

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

6th Sep 2021

One Minute Overview

Ex-UK PM Brown accuses West of 'moral outrage' over COVID vaccine stockpiling - Former British prime minister Gordon Brown accused rich countries of committing a 'moral outrage' by stockpiling COVID-19 doses while poor countries are struggling to get supplies - Brown, who is a United Nations special envoy, called on U.S. [President Joe Biden and other Group of Seven leaders to urgently ship vaccines from warehouses in America and Europe to Africa. Western countries are hoarding nearly 300 million shots while only 70 million people in Africa have so far been vaccinated.](#) Brown said in an opinion piece published in the Sunday Mirror newspaper, citing research by data firm Airfinity.

A generation of young people is at risk from the UK's latest Covid experiment - The country is an international outlier in restoring in-person learning without mitigations or vaccination of 12 to 15-year-olds. [Neurologists warned that Covid-19 could fuel a pandemic of dementia, because of long-term brain damage wrought in some patients. Second, a paper in the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology noted that "long Covid" sufferers are at increased risk of kidney damage.](#) Millions may need dialysis for years to come, a costly tragedy for patients and creaking healthcare systems.

Israel is planning to administer fourth Covid shot which could be adjusted to fight new variants as country battles wave of infections despite hugely successful vaccine rollout - Israel is set to begin preparations to administer fourth doses of the coronavirus vaccines as the country deals with soaring cases despite its trail-blazing roll-out of jabs. [The country's national coronavirus czar Salman Zarka said the country needs to prepare for a fourth injection, which could be modified to better protect against new variants of the virus.](#) 'Given that that the virus is here and will continue to be here, we also need to prepare for a fourth injection,' he told Kan public radio. 'This is our life from now on, in waves.'

White House Unveils \$65 Billion Plan to Combat New Pandemics - The Biden administration unveiled a \$65.3 billion plan to prepare for future pandemics threats, likening the ambitious proposal to the Apollo mission to the moon. [The proposal announced Friday by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Security Council focuses on protecting the U.S. against potentially catastrophic biological threats, including those that are naturally occurring,](#) accidental or deliberately set in motion by bad actors.

Covid Survivors More Likely to Have Kidney Problems, Study Finds - Since the beginning of the pandemic, doctors have found that people who become very ill with Covid-19 often experience kidney problems, not just the lung impairments that are the hallmark of the illness. [Now, a large study suggests that kidney issues can last for months after patients recover from the initial infection, and may lead to a serious lifelong reduction of kidney function in some patients.](#)

Everything we know about the mu variant, the latest coronavirus mutation - On Monday the World Health Organization (WHO) officially labeled the mu variant as a 'variant of interest,' a designation that indicates a need for further study about possible dangers while falling short of the more serious classification, 'variant of concern.' [Variants of concern are regarded as a top priority because they are more immunity-resistant, contagious or deadly than other strains.](#) Currently the WHO considers four

strains to meet those criteria: alpha, beta, gamma and delta (the variant most prevalent in the United States).

Crowded U.S. Jails Drove Millions Of COVID-19 Cases, A New Study Says - If the U.S. had done more to reduce its incarceration rate, it could have prevented millions of COVID-19 cases. That's the conclusion of researchers who conducted what they say is the first study to link mass incarceration rates to pandemic vulnerability. Many of those preventable cases, they add, occurred in communities of color. [The U.S. jail and prison system acts as an epidemic engine, according to the study from researchers at Northwestern University and the World Bank.](#) That engine is driven by a massive number of people who, despite some counties' efforts to trim jail populations, have been cycling between cramped detention facilities and their home communities.

mRNA COVID vaccines not tied to serious side effects - Ten months ago, the results of large clinical trials appeared almost too good to be true: [Two messenger RNA vaccines reduced symptomatic Covid-19 cases by more than 90% in almost every group that got them.](#) Now, subtle differences between the Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc. vaccines are emerging across patient groups over time. One small U.S. study found waning levels of antibodies with Pfizer's vaccine, particularly in an older group of people. And a larger study from Belgium found that Moderna's shot may generate more antibodies than Pfizer's.

Italy to Decide on Compulsory Vaccine This Month, Minister Says - Italy will decide by the end of September whether Covid-19 vaccines will become mandatory for all people aged 12 and over, according to a minister in Mario Draghi's coalition. ["If we will not have reached a vaccination level between 80% and 90% we will pass a law to impose the Covid-19 vaccine to all people against it."](#) Public Administration Minister Renato Brunetta said Sunday in an interview at the Ambrosetti Forum in Cernobbio, Italy. "We will decide by the end of the month."

Brazil-Argentina Match Stopped When Health Officials Storm Field - A World Cup qualification game between Brazil and Argentina, South America's most successful soccer teams, was halted after only a few minutes on Sunday after Brazilian health authorities walked onto the field during play in an apparent dispute about coronavirus quarantine regulations. [In chaotic scenes in São Paulo, a group of Brazilian public health officials entered the field minutes into the highly anticipated showdown and ordered Argentina's players off the field as officials from both sides, a small crowd allowed inside the stadium and a global television audience struggled to comprehend just what was taking place.](#)

Lockdown Exit

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/05/sports/soccer/brazil-argentina-suspended.html>

Ex-UK PM Brown accuses West of 'moral outrage' over COVID vaccine stockpiling

Former British prime minister Gordon Brown accused rich countries of committing a "moral outrage" by stockpiling COVID-19 doses while poor countries are struggling to get supplies. Brown, who is a United Nations special envoy, called on U.S. President Joe Biden and other Group of Seven leaders to

urgently ship vaccines from warehouses in America and Europe to Africa. Western countries are hoarding nearly 300 million shots while only 70 million people in Africa have so far been vaccinated, Brown said in an opinion piece published in the Sunday Mirror newspaper, citing research by data firm Airfinity.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/ex-uk-pm-brown-accuses-west-moral-outrage-over-covid-vaccine-stockpiling-2021-09-04/>

Each COVID-19 surge poses a risk for healthcare workers: PTSD

Nurse Chris Prott's knees jump, his heart races, his mouth goes dry and his mind floods with dark memories when he talks about working in the Milwaukee VA Medical Center's intensive care unit (ICU) during pandemic surges. Prott shares a struggle common to many of the military veterans for whom he has cared for years: symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/each-covid-19-surge-poses-risk-healthcare-workers-pt-sd-2021-09-05/>

Child Covid-19 Cases Rise in States Where Schools Opened Earliest

The recent spread of the highly contagious Delta variant has thrown back-to-school plans into disarray, temporarily driving tens of thousands of students back to virtual learning or pausing instruction altogether. Since the school year kicked off in late July, at least 1,000 schools across 31 states have closed because of Covid-19, according to Burbio, a Pelham, N.Y., data service that is monitoring school closures at 1,200 districts nationwide, including the 200 largest. The shutdowns are hitting classrooms especially hard in the Deep South, where most schools were among the first to open, a possible warning of what's to come as the rest of the nation's students start school this month.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/child-covid-19-cases-rise-in-states-where-schools-opened-earliest-11630834201>

Italy to Decide on Compulsory Vaccine This Month, Minister Says

Italy will decide by the end of September whether Covid-19 vaccines will become mandatory for all people aged 12 and over, according to a minister in Mario Draghi's coalition. "If we will not have reached a vaccination level between 80% and 90% we will pass a law to impose the Covid-19 vaccine to all people against it," Public Administration Minister Renato Brunetta said Sunday in an interview at the Ambrosetti Forum in Cernobbio, Italy. "We will decide by the end of the month."

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-05/italy-to-decide-on-compulsory-vaccine-this-month-minister-says>

Fauci Cites Possible Delay for Moderna Booster

Anthony Fauci said U.S. booster shots against Covid-19 are likely to start only with the vaccine by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE, while the Moderna Inc. shot may be delayed. White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain pushed back against criticism that the Biden administration is rushing booster shots ahead of scientific evidence. The Group of 20 are set to pledge to do more to tackle the impact of the pandemic on mental health as ministers meet in Rome this weekend.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-05/fauci-cites-possible-delay-for-moderna-booster-virus-update?srnd=premium-europe>

White House Unveils \$65 Billion Plan to Combat New Pandemics

The Biden administration unveiled a \$65.3 billion plan to prepare for future pandemics threats, likening the ambitious proposal to the Apollo mission to the moon. The proposal announced Friday by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Security Council focuses on protecting the U.S. against potentially catastrophic biological threats, including those that are naturally occurring, accidental or deliberately set in motion by bad actors.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-03/white-house-proposes-65-billion-plan-to-combat-future-pandemics>

A generation of young people is at risk from the UK's latest Covid experiment

The country is an international outlier in restoring in-person learning without mitigations or vaccination of 12 to 15-year-olds. Neurologists warned that Covid-19 could fuel a pandemic of dementia, because of long-term brain damage wrought in some patients. Second, a paper in the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology noted that "long Covid" sufferers are at increased risk of kidney damage. Millions may need dialysis for years to come, a costly tragedy for patients and creaking healthcare systems.

<https://www.ft.com/content/b67e2368-fbae-4035-9119-c8de6d6b4915>

China administered total of 2.092 bln doses of covid-19 vaccines as of Sept 3

China had administered a total of around 7.5 million COVID-19 vaccines on Friday Sept. 3, bringing the accumulated total to 2.092 billion doses, data from the National Health Commission showed on Saturday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-administered-total-2092-bln-doses-covid-19-vaccines-sept-3-2021-09-04/>

England's schools must be made safe: An open letter to the education secretary

We write as researchers, parents, and educators concerned about the impact of the pandemic on children's education. Like you, and in agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO), we recognise the importance of schools staying open over the autumn and in the longer term. However, as the WHO also notes, schools must be made safe by adopting measures to minimise transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. We are therefore writing to express our concerns about the lack of mitigations for children and educational staff, and the subsequent risk to children from covid-19 as schools reopen in England this September. We offer nine evidence based recommendations to reduce new infections in children.

https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/09/03/englands-schools-must-be-made-safe-an-open-letter-to-the-education-secretary/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+bmj%2Fblogs+%28Latest+BMJ+blogs%29&g=w_blogs_bmj-com

Tyson Foods Offers Vaccinated Workers More Paid Time Off

Tyson Foods said it would provide 20 hours of paid sick time a year to fully vaccinated employees to enhance benefits for workers willing to receive coronavirus vaccinations. The new benefit, announced on Friday, followed discussions with the United Food & Commercial Workers, which represents several thousand Tyson workers, over the company's requirement that all its U.S. workers be vaccinated "as a condition of employment" by Nov. 1. The paid sick leave policy takes effect on Jan. 1, and also applies to all nonunion employees.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/03/business/tyson-vaccination-workers.html>

More Companies Weigh Penalizing Employees Without Covid-19 Vaccinations

Companies unwilling to require employees to get vaccinations are increasingly considering healthcare-benefit surcharges and other more aggressive measures to make their workplaces safer from Covid-19, employment and benefit experts say. What started as a campaign of encouragement and lobbying by many employers is now turning into a more forceful effort, with businesses considering measures that penalize employees who remain unvaccinated.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/more-companies-weigh-penalizing-employees-without-covid-19-vaccinations-11629998870?mod=hp_minor_pos12

Opinion | Doctors should be allowed to give priority to vaccinated patients when resources are scarce

I'm going to come right out and say it: In situations where hospitals are overwhelmed and resources such as intensive care beds or ventilators are scarce, vaccinated patients should be given priority over those who have refused vaccination without a legitimate medical or religious reason.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/09/03/doctors-should-be-allowed-give-priority-vaccinated-patients-w/>

[hen-resources-are-scarce/](#)

Exit Strategies

Israel is planning to administer fourth Covid shot which could be adjusted to fight new variants as country battles wave of infections despite hugely successful vaccine roll-out

Israel is set to begin preparations to administer fourth doses of the coronavirus vaccines as the country deals with soaring cases despite its trail-blazing roll-out of jabs. The country's national coronavirus czar Salman Zarka said the country needs to prepare for a fourth injection, which could be modified to better protect against new variants of the virus. 'Given that that the virus is here and will continue to be here, we also need to prepare for a fourth injection,' he told Kan public radio. 'This is our life from now on, in waves.'

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9959811/Israel-planning-administer-FOURTH-Covid-vaccine-adjusted-fight-new-variants.html?ito=social-twitter_mailonline

COVID-19: Ministers face difficult decision on whether to defy JCVI's finding on vaccinating children

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has resisted intense pressure from ministers by refusing to recommend coronavirus vaccines for 12 to 15-year-olds. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said parents would find it "deeply reassuring" if children were given jabs, and leaks from Whitehall insiders suggested the JCVI was ready to sign off on vaccines for teenagers as schools return in England. Yet although the vaccination programme has been expanded to cover more children with underlying health conditions, the JCVI has not approved vaccination for the entire age cohort

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-ministers-face-difficult-decision-on-whether-to-overrule-jcvis-finding-on-vaccinating-children-12398490>

Ho Chi Minh City could lift lockdown, end 'zero COVID-19' policy

Vietnam's coronavirus epicentre Ho Chi Minh City, which has kept residents confined at home under lockdown, is considering reopening economic activity from Sept. 15, shifting from a "zero COVID-19" strategy to a policy of living with the virus. The city of 9 million people is targeting a phased reopening and the full vaccination of its citizens by the end of this year, according to the draft seen by Reuters, which has yet to be endorsed. Ho Chi Minh City last month deployed troops to enforce its lockdown and prohibited residents from leaving their homes to slow a spiralling rate of deaths. Just 3% of Vietnam's 98 million population has been fully vaccinated

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/vietnams-biggest-city-proposes-sept-15-economic-restart-after-lockdown-2021-09-03/>

Maduro says Venezuela to receive first COVAX vaccines this week

Venezuela this week will receive the first coronavirus vaccines obtained via COVAX, President Nicolas Maduro said, following months of stalled attempts to obtain inoculations through the global vaccine program. The South American nation has been inoculating its population with doses acquired directly from China and Russia, following months of delays in making payments to COVAX that Maduro has attributed to U.S. sanctions. "This week, the first vaccines from the COVAX mechanism will arrive," Maduro said in an interview with state television. "We hope the COVAX mechanism accelerates, such that in October they deliver the vaccines for an estimated 6 million Venezuelans."

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/maduro-says-venezuela-receive-first-covax-vaccines-this-week-2021-09-05/?taid=613505ad6edf5a000104acd2&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter

Florida Covid Deaths Jump to Pandemic Record

Florida reported 2,345 additional Covid-19 deaths in its latest weekly report, the most ever in a similar period. The daily average rose 36% to 335, according to calculations based on the report. That would surpass the high for the entire pandemic in Johns Hopkins University data. The data is based on when the death was reported, not when it occurred. People 65-and-over accounted for 63% of the deaths reported in the period. Cumulatively over the entire pandemic, Florida seniors have made up 79% of deaths.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-03/florida-s-newly-reported-covid-deaths-jump-to-pandemic-record>

Tyson Foods, unions strike deal over COVID-19 vaccine mandate

Tyson Foods said that labor unions have agreed to support its requirement for U.S. employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by November, and the company will offer new benefits to workers including paid sick leave. Companies have been working to incentivize employees to get vaccinated through bonuses and other benefits as the highly contagious Delta variant drives an increase in U.S. coronavirus infections. In some instances, employees who do not get shots face penalties like higher insurance costs

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/tyson-foods-meatpacking-union-strike-deal-over-vaccine-mandate-2021-09-03/>

American Airlines to end pandemic leave for unvaccinated staff

American Airlines said it would not provide special leave from next month to unvaccinated employees who have to quarantine due to COVID-19. Unvaccinated workers will have to use their sick time or medical leave if they miss work due to the disease, it said. "Given there is an FDA-approved vaccine, pandemic leave will only be offered to team members who are fully vaccinated and who provide their vaccination card to us," the carrier said in a memo to staff seen by Reuters.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/american-airlines-to-end-pandemic-leave-for-unvaccinated-staff/ar-AA04Aid>

Australian PM seeks quicker reopening after COVID-19 vaccine swap with Britain

Australia will receive an additional 4 million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine this month after agreeing a swap deal with Britain, to help accelerate its vaccination programme amid a record surge in infections. The deal, announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, will double the availability of Pfizer vaccines this month, with the first shipment of vaccines from Britain expected to arrive over the weekend. Australia on Friday recorded its biggest one-day rise in COVID-19 infections, with 1,657 new cases and 13 deaths reported in the past 24 hours.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/delta-puts-australias-covid-19-reopening-schedule-doubt-2021-09-03/>

As COVID surges, more Florida school districts revolt against governor's mask rules

In a scene replayed across the United States, angry parents and activists streamed into a meeting of the Florida's Lake County school board on Thursday where it considered whether to mandate mask-wearing for students and staff due to COVID. Some opponents of the mask proposal brandished signs that read "Let Our Children Breathe." Even with Florida seeing a record number of coronavirus cases, one attendee called the pandemic "overblown." Another was escorted out by deputies after yelling at board members. The proposal would require staff and students to wear masks for 14 days at schools with COVID positivity rates at or above 5%. But Florida's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, effectively banned similar mandates in July.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/covid-surges-more-florida-school-districts-revolt-against-governors-mask-ban-2021-09-03/>

GP surgeries in England cancel flu jabs amid vaccine shortage

GP surgeries are being forced to cancel appointments for the winter flu jab after the NHS's biggest provider warned that it could not deliver supplies for up to two weeks due to "unforeseen road freight challenges". Practices in England have begun contacting patients to postpone their

immunisation without being able to rebook them at a later date. The problem emerged on Friday when vaccine maker Seqirus wrote to surgeries alerting them to the possibility of having to rearrange booked appointments. "We would like to inform you that due to unforeseen road freight challenges, there will be a delay to your scheduled delivery by one to two weeks," the firm said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/sep/03/gp-surgeries-in-england-cancel-flu-jabs-amid-shortage-of-vaccine>

Share Of Adults Who Won't Get COVID-19 Vaccine Drops 5 Points

The share of adults saying "no" to getting the COVID-19 vaccine dropped 5 percentage points in a month, according to a new NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll conducted after the Food and Drug Administration granted full approval to Pfizer's vaccine. The survey, which was in the field from Aug. 26 through Tuesday, found 19% of U.S. adults now say they do not intend to be vaccinated. That's down from 24% in a Marist poll from the end of July. The number of Americans who say they have gotten or will get a COVID vaccine is up to 79%, a 5-point improvement in a month.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/09/03/1033750072/the-share-of-u-s-adults-willing-to-get-vaccinated-ticks-up-a-new-poll-finds>

Amid vaccine hoarding criticism, Biden admin plots \$2.7 billion manufacturing push

It didn't take long for the Biden administration to answer criticism that the United States wasn't doing enough to ease the world's COVID-19 vaccination shortfall. On Thursday, White House COVID response coordinator Jeff Zients revealed that the government has earmarked \$2.7 billion to beef up vaccine manufacturing. Zients did not discuss details of the plan—such as which companies would receive the aid—but he did say that the funds will boost production of key supplies to produce the shots. Some of those materials include bioreactor bags, tubing, lipids, vials, needles and syringes, Bloomberg and The New York Times report, citing officials familiar with the plan.

<https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/response-to-recent-criticism-u-s-will-spend-2-7-billion-vaccine-manufacturing>

15 million Covid vaccine doses thrown away in the U.S. since March, new data shows

Pharmacies and state governments in the United States have thrown away at least 15.1 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines since March 1, according to government data obtained by NBC News — a far larger number than previously known and still probably an undercount. Four national pharmacy chains reported more than 1 million wasted doses each, according to data released by the CDC. Walgreens reported the most waste of any pharmacy, state or other vaccine provider, with nearly 2.6 million wasted doses. CVS reported 2.3 million wasted doses, while Walmart reported 1.6 million and Rite Aid reported 1.1 million.

https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/america-has-wasted-least-15-million-covid-vaccine-doses-march-n1278211?cid=sm_npd_nn_tw_ma

Partisan Exits

Brazil-Argentina World Cup qualifier halted after health officials intervene

A World Cup qualifier between Brazil and Argentina was halted just minutes after kickoff on Sunday after Brazilian health officials objected to the participation of three Argentine players they say broke quarantine rules. Argentina walked off the pitch at the Corinthians Arena after the officials entered the pitch to stop the game. The players went to the dressing room, although the two coaches, along with Argentina captain Lionel Messi and Brazilian players, gathered at the side of the pitch a few moments later to discuss the stoppage. The game was suspended shortly after. The incident occurred just hours after Brazil's health regulator, Anvisa, said four Argentine players must isolate and could not play in the match

<https://www.espn.com/soccer/brazil-bra/story/4469100/brazil-argentina-world-cup-qualifier-match-halted-after-health-officials-intervene>

COVID-19: Five police officers injured after violence breaks out at anti-vaccine protest in

London

Five police officers have been injured after anti-vaccine protests in London turned violent, the Metropolitan Police said. Ten people were arrested amid demonstrations at the headquarters of the UK vaccine regulator in Canary Wharf, east London, and the Science Museum in South Kensington, according to the Met. "Crowds quickly became hostile when they reached a building in Canary Wharf," the force wrote on Twitter.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-four-police-officers-injured-after-violence-breaks-out-at-anti-vaccine-protest-in-london-12398467>

Anti-vaccine protesters try to storm London offices of medical regulator

Police have prevented anti-vaccine protesters from storming the headquarters of Britain's medical regulator during violent clashes in east London. At least four officers were injured and arrests were made during a confrontation as hundreds of people gathered outside the offices of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in Canary Wharf. Police drew batons and called for reinforcements as protesters attempted to force open the door of the regulator's offices, with security guards looking on from inside.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/03/anti-vaccine-protesters-try-to-storm-london-offices-of-medical-regulator>

Brazil's Bolsonaro signs law that could break COVID-19 vaccine patents

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday signed off on a law allowing for vaccine and medication patents to be broken in a public emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. But the right-wing leader vetoed the provisions that patent holders would need to transfer the knowledge and supply the raw materials needed to duplicate the vaccines and medications.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazils-bolsonaro-signs-law-that-could-break-covid-19-vaccine-patents-2021-09-02/>

Gavin Williamson is being "reckless" with pupils' health over covid-19 safety, world scientists warn

Scientists from across the world join forces with teachers, parents and unions to claim the Education Secretary is "endangering the health of hundreds of thousands of children" by not implementing Covid safety measure in schools

<https://inews.co.uk/news/world-scientists-warn-gavin-williamson-reckless-pupils-health-covid-19-infections-1181705>

COVID-19: Ministers face difficult decision on whether to overrule JCVI's finding on vaccinating children

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has resisted intense pressure from ministers by refusing to recommend coronavirus vaccines for 12 to 15-year-olds. Yesterday, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said parents would find it "deeply reassuring" if children were given jabs, and leaks from Whitehall insiders suggested the JCVI was ready to sign off on vaccines for teenagers as schools return in England.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-ministers-face-difficult-decision-on-whether-to-overrule-jcvis-finding-on-vaccinating-children-12398490>

Scientific Viewpoint

Israel to present COVID-19 booster shot data to FDA experts

Israel this month will present data from an extensive rollout of COVID-19 vaccine booster shots to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which is weighing White House plans to begin a booster drive in the United States. Sharon Alroy-Preis, head of public health at Israel's Health Ministry, said the ministry had been asked by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to brief its advisors at a Sept. 17 meeting.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-present-covid-19-booster-shot-data-fda-experts-2021-09-05/>

What Vaccinated People Need to Know About Breakthrough Infections

If you're vaccinated, you should think about a number of variables, including your overall health, where you live and the risks you take.

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/breakthrough-infections-covid-19-coronavirus.html>

FDA Pushes for Moderna Booster Shot Data in Weighing Dose

U.S. health regulators are seeking additional coronavirus booster shot data from Moderna Inc., as the Biden administration expects to begin a widespread booster campaign this month with only the Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech vaccine, people familiar with the matter say. Moderna announced Friday that it had "completed" its submission of data to the Food and Drug Administration for authorization of boosters. The FDA has been seeking more data as Moderna's submission rolled in, the people added.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-04/fda-pushes-for-moderna-booster-shot-data-in-weighing-dose>

'Far too early' for South African C.1.2 virus variant to cause concern

It is too early to say if the new variant of COVID-19 spotted in South Africa will become a major player in the pandemic – or fizzle out like many variants spotted before. Known as C.1.2, the variant has attracted panicked headlines around Australia and the world due to its collection of mutations, some of which it shares with other variants of concern.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/far-too-early-for-south-african-c-1-2-virus-variant-to-cause-concern-20210903-p580gc.html>

Everything we know about the mu variant, the latest coronavirus mutation

On Monday the World Health Organization (WHO) officially labeled the mu variant as a "variant of interest," a designation that indicates a need for further study about possible dangers while falling short of the more serious classification, "variant of concern." Variants of concern are regarded as a top priority because they are more immunity-resistant, contagious or deadly than other strains. Currently the WHO considers four strains to meet those criteria: alpha, beta, gamma and delta (the variant most prevalent in the United States).

<https://www.salon.com/2021/09/04/everything-we-know-about-the-mu-variant-the-latest-coronavirus-mutation/>

AstraZeneca reaches settlement with EU on COVID-19 vaccine delivery

Settlement brings doses delivered to 300 million as agreed. Agreement will also end pending litigation in Brussels. Capped rebates on vaccine will apply if doses are delayed. Doses will go to EU-laggards in uptake ranking, COVAX facility

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/astrazeneca-eu-reach-settlement-delivery-covid-19-vaccine-doses-2021-09-03/>

EU reviewing risk of rare inflammation after COVID-19 vaccinations

Europe's medicines regulator said on Friday it was reviewing if COVID-19 vaccines caused a risk of a rare inflammatory condition, following a report of a case with Pfizer/BioNTech's shot. The safety panel of the European Medicines Agency is looking into Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS) after the condition was reported in a 17-year-old male in Denmark, the agency said.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/eu-reviewing-cases-rare-body-inflammation-after-covid-19-shots-2021-09-03/>

Australia approves highly effective Moderna Covid-19 jab for children aged 12 to 17

Australia's medical regulator approves American Moderna jab for all over 12s Medical regulator boss said the jab was 98% effective against severe disease One million doses will arrive in September and 10million by the end of the year In 2022 Australia will receive 15 million of Moderna's 'updated' variant boosters The move helps nation reach 70 per cent vaccination rate to end lockdowns

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9956807/Australia-approves-highly-effective-Moderna-Covid-19-jab-children-aged-12-16.html>

U.S. COVID-19 booster shot campaign to start with only Pfizer - source

A White House plan to offer COVID-19 booster shots will most likely start this month only with the vaccine made by Pfizer Inc and BioNTech, a narrower initiative than anticipated, a source familiar with the matter said on Friday. President Joe Biden had expected to launch a campaign to administer 100 million booster shots on Sept. 20. But U.S. vaccine makers other than Pfizer have lagged in seeking authorization of an additional dose.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-covid-19-booster-shot-campaign-start-with-only-pfizer-source-2021-09-03/>

Moderna seeks EU authorization for COVID-19 vaccine booster dose

Moderna Inc said on Friday it had asked the EU drugs regulator for conditional approval of a booster shot of its COVID-19 vaccine at a 50 microgram dose.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/moderna-submits-application-covid-19-booster-dose-eu-regulator-2021-09-03/>

Analysis: Are COVID boosters needed? FDA vaccine advisers wrestle with a thorny issue

The debate will likely be heated following the Biden Administration's announcement last month - before the experts could weigh in - that the U.S. plans to start booster doses Sept. 20 if regulators approve them. The White House move usurped the normal process in which the FDA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention make these sort of science-based decisions, according to interviews with six current and former FDA scientists and CDC advisory panel members.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/analysis-fda-vaccine-advisers-face-thorny-question-are-covid-19-boosters-needed/ar-AA03Nbl>

A new COVID-19 variant called Mu that might be able to evade immunity from vaccines has been detected in almost every US state

A new COVID-19 variant called Mu might be able to evade the immunity people get from vaccines, Insider reported. The Mu variant has been detected in 47 US states and the District of Columbia, according to data from Outbreak.info. Only Nebraska, Vermont, and South Dakota are yet to detect a case, the data says.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/a-new-covid-19-variant-called-mu-that-might-be-able-to-evade-immunity-from-vaccines-has-been-detected-in-almost-every-us-state/ar-AA06bem>

Fauci says he's 'keeping a very close eye on' new COVID-19 variant

The variant, labelled "mu," has been detected in 39 countries in South America and Europe. "We certainly are aware of the mu variant. We're keeping a very close eye on it," Anthony Fauci said. "We don't consider it an immediate threat right now," he added.

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/570759-fauci-says-hes-keeping-a-very-close-eye-on-new-covid-variant>

One Vaccine Makes More Antibodies Than Another. Does it Matter?

Ten months ago, the results of large clinical trials appeared almost too good to be true: Two messenger RNA vaccines reduced symptomatic Covid-19 cases by more than 90% in almost every group that got them. Now, subtle differences between the Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc. vaccines are emerging across patient groups over time. One small U.S. study found waning levels of antibodies with Pfizer's vaccine, particularly in an older group of people. And a larger study from Belgium found that Moderna's shot may generate more antibodies than Pfizer's.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-04/one-vaccine-makes-more-antibodies-than-another-does-it-matter>

No Mu variant detected in Philippines so far — genome center

The Philippines has not yet detected the presence of the new coronavirus variant known as “Mu,” the country’s genome center said on Friday. “We went back to our database, we have sequenced more than 12,000 [samples]...We have not yet detected Mu variant in the Philippines,” Philippine Genome Center Executive Director Cynthia Saloma said in a briefing.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/09/03/2124649/no-mu-variant-detected-philippines-so-far-genome-center>

Moderna vaccine approved for children 12 years and older, in line with Pfizer vaccine

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by Australian health authorities for children as young as 12. The vaccine was already approved for adults 18 and over, and the Therapeutic Goods Administration has now extended that approval down to teenagers. It brings the vaccine into line with the extremely similar Pfizer vaccine. Both are based on mRNA technology.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-04/moderna-vaccine-approved-for-kids-12-years-and-older-in-line-wit/100434402>

mRNA COVID vaccines not tied to serious side effects

Ten months ago, the results of large clinical trials appeared almost too good to be true: Two messenger RNA vaccines reduced symptomatic Covid-19 cases by more than 90% in almost every group that got them. Now, subtle differences between the Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc. vaccines are emerging across patient groups over time. One small U.S. study found waning levels of antibodies with Pfizer’s vaccine, particularly in an older group of people. And a larger study from Belgium found that Moderna’s shot may generate more antibodies than Pfizer’s.

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/09/mrna-covid-vaccines-not-tied-serious-side-effects>

Lilly's COVID-19 antibody combo cleared for nationwide use as feds say it can tackle the dominant delta variant

That didn't take long. Only a few days after Eli Lilly's COVID-19 antibody combo of bamlanivimab and etesevimab made its return to more than 20 states, federal officials are resuming distribution nationwide. In a Thursday alert, officials said Lilly's drug "can be used in all U.S. states, territories, and jurisdictions" based on data about variants circulating nationwide. Since Eli Lilly's combo is expected to be effective against the delta variant—and because that variant is now dominant in the United States—officials are ready to again endorse the drugs.

<https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/lilly-s-covid-19-antibody-combo-cleared-for-nationwide-use-as-feds-say-it-can-tackle-delta>

The White House wants \$65 billion for an ‘Apollo’-style pandemic preparedness program

The Biden administration on Friday unveiled a sweeping new biosecurity plan, outlining a \$65 billion proposal to remake the nation’s pandemic preparedness infrastructure in the wake of Covid-19. The new spending would represent one of the largest investments in public health in American history: During a press briefing, Eric Lander, the White House science adviser, likened the proposal to the Apollo program of the late 1960s. The immense funding boost would target programs aimed at developing and manufacturing vaccines, treatments, and tests more quickly. It would also provide new money for laboratory capacity, viral detection mechanisms, and early warning systems.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/09/03/biden-wants-65-billion-for-apollo-style-pandemic-preparedness-program/>

Crowded U.S. Jails Drove Millions Of COVID-19 Cases, A New Study Says

If the U.S. had done more to reduce its incarceration rate, it could have prevented millions of COVID-19 cases. That's the conclusion of researchers who conducted what they say is the first study to link mass incarceration rates to pandemic vulnerability. Many of those preventable cases, they add, occurred in communities of color. The U.S. jail and prison system acts as an epidemic engine, according to the study from researchers at Northwestern University and the World Bank. That engine is driven by a massive number of people who, despite some counties' efforts to trim jail

populations, have been cycling between cramped detention facilities and their home communities.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/09/02/1033326204/crowded-jails-drove-millions-of-covid-19-cases-a-new-study-says>

Covid Survivors More Likely to Have Kidney Problems, Study Finds

Since the beginning of the pandemic, doctors have found that people who become very ill with Covid-19 often experience kidney problems, not just the lung impairments that are the hallmark of the illness. Now, a large study suggests that kidney issues can last for months after patients recover from the initial infection, and may lead to a serious lifelong reduction of kidney function in some patients.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/01/health/covid-kidney-damage.html>

Coronavirus Resurgence

This COVID Ward Reveals What Is Killing Israelis

The medical team in a central Israeli hospital returned to the COVID ward earlier and more dramatically than expected, where most of the patients in the fourth wave have one shared characteristic. “Most people here are unvaccinated,” says Dr. Ilya Kagan, head of the coronavirus intensive care ward at Beilinson Hospital. “It’s frustrating most of all for the patients themselves,” says Dr. Katya Orvin. “It’s hard to judge. Last week I had a patient who didn’t get vaccinated due to an allergy, and she died.”

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-this-covid-ward-reveals-what-is-killing-israelis-1.10180328>

Nearly 80% of fatalities in deadly August COVID surge among unvaccinated, partially vaccinated Oregonians

Nearly four in five coronavirus deaths in Oregon during the first four weeks of August were among unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals, according to new data released by the Oregon Health Authority. And roughly five in six of the 51,391 known COVID-19 infections during the same period were among people who were unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated, according to a state report. The share of so-called breakthrough cases and deaths among fully vaccinated Oregonians remains tiny compared to the 2.4 million Oregonians who were fully vaccinated as of Aug.28, demonstrating the effectiveness of vaccines at preventing severe COVID-19.

https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2021/09/nearly-80-of-fatalities-in-deadly-august-covid-surge-among-unvaccinated-partially-vaccinated-oregonians.html?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=oregonian_sf&utm_source=twitter

New Zealand reports first death from Delta variant of COVID-19

New Zealand reported on Saturday the first death from the Delta variant of the new coronavirus and 20 further daily infections, all in Auckland, the epicentre of the outbreak. The woman who died was in her 90s and had a number of underlying health conditions, health officials said in a statement. It is the first coronavirus-related death in the country since mid-February.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-reports-first-death-delta-variant-covid-19-2021-09-04/>

New Zealand sees success in curbing Delta outbreak as new cases plunge

New Zealand reported 28 new cases of COVID-19 on Friday, a big drop compared to the last few days, as authorities said the country was breaking the chain of transmission of the highly infectious Delta variant of coronavirus. Authorities said 27 new cases were in Auckland and one was in Wellington. Friday's numbers were lower than 49 new cases reported on Thursday and 75 the day before.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-sees-success-curbing-delta-outbreak-new-cases-plunge-2021-09-03/>

Hospitalizations for Children Sharply Increase as Delta Surges

Pediatric hospitalizations for Covid-19 have soared over the summer as the highly contagious Delta variant spread across the country, according to two new studies from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. From late June to mid-August, hospitalization rates in the United States for children and teenagers increased nearly fivefold, although they remain slightly below January's peak, one new study found.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/03/health/delta-children-hospitalization-rates.html>

Australia's Victoria reports 190 local COVID-19 cases

Australia, struggling to quell its worst wave of COVID-19, reported 1,756 infections on Saturday, another record high, and officials warned that worse is yet to come, urging people to get vaccinated. Most of the cases were again in New South Wales, which has been fighting an outbreak of the highly infectious Delta variant since mid-June. The state reported 1,533 new cases and four further deaths.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australias-victoria-reports-190-local-covid-19-cases-2021-09-03/>

'Stressed' Victorian hospitals brace for COVID's third wave

Victorian hospitals are bracing for a third wave of seriously ill coronavirus patients, with staff shortages, workforce burnout and overrun emergency departments fuelling a crisis across the public health system. With the state recording 208 new coronavirus cases on Friday – and Premier Daniel Andrews warning that cases would continue to rise — senior doctors at Victoria's hospitals are now reviewing their surge planning and reclaiming wards and other spaces for COVID beds.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/stressed-victorian-hospitals-brace-for-covid-s-third-wave-20210903-p58ols.html>

COVID-19: UK records 121 more coronavirus-related deaths and 42,076 new cases

The UK has reported 121 more coronavirus-related deaths and 42,076 cases in the latest 24-hour period, according to government data. It compares with 178 deaths and 38,154 infections yesterday, while last Friday 100 fatalities and 38,046 cases were announced. Today's cases figure is the highest since 21 July, when there were 44,104 reported.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-uk-records-121-more-coronavirus-related-deaths-and-42-076-new-cases-daily-figures-show-12398472>

Doctor says ERs overwhelmed with people overdosing on livestock drug ivermectin to treat COVID-19 | TheHill

Physician Jason McElyea told KFOR patients who took doses of ivermectin meant for a horse are filling up hospitals in eastern and southeastern Oklahoma. "The ERs are so backed up that gunshot victims were having hard times getting to facilities where they can get definitive care and be treated," McElyea said. Ivermectin has gained popularity as a COVID-19 treatment despite unproven anti-viral benefits

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/570730-doctor-says-ers-overwhelmed-with-people-overdosing-on-livestock>

Egypt's covid crisis has reached a dangerous level, health ministry sources say

Sources in Egypt's Ministry of Health have said that coronavirus in the country has reached a dangerous level due to the government's neglect of precautionary measures. The state has continued to allow parties and festivals and stopped enforcing closing times on shops, reports Al-Araby Al-Jadeed. This mirrors what was said by a senior Egyptian official at the end of August, that in three weeks the number of infections were set to rise significantly.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210903-egypts-covid-crisis-has-reached-a-dangerous-level-health-ministry-sources-say/>

Oregon's Covid-19 Wave Is at Its Worst Despite High Vaccination Rate

When the Covid-19 vaccines came out, Kelsea Robinson, manager of the intensive care unit at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center in southern Oregon, said she thought the worst was finally behind her. Oregon has the 12th highest vaccination rate in the U.S., with 58% of all residents fully

vaccinated, according to data compiled by the Mayo Clinic—but the intensive care units in Asante’s three hospitals are overflowing with Covid-19 patients. They can’t transfer elsewhere in the state because most Oregon hospitals are in a similar situation. At one Asante hospital, the pipes that carry oxygen recently began to freeze because Covid-19 patients were using so much.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/oregons-covid-19-wave-is-at-its-worst-despite-high-vaccination-rate-11630674004>

New Lockdown

Guatemala orders new travel, social curbs as virus cases surge

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei announced new national transport curbs and social restrictions on Thursday in an effort to contain a surge of coronavirus infections and relieve pressure on hospitals. Giammattei opted against the toughest lockdown measures but said from Saturday, auto transport will be prohibited for most trips from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. and social gatherings such as weddings and public sports events will be banned for at least four weeks.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/guatemala-orders-new-travel-social-curbs-virus-cases-surge-2021-09-03/>