

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

6th Nov 2020

News Highlights

New pandemic possible with Danish mink variant, scientists warn

Denmark has announced plans to cull its entire population of almost 15 million mink, after a mutation of Covid-19 in the mammals had been found to have spread to humans. Scientists have warned that the mutated mink variant of the virus could spark off a new coronavirus pandemic, [but also added that the measures of testing and infection control already in place to tackle the ongoing crisis](#), would help contain the threat.

Additional restrictions in Paris as coronavirus cases rise

Paris mayor, Anne Hidalgo, said that the city would be placed under more severe restrictions, in addition to the national lockdown that has already been imposed nationwide in France, in order to fight the sharp rise in cases in the city. [In addition to the shops that have already been forced to close under France's new lockdown](#), the new measures in Paris will force certain shops selling takeaway food and drink to shut at 10pm local time.

Greece announces new lockdown as cases rise sharply

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a three-week nationwide lockdown in Greece to help control a 20% increase in Covid-19 infections over the last few days. [Mitsotakis had earlier said that a nationwide lockdown would be the last option](#), but chose to enforce it after being warned that without the measure, the pressure on the healthcare system would be immense.

U.S. Covid-19 cases climb to record levels even as tight presidential race transfixes nation

The U.S. reported a record 109,757 coronavirus cases on Thursday, the second consecutive daily record rise, [even as President Donald Trump and Joe Biden continued to stay neck and neck in one of the tightest presidential races in the nation's history](#). U.S. cases have risen by over 100,000 for three out of the last seven days and 19 out of the 50 states reported record one-day increases on Thursday.

Lockdown Exit

Sweden and Germany removed from England's travel corridors

Britain said on Thursday it was removing Germany and Sweden from its list of countries where travellers would not have to quarantine on arrival in England. "From 4 a.m. Saturday 7th November, if you arrive into the UK from these destinations you will need to self-isolate," transport minister Grant Shapps said on Twitter. He added no countries were being added to the list of travel corridors. England entered a second countrywide lockdown on Thursday meaning people must stay at home, barring a limited number of exceptions.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-britain-quarantine/sweden-and-germany-removed-from-englands-travel-corridors-idUKKBN27L2EA>

How lockdown is killing restaurants, cafes and bars a second time

Hospitality industry suffering a staff shortage due to lack of international visitors Catering Australia CEO Wes Lambert said issue was pronounced in Melbourne He said backpackers or international students filled most jobs prior to COVID-19

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8915989/How-lockdown-killing-restaurants-cafes-bars-second-time.html>

New South Wales to open border to Victoria, New Zealand

After months of remaining closed to Victorian residents, NSW will drop its border restrictions in just three weeks. On Wednesday NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian revealed the border would open on November 23. That is about a month after her Victorian counterpart Daniel Andrews put an end to Melbourne's tough stage 4 lockdown. The southern state has since recorded five consecutive days of zero cases while NSW announced three new local cases on Wednesday. "As long as a state can demonstrate it can get on top of cases, we are OK with that," Ms Berejiklian told reporters. "I'm confident other states will have that capacity ... they've certainly had enough time to prepare for this."

<https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/on-air/heather-du-plessis-allan-drive/audio/murray-olds-new-south-wales-to-open-border-to-victoria-new-zealand/>

Australia has almost eliminated the coronavirus – by putting faith in science

The Sydney Opera House has reopened. Almost 40,000 spectators attended the city's rugby league grand final. Workers are being urged to return to their offices. Australia has become a pandemic success story. The nation of 26 million is close to eliminating community transmission of the coronavirus, having defeated a second wave just as infections surge again in Europe and the United States. No new cases were reported on the island continent Thursday, and only seven since Saturday, besides travelers in hotel quarantine. Eighteen patients are hospitalized with covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. One is in an intensive care unit. Melbourne, the main hotbed of Australia's outbreak that recently emerged from lockdown, has not reported a case since Oct. 30.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/australia-coronavirus-cases-melbourne-lockdown/2020/11/05/96c198b2-1cb7-11eb-ad53-4c1fda49907d_story.html

Mexico's health ministry confirms 544 new coronavirus deaths

Mexico's health ministry reported on Thursday 5,567 additional coronavirus cases and 544 more deaths, bringing the official number of cases to 949,197 and the death toll to 93,772. Health officials have said the real number of infected people is likely significantly higher than the confirmed cases.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-mexico-tally/mexicos-health-ministry-confirms-544-new-coronavirus-deaths-idUKKBN27M05Y?il=0>

Exit Strategies

Test and trace sinks to 60% of Covid-19 contacts reached in England

A total of 137,180 people in England tested positive for Covid-19 in the week ending 28 October, the highest weekly number of cases since NHS test and trace launched in May. It represents an 8% rise in new positive infections on the previous week, according to Public Health England data. The test-and-trace system also reported having one of its worst weeks in terms of its performance in tracing the close contacts of those infected with Covid-19.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/05/test-trace-reaches-six-10-covid-19-contacts-in-england-coronavirus>

Isolation of elderly at Christmas must form part of lockdown lifting decision

Isolation of elderly people at Christmas must be considered when deciding to ease lockdown restrictions, a leading member of Nphet has said. Dr Colm Henry of the HSE said the Government and public health bosses must consider the "sense of isolation and hopelessness" they feel. While the number of positive Covid-19 cases in Ireland has fallen dramatically, the HSE warned this progress must not be lost.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/isolation-of-elderly-at-christmas-must-form-part-of-lockdown-lifting-decision-39711801.html>

In COVID clampdown, China bars travellers from Britain, Belgium, India

China has barred non-Chinese travellers from Britain, France, Belgium, the Philippines and India, imposing some of the most stringent entry curbs of any country as coronavirus cases surge around the world. The restrictions, which cover those with valid visas and residence permits and take effect in conjunction with a more restrictive testing regime for arrivals from several other countries, drew a frosty response from Britain.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-china-travel/in-covid-clampdown-china-bars-travellers-from-britain-france-india-idUKKBN27L09F>

China bans non-Chinese arrivals from UK as England enters lockdown

China has barred non-Chinese travellers from the UK, Belgium and the Philippines, imposing new border restrictions in response to the worsening Covid-19 pandemic. The Chinese embassy in the UK said on Wednesday that China's borders were now closed to those arriving from the UK, including those with valid visas and residence permits. The measure, a reversal of recently loosened restrictions, comes as England began a month-long lockdown in an effort to stop a resurgent outbreak. The country has the highest death toll in Europe of almost 48,000 deaths. "This is a temporary measure taken by China in response to the current pandemic," the Chinese embassy in the UK said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/05/china-bans-non-chinese-travellers-from-uk-belgium-and-philippines>

U.S. coronavirus cases climb by record for second day in a row, up over 109,000

Coronavirus cases in the United States surged by at least 109,757 on Thursday, according to a Reuters tally, the second consecutive daily record rise as the outbreak spreads in every region. The tally is expected to push higher still when California's county-by-county data is added. U.S. cases have risen by over 100,000 for three out of the last seven days, putting pressure on hospitals in several states and causing families to rethink their plans for Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 26. Nineteen out of 50 states reporting record one-day increases on Thursday. Previously, the most states that reported records for new cases in a single day was 16 on Oct. 30, according to Reuters data.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-usa/u-s-coronavirus-cases-climb-by-record-for-second-day-in-a-row-up-over-109000-idUKKBN27L2TB>

UK reports 24,141 new COVID-19 cases, 378 deaths

Britain reported 24,141 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday and 378 deaths from the virus, slightly down on figures from the day before, government data showed. The cumulative toll for those who died within 28 days of a first positive COVID-19 test in the United Kingdom now stands at 48,120 while the number of people who have tested positive is 1,123,197 according to the data.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-britain-cases-idUKKBN27L2VR>

Partisan Exits

Covid: Regulator criticises data used to justify lockdown

The government has been criticised by the official statistics watchdog for the way it presented data to justify England's second lockdown. The UK Statistics Authority highlighted the use of modelling at Saturday's TV briefing showing the possible death toll from Covid this winter. It said there needed to be more transparency about data and how predictions were being made. The projections were out of date and over-estimated deaths, it has emerged. A forecast made by Public Health England and Cambridge University said the country could soon be seeing more than 4,000 deaths a day.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54831334>

Here's why lockdown is Nigel Farage's new target

All of this will strike many as pure opportunism. But while Farage is clearly preying on a perceived weak spot for Boris Johnson – who is increasingly having to face down restive backbenchers over the restrictions – it looks like he has been planning a “Reform” party for a long, long time. And to find out why we need to look to Canada. Back in late-1980s Canada, a radical-right outfit called the Reform party waged war on the traditional centre-right party, the Progressive Conservatives. The goal was to derail the socially liberal direction of the Conservatives, and push sweeping tax cuts, tougher law-and-order policies and more direct democracy through referendums, as well as opposing multiculturalism. Sound familiar? The party's argument was framed around the need for reform of institutions such as Canada's senate, much like Farage and Tice's calls for the House of Lords.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/05/lockdown-nigel-farage-new-enemy-us-election-covid-19>

Minister blames public for second English lockdown

The second national lockdown in England has been caused in part by a lack of public compliance, the justice secretary has said, adding that it will be a “huge challenge” to get the public to follow the strict rules this time. Robert Buckland suggested the public had failed to adhere to the previous system, leading to the need for the four-week lockdown starting on Thursday in England. “That's one of the reasons we are having to take the measures we are today,” the cabinet minister told the BBC. “Sadly, it's been difficult frankly regarding the compliance of some people with regard to the quarantine restrictions. “I think it would be very ambitious of me to suggest that somehow we will be able to use the enforcement authorities to intervene in every case I think sadly that's not possible.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/05/public-failure-follow-rules-led-to-second-england-coronavirus-lockdown-says-minister-robert-buckland>

Anger as Italy's new 'red zones' prepare for lockdown

Italy's newly-designated coronavirus “red zones” braced Thursday for a fresh lockdown as anger rose against the government, accused of penalising some regions while being too lax towards others. At the Scala in Milan, gloom reigned after the prestigious opera house was forced to cancel its opening night next month, and non-essential shops served their last customers before a lockdown Friday set to affect over 16 million people.

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/05/11/2020/Anger-as-Italy-s-new-red-zones-prepare-for-lockdown>

Muddled messaging fuels backlash against lockdown in France

When he announced a new coronavirus lockdown in France, President Emmanuel Macron said the government had learned lessons from the first wave. But a series of unforced errors from his government is making it a tough sell. Some 73 percent of French people say they find communications over the second lockdown incoherent, according to a YouGov poll published Wednesday. Only 29 percent said they trusted the government to handle the second wave. Government spokesperson Gabriel Attal announced on Tuesday a curfew in Paris that was contradicted within an hour by the prime minister's office, among other communication blunders.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/muddled-messaging-fuels-backlash-against-lockdown-in-france/>

Continued Lockdown

Father admits to killing his two children during lockdown

Nadarajah Nithiyakumar attacked 19-month-old Pavinya and three-year-old Nigish, on April 26 at their family home in Ilford, east London. The young children's mother called emergency services to the horrific scene in Aldborough Road North, but they were unable to save Pavinya who was pronounced dead at the scene. Nigash was rushed to hospital in Whitechapel but despite the best efforts of the doctors, he sadly died.

<https://www.euroweeklynews.com/2020/11/05/father-admits-to-killing-his-two-children-during-lockdown/>

Multifold spike in domestic violence complaints during lockdown

As soon as schools were shut due to the lockdown, 16-year old Ashi (name changed), who was studying at a Gurukul school in Karimnagar district, was asked to go back to her home. She had never imagined that the four walls of her home will become unsafe for her. After being allegedly sexually and physically harassed by her father for months, in around April, terrified and confused, she mustered the courage to reach out to the police who, with the help of the Sakhi team, rescued her. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, data from the State Women and Child Department shows that domestic violence, including physical and sexual assault against women and girls, has risen.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/2020/nov/05/multifold-spike-in-domestic-violence-complaints-during-lockdown-2219523.html>

Scientific Viewpoint

Regeneron hopes US will greenlight COVID-19 antibody drug soon

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc said United States health regulators were doing a careful analysis of its experimental antibody cocktail to treat COVID-19 and that it was hopeful the drug could be authorised for emergency use in the country soon. The treatment, which was given to US President Donald Trump during his COVID-19 infection, has been under review by the US Food and Drug Administration since last month. "We hope that it will reach a successful conclusion. But we don't know the timeline," Regeneron Chief Executive Officer Leonard Schleifer said during a conference call to discuss the company's earnings. The company has said that clinical trial data shows the drug reduced medical visits in patients with mild to moderate cases. The antibody treatment would be the first drug designed specifically to fight COVID-19 and could become a tool in the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than one million people globally. Based on clinical trials, Regeneron expects emergency use authorisation could be granted for outpatients, a group that it believes would benefit the most from the drug. About 80,000 doses of the treatment could be ready by the end of this month, and 300,000 doses by the end of January, Regeneron said.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2020/11/5/regeneron-hopes-us-will-green-light-covid-19-antibody-drug-soon>

AstraZeneca Expects Covid-19 Vaccine Trial Results This Year

The drugmaker said late-stage trials for the Covid-19 vaccine it is developing with the University of Oxford are on track to produce results "later this year," with a potential rollout soon after, subject to regulatory approval.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/astrazeneca-expects-covid-19-vaccine-trial-results-this-year-11604566767>

Covid-19 antibodies drop by HALF just three months after infection

Study looked at antibody levels in 3,217 healthcare workers who had Covid Reveals maximum antibody levels occur 24 days after initial infection. 85 days later the concentration of antibodies falls to half this number. Antibodies then drop below detectable levels 52 days after this point

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8917549/Covid-19-antibodies-drop-HALF-just-three-months-infection.html>

Coronavirus: Human rights watchdog investigating impact of COVID-19 on BAME healthcare workers

Britain's human rights watchdog is investigating the impact of coronavirus on black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) healthcare workers. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said it will consider the "structural issues which have left people from a range of ethnic minorities at greater risk" from coronavirus across England, Scotland and Wales. It comes after a study commissioned by London mayor Sadiq Khan last month found that black people are at almost twice the risk of dying from COVID-19 as their white counterparts.

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-human-rights-watchdog-investigating-impact-of-covid-19-on-bame-healthcare-workers-12124228>

Lloyds asks its 1400 branches to help find COVID-19 trial volunteers

Lloydspharmacy is encouraging its teams to help find suitable patients for an Oxford University COVID-19 clinical trial, C+D has learned. Lloydspharmacy teams will be asked to display a poster of the PRINCIPLE COVID-19 trial – run by the University of Oxford – in their pharmacies, and “engage with customers and patients where they can about the project”, a spokesperson told C+D last week (October 29). The multiple will use its network of more than 1,400 pharmacies to raise awareness of the trial – which is evaluating whether the use of two common antibiotics, azithromycin and doxycycline, can help people with COVID-19 symptoms recover at home.

<https://www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk/news/lloyds-asks-its-1400-branches-help-find-covid-19-trial-volunteers>

Covid-19 vaccine market worth \$10bn a year, analysts say

The future Covid-19 vaccine market could be worth more than \$10bn a year, generating bumper revenues for pharmaceutical companies that have funded large parts of their research with government money. The calculations by analysts at Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse assume that people will need to take a Covid-19 vaccine every year, like a flu jab, and are based on projected costs for the shot, currently hovering at about \$20 a dose. “My base case assumption right now is that you will need annual vaccinations,” said Matthew Harrison, an analyst at Morgan Stanley. “[Covid-19] is not going to go away.” Even taking a “conservative approach” in which only those people who get a flu vaccine also take one for Covid-19, the market would be worth \$10bn across developed countries, he said.

<https://www.ft.com/content/7961437d-33cd-4f47-b190-2be3b571c8e5>

Danish Covid-19 mink variant could spark new pandemic, scientists warn

A Danish vaccine specialist has warned that a new wave of coronavirus could be started by the Covid-19 mink variant. “The worst-case scenario is that we would start off a new pandemic in Denmark. There’s a risk that this mutated virus is so different from the others that we’d have to put new things in a vaccine and therefore [the mutation] would slam us all in the whole world back to the start,” said Prof Kåre Mølbak, vaccine expert and director of infectious diseases at Denmark’s State Serum Institute (SSI). He added, however, that the world was in a better place than when the Covid-19 outbreak began. “We know the virus, have measures in place including testing and infection control, and the outbreak will be contained, to the best of our knowledge.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/05/danish-covid-19-mink-variant-could-spark-new-pandemic-scientists-warn>

South Korea Approves Single Test to Detect Both COVID-19 and Seasonal Flu

With the onset of winter, and experts round the globe warning of an imminent second wave, South Korean medical authorities decided to approve the use of a single test to detect both COVID-19 and seasonal influenza. The latter, a disease recurring in colder months each year, would also be diagnosed through the same samples that will be collected for testing coronavirus, officials in the South East Asian nation said.

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/south-korea-approves-single-test-091648391.html>

Significant psychological toll from COVID-19 lockdown

Research published today has confirmed the nationwide Alert Level 4 COVID-19 lockdown had a significant toll on New Zealanders' well-being, especially for younger people—but the results were not all negative. Researchers from the University of Otago conducted a demographically representative survey of adult New Zealanders between 15 and 18 April, corresponding to days 19 to 22 of the 33-day lockdown.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-11-significant-psychological-toll-covid-lockdown.html>

Nearly a third of New Zealanders felt badly distressed in Covid lockdown

The wellbeing of New Zealanders plummeted during the country’s nationwide lockdown, research

has found, with nearly a third experiencing “moderate to severe psychological distress” – especially young people. On 15 March Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister, ordered the total closure of the country’s borders and on 26 March the entire population of five million entered a strict lockdown. From an infection point of view the lockdown worked, but the social toll is continuing to be understood, including higher rates of depression, anxiety, and domestic abuse, as well as widespread sleeping problems.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/05/nearly-a-third-of-new-zealanders-felt-badly-distressed-in-covid-lockdown>

Uzbekistan to test three COVID-19 vaccines, plans no lockdown

Uzbekistan has no plans to impose another lockdown despite the growth in COVID-19 cases globally, and intends to take part in the final trials of Chinese and Russian vaccines, a senior health official said. Tashkent is in talks with China’s Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical, a unit of Chongqing Zhifei, and Sinopharm about stage III trials, as well as the developers of Russia Sputnik V vaccine, deputy health minister Shakhrukh Sharakhmetov said. The country of 34 million has imposed two nationwide lockdowns this year to curb the spread of the coronavirus, but hopes that extensive preparations for a potential second wave will allow it to avoid imposing severe restrictions again.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-uzbekistan/uzbekistan-to-test-three-covid-19-vaccines-plans-no-lockdown-idINKBN27L0YV>

Clots, Strokes And Rashes. Is COVID-19 A Disease Of The Blood Vessels?

Whether it's strange rashes on the toes or blood clots in the brain, the widespread ravages of COVID-19 have increasingly led researchers to focus on how the novel coronavirus sabotages the body's blood vessels. As scientists have come to know the disease better, they have homed in on the vascular system — the body's network of arteries, veins and capillaries, stretching more than 60,000 miles — to understand this wide-ranging disease and to find treatments that can stymie its most pernicious effects. Some of the earliest insights into how COVID-19 can act like a vascular disease came from studying the aftermath of the most serious infections. Those reveal that the virus warps a critical piece of our vascular infrastructure: the single layer of cells lining the inside of every blood vessel, known as the endothelial cells or simply the endothelium. Dr. William Li, a vascular biologist, compares this lining to a freshly resurfaced ice skating rink before a hockey game on which the players and pucks glide smoothly along.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/11/05/917317541/clots-strokes-and-rashes-is-covid-19-a-disease-of-the-blood-vessels>

AstraZeneca chief says COVID vaccine on track for year end

AstraZeneca Plc’s coronavirus shot could be ready for large-scale vaccinations as early as this year, Chief Executive Officer Pascal Soriot said, dismissing reports of delays and production snags. The U.K. drugmaker is poised to unveil vaccine test results by year-end even after trials were slightly delayed over the summer as infection rates slowed in the northern hemisphere. A recent resurgence has allowed scientists to gather the clinical data they need, according to Soriot. Astra and the University of Oxford are keeping the vaccine in a frozen bulk state to preserve its shelf life while they await final test results. “At the end of the day, we don’t yet know if the vaccine works,” Soriot said in a Bloomberg Television interview, adding that many questions remain, such as whether it will show results for everyone and for how long. “We would hope that large-scale vaccinations would be possible starting in January next year — possibly even December.”

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/5/astrazeneca-chief-says-covid-vaccine-on-track-for-year-end>

India-made COVID-19 vaccine likely by February: Gov’t scientist

An Indian government-backed COVID-19 vaccine could be launched as early as February – months earlier than expected – as last-stage trials begin this month and studies have so far shown it is safe

and effective, a senior government scientist has told the Reuters news agency. Bharat Biotech, a private company that is developing COVAXIN alongside the government-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), had earlier hoped to launch it only in the second quarter of next year. "The vaccine has shown good efficacy," senior ICMR scientist Rajni Kant, who is also a member of its COVID-19 task force, said at the research body's New Delhi headquarters on Thursday. "It is expected that by the beginning of next year, February or March, something would be available." Bharat Biotech could not immediately be reached for comment, Reuters said.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/5/india-made-covid-19-vaccine-likely-by-february-govt-scientist>

Coronavirus Resurgence

The US just reported 102,831 new Covid-19 infections in 1 day. That's an all-time high

The United States broke another daily coronavirus record on Thursday -- in a week marked by record daily cases -- when it surpassed 114,000 new infections. Health experts had warned weeks ago that the nation's daily cases would eventually reach six digits, but that alarming reality hit sooner than expected. Still, the situation is expected to get worse, with health experts now predicting that Covid-19's death toll could reach 266,000 by the end of November. Thursday saw at least 114,876 new cases nationwide, according to Johns Hopkins University. There were also at least 1,159 reported deaths, a near 20% increase from the same day last week.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/05/health/us-coronavirus-thursday/index.html>

Fresh curbs for England and Italy as US sets new case record

England's 56 million people joined much of western Europe in a second coronavirus lockdown Thursday, as the United States set a fresh daily record with close to 100,000 new infections. European governments are struggling to contain a fresh wave of the pandemic, which has now infected more than 11 million across the continent. The new stay-at-home orders from London came as Denmark said it would cull its entire population of more than 15 million minks after a mutation of the virus was found to have spread to people from the otter-like mammals.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-11-fresh-curbs-england-italy-case.html>

German COVID cases at record high

Data released on Thursday, November 5, from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases, showed cases had increased by 19,990 to 596,583. Statistics Office data showed that ahead of the new partial lockdown, which took effect from November 2, toilet paper sales in the week beginning October 19 were 139% above the average for the pre-crisis months of August 2019 to January 2020. Disinfectant purchases also rose by 104% over pre-crisis levels in the last week of October.

<https://www.euroweeklynews.com/2020/11/05/german-covid-cases-at-record-high/>

Spanish government to wait 'two or three weeks' before taking tougher coronavirus measures

The Spanish Health Ministry remains hopeful that the restrictions introduced by regional governments under the state of alarm will be able to curb the spread of the coronavirus. This would avoid the need for a home lockdown like the one seen during the first wave of the pandemic, when millions of Spaniards were confined to their homes. The government wants to avoid this at all costs in order to prevent further damage to the Spanish economy, which lost around one million jobs in March and April due to the strict lockdown. Health Minister Salvador Illa said on Wednesday that "two or three weeks" are needed to see if the current measures have been able to reduce transmission rates.

<https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-11-05/spanish-government-to-wait-two-or-three-weeks-before-taking-tougher-coronavirus-measures.html>

U.S. Records 100,000 Cases in a Day for the First Time

The United States on Wednesday recorded over 100,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day for the first time since the pandemic began, bursting past a grim threshold even as the wave of infections engulfing the country shows no sign of receding. The total count of new infections on Wednesday was more than 107,800, according to a New York Times database. Twenty-three states have recorded more cases in the past week than in any other seven-day stretch. Five states — Maine, Minnesota, Indiana, Nebraska and Colorado — set single-day case records. Cases were also mounting in the Mountain West and even in the Northeast, which over the summer seemed to be getting the virus under control.

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2020/11/04/world/covid-19-coronavirus-updates>

New Lockdown

Greece orders nationwide lockdown to curb COVID-19 surge

Greece ordered a nationwide lockdown for three weeks on Thursday, its second this year, to help contain a resurgence of COVID-19 after a sharp increase in infections this week. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said he was forced to act after a spike in cases in the past five days, saying that without a lockdown pressure on the healthcare system would be “unbearable”. “I’ve chosen to take drastic measures sooner rather than later,” said Mitsotakis, who had previously said a nationwide lockdown was a last option. Officials said that in the past week alone, there was a 20% increase in confirmed infections. From next Monday, people arriving by air will require proof of a negative coronavirus test, taken within 48 hours of travel.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-greece/greece-orders-nationwide-lockdown-to-curb-covid-19-surge-idUKKBN27L17C>

Greece Imposes Lockdown to Avoid Worst at Hospitals

With a surge in coronavirus cases straining health systems in many European countries, Greece announced a nationwide lockdown Thursday in the hopes of stemming a rising tide of patients before its hospitals come under “unbearable” pressure.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-11-05/greece-imposes-lockdown-to-avoid-worst-at-hospitals>

Covid-19: Warning over tough fines as new lockdown begins

People who seriously flout new lockdown restrictions in England will face steep fines, Justice Secretary Robert Buckland has warned. Under the rules, people have been told to stay at home and non-essential shops, pubs and gyms ordered to close. Households are also banned from mixing indoors or in private gardens, unless in a support bubble. Currently there is a £200 fine for each breach which doubles on every offence up to a maximum of £6,400. And organisers of large gatherings face a £10,000 fine. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Boris Johnson will give a Downing Street press conference at 17:00 GMT, alongside NHS England chief executive Sir Simon Stevens.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54815307>

Coronavirus: Lockdown extension in England 'can't be ruled out', minister admits

A minister has admitted England's coronavirus lockdown could be extended beyond 2 December. “We've got to follow the evidence,” Justice Secretary Robert Buckland told Kay Burley. “If there isn't to be an extension of this we go back into the tier system anyway, so we'd leave on a regional or local basis.

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-lockdown-extension-in-england-cant-be-ruled-out-minister-admits-12124177>

Coronavirus: Germany and Sweden added to UK travel quarantine list

Germany and Sweden are being added to the UK's coronavirus quarantine list. Travellers returning from both countries will have to isolate for 14 days. The measure will come into force from 4am on Saturday, applying to people arriving in the UK. No countries are being removed from the coronavirus quarantine list this week, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps. He tweeted: “Travel

corridors do remain critical to the government's COVID-19 response, keeping imported cases DOWN."

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-germany-and-sweden-added-to-uk-travel-quarantine-list-12124646>

Germany adopts loose lockdown despite record-breaking Covid-19 cases

Germany began its second lockdown on Monday but the bustling shopping streets in Berlin suggest locals in the capital are taking a liberal approach – as infections reach a new high. The so-called “lockdown lite” has forced the closure of pubs and restaurants, except for takeaway, as well as gyms, cinemas and all cultural events. Unlike in the spring, however, schools, childcare and hairdressers have remained open. Shops are still trading, with a new rule of one customer per 10 sq m floor space. “We’ve got 6,000 square metres of floor space so no capacity problems,” said a security man in an electronics store as 10 people waited to pay, none 1.5m apart. “It’s slightly quieter than usual now, but not much, and in two hours it’ll be very busy.”

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/germany-adopts-loose-lockdown-despite-record-breaking-covid-19-cases-1.4401380>

Germany says to distribute November lockdown aid to firms fast

Germany will ensure financial aid gets to firms and individuals hit by a partial coronavirus lockdown in November quickly, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said on Thursday, outlining further details of the 10 billion euro (9.03 billion pounds) programme. Europe’s biggest economy closed bars, restaurants, gyms, cinemas, theatres and domestic tourism on Monday for a month. The government has said small and medium-sized firms will be able to claim compensation worth 75% of their revenues from November 2019, up to 1 million euros. Aid of more than 1 million euros has to be agreed by the European Union.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-germany-economy/germany-says-to-distribute-november-lockdown-aid-to-firms-fast-idUKKBN27L2B2?il=0>

Europe's Second Lockdown Wave Risks Double-Dip Recessions

It’s 5:45 p.m., and a small square close to Rome’s Spanish Steps is full of the sounds of alfresco diners and children playing. Twenty minutes later, all that can be heard is the scraping of metal chairs on cobblestones as waiters close up for the night, the piazza darkening as they turn off the lights. To curb the resurgent coronavirus, Italy has locked down a few at-risk regions including Milan, while mandating milder rules for Rome and the rest of the country, including early closing hours for bars and restaurants. It’s not a lockdown—yet—but for Romans it might as well be. It “feels like 2 a.m., not 6 p.m.,” complains Angela Dimauro, pulling her jacket closed and her mask higher as she leaves the square.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-05/covid-pandemic-europe-s-second-lockdown-wave-risks-double-dip-recessions>

Reluctant last orders as England enters new lockdown

After downing a final round of drinks, queueing outside soon-to-close shops or getting a last haircut, England's 56 million people entered a second coronavirus lockdown on Thursday with more doubts about the stringent policy than the first time around. Prime Minister Boris Johnson abandoned a recently introduced system of regional curbs and announced an England-wide shutdown, after dire warnings that hospitals could soon be overwhelmed with Covid-19 cases. The death toll is hitting six-month highs.

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20201105-reluctant-last-orders-as-england-enters-new-lockdown>

Rishi Sunak set to unveil new economic boost as England goes into second lockdown

A new economic boost for the economy amid the coronavirus pandemic is later expected to be unveiled by the Chancellor. Rishi Sunak and the Bank of England will announce the measures as England goes into a second lockdown for four weeks, according to reports. Mr Sunak is set to

confirm employees on furlough will receive 80 per cent per cent of their salaries if their employers have been made to shut down. The furlough scheme will be expanded after the scheduled end of the lockdown on December 2, the Telegraph reported.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/irishi-sunak-economic-boost-second-lockdown-b48083.html>

Lockdown England: Police attacked as revellers hit streets after pubs call last orders for final time

The final hours before lockdown came into effect across England saw police tackling violent scenes around the country as revellers gathered for the last night out in what could be more than a month.

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/lockdown-england-police-attacked-as-revellers-hit-streets-after-pubs-call-last-orders-for-final-time/ar-BB1alqj>

Bank of England pumps extra £150,000,000,000 into economy as lockdown begins

The Bank of England has injected another £150 billion into the economy amid fears the second lockdown will send GDP plummeting and wipe out thousands of jobs. Tighter coronavirus restrictions, including the national shutdown beginning in England today, are expected to push the UK into another downturn. Experts fear it could plunge the UK into a double-dip recession, but the Bank's latest forecasts suggests the economy will narrowly avoid this as activity recovers at the start of next year. It said gross domestic product (GDP) will pick up in the first quarter of 2021, but warned that activity will still remain 'materially lower' than before the coronavirus crisis

<https://metro.co.uk/2020/11/05/bank-of-england-pumps-extra-15000000000-into-economy-as-lockdown-begins-13540054/>

Coronavirus France: Paris to see even tighter lockdown restrictions

Paris will be placed under more restrictions on top of France's second national lockdown, the city's mayor Anne Hidalgo told BFM TV early on Thursday. More shops will have to shut earlier in the evening in a bid to curb the worsening of the deadly second wave of the coronavirus pandemic in the city, Hidalgo said. In addition to the shops that have closed or must shut early under France's second national lockdown, the new measures will force certain shops selling takeaway food and drink to shut at 10 pm local time. "When you get people who are not playing by the rules of the game and are therefore putting at risk the health of a large number of people, that is when you need to put in place new restrictions," Hidalgo said.

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/coronavirus-france-paris-to-see-even-tighter-lockdown-restrictions/ar-BB1alsPZ>

Denmark to lock down regions after mutated coronavirus traced to minks

Parts of Denmark will face new, tougher lockdown measures after health authorities discovered a mutated coronavirus strain in minks and people in the country's northern regions. The government said on Wednesday it would cull all minks in the Nordic country to prevent human contagion with a mutated coronavirus, which authorities said could be more resistant against future vaccines for people. The move to cull up to 17 million animals, which could cost the state more than \$800 million, has prompted some lawmakers to demand to see the evidence behind the decision.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-denmark-mink/denmark-to-lock-down-regions-after-mutated-coronavirus-traced-to-minks-idUSL8N2HR3Zl>

Barely back on their feet, UK small businesses face crushing new lockdown

Business has been tough for Mandy Yin, chef and owner of a Malaysian restaurant and takeaway in London, since she tentatively reopened in June after being forced to shut down for two months during Britain's first national coronavirus lockdown.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-businesses/barely-back-on-their-feet-uk-small-businesses-face-crushing-new-lockdown-idUKKBN27L00T>