

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

30th Jul 2021

Overnight News RoundUp

'The war has changed': Internal CDC document urges new messaging, warns Delta infections likely more severe

- **The internal presentation shows that the agency thinks it is struggling to communicate on vaccine efficacy amid increased breakthrough infections**
- The delta variant of the coronavirus appears to cause more severe illness than earlier variants and spreads as easily as chickenpox, according to an internal federal health document that argues officials must 'acknowledge the war has changed.'
- [The document is an internal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention slide presentation, shared within the CDC and obtained by The Washington Post.](#) It captures the struggle of the nation's top public health agency to persuade the public to embrace vaccination and prevention measures, including mask-wearing, as cases surge across the United States and new research suggests vaccinated people can spread the virus.
- The document strikes an urgent note, revealing the agency knows it must revamp its public messaging to emphasize vaccination as the best defence against a variant so contagious that it acts almost like a novel virus, leaping from target to target more swiftly than Ebola or the common cold.
- It cites a combination of recently obtained, still unpublished data from outbreak investigations and outside studies showing that vaccinated individuals infected with delta may be able to transmit the virus as easily as those who are unvaccinated. **Vaccinated people infected with delta have measurable viral loads similar to those who are unvaccinated and infected with the variant.**
- 'I finished reading it significantly more concerned than when I began,' Robert Wachter, chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of California at San Francisco, wrote in an email.
- **CDC scientists were so alarmed by the new research that the agency earlier this week significantly changed guidance for vaccinated people even before making the new data public.**
- The data and studies cited in the document played a key role in revamped recommendations that call for everyone - vaccinated or not - to wear masks indoors in public settings in certain circumstances, a federal health official said. That official told The Post that the data will be published in full on Friday. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky privately briefed members of Congress on Thursday, drawing on much of the material in the document.
- One of the slides states that there is a higher risk among older age groups for hospitalization and death relative to younger people, regardless of vaccination status. Another estimates that there are 35,000 symptomatic infections per week among 162 million vaccinated Americans.
- The document outlines 'communication challenges' fuelled by cases in vaccinated people, including concerns from local health departments about whether coronavirus vaccines remain effective and a 'public convinced vaccines no longer work. Booster doses needed.'
- **The presentation highlights the daunting task the CDC faces. It must continue to emphasize the proven efficacy of the vaccines at preventing severe illness and death, while acknowledging milder breakthrough infections may not be so after**

all, and that vaccinated individuals are transmitting the virus. The agency must move the goal posts of success in full public view.

- The CDC declined to comment.
- 'Although it's rare, we believe that at an individual level, **vaccinated people may spread the virus**, which is why we updated our recommendation,' according to the federal health official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. 'Waiting even days to publish the data could result in needless suffering and as public health professionals we cannot accept that.'
- The presentation came two days after Walensky announced the reversal in guidance on masking among people who are vaccinated. On May 13, people were told they no longer needed to wear masks indoors or outdoors if they had been vaccinated. Even **people who are vaccinated should wear masks indoors in communities with substantial viral spread or when in the presence of people who are particularly vulnerable to infection and illness**, the CDC said.

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<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/07/29/cdc-mask-guidance/>

Shut-down Baltimore vaccine plant cleared to return to operation by FDA

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Emergent BioSolutions' Baltimore plant will reopen soon after the FDA forced a shut down in April. Plant forced to close after Johnson & Johnson vaccines were contaminated with AstraZeneca vaccine ingredients. Further investigation found unsanitary conditions and that workers were not properly trained. Once opened, the factory could produce up to 120 million vaccine doses every month

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-9840243/Shut-Baltimore-vaccine-plant-cleared-return-operation-FDA.html>

Doctor urges pregnant women to get Covid jab amid 'surprising' surge in hospital cases

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A consultant battling the pandemic on the frontline is urging pregnant women to get vaccinated saying there is a "surprising" number of mums-to-be in hospital with the virus. Dr Richard Cree, an intensive care consultant at the James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough, made the plea as the vaccine take-up for expectant women was not as high as it should be. Dr Cree, who has been blogging throughout the pandemic on the nomoresurgeons.com platform, wrote that one mum had to have an emergency caesarean before being put on a ventilator. He warned that pregnancy changes the immune system and increases the risk of serious conditions following many viral infections.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/doctor-urges-pregnant-women-covid-24648273>

Sydney under strict new lockdown rules as cases soar

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Millions in Sydney began their harshest lockdown since the pandemic began on Friday as COVID-19 cases spiked to record levels in Australia's largest city with state and national leaders set to meet to discuss the country's reopening plans. With Sydney, the capital of New South Wales state, struggling under record surge of cases, officials toughened curbs across eight local council areas, where most

new infections were being reported, and sought the military's help to enforce lockdown rules.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/sydney-under-strict-new-lockdown-rules-cases-soar-2021-07-29/>

Japan proposes adding four regions to COVID-19 emergency - minister

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Japan's government on Friday proposed states of emergency in three prefectures near Olympic host city Tokyo and the western prefecture of Osaka, a cabinet minister said, as COVID-19 cases spike to records around the country. An existing state of emergency for Tokyo should be extended to Aug. 31, Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura told a panel of experts, who are expected to sign off on the proposal.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/japan-proposes-adding-four-regions-covid-19-emergency-minister-2021-07-29/>

UN warned of 'dire' COVID situation in Myanmar

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Half of Myanmar's population could get COVID-19 within the next two weeks, the UK tells United Nations Security Council. Myanmar has been in chaos since the military deposed an elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, triggering widespread protests and fighting between the army and newly-formed civilian militias. "The coup has resulted in a near-total collapse of the healthcare system, and healthcare workers are being attacked and arrested," Britain's UN Ambassador Barbara Woodward told an informal Security Council discussion on Myanmar. "The virus is spreading through the population, very fast indeed. By some estimates, in the next two weeks, half of the population of Myanmar could be infected with COVID," she said.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/30/the-uk-warns-covid-19-could-infect-half-myanmar-in-next-two-week>

COVID plagues Haiti amid political uncertainty

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With low vaccine rates and little testing, hospital officials say it is difficult to know how accurate Haiti's COVID statistics are.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/29/covid-plagues-haiti-amid-political-uncertainty>

Officials sound alarm as Japan COVID cases hit record highs

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Japanese officials are sounding the alarm as Tokyo reports record-breaking coronavirus cases for the third straight day with the Olympics well under way. Tokyo reported 3,865 new cases in the past 24 hours, up from 3,177 on Wednesday and double the numbers a week ago.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/29/officials-in-tokyo-sound-alarm-as-virus-cases-hit-record-highs>

EU health body warns against visiting popular Greek islands over COVID-19

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Greece's south Aegean islands were marked dark red on the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's COVID-19 map on Thursday after a rise in infections, meaning all but essential travel to and from the region is discouraged. The cluster of 13 islands includes Greece's most popular destinations for foreign tourists - Mykonos, Santorini and Rhodes - which, combined, draw millions of people every summer.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-health-body-warns-against-visiting-popular-greek-islands-over-covid-19-2021-07-29/>

Burundi, in reversal, says it will accept COVID-19 vaccines

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Burundi's government now says it will accept COVID-19 vaccines, becoming one of the last countries in the world to embrace them. But the health ministry says it will not take responsibility for any side effects they might cause. Health Minister Thaddee Ndikumana on Wednesday said the vaccines will arrive with the support of the World Bank. It was not immediately clear how many doses the East African country will receive or when. "The vaccine will be given to those who need it," the health minister said. The government will store the doses but will not take responsibility for any side effects, he added.

<https://apnews.com/article/africa-health-coronavirus-pandemic-burundi-4be245a578ff18a0c933ec095b823e51>

Covid-19 cases not reached through Test and Trace at nine-month high

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The proportion of people who test positive for Covid-19 but who are not being reached by the Test and Trace system has reached a nine-month high, new figures show. Some 14.8% of people transferred to Test and Trace in England in the week to July 21 were not reached, meaning they were not able to provide details of recent close contacts.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/boris-johnson-england-department-of-health-and-social-care-house-of-commons-ian-jones-b948272.html>

Vietnam accelerates vaccinations in COVID-19 epicentre

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Vietnam will accelerate its vaccine rollout in COVID-19 hotspot Ho Chi Minh City and build more field hospitals, authorities said on Thursday, as it battles a worsening wave of infections driven by the virulent Delta variant. After successfully containing the virus for much of the pandemic, Vietnam has been facing record daily increases in infections since late April.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/vietnam-accelerates-vaccinations-covid-19-epicentre-2021-07-29/>

Portugal lifts COVID-19 rules with three-stage plan

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Portugal on Thursday announced a three-stage plan to lift COVID-19 restrictions, including scrapping a night-time curfew, as the country's vaccination rollout speeds up, helping to bring a recent surge in infections under control. From Sunday, the 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew will no longer be in force and restrictions on the opening hours of restaurants and shops will also be lifted, Prime Minister Antonio Costa told a news conference.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/portugal-lifts-night-time-curfew-covid-19-vaccination-speeds-up-2021-07-29/>

Brazil to cancel contract for Russian COVID-19 vaccine, minister says

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Brazil plans to cancel a contract signed in March for 10 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga said on Thursday, as the South American nation struggles with one of the worst outbreaks in the world. Queiroga said the move was due to lapsed deadlines in the registration process with Brazilian health regulator Anvisa. He added that Brazil's national immunization program does not currently need the Russian vaccine, though that could change if Anvisa licenses Sputnik V.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-cancel-contract-russian-covid-19-vaccine-minister-says-2021-07-29/>

Myanmar jail vaccinates hundreds amid surge in COVID-19 cases

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Myanmar's main prison vaccinated more than 600 inmates against COVID-19 on the first day of a drive to inoculate inmates, state media reported on Thursday, as military authorities struggle to control a wave of infections across the country. Infections have surged since June, with 4,980 cases

and 365 deaths reported on Wednesday, according to health ministry data cited in media. Medics and funeral services put the toll much higher.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-jail-vaccinates-hundreds-amid-surge-covid-19-cases-2021-07-29/>

These companies are insisting on Covid-19 vaccines for their employees

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After months of encouraging employees to get vaccinated against Covid-19, companies are beginning to take a harder line and roll out mandates — a dramatic escalation of Corporate America's approach to halting the spread of the virus. Momentum for vaccine mandates has been building, and President Joe Biden was expected on Thursday to announce a requirement that all federal employees and contractors be vaccinated or be required to submit to regular testing and mitigation requirements. On Wednesday, Google and Facebook became the first two Silicon Valley giants to issue mandates of their own.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/28/business/companies-vaccine-mandate/index.html>

Israel to offer COVID-19 booster shot to people over 60, making it first country to give third dose of Western vaccine

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<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/israel-offer-covid-19-booster-shot-people-60-79145697>

European Union Pulls Ahead of the U.S. in Vaccinations

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The 27 member states of the European Union altogether have now administered more coronavirus vaccine doses per 100 people than the United States, in another sign that inoculations across the bloc have maintained some speed throughout the summer, while they have stagnated for weeks in the United States. E.U. countries had administered 102.66 doses per 100 people as of Tuesday, while the United States had administered 102.44, according to the latest vaccination figures compiled by Our World in Data. This month, the European Union also overtook the United States in first injections; currently, 58 percent of people across the bloc have received a dose, compared with 56.5 percent in the United States.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/29/world/europe/eu-us-vaccinations.html>

Coronavirus Australia: 80 per cent vaccination rate could end lockdowns and open borders

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New modelling shows Australia could reach 80 per cent vaccine target by Dec But major changes to how the jab is distributed will be needed to be brought in Experts say vaccines could be given out at workplaces and even sporting events Dire warning that if not enough people are vaccinated, many more will die

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9839017/Coronavirus-Australia-80-cent-vaccination-rate-end-lockdowns-open-borders.html>

Coronavirus Australia: Scott Morrison says un-vaccinated Aussies may be banned from venues

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In audio obtained exclusively by Daily Mail Australia, the PM discussed lockdown Agreed with a proposal of cafes and pubs opening only to vaccinated patrons Said idea can be looked at when more of Australia's population are fully jabbed Will 'very soon' start setting vaccination targets on how to get to the next level

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9839677/Coronavirus-Australia-Scott-Morrison-says-vaccinated-Aussies-banned-venues.html>

Refugees are at high risk of COVID-19 infection, but low priority for vaccines

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As high-income countries move into post-vaccination life with vaccination rates of more than 80 doses per 100 people, a number we're not seeing in the headlines is the 1.1 per cent. That's the percentage of people in low-income countries who have received at least one dose. Globally, 3.83 billion vaccine doses have been administered so far, but a large vaccine gap exists between countries and continents. Africa has the lowest vaccination rate. With a global population of 7.88 billion, and only 27.1 per cent of the population vaccinated, that means 5.74 billion people globally aren't vaccinated. And the majority of those people are in South America, Asia, Oceania and Africa.

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/world/refugees-are-at-high-risk-of-covid-19-infection-but-low-priority-for-vaccines/ar-AAMliCd>

Biden orders tough new vaccination rules for federal workers

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President Joe Biden on Thursday announced sweeping new pandemic requirements aimed at boosting vaccination rates for millions of federal workers and contractors as he lamented the "American tragedy" of rising-yet-preventable deaths among the unvaccinated. Federal workers will be required to sign forms attesting they've been vaccinated against the coronavirus or else comply with new rules on mandatory masking, weekly testing, distancing and more. The strict new guidelines are aimed at increasing sluggish vaccination rates among the huge number of Americans who draw federal paychecks — and to set an example for private employers around the country.

<https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-joe-biden-business-health-travel-a1670ffa08f1f2eab42c675d99f1d9ad>

Some people in Missouri are getting vaccinated in secret to avoid backlash from loved ones, doctor says

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The Covid-19 vaccine has become so polarizing that some people in Missouri are getting inoculated in secret for fear of backlash from their friends and family who oppose vaccination, a doctor told CNN on Wednesday. "They've had some experience that's sort of changed their mind from the viewpoint of those in their family, those in their friendship circles or their work circles. And they came to their own decision that they wanted to get a vaccine," said Dr. Priscilla Frase, a hospitalist and chief medical information officer at Ozarks Healthcare in West Plains, Missouri.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/29/health/vaccines-in-secret-missouri/index.html>

Tempers flare in U.S. Congress as COVID-19 mask mandates return

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Tempers flared in the U.S. Congress on Wednesday after its chief physician urged lawmakers to resume wearing masks to slow the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19, with the top Democrat labeling Republican opposition as "moronic."

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/congressional-republicans-lash-out-against-new-covid-19-mask-guidance-2021-07-28/>

Florida mayors defy DeSantis with mask, vaccine mandates

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As coronavirus cases continue to soar, two Florida mayors are announcing mask and vaccine mandates and defying the governor who is firmly opposed to any pandemic restrictions. Masks will again be required at indoor county facilities in Florida's populous Miami-Dade following new federal guidance recommending that even people vaccinated against COVID-19 should wear facial coverings. And in Orange County, home to Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando Resort, the mayor went a step further and announced all 4,200 nonunion county employees will be required to get their first coronavirus vaccine shot by the end of August, and the second shot by the end of September.

<https://apnews.com/article/health-miami-coronavirus-pandemic-247f603722fc0f1d38d0bd97a9006c25>

Australian military to help enforce Sydney COVID-19 lockdown as cases rise

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Sydney adds four weeks to lockdown as Australia COVID-19 cases grow
Australians may face longer lockdown after mass protests
Thomson Foundation
Sydney Extends Covid Lockdown By Four More Weeks As It Continues To Reel From Delta Variant Outbreak
Forbes
View Full coverage on Google News

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australia-pm-says-vaccinations-alone-will-not-end-sydneys-covid-19-lockdown-2021-07-28/>

Oman extends nightly COVID-19 lockdown

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Oman on Thursday extended a nightly lockdown to contain the spread of the coronavirus, with movement and commercial activities to be restricted between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. until further notice, the government said. Cases in the country of around 4.5 million people, which has continued to impose movement and commercial restrictions on and off through the pandemic, have started to rise again after showing a steady fall since mid-June.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/oman-extends-nightly-covid-19-lockdown-2021-07-29/>

AstraZeneca exploring options for COVID-19 vaccine business - executive

EXCLUSIVE AstraZeneca exploring options for COVID-19 vaccine business - executive

AstraZeneca is exploring options for the future of its COVID-19 vaccine and expects greater clarity on the matter by the end of 2021, a senior executive said on Thursday, following a series of setbacks in its race to produce a shot for the world. Executives emphasised it was too early to say what the decision on the vaccine's future or the outcome of the review would be.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/exclusive-astrazeneca-exploring-options-covid-19-vaccine-business-exec-says-2021-07-29/>

COVID-19 survivors are three times as likely to report memory issues eight months later compared to those who test negative as researchers say virus is not a 'mild disease'

COVID-19 survivors are three times as likely to report memory issues eight months later compared to those who test negative as researchers say virus is not a 'mild disease'

A new study found 11% of people who had mild cases of COVID still experienced memory problems eight months later. Comparatively, only around 4% of people who tested negative are reporting similar memory issues. Researchers are worried about findings, say virus might not be a mild condition and could affect people long-term. Past research has found that around 80% of people with serious COVID cases develop cognitive issues

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-9839773/People-test-positive-COVID-19-report-cognitive-issues-eight-months-later.html>

Vaccinated Britons report different coronavirus symptoms - including sneezing

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Vaccinated Britons are reporting sneezing as a coronavirus symptom, according to experts working to improve understanding of the virus. The three recognised Covid symptoms by the NHS are a new, persistent cough, a high temperature and a loss of taste or smell. However, people using the ZOE COVID Study App, a technology that relies on contributors logging symptoms to gather information about the virus, have reported other symptoms.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/uk-covid-symptoms-fully-vaccinated-b1892715.html>

FDA Extends Shelf Life Of Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine To Six Months

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The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has extended the shelf life of the Johnson & Johnson single-dose Covid-19 vaccine from four-and-a-half months to six months, the drugmaker announced on Thursday, a decision that comes at a time when several health officials expressed concerns about vaccine doses expiring and going to waste.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/siladityaray/2021/07/29/fda-extends-shelf-life-of-johnson--johnson-covid-19-vaccine-to-six-months/>

COVID-19: UK's daily coronavirus data 'looks a bit fishy' - as major symptom study suggests cases on the rise

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Professor Tim Spector who co-founded the ZOE Covid Symptom Study app has said he is “very suspicious” over the government’s data of daily cases. On Wednesday the government’s figures said there was 27,734 positive cases in 24 hours, but their study has shown there is around “60,000 cases a day which are reported. Professor Spector said of the roughly 60,000 people who had tested positive according to the ZOE data, 24,000 had received at least one dose of the vaccine, whilst 36,000 had no vaccinations. The co-founder of the ZOE Covid symptom Study app said, “This 60,000 figure is still a lot of people, it’s one in 84 people roughly who have at any point in time still some infection or symptoms of the condition”.

<https://londonlovesbusiness.com/expert-warns-sudden-drop-in-governments-data-over-daily-cases-is-very-suspicious-a-it-is-far-higher/>

Two Games attendees in hospital as Japan COVID-19 cases surge

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Two people attending the Tokyo Olympics from overseas have been admitted to hospital with COVID-19, a Tokyo 2020 spokesperson said on Thursday, as daily cases in the host city and Japan as a whole hit new highs.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-covid-19-adviser-urges-clear-risk-message-cases-surge-olympic-host-2021-07-29/>

Indonesia's regional COVID-19 deaths higher than national tally - data monitor

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Indonesia's regional COVID-19 deaths vastly outnumber its national tally, an independent organisation which collects data on the Southeast Asian country's coronavirus outbreak said in a statement on Thursday. Indonesia is Asia's COVID-19 epicentre and has over the last week reported over 1,500 deaths a day, including a record 2,069 deaths on Tuesday. That tally does not include all regional deaths, however, meaning the true toll could be much higher, according to the Lapor COVID-19 data monitoring group.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indonesias-regional-covid-19-deaths-higher-than-national-tally-data-monitor-2021-07-29/>

Japan's daily COVID-19 cases exceed 10000 for first time - Nippon TV

Japan's daily COVID-19 cases exceed 10000 for first time - Nippon TV

Newly reported daily COVID-19 cases in Japan exceeded 10,000 for the first time, Nippon Television reported on Thursday, after the Tokyo metropolitan government reported a record-high 3,865 new infection cases in the capital.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japans-daily-covid-19-cases-exceed-10000-first-time-nippon-tv-2021-07-29/>

India's Kerala state orders lockdown as COVID-19 infections rise

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India's southern state of Kerala on Thursday announced a two-day lockdown as federal authorities planned to send experts to fight the spread of infections in the country's leading COVID-19 hotspot.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-reports-43509-new-covid-19-infections-2021-07-29/>