

# COVID-19 Lockdown Exit Analysis

## 27th Jun 2022

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### Lockdown Exit

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#### **An NFT of a Covid-19 Vaccine Heads to Auction**

A nonfungible token, or NFT, showcasing the molecular technology of the mRNA vaccine used to fight Covid-19, will be auctioned at Christie's online next month to raise money for future medical research. The 3-D digital work is designed by the University of Pennsylvania and Drew Weissman, a doctor whose research helped create mRNA vaccines. The one-minute visual work also comes with a storyboard that explains how mRNA vaccines work to fight the Covid-19 virus; copies of original mRNA patent documents owned by the University of Pennsylvania; and an original letter from Weissman, director of Vaccine Research at The Perelman School of Medicine at the university. mRNA, short for messenger ribonucleic acid, is a single-stranded molecule of RNA that corresponds to the genetic sequence of a gene. Unlike traditional vaccines, which use a weakened or inactive germ to trigger an immune response, mRNA vaccines are designed to teach the body to create a protein that triggers the immune response.

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/an-nft-of-a-covid-19-vaccine-heads-to-auction-01656100582>

#### **Thais 'willing' to wear masks in public**

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has expressed satisfaction over news that most Thais are voluntarily wearing masks for protection against Covid-19 despite the mask mandate being lifted on Thursday. Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana, government spokesman, on Saturday said the PM expressed concern about the health of the public as coronavirus infection risks remained. The Department of Disease Control (DDC) recommends that people with underlying conditions, the elderly and pregnant women who have yet to get boosters keep wearing masks.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2333818/thais-willing-to-wear-masks-in-public>

#### **Bereaved May Take Legal Action Against UK Over Covid Inquiry Delay**

Bereaved families have warned they may take legal action against the Government over delays to starting the coronavirus public inquiry. The Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice group is considering bringing a judicial review over the failure to provide a setting up date for the inquiry into the Government's handling of the pandemic. They say this leaves the inquiry in "limbo", more than six months after Prime Minister Boris Johnson appointed Baroness Hallett to chair the probe in December 2021. The PM has previously said the inquiry would start in spring 2022, but its terms of reference have not yet been published, nor a setting-up date specified. The group says the delay could cost lives, as it slows down how quickly lessons can be learned, and is worried key evidence could be tampered with or destroyed.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-26/bereaved-may-take-legal-action-against-government-over-coronavirus-inquiry-delay>

#### **Hong Kong hospitals experience uptick in Covid-related admissions**

Hong Kong hospitals have experienced a slight uptick in coronavirus-related admissions but the number of serious cases is stable, a health official has said, as the daily infection tally remained in the four-digit range for the 12th day. The city on Sunday recorded 1,917 coronavirus cases, comprising 1,799 local and 118 imported infections. The figure marked an increase from Saturday's total of 1,794. No additional coronavirus-related deaths were reported. Hong Kong's overall coronavirus tally currently stands at 1,237,623 cases and 9,398 fatalities.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/article/3183124/coronavirus-hong-kong-hospitals-experience-uptick-covid-related-admissions>

### **Covid-19: Hospital patients with coronavirus in the East of England is highest for six weeks**

Article reports that the number of patients with coronavirus being treated in hospitals in the East of England is at the highest level for nearly six weeks as confirmed cases in the community surge. There were 625 people with Covid-19 in hospital in the region on Thursday, 23 June, which is more than one-third more than the previous week. The number of patients had dropped to below 350 in early June as the Omicron wave subsided. The figures come as health experts warned nearly one in six people aged 75 and over have not received any dose of vaccine in the past six months, putting them more at risk of severe disease. The growing prevalence of the virus is likely to be driven by the spread of the latest Omicron variants, BA.4 and BA.5, which are now thought to be the dominant strains in much of the UK. Dr Mary Ramsay of the UK Health Security Agency said: "We continue to see increases in Covid-19 outbreaks within care homes and hospitalisations among those aged 75 years and over.

<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2022-06-23/hospitals-in-east-of-england-have-highest-number-of-covid-patients-for-six-weeks>

### **Examining the Partnership Between Pharmacy and Public Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Pharmacy and public health have a long history of collaboration during an emergency. One example involves efforts taken during the H1N1 influenza pandemic, when pharmacy was mobilized to help administer thousands of influenza vaccines across the country as an extension of public health services.<sup>1</sup> More recently, the world faced a new pandemic: coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Pharmacies and pharmacists continue to play a vital role during this pandemic in providing education and clinical services to support public health mitigation strategies. Since the first COVID-19 vaccines were authorized for emergency use in the United States, strategies have evolved to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, booster doses, testing, and treatment. In addition, steps have been taken to ensure that people wear high-quality masks, maintain social distancing, and access good ventilation in indoor spaces.<sup>2</sup> This article highlights the myriad of ways that pharmacists have reinforced and bolstered public health policies over the last 2 years to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic head-on.

<https://www.pharmacytimes.com/view/examining-the-partnership-between-pharmacy-and-public-health-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

### **UK prepares to include over-50s in autumn Covid booster campaign**

The UK government is getting ready to roll out Covid-19 booster jabs to all adults aged over 50, in a broader autumn campaign than its vaccine advisers had previously suggested. Under provisional guidance issued last month, only care home residents, the over-65s, frontline health and social workers and vulnerable younger people would be eligible for the next round of vaccines. But Sajid Javid, health and social care secretary, told the Financial Times that he had asked his team "to be ready for it to be over-50s and above."

<https://www.ft.com/content/69b3374c-2524-4bab-8b87-ef1fefb224f8>

### **Finally, we're (almost) outrunning Covid-19**

It's a joy to run with the masses in the city, but we're not out of the woods yet. And although we're finally, we're (almost) outrunning Covid-19, in Singapore we still have a way to go yet

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/finally-were-almost-outrunning-covid-19>

### **Latin America's kids slid into education black hole during pandemic**

In Bolivia's highland city La Paz, Maribel Sanchez's children spent much of the last two years

huddling over a small smartphone screen to attend online classes amid a lengthy lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. The two boys, aged 11 and eight, frequently missed lessons when their timetables collided as the family had no computer. Bolivian school children only finally returned to in-person classes in March this year, many still not full time. The story is echoed around the region from Mexico to Brazil. Latin America has one of the worst records of school closures globally, according to a World Bank report, which shows children here faced almost 60 weeks of fully or partially closed schools between March 2020 and March this year. That's behind only South Asia and twice the level of Europe, Central and East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa or the Pacific. In North America there were long partial closures, but just seven weeks of full closures versus 29 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/latin-americas-kids-slid-into-education-black-hole-during-pandemic-2022-06-24/>

### **UK Covid Cases Rise Again Driven by BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron Subvariants**

Covid infection rates are rising again in the UK and across much of Europe, driven by newer versions of the omicron variant, amid concerns that another wave will disrupt businesses and add to pressure on health systems. In England, the estimated number of people testing positive for Covid-19 climbed to almost 1.4 million -- about 1 in 40 people -- in the week ending June 18, according to an Office for National Statistics report published Friday. That compares with around 1 in 50 people in the prior week. In Scotland, the estimate in the latest week increased to around 1 in 20 people.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-24/covid-resurgence-across-uk-europe-driven-by-omicron-subvariants>

### **Covid Resurgence Across UK, Europe Driven by Omicron Subvariants**

Covid infection rates are rising again in the UK and across much of Europe, driven by newer versions of the omicron variant, amid concerns that another wave will disrupt businesses and add to pressure on health systems. In England, the estimated number of people testing positive for Covid-19 climbed to almost 1.4 million -- about 1 in 40 people -- in the week ending June 18, according to an Office for National Statistics report published Friday. That compares with around 1 in 50 people in the prior week. In Scotland, the estimate in the latest week increased to around 1 in 20 people.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-24/covid-resurgence-across-uk-europe-driven-by-omicron-subvariants?srnd=premium-uk>

## **Exit Strategies**

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### **Shanghai businesses struggle to get back on their feet after Covid-19 lockdown**

SHANGHAI - Weeks after emerging from a two-month lockdown, Shanghai's small and medium businesses have a lot of catching up to do. But some are still wary about ordering workers back to the office, fearing that the emergence of a Covid-19 cluster would result in lengthy quarantines and more business disruptions.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/shanghai-businesses-struggle-to-get-back-on-their-feet>

### **Moderna seeking Hong Kong regulatory approval for Omicron-targeted Covid-19 booster**

Patrick Bergstedt, US company's senior vice-president of commercial vaccines, says discussions with city government at advanced stage, but no green light given yet. Company has plans to share access to its mRNA technology, set up clinical collaborations with Hong Kong universities

<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3183127/moderna-seeking-hong-kong-regulatory-approval>

### **Hong Kong's Struggle to Lure Bankers Dims Its Role as a Global Finance Hub**

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament was for years a highlight on Asia's networking calendar for global bankers and their clients. Now, organizers are pushing for a

downsized version of the event this fall, reflecting the challenge the city faces to maintain its status as Asia's leading financial hub. The Hong Kong Rugby Union is still waiting for government approval for its proposed "closed loop" for the 16 teams and support staff, modeled on the system used at the Beijing Winter Olympics earlier this year that sealed off athletes and other participants from the public, said Robbie McRobbie, its chief executive. With seven days of quarantine for all arrivals, organizers are resigned to holding this year's tournament while missing the thousands of overseas visitors who in years past thronged the three-day event, which coincided with major business conferences and meetings.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/hong-kongs-struggle-to-lure-bankers-dims-its-role-as-a-global-finance-hub-11656241202>

### **London's Prime Shopping Street Has a Case of Long Covid**

Regent Street, London's premier shopping thoroughfare, is struggling to shake off the lingering effects of Covid-19. Store vacancy levels, at a record 12%, are almost twice what they were at the end of 2019, while asking rents for the best space on the street have fallen by more than 30% during the pandemic, according to Savills Plc. Shoppers who stroll along the curving avenue, passing through Oxford Circus and Piccadilly in London's West End, may notice the absence of familiar brands. J Crew, Brooks Brothers, Desigual and Zara Home all closed stores during the two years of on-again off-again lockdowns that battered brick-and-mortar retailers and accelerated a shift to online shopping.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-25/london-s-prime-shopping-street-has-a-case-of-long-covid>

### **China's Economy Improves in June From Lockdown-Induced Slump**

China's economy showed some improvement in June as Covid restrictions were gradually eased, although the recovery remains muted. That's the outlook based on Bloomberg's aggregate index of eight early indicators for this month. The overall gauge returned to the neutral level after deteriorating for two straight months.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-26/china-s-economy-improves-in-june-from-lockdown-induced-s slump>

### **Argentines not too keen on taking Covid-19 booster shots**

Argentine health authorities have reported that, although the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet, fewer people showed up for their boosted dose of vaccine, due to a false low-risk perception which makes coverage not sufficient. While over 82% of the population has taken a full two-shot scheme, additional jabs have been skipped persistently despite the increase in the number of cases during May. Scientists insist these injections are the best way to prevent infection, severe symptoms, and possible death. "The low compliance of the population to get the fourth dose has a lot to do with the messages that have been installed in relation to covid during these last months.

<https://en.mercopress.com/2022/06/13/argentines-not-too-keen-on-taking-covid-19-booster-shots>

### **Pandemics don't have neat endings**

From the plague to polio, history shows that pandemics refuse to end neatly. Covid-19 is no exception. Following a surge in infection rates as Omicron variants spread, the UK is preparing to include people over the age of 50 in its autumn booster jab campaign. Recent British government plans had stipulated that only care home residents, the over-65s, frontline health and social workers and vulnerable younger people would be eligible for the next round of vaccines. In Hong Kong, two officials falling ill with Covid has raised doubts over President Xi Jinping's expected July visit to the territory.

<https://www.ft.com/content/cdb4ebcb-71cb-4c01-898e-a0cd14f2f371>

### **Advice on fourth COVID shot for many Australians may be delayed**

Australia's vaccine advisory panel is considering delaying a recommendation that more people get a fourth COVID booster shot until a better Omicron-targeting vaccine is available. Omicron sub-

variants, including BA.4 and BA.5, are fast becoming the dominant COVID-19 variants in Australia and there is growing concern the sublineages are becoming more effective at reinfecting people.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/advice-on-fourth-covid-shot-for-many-australians-may-be-delayed-20220621-p5avb4.html>

### **Shanghai's Covid Lockdown Legacy: Confusion, Despair, Departure**

Elizabeth Liu began to sob at the dinner table one evening in late March. She had just returned from the daily Covid-19 test that was the only time her family could leave their 10th-floor Shanghai apartment. That was when Mrs. Liu realized that the mental toll of living under China's zero-Covid policies had become unbearable. It was also when she and her Singaporean husband agreed that by year's end, they would leave the city where they'd met and which is the only home their four children—aged two to 12—have known. "It had just been building, this sense of anxiety and stress," said the 39-year-old Texan, who moved to China in 2005 and Shanghai two years later. "It got to the point where I just thought: I want to get on a plane and I don't care who comes with me."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/shanghais-covid-lockdown-legacy-confusion-despair-departure-11656149401>

### **Essential workers in Hong Kong still not paid Covid-19 emergency support cash**

Amy, a cleaner, who asked not to use her real name, has said she waited months for an emergency Covid-19 payment. Photo: Jonathan Wong. Amy, a cleaner, who asked not to use her real name, has said she waited months for an emergency Covid-19 payment. Photo: Jonathan Wong. A 62-year-old contract cleaner and breadwinner for her family has still not got a special Hong Kong government Covid-19 subsidy three months after she asked her employer to submit a claim. Amy\* said she had to continue to work as a cleaner at a private company in Tai Po through the fifth wave of infections, despite soaring numbers of confirmed cases. She said it was some comfort that the government promised a HK\$10,000 (US\$1,282) subsidy for essential workers who had contributed to the battle against the coronavirus pandemic, which had to be applied for through employers. But Amy added that, despite asking her employer about the payment in early April, the firm had still not submitted a claim on her behalf.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3182343/coronavirus-hong-kong-frontline-workers-still>

### **Covid-19 'magic mirror' reflects widening fissures in Chinese society**

"Covid-19 is a magic mirror that reveals the monster within" was a popular saying in China in the early days of the pandemic. It was used by the Chinese foreign ministry in reference to the United States to suggest that Covid-19 had uncovered America's long-standing social problems. Whoever coined the saying was certainly very astute. But I wonder how many people in China at the time realised that one day the mirror could be turned on themselves. What would they see? What demons might be revealed? I have lived in China all my life. I am part of a generation that has seen outstanding improvements in this society. It seemed to us that things could only get better, and if there were any challenges along the way, there was nothing that we as a country could not get through by working together.

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3182631/covid-19-magic-mirror-reflects-widening-fissures-chinese-society>

### **Some Chinese cities relax COVID testing mandates**

Several Chinese cities have scrapped or relaxed their COVID-19 testing mandates after China emerged from its worst regional outbreaks, with officials told not to cause too much disruption to people's lives while staying vigilant about the virus.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/some-chinese-cities-relax-covid-testing-mandates-2022-06-24/>

## **Partisan Exits**

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### **NZ coach, 2 players have COVID-19 ahead of 1st Ireland test**

All Blacks head coach Ian Foster, assistant John Plumtree and two leading players have tested positive for COVID-19, severely disrupting the team's preparation for Saturday's first rugby test against Ireland. Foster and Plumtree are isolating at home and midfielders Jack Goodhue and David Havili haven't joined the team in Auckland where the test will be played in front of a sellout crowd at Eden Park. Goodhue and Havili both had strong chances of being named in the New Zealand lineup for the first test of a three-test series. Assistant coaches Scott McLeod and Brad Mooar will take charge of the team in the lead-up to the match while Crusaders center Braydon Ennor has joined the squad to provide midfield cover.

<https://apnews.com/article/covid-sports-health-rugby-ireland-815c15c9cc983cdf4301b66e50d9e614>

### **Team India captain Rohit Sharma tests positive for Covid-19**

If KL Rahul's groin injury that ruled him out of the England Test at Edgbaston from July 1 wasn't enough of a setback, India's problems at the top of the order have compounded after skipper and fellow opener Rohit Sharma tested positive for Covid-19 in a Rapid Antigen Test on Saturday. He is in isolation at the team hotel in Leicester, a BCCI statement said. While his RT-PCR test result is awaited, his participation in the decider—India lead the series 2-1 after the fifth Test was postponed last year—is touch and go. Sharma batted in the first innings of India's warm-up game against Leicestershire—it ended in a draw on Sunday—and scored 25, but he didn't take the field thereafter.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/rohit-sharma-team-india-captain-tests-positive-for-covid-19-ahead-of-india-vs-england-test-101656205188611.html>

### **Scientific Viewpoint**

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#### **Pfizer's Omicron-Targeting Covid-19 Vaccines Generate Stronger Immune Response**

Federal health authorities are trying to decide whether to stick with the current shots for a fall vaccination campaign or use a tweaked version. Studies have found that the current vaccines don't work as well against Omicron as they did against earlier strains. "Based on these data, we believe we have two very strong Omicron-modified candidates that elicit a substantially higher immune response against Omicron than we've seen to date," Pfizer Chief Executive Albert Bourla said. The study didn't measure whether and how well the shots reduced the risk of Covid-19. Pfizer and BioNTech announced the results by news release. The findings haven't been published in a peer-reviewed medical journal. Omicron is the most recent strain of the virus to come to predominate in the U.S. and many other countries.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/pfizers-omicron-targeting-covid-19-vaccines-generate-stronger-immune-response-11656166058>

#### **Australia struggles against vaccine fatigue as it battles flu outbreak**

Australia is battling its first serious influenza outbreak since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving the authorities struggling to persuade a vaccine-weary public to get flu shots. Official data showed there were 65,770 flu cases in May - more than double the month's previous record set during a severe outbreak in 2019. But the numbers have been rapidly increasing. According to the federal government's influenza surveillance system, there were 147,155 cases of flu recorded from Jan 1 to June 19 this year. Of these, 55,101 or more than one third occurred from June 5. There have been 54 flu-related deaths.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/australianz/australia-struggles-against-vaccine-fatigue-as-it-battles-flu-outbreak>

#### **Expert on why you need your covid booster jab now to keep safe this winter**

England's leading NHS medic is urging those eligible for a spring booster but yet to come forward to take up the offer as soon as possible as a quarter of a million reminders go out before the end of the month. The largest and fastest vaccination programme in NHS history has now invited everyone eligible for a spring booster and more than four in five people have already had their jab. The NHS

has invited more than five million people in total to get their spring booster in line with JCVI guidance as part of the world-leading NHS Covid-19 vaccination programme. It is urging anyone yet to come forward for a spring dose to do so as soon as practically possible. More than four million people and around 86% of those aged 75 and over have already had their spring dose. Those who are eligible include older adult care home residents, people aged 75 and over and those who are immunosuppressed.

<https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/expert-you-need-your-covid-24295020>

### **GSK announces that COVID-19 vaccine candidate is effective at preventing Omicron infection**

The European companies GSK and Sanofi have partnered for a COVID-19 vaccine candidate that is 72% effective at preventing infection from the Omicron variant. The companies are hoping their shot can join the Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax vaccines in becoming available for the long-term fight against Covid. It comes as U.S. regulators face widespread criticism after the controversial approval of jabs for children six months to four year old. It comes as Covid case figures have stabilized at 99,984 per day in the U.S., but deaths have jumped 20% over the past week to 385 daily

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-10950127/GSK-announces-COVID-19-vaccine-candidate-effective-preventing-Omicron-infection.html>

### **Greece Under Fire for Recommending 2nd COVID-19 Booster for 30+**

Greek authorities' decision to recommend a second COVID-19 booster shot for individuals over thirty was criticized by a leading health specialist on Friday. The current recommendation for a second booster shot for people aged 30 to 59 who do not belong to the vulnerable groups "is not accompanied by the necessary documentation," Elias Mossialos, Professor of Health Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), has posted on Facebook. Greece's National Vaccination Committee reiterated a "strong recommendation" that those aged 60 and over get a second booster shot. Appointments for that age category have been available since early April this year.

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/06/24/greece-criticized-2nd-covid-booster/>

### **The next COVID booster shots will likely be updated for Omicron**

COVID-19 vaccines this fall are likely to be based on the Omicron variant of the coronavirus rather than the original strain, although some experts suggest they may only offer significant benefits for older and immunocompromised people. Moderna, Pfizer and Novavax have been testing vaccines based on the first BA.1 Omicron variant that became dominant last winter, driving a massive surge in infections. On Wednesday, Moderna said its updated vaccine worked well against more recent Omicron subvariants, and that it was moving forward with plans to ask regulators for approval. Vaccines that can bridge the gap between the original version of coronavirus and the Omicron variant would likely be "far, far better" for the fall, according to Trevor Bedford, a biologist at the University of Washington who has closely tracked mutations of the SARS-coV-2 virus.

<https://edmontonjournal.com/health/the-next-covid-booster-shots-will-likely-be-updated-for-omicron/wcm/a208ce7f-d459-49ff-8a2c-5966a1b446ef>

### **Global impact of the first year of COVID-19 vaccination: a mathematical modelling study**

COVID-19 vaccination has substantially altered the course of the pandemic, saving tens of millions of lives globally. However, inadequate access to vaccines in low-income countries has limited the impact in these settings, reinforcing the need for global vaccine equity and coverage.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(22\)00320-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(22)00320-6/fulltext)

### **Sanofi-GSK Covid vaccine found effective against Omicron**

Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline have reported promising results from trials of their Covid-19 vaccine, which has proved to be particularly effective against the Omicron strain of coronavirus. The vaccine

targets the original and the Beta strains of coronavirus but was also tested against the more recent Omicron variant. When used as a first dose, it demonstrated a 64.7 per cent efficacy rate against symptomatic infection overall in adults, and was 72 per cent effective against infections caused by Omicron. The vaccine was safe and well-tolerated in a trial of 13,000 people

<https://www.ft.com/content/fab58cc0-2382-4f5e-b287-041d4ad65141>

### **WHO says over 900 probable cases of acute hepatitis reported in children**

Thirty-three countries have reported 920 probable cases of severe acute hepatitis in children so far, a jump of 270 from May, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday. The WHO said that the European Region accounted for half the probable cases, including 267 from the United Kingdom, while a third of the probable cases were from the United States. Health authorities globally have been investigating the mysterious rise in severe cases of hepatitis - or liver inflammation - in young children. The outbreak was first reported in April in Britain and has since then hit dozens of other countries.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/who-says-over-900-probable-cases-acute-hepatitis-reported-children-2022-06-24/>

### **How Serious is Monkeypox? WHO Says Not Global Emergency**

The World Health Organization opted against calling the recent monkeypox outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. The outbreak is "clearly an evolving threat," the WHO said in a statement Saturday, though it doesn't constitute an international public health emergency "at this moment." An emergency committee convened on Thursday to discuss the outbreak. "What makes the current outbreak especially concerning is the rapid, continuing spread into new countries and regions and the risk of further, sustained transmission into vulnerable populations including people that are immunocompromised, pregnant women and children," according to the statement. "It requires our collective attention and coordinated action now to stop the further spread of monkeypox virus.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-25/monkeypox-isn-t-international-public-health-emergency-who-finds>

### **European Commission grants marketing authorisation to Valneva's COVID-19 shot**

French drugmaker Valneva's COVID-19 vaccine has received marketing authorisation from the European Commission (EC) for use as a primary vaccination in people from 18 to 50 years of age, the company said on Friday. The marketing authorisation will cover the European Union's member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway. "Now that we have received this full marketing authorization, we hope that the EC and its member states will place orders that reflect this demand," Valneva CEO Thomas Lingelback said in a statement.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/valnevas-covid-vaccine-gets-marketing-authorisation-european-commission-2022-06-24/>

## **Coronavirus Resurgence**

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### **2,378 new Covid cases, 17 more deaths**

The country registered 2,378 more Covid-19 cases and 17 new fatalities during the previous 24 hours, the Public Health Ministry announced on Sunday morning. This compared with 2,236 new cases and 16 coronavirus-related fatalities reported on Saturday morning. The country has registered more than 2,000 new cases every day since Wednesday. Saturday's figures were the second highest during the period after the 2,387 found on Wednesday. Saturday's figures, which were reported on Sunday, did not include 3,521 positive results from antigen tests over the past 24 hours. This would raise the total to 5,899.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2334058/2-378-new-covid-cases-17-more-deaths>

### **Coronavirus work from home warning as spring boosters 'drop off'**

Coronavirus has been branded 'concerning' again in Manchester amid soaring case numbers 'across all ages', according to public health chiefs. The rise comes as there has been a significant 'dropoff' of eligible people coming forward to get spring Covid-19 vaccination booster jabs. The health bosses warned that people should work from home and children should stay at home from school if they have symptoms to prevent the spread. Greater Manchester doctors have also sounded alarms that another Covid wave could be hitting the region, saying 'next Covid wave inbound? Staff, patients, colleagues, friends, family, neighbours all succumbing again'.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/covid-wave-spring-booster-work-24293061>

### **Shanghai records zero COVID cases for first time since March**

China has reported zero new COVID-19 infections in Shanghai for the first time since March, as the country's latest outbreak subsides after months of lockdowns and other restrictions. China is the last major economy committed to a zero-COVID strategy, stamping out all infections with a combination of targeted lockdowns, mass testing and long quarantine periods.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/25/china-shanghai-records-zero-covid-cases-first-time-since-march>