



COVID-19 Global Trends and Analyses

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Global Epidemiology
and Trends

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SUMMARY

COVID-19 GLOBAL TRENDS AND ANALYSES | 27 Jan – 23 Feb 2021

- The **global** total number of reported cases has surpassed 112 million and 2.5 million deaths as of 24 February¹. Twenty-one countries have now reported more than one million cases, the latest being the Netherlands.
- The number of new **daily cases** globally has been declining steadily since a peak of 843,000 new daily cases in early January to around 400,000 daily new cases in the third week of February.
- Daily new **global deaths** have also declined from a peak of 17,600 on 20 January to around 11,000 during the third week of February.
- **Europe** has now reported more than 33 million cases of COVID-19 and more than 790,000 deaths (both 30 per cent of the global totals).
 - Daily new cases have been in steep decline since the first week of January. Europe's two peaks of daily cases were on 9 November (>256,000) and 9 January (>232,000). On 19 February <150,000 new cases were reported.
 - Daily deaths have also declined from a peak of 5,380 on 19 December to <2,500 on 19 February.
- The **US** has now reported 28.8 million cases and has surpassed the grim milestone of 500,000 deaths
 - However, like Europe, the number of daily new cases is declining steadily from a peak of 308,000 on 8 January to an average of around 70,000 per day in the past week.
 - Deaths have also declined since a high of 4,500 on 21 January to 2,500 per day in the third week of February.
- **Life expectancy in the US** dropped a full year in the first half of 2020. The life expectancy for the entire US population fell to 77.8 years, similar to what it was in 2006, CDC data show. Compared to 2019, life expectancy for non-Hispanic Black people in the US fell about three times what it did for non-Hispanic White people, by 2.7 years.
- The pattern of COVID-19 transmission in the **Asia-Pacific Region** has generally been positive during the past four weeks. Steady declines of new daily cases have been seen in Pakistan, Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand.
 - The number of coronavirus cases in **India** is once again surging particularly in four states of Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.
 - **Mongolia** is essentially experiencing its first wave.
 - **Indonesia** is experiencing a sustained decline in new daily cases for the first time in the pandemic.
 - **Japan and Hong Kong** reporting declines in cases in their third waves but **South Korea** is possibly heading into a fourth wave.
 - New cases in **Myanmar** are in steep decline. The seven-day average of 21.4 is the lowest since late August 2020. However, there are concerns that mass protests may initiate a new wave of cases.
 - **Papua New Guinea** has recorded 1,056 cases and ten deaths. The test rate is 5.2 per 1,000 compared with more than 500 per 1,000 in Australia. On 20 February, PNG reported 59 new cases, the highest since the pandemic began.

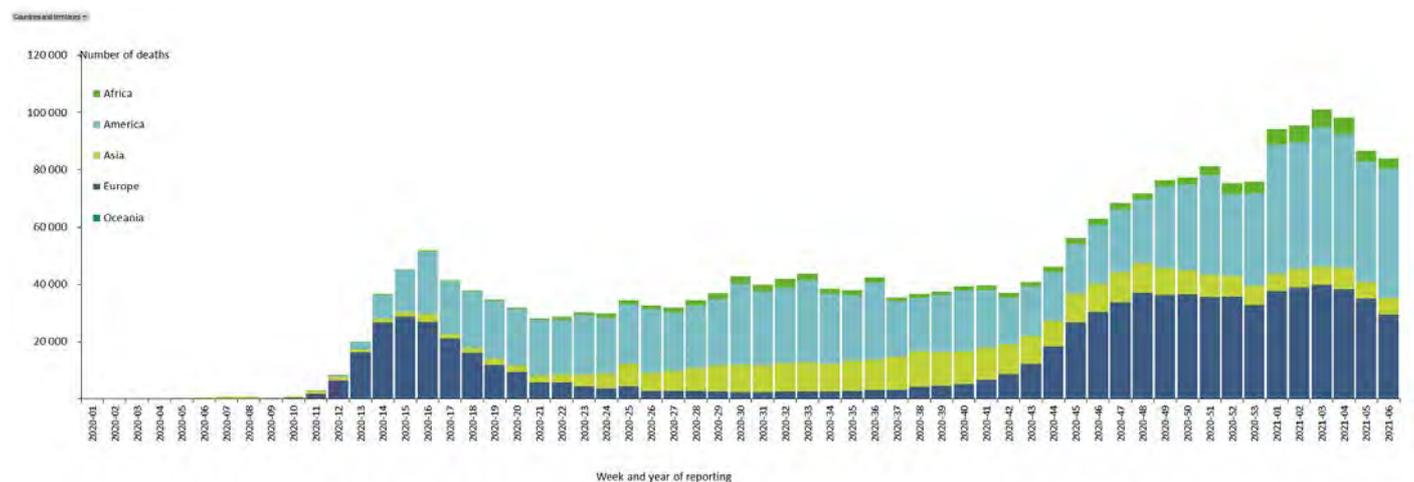
GLOBAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND TRENDS

The **global** total number of reported cases has surpassed 112 million and 2.5 million deaths as of 24 February¹. Twenty-one countries have now reported more than one million cases, the latest being the Netherlands.

The number of new daily cases globally has been declining steadily since a peak of 843,000 new daily cases in early January to around 400,000 daily new cases in the third week of February.

- This decline is largely due to large reductions in Europe and North America.
- Daily new global deaths have also declined from a peak of 17,600 on 20 January to around 11,000 during the third week of February.

Distribution of COVID-19 cases worldwide, as of 18 February 2021 (source European CDC)²



European Region

- Europe has now reported more than 33 million cases of COVID-19 and more than 790,000 deaths (both 30 per cent of the global totals).
- Daily new cases have been in steep decline since the first week of January. Europe's two peaks of daily cases were on 9 November (>256,000) and 9 January (>232,000). On 19 February <150,000 new cases were reported,
- Countries that have not yet achieved at least a 50% reduction in new daily cases include **Czech Republic, Greece, Sweden and Slovakia**.
- Daily deaths have also declined from a peak of 5,380 on 19 December to <2,500 on 19 February.
- **The UK** has reported more than 4 million cases and 120,000 deaths. Daily new cases have declined from a high of >68,000 on 8 January to around 12,000 on 19 February, which is the lowest number since 2 October. Daily deaths have also decreased from a peak of 1,820 on 20 January to 533 on 19 February.

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>

² <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>

Germany | European Region

Germany – with a population of almost 84 million -- has reported more than 2.4 million cases and 68,000 deaths. At the start of the pandemic, Germany showed itself to be a global leader in dealing with the public health crisis. Their testing and tracing tools were the envy of European neighbours. The country's death and infection rates were among the lowest in the European Union. However, the country's response to the second wave has been sluggish, and infection rates and deaths much higher than the first wave. Between 1 March and 30 May, Germany reported 183,364 cases while between 30 September and 20 February, 2,088,348 cases have been reported. The country has reported just fewer than 10,000 daily cases in the past week, down from a high of around 31,000 cases in late December.

The slow response to the second wave has been attributed to poor compliance with social distancing and masks, and has been marked by large and sometimes violent protests against lockdowns. A survey by the Pew Research Centre shows that while more Germans feel confident in their country's handling of the pandemic than Americans or Britons, their approval dropped 11 percentage points between June and December 2020.

Moreover, the rollout of vaccines has been slow compared to other European countries, such as the UK. Only 3.5 per cent of Germans have received their first shots, and just 2 per cent, roughly, have been fully immunised.

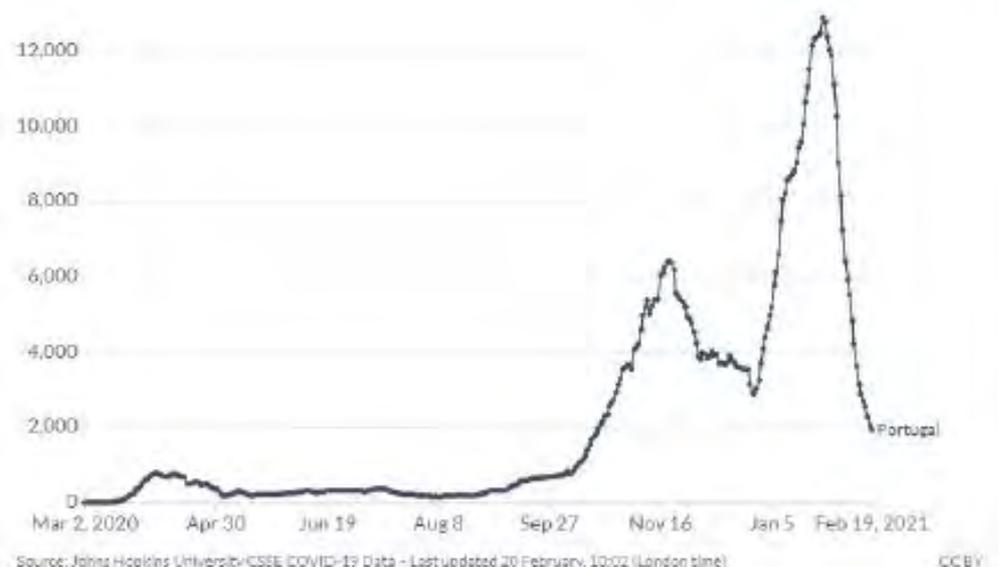
Portugal | European Region

Portugal – with a population of just 10.2 million – has reported >796,000 cases and almost 16,000 deaths. The country has recorded 78 cases per 1,000 compared with Australia's attack rate of 1.1 per 1,000. Portugal did not record its first case until 2 March, having closed its border to neighbouring Spain one month earlier. Along with the border closure, a sharp lockdown led to a small first wave with one of the lowest attack rates in the EU. Between 2 March and 30 May, the country reported 35,945 cases. The second wave was much more severe; between 30 September and 20 February, the country reported 717,132 cases and 13,926 deaths (compared to 1,396 deaths during the first wave).

The second wave had two spikes, the first seven-day average peaked at 6,405 on 20 November and the second peaked at 12,980 on 28 January. More than 50 per cent of new cases in Lisbon during January were the B.1.1.7 variant. In January, the country registered the highest seven-day average rate of new cases per 100,000 people globally, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Hospitals across the country ran out of ICU beds and, eventually, morgue capacity. The 12 crematoria in the capital struggled to deal with the influx of bodies, which led to delays of up to nine days. Germany sent medics, 150 field hospital beds and respiratory machines.

By mid-January, the government introduced strict lockdowns closing non-essential shops and schools. Both inward and outward foreign travel was halted. The number of cases and deaths in Portugal eased in the first two weeks of February. More than half a million people, mostly health workers and nursing home residents, have so far received the first dose of a vaccine. For the past week, fewer than 2,000 daily cases have been reported, down from a peak of 16,000 in mid-January.

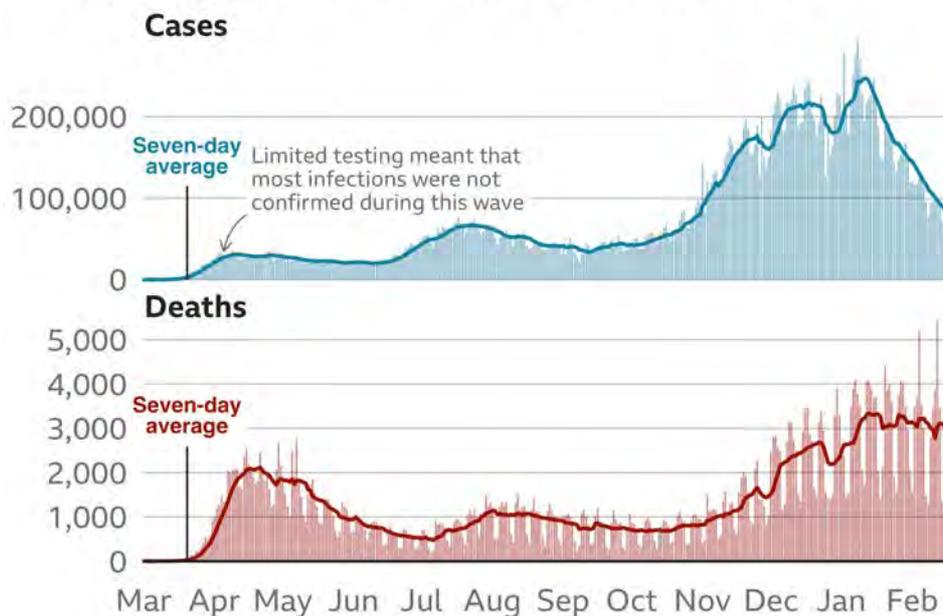
Rolling seven-day average of new daily COVID-19 cases, Portugal



The United States and Canada

- The **US** has now reported 28.8 million cases (26 per cent of the global total) and has surpassed the grim milestone of 500,000 deaths (21 per cent of the global total). The US population is around four per cent of the world's total. However, like Europe, the number of daily new cases is declining steadily from a peak of 308,000 on 8 January to an average of around 70,000 per day in the past week. Deaths have also declined since a high of 4,500 on 21 January to 2,500 per day in the third week of February. January was the deadliest day of the pandemic when an average of 3,100 people died every day – one every 28 seconds³. The three deadliest days were the 11, 12 and 13 of January when 12,735 Americans died of COVID-19.
- The B.1.351 variant, originally identified in South Africa in December has been found in at least nine states, including California, Texas, and Virginia. This week, the variant emerged in its first New York resident⁴.

Daily reported cases and deaths in the US



Note: Deaths data on 4 and 12 Feb include historical death data in Indiana and Ohio

Source: COVID Tracking Project

BBC

- **Canada** – with a population of 38 million -- has reported more than 840,000 cases and more than 21,000 deaths. Like its southern neighbour, new daily cases have been declining from a peak of 11,833 on 3 January to just under 3,000 daily cases in the third week of February. Likewise, daily deaths have been declining since a high of 257 on 29 December to around 50 per day in the third week of February.

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/interactive/2021/covid-death-toll-january/>

⁴ https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/02/21/world/covid-19-coronavirus?name=styln-coronavirus®ion=hub&block=storyline_live_updates_block_recirc&action=click&pgtype=LegacyCollection&impression_id=#covid-south-africa-variant-new-york

Life Expectancy in the U.S. in 2020 | United States

Life expectancy in the US dropped a full year in the first half of 2020, according to a report published on 18 February by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's National Centre for Health Statistics⁵. The life expectancy for the entire US population fell to 77.8 years, similar to what it was in 2006, CDC data show. Changes to life expectancy also widened racial and ethnic inequities. Compared to 2019, life expectancy for non-Hispanic Black people in the US fell about three times what it did for non-Hispanic White people, by 2.7 years. It fell by twice as much for Hispanic people, by 1.9 years. This may under-estimate the overall impact of the pandemic because most deaths due to COVID-19 have been among older adults, which would have a small effect on overall life expectancy.

Disparities in years lost among Black and Hispanic people are in line with the disproportionate effect COVID-19 has had on communities of colour. Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black people are both about twice as likely to die of COVID-19 as non-Hispanic White people, according to the latest data from the CDC⁶. Because it is based on deaths recorded between January and June, the report notes that the estimates "do not reflect the entirety of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, or other changes in causes of death."

Latin America

- Countries in South America have reported more than 17.4 million cases, and Mexico and Central America have reported a further 4.7 million cases. The combined total of 22.1 million in Latin America represents 20 per cent of the global total.
- The highest per capita infection rate in Latin America is in **Panama** at 77 per 1,000 followed by **Brazil** (47.5), **Argentina** (45), and **Costa Rica** (39). The lowest is **Venezuela** (5).
- Latin American countries have had more than 657,000 deaths comprising 27 per cent of the world's total.
- The case-fatality ratio has varied widely in Latin America, ranging from 8.8% in **Mexico** to 3.7% in **Guatemala** to just 1.4% in **Costa Rica** and 0.7% in **Cuba**.

Cuba | Latin America

Cuba – with a population of 11.3 million – has reported 43,500 cases and 291 deaths (CFR 0.7%). Early in 2020, Cuba closed its borders and had a modest first wave, never surpassing 60 cases per day. After opening its border to overseas tourists in the northern summer, a second wave reached a peak of 92 cases a day. The third wave began in early December and reached a peak of 1,044 cases on 2 February. The third wave has not subsided, and daily cases continue close to 1,000.

Following the decision to open international air travel in November after a seven-month closure, case numbers spiked. Authorities are now battling the worst outbreak since the pandemic began, with more cases registered in January than in all of last year. The government closed schools, suspended public transport, cancelled cultural events and imposed a 9pm curfew in Havana. The government has sharply reduced international flights and introduced a requirement to test negative before travelling to Cuba.

One of four vaccines -- **Sovereign 2** -- developed by Cuban scientists will enter a final phase of testing next month, a crucial step toward regulatory approval that, if successful, could put the island on the path to inoculate its entire population and begin exports abroad by year's end. The Sovereign 2 vaccine has progressed through two phases of trials and is set to enter Phase 3, where it will be tested on around 150,000 people in Cuba, Iran and possibly Mexico. Cuban scientists say the government will probably give away some doses to poor countries, in keeping with its longstanding

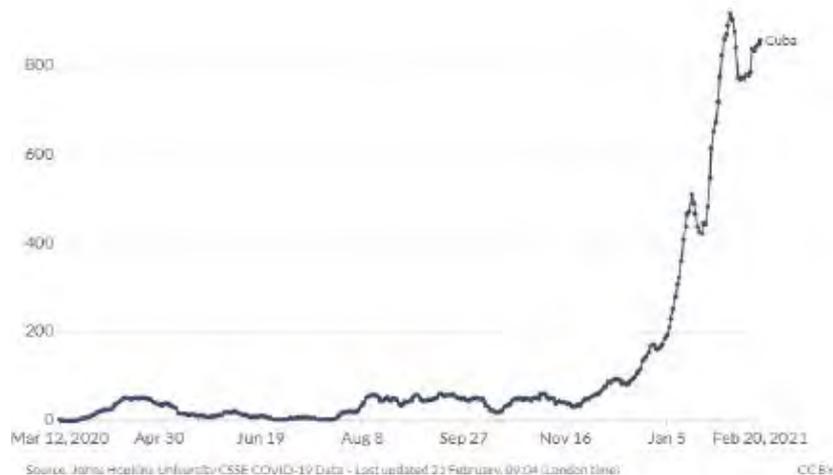
⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/VSRR10-508.pdf>

⁶ <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/02/18/health/life-expectancy-fell-pandemic/index.html>

practice of strengthening international relations by donating medicine and sending doctors to address public health crises abroad. The vaccine may also be offered to international tourists, a mainstay of the Cuban economy.

Like the vaccine being developed by Novavax, Sovereign 2 is a protein-based vaccine that contains part of the coronavirus. It requires three doses administered in two-week intervals and, unlike the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, does not need to be stored in deep freeze — which may be a draw for poorer countries that often lack the equipment to keep so many doses frozen.

Seven-day average of new daily cases, Cuba



Mexico – a Human Rights Dilemma | Latin America

Mexico – with a population of 129 million – has reported 2.04 million cases and 180,000 deaths, one of the highest CFRs in the world. Mexico never really emerged from its first wave but the second wave has been more severe with daily cases reaching 22,340 on 22 January. Daily deaths peaked at 1,800 on 22 January. Daily cases have now declined to around 9,000 in the past week.

As the coronavirus swept the globe early last year, Mexican officials made an unusual decision: They would not impose "coercive" measures to force citizens to obey pandemic restrictions⁷. No curfews. No arrests. No fines. Authorities feared violent resistance from a population long tired of authoritarian governments. Nearly a year later, Mexico was battling a severe epidemic. Hospitals were at the breaking point. Residents flouting stay-at-home messages fuelled a new explosion of cases during the Christmas holidays. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador had denied the pandemic since it began and was eventually infected with the virus.

As Mexican officials watched the virus's global march, they decided in February not to adopt such coercive tactics. Nearly 60 per cent of workers — street vendors, gardeners, construction workers — lived off their daily earnings. Dispatching police to keep them home would "exacerbate social unrest, and this unrest could limit our ability to control the epidemic," said Hugo López-Gatell, a Hopkins-trained epidemiologist. This approach has sparked a debate among human rights activists. Some human rights activists say restricting citizens' movement might be necessary in a public health crisis, but criminal penalties should be used as a last resort. In Latin America, though, "there was a tendency for governments to resort to the kind of repression that is unfortunately structural in the region," said Louise Tillotson, a researcher for Amnesty International.

Whatever the answer to this dilemma Mexico has suffered dearly from its relaxed approach.

⁷ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/coronavirus-mexico-lockdown-lopez-obrador/2021/01/25/8d6311aa-50fc-11eb-a1f5-fdaf28cfca90_story.html

African Region

- The African continent has reported 3.8 million cases and more than 100,000 deaths. **South Africa** has reported 1.5 million cases (43 per cent of cases on the continent) and 49,000 deaths (49 per cent). Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Ethiopia make up the rest of the five most affected countries. Cases are now in decline in four of those countries but are steady in Ethiopia.
- In terms of second waves, all Southern African countries and **Nigeria** are the most affected in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ethiopia | Sub-Saharan Africa

With a population of 115 million, Ethiopia has reported 153,000 cases and 2,300 deaths making it the country in the East and Horn of Africa Region with the highest number of cases and deaths recorded. However, the country's testing rate of 18 per 1,000 is very low by global standards and compares to 150 per 1,000 in South Africa. The country recorded very few cases early in the pandemic then experienced a major first wave beginning in June reaching a peak of >1,800 daily cases in August. While the number of new cases has declined, daily figures have stubbornly remained between 500 and 800, reaching 841 on 20 February.

Limits on gatherings at places of worship, bars, sporting events, meetings and conferences, funerals, and cinemas remain in place. Regional governments control restrictions on movement. Oromia, Amhara, and Harari regions and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region have enforced movement restrictions. Tigray Region requires passengers to provide a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 24 hours of arrival; passengers entering the region without a test result are required to quarantine for seven days. All incoming international travellers are required to present a medical certificate showing an RT-PCR COVID-19 test result. The test must have been taken no more than 5 days before arrival in Ethiopia. All international travellers with a negative test must self-isolate for 7 days on arrival. Ethiopian nationals may complete their 7-day quarantine at home, while other passengers must self-isolate at designated hotels.

Ethiopia has secured nine million doses of COVID-19 vaccines up until April from COVAX and hopes to inoculate at least a fifth of its people by the end of the year.

Middle East

- There has been a steady decline in new cases in **Israel, Saudi Arabia** and **Lebanon**.
- Second wave declines have stalled in **Iran, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt**.
- New daily cases are stable in **Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman**.
- **Iraq** is experiencing a second wave.
- Cases continue to surge in **Kuwait** and the **UAE**.

Israel | Middle East

With a population of just 8.7 million, Israel has reported more than 750,000 cases and 5,600 deaths. The country's attack rate of 81.5 per 1,000 is one of the highest in the world and compares with a rate of 1.1 per 1,000 in Australia. In December, 1,300 people died of the virus — nearly half the military deaths of the Yom Kippur War. The country continues to report >5,000 cases per day. Hospitals have been overwhelmed and ICUs are operating at 150% capacity.

Why Israel has experienced one of the world's most severe outbreaks has been the subject of extensive discussion. Many analysts have blamed government decisions made for political rather than public health reasons. "The State of Israel is on a crooked path, and it is time to set it straight again," Hagai Levine, the former head of the Israel Association of Public

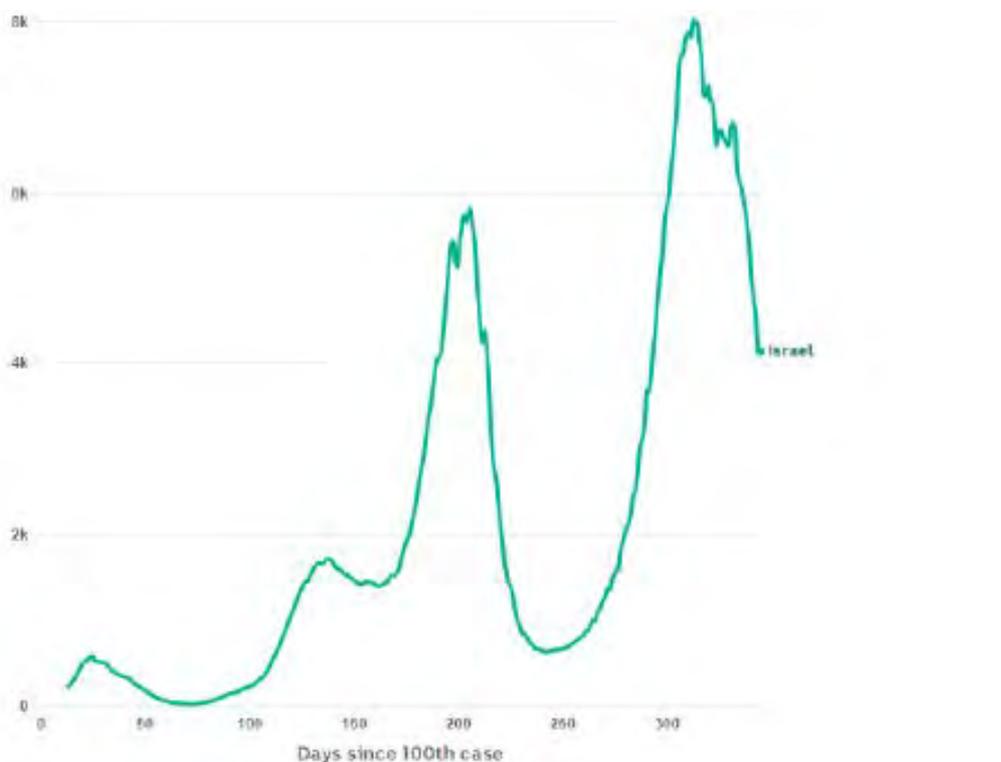
Health Physicians, told *The Jerusalem Post* on 13 January⁸. According to Levine, it was published that one-third of the coronavirus cases from abroad coming into Israel were from Dubai (The UAE has a severe second wave). The professional recommendation was that the Emirates (which recently established diplomatic relations with Israel) should be labelled as red. But because of political reasons, it was delayed.

The government has blamed the third wave on the arrival of the B.1.1.7 variant from Great Britain. Most recent severe cases have been among young people with more than 50,000 children and teens testing positive in January—more than Israel saw in any month during the first and second waves. Doctors in Jerusalem have also reported that most patients are *chareidim* (ultra-Orthodox Jews).

Many Israelis are blaming the uncontained spread of the virus on the very public breaching of government restrictions by the *chareidim*. These communities represent 12.6 per cent of the Israeli population but 28 per cent of COVID-19 cases. In the past month, hundreds of unmasked mourners have crammed together at funerals of revered rabbis⁹. For these deeply devout Jews, attendance was a religious and personal duty. To briefly grip the rabbi's bier, and symbolically assist his passage from this world, was a sign of profound respect for the dead. But for secular Israeli society, and even for some within the ultra-Orthodox world, this kind of mass gathering suggested disrespect for the living.

While Israel may have failed to control COVID-19 through non-pharmaceutical interventions, their vaccination program has proved to be a world leader, just ahead of the UAE. The country has vaccinated 80 per cent of people over the age of 65 and 40 per cent of the whole population in just over two months. A wealth of data collected on the effectiveness and safety of the Pfizer vaccine has been shared with the world (see Volume 2).

Daily new COVID-19 cases, Israel



⁸ <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/netanyahu-brought-israel-increased-mortality-a-third-wave-and-lockdown-655184>

⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/02/17/world/middleeast/israel-orthodox-jews-haredim.html>

Palestine | Middle East

Gaza and the West Bank, have a combined population of 5.2 million. They have reported 175,000 cases and 2,000 deaths. The test rate of 216 per 1,000 compares to 1,265 per 1,000 in Israel. Their second wave occurred between November and January and reached a peak of >2500 cases per day. After a steady decline, new daily cases are increasing again reaching 1,320 on 21 February. A large study based on 6,000 blood samples across both territories found that 40 per cent of Palestinians tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies¹⁰.

Gaza residents live in some of the world's densest conditions. Nearly 2 million Palestinians live in crowded refugee camps in the 140-square-mile large coastal enclave. Since the beginning of the pandemic last March, 53,514 Gazans have tested positive for the coronavirus and 537 have died. At the peak of the virus's spread in late December, 45 per cent of coronavirus tests came back positive in the Gaza Strip.

While Israel has vaccinated around 45 per cent of its residents with at least one dose of Pfizer vaccine, very few people have been vaccinated in Gaza and the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority has contracted with several parties to provide vaccinations, including Russia, China, and the AstraZeneca pharmaceutical company. The majority of the vaccines expected to arrive in February, however, are from the UN-backed COVAX mechanism for poor and middle-income countries. Around 37,000 Pfizer vaccines have been allocated for use by COVAX for the Palestinians; the first doses are intended to go to frontline healthcare workers. In the past week, Russia has provided 6,000 doses of the Sputnik V vaccine and Israel has begun to vaccinate workers who commute from the Palestinian Territories.

Asia-Pacific Region

- The pattern of COVID-19 transmission has generally been positive during the past four weeks. Steady declines of new daily cases have been seen in Pakistan, Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand.
- The number of coronavirus cases in **India** is once again surging particularly in four states of Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. In Maharashtra's Vidharbha region and Mumbai, the discovery of new variants has prompted local authorities to order fresh lockdowns.
- **Mongolia** was spared the worst of the pandemic and had reported only 346 cases up until 1 November. However, since then daily new cases have been spiking reaching more than 60 cases per day. The seven-day rolling average increased from 1.1 at the beginning of November to 41 on 21 February.
- For the first time since the pandemic began, daily new cases in **Indonesia** have been trending down. The seven-day average has dropped from a peak of 12,864 on 1 February to 8,664 on 21 February.
- New cases are declining in **Japan** and **Hong Kong** but there are signs of a fourth wave in **South Korea**.
- New cases in **Myanmar** are in steep decline. The seven-day average of 21.4 is the lowest since late August 2020. However, there are concerns that mass protests may initiate a new wave of cases.
- **Papua New Guinea** has recorded 1,056 cases and ten deaths. The test rate is 5.2 per 1,000 compared with more than 500 per 1,000 in Australia. On 20 February, PNG reported 59 new cases, the highest since the pandemic began. The most recent cases have been reported in West Sepik, Madang, East New Britain and NCD.
- In terms of **vaccination** rollout, **Seychelles, Maldives and Singapore** have administered 66, 14 and 6 vaccine doses per 100 population, respectively, as of 21 February¹¹. Russia and China have given between two and three doses. South Asia, Indonesia and Japan were still lagging behind these numbers, while much of Southeast Asia and Central Asia is yet to start their campaigns.

¹⁰ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/survey-finds-40-of-palestinians-have-coronavirus-antibodies/>

¹¹ [https://www.statista.com/chart/24246/covid-vaccination-progress-asia/?ct=t\(All_Camp_InfographTicker_Asia_PanAsia_00032\)](https://www.statista.com/chart/24246/covid-vaccination-progress-asia/?ct=t(All_Camp_InfographTicker_Asia_PanAsia_00032))

Sri Lanka | Asia-Pacific Region

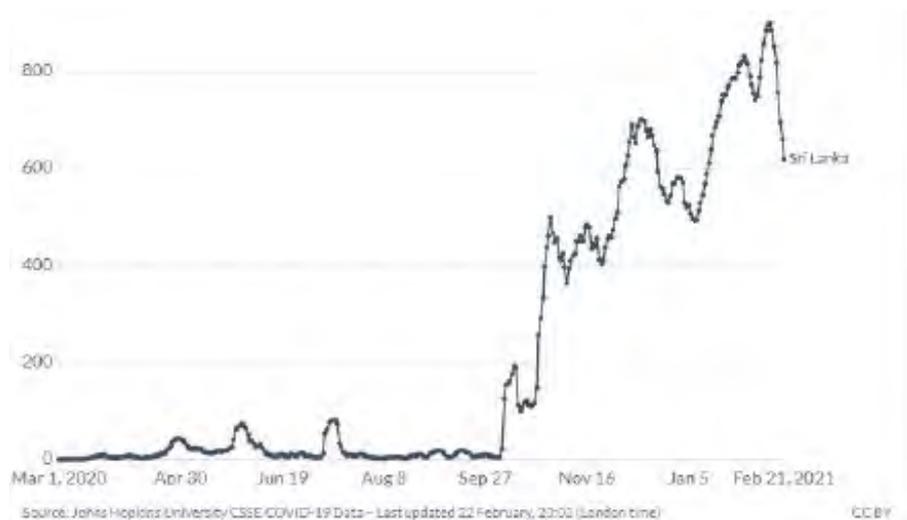
With a population of 21.5 million, Sri Lanka has reported more than 80,000 cases and 450 deaths. The country experienced a moderate first wave with just 3,380 cases up to the end of September. However, cases surged quickly starting in October, reaching a seven-day rolling average peak of 900 on 14 February. Since then, that figure has declined to 621 on 21 February.

Sri Lanka's initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic was globally lauded. A well-coordinated and effective public health response based on contact tracing and quarantine rules contained the spread, with no reported cases within the community for nearly two months in May and June. These successes enabled the country to hold its initially postponed parliamentary elections in August and fast-tracked a return to normalcy, compared to many other countries.

However, the absence of widespread community testing during this period had made it difficult to make an accurate assessment and the country has struggled to manage the second wave of COVID-19 cases. Analysis of the recent outbreak — Sri Lanka's second wave of coronavirus — has shown the highest number of cases in the island's Western Province, where Colombo is located. The new cases have been attributed to two clusters — a garment factory and a fish market in Colombo — which resulted in more than 7,000 linked cases. Localised lockdowns and curfews were imposed, including in Colombo.

Recent reports suggest that Sri Lanka is likely to receive 4.2 million doses of the vaccine under the COVAX initiative to cover 20 per cent of the population. However, these vaccines are likely to be available only in mid-2021.

Seven-day rolling average of new daily cases, Sri Lanka



Australia

The state of **Victoria** went into a five-day lockdown in early February following a cluster of infections linked to a hotel quarantine worker, who was infected by a guest. There was a total of 22 cases identified, all linked to the hotel. Victoria has now suspended the arrival of international travellers into Melbourne.

No community case of COVID-19 has been reported in any other state or territory for at least 28 days.

New Zealand

In mid-February, a cluster of cases was detected in Auckland which has grown to seven cases. They are believed to be linked to the Pullman quarantine hotel. Auckland went into a three-day lockdown which has now been eased. The most recent case in the cluster was reported on 23 February.

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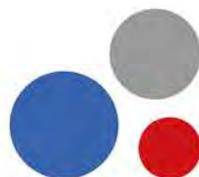
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