

COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

14th Sep 2021

One Minute Overview

Australia Plans Digital Border Pass for Vaccinated Travelers - Australia is developing a digital border pass to show the vaccination status of travelers in a step toward further reopening its international border. [The government awarded Accenture Plc the tender to deliver the pass that will replace the current Covid-19 travel declaration form and incoming passenger card.](#) It “will support the safe re-opening of Australia’s international borders” Minister for Home Affairs Karen Andrews said in a statement.

Pfizer Supplies Jordan, Lebanon With Covid Vaccines for Refugees - Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE are donating hundreds of thousands of Covid-19 vaccine doses to Jordan and Lebanon as a part of a broader push to aid refugees during the pandemic. [On Monday, 100,000 doses of the companies’ coronavirus vaccine arrived at the coastal Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport.](#) There, the donated doses are being loaded into UPS trucks and delivered to nearby warehouses at the Rafic Hariri Hospital, the largest Lebanese public hospital located on the outskirts of Beirut.

Even the Swiss Are Tightening the Screws on the Unvaccinated - Switzerland, which has stood out among European neighbors for its generally more laissez-faire approach to the pandemic, is joining the ranks of countries now increasing pressure on the unvaccinated. [With hospitals filling up and inoculations lagging the rest of Western Europe, the government is doing what just a few weeks ago one of its members termed “bizarre” by requiring vaccine certificates for public activities.](#) As of Monday, residents of one of the world’s wealthiest countries will have to show passes to enter restaurants, cinemas and fitness centers. They must attest to having been jabbed, tested or recovered from the virus.

Vaccinate children to stem winter wave of coronavirus, says Professor Ferguson - Children should be vaccinated to boost the UK’s immunity levels and stem the risk of a large winter wave of coronavirus, a leading scientific adviser to the government has said. [Professor Ferguson, who sits on the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies \(Sage\), said that the UK’s immunity levels were falling behind other European countries, such as Spain, Italy and France.](#) But he also said he “hoped” that the country would not need another national lockdown, saying: “If we do need to drive down transmission we may not need another full lockdown.”

UK OKs vaccines for 12 year olds, aims to avoid lockdowns - Britain decided Monday to follow other countries in offering coronavirus vaccines to children 12 and up, as the government gambled that expanded vaccination and mild tweaks to social behavior can avert the need for lockdowns in the winter. [Vaccinations for children and booster shots for at-risk adults are expected to be part of a “tool kit” to control COVID-19 infections this fall and winter that Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to announce Tuesday.](#) On Monday, the chief medical officers of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland recommended that children ages 12 to 15 be given a single dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, despite the government’s vaccine advisors saying this month that the step would have only marginal health benefits.

It may take 'many, many' more vaccine mandates to end the Covid-19 pandemic, Fauci says - Millions of Americans still need to get vaccinated to slow or stop the spread of Covid-19 and getting the pandemic under control could take 'many, many' more vaccine mandates, Dr. Anthony Fauci said. [Fauci said if more people aren't persuaded to get vaccinated by messaging from health officials and](#)

['trusted political messengers,' additional mandates from schools and businesses may be necessary.](#) 'I believe that's going to turn this around because I don't think people are going to want to not go to work or not go to college ... They're going to do it,' Fauci told CNN's Jen Christensen. 'You'd like to have them do it on a totally voluntary basis, but if that doesn't work, you've got to go to the alternatives.'

Covid-19: Work-from-home guidance and face masks could be brought back in winter -

Guidance to work from home and the mandatory use of face masks are likely to be retained as options in the Covid winter plan due to be set out by Boris Johnson. [The Prime Minister will tell the nation on Tuesday how the country can learn to live with the virus, underlining how vaccinations will be a central part of the response to coronavirus in the coming months.](#) Covid laws that are no longer required will be ditched and plans for vaccine passports for nightclubs and other large crowd venues have been shelved. The travel traffic lights system is also expected to be scrapped and PCR tests will no longer be required for fully vaccinated travellers.

COVID-19: Freedom Day was 'gamble' and has contributed to 40,000 hospital admissions, BMA says

- More than 130,000 people in the UK have died with COVID-19 since the pandemic began last year. [The British Medical Association says the loosening of restrictions, notably England's so-called Freedom Day, was a 'gamble' - contributing to more than 40,000 hospital admissions.](#)

New Zealand PM Ardern extends lockdown in Auckland to Sept 21

- New Zealand's largest city [Auckland will remain in lockdown to beat the spread of the Delta variant of the coronavirus, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday.](#)

Vietnam's biggest city to keep virus curbs, flight resumption sought

- [Vietnam's coronavirus outbreak epicentre Ho Chi Minh City will extend its restrictions, state media reported on Monday,](#) as the capital Hanoi and several provinces sought an easing of curbs and the aviation authority proposed domestic flights resume.

UK Canceling \$1.7 Billion Vaccine Contract With Valneva Is a Bizarre Rug-Pull

- The U.K. had poured millions of pounds into Valneva's Scottish factory, secured an extra 40 million vaccine doses on top of the 60 million it had already agreed to buy, and boasted about the vaccine's potential as a booster in the autumn. [The fact that Valneva was headquartered in France, whose vaccine rollout was off to a dire start and where zero doses had been procured, was the ultimate punchline.](#) Now the U.K. seems to have shot itself in the foot, rather than in the arm. The government is abruptly canceling its supply contract, having found Valneva in breach of its obligations without specifying how — something Valneva is contesting, though without giving more details.

Covid-19: Single Pfizer jab recommended for 12 to 15-year-olds

- The UK's four Chief Medical Officers have recommended all children aged 12-15 should be vaccinated against Covid. [They have agreed that children of those ages should be given one dose of the Pfizer vaccine to help prevent education being disrupted.](#) A final decision on rollout will be taken by ministers in the four nations of the UK.

Seriously ill COVID-19 patients double in vaccine pace-setter Singapore

- The rapid pace of new COVID-19 infections and a [doubling of seriously ill patients in Singapore have raised unexpected hurdles to reopening plans for the vaccination frontrunner, where 81% of the population is fully vaccinated.](#) Singapore, one of the fastest in the world to reach that level, has seen its inoculation rates plateau, and this month paused its gradual reopening plans, spooked by daily infections that returned to one-year peaks this month.

Lockdown Exit

Manulife Joins Banks With Vaccine Mandate for Canadian Employees

Manulife Financial Corp. will require employees in Canada to provide proof of their vaccination status by the end of October and will force unvaccinated staff to undergo regular Covid-19 testing before they work in its offices. Employees who can't be vaccinated for medical reasons must provide a note from a licensed health care professional, Manulife Canada Chief Executive Officer Mike Doughty said in a memo Monday. Those refusing the shots for religious reasons must make a written attestation.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-13/manulife-joins-banks-with-vaccine-mandate-for-canadian-employees>

Even the Swiss Are Tightening the Screws on the Unvaccinated

Switzerland, which has stood out among European neighbors for its generally more laissez-faire approach to the pandemic, is joining the ranks of countries now increasing pressure on the unvaccinated. With hospitals filling up and inoculations lagging the rest of Western Europe, the government is doing what just a few weeks ago one of its members termed "bizarre" by requiring vaccine certificates for public activities. As of Monday, residents of one of the world's wealthiest countries will have to show passes to enter restaurants, cinemas and fitness centers. They must attest to having been jabbed, tested or recovered from the virus.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-13/even-the-swiss-are-tightening-the-screws-on-the-unvaccinated>

Pfizer Supplies Jordan, Lebanon With Covid Vaccines for Refugees

Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE are donating hundreds of thousands of Covid-19 vaccine doses to Jordan and Lebanon as a part of a broader push to aid refugees during the pandemic. On Monday, 100,000 doses of the companies' coronavirus vaccine arrived at the coastal Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport. There, the donated doses are being loaded into UPS trucks and delivered to nearby warehouses at the Rafic Hariri Hospital, the largest Lebanese public hospital located on the outskirts of Beirut.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-13/pfizer-supplies-jordan-lebanon-with-covid-vaccines-for-refugees>

Australia Plans Digital Border Pass for Vaccinated Travelers

Australia is developing a digital border pass to show the vaccination status of travelers in a step toward further reopening its international border. The government awarded Accenture Plc the tender to deliver the pass that will replace the current Covid-19 travel declaration form and incoming passenger card. It "will support the safe re-opening of Australia's international borders" Minister for Home Affairs Karen Andrews said in a statement.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-14/australia-plans-digital-border-pass-for-vaccinated-travelers>

School starts for 1 million NYC kids amid new vaccine rules

School started Monday for about a million New York City public school students in the nation's largest experiment of in-person learning during the coronavirus pandemic. The first day of school coincided with several milestones in the city's pandemic recovery that hinge on vaccine mandates. Nearly all of the city's 300,000 employees were required to be back in their workplaces, in person, Monday as the city ended remote work. Most will either need to be vaccinated, or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing to remain in their jobs.

<https://apnews.com/article/health-new-york-new-york-city-coronavirus-pandemic-43c715d804ccb5fa1d5bdfff07813ac2>

Bangladesh reopens schools after 18-month COVID shutdown

In a report last week, UNICEF warned that prolonged school closures during the COVID crisis accentuated "alarming inequities" for more than 430 million children in South Asia. "School closures in South Asia have forced hundreds of millions of children and their teachers to transition to remote learning in a region with low connectivity and device affordability," UNICEF's regional director,

George Laryea-Adjei, said in a statement. “As a result, children have suffered enormous setbacks in their learning journey.”

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/13/bangladesh-reopens-schools-after-18-month-covid-shutdown>

Exit Strategies

School vaccine campaigns targeting students face blowback

Fearing his parents wouldn't approve of his decision to get a COVID-19 vaccine but needing their signature, Andrew signed up for the appointment in secret, and then sprang it on them at the last minute. They said no. Andrew cursed at his mother and father and called them idiots. Andrew's dad grabbed him by the shirt collar. “He said, ‘You're not getting this damn vaccine; you need to lower your voice. Watch your tone when you talk to me.’ It was, it was the first time my dad had ever done something like that — he grabbed my shirt and yelled in my face,” said Andrew, a 17-year-old student in Hoover, Alabama. In most states, minors need the consent of their parents in order to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Navigating family politics in cases of differing views has been a challenge for students and organizers of outreach campaigns, who have faced blowback for directly targeting young people.

<https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-health-education-alabama-coronavirus-pandemic-f87785c4bee1a4c6ba841670c2aabb4d>

More than half of Americans support vaccine mandates for workplaces, classrooms and sporting events

Americans have grown more supportive of coronavirus vaccine mandates for workers, students, and in everyday public life, according to a new CNN poll. The shift comes amid renewed worries about the pandemic and a continued partisan divide over the efforts to combat it. The public is split about evenly, 51% to 49%, on whether requiring proof of vaccination for everyday activities is an acceptable way to increase the vaccination rate, or an unacceptable infringement on personal rights. But there's greater backing for requiring vaccines in many specific instances. More than half of Americans now say they support requiring vaccinations for office workers returning to the workplace (54%), students attending in-person classes (55%) and patrons attending sporting events or concerts (55%), although fewer (41%) support requiring vaccinations for a shopper to enter a grocery store.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/13/politics/cnn-poll-coronavirus-vaccine-mandates/index.html>

Iraq receives over 100,000 coronavirus vaccine doses

Iraq has received a donation of more than 100,000 AstraZeneca doses against Covid-19 from Italy via vaccine-sharing facility Covax. More than four million people in Iraq, or around 10 percent of its 40 million inhabitants, have received at least one coronavirus vaccine jab, according to the health ministry. Healthcare workers say they are battling not just the coronavirus but also widespread scepticism over vaccines, as a result of misinformation and public mistrust in the state.

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210912-iraq-receives-over-100-000-coronavirus-vaccine-doses>

Vaccinate children to stem winter wave of coronavirus, says Neil Ferguson

Children should be vaccinated to boost the UK's immunity levels and stem the risk of a large winter wave of coronavirus, a leading scientific adviser to the government has said. Professor Neil Ferguson, who sits on the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (Sage), said that the UK's immunity levels were falling behind other European countries, such as Spain, Italy and France. But he also said he “hoped” that the country would not need another national lockdown, saying: “If we do need to drive down transmission we may not need another full lockdown.”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/children-vaccinate-ferguson-covid-b1918961.html>

India worried about complacency over second dose of COVID-19 vaccine - sources

India is worried that growing complacency as COVID-19 infection rates and deaths decline could lead to people skipping their second vaccine shots, leaving communities vulnerable to the coronavirus, said two health experts briefed on the matter. India has administered more than 744 million vaccine doses - with 60% of its 944 million adults getting a first shot and 19% fully vaccinated with the required two shots. India has the most partly immunized people in the world, according to the Our World in Data website, mainly due to a long gap of between 12 and 16 weeks between doses, as prescribed by the government.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/india-worried-about-complacency-over-second-dose-covid-19-vaccine-sources-2021-09-13/>

It may take 'many, many' more vaccine mandates to end the Covid-19 pandemic, Fauci says

Millions of Americans still need to get vaccinated to slow or stop the spread of Covid-19 and getting the pandemic under control could take "many, many" more vaccine mandates, Dr. Anthony Fauci said. Fauci said if more people aren't persuaded to get vaccinated by messaging from health officials and "trusted political messengers," additional mandates from schools and businesses may be necessary. "I believe that's going to turn this around because I don't think people are going to want to not go to work or not go to college ... They're going to do it," Fauci told CNN's Jen Christensen. "You'd like to have them do it on a totally voluntary basis, but if that doesn't work, you've got to go to the alternatives."

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/13/health/us-coronavirus-monday/index.html>

COVID-19: Boris Johnson wants to avoid vaccine passports in England 'if we possibly can' - but will keep them 'in reserve'

Boris Johnson has said the government wants to avoid the introduction of COVID vaccine passports in England "if we possibly can", but added they would be an option to be kept "in reserve". The prime minister, who will on Tuesday set out his plan to deal with coronavirus during the upcoming autumn and winter months, said he would "do everything that's right to protect the country".

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-boris-johnson-wants-to-avoid-vaccine-passports-in-england-if-we-possibly-can-but-will-keep-them-in-reserve-12407127>

Covid-19 vaccine clinics open on Northern Ireland campuses

Walk-in clinics have been set up in universities and further education colleges in a bid to get more students vaccinated against Covid-19. The first of 60 clinics will open on Monday as part of the Department of Health's "jabbathon" drive. They will cover 30 campuses and offer first doses to students throughout September. About 72% of 18 to 29-year-olds in Northern Ireland have had at least one Covid vaccine dose. Nearly 88% of adults have received one dose and about 82% have been fully vaccinated.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-58539666>

Covid-19: Work-from-home guidance and face masks could be brought back in winter

Guidance to work from home and the mandatory use of face masks are likely to be retained as options in the Covid winter plan due to be set out by Boris Johnson. The Prime Minister will tell the nation on Tuesday how the country can learn to live with the virus, underlining how vaccinations will be a central part of the response to coronavirus in the coming months. Covid laws that are no longer required will be ditched and plans for vaccine passports for nightclubs and other large crowd venues have been shelved. The travel traffic lights system is also expected to be scrapped and PCR tests will no longer be required for fully vaccinated travellers.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/boris-johnson-sajid-javid-neil-ferguson-nhs-scotland-b954997.html>

Australia's NSW state says coronavirus vaccination pace slows

The government of the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) said the pace of COVID-19

vaccinations had slowed as first-dose coverage neared 80% and urged the unvaccinated to get shots soon or risk missing out on freedoms when curbs ease. Premier Gladys Berejiklian has promised to relax some restrictions for the state's 8 million residents once two-dose vaccination rates hit 70%, expected to be around the middle of next month. So far, about 46% of the state's adult population has been fully vaccinated, above the national average of 42%. "For those of you who choose not to be vaccinated, that is your choice, but don't expect to do everything that vaccinated people do when we hit 80%," Berejiklian said

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australias-nsw-state-says-coronavirus-vaccination-pace-slows-2021-09-12/>

South Africa loosens COVID curbs as third wave eases

South Africa will ease COVID-19 restrictions and shorten its nationwide curfew from Monday after a decline in infections, President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a televised address. Authorities will also extend the hours of alcohol sales, the president said, further relaxing restrictions introduced in June to combat a third wave of cases caused by the Delta variant. "While the third wave is not yet over, we have seen a sustained decline in infections across the country over the last few weeks," Ramaphosa said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/south-africas-president-loosens-covid-19-curbs-shortens-curfew-2021-09-12/>

COVID lockdowns only used as last resort, says UK PM's spokesman

Britain's government will only introduce a new COVID-19 lockdown as a last resort, a spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday, after the country's health minister signalled he did not expect to see them used again. "The ability to do that is retained as you would expect, but it would only be done in a last resort and as I said we are in a very different position thanks to the strength of our vaccination programme than where we were when it was necessary to take those steps previously," the spokesman told reporters.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/covid-lockdowns-only-used-last-resort-says-uk-pms-spokesman-2021-09-13/>

UK OKs vaccines for 12 year olds, aims to avoid lockdowns

Britain decided Monday to follow other countries in offering coronavirus vaccines to children 12 and up, as the government gambled that expanded vaccination and mild tweaks to social behavior can avert the need for lockdowns in the winter. Vaccinations for children and booster shots for at-risk adults are expected to be part of a "tool kit" to control COVID-19 infections this fall and winter that Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to announce Tuesday. On Monday, the chief medical officers of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland recommended that children ages 12 to 15 be given a single dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, despite the government's vaccine advisors saying this month that the step would have only marginal health benefits.

<https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-health-london-coronavirus-pandemic-england-2972c0fe4e4a4679a42b31e17e447723>

Partisan Exits

Family: Man turned away by dozens of COVID-filled hospitals

As hundreds of mostly unvaccinated COVID-19 patients filled Alabama intensive care units, hospital staff in north Alabama contacted 43 hospitals in three states to find a specialty cardiac ICU bed for Ray Martin DeMonia, his family wrote in his obituary. The Cullman man was finally transferred to Meridian, Mississippi, about 170 miles (274 kilometers) away. That is where the 73-year-old antiques dealer died Sept. 1 because of the cardiac event he suffered. Now, his family is making a plea. "In honor of Ray, please get vaccinated if you have not, in an effort to free up resources for non-COVID related emergencies," his obituary read.

<https://apnews.com/article/health-alabama-coronavirus-pandemic-mississippi-meridian-58ee964ad52dfcbb226fba760efd38c0>

DeSantis threatens cities with fines for vaccine mandates

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday threatened local governments with \$5,000 fines per violation for requiring their employees to get vaccinated against the coronavirus that has overrun hospitals and killed tens of thousands across the state. Local municipalities, such as Orange County and the city of Gainesville, potentially face millions of dollars in cumulative fines for implementing a requirement that their employees get a COVID-19 vaccine, the Republican governor said. "We are not going to let people be fired because of a vaccine mandate," DeSantis said at a news conference outside Gainesville. "You don't just cast aside people who have been serving faithfully over this issue, over what is basically a personal choice on their individual health."

<https://apnews.com/article/business-health-florida-coronavirus-pandemic-orlando-a9d617e07e16445108aeb3bfa1bf4752>

UK PM Johnson to set out COVID-19 booster strategy under winter plan

Britain will roll out COVID-19 booster shots for the most vulnerable and elderly as part of his coronavirus strategy for the winter months. Johnson's government has already indicated it will scrap plans for vaccine passports to be required to get into nightclubs, end some of its emergency COVID powers and use lockdowns only as a last resort.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-pm-johnson-set-out-covid-19-booster-strategy-under-winter-plan-2021-09-13/>

Walgreens COVID-19 test registration system left patient data unprotected - Recode

Drugstore chain Walgreens Boots Alliance's COVID-19 test registration system exposed data of potentially millions of people, including their phone numbers and email addresses, Recode reported on Monday.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/walgreens-covid-19-test-registration-system-left-patient-data-unprotected-recode-2021-09-13/>

Yoga, organic food and misinformation: Wellness influencers are taking the anti-vaccine movement mainstream

For many, the term "misinformation" conjures up images of conspiracy-theory chat forums and Russian bots. But an alarming amount of it is reaching audiences in the health and wellness realms. Many social media influencers who focus on natural remedies, holistic health and new age spirituality have been sharing posts and videos questioning the wisdom of vaccinating against the coronavirus. Public health experts say widespread vaccine hesitancy increases the threat of the virus mutating and helps keep the pandemic raging.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2021/09/12/wellness-influencers-vaccine-misinformation/>

Republican backlash against Biden's Covid vaccine mandate grows

The political sparring match over Joe Biden's new vaccine mandate continued on Sunday with one Republican governor blasting the measure as "counterproductive" and the White House insisting it was necessary to end the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/12/joe-biden-covid-vaccine-mandate-republican-backlash>

NY hospital to pause baby deliveries after resignations over Covid-19 vaccine mandate

A hospital in upstate New York is "pausing" deliveries of babies because of the number of maternity unit employee resignations over the state's Covid-19 vaccination requirements, health officials say. Lewis County General Hospital in Lowville, about 60 miles northeast of Syracuse, will stop deliveries after September 24, said Gerald Cayer, chief executive of the Lewis County Health System. "We are unable to safely staff the service after September 24. The number of resignations received leaves us no choice but to pause delivering babies at Lewis County General Hospital. It is my hope that the Department of Health will work with us in support of pausing the service rather than closing the maternity department," Cayer said at a news conference Friday.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/12/health/ny-hospital-pausing-baby-deliveries-covid-19-resignations/index.html>

Four-year-old girl dies of Covid after anti-vaxxer mom contracts virus

A four-year-old girl has become the youngest Covid-19 victim in Texas's Galveston County since the onset of the pandemic, after several members of her family were infected. Kali Cook died in her sleep at home on 7 September, within hours of showing symptoms of the coronavirus. She was unvaccinated, with children below the age of 12 not yet eligible for inoculation.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/texas-covid-girl-anti-vax-mom-b1918895.html>

Ivermectin frenzy: the advocates, anti-vaxxers and telehealth companies driving demand

Health authorities have warned there's no proof for Ivermectin's value in treating Covid-19. Still groups are touting the drug as the way out of the pandemic

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/13/ivermectin-treatment-covid-19-anti-vaxxers-advocates>

COVID-19: Freedom Day was 'gamble' and has contributed to 40,000 hospital admissions, BMA says

More than 130,000 people in the UK have died with COVID-19 since the pandemic began last year. The British Medical Association says the loosening of restrictions, notably England's so-called Freedom Day, was a "gamble" - contributing to more than 40,000 hospital admissions.

<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-unprepared-nhs-and-flawed-government-policy-contributed-to-coronavirus-crisis-says-bma-12406796>

Nicaragua gov't squeezes doctors, talk of 'health terrorism'

Other countries have lured doctors out of retirement, pushed medical students to the front lines and buoyed medical personnel exhausted by COVID-19 cases, but in Nicaragua doctors have been harassed, threatened and sometimes forced into exile for questioning official handling of the pandemic. Vice President Rosario Murillo, who is also the first lady, has accused doctors of "health terrorism" and of spreading "false outlooks and news" by reporting that COVID-19 has been far more widespread than officials acknowledge.

<https://apnews.com/article/health-caribbean-pandemics-coronavirus-pandemic-terrorism-fcf44192bd62671441d73ca6bc3731f6>

Continued Lockdown

New Zealand PM Ardern extends lockdown in Auckland to Sept 21

New Zealand's largest city Auckland will remain in lockdown to beat the spread of the Delta variant of the coronavirus, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-pm-ardern-extends-lockdown-auckland-sept-21-2021-09-13/>

Vietnam's biggest city to keep virus curbs, flight resumption sought

Vietnam's coronavirus epicentre Ho Chi Minh City will extend its restrictions, state media reported on Monday, as the capital Hanoi and several provinces sought an easing of curbs and the aviation authority proposed domestic flights resume.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/vietnams-biggest-city-keep-virus-curbs-flight-resumption-sought-2021-09-13/>

New Zealand keeps Auckland in strict lockdown to beat Delta

New Zealand extended a strict lockdown in its largest city on Monday, requiring 1.7 million people living in Auckland to remain indoors for at least another week to snuff out small outbreaks of the highly infectious Delta variant of coronavirus. Health authorities recorded 33 new cases of the Delta variant of COVID-19 on Monday, all in Auckland, which was higher than 23 and 20 cases reported over the weekend.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-covid-19-cases-rise-ahead-auckland-lockdown-decision-2021-09-13/>

Scientific Viewpoint

UK Canceling \$1.7 Billion Vaccine Contract With Valneva Is a Bizarre Rug-Pull

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<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-09-13/u-k-canceling-1-7-billion-vaccine-contract-with-valneva-is-a-bizarre-rug-pull>

Covid-19: Single Pfizer jab recommended for 12 to 15-year-olds

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-58542140>

UK scraps Covid-19 vaccine deal with French firm Valneva

French vaccine maker Valneva says the UK government has scrapped a deal for its Covid-19 vaccine. The UK had about 100 million doses on order, after it increased its request by 40 million in February. The firm said that the UK government served notice over allegations of a breach of the agreement, which it "strenuously denies". The government said the decision would have no impact on vaccine supply in the UK. "The comments from the company will not have any impact on our vaccine supply and did not form any part of our vaccine rollout in autumn and winter," a spokesperson for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-58499064>

Fully vaccinated people account for 1.2% of England's Covid-19 deaths

People who were fully vaccinated accounted for just 1.2% of all deaths involving Covid-19 in England in the first seven months of this year. The figures, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), have been seized on as proof of the success of the vaccine programme. The figures show a total of 51,281 deaths involving Covid-19 in England between 2 January and 2 July, of which 38,964 were of unvaccinated people.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/13/fully-vaccinated-people-account-for-12-of-englands-covid-19-deaths>

Departing FDA officials say it's too soon for COVID-19 boosters as White House plans rollout next week

Does the general U.S. population need COVID-19 boosters? A group of renowned global health experts, including two key departing vaccine authorities at the FDA, don't think so. Even with the wave of delta variant-driven coronavirus cases in the U.S., the authorized vaccines appear to be staving off severe infections, according to a paper published in The Lancet. The group of authors includes top officials with the World Health Organization. The paper stands in stark contrast to the Biden administration's own booster shot plan, which some have criticized for jumping ahead of federal regulators. The White House has been planning to roll out the extra doses to the general population as early as next week following the FDA's meeting on Friday to discuss Pfizer's application for an extra shot.

<https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/two-key-departing-fda-officials-who-refute-need-for-covid-19-boosters-as-white-house-plans>

FDA vaccine regulators argue against Covid-19 vaccine boosters in new international

review

A group of international experts — including, notably, two outgoing Food and Drug Administration vaccine regulators — argues in a new paper against offering Covid-19 vaccine boosters to the general population. The paper, published Monday in the Lancet, is based on a review of available data about the durability of vaccine protection. That it was co-authored by Marion Gruber and Phil Krause, two veteran FDA officials who have been leading the agency's review of Covid-19 vaccine applications, amounts to a strikingly direct rebuff to the Biden administration as it lays plans for booster shots. Gruber and Krause announced last month they would be leaving the agency this fall.

<https://www.statnews.com/2021/09/13/international-review-argues-against-covid-19-vaccine-boosters/>

Most People Don't Need Covid Vaccine Booster, Scientists Say

Governments would be better served to focus on immunizing the unvaccinated and to wait for more data on which boosters would be most effective and at what doses, the authors, who included two prominent U.S. Food and Drug Administration experts, argued in the medical journal The Lancet. They based their assessment on a wide range of real-world observational studies as well as data from clinical trials.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-13/most-people-don-t-need-covid-vaccine-boosters-scientists-find?srnd=premium-europe>

Australia buys additional 1 mln doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine

Australia has purchased an additional 1 million doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine from the European Union, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said, as the country accelerates its inoculation programme to fight record high infections. The purchase is a boost for Australia's A\$2 trillion (\$1.5 trillion) economy, which is at risk of slipping into its second recession in as many years as a result of lockdowns of the country's two most populous cities, Sydney and Melbourne

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australias-victoria-state-records-small-decline-covid-19-infections-2021-09-11/>

Coronavirus Resurgence

Queensland COVID-19 exposure site list grows after student was infectious in the community

Queensland authorities have added further venues to the state's growing exposure sites list in the wake of two positive COVID-19 cases among school students. Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young said one of the 15-year-old students from a Brisbane high school had spent a short period of time infectious in the community before entering home quarantine. As a result, several close contact venues have been added to the list in the Brisbane suburb of Mount Gravatt, including food courts, major shopping centres and a bus route.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-13/qld-covid-exposure-sites-list-grows-close-contact/100457592>

Seriously ill COVID-19 patients double in vaccine pace-setter Singapore

The rapid pace of new COVID-19 infections and a doubling of seriously ill patients in Singapore have raised unexpected hurdles to reopening plans for the vaccination frontrunner, where 81% of the population is fully vaccinated. Singapore, one of the fastest in the world to reach that level, has seen its inoculation rates plateau, and this month paused its gradual reopening plans, spooked by daily infections that returned to one-year peaks this month.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/seriously-ill-covid-19-patients-double-vaccine-pace-setter-singapore-2021-09-13/>

China reports 92 new COVID-19 cases for Sept 13 vs 49 day ago

New local COVID-19 infections more than doubled in China's southeastern province of Fujian, health authorities said on Tuesday, in the country's latest outbreak of the novel coronavirus. The National

Health Commission said 59 new locally transmitted cases were reported for Sept. 13, up from 22 infections a day earlier. All of them were in Fujian.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-reports-92-new-covid-19-cases-sept-13-vs-49-day-ago-2021-09-14/>

Britain records 56 COVID-19 deaths, 29173 new cases

Britain reported 56 new deaths within 28 days of a positive COVID-19 test on Sunday, down from 156 a day earlier, and 29,173 new cases, again lower than the 29,547 recorded on Saturday.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-records-56-covid-19-deaths-29173-new-cases-2021-09-12/>

New Lockdown

Slovenia tightens access to indoor spaces due to COVID-19

Slovenia will, from this week, require that all people who enter indoor spaces, with few exceptions, be vaccinated against COVID-19 or show negative tests unless they have had the disease in the previous six months,

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/slovenia-tightens-access-indoor-spaces-due-covid-19-2021-09-13/>