

# COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

## 12th Oct 2021

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### One Minute Overview

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**Covid response 'one of UK's worst ever public health failures'** - Britain's early handling of the coronavirus pandemic was one of the worst public health failures in UK history, with ministers and scientists taking a "fatalistic" approach that exacerbated the death toll, a landmark inquiry has found. "Groupthink", evidence of British exceptionalism and a deliberately "slow and gradualist" approach meant the UK fared "significantly worse" than other countries, according to the 151-page "Coronavirus: lessons learned to date" report led by two former Conservative ministers. The crisis exposed "major deficiencies in the machinery of government", with public bodies unable to share vital information and scientific advice impaired by a lack of transparency, input from international experts and meaningful challenge. Despite being one of the first countries to develop a test for Covid in January 2020, the UK "squandered" its lead and "converted it into one of permanent crisis". [The consequences were profound, the report says. "For a country with a world-class expertise in data analysis, to face the biggest health crisis in 100 years with virtually no data to analyse was an almost unimaginable setback."](#)

**Russian spy 'stole Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine blueprint and used it to develop Sputnik jab'** - Russian spies stole the blueprint for the Oxford/AstraZenecacoronavirus vaccine and used it to create their own Sputnik V jab, according to reports. [UK security services have allegedly told ministers they now have solid proof an agent stole vital information from the pharmaceutical company, including the blueprint, according to The Sun.](#) The late security minister James Brokenshire last year said Britain was "more than 95 per cent sure" Russian state-sponsored hackers had targeted the UK, US and Canada in attacks on drug companies.

**COVID-19: Report shows despite UK's vaccine success massive mistakes were made** - The UK's independent inquiry into COVID-19 is due to launch in Spring 2022. Until then, this parliamentary report is the best assessment we are likely to get into the government's pandemic response. [And putting aside the success of the vaccine and former health secretary Matt Hancock's '100,000 tests target', the cross-party committee's conclusions are damning.](#) The government's initial 'fatalistic' approach was 'a serious early error'. The test, trace and isolate system was 'often chaotic' and 'ultimately failed'. Thousands of care home deaths 'could have been avoided'.

**Sydney opens to vaccinated after 100-plus days of lockdown** - Sydney hairdressers, gyms, cafés and bars reopened to fully vaccinated customers on Monday for the first time in more than 100 days after Australia's largest city achieved a vaccination benchmark. Sydney planned to reopen on the Monday after 70% of the New South Wales state population aged 16 and older were fully vaccinated. [By Monday, 73.5% of the target population was fully vaccinated and more than 90% have received at least one dose. Some businesses opened at midnight due to demand from people impatient to enjoy their freedom.](#) More pandemic restrictions will be removed at the 80% benchmark, and New South Wales residents will be free to travel overseas for the first time since March last year.

**Coronavirus: Moderna has no plans to share its Covid-19 vaccine recipe** - Moderna has no plans to share the recipe for its Covid-19 vaccine because executives have concluded that scaling up the company's own production is the best way to increase the global supply, the company's chairman said Monday. [In an interview with Associated Press, Noubar Afeyan also reiterated a pledge Moderna made a year ago not to](#)

[enforce patent infringement on anyone else making a coronavirus vaccine during the pandemic](#). “We didn’t have to do that,” Afeyan said. “We think that was the responsible thing to do.” He added: “We want that to be helping the world.” The United Nations health agency has pressed US-based Moderna to share its vaccine formula. Afeyan said the company analysed whether it would be better to share the messenger RNA technology and determined that it could expand production and deliver billions of additional doses in 2022.

**Coronavirus: Can the flu and dengue case spike impact the third COVID wave?** - Over the course of past weeks, the rising cases of flu, viral ailments, dengue have overtaken COVID to be the current prevailing health threats in the country. [While COVID-19 remains to be a problem which we'll continue to face, bleak awareness about the flu vaccination, newer, potentially severe variants of the dengue causing DENV virus](#), reports of serious infections and lax measures have made us fear the ill-effects of twindemic, i.e., if two or more infectious diseases are to strike us together.

**New Zealand makes COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for health workers** - [New Zealand will require teachers and workers in the health and disability sectors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday](#), as she extended restrictions in Auckland, its largest city, for another week.

**French study of over 22m people finds vaccines cut severe Covid risk by 90%** - Vaccination reduces the risk of dying or being hospitalised with Covid-19 by 90%, a French study of 22.6 million people over the age of 50 has found. The research published on Monday also found that vaccines appear to protect against the worst effects of the most prevalent virus strain, the Delta variant. [“This means that those who are vaccinated are nine times less at risk of being hospitalised or dying from Covid-19 than those who have not been vaccinated.”](#) the epidemiologist Mahmoud Zureik, who oversaw the research, told Agence France-Presse. The study – the largest of its kind so far – was carried out by Epi-Phare a scientific group set up by France’s health system, its national health insurance fund, l’Assurance Maladie (CNAM), and the country’s ANSM medicines agency.

**Merck seeks first U.S. authorization for COVID-19 pill** - Merck & Co Inc said on Monday it has applied for U.S. emergency use authorization for its drug to treat mild-to-moderate patients of COVID-19, putting it on course to become the first oral antiviral medication for the disease. [An authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could help change clinical management of COVID-19 as the pill can be taken at home](#). The treatment, molnupiravir, cut the rate of hospitalization and death by 50% in a trial of mild-to-moderately ill patients who had at least one risk factor for the disease, according to data released earlier this month.

**COVID-19: Unvaccinated pregnant women make up one fifth of most critically ill coronavirus patients in England** - Almost a fifth of the most critically ill COVID patients in England in recent months have been pregnant women, according to NHS England, which is urging expectant mothers to get their jabs. [Figures show that between July 1 and September 30, 17% of patients receiving treatment through a lung-bypass machine were unvaccinated pregnant women](#). Expectant mothers accounted for 32% of all females aged between 16 and 49 in intensive care on ECMO - a medical technique used when a patient's lungs are so badly damaged that a ventilator cannot maintain oxygen levels.

## **Lockdown Exit**

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**Russian spy ‘stole Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine blueprint and used it to develop Sputnik jab’**

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create their own Sputnik V jab, according to reports. UK security services have allegedly told ministers they now have solid proof an agent stole vital information from the pharmaceutical company, including the blueprint, according to The Sun. The late security minister James Brokenshire last year said Britain was “more than 95 per cent sure” Russian state-sponsored hackers had targeted the UK, US and Canada in attacks on drug companies.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-astrazeneca-vaccine-blueprint-sputnik-b1935992.html>

### **Covid response ‘one of UK’s worst ever public health failures’**

Britain’s early handling of the coronavirus pandemic was one of the worst public health failures in UK history, with ministers and scientists taking a “fatalistic” approach that exacerbated the death toll, a landmark inquiry has found. “Groupthink”, evidence of British exceptionalism and a deliberately “slow and gradualist” approach meant the UK fared “significantly worse” than other countries, according to the 151-page “Coronavirus: lessons learned to date” report led by two former Conservative ministers. The crisis exposed “major deficiencies in the machinery of government”, with public bodies unable to share vital information and scientific advice impaired by a lack of transparency, input from international experts and meaningful challenge. Despite being one of the first countries to develop a test for Covid in January 2020, the UK “squandered” its lead and “converted it into one of permanent crisis”. The consequences were profound, the report says. “For a country with a world-class expertise in data analysis, to face the biggest health crisis in 100 years with virtually no data to analyse was an almost unimaginable setback.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/oct/12/covid-response-one-of-uks-worst-ever-public-health-failures>

### **‘Extraordinary omission’: key findings in scathing UK Covid report**

The joint report by the Commons health and science committees on lessons to be learned from the UK’s response to Covid spans 150 pages and is divided into six themes. Here are the main findings from each. The findings are damning

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/12/extraordinary-omission-key-findings-in-scathing-uk-covid-report>

### **COVID-19: Report shows despite UK's vaccine success massive mistakes were made**

The UK's independent inquiry into COVID-19 is due to launch in Spring 2022. Until then, this parliamentary report is the best assessment we are likely to get into the government's pandemic response. And putting aside the success of the vaccine and former health secretary Matt Hancock's "100,000 tests target", the cross-party committee's conclusions are damning. The government's initial "fatalistic" approach was "a serious early error". The test, trace and isolate system was "often chaotic" and "ultimately failed". Thousands of care home deaths "could have been avoided".

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-report-shows-despite-uks-vaccine-success-massive-mistakes-were-made-12431651>

### **Coronavirus: Can the flu and dengue case spike impact the third COVID wave?**

Over the course of past weeks, the rising cases of flu, viral ailments, dengue have overtaken COVID to be the current prevailing health threats in the country. While COVID-19 remains to be a problem which we'll continue to face, bleak awareness about the flu vaccination, newer, potentially severe variants of the dengue causing DENV virus, reports of serious infections and lax measures have made us fear the ill-effects of twindemic, i.e., if two or more infectious diseases are to strike us together.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/coronavirus-can-the-flu-and-dengue-case-spike-impact-the-third-covid-wave/photostory/86892641.cms>

### **Indonesia cuts quarantine to 5 days as borders reopen further**

Southeast Asia’s largest economy will allow arrivals from 18 countries and reduce the minimum quarantine period to five days, from eight previously, said Luhut Panjaitan, coordinating minister for maritime and investment affairs who’s overseeing the pandemic response. He didn’t specify which

are the 18 countries. The country has gradually eased border restrictions, starting with the resumption of offshore visa applications and followed by the reopening of tourist spot Bali to foreign visitors this week. People's mobility has started to bounce back as cinemas and gyms are reopened, with daily Covid-19 case and fatality numbers continuing to ease to the lowest since June 2020.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2196031/indonesia-cuts-quarantine-to-5-days-as-borders-reopen-further>

### **Coronavirus: Moderna has no plans to share its Covid-19 vaccine recipe**

Moderna has no plans to share the recipe for its Covid-19 vaccine because executives have concluded that scaling up the company's own production is the best way to increase the global supply, the company's chairman said Monday. In an interview with Associated Press, Nour Afeyan also reiterated a pledge Moderna made a year ago not to enforce patent infringement on anyone else making a coronavirus vaccine during the pandemic. "We didn't have to do that," Afeyan said. "We think that was the responsible thing to do." He added: "We want that to be helping the world." The United Nations health agency has pressed US-based Moderna to share its vaccine formula. Afeyan said the company analysed whether it would be better to share the messenger RNA technology and determined that it could expand production and deliver billions of additional doses in 2022.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3151999/coronavirus-moderna-has-no-plans-share-its-covid-19-vaccine>

### **Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine Is World's Preferred Shot**

Countries from Latin America to the Middle East have lined up for the shot, driven by its effectiveness and ample supply, especially compared with Chinese and Russian rivals.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-is-worlds-preferred-shot-11633950181>

### **Covid 19: 'Almost no one' in Australia medically exempt from coronavirus vaccinations - health expert**

Australia's body for GPs has revealed just how tricky it will be for people to attain a legitimate digital Covid-19 vaccine exemption certificate, set to launch this month. Despite popular belief among vaccine-hesitant circles, they won't be handed out to people with chronic illnesses, auto-immune conditions, blood clotting disorders, allergies, or histories of strokes or heart attacks. In fact, "almost no one" in Australia will be eligible for an exemption, according to Professor Kristine Macartney, director of the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS). The only people the three Covid vaccines available in Australia could be dangerous for are those with allergies to both polyethylene glycol (PEG) - contained in the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines - and polysorbate 80, an ingredient of the AstraZeneca vaccine, Macartney told The Age newspaper.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/covid-19-almost-no-one-in-australia-medically-exempt-from-coronavirus-vaccinations-health-expert/TLN0OEJD2VCUVCAZACHN5HSAZY/>

### **It's too soon to declare victory against Covid-19 ahead of the holidays, but these festivities are safe to resume, experts say**

With holidays approaching, health experts said some festivities can start to return to a sense of normalcy -- but they also warned that Covid-19 isn't defeated yet. Experts said Sunday that outdoor trick-or-treating -- particularly for children who are vaccinated -- should be fine this year. "It's a good time to reflect on why it's important to get vaccinated. But go out there and enjoy Halloween as well as the other holidays that will be coming up," Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN's Dana Bash Sunday.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/11/health/us-coronavirus-monday/index.html>

### **COVID-19: Travel between UK and dozens of destinations now easier after red list cut to just seven countries**

Forty-seven nations were taken off the red list at 4am, meaning anyone arriving from places

including South Africa, Brazil and Argentina no longer need to quarantine in a hotel. In addition, advice against non-essential travel to a further 42 countries and territories has been lifted too. Now Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha said the country will gradually reopen, with quarantine requirements lifted for vaccinated visitors from ten low-risk countries -

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-travel-between-uk-and-dozens-of-countries-now-easier-after-red-list-cut-to-just-s-even-12430770>

### **Sydney celebrates 'Freedom Day' after lockdown**

Sydney's cafes, gyms and restaurants welcomed back fully vaccinated customers on Monday after nearly four months of lockdown, as Australia aims to begin living with the coronavirus and gradually reopen with high rates of inoculation. Gloria Tso reports.

<https://www.reuters.com/video/watch/idOVEYPZ6GB>

### **Sydney emerges from pandemic lockdown, beer in hand**

The Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE BNTX -1.19% has emerged as the world's vaccine of choice. From Latin America to the Middle East, dozens of governments are turning to the shot. Australia is now offering the vaccine, after shifting away from competitors. Turkey, the U.K. and Chile are providing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to people who took other shots. Demand rose so high in Argentina that the country rewrote a new vaccine-purchasing law so it could reach a deal with Pfizer.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/sydney-emerges-pandemic-lockdown-beer-hand-2021-10-11/>

### **Sydney opens to vaccinated after 100-plus days of lockdown**

Sydney hairdressers, gyms, cafés and bars reopened to fully vaccinated customers on Monday for the first time in more than 100 days after Australia's largest city achieved a vaccination benchmark. Sydney planned to reopen on the Monday after 70% of the New South Wales state population aged 16 and older were fully vaccinated. By Monday, 73.5% of the target population was fully vaccinated and more than 90% have received at least one dose. Some businesses opened at midnight due to demand from people impatient to enjoy their freedom. More pandemic restrictions will be removed at the 80% benchmark, and New South Wales residents will be free to travel overseas for the first time since March last year.

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-lifestyle-business-australia-pandemics-978c58c7002a4edc651d943ae0520500>

## **Exit Strategies**

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### **Virus czar 'optimistic' about COVID-19 decline, but says restrictions to remain**

Falling coronavirus infection rates are an encouraging sign that a recent wave is coming to an end, national virus czar Salman Zarka said Monday, but warned against the country dropping its guard too soon. Zarka held a video press briefing in which he reviewed the declining coronavirus infections and plans to ease the quarantine regime for school children who are exposed to virus carriers. He said health officials are "optimistic that we are exiting the fourth wave" but cautioned, "we are not there yet."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/virus-czar-optimistic-about-covid-19-decline-but-says-restrictions-to-remain/>

### **WA considers more mandatory COVID-19 jobs**

Western Australia will look to make coronavirus vaccinations mandatory in further sectors as new pop-up clinics open across Perth. No new cases were reported on Monday after it was confirmed over the weekend that an interstate truck driver had been infectious while in WA. Five service stations which the driver attended between September 30 and October 3 have been identified as exposure sites. Ten close contacts and 24 casual contacts are isolating and being tested. Premier Mark McGowan revealed the figures while joining Rio Tinto officials to open a new vaccination hub at

Perth Airport. The clinic is open to all fly-in, fly-out resources workers.

<https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/coronavirus/wa-considers-more-mandatory-covid-19-jabs-c-4204803>

### **Religious Exemptions to Vaccine Mandates Tested in New York Case**

Thousands of New York healthcare workers are in limbo as a federal judge considers whether the state's vaccination mandate must accommodate requests for religious exemptions, in a case that could guide similar policies in other states. As written, New York's vaccine mandate applies to all people who work in hospitals and nursing homes, and doesn't allow healthcare employees to opt out with weekly testing. Starting last week, people were forced to choose between getting the shot and keeping their jobs. There were provisions for medical exemptions but not exemptions based on religious beliefs. Thousands of healthcare workers who refused vaccinations lost their jobs around the state when the mandate took effect, prompting hospitals to cancel elective surgeries and close operating rooms and outpatient clinics. Many nursing homes have stopped admitting new patients.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/religious-exemptions-to-vaccine-mandates-tested-in-new-york-case-11633613330>

### **NHS encourages pregnant women to get COVID-19 vaccine**

The NHS is encouraging pregnant women to get the COVID-19 vaccine as new data shows that nearly 20 per cent of the most critically ill COVID patients are pregnant women who have not been vaccinated. Since July, one in five COVID patients receiving treatment through a special lung-bypass machine were expectant mums who have not had their first jab. Pregnant women have been treated with a therapy, called Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), used only when a patient's lungs are so damaged by COVID that a ventilator cannot maintain oxygen levels. England's top midwife is today reassuring women that the vaccine is safe and effective during pregnancy and is recommended by clinicians and charities. Out of all women between the ages of 16 and 49 on ECMO in intensive care, pregnant women make up almost a third (32 percent) – up from just 6 per cent at the start of the pandemic, March 2020.

<https://www.pharmiweb.com/press-release/2021-10-11/nhs-encourages-pregnant-women-to-get-covid-19-vaccine>

### **New Zealand makes COVID vaccines mandatory for doctors, teachers**

New Zealand says it will soon require most of its healthcare workers and teachers to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. The new vaccine mandate, announced on Monday, compels doctors, pharmacists, community nurses and other healthcare workers to be fully vaccinated by December. Teachers and other workers in the education sector must be fully vaccinated by January. "We can't leave anything to chance so that's why we are making it mandatory," said Chris Hipkins, New Zealand's education minister who is also in charge of the country's COVID-19 response. "It's not an easy decision, but we need the people who work with vulnerable communities who haven't yet been vaccinated to take this extra step," he added.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/11/new-zealand-makes-covid-vaccines-mandatory-for-doctors-teachers>

### **Malaysia and Singapore ease international travel restrictions in pivot to living with Covid**

Singapore and Malaysia have each revealed plans to start reopening their borders as the Southeast Asian neighbors move away from their zero-Covid strategies toward living with the virus. Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said Sunday the country would end its domestic and international travel restrictions for fully vaccinated residents from Monday, after reaching its target of full inoculation for 90% of the adult population. It comes one day after Singapore added eight new countries to its vaccinated and quarantine-free travel lanes -- the most significant easing of travel restrictions since borders shut last March.

<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/malaysia-singapore-travel-covid-intl-hnk/index.html>

### **New Zealand makes COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for health workers**

New Zealand will require teachers and workers in the health and disability sectors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday, as she extended

restrictions in Auckland, its largest city, for another week.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-reports-fall-local-covid-19-cases-all-auckland-2021-10-11/>

### **‘Naively ambitious’: How COVAX failed on its promise to vaccinate the world**

Around the world this spring, country after country awaited their first Covid-19 vaccine shipments. They'd been promised deliveries by COVAX, the ambitious global collaboration set up to give people in rich and poor nations equitable access to the shots, but now, the vaccines were failing to arrive. In many cases, COVAX officials wouldn't even answer the phone or respond to emails from top diplomats when asked what was happening. Uruguay was one of those nations. Its United Nations ambassador in Geneva, Álvaro Moerzinger Pagani, said his country bought vaccines from COVAX but was unable to speak to officials at the organization. "Maybe we don't have the contacts," he said. Libya's UN ambassador in Geneva said he was also shut off from those with answers. COVAX "certainly was not fair and it was not equitable," said the diplomat, Tamim Baiou.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/10/08/how-covax-failed-on-its-promise-to-vaccinate-the-world/>

## **Partisan Exits**

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### **WHO advises a third COVID shot for users of Chinese vaccines**

The World Health Organisation recommended that people over 60 receive an additional dose of the shots made by Chinese vaccine makers Sinopharm and Sinovac, citing evidence in studies in Latin America that they perform less well over time. Observational data on Sinopharm and Sinovac shots "clearly showed that in older age groups ... the vaccine performs less well after two doses", said Joachim Hombach on Monday (Tuesday AEDT) secretary of the independent panel of experts who held a five-day closed-door meeting last week.

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/south-america/who-advises-a-third-covid-shot-for-users-of-chinese-vaccines-20211012-p58z57.html>

### **Crew from Stolt Sakura COVID ship docked off Fremantle discharged from hospital as two remain in ICU**

Two more crew members from a COVID-riddled oil and chemical tanker docked off Fremantle have been transferred from hospital to hotel quarantine. The MV Stolt Sakura has 12 positive crew, five of whom remain aboard the ship. Two are in intensive care at Fiona Stanley Hospital, with one in a serious and unstable condition. The other is also serious, however, his condition is stable. Another two seafarers are being treated in the hospital's respiratory ward and are stable.

<https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/coronavirus/crew-from-stolt-sakura-covid-ship-docked-off-fremantle-discharged-from-hospital-as-two-remain-in-icu-ng-b882033951z>

### **Covid vaccine: Why these US workers won't get jabbed**

Joe Biden has been urging US employers to issue ultimatums to their staff: get vaccinated, or lose your job. The president says he will soon bring in a mandate that requires all healthcare workers to have had the jab, and has urged states to do the same with teachers. In Concord, New Hampshire, it is striking to see some of those attending a large protest against vaccine mandates wearing hospital scrubs. Leah Cushman is prepared to lose her nursing job rather than get vaccinated. "My beliefs are religious. I believe that my creator endowed me with an immune system that protects me, and if I get sick, that's an act of God.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-58851205>

### **Jeremy Vine 'unnerved' after home targeted by anti-vaccine protesters**

The television and radio presenter Jeremy Vine has said he was unnerved after anti-vaccine protesters targeted his home. Vine tweeted that the group tried to serve what it called an "anti-vaxx writ" while he was out, instead giving it to his wife. The BBC and Channel 5 broadcaster said the group was angry at the BBC's reporting on the issue of coronavirus vaccines, adding: "They were

polite, for which I'm grateful, but coming to my home on a Sunday? And I'm a little unnerved by the heavy breathing too."

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2021/oct/10/jeremy-vine-unnerved-after-anti-vaccine-protesters-target-his-home>

### **Romania remains vaccine sceptical despite surge in COVID-19 cases**

In leafy Romanian villages surrounding the capital Bucharest, few people realise one person has died from COVID-19 every six minutes in the country during the first 10 days of October, and vaccine scepticism remains high. These villages have some of the highest COVID-19 infection numbers and lowest vaccination rates in the country, which is being ravaged by the fourth wave of the pandemic, with ambulances queuing outside hospitals filled to the brim. Daily transmission numbers are rising across Central and Eastern European states, and Romania is experiencing record case and death rates as it grapples with the European Union's second-lowest vaccination rate.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/romania-remains-vaccine-sceptical-despite-surge-covid-19-cases-2021-10-11/>

### **Scientific Viewpoint**

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#### **French study of over 22m people finds vaccines cut severe Covid risk by 90%**

Vaccination reduces the risk of dying or being hospitalised with Covid-19 by 90%, a French study of 22.6 million people over the age of 50 has found. The research published on Monday also found that vaccines appear to protect against the worst effects of the most prevalent virus strain, the Delta variant. "This means that those who are vaccinated are nine times less at risk of being hospitalised or dying from Covid-19 than those who have not been vaccinated," the epidemiologist Mahmoud Zureik, who oversaw the research, told Agence France-Presse. The study - the largest of its kind so far - was carried out by Epi-Phare a scientific group set up by France's health system, its national health insurance fund, l'Assurance Maladie (CNAM), and the country's ANSM medicines agency.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/11/french-study-vaccines-cut-covid-deaths>

#### **AstraZeneca antibody cocktail trials show it can halve risk of severe disease, prevent, treat Covid**

AstraZeneca's antibody drug cut the risk of severe Covid-19 by at least 50% in a late stage study, the company announced on Monday. The injection, called AZD7442, contains two different antibodies developed from the the blood of people who previously contracted Covid-19. It's the drug first of its kind shown to both prevent and treat Covid-19 in late-stage trials, the company said in a press release. The company has already requested Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval to use AZD7442 to prevent Covid-19, after late-stage trial results in August showed it reduced the risk of Covid-19 with symptoms by 77%.

<https://www.businessinsider.co.za/astrazeneca-antibody-drug-azd7442-reduced-severe-covid-19-risk-study-2021-10>

#### **Monoclonal antibody from AstraZeneca lowers risk for serious COVID-19, company says**

An experimental drug developed by AstraZeneca reduces the risk for serious illness or death from COVID-19, company officials announced Monday. The drug, a combination of two monoclonal antibodies called AZD7442, lowers the risk of severe COVID-19 or death by 50% in people who have had symptoms for seven days or less, data from a clinical trial showed. Monoclonal antibodies are lab-created proteins modeled on those produced by the immune system to fight off infections. AZD7442 is delivered via injection and both prevents serious illness and treats its symptoms, the company said..

[https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2021/10/11/covid19-astrazeneca-monoclonal-antibodies/5481633962365/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/10/11/covid19-astrazeneca-monoclonal-antibodies/5481633962365/)

#### **WHO experts back booster jabs for people with weak immune systems**

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday recommended that immunocompromised people be given an additional dose of Covid-19 vaccine, due to their higher risk of breakthrough infections after standard immunisation. The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunisation said the

additional dose should be offered “as part of an extended primary series since these individuals are less likely to respond adequately to vaccination following a standard primary vaccine series and are at high risk of severe Covid-19 disease”. WHO vaccine director Kate O’Brien, referring to people with lower immunity due to other conditions, told a news briefing: “The recommendation is for a third vaccination, an additional vaccination in the primary series and again that is based on the evidence showing that the immunogenicity and evidence on breakthrough infections is highly disproportionately represented by those people.”

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3151989/coronavirus-who-experts-back-3rd-vaccine-shots-people-weak-immune>

### **New Clues Emerge About Whether Vaccines Can Help Fight Long Covid**

Millions of people suffer from symptoms of long Covid, doctors estimate. Now, early research is offering some clues about whether vaccinations might help. When the vaccines first came out, some people who had suffered from debilitating symptoms for months after their initial Covid-19 infections told their doctors they felt better after getting vaccinated. The response intrigued scientists. Now, emerging research suggests that vaccines may help reduce symptoms in some people. Other recent research indicates that vaccination can reduce the likelihood of developing long-term Covid-19 symptoms in the first place.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-clues-emerge-about-whether-vaccines-can-help-fight-long-covid-11633957200>

### **Merck Asks F.D.A. for Emergency Approval of Covid Pill**

Merck said on Monday that it had submitted an application to the Food and Drug Administration to authorize what would be the first antiviral pill to treat Covid. Clearance for the drug, molnupiravir, would be a milestone in the fight against the coronavirus, experts said, because a convenient, relatively inexpensive treatment could reach many more high-risk people sick with Covid than the cumbersome antibody treatments currently being used. The Biden administration is preparing for an authorization that could come within weeks; the pill would likely to be allocated to states, as was the case with the vaccines. States could then distribute the pills how they wish, such as through pharmacies or doctors’ practices, senior administration officials said.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/11/science/merck-antiviral-covid-pill.html>

### **Merck Covid-19 Pill: Emergency Use Authorization Sought for Molnupiravir**

Merck & Co. and its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics LP sought emergency use authorization in the U.S. for molnupiravir, moving the pill closer to becoming the first oral antiviral treatment for Covid-19. An application was submitted with the Food and Drug Administration for molnupiravir to treat mild-to-moderate Covid-19 in adults at risk of developing a severe illness that may require hospitalization, the companies said in a statement Monday. Submissions to regulatory authorities worldwide are expected in the coming months after an interim analysis of clinical trial data found it cut the risk of hospitalization for such patients by half.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-11/merck-seeks-emergency-use-authorization-for-pill-to-treat-covid>

### **Merck seeks first U.S. authorization for COVID-19 pill**

Merck & Co Inc said on Monday it has applied for U.S. emergency use authorization for its drug to treat mild-to-moderate patients of COVID-19, putting it on course to become the first oral antiviral medication for the disease. An authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could help change clinical management of COVID-19 as the pill can be taken at home. The treatment, molnupiravir, cut the rate of hospitalization and death by 50% in a trial of mild-to-moderately ill patients who had at least one risk factor for the disease, according to data released earlier this month.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/merck-applies-us-emergency-authorization-covid-19-pill-2021-10-11/>

### **COVID-19 vaccine trial participants to be offered additional doses**

The government has announced the COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial participants in England will be offered additional approved vaccine for international travel to countries which currently only accept vaccination records with approved for deployment COVID-19 jabs. Although the UK recognises those who are in COVID-19 vaccine trials as fully vaccinated for the purpose of certification, most other countries do not currently recognise clinical trial volunteers who have not had a vaccine that is approved for deployment. As such, the government will now offer these volunteers two additional doses of an approved vaccine, allowing them to gain the necessary certification status to travel abroad with more ease.

[http://www.pharmatimes.com/news/covid-19\\_vaccine\\_trial\\_participants\\_to\\_be\\_offered\\_additional\\_doses\\_1380325](http://www.pharmatimes.com/news/covid-19_vaccine_trial_participants_to_be_offered_additional_doses_1380325)

### **Brii Biosciences files EUA with US FDA for Covid-19 combination therapy**

Brii Biosciences has filed an emergency use authorization (EUA) application with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its combination therapy, BR11-196/BR11-198, to treat Covid-19 patients. BR11-196/BR11-198 is a SARS-CoV-2 neutralising monoclonal antibody combination therapy, which is intended to treat non-hospitalised Covid-19 patients at high risk of clinical progression to severe disease. The EUA submission is based on the positive Phase III results obtained from the ACTIV-2 clinical trial that was announced in August.

<https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/news/brii-biosciences-eua-us-fda-covid-19-combination/>

### **INOVIO Gets Approval To Conduct Phase 3 Trial Of COVID-19 DNA Vaccine Candidate,INO-4800 In Colombia**

INOVIO said Monday that it has received authorization from Colombia's INVIMA to conduct the phase 3 segment of the company's global Phase 2/3 trial, INNOVATE in Colombia, for INO-4800, its DNA vaccine candidate for COVID-19. The company noted that it is working with partner Advaccine Biopharmaceuticals Suzhou Co., Ltd. on the INNOVATE Phase 3 segment in multiple countries, with a focus on countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/inovio-gets-approval-to-conduct-phase-3-trial-of-covid-19-dna-vaccine-candidate-ino-4800-in-colombia-1030856046>

### **Merck seeks first U.S. authorization for COVID-19 tablet**

Merck & Co Inc said on Monday it has applied for U.S. emergency use authorization for its drug to treat mild-to-moderate patients of COVID-19, putting it on course to become the first oral antiviral medication for the disease. An authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could help change clinical management of COVID-19 as the pill can be taken at home.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/merck-applies-us-emergency-authorization-covid-19-pill-2021-10-11/>

### **Japan's Chugai files to expand use of COVID-19 antibody drug**

Japan's Chugai Pharmaceutical Co said on Monday it has applied to regulators to expand the use of an antibody treatment for COVID-19 to also allow for preventative care. Japanese regulators approved an antibody cocktail known as Ronapreve as a treatment for COVID-19 in July. The latest filing seeks to use the drug as both a prophylaxis for COVID-19 and as treatment of asymptomatic cases, Chugai said in a release.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japans-chugai-files-expand-use-covid-19-antibody-drug-2021-10-11/>

### **New antibody treatment 'both prevents and treats Covid-19'**

An antibody treatment developed by pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca has shown its ability to both prevent and treat Covid-19, according to new data. AstraZeneca submitted a request to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week for emergency use authorisation for AZD7442, which is made up of two antibodies, as a preventative treatment. In new data released on Monday morning from its Tackle trial, AstraZeneca showed AZD7442 was effective in preventing severe disease in non-hospitalised patients with mild to moderate coronavirus, when compared with a placebo. Most

of the 903 people in the trial were at high risk of progression to severe Covid-19, including those with multiple health conditions.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/astrazeneca-covid-antibody-treatment-b959794.html>

### **Doctors claim Brazil hospitals gave dodgy COVID-19 care**

Irene Castilho didn't even have a day to grieve after her husband died of COVID-19. She was sick, too, coughing and struggling to breathe; he was barely gone when she started using his oxygen mask. The same day, on March 22, she was admitted to a hospital in Sao Paulo. The 71-year-old had followed doctors' instructions to the letter – dutifully taking her doses of hydroxychloroquine. She also took ivermectin and a battery of anti-inflammatories and vitamins in the so-called “COVID kit” that her health care company, Prevent Senior, mailed to her home. Still, her condition had deteriorated. At the hospital, Castilho received dialysis and was intubated. When physicians consulted Castilho's daughters about giving her flutamide — a drug typically used for prostate cancer – they declined, worried about possible side effects for their mother who recently had liver cancer.

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-business-sao-paulo-brazil-health-b1dc0ec495ab4143e74e33bc7a2a48a9>

### **AstraZeneca says drug helps cut risk of severe COVID**

Drugmaker AstraZeneca said that its COVID-19 antibodies' cocktail has helped cut the risk of severe disease or deaths in a late-stage study. The pharma company announced the results on Monday, marking a boost in its effort to develop coronavirus medicines beyond vaccines. The drug, a mix of two antibodies called AZD7442, reduced the risk of severe COVID-19 or death by 50 percent in non-hospitalised patients who have had symptoms for seven days or fewer, meeting the main goal of the study. AstraZeneca's therapy, delivered via injection, is the first of its kind to show promise as a preventive medicine and as a treatment for COVID-19 following multiple trials. It is designed to protect people who do not have a strong enough immune response to vaccines.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/11/astrazeneca-drug-reduces-risk-of-severe-symptoms-or-death-by-50>

## **Coronavirus Resurgence**

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### **60 Covid deaths, 10,035 new cases**

Thailand logged 60 new Covid-19 fatalities and 10,035 new cases during the previous 24 hours, the Public Health Ministry announced on Monday morning. On Sunday, 10,590 Covid-19 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovering from the coronavirus. The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) on Monday afternoon welcomed the dip in the death toll, which has dropped by almost half from Sept 29.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2195919/60-covid-deaths-10-035-new-cases>

### **Covid Vaccine and Pregnancy: 1 in 5 England Patients Are Unvaxxed Mothers To Be**

Pregnant women who haven't been vaccinated against Covid-19 account for almost 20% of critically ill coronavirus patients in England's hospitals, according to the National Health Service. One in five patients receiving treatments through a special lung-bypass machine since July were expectant mothers who have not had their first shots, the NHS said in a statement Monday. Even though women will have concerns about having the vaccine during pregnancy, there exists no link between getting jabbed and an increased risk of miscarriage, premature birth or illness, according to Edward Morris, president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. “There is robust evidence showing that the vaccine is the most effective way to protect both mother and baby against the possibility of severe illness,” Morris said. Over 81,000 pregnant women in England have so far received their first dose, with 65,000 being fully vaccinated.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-11/fifth-of-serious-england-covid-cases-are-pregnant-unvaccinated>

### **1 in 5 critically ill coronavirus patients is pregnant, unvaccinated, England says**

Unvaccinated pregnant women account for nearly 20 percent of the most critically ill coronavirus patients requiring lifesaving care in England in recent months, according to the country's National Health Service. "Since July, one in five covid patients receiving treatment through a special lung-bypass machine were expectant mums who have not had their first jab," the NHS said in a statement Monday. Out of all women between the ages of 16 and 49 being treated with a therapy called Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation — used only when a patient's lungs are so damaged by the virus that a ventilator cannot maintain oxygen levels — pregnant women make up almost a third, up from just 6 percent at the start of the pandemic.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/10/11/england-pregnant-women-unvaccinated-covid/>

### **Some children's hospitals see another surge in rare Covid-19 complication MIS-C**

Scientists still don't know a lot about a rare and serious Covid-19 complication that impacts children, but what they do know is that when there is a surge of Covid-19 cases in their area, MIS-C cases will typically follow. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday it has seen a 12% increase in reports of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, or MIS-C, since late August. Doctors at a handful of children's hospitals around the country say they are still treating more MIS-C cases than they had been earlier in the year, even though MIS-C is considered rare. "We had a nice long break from those cases over the summer and even into the fall where we could get an occasional MIS-C case here and there, but in the last three or four weeks, there has definitely been an uptick.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/some-childrens-hospitals-see-another-surge-in-rare-covid-19-complication-mis-c/ar-AAPhjsH>

### **Vietnam reports 3,619 new COVID-19 cases, 843,281 in total**

Vietnam reported 3,619 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, including 3,617 locally transmitted and two imported, according to the country's Ministry of Health. Most of the community cases were detected in southern localities, including 1,527 in Ho Chi Minh City, 499 in Dong Nai province and 446 in Binh Duong province. The new infections brought the country's total tally to 843,281, with 20,670 deaths, the ministry said. Nationwide, as many as 784,748 COVID-19 patients have so far recovered, up 2,549 from Sunday, while over 54 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, according to the ministry. As of Monday, Vietnam has registered a total of 838,653 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases since the start of the current wave in late April, the ministry said

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2021-10/11/c\\_1310237905.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2021-10/11/c_1310237905.htm)

### **Queensland records zero local cases of COVID-19, one in hotel quarantine, as state reaches 70pc first-dose mark**

Queensland has recorded zero locally acquired cases of COVID-19, with just one case detected in hotel quarantine. It comes after a passenger who flew into Queensland without a valid border pass tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday. The area is not in lockdown, but some hospitality businesses are opting to return to takeaway in fear of rising cases. The local government area recorded 18 new cases on Monday, following 31 cases on Sunday, 13 on Saturday and 11 on Friday. The area takes in the regional cities of Drouin and Warragul, and neighbours the Latrobe Valley.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-11/qld-coronavirus-covid-local-cases/100525246>

### **COVID-19 cases rise in west Gippsland, as some cafes return to takeaway only**

COVID-19 cases have jumped in Baw Baw in west Gippsland, with 62 cases since Friday. The area is not in lockdown, but some hospitality businesses are opting to return to takeaway in fear of rising cases. The local government area recorded 18 new cases on Monday, following 31 cases on Sunday, 13 on Saturday and 11 on Friday. The area takes in the regional cities of Drouin and Warragul, and neighbours the Latrobe Valley.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-11/baw-baw-covid-cases-increase/100528652>

### **The rate of Covid-19 cases is dropping nationally but rising in these 5 states**

The big picture for Covid-19 in the US is looking a little brighter as new infections and hospitalizations decline. "That's the good news. And hopefully it's going to continue to go in that trajectory downward," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "But we just have to be careful we don't prematurely declare victory in many respects. We still have around 68 million people who are eligible to be vaccinated that have not yet gotten vaccinated," Fauci said Sunday. "If you look at the history of the surges and the diminutions in the cases over a period of time, they can bounce back."

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/10/health/us-coronavirus-sunday/index.html>

### **Russia's new COVID-19 infections, deaths near all-time highs**

Russia's daily coronavirus infections and deaths hovered near all-time highs Monday amid sluggish vaccination rates and the Kremlin's reluctance to toughen restrictions. Russia's state coronavirus task force reported 29,409 new confirmed cases — the highest number since the year's start and just slightly lower than the pandemic record reached in December. After registering the highest daily death toll since the start of the pandemic at 968 over the weekend, it reported 957 new deaths on Monday.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/russia-covid-moscow-kremlin-dmitry-peskov-b1936084.html>

### **COVID-19: Unvaccinated pregnant women make up one fifth of most critically ill coronavirus patients in England**

Almost a fifth of the most critically ill COVID patients in England in recent months have been pregnant women, according to NHS England, which is urging expectant mothers to get their jabs. Figures show that between July 1 and September 30, 17% of patients receiving treatment through a lung-bypass machine were unvaccinated pregnant women. Expectant mothers accounted for 32% of all females aged between 16 and 49 in intensive care on ECMO - a medical technique used when a patient's lungs are so badly damaged that a ventilator cannot maintain oxygen levels.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-unvaccinated-pregnant-women-make-up-one-fifth-of-the-most-critically-ill-coronavirus-patients-in-england-12431110>