

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

3rd Nov 2020

News Highlights

Italy tightens Covid-19 curbs but holds off on lockdown as cases spiral

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte is set to introduce tougher restrictions in Italy, including a night time curfew and a ban on travel between regions worse hit with the coronavirus, [but he said that the country would not introduce a nationwide lockdown for now](#). Many European countries have announced month-long lockdowns to try and fight rising cases and infections which in Italy have also risen over 10-fold during the last month, with close to 30,000 daily cases over the last few days.

Mass testing in Xinjiang as China reports new cluster of coronavirus cases

China reported 49 new Covid-19 cases from the northwestern Xinjiang region, with 44 imported cases and five locally transmitted ones. [Four of the imported cases were passengers on a flight from New Delhi to Wuhan](#), where the pandemic first surfaced last last year. Health authorities in Xinjiang are mass-testing citizens and considering lockdown measures to control the outbreak.

Merkel urges discipline as Germany enters 'lockdown light'

Chancellor Angela Merkel said the success of the month-long lockdown imposed on Germany on Monday would depend on the participation and understanding of citizens, [adding that the discipline shown over the next four weeks would set the conditions for a tolerable December](#). Gyms, bars and restaurants have been shut in Germany, [but schools, shops and offices remain open in a lockdown that is less restrictive than the one imposed in the spring](#).

Covid-19 immunity lasts close to six months, study says

A UK study of more than 2,000 people has indicated that people who had mild or asymptomatic Covid-19 may exhibit 'cellular immunity' for up to six months after first being struck by the virus, [suggesting that they might have some protection for that time](#). Paul Moss from Birmingham University, who co-led the research, said the results were 'reassuring' but did not mean that people cannot be infected twice with the disease.

Lockdown Exit

Manchester ambulance service declares 'major incident' over volume of calls

The ambulance service in northwest England, one of the areas worst-hit by COVID-19, declared a major incident on Monday over an exceptionally high volume of calls, especially in the Greater Manchester area. The service said it had received 2,266 emergency calls in eight hours, an increase of 36% compared with the same time on the previous Monday. It said COVID-19 accounted for approximately 15% of the activity. Declaring a major incident is a formal step allowing managers to take measures such as calling in extra staff. The North West Ambulance Service declared the incident over after about 2-1/2 hours.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-britain-manchester/manchester-ambulance-service-declares-major-incident-over-volume-of-calls-idUKKBN27I2H7>

'Summer's first line of defence': new rules, fines for cafes, restaurants, bars and pubs

The NSW government is finalising plans to mandate QR check-in codes in all hospitality venues ahead of summer, including on-the-spot fines for businesses that fail to use the technology. QR codes will be the state's first line of defence over summer, with the government working to enforce electronic customer sign-in systems in all cafes, restaurants, bars and pubs.

https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/summer-s-first-line-of-defence-new-rules-fines-for-cafes-restaurants-bars-and-pubs-20201102-p56ata.html?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1604345774

Covid-19: New community case in Christchurch connected to foreign fishermen

There is a new community case of Covid-19 in Christchurch, the Ministry of Health has confirmed. The case, reported to the ministry on Monday afternoon, is a staff member working in a facility in Christchurch where international mariners are in managed isolation and quarantine - understood to be the Sudima Hotel, near Christchurch Airport. In a statement on Monday night, the ministry said the person was tested as part of the routine testing for staff in the facility and returned a negative test on Thursday, October 29.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/300148149/covid19-new-community-case-in-christchurch-connected-to-foreign-fishermen>

Australia records zero new COVID-19 cases

Australia's health Minister Greg Hunt said on Sunday that the country has recorded no new daily coronavirus infections for the first time in nearly five months. "Thank you to all of our amazing health & public health workers & above all else the Australian people,

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/australia-records-zero-new-covid-19-cases/>

Australia records zero Covid-19 cases for first time in five months

Australia has recorded its first day of no local cases of Covid-19 in almost five months. Zero cases were reported in the 24 hours between 20:00 on Friday and 20:00 on Saturday - the first time this has happened since 9 June. The state of Victoria - epicentre of Australia's second wave - recorded zero cases for the second day in a row after a 112-day lockdown. Health officials say more restrictions may be eased in the coming days. "Thank you to all of our amazing health & public health workers & above all else the Australian people," Health Minister Greg Hunt said on his Twitter account.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-australia-54768038>

Exit Strategies

UK regulator, insurers, set for November court battle over COVID-19 case

The UK Supreme Court will hear an appeal on Nov. 16 of the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) test case over which insurance companies should offer payouts to small businesses battered by the coronavirus pandemic, it said on Monday. The hearing is expected to last four days, the court said in a statement. Small businesses - from cafes and wedding planners to events businesses - have said they faced ruin after attempts to claim compensation for business losses during the pandemic, which prompted a three-month national lockdown in March followed by other restrictive measures, were rejected by insurers. The FCA, six insurers and an action group are appealing a lower court judgment that sought to clarify whether 21 policy wordings, affecting potentially 700 types of policies, 60 insurers, 370,000 policyholders and billions in claims, cover disruption and government-ordered closures to curb the virus.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-insurers-appeal/uk-regulator-insurers-set-for-november-court-battle-over-covid-19-case-idUKKBN2712B6>

Europe Aims to Emerge Smarter From Latest Lockdowns

One by one, governments across Europe are reintroducing strict new measures to tame a resurgent

pandemic after concluding that light-touch strategies aimed at containing Covid-19 have failed to keep infections in check. Britain, France, Germany, Ireland, Austria and Belgium are all now back under pandemic-containment regimes similar to those imposed in the spring, with bars and restaurants shut and people's freedom to socialize with others curtailed. Schools by and large remain open, though, and governments have expressed hope the new restrictions will be lifted within weeks. Some public-health experts say the reimposition of lockdowns shows the middle-way policies deployed over the summer, such as restrictions targeted at specific places or demographic groups, haven't succeeded in curbing the spread of the virus. New coronavirus cases in the European Union and the U.K. are running in excess of 175,000 a day on average, according to the latest official tallies, while in the U.S. daily cases are around 80,000. Without tougher action, these governments say hospitals in many places will be overwhelmed in weeks.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/europe-aims-to-emerge-smarter-from-latest-lockdowns-11604249580>

Amid COVID-19, Portugal's ethnic minorities feel heavily policed

According to Pina, the PSP police officers said they had been sent by the DGS (Portugal's National Health Office, responsible for deciding COVID-19 public health measures) because she was selling beer, which is currently only permitted in Portugal after 8pm if accompanied by food. Another reason often given for mandatory closures is that cafes allow people to gather in large groups. But here, as in many neighbourhoods in the suburbs of Lisbon, residents feel they are not being treated equally to people in the rest of the city. "If you go down the road to the white neighbourhoods you'll see the cafes are full of people drinking, sitting in groups, playing cards for example," says José Sinho Baessa da Pina, a community organiser from Casal da Boba. "They treat us completely differently up here. It's like they're not here to protect us - they're here to provoke us."

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/11/2/portugal-covid-discrimination>

UK's Sunak says hopeful England lockdown can be lifted in Dec

Britain's government will seek to lift its four-week coronavirus lockdown for England in early December, finance minister Rishi Sunak said on Monday, a day after another minister said it might have to be extended. "Our expectation and firm hope is, on the basis of everything we know today, is the measures we put in place for the time that they are going to be in place for, will be sufficient to do the job we need, and we will seek to exit these restrictions back into a tiered approach at the end of the four-week period," Sunak told BBC radio.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-britain-sunak/uks-sunak-says-hopeful-england-lockdown-can-be-lifted-in-dec-idUKS8N2H303T>

Partisan Exits

Europe's COVID-19 curbs prompt pushback amid bleak countdown to Christmas

A wave of COVID-19 lockdowns and curbs has stirred resistance across Europe, with the right-wing British politician who helped force an EU referendum harnessing popular anger at a new lockdown by recasting his Brexit Party under a new banner.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-idINKBN27I1LB>

Trump resorts to unfounded claim of Covid lockdown under Biden

In the final hours before election day, one of Donald Trump's closing messages to Americans is an exaggerated threat: that a Joe Biden presidency will result in a national Covid-19 lockdown. Speaking in Iowa on Sunday, the president said the election was a "choice between a deadly Biden lockdown ... or a safe vaccine that ends the pandemic".

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/nov/02/trump-biden-coronavirus-covid-lockdown>

Trump Suggests He May Fire Fauci 'After the Election'

President Donald Trump suggested to a Florida crowd he may fire Dr. Anthony Fauci after the

election, escalating his feud with the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases and providing a window into a potential post-November 3 administration purge. Speaking after midnight following a full day of campaigning, the President was complaining about news media coverage of Covid-19 when the crowd broke out into a "Fire Fauci" chant.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/11/02/politics/donald-trump-anthony-fauci-job-post-election/index.html>

Trump criticizes lockdowns in Europe as Covid-19 cases surge on the continent and in US

President Donald Trump on Sunday harshly criticized strict lockdowns coming to some European countries to combat the coronavirus pandemic, claiming the restrictions are ineffective as cases surge both there and in the US. "Europe imposed draconian lockdowns and cases were surging and deaths were surging but think of it, draconian. Now they have to do it all over again. What the hell are they doing? I think I'll go over and explain it to them," Trump said at a rally in Michigan. "But they're locking down parts of Europe again." The President went on to claim that places with strict lockdowns are where "the people that do the worst" with fighting the pandemic are.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/01/politics/trump-europe-lockdowns-criticism/index.html>

Handful of businesses threaten to defy lockdown in England

Businesses including a beauty salon near Liverpool are vowing to remain open and defy England's lockdown when it comes into force on Thursday. Companies face a £10,000 fine if they refuse to comply with restrictions ordering the closure of pubs, restaurants, hairdressers, gyms and all non-essential retailers. Regulations setting out the new laws in England are due to be published on Tuesday before being put to a vote by MPs on Wednesday. If passed, as expected, the measures would come into effect at 12.01am on Thursday. While the vast majority of businesses are expected to comply with the rules, a small number have publicly vowed to flout them.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/02/handful-of-businesses-threaten-to-defy-lockdown-in-england>

As Europe's governments lose control of Covid, revolt is in the air

As the second wave of Covid-19 filled hospital wards across Europe last week, and countries inched reluctantly towards varying degrees of partial lockdown, television schedules were cleared to allow leaders to address weary nations. Announcing a 6pm curfew for the country's restaurants and bars the Italian prime minister, Giuseppe Conte, called for national unity. "If we all respect these new rules during the month of November," he said, "we will succeed in keeping the epidemiological curve under control. That way we will be able to ease the restrictions and move into the Christmas festivities with greater serenity."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/01/governments-lose-control-virus-revolt-civil-unrest-continent>

Violence continues as Spain rejects lockdown restrictions

Spanish police have clashed with protesters across the country for a second consecutive night as demonstrators took to the streets to protest the reimposition of restrictions on movement and activity as a result of soaring Covid infection rates. The biggest disturbances were in the capital Madrid where demonstrators chanted "freedom", torched rubbish bins and set up makeshift barricades on the city's main thoroughfare, the Gran Via. Police were attacked with stones and flares as they moved in to clear the gathering. The emergency services reported twelve people including three police officers were lightly injured in the clashes. Police said they made 32 arrests.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-11-01/world/violence-continues-as-spain-rejects-lockdown-restrictions-k7vgr353r>

Anti-lockdown protesters turn on the police in Spain and Italy

Anger about coronavirus restrictions has turned to violence in Spain and Italy, where demonstrators battled police and looted shops in several cities. In Spain the police clashed with protesters as violence flared in pockets after the reimposition of restrictions on movement and activity as a result of soaring infection rates.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anti-lockdown-protesters-turn-on-the-police-in-spain-and-italy-3h2qsvjq3>

UK PM Johnson rejects criticism of moving too slowly with COVID lockdown

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday rejected criticism he had moved too slowly in introducing more stringent measures against COVID-19 across England, saying the lockdown was being put in place earlier than one in France. "I reject any suggestion that we are somehow slower in taking measures than our European friends and partners," he said. "In fact we are moving to national measures when the rate both of deaths and infections for instance is lower than they were in France," he told parliament, where he made the case for a new lockdown by saying the government had to avoid a "medical and moral disaster".

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-johnson-cr/uk-pm-johnson-rejects-criticism-of-moving-too-slowly-with-covid-lockdown-idUKKBN27I21Q>

British business warns of 'devastating' lockdown hit

UK companies have warned of hundreds of millions of pounds in lost business over the coming weeks as they scramble to assess the cost of the new lockdown in England. Associated British Foods said its Primark high-street fashion chain would lose £375m in sales after the government ordered all non-essential shops in England to close for at least four weeks from November 5, alongside similar measures elsewhere in Europe. Retailers warned over the weekend that the forced closure would be a "nightmare before Christmas". Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the British Retail Consortium, said the lockdown "will cause untold damage to the high street in the run-up to Christmas, cost countless jobs and permanently set back the recovery of the wider economy".

<https://www.ft.com/content/e627b2b2-498a-46f8-8bb6-08f4139c61cc>

Fresh lockdowns fuel angry protests as Covid-19 cases climb across Europe

Anger and exasperation over new coronavirus curbs grew Sunday as European nations wound back the clocks to the spring with fresh lockdowns and restrictions aimed at halting galloping infections and deaths. Protesters in several Spanish cities clashed with security forces for a second night running Saturday, police said, while England prepared for fresh stay-at-home orders, following in the steps of Austria, France and Ireland. European governments are desperate to stem the worrying spike in infections on the continent which has registered more than 279,000 deaths since the new coronavirus first emerged in China at the end of 2019.

<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20201101-fresh-lockdowns-fuel-angry-protests-as-covid-cases-climb-across-europe>

Lockdown vote: Tory rebellion brewing as Sir Graham Brady says he'll oppose new Covid restrictions

Boris Johnson will attempt to stave off a Conservative rebellion over his national lockdown measures as senior MPs described the measures as a "form of evil". MPs are set to debate and vote on the latest restrictions on Wednesday and the Government is expecting to face a rebellion from some Conservative MPs opposing the month-long lockdown. Several MPs have already confirmed they plan to vote against the Government and have demanded reassurance from Number 10 that the measures, if passed, will have a fixed end date.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/lockdown-vote-parliament-tory-rebellion-sir-graham-brady-new-covid-restrictions-745076>

Australian court dismisses challenge to Melbourne lockdown curfew

An Australian court on Monday dismissed a challenge to a curfew that was imposed on the city of Melbourne to help curb the spread of COVID-19, ruling it was neither illegal nor irrational and did not violate the state's human rights charter. The nightly curfew was initially imposed on Aug 5, running from 8 pm to 5 am, as part of one of the world's longest and strictest lockdowns when the state's daily infections peaked above 700 cases. The lockdown was relaxed last week, allowing shops and

restaurants to reopen and lifting restrictions on leaving home.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-australia-idUKKBN27I07H>

Scientists urged government to close secondary schools - but were blocked by ministers

Scientists advising the government urged ministers to close secondary schools for the month-long lockdown in England, it understands. Shutting schools for older children was one of the measures scientists said would help bring R below 1 due to high infection rates among teens, along with closing pubs, restaurants and non-essential shops. But the proposal was blocked because keeping education open throughout the second lockdown is a red line for the Prime Minister.

https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/scientists-urged-government-to-close-secondary-schools-744795?ito=twitter_share_article-top

In Italy, Like Everywhere the Virus Goes, It's the Discontent That's Contagious

When the coronavirus first hit Italy, overwhelming the country's hospitals and prompting the West's first lockdown, Italians inspired the world with their resilience and civic responsibility, staying home and singing on their balconies. Their reward for months of quarantine was a flattened curve, a gulp of normalcy and the satisfaction of usually patronizing allies pointing to Italy as a model. Italy is now a long way away from those balcony days and its summer fling with freedom. Instead, as a second wave of the virus engulfs Europe and triggers new nationwide lockdowns, Italy has become emblematic of a despair, exhaustion and fear that is spreading throughout the Continent.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/01/world/europe/italy-coronavirus-lockdown.html>

UK's Nigel Farage set to relaunch Brexit Party as anti-lockdown party

Nigel Farage, the British politician who helped force a Brexit referendum and successfully campaigned to leave the European Union, will fight Prime Minister Boris Johnson's COVID-19 lockdown by recasting his small Brexit Party as Reform UK. Cast by his supporters as the godfather of Brexit, Farage said Johnson had terrified the United Kingdom into submission over COVID-19 and squandered vast amounts of taxpayers' money while holding out hopes of a "miraculous" vaccine. "What we've seen in this pandemic I think is a total failure of leadership at almost every level," Brexit Party leader Farage told Talk Radio from Pennsylvania. "What about the millions of people out there running their own businesses? This second lockdown is the death knell economically for many of those people," Farage said.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-farage/uks-nigel-farage-set-to-relaunch-brexit-party-as-anti-lockdown-party-idUSKBN27H1TW>

Continued Lockdown

Britain extends payment freeze to coronavirus-hit borrowers

Britain's financial watchdog said on Monday it would extend payment holidays on credit cards, car finance, personal loans and pawned goods before tougher coronavirus restrictions come into effect this week. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) also extended until January the availability of deferrals for mortgage payments after Britain announced a one-month lockdown across England would start on Thursday to contain a second wave of the pandemic. Consumers who have not yet had a credit payment deferral under guidance issued in July can request one that lasts for up to six months, the FCA said in a statement. Borrowers who have already had one deferral would be able to apply for a second, the FCA said. "Borrowers should only take up this support if they need it," the statement added.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-britain-banks-credit/britain-extends-payment-freeze-to-coronavirus-hit-borrowers-idUKKBN27I0LX>

Cuomo halts indoor dining at 25% capacity citing a spike in COVID-19 cases

Indoor dining with 50% capacity was supposed to resume in NYC November 1. The deadline came

and went with no information from the government. On Monday, Cuomo said he the situation was 'fluid' and he was looking at 'data.' He said there had been an increase in cases which was leading him to delay it. The infection rate in Manhattan is 2.5 percent - almost half of what it is in Queens, Brooklyn and parts of Staten Island. It is also lower than in the Hamptons and Westchester, where indoor dining is allowed at 50 percent. Nationally, there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases but deaths remain steady

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8907155/Cuomo-halts-indoor-dining-25-capacity-citing-spike-COVID-19-cases.html>

Scientific Viewpoint

Kids Are Participating in COVID-19 Vaccine Trials. Here's What Their Parents Think

Katelyn Evans, 16, has never met Randy Kerr—and there's no reason she should have. It was 66 years ago that Kerr, then 6, became briefly famous, receiving the first injection of Jonas Salk's experimental polio vaccine during the massive field trial of hundreds of thousands of children in the spring of 1954. History notes that the vaccine worked, and the children who stepped forward to receive either the actual shot or a placebo were heroically dubbed the Polio Pioneers.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/kids-are-participating-in-covid-19-vaccine-trials-here-s-what-their-parents-think/ar-BB1aCKUu?tblci=GIB8zICgWvSEkYod1121FEZC5abmah3WzgxVJec3U2evXCCC-00>

Covid immunity lasts as least six months after infection, study says

A group of more than 2,000 people working for PHE volunteered for the study 100 people tested positive, 56 had symptoms, and none were hospitalised. All infected participants had a detectable T cell response six months later. Findings may mean people who have had Covid-19 are less likely to be reinfected

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8905177/Covid-19-patients-cellular-immunity-against-coronavirus-six-months-infection.html>

Regeneron's COVID-19 antibody cocktail therapy hits safety problem -

Regeneron's coronavirus antibody cocktail therapy against COVID-19, famously used to treat president Donald Trump, has hit a safety issue after independent safety experts recommended it should not be given to high-risk patients in a late-stage clinical trial. It's the latest blow for antibody therapies against COVID-19 after Eli Lilly last week announced it won't resume a trial in hospitalised patients, after National Institutes of Health researchers concluded it wouldn't help. Regeneron said an Independent Data Monitoring Committee (IDMC) from the REGN-COV2 trial said that based on an unspecified safety signal and an "unfavourable risk benefit profile" the committee recommends a modification to the trial protocol. The IDMC recommends further enrolment of patients requiring high-flow oxygen or mechanical ventilation be placed on hold pending collection and analysis of further data from those already on the trial.

<https://pharmaphorum.com/news/regenerons-covid-19-antibody-cocktail-therapy-hits-safety-problem/>

The world could learn a lot from how Africa is handling Covid-19

To date, the continent has recorded 1.7 million infections. The number, as is the case across the world, is likely much higher. One study conducted by researchers at the University of Cape Town collected 2,700 samples during the city's pandemic peak in late July and early August. A startling 40 per cent of the people tested had Covid-19 antibodies.

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/covid-19-africa>

NHS Covid-19 App error left thousands unaware they need to isolate

A reported error with the NHS Covid-19 App has left potentially thousands of people unaware they may have been exposed to coronavirus. The contact-tracing app was set at the wrong sensitivity level, meaning many users were not sent self-isolation alerts after they came into contact with

infected people. The error meant users whose “risk score” should have triggered an alert were not notified, The Sunday Times first reported. The app, launched a month ago on 24 September, has been downloaded more than 19 million times. It was updated last week to improve accuracy and notifications which was “expected to increase the number of people asked to self-isolate by the app”. Since its launch “shockingly low” numbers of people had been sent warnings about potential exposure to the virus, a government official told The Sunday Times.

<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2020/11/nhs-covid-19-app-error-left-thousands-unaware-they-need-to-isolate/>

Superdrug: COVID-19 antibody test kit relaunched as MHRA compliant

Superdrug has re-launched its at-home COVID-19 antibody testing service – which was withdrawn earlier this year – saying it is “confident” it complies with MHRA guidance. Patients can order the home sampling test kit via the Superdrug online doctor service at a cost of £69, the multiple said last week. The kit – which includes instructions on how to take a finger-prick blood sample at home – is posted to patients, with the capillary blood sample then sent to Superdrug’s United Kingdom Accreditation Service-accredited partner laboratory for analysis.

<https://www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk/news/superdrug-covid-19-antibody-test-kit-relaunched-mhra-compliant>

In Hunt for Coronavirus Source, W.H.O. Let China Take Charge

As it praised Beijing, the World Health Organization concealed concessions to China and may have sacrificed the best chance to unravel the virus’s origins. Now it’s a favorite Trump attack line.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/02/world/who-china-coronavirus.html>

Aberdeen professor says national lockdown for Scotland 'wouldn't be a good idea'

Hugh Pennington, emeritus professor of bacteriology at Aberdeen University also suggested using hotels to set up dedicated facilities where those self-isolating could be monitored. It follows as deputy first minister, John Swinney said it would be “foolish” to rule out following England into a full national lockdown. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced England would be entering a month-long national lockdown from Thursday.

<https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/fp/news/local/aberdeen-professor-says-national-lockdown-for-scotland-wouldnt-be-a-good-idea/>

T-cell Covid immunity 'present in adults six months after first infection'

Cellular (T-cell) immunity against the virus that causes Covid-19 is likely to be present within most adults six months after primary infection, with levels considerably higher in patients with symptoms, a study suggests. The data offers another piece of the puzzle that could be key to understanding whether previous Sars-CoV-2 infections – the virus behind Covid-19 – can prevent reinfection, and if so, for how long. The study, led by the UK coronavirus immunology consortium, evaluated 100 non-hospitalised healthcare workers in March and April after antibody responses were detected in them. It is yet to be peer-reviewed. It is the first study to offer data on T-cell levels six months after infection in people with mild or asymptomatic disease that is likely to represent the majority of infections, the authors say.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/02/t-cell-covid-immunity-present-in-adults-six-months-after-first-infection?utm_term=Autofeed&CMP=tw_t_b-gdnnews&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1604328689

Coronavirus D614G mutation found in 99.9% of cases at US hospital

Researchers looked at the coronavirus strain of more than 5,000 Houston cases Found that 99.9 per cent of the strains discovered were the D614G variant. This appeared in Europe in February and rapidly became dominant globally. Other studies have found this strain is more infectious than the original variant

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8905605/Coronavirus-D614G-mutation-99-9-cases-hospital.html>

Liverpool to pioneer UK's first attempt at mass Covid testing

Up to half a million people in Liverpool are set to be tested for Covid-19 under the UK government's first attempt to embark on city-wide mass testing and track down every case of the virus. The Guardian also understands that the self-isolation period for those who test positive for coronavirus, and their contacts, could be cut from the current 14-day period to seven days as early as this week. It comes after ministers, who announced a new England-wide lockdown from Thursday amid soaring cases, face pressure to improve the beleaguered £12bn test-and-test trace system to control outbreaks and limit the lockdown to four weeks. Under the Liverpool mass testing programme, which begins on Friday and will cover everyone living and working in the city, a variety of test types and the logistical help of the army will be deployed in a pilot to see whether mass population screening is feasible across other regions of England, as proposed in Operation Moonshot.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/02/liverpool-uk-first-attempt-coronavirus-mass-testing>

Covid: 'We are hanging by a thread' - hospital doctor

If you want to know why England is going into lockdown, Liverpool's intensive care units may help give you the answer. They are struggling to cope. "We are hanging by a thread," says Dr Oliver Zuzan, divisional medical director at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. He is speaking to me in a six-bed intensive care unit, reserved for non-Covid patients. At least here there's no requirement for the staff to spend their shifts in full PPE, with tight-fitting masks that dig into their faces. Here it's just an apron, gloves and surgical mask. The intensive care unit has had to be split into Covid and non-Covid areas. In the side rooms, patients wait for a diagnosis that will determine whether they are cared for in a red zone (Covid) or green zone (non-Covid). "People are right to say that these are pressures that occur every winter, but this time it's just a lot worse. This is winter plus, plus, plus," says Dr Zuzan.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-5477741>

T-cell study adds to debate over duration of COVID-19 immunity

A small but key UK study has found that "cellular immunity" to the pandemic SARS-CoV-2 virus is present after six months in people who had mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 - suggesting they might have some level of protection for at least that time. Scientists presenting the findings, from 100 non-hospitalised COVID-19 patients in Britain, said they were "reassuring" but did not mean people cannot in rare cases be infected twice with the disease. "While our findings cause us to be cautiously optimistic about the strength and length of immunity generated after SARS-CoV-2 infection, this is just one piece of the puzzle," said Paul Moss, a professor of haematology at Britain's Birmingham University who co-led the study.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-immunity-tcells/t-cell-study-adds-to-debate-over-duration-of-covid-19-immunity-idUKKBN2711LK>

Coronavirus Resurgence

France reports record new daily COVID-19 cases at more 52,000

France's reported a record 52,518 new COVID-19 on Monday and the number of people hospitalised with the disease rose by more than a 1,000 for the fourth time in eight days, as the pandemic showing no signs of abating despite a new lockdown. The timing of the latest daily record could be seen as particularly worrisome as Mondays have, until now, seen a dip in new cases reported due to fewer tests being carried out on a Sunday. The cumulative number of cases now totals 1,466,433 in France, the fifth-highest total in the world behind the United States, India, Brasil and Russia.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-infections-idUSKBN2712DR>

COVID-19 US: Nearly 50,000 hospitalized, with 81,431 new cases today

Coronavirus hospitalizations have risen in 47 states over the last month and a total of 47,502 Americans are currently hospitalized with the virus. The Wisconsin Hospital Associations reported that an average of nearly 1,300 people are hospitalized with COVID-19 and about 25% are in the

ICU. New Mexico hospitalizations reached an all-time high of 365 with more young people being admitted compared to the early days of the pandemic. In Michigan, there are more than 1,700 people hospitalized due to COVID-19 - the highest level seen since early May. North Dakota currently has the nation's highest number of new cases per 100,000 people over the past two weeks at 137.7 per 100,000. More than 81,000 infections on Sunday, with the country's total case count of 9.2 million rising by more than one million in the last two weeks.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-8905617/Nearly-50-000-Americans-hospitalized-COVID-19-records-81-000-new-cases.html>

Coronavirus lockdowns could return to US, doctor says

Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Health, tells TODAY that if the U.S. “continues to ignore” its current surge in coronavirus cases, it may be heading the way of Europe, which is now imposing drastic new lockdowns. But he says that could be avoided if people wear masks, avoid gatherings and observe social distancing. He also says he thinks “in-person voting is very safe” if people follow basic precautions and plan their vote ahead.

<https://www.today.com/video/coronavirus-lockdowns-could-return-to-us-doctor-says-95138885882>

Ravaged by first wave, Italy ill-prepared as second COVID assault hits

One month ago, the World Health Organization posted a video praising Italians’ “strong and effective response” to the coronavirus pandemic. At the time, Italy had one of the lowest infection rates in the Western world and appeared to have learnt the lessons of the first wave, which killed more people than anywhere else in Europe except Britain. Now it appears that Italy, ahead of the rest of Europe when COVID-19 arrived, was simply behind the curve when it roared back as summer ended. New cases are rising at record rates, hitting 31,758 on Oct. 31 against around 2,500 at the start of the month, while deaths are up tenfold to more than 200 a day.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-italy-response/ravaged-by-first-wave-italy-ill-prepared-as-second-covid-assault-hits-idUSKBN2711ZT>

Italy faces new coronavirus curbs, but no national lockdown - PM

The Italian government is going to tighten restrictions to limit the spread of the coronavirus, but is holding back from re-introducing a blanket, nationwide lockdown, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said on Monday. Addressing parliament, Conte said more stringent measures, including curbing travel in the worst-hit regions and introducing a nighttime curfew, were now needed given the recent resurgence of the virus. He said the country would be divided into three areas depending on the risk level. He warned that intensive care units would be overwhelmed in 15 of Italy’s 20 regions by next month unless action was taken, and said certain places faced tougher restrictions than others.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-italy/italy-faces-new-coronavirus-curbs-but-no-national-lockdown-pm-idUKKBN2711CP>

Frustrations and infections rise in Naples as second Covid lockdown looms

The four women huddling around their neighbour in an alleyway off Via dei Tribunali, in central Naples, took turns to call an ambulance. “It’s an absolute disaster!” yelled one of them, called Antonietta. “Nobody is responding, we’ve been trying for hours.” The woman sitting on a chair in the middle of them, with her head bent forward, had a heart problem. Not even taxi drivers were answering the phone. One woman suggested calling the police. “Now do you understand why we’re so angry?” said Antonietta. “Things are so desperate here – Covid is not the only thing that is killing us.” Emotions are running high as coronavirus rapidly spreads through the southern Italian city and the prospect of another lockdown looms. Giuseppe Conte’s government is working towards new restrictions, expected to be decided on Monday, that could result in shutdowns in areas where the virus is escalating.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/01/frustrations-and-infections-rise-in-naples-as-second-covid-lockdown-looms>

Spain's Andalucia considering a return to lockdown amid surge of COVID-19 cases

Andalucia is considering a return to home confinement if hospital pressure does not drop. Junta president, Juanma Moreno has said he doesn't rule out lockdown as a last option if the current measures fail

<https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/2020/11/02/spains-andalucia-considering-a-return-to-lockdown-amid-surge-of-covid-19-cases/>

Covid in Scotland: First minister faces 'dilemma' over lockdown decision

Scotland's first minister says she faces a "dilemma" over whether a national lockdown should be introduced in the coming days. Nicola Sturgeon said she was seeking "absolute clarity" from the Treasury as to whether financial support was only available while England is locked down. A new five-level system of measures came into force in Scotland on Monday. Ms Sturgeon said a decision on whether to go further within days may depend on how long furlough funding is available.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-54784449>

Why is Europe yet again at the centre of the coronavirus pandemic?

Last week Europe registered 1.5m new cases of Covid-19 - a record - making it once again the centre of the pandemic. The UK is not exempt, and England will enter a new lockdown from Thursday 5 November. From the outside, it might seem the continent is in the grip of a second wave that is ramping rapidly towards its peak. But it is not one wave, it's many local waves, and that is crucial in understanding how to rein it in and prevent the same thing happening again.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/02/europe-coronavirus-pandemic-lockdowns-infection-rates>

Italy to tighten COVID curbs, but holds back from lockdown

Italy will tighten COVID restrictions but is holding back from re-introducing a nationwide lockdown, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said on Monday as infections, hospital admissions and deaths surge. Conte told parliament tougher measures, including curbing travel between the worst-hit regions and a nighttime curfew, were now needed given the resurgence of the virus. Italy's daily tally of infections has increased 10-fold over the last month and hovered around 30,000 in the last few days, while hospital admissions, intensive care occupancy and deaths have also risen steeply. "Despite our efforts ... the evolution of the epidemic in the last few days is very worrying," Conte said, warning that

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-italy/italy-to-tighten-covid-curbs-but-holds-back-from-lockdown-id UKKBN2711J>

Coronavirus: Spain's funeral homes strike as cases rise

Staff at funeral homes in Spain have gone on strike to demand more workers as coronavirus deaths continue to rise. Unions say more staff are needed to prevent the delay in burials that was seen during the first wave of the pandemic in March. Europe is grappling with a second wave as cases and deaths continue to rise. A number of countries have introduced new measures such as curfews and lockdowns to try and bring infection rates down.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-54772727>

New Lockdown

Scottish Government 'cannot rule out' Scotland lockdown amid calls for furlough clarity

John Swinney said he was not surprised by Boris Johnson's move to put England into lockdown from Thursday and said he could not categorically rule out the Scottish government abandoning their new levels system introduced today at 6am. The new measures will see different parts of Scotland subject to a differing severity of restrictions depending on the prevalence of Covid-19. Much of the

central belt will be in Level Three, with other areas in Level Two and parts of the Highlands and islands in Level One.

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/scottish-government-cannot-rule-out-scotland-lockdown-amid-calls-furlough-clarity-3021695>

Scotland will have access to furlough scheme for any future lockdown

Scotland will have access to the furlough scheme if Holyrood brings in another lockdown, Boris Johnson has confirmed.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-will-have-access-furlough-scheme-any-future-lockdown-3022880>

Covid-19: 'A lot of people think this lockdown is unfair'

North Norfolk has one of the lowest coronavirus infection rates in the country, with a total of 25 cases reported in the most recent week for which data is available. What do the residents and businesses there make of being plunged into a second national lockdown from Thursday? "I think it is a shame for us around here because we don't have that many cases," says tobacconist and sweet shop owner Colin Page. His North Walsham shop remained open throughout the first lockdown and he plans to remain open throughout the second. Mr Page feels the second lockdown was "inevitable given the rise in cases". Across England, the most recent weekly figures are 202 cases per 100,000 people. In north Norfolk, the rate is 40.1 per 100,000.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-54780942>

Students told not to rush home for lockdown

Universities say students in England should not move home for the lockdown - even if courses are switched to being taught online. They do not want a rush of students leaving universities as the new restrictions come into force this week. But the National Union of Students says students should have a choice to go home safely ahead of the lockdown. The government's guidance says universities should consider putting teaching online where possible. Universities UK says students should stay in their current accommodation and a mix of face-to-face and online teaching will continue through the lockdown.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-54784539>

Rishi Sunak refuses to rule out extended lockdown in England

Rishi Sunak has refused to rule out the new coronavirus lockdown lasting longer than its intended four weeks, as one of the scientists advising the government said delays in imposing tougher restrictions were likely to have cost thousands of lives. Asked whether he could guarantee the lockdown across England, which begins on Thursday, would be lifted as planned on 2 December, the UK chancellor was less definitive. "Our expectation and firm hope, on the basis of everything we know today, is the measures we have put in place for the time they will be in place for, will be sufficient to do the job we need, and we will seek to exit these restrictions back into a tiered approach at the end of the four-week period," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/02/rishi-sunak-refuses-to-rule-out-extended-lockdown-in-england>

Lockdown: PM warns of Covid-19 deaths 'twice as bad' as spring

Covid-19 deaths could be twice as high over the winter as they were in the first wave of the pandemic, PM Boris Johnson has told MPs. In a Commons statement he said there was "no alternative", as he seeks to win support for a planned four-week lockdown in England from Thursday. But Mr Johnson explained he was "right to try every possible option" before ordering people to stay at home. Labour has said it will back the lockdown but criticised the delay. Mr Johnson announced at a Downing Street news conference on Saturday that strict measures will include closing pubs, restaurants, gyms, non-essential shops and places of worship.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54773196>

Germany imposes four week partial lockdown

Watch "Germany imposes four week partial lockdown; Chancellor Merkel says restrictions necessary to avoid an acute German national health emergency

<https://www.cbsnews.com/live/video/20201102121049-germany-imposes-four-week-partial-lockdown-chancellor-merkel-says-restrictions-necessary/>

Merkel says if lockdown works, Germany will have bearable December

Germany will have a bearable December if new lockdown measures introduced on Monday works, Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday, adding that much of the success of the measures depends on the participation and understanding of citizens. Merkel told a news conference that if people respected the restrictions over the next four weeks "to curb the spread of the virus, then we will be able to have the conditions for a tolerable December."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-germany-merkel-decemb/merkel-says-if-lockdown-works-germany-will-have-bearable-december-idU5S8N2GR0CE>

Coronavirus: Germany restricts social life in 'lockdown light'

Germany has entered the first day of a month-long "lockdown light", shutting restaurants, bars, gyms and entertainment venues, but keeping schools, shops and workplaces open. The lockdown is not as restrictive as the March-April one, and food outlets can still provide takeaways. The coronavirus infection rate is still rising in Germany, though not as dramatically as in France and Belgium, which are now in tighter lockdowns. Italy is also planning tighter rules.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54778345>

Asturias asks for permission to impose full lockdown for two weeks

The escalation in the number of new cases and increase in pressure on hospital services due to Covid-19 has resulted in some of Spain's 17 Autonomous Regions proposing a tightening of the restrictions currently being applied if the epidemiological evolution in their regions does not improve soon.

https://murciatoday.com/asturias_asks_for_permission_to_impose_full_lockdown_for_two_weeks_1523772-a.html

'Lenient' start to France's lockdown as police dish out 5,000 fines

French police will be stepping up lockdown inspections from Monday after a "lenient" start to the nationwide reconfinement that saw nearly 5,000 people fined for breaking the rules. Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin told BFMTV more than 100,000 checks have been carried out since strict new measures came into effect on Friday - with police now under orders to carry out "reinforced controls". "The first days of real confinement, if I dare say so, are starting today", Darmanin said, adding the flexibility over the weekend - the end of school holidays - was to allow people to return from vacation. Non-essential businesses including restaurants, bars and shops have been closed until at least 1 December as France tackles a difficult second wave of coronavirus infections.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/lenient-start-frances-lockdown-police-101531406.html>

France fears fresh wave of domestic violence amid second Covid-19 lockdown

During its first Covid-19 lockdown in the spring, France saw a steep rise in domestic abuse cases. As the country's 67 million have now entered a second lockdown, women's rights groups fear that the isolation will spark a new wave of domestic violence, and have put a number of safety measures in place to try to help victims.

<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201102-france-fears-fresh-wave-of-domestic-violence-amid-second-covid-19-lockdown>

China's Xinjiang Region On Lockdown Amid Report Of New Cluster Of Coronavirus Cases

China has reported a cluster of coronavirus cases in the western region of Xinjiang. The region is taking a well-worn approach to contain the cluster: mass, pooled testing and a lockdown.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/30/929609054/chinas-xinjiang-region-on-lockdown-amid-report-of-new-cluster-of-corona-virus-cas>

UK aviation needs government support for new lockdown pain: airport boss

Britain's airports and airlines need urgent support to survive the "very bleak future" posed by a new lockdown in England, warned the boss of one of the country's biggest airport groups. Very low levels of travel in recent months have put airlines and airports under renewed financial strain after they were effectively shut during Britain's first lockdown, and they now face another month without income during its second. "An urgent package of support must materialise," said Manchester Airport Group's (MAG) chief executive Charlie Cornish in a statement on Monday. He said the new lockdown for England, due to start on Thursday and which bans international leisure travel, will make parts of the aviation sector unsustainable.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-airports/uk-aviation-needs-government-support-for-new-lockdown-pain-airport-boss-idUSKBN27I1PA>

Labour Party will vote in favour of PM Johnson's lockdown plan

Britain's opposition Labour Party will vote in favour of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan for a second national lockdown when it is put before parliament on Wednesday, Labour leader Keir Starmer said on Monday. "Labour will provide the votes the prime minister needs to be sure of getting this through parliament, but we will also be clear: It must be accompanied by a comprehensive economic support package," Starmer said in a speech.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-britain-starmer/labour-party-will-vote-in-favour-of-pm-johnsons-lockdown-plan-idUKKBN27I1CL>

More debt, shrinking GDP: the impact of England's new lockdown

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has ordered England back into lockdown to slow the spread of COVID-19, a move that will add to the country's 2 trillion-pound debt mountain and cause the economy to shrink again. Below are comments from analysts about the expected impact on the world's sixth-biggest economy. They say the hit will be heavy but less severe than the record contraction of nearly 20% in the spring. Factors likely to soften the blow this time include: no closure of schools; manufacturing and construction firms asked to stay open; better preparedness by firms not asked to close; households more familiar with working from home.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-britain-economy-an/more-debt-shrinking-gdp-the-impact-of-englands-new-lockdown-idUKKBN27I0QG>

'Tragedy in the making': Charities warn rough sleepers will have no protection during second lockdown

Charities are warning of a "tragedy in the making" due to the lack of measures in place to protect rough sleepers during the second lockdown. Ministers are being urged to re-introduce a scheme that housed homeless people during the first months of the pandemic, amid warnings that without urgent action, people will be forced to either sleep in the cold or take refuge in night shelters where social distancing is impossible. Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, the government has moved nearly 30,000 homeless people into emergency, self-contained accommodation, including hotels, under what has been termed the "Everyone In" scheme.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rough-sleepers-homeless-lockdown-uk-b1531438.html>