world-leaders-stop-un-becoming-covid-super-spreader-2021-08-17/>

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### **Cuba struggles to get oxygen to the sick, vaccines to the healthy**

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Cuba has turned to the military to provide oxygen amid a surge of the coronavirus even as doctors rush to administer locally developed vaccines to the population. The government announced on Sunday that the Caribbean island's main oxygen plant had broken down in the midst of a Delta variant-driven coronavirus surge that has resulted in record numbers of cases and deaths, swamping some provincial health systems.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/cuba-struggles-get-oxygen-sick-vaccines-healthy-2021-08-17/>

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### **Ontario to offer third COVID-19 vaccine doses to high-risk people**

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The Canadian province of Ontario will begin offering third COVID-19 vaccine doses to vulnerable people as early as this week, its chief medical officer said on Tuesday. Eligible populations will include transplant patients, along with residents in high-risk settings, including long-term care homes and indigenous elder care lodges.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/ontario-offer-third-covid-19-vaccine-doses-high-risk-people-2021-08-17/>

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### **Chinese ports choke over 'zero tolerance' COVID-19 policy**

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Several Chinese ports are facing congestion as vessels due to call at Ningbo are being diverted and cargo processing is slowed partly due to stricter disinfection measures under China's "zero-tolerance" coronavirus policy. On Tuesday, more than 50 container vessels were queuing at Ningbo port, China's second largest marine centre, Refinitiv data showed, up from 28 on Aug. 10 when a COVID-19 case was reported at one of its terminals.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/chinese-ports-choke-over-zero-tolerance-covid-19-policy-2021-08-17/>

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### **Coronavirus vaccine will soon be mandatory: Presidential adviser**

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The Egyptian state will ensure that vaccinations against the coronavirus will be mandatory soon, advisor to the President of the Republic for Health Affairs, Mohamed Awad Tag Eddin announced. After a short period, vaccination will be compulsory and not optional in all government and private institutions, he said. He added that there is now much less hesitancy amongst civilians in getting the vaccine, with requests rising daily.

<https://www.egyptindependent.com/coronavirus-vaccine-will-soon-be-mandatory-presidential-adviser/>

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### **Booster shots might become available, but those not vaccinated at all are helping prolong the pandemic, doctor says**

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## **prolong the pandemic, doctor says**

Those unvaccinated against Covid-19 aren't just risking their own health -- they're also jeopardizing medical care for others and fueling a surge that's forcing more students to quarantine, doctors say. Covid-19 hospitalizations have doubled over the past three weeks, with 83,693 people hospitalized this week, according to data from the US Department of Health and Human Services.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/17/health/us-coronavirus-tuesday/index.html>

## **GP urges Covid-19 vaccine cert for those hit by acute first-dose reaction**

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### **GP urges Covid-19 vaccine cert for those hit by acute first-dose reaction**

A GP who started getting seizures within days of receiving her first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine is urging the Government to grant digital Covid-19 vaccination certificates to people like her for whom a second dose is contraindicated.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/gp-urges-covid-19-vaccine-cert-for-those-hit-by-acute-first-dose-reaction-1.4648633>

## **White House to recommend 3rd COVID-19 vaccine dose**

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Several media outlets are reporting that the White House intends to announce next week that recipients of both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccines should receive a third dose of vaccine 8 months after their second dose in order to boost protection against the Delta (B.1617.2) variant. The proposed third doses could be administered as soon as mid-September, sources told The New York Times, with nursing home residents and healthcare workers poised to get the first shots, followed by elderly Americans who were vaccinated last winter.

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/08/white-house-recommend-3rd-covid-19-vaccine-dose>

## **Singapore prepares for long term life - and death - with COVID-19**

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### **Singapore prepares for long term life - and death - with COVID-19**

With just a few dozen COVID-19 deaths and one of the world's highest vaccination rates, Singapore wants to reopen for business - and is laying the groundwork to live with the coronavirus as it does other common diseases such as influenza.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/singapore-prepares-long-term-life-death-with-covid-19-2021-08-17/>

## **Vaccinate Kids Under 12 to Protect Us All From COVID-19**

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### **Vaccinate Kids Under 12 to Protect Us All From COVID-19**

It's easy to argue for vaccinating adults and teenagers against COVID-19. Some think it's harder to make the case for kids under 12 years of age, and for understandable reasons. Much of the world remains unvaccinated, kids have generally been much less affected by the coronavirus, and we don't yet have a thorough understanding of the risks versus the benefits. Still, if we weigh all the pros and cons, the argument for immunizing young children is much stronger than the argument against.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/08/vaccinate-kids-under-12-delta-covid/619752/>

## **Federal agents seize thousands of fake covid vaccination cards destined for locations across U.S.**

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Bundles of counterfeit coronavirus vaccination cards printed with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention logo have been shipped from Shenzhen, China, to recipients all around the United States, as some unvaccinated people try to evade restrictions that require proof of the shot to enter certain bars, schools and public spaces. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials said in a Friday statement that agents have seized thousands of fake vaccination cards passing through

Memphis, a shipping hub.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/08/16/border-patrol-fake-vaccine-cards/>

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## **Amid new virus surge, Florida skeptics reconsider vaccines**

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In a rural stretch of northeastern Florida where barely half the people have gotten a coronavirus shot, Roger West had no problem telling others he was “adamantly anti-vaccination.” The co-owner of the Westside Journal weekly newspaper used his voice as a columnist to widely share his doubts about the vaccine and his mistrust of the health experts in the U.S. who have been urging everyone to get it. “I do not trust the Federal Government,” West wrote recently. “I do not trust Dr. Fauci, I do not trust the medical profession, nor the pharmaceutical giants.” But something happened to change his mind: Two of West’s close friends became ill with the virus, and a third died. Rattled and stressed, he prayed for guidance. Then, when his mother and another relative both urged him to get vaccinated, he took it as a sign from God. West drove to the Winn Dixie supermarket and rolled up his sleeve for the first of two injections of the Moderna vaccine.

<https://apnews.com/article/health-religion-florida-coronavirus-pandemic-7d2010935c177ccf5b479bf372553604>

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## **Texas governor tests positive for COVID-19, in 'good health'**

### **Texas governor tests positive for COVID-19, in 'good health'**

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, according to his office, who said the Republican is in good health and experiencing no symptoms. Abbott, who was vaccinated in 2020, was isolating in the governor’s mansion in Austin and receiving monoclonal antibody treatment, spokesman Mark Miner said in a statement. The governor’s positive test came as cases of the virus soar with the highly contagious delta variant and hospitals around the state are stretched thin. More than 11,500 patients were hospitalized with the virus as of Monday, the highest levels since January. The positive test comes a day after Abbott tweeted a picture of himself not wearing a mask while speaking indoors near Dallas to a group of GOP supporters, most of whom were unmasked.

<https://apnews.com/article/texas-governor-greg-abbott-coronavirus-positive-a6c98b7a9c59c2df38328100cd8c75b1>

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## **Japan to extend COVID-19 emergency lockdown**

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Japan was set on Tuesday to extend its state of emergency in Tokyo and other regions to Sept. 12 and widen curbs to seven more prefectures, as COVID-19 cases spike in the capital and nationwide, burdening the medical system.

<https://www.reuters.com/video/watch/idRCV00A3VU>

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## **Vaccine firms working on combined Covid-19 and flu jab which could protect against both viruses in one dose**

### **Vaccine firms working on combined Covid-19 and flu jab which could protect against both viruses in one dose**

A new vaccines mega-factory could make a combined jab for Covid-19 and flu to be given to vulnerable Britons on a regular basis in the future, according to its boss. The Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC) in Oxfordshire is due to open later this year and will start making doses to be used in a “revaccination campaign” if needed from 2022. Its chief executive, Matthew Duchars, said one project manufacturers were working on would see the vaccines against coronavirus and influenza combined in a single injection.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/vaccine-firms-combined-covid-19-flu-jab-one-dose-1153325>

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## **Gritstone secures funding for COVID-19 vaccine against variants**

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Gritstone bio said on Tuesday it had entered into a funding agreement of up to \$20.6 million with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to advance its vaccine program against COVID-19 variants, sending its shares up 2.6% before the bell. Gritstone's vaccine is based on self-amplifying mRNA technology, which uses the body's own machinery to make antigenic protein rather than injecting the antigen into the body. Under the agreement, CEPI, which co-leads the COVAX vaccine sharing facility, will fund an early stage study evaluating the program's vaccine in convalescent, and HIV positive patients.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/gritstone-secures-funding-covid-19-vaccine-against-variants-2021-08-17/>

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### **COVID-19: UK regulator approves Moderna coronavirus vaccine for 12 to 17-year-olds**

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The UK health regulator has approved the Moderna coronavirus vaccine for 12 to 17-year-olds. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said it is now up to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to advise the government on whether children in this age group should be given the jab. The MHRA said that the jab - also known as the Spikevax vaccine - is "safe and effective in this age group".

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-uk-regulator-approves-moderna-coronavirus-vaccine-for-12-to-17-year-olds-12383760>

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### **Judge considers evidence in case of woman left brain damaged by Covid-19**

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A judge has been asked to decide whether a woman left brain damaged and paralysed from the neck down after contracting Covid-19 should be allowed to die. Mr Justice Hayden is considering evidence at an online trial, due to end later this week, in the Court of Protection where judges oversee hearings centred on adults who lack the mental capacity to make decisions. Specialists treating the woman, who is in her 50s, at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge say life-support treatment should end. The woman's children, and sister, disagree. A lawyer representing hospital bosses told Mr Justice Hayden on Tuesday that the woman's case appeared to be unique.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/court-of-protection-justice-cambridge-hospital-high-court-b951033.html>

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### **Russia about to approve fifth coronavirus vaccine, watchdog chief says**

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The fifth coronavirus vaccine developed by Russian researchers is about to be approved, head of the national sanitary watchdog Anna Popova announced at a strategic session dubbed "National Sanitary Shield. Combating New Challenges," arranged by the United Russia party on Tuesday. "Four coronavirus vaccines have already been approved in Russia and the fifth one is on its way. This will help stop the virus from spreading," she pointed out.

<https://tass.com/society/1327013>

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### **'Masks work': experts on how to navigate Delta when you're vaccinated**

#### **'Masks work': experts on how to navigate Delta when you're vaccinated**

The Covid-19 vaccine was supposed to bring life back to normal. Then came the Delta variant. Real-world data collection continues, but it's clear that the vaccines do offer significant protection against becoming infected by Delta. They offer even greater protection against severe illness: Among states that are reporting breakthrough cases of Covid-19, fully vaccinated people made up no more than 5% of overall hospitalizations.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/aug/17/vaccines-delta-covid-coronavirus-safety-questions>

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### **Higher risk of Bell's Palsy after Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine - study**

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The risk of Bell's Palsy, a type of facial paralysis, is higher after Sinovac Biotech Ltd's COVID-19 vaccine CoronaVac, but should not be a deterrent to vaccination, according to a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/higher-risk-bells-palsy-after-sinovacs-covid-19-vaccine-study-2021-08-17/>

### **No evidence Covid vaccines can raise the risk of miscarriage or affect fertility, drug watchdog insists**

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No evidence Covid vaccines raise miscarriage or stillbirth risk, MHRA says. There are also no signals that the jabs affect people's ability to have children. Around 55,000 pregnant women in the UK have been vaccinated

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9900413/No-evidence-Covid-jabs-raise-miscarriage-risk-MHRA-says.html>

### **Football with few fans not tied to county COVID spread**

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#### **Football with few fans not tied to county COVID spread**

"We surmise that the NFL and NCAA policies regarding limited in-person attendance, mask use, and social and physical distancing measures in stadiums was not associated with substantially higher community spread of COVID-19," the study authors wrote. "Additionally, an important number of NFL and NCAA football stadiums are outdoors or have a retractable roof, which could have had an impact on mitigating spread." The authors say the study results may help sports leagues decide how to best proceed with future games, although research into potential coronavirus spread to adjacent counties is needed. "Our study provides evidence suggesting that in-person attendance of football games with social distancing and mask use could be resumed in the 2021 to 2022 season," they wrote. "However, it is worth noting that newly emerging variants of SARS-CoV-2 have less predictable implications at this point and might lead to more disruptive interruptions in the future.

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/08/football-few-fans-not-tied-county-covid-spread>

### **Post Covid-19, patient input may play a greater role in drug development**

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#### **Post Covid-19, patient input may play a greater role in drug development**

A lasting memorial may be emerging for the millions of people who will have tragically died of Covid-19 by the time the pandemic ends: the demonstration that breakthroughs can happen fast when drug companies and regulators listen to and communicate openly with patients. The concept of patient engagement across the health care ecosystem emerged more than a decade ago. Its core idea — incorporating patients' actual experiences, perspectives, needs, and priorities into treatment efforts and drug-development decisions rather than taking them for granted — started a fundamental change of thinking in the drug development world.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/08/17/listening-to-patients-could-be-a-powerful-pandemic-legacy/>

### **WHO concerned about COVID-19 in Afghanistan as jabs slow**

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The World Health Organization (WHO) is worried about the spread of the coronavirus in Afghanistan as the upheaval caused by the Taliban advance and seizure of power has slowed vaccinations, a spokesperson said on Tuesday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/who-concerned-about-covid-19-afghanistan-jabs-slow-2021-08-17/>

### **New Zealand reports first Covid-19 case in community since February**

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#### **New Zealand reports first Covid-19 case in community since February**

New Zealand has a new case of Covid-19 transmission in the community, Ministry of Health officials

have confirmed. The news will be greeted with dismay in the country, which has not had a case of transmission in the community since February, and has so far avoided incursions into the community from the more-transmissible Delta variant. The case was detected in Auckland, and health officials have not yet established a link between the case and the border or managed isolation facilities. The government advised New Zealanders to follow basic public health measures: mask wearing, hand washing, and continuing to scan QR codes to assist with contact tracing. People should stay home if sick, and call a doctor or healthline about getting tested.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/17/new-zealand-reports-first-covid-19-case-in-community-since-february>

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### **One in 20 deaths in England and Wales now involve Covid-19, figures show**

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One in 20 deaths registered in the most recent week in England and Wales mentioned coronavirus on the death certificate, the highest proportion for more than four months, new figures show. A total of 10,187 deaths were registered in the week ending August 6, of which 527 (5.2%) involved Covid-19. This is the highest percentage of deaths to involve coronavirus since the week to March 26, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/england-wales-office-for-national-statistics-ian-jones-b950999.html>

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### **New Zealand's Ardern orders nationwide lockdown over one COVID-19 case**

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New Zealand Thrown Into Lockdown Over Single Suspected Delta CaseU.S. News & World ReportNew Zealand's Ardern Orders Nationwide Lockdown over One COVID-19 Case ... - Latest Tweet by LatestLYCovid: New Zealand to go under lockdown after one case of infectionScroll.inNew Zealand's Ardern locks down nation over single COVID-19 ...Thomson FoundationView Full coverage on Google News

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealands-ardern-orders-nationwide-lockdown-over-one-covid-19-case-2021-08-17/>

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### **China reports 42 new COVID-19 cases on Aug 16 vs 51 a day earlier**

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China on Tuesday reported 42 new confirmed coronavirus cases in the mainland for Aug. 16, compared with 51 a day earlier, according to the National Health Commission.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-reports-42-new-covid-19-cases-aug-16-vs-51-day-earlier-2021-08-17/>

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### **India's Covid-19 Numbers Have Fallen. A Third Wave Still Looms.**

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Scientists are looking for signs that another variant could emerge in Delta's wake, but limited sampling capabilities are hindering the search.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/17/world/asia/india-covid-19.html>