

# COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

## 13th Apr 2021

---

### **Overnight NewsRoundUp**

---

#### **UN chief urges wealth tax of those who profited during COVID**

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the world's failure to unite on tackling COVID-19 created wide inequalities, and he called for urgent action including a wealth tax to help finance the recovery from the coronavirus. [He pointed to more than 3 million deaths, increasing coronavirus infections, the worst recession in 90 years, some 120 million people falling back into extreme poverty, and the equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs lost.](#) 'Just 10 countries account for around 75% of global vaccinations and many countries haven't even started vaccinating their health care workers and most vulnerable citizens. Some estimates put the global cost of unequal access and vaccine hoarding at more than \$9 trillion,' he said.

#### **England takes major step out of COVID lockdown; PM urges caution**

- Shops, gyms, hairdressers and pub gardens reopened in England after being shuttered for months, as part of a nationwide lockdown to suppress a surge in coronavirus infections. [The lockdown was enforced in England on January 6 in response to rising infection rates due to the spread of a more transmissible variant of the coronavirus, first identified late last year.](#) The plan to ease out of lockdown is underpinned by a vaccine rollout that has seen more than 32 million people receive a first vaccine dose. Nearly 7.5 million people have been fully inoculated with two doses.

#### **Coronavirus pandemic 'a long way from over' - WHO**

- Confusion and complacency in addressing COVID-19 means the pandemic is a long way from over, but it can be brought under control in months with proven public health measures, the head of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news briefing. [Tedros said that in some countries, despite continuing transmission, restaurants and nightclubs were full and markets were open and crowded with few people taking precautions.](#) 'Some people appear to be taking the approach that if they are relatively young, it does not matter if they get COVID-19,' he said and this is fuelling a growth in cases.

#### **India's daily virus infections are world's highest but crowds still gather for festival**

- Hundreds of thousands of Hindu devotees flocked to take a holy bath in India's Ganges river, even as the nation racked up the world's highest tally of new daily coronavirus infections. [By mid-morning a million people had taken a dip in the river, believed to wash away one's sins.](#) With 168,912 new cases, India accounts for one in six of all new infections globally, although the figure is still well below the U.S. peak of nearly 300,000 new cases on Jan 8. With fewer than 4% of the population having been vaccinated, out of a population of 1.4 billion, experts say the situation could have a long way to go before it starts getting better.

#### **Ontario hospitals may have to withhold care as COVID-19 fills ICUs**

- The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario told doctors last Thursday that the province

was considering 'enacting the critical care triage protocol,' [something that was not done during earlier waves of the virus. Triage protocols help doctors decide who to treat in a crisis.](#) In a statement, the health ministry confirmed that Ontario has not activated the protocol. A September draft suggested doctors could withhold life-sustaining care from patients with a less than 20% chance of surviving 12 months.

## **Coronavirus pandemic 'a long way from over': WHO**

---

### **Coronavirus pandemic 'a long way from over': WHO**

Confusion and complacency in addressing COVID-19 mean the pandemic is a long way from over, but it can be brought under control in months with proven public health measures, the head of the World Health Organization has said. "We, too, want to see societies and economies reopening, and travel and trade resuming," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news briefing on Monday.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/12/coronavirus-pandemic-a-long-way-from-over-who>

### **UN chief urges wealth tax of those who profited during COVID**

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared Monday that the world's failure to unite on tackling COVID-19 created wide inequalities, and he called for urgent action including a wealth tax to help finance the global recovery from the coronavirus. The U.N. chief said latest reports indicate that "there has been a \$5 trillion surge in the wealth of the world's richest in the past year" of the pandemic. He urged governments "to consider a solidarity or wealth tax on those who have profited during the pandemic, to reduce extreme inequalities." Guterres' call followed an appeal in October by U.N. World Food Program Executive Director David Beasley to the more than 2,000 billionaires in the world, with a combined net worth of \$8 trillion, to open their bank accounts. He warned in November that 2021 would be worse than 2020, and without billions of dollars "we are going to have famines of biblical proportions in 2021."

<https://apnews.com/technology-coronavirus-pandemic-antonio-guterres-david-beasley-united-nations-4843f29e253fe2dc0a12c00ff4cfc027>

### **England takes major step out of COVID lockdown; PM urges caution**

Shops, gyms, hairdressers and pub gardens reopened in England after being shuttered for months as part of a nationwide lockdown to suppress a surge in coronavirus infections. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the latest relaxation on Monday of the most onerous restrictions in the United Kingdom's peacetime history was a "major step" towards freedom, as he urged people to behave responsibly with COVID-19 still a threat despite a rapid mass vaccination programme.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/12/british-pm-urges-caution-as-lockdown-eases-again-in-england>

### **Ontario hospitals may have to withhold care as COVID-19 fills ICUs**

Doctors in the Canadian province of Ontario may soon have to decide who can and cannot receive treatment in intensive care as the number of coronavirus infections sets records and patients are packed into hospitals still stretched from a December wave. Canada's most populous province is canceling elective surgeries, admitting adults to a major children's hospital and preparing field hospitals after the number of COVID-19 patients in ICUs jumped 31% to 612 in the week leading up to Sunday, according to data from the Ontario Hospital Association. The sharp increase in Ontario hospital admissions is also straining supplies of tocilizumab, a drug often given to people seriously ill with COVID-19

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-canada-hospitals-idUSKBN2BZ205>

### **India's daily virus infections are world's highest but crowds gather for festival**

Hundreds of thousands of Hindu devotees flocked on Monday to take a holy bath in India's Ganges river, even as the nation racked up the world's highest tally of new daily coronavirus infections. With

168,912 new cases, India accounts for one in six of all new infections globally, although the figure is still well below the U.S. peak of nearly 300,000 new cases on Jan. 8. In the northern city of Haridwar, nearly a million devotees thronged the banks of the Ganges, a river many Hindus consider holy, to participate in the months-long 'Kumbh Mela' or pitcher festival. "The crowd here is surging...the police are continuously appealing to people to maintain social distancing," police official Sanjay Gunjyal told Reuters at the site.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-idUSKBN2BZ0A1>

---

### **Australia drops vaccine goal after AstraZeneca advice change**

#### **Australia drops vaccine goal after AstraZeneca advice change**

Australia has abandoned its target of vaccinating nearly all the country's 26 million people against COVID-19 by the end of 2021 after medical authorities changed their advice on vaccine use for the under-50s. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia would not set any new target for administering all first doses. "The Government has also not set, nor has any plans to set any new targets for completing first doses," Morrison wrote on his Facebook page on Sunday. "While we would like to see these doses completed before the end of the year, it is not possible to set such targets given the many uncertainties involved. Australia's vaccination programme was built about the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine, but regulators adopted a more cautionary approach after a tiny number of cases of rare blood clots were found mainly among younger people who received the jab.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/12/australia-drops-vaccine-goal-after-astrazeneca-advice-change>

---

### **COVID-19: Hundreds of thousands of shuttered sites reopening across England as lockdown eases**

#### **COVID-19: Hundreds of thousands of shuttered sites reopening across England as lockdown eases**

All across England shutters are rattling open, beer is foaming into pint glasses and tills are ringing. For the first time in months, many businesses that have been shut are able - subject to a variety of restrictions - to serve their customers again. From the snip-snip of hair salons to the splash of swimming pools hundreds of thousands of venues that have stood silent are welcoming people back.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-hundreds-of-thousands-of-sites-where-shutters-are-lifting-as-lockdowns-ease-12273298>

---

### **Vaccine Usage Plans By Country**

#### **South Korea to resume wider use of AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, exclude people under 30**

South Korean authorities said on Sunday they will move ahead with a coronavirus vaccination drive this week, after deciding to continue using AstraZeneca PLC's vaccine for all eligible people 30 years old or over. South Korea on Wednesday suspended providing the AstraZeneca shot to people under 60 as Europe reviewed cases of blood clotting in adults. People under 30 will still be excluded from the vaccinations resuming on Monday because the benefits of the shot do not outweigh the risks for that age group, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said in a statement.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-southkorea-idUSKBN2BY04Z>

#### **J&J begins COVID-19 vaccine supplies to EU, 50 million doses expected in second quarter: lawmaker**

Johnson & Johnson on Monday began delivering its COVID-19 single-dose vaccine to EU countries, European Union officials and the company said. The company had initially planned to start its deliveries at the beginning of April, but delayed the rollout due to production issues. "The first doses are leaving warehouses for member states today," a European Commission spokesman told a news conference on Monday. "Johnson & Johnson begins vaccine shipments to the EU today. Very good news," said Peter Liese, an EU lawmaker from the same party as German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/j-j-begins-covid-19-104906694.html>

### **Spain will use Janssen Covid-19 vaccine for the 70-79 age group**

Spain will be receiving its first shipment of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccines "first thing on Wednesday," Health Minister Carolina Darias announced today. The government is expecting to get 300,000 doses of the one-shot treatment, making it the equivalent of twice as many doses of the other Covid-19 vaccines currently used in Spain: Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca. Darias also stated on Monday that the first group in line for the vaccine will be people between 70 and 79 years of age. According to the latest Health Ministry report, 13.3% of the population in the 70-to-79 age bracket has had at least one dose of the three vaccines now being used in Spain. But changing criteria over the use of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine have created a paradoxical situation.

<https://english.elpais.com/society/2021-04-12/spain-will-use-janssen-covid-19-vaccine-for-the-70-79-age-group.html>

### **Venezuela to produce Cuban COVID vaccine: Maduro**

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro says the country has signed a deal to produce two million doses per month of a Cuban coronavirus vaccine, adding that his government also managed to secure funds to fully pay for COVID jabs via COVAX, a global sharing mechanism. "We've signed an agreement to produce in our laboratories... two million vaccines a month of the Abdala vaccine... for August, September, approximately," Maduro said on Sunday in a television address, referring to one of the four vaccines that are being developed by Cuba.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/12/venezuela-to-produce-cuban-covid-jabs-maduro>

### **Indian panel gives emergency approval for Russia's Sputnik V vaccine: sources**

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - An expert panel of India's drugs regulator has recommended emergency use approval of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, two sources said on Monday, which could make it the nation's third to be approved as infections surge ...

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-vaccine-idUSKBN2BZ0ZQ>

### **Tokyo adopts tougher virus rules, starts vaccinating elders**

Tokyo adopted tougher measures against the coronavirus Monday as Japanese authorities struggle to curb the spread of a more contagious variant ahead of the Olympics in a country where less than 1% of people have been vaccinated. Japan started its vaccination drive with medical workers and expanded that Monday to older residents with the first shots being given in about 120 selected places around the country. The tougher COVID-19 rules, just three weeks after a nonbinding state of emergency ended in the capital, allow Tokyo's governor to mandate shorter opening hours for bars and restaurants, punish violators and compensate those who comply. The measures are to remain through May 11.

<https://apnews.com/article/world-news-tokyo-coronavirus-pandemic-japan-olympic-games-2c29ad28ee2557a094ed594355e84876>

## **Vaccination Campaign News**

---

### **Lin-Manuel Miranda, mayor open new Times Square vaccine site**

"Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda joined New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio on Monday at the grand opening of a Times Square COVID-19 vaccination site intended to jump-start the city's entertainment industry. "We want to gather again, and we want to tell stories in the dark," said Miranda, the author and star of the hit musical about Alexander Hamilton. "We cannot do that if we don't feel safe and if you don't feel safe. So the first step in that process is getting our vaccination shots, and the next steps will follow." Broadway theaters have been shuttered since the coronavirus pandemic struck in March of last year. De Blasio has said he hopes dedicated vaccination sites will help the industry reopen by September.

<https://apnews.com/article/entertainment-new-york-lin-manuel-miranda-theater-new-york-city-2bcd8a1a227ccc8481602b6acd40b4cc>

### **Brisbane will need at least four COVID-19 mass vaccination hubs, epidemiologist warns**

Brisbane needs to have about four mass COVID-19 vaccination hubs to ensure 85 per cent of the Australian population are vaccinated by mid-next year, a leading epidemiologist says. Mary-Louise McLaws, a World Health Organization COVID-19 advisory panel member, said Australia would need to continue delivering about 40,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses per day and an additional 60,000 Pfizer doses daily from September. Professor McLaws said this would have an estimated 85 per cent of the population vaccinated, which could then allow international borders to open by mid-2022.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-12/brisbane-covid-19-mass-vaccination-hubs-needed-epidemiologist/100062672>

### **Lockdown restrictions ease as vaccine for under 50s could begin soon**

Pub gardens and restaurants with outdoor dining have opened as further lockdown restrictions were eased on Monday. From April 12 shops, hairdressers, nail salons, libraries, gyms and outdoor hospitality venues such as beer gardens were allowed to reopen. Most outdoor attractions, such as zoos and theme parks, can reopen, and funerals can continue with up to 30 people, and the numbers able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise from six to 15. It comes as vaccines for under 50s in England could begin imminently as the deadline to offer the jab to highest risk group approaches.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/coronavirus-live-lockdown-uk-restrictions-ease-pm-public-b929151.html>

### **South Korea to resume wider use of AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, exclude people under 30**

South Korean authorities said on Sunday they will move ahead with a coronavirus vaccination drive this week, after deciding to continue using AstraZeneca PLC's vaccine for all eligible people 30 years old or over. South Korea on Wednesday suspended providing the AstraZeneca shot to people under 60 as Europe reviewed cases of blood clotting in adults. People under 30 will still be excluded from the vaccinations resuming on Monday because the benefits of the shot do not outweigh the risks for that age group, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said in a statement.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-southkorea-idUSKBN2BY04Z>

### **Under-50s to be called up for Covid-19 vaccines in England as Moderna jab arrives to boost national rollout**

Under-50s in England will be called up for Covid-19 vaccines as soon as Tuesday as the Government prepares to declare victory in its aim to protect all vulnerable people by mid-April. The Moderna vaccine is also likely to become available in England this week for the first time, after being rolled out in Scotland and Wales last week. More than 32m people have had their first dose of a jab – more than the estimated number who were due to be included in phase one of the vaccine rollout, which covers everyone aged 50 or over, health and care workers and people with an underlying condition which makes them more vulnerable to Covid-19.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/under-50s-covid-19-vaccines-england-moderna-jab-arrives-boost-national-rollout-953411>

### **US hits record COVID vaccine distribution pace**

Over the weekend US practitioners administered a record number of COVID-19 vaccines, with more than 4 million shots distributed on Apr 10. The daily average number of vaccines given is now over 3 million, as the country races to vaccinate adults within the next 6 weeks. But despite the progress in vaccination, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH, said today that current hot spots, such as Michigan, need to focus on masking and physical distancing—in addition to vaccination—to end the latest surge of virus activity. "Really

what we need to do in those situations is to shut things down," Walensky said during a White House briefing. "If we tried to vaccinate our way out of what is happening in Michigan, we would be disappointed that it took so long for the vaccine to work to actually have the impact."

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/04/us-hits-record-covid-vaccine-distribution-pace>

### **Walgreens Expands Covid-19 Vaccines To 49 States**

Walgreens has expanded its Covid-19 vaccination efforts to more than 7,000 stores in 49 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. The expansion announced Monday comes as the Biden administration ramps up the number of doses sent to states while increasing The government said last week that Covid certificates "could play a role in reducing social-distancing requirements". Any final decision is months off, so pubs and restaurants will initially open with distancing rules in place such as people from different groups staying at least one metre apart. Polling by YouGov last week found that 61 per cent said they backed certificates being introduced if it allowed

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucejapsen/2021/04/12/walgreens-expands-covid-19-vaccines-to-49-states/>

### **Spain will use Janssen Covid-19 vaccine for the 70-79 age group**

Spain will be receiving its first shipment of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccines "first thing on Wednesday," Health Minister Carolina Darias announced today. The government is expecting to get 300,000 doses of the one-shot treatment, making it the equivalent of twice as many doses of the other Covid-19 vaccines currently used in Spain: Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca. Darias also stated on Monday that the first group in line for the vaccine will be people between 70 and 79 years of age. According to the latest Health Ministry report, 13.3% of the population in the 70-to-79 age bracket has had at least one dose of the three vaccines now being used in Spain. But changing criteria over the use of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine have created a paradoxical situation.

<https://english.elpais.com/society/2021-04-12/spain-will-use-janssen-covid-19-vaccine-for-the-70-79-age-group.html>

### **Tokyo adopts tougher virus rules, starts vaccinating elders**

Tokyo adopted tougher measures against the coronavirus Monday as Japanese authorities struggle to curb the spread of a more contagious variant ahead of the Olympics in a country where less than 1% of people have been vaccinated. Japan started its vaccination drive with medical workers and expanded that Monday to older residents with the first shots being given in about 120 selected places around the country. The tougher COVID-19 rules, just three weeks after a nonbinding state of emergency ended in the capital, allow Tokyo's governor to mandate shorter opening hours for bars and restaurants, punish violators and compensate those who comply. The measures are to remain through May 11.

<https://apnews.com/article/world-news-tokyo-coronavirus-pandemic-japan-olympic-games-2c29ad28ee2557a094ed594355e84876>

### **Africa must expand vaccine production, leaders say**

---

#### **Africa must expand vaccine production, leaders say**

Africa must expand vaccine manufacturing to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and future health emergencies, including by forging partnerships to boost expertise and investment, continental leaders and international health officials said on Monday. Africa has struggled to acquire coronavirus vaccines and imports the vast majority of its medicines and medical equipment, leaving it at the mercy of overseas supplies. Its mainly poor nations are falling behind in the global coronavirus vaccination race with under 13 million doses administered so far to the continent's 1.3 billion people, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said last week. World Trade Organization director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said it was "morally unconscionable and a serious economic hit" that just 1.1 per 100 Africans had received a vaccine while in North America the rate was over 40 per 100.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-africa-vaccine/africa-must-expand-vaccine-production-leaders-say-idUSKBN2BZ1DE>

### **G7 must spend £22bn to vaccinate the world against Covid-19, says Gordon Brown**

Gordon Brown has called for the G7 group of nations to commit £22 billion a year to a “Herculean” global coronavirus vaccination programme. The former prime minister said that Britain should provide up to £1.3 billion of the total to ensure yearly vaccinations for lower-income countries until the pandemic no longer results in deaths. Writing in The Guardian, Brown called for the mass vaccination of the world to be the primary focus of the G7 summit, which starts on June 11 in Cornwall.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/g7-must-spend-22bn-to-vaccinate-the-world-for-covid-says-gordon-brown-ggrssvwjs>

### **Regeneron says antibody cocktail prevented Covid when given as simple injection, not an IV**

---

#### **Regeneron says antibody cocktail prevented Covid when given as simple injection, not an IV**

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals said Monday that a single administration of its monoclonal antibody cocktail reduced the risk that volunteers exposed to Covid-19 would develop the disease by 81%. The study enrolled 1,500 healthy volunteers, each of whom shared a home with someone who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and randomized them to receive a single dose of its antibody treatment, given subcutaneously as four shots, or placebo. After 29 days, 11 patients in the treatment group developed Covid-19 compared to 59 on placebo. And for the subjects who got Covid-19 despite treatment, their symptoms resolved after one week, compared to three weeks for those on placebo. In 204 patients who had already tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus at the study’s outset, the injection reduced their chances of progressing to symptomatic Covid-19 by 31%.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/04/12/regeneron-antibody-cocktail-covid-simple-injection/>

#### **Regeneron eyes prevention nod for COVID-19 antibody cocktail with simpler injection**

Regeneron’s Roche-partnered COVID-19 antibody cocktail, already authorized to thwart disease progression in sick patients, has come up with new data showing it can prevent the disease altogether at a lower dose in healthy people.

<https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/regeneron-eyes-fda-backing-for-covid-19-antibody-cocktail-to-prevent-disease-simpler>

### **Lockdown Restrictions Tightening Once More**

---

#### **Turkey set to again tighten COVID-19 curbs after surge -source**

Turkey’s daily coronavirus infection numbers have soared above 50,000 and President Tayyip Erdogan is likely to order a tightening of restrictions this week ahead of the vital tourism season, a senior government official said. Turkey ranks fourth globally in new case numbers, which peaked near 56,000 last week - a five-fold jump from early March, when Erdogan loosened social curbs in what he called a period of “controlled normalisation”. Ankara has blamed lax public adherence to rules and virus variants for the surge, and on March 29 it announced weekend lockdowns and closed restaurant dining for Ramadan, the Islamic fasting month that starts on Tuesday. But the official told Reuters the short-lived normalisation period did not go well and measures were set to be tightened even more after a cabinet meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-turkey/turkey-set-to-again-tighten-covid-19-curbs-after-surge-source-idUSL8N2M52EC>

#### **Dutch lockdown measures remain until at least April 28, ANP says**

The Dutch government on Sunday dashed hopes of an early easing of lockdown, saying a night-time

curfew and other restrictions would remain until at least April 28 as daily infections rose to a two-week high. Earlier the government had said they were looking at easing restrictions on April 21 by lifting the curfew and allowing bars and restaurants to welcome guests in outdoor spaces. But a government spokesman told ANP news agency they would move back the easing of measures by at least one week.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-netherlands-idUSKBN2BY0LN>

### **Strong support for coronavirus vaccine passports**

---

#### **Strong support for coronavirus vaccine passports**

Most Britons back vaccine passports if they mean the end of social distancing, polling for The Times suggests. A survey showed strong support for Covid status certificates in every setting except shops, though a significant minority would be reluctant to visit pubs and restaurants if they had to show one, suggesting a threat to hospitality revenues if they were introduced.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/strong-support-for-coronavirus-vaccine-passports-gzvwlk6dg>

### **Make it easier for employers to help get America vaccinated**

---

#### **Make it easier for employers to help get America vaccinated**

Businesses across the country are ready, willing, and able to help America get vaccinated. They have the reach, relationships, and trust to help overcome distribution barriers and vaccine hesitancy. There's only one problem: There's no easy way for them to do vaccinations. Many of the nation's largest employers tell the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which I work for, that they've developed sophisticated vaccination strategies designed to get doses into the arms of any employee who wants one. Some are willing to vaccinate employees' relatives, the employees of other companies, and even the broader communities in which they operate.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/04/12/make-it-easier-employers-to-help-vaccinate/>