

**CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE**

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# COVID-19

## PART 21

(10 September – 23 September 2020)

## **COPING STRATEGIES IN THE AGE OF COVID-19**

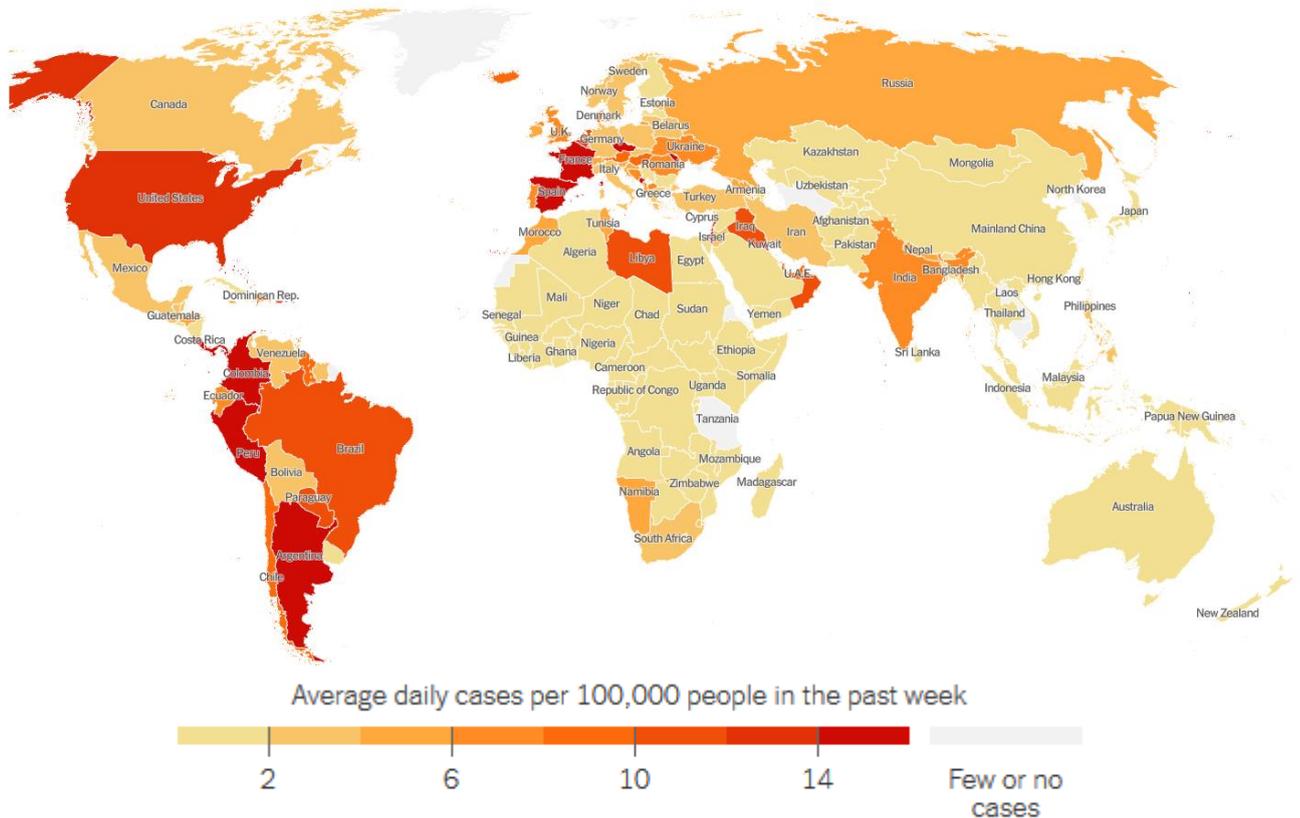
*This report represents a summary of open source information, accumulated between 10 September and 23 September 2020, and was assembled on 25 September 2020. All views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author, unless otherwise stated and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CMDR COE or any government and non- government organization or other group. The author does not bear responsibility for incomplete or incorrect facts cited or referred to herein. The majority of reference materials include official documents published by the World Health Organization, governmental pages, and online statistical databases.*

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## OVERALL SITUATION ON THE WORLD

The COVID-19 cases crossed the 32-million mark globally during last two weeks, with USA, India, Brazil, Russia and Colombia among the top five worst affected countries. Number of deaths close to 988-thousand with USA, Brazil, India, Mexico, and UK among top five countries on the world. USA crossed 207-thousand deaths during last period. The epicenter of pandemic gradually shifting to India. The country's total number of officially reported cases is expected to cross that of the US next month if current rates of increase persist. Many hospitals in the worst affected regions of India have already started reporting oxygen shortages.



In Europe, apart from Spain, France and the Netherlands, also Romania and the Czech Republic break records. As many as 3,130 new cases were recorded in the country on the Vltava River on Friday, September 18! And the percentage of positive test results on September 16 was 8.4%, which means the epidemic is spinning out of control. So far, however, this increased number of infections mainly affects young people, and there are fewer infections among seniors. Nevertheless, there are as many sick people in hospitals as in April. The Czech Republic was set as an example in spring and summer on how to deal with the virus. They had a low number of cases and deaths. The highest daily number of detected cases in spring was only 337. Due to the epidemic, the Czech government has decided to ban indoor events where participants are not seated. This also applies to bars and restaurants. Czech universities, to which students were to return in October, decided to take remote classes.

A record was also broken in France - 13,500 new cases last Thursday. There are already 481,141 of them in total and the number of deaths is increasing. This week, 265

people died, compared to 129 people last week. France is also lagging behind with the tests - on September 14 it had as much as 5.4 % positive results, and Spain as much as 11.8%.

Politicians from Great Britain and Greece not excluding re-lockdown, but so far only Israel has decided to do so. On Rosh Hashanah, the country was closed for at least three weeks. Inhabitants may not be more than a kilometer from the house, and in closed rooms no more than 10 people can meet.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that worrying trends were visible in some countries before the approaching onset of winter influenza season, with hospitalizations increasing “particularly in Spain, France, Montenegro, Ukraine and some states of the US”. The WHO has asked people who fall in the high-risk category for COVID-19 to get themselves vaccinated against flu.

Last Friday was the date by which individual countries must declare whether they will participate in the COVAX initiative and help in the fair distribution of the future SARS-CoV-2 vaccine.

COVAX is a joint initiative of the World Health Organization, the European Commission, France and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The idea is that COVAX will select the top three vaccines among those undergoing Phase 3 testing (currently nine projects) and support their research and production financially. Poorer countries will have a guarantee that they will get a vaccine below the market price sufficient for 20 percent. population, and richer - 50 percent.

So far 172 countries have joined the initiative. The richer ones have so far declared USD 700 million out of the USD 2 billion needed by the end of the year. The United States is not involved in the COVAX project - Donald Trump considers the WHO to be poorly managed and, in addition, pro-China.

## COPING STRATEGIES IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

Most of us have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to some degree. This may be on mental, emotional, social, business-related and/or financial levels; it may be acknowledged or not. In many ways, the pandemic has shed light on what is not working too well in our world.

Depending on the coping strategies we have been using in response to this crisis, the pandemic is serving as a powerful catalyst both for societal transformation and new solutions to many pressing global challenges.

**Negative or destructive external expressions:** This can involve constantly watching the news, reading about and disseminating information about negative developments, looking for hidden agendas and engaging in conspiracy theories. Furthermore, destructive outward tendencies can lead to people denying or ignoring the facts of the situation and consequentially taking risks, personal and collective, by not adhering to physical distancing or other preventative measures.

**Positive or proactive external expressions:** This can manifest itself in reaching out to provide help, comfort and support to family, friends, neighbors or strangers in different ways. Others have found time to learn a language or read the books they always wanted, or have found pleasure in home activities like playing games, cooking, baking and engaging in creative hobbies.

**Negative or destructive internal expressions:** This style of response is characterized by negative thinking. People worry about themselves or someone close to them getting sick, and form negative expectations about the future regarding their work, life in general, or the state of the world after the pandemic. Some seem to think that they are better prepared if they expect or prepare for worst-case scenarios, but this strategy is likely to create a spiral of negative thinking, avoidance, apathy and self-isolation, which can lead to increased feelings of anxiety, depression, hopelessness and loneliness.

**Positive or proactive internal expressions:** These people have responded to the crisis by contemplating their personal lives and the state of the world, their true values and what changes they could make to live more in-line with them, and how they can contribute to the changes they would like to see in the world. Other examples involve practising mindfulness and meditation techniques; trying to be more present in their everyday life and to accept the present moment as it is, and becoming more appreciative of the things they take for granted in their lives. Such coping strategies can help create a greater sense of meaningfulness and faith in their own capabilities of managing the situation.<sup>1</sup>

## VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

### **Johnson & Johnson**

Name: JNJ-78436735

On September 23, Johnson & Johnson announced the launch of a phase three ENSEMBLE trial that will evaluate the safety of the vaccine—and how well it works—among up to 60,000 adults from a variety of countries. The trial will include “significant representation” from older populations and will include those with underlying conditions that make them more susceptible to COVID-19.

### **Moderna Therapeutics**

Name: mRNA-1273

On July 27, Moderna announced it had started the third phase of its clinical trials, even as it continues to monitor phase two results. Preliminary findings from phase one have shown that healthy subjects—including elderly patients—produced coronavirus antibodies and a reaction from T-cells, another arm of the human immune response. Phase three will test the vaccine in 30,000 U.S. participants; Moderna says it is on track to deliver at least 500 million doses per year beginning in 2021, thanks in part to the deal it has struck with Swiss manufacturer Lonza that will allow it to manufacture up to one billion doses a year. In September, however, Moderna’s chief executive Stéphane Bancel told the New York Times that it was unlikely the vaccine would be widely available in the first half of 2021.

### **Pfizer**

Name: BNT162b2

On July 27, Pfizer and BioNTech launched a trial that combines phase two and three by enrolling a diverse population in areas with significant SARS-CoV-2 transmission. It

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/09/coping-strategies-in-the-age-of-covid-19-a-psychologists-view/>

has expanded the trial to include 44,000 people across multiple countries. The project is aiming to seek regulatory review before the end of the year—and hopes to supply 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021. Preliminary results of phase one/two data show the vaccine produces antibodies and T-cell responses specific to the SARS-CoV-2 protein.

### **University of Oxford**

Name: ChAdOx1 nCoV-19

Preliminary results from this candidate's first two clinical trial phases revealed that the vaccine had triggered a strong immune response—including increased antibodies and responses from T-cells—with only minor side effects such as fatigue and headache. It is in phase three of clinical trials, aiming to recruit up to 50,000 volunteers in Brazil, the United Kingdom, the United States, and South Africa. On September 8, AstraZeneca paused the trials for a safety review due to an adverse reaction in one participant in the U.K. The details remain unclear, though the company has described the pause as a “routine action.” After an investigation by independent regulators, the trials resumed in the U.K., Brazil, South Africa, and India but remained on hold in the U.S. as of September 23.

### **Sinovac**

Name: CoronaVac

On July 3, Brazil's regulatory agency granted this vaccine candidate approval to move ahead to phase three, as it continues to monitor the results of the phase two clinical trials. Preliminary results in macaque monkeys, published in *Science*, revealed that the vaccine produced antibodies that neutralized 10 strains of SARS-CoV-2. Sinovac has also released preprint results of its phase two human trial that likewise showed the vaccine produced antibodies with no severe adverse reactions. Phase three will recruit nearly 9,000 healthcare professionals in Brazil. Sinovac will also conduct phase three trials in Indonesia and Bangladesh.

### **Sinopharm**

Name: None

On August 22, China revealed that it began to inoculate medical workers and other high-risk groups with the Sinopharm trial vaccines in July, making it the first experimental vaccine available to civilians beyond clinical volunteers. Also in July, Sinopharm launched its first phase three trial among 15,000 volunteers - aged 18 to 60, with no serious underlying conditions - in the United Arab Emirates. The company selected the UAE because it has a diverse population made up of approximately 200 nationalities, making it an ideal testing ground. Sinopharm will also undertake phase three trials in locations such as Peru and Bahrain.

### **Murdoch Children's Research Institute**

Name: Bacillus Calmette-Guerin BRACE trial

In April, researchers from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute began a series of randomized controlled trials that will test whether BCG might work on the coronavirus as well. They aim to recruit 10,000 healthcare workers in the study.

**CanSino Biologics**

Name: Ad5-nCoV

Though the company was still technically in phase two of its trial, on June 25, CanSino became the first company to receive limited approval to use its vaccine in people. The Chinese government has approved the vaccine for military use only, for a period of one year. On August 15, Russian biopharmaceutical company Petrovax announced it had launched the first phase three clinical trial of Ad5-nCoV.

**The Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology**

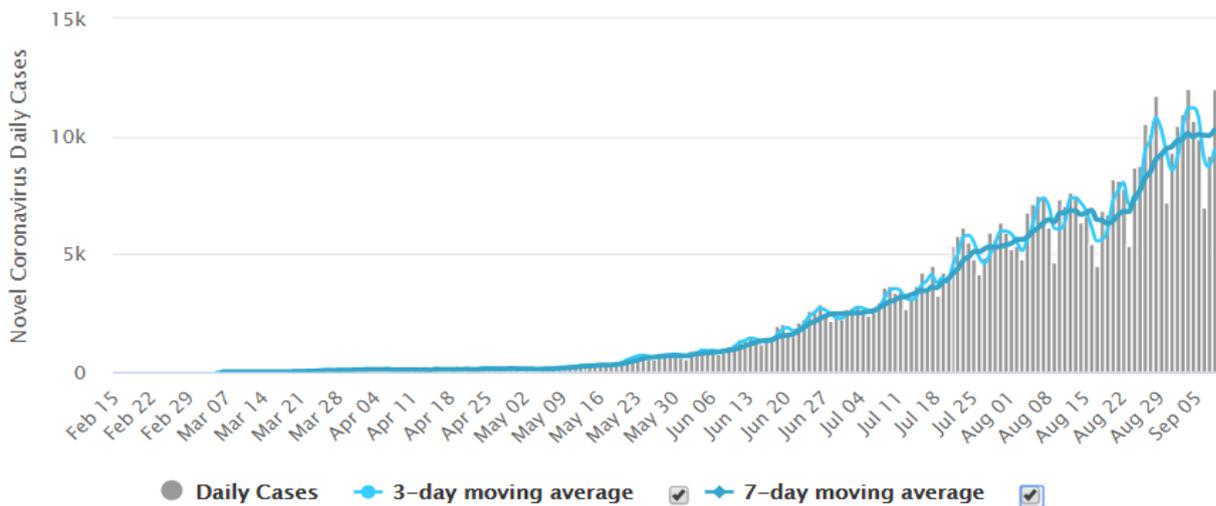
Name: Sputnik V

Despite the lack of published evidence, Russia has cleared the Sputnik V vaccine for widespread use and claimed it as the first registered COVID-19 vaccine on the market. Russia reports that it will start phase three clinical trials on August 12; the World Health Organization, however, lists the Sputnik V vaccine as being in phase one of clinical trials.<sup>2</sup>

**MONITORING**

**1. ARGENTINA**

Argentina has been under lockdown since March 20, though cases have spiked in recent weeks. Some areas of the country, including capital Buenos Aires, remain under varying levels of quarantine, though some activities, like exercise and outdoor restaurant dining, recently resumed.



Argentina's coronavirus death toll surpassed 13,000 on Thursday September 24. There have been 14,766 deaths, with 678,253 confirmed coronavirus cases, according to government data. Almost half of coronavirus tests are yielding a positive result.

Argentinian authorities have extended nationwide restrictions imposed due to the

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/health-and-human-body/human-diseases/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker-how-they-work-latest-developments-cvd/>

coronavirus disease pandemic as part of the national response and recovery plan until at least October 11. Measures across the country can vary by province or city; provincial governments have the authority to specify their own measures in addition to those enforced at the national level. Local authorities decide on restrictions in localities based on the availability of beds at local hospitals. Further information regarding COVID-19 restrictions can be found here.

Argentina's borders are closed to foreign nationals and non-residents until further notice. While the Argentine government is permitting a limited number of exceptional flights, all scheduled international flights have been suspended until at least October 12. International cargo, medical, and humanitarian transport are exempt with enhanced screening measures reportedly in place for airline crew and truck drivers.

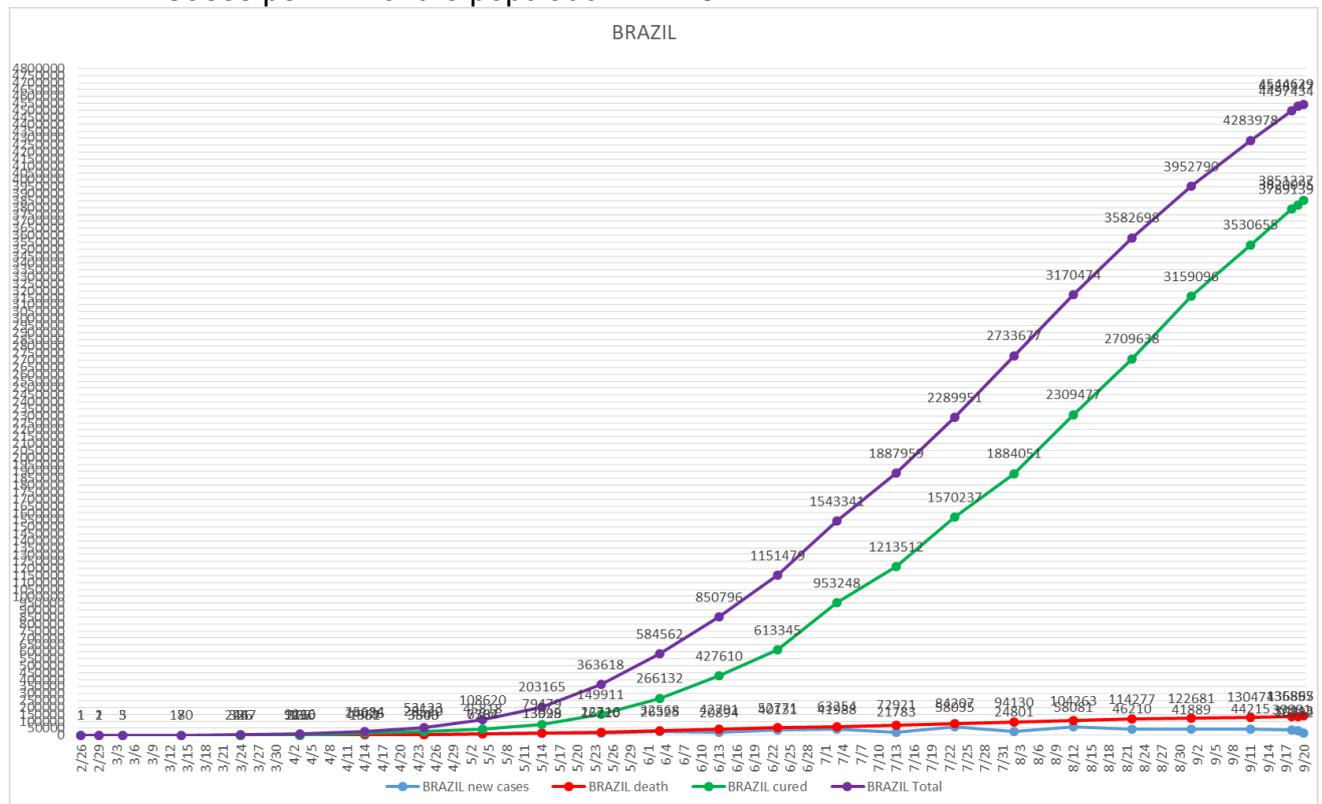
The ban on outdoor social gatherings has been lifted, and bars and restaurants in Buenos Aires were allowed to reopen while following guidelines. Groups of up to ten people may meet in the open air, provided they maintain social distancing and wear face masks.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. BRAZIL

The coronavirus pandemic was confirmed to have spread to Brazil on February 25, 2020 after a 61-year-old man from São Paulo, who returned from Lombardy, Italy, tested positive.

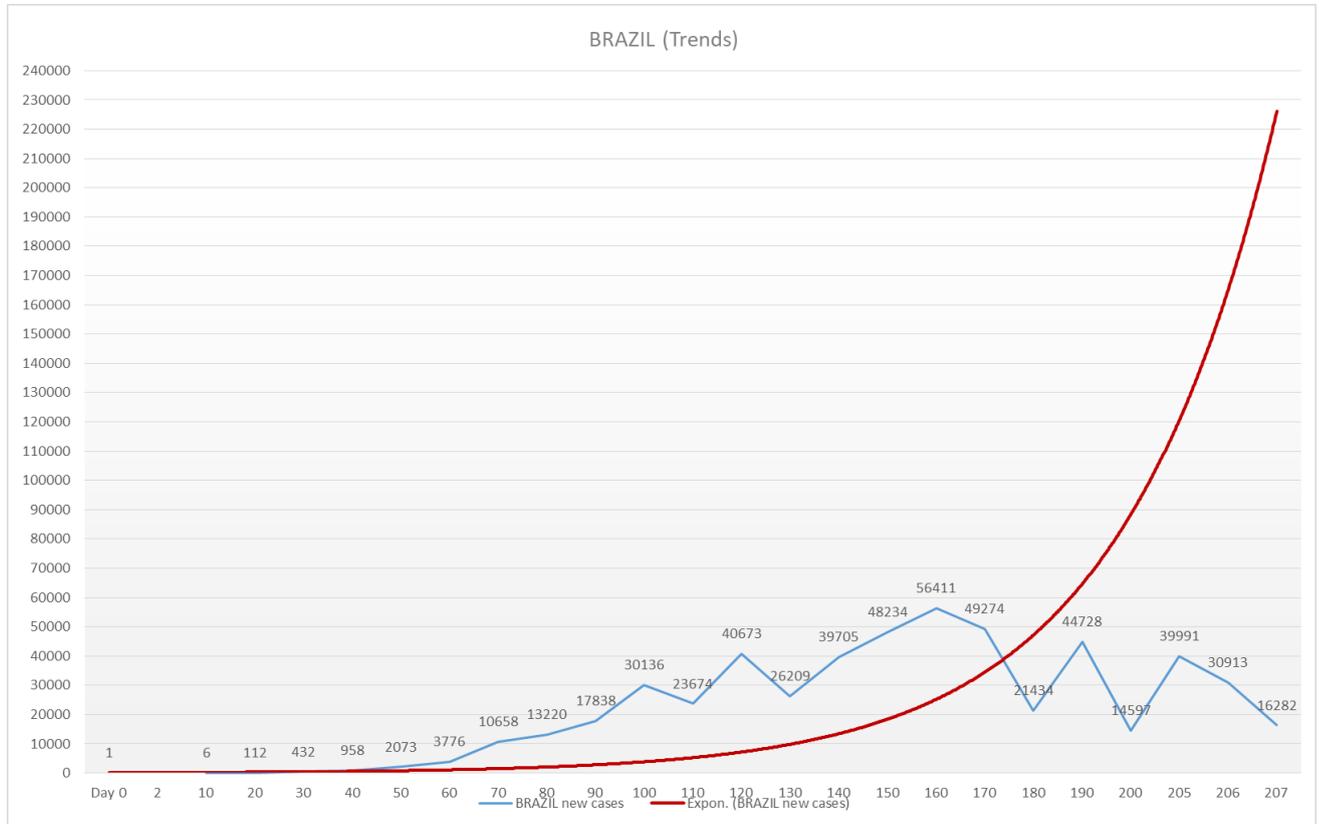
The total number of infected, deaths, new cases and recoveries is as follows:

- Infected – 4 544 629 (Third in the World);
- Coronavirus deaths – 136 895 (3 %);
- New cases for the last 24 hours as of 19.09.2020 – 16 282;
- Recovered after illness – 3 851 227 (84,7 %);
- Cases per 1 M of the population – 21 347.



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/382371/argentina-authorities-extend-nationwide-covid-19-restrictions-until-october-11-update-26>

The number of new cases is growing exponentially and uncontrollably at the moment. To date, there are no indications of a peak or approaching a peak in the coronavirus spread in Brazil.



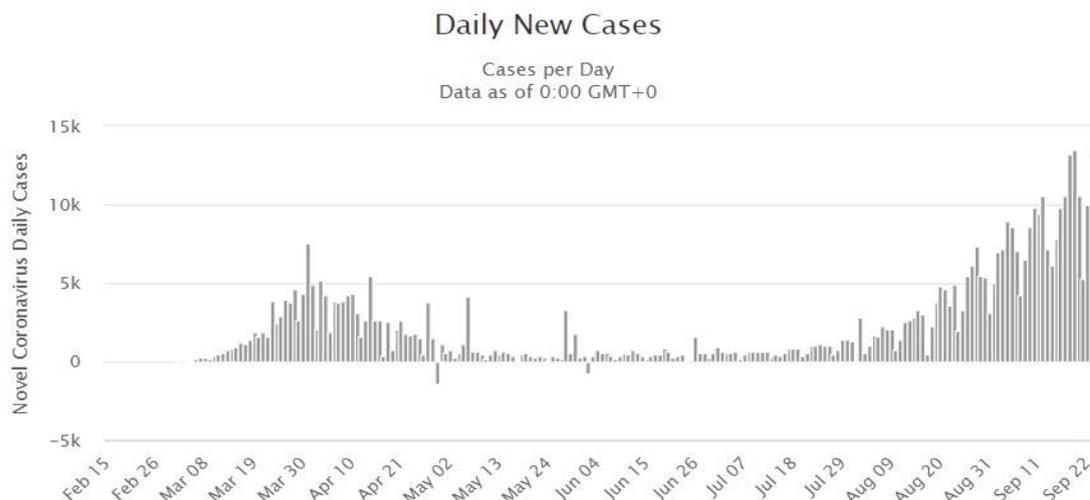
There are no changes in already established measures. The situation to date shows the ineffectiveness of the measures. The negative tendencies continue.

Given the different approaches of the governments of Brazil and Bulgaria, in response to the developing pandemic, measures applicable in Bulgaria to deal with the spreading exponential contagion cannot be determined.

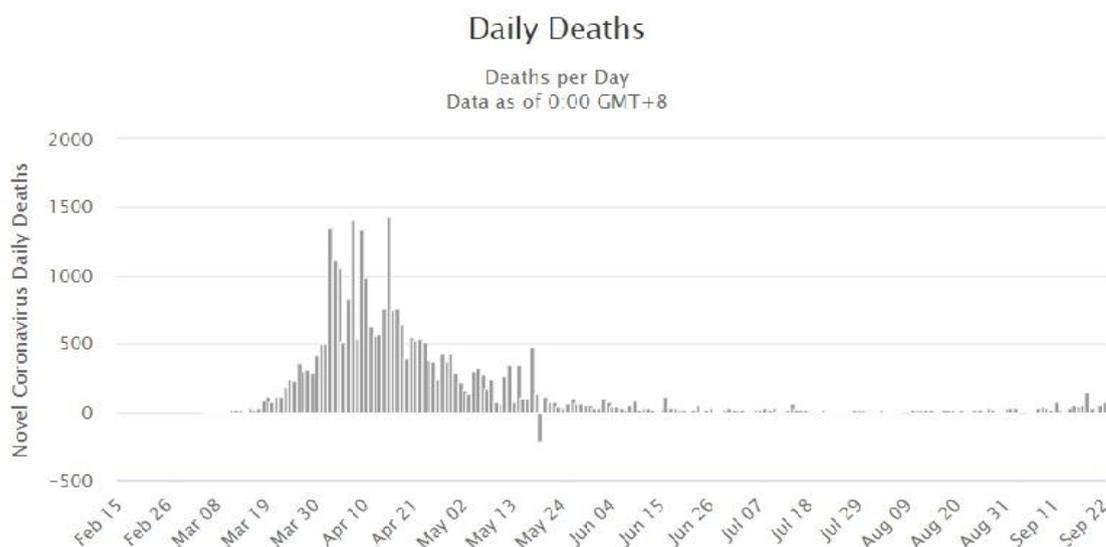
### 3. FRANCE

France confirmed nearly 13,500 new COVID-19 cases over a 24-hour period on Saturday, setting another daily record in the number of infections in the country since the coronavirus pandemic began.

The new cases bring the total number of recorded instances of the virus in France to 481,141.



The number of people who have died from the virus also rose to 31,459 since March.



France has continued to see a daily increase in cases with the rate of positive tests increasing to 5.6 per cent, the highest it has been in recent days.

Authorities have attributed the rise in reported cases to larger-scale testing after the French government made them free and a faster circulation of the virus.

Bordeaux and Marseille have already introduced stricter local measures, including restricting gatherings on beaches, public events outdoors and visits to elderly care homes.

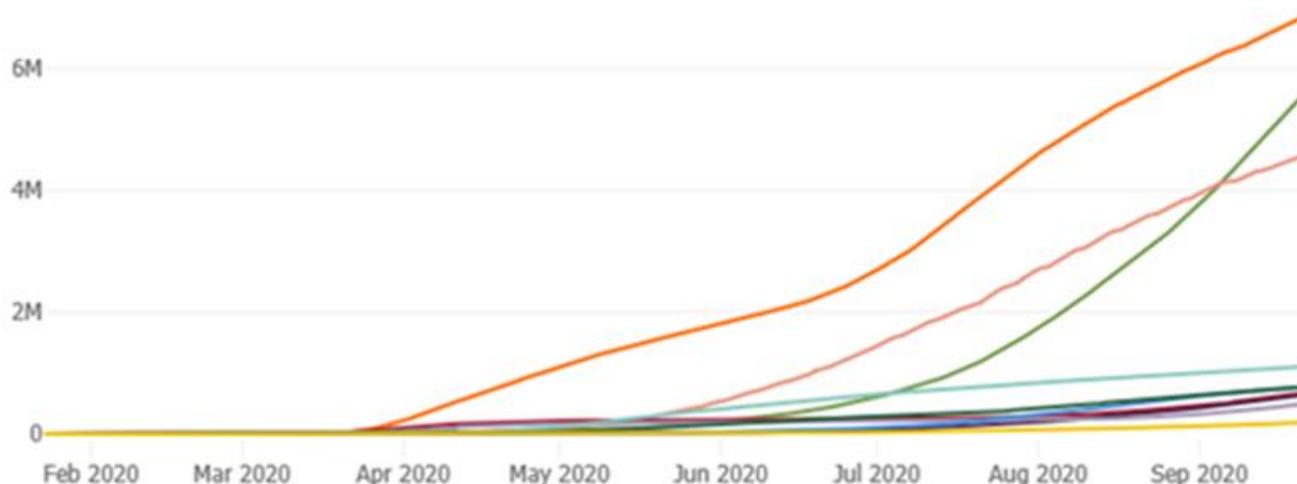
Nice, Lyon, and their surrounding regions were expected to follow suit, with the government asking local authorities to submit their proposals for new measures on Saturday.<sup>4</sup>

#### 4. INDIA

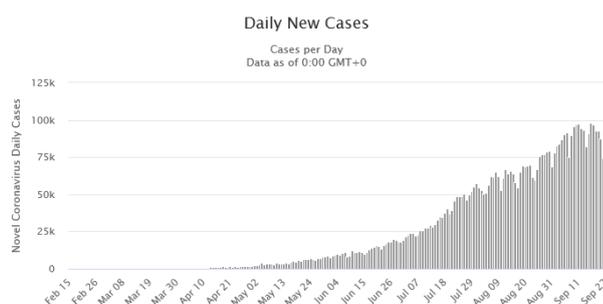
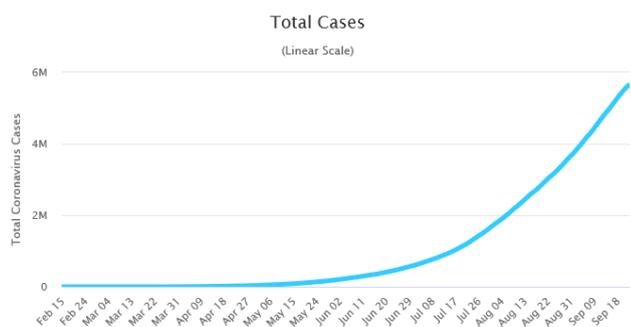
During the last two weeks (09.09 – 22.09.2020) the coronavirus situation in India

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.euronews.com/2020/09/19/coronavirus-france-sets-another-daily-record-for-infections-with-13-500-new-covid-19-cases>

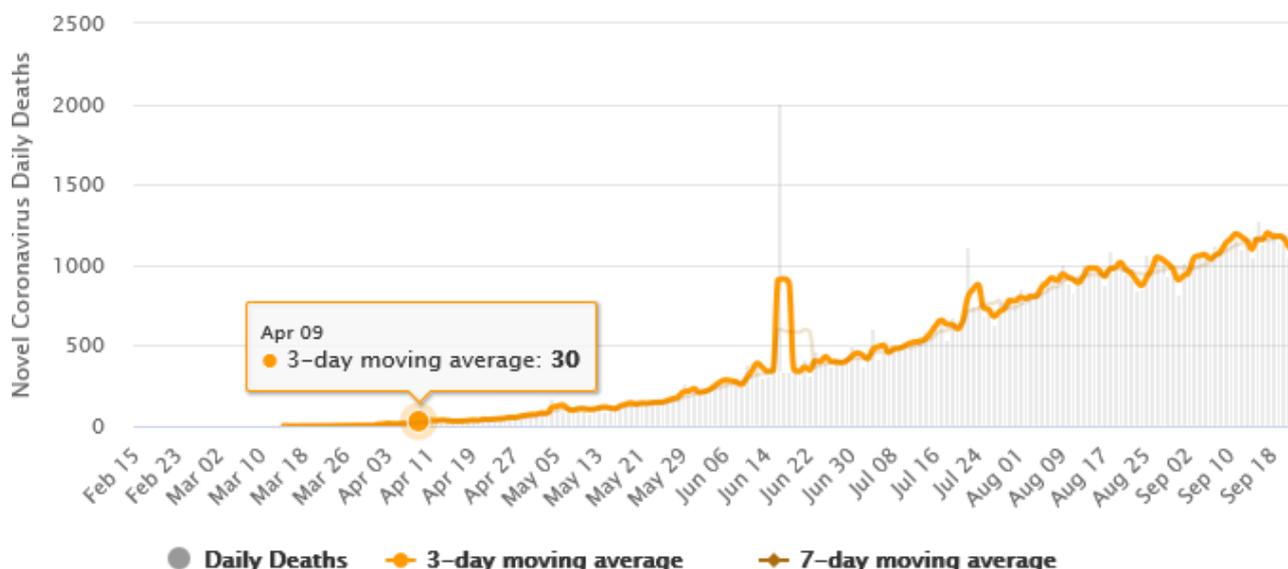
remained the same and even slightly worsened in comparison with late August – early September. The country crossed the 5 million cases benchmark on 15th September and has been adding more than 80,000 confirmed infections and 1100 COVID19 related deaths per day (very often the daily new cases and deaths in the reported period were even above 90000 and 1200 respectively). As of 23rd September, India remains the second worst affected by COVID19 country in the world after the United States.



On 22 September, India has reported 5,640,496 confirmed COVID19 infections, 968 655 of them active, and 90,021 deaths. India remains the country, where the virus is spreading at the fastest pace. The highest number of new daily infections during the reported period was on 16th September with 97859 new cases (this is also the highest number in the world since the outbreak of the coronavirus).



According to the John Hopkins University India currently ranks third globally in virus-related deaths. The highest daily count COVID19-related fatalities during the reported period was registered on 15th September – 1283 deaths. However, India's coronavirus mortality rate dropped down from 1,7% to 1,6% and is still lowest among the worst-hit countries.



The Indian government claims India's lower death rate is a sign of its success in handling the crisis, and has used the figure to support its decision to lift some coronavirus restrictions. Still, many experts warn that the governmental data is full of gaps. India has a weak, underfunded public health infrastructure, and for years it has failed to accurately record the deaths of its own citizens. Only 86% of deaths nationwide are registered in government systems. And only 22% of all registered deaths get an official cause of death, certified by a doctor.<sup>5</sup>

Despite of scientist warnings, that relying on low death rate data when making important decisions to reopen the country is dangerous, the government continues to gradually lift the pandemic-related restrictions. The authorities also support the decisions to restart different sectors of the economy with the fact, that during the last several days, the daily recoveries from COVID19 have outnumbered the new infections and currently India has the highest number of COVID19 recoveries in the world.

## 5. ISRAEL

The number of infected in the country reached a total of 204,690 cases of coronavirus and 1,285 deaths (low death rate 0,9). Israel remains twenty fourth in the world in this indicator. The share of the recovered is approximately 99.1 percent of the total number of infected in Israel.

On 6 September 2020, the government approved closure of schools and a night-time curfew for forty 'red' communities. This plan replaced Prof Gamzu's proposal of full closure in ten 'red' towns and went into effect 8 September. The communities affected by the curfews were among the poorest in Israel, with mainly Arab and ultra-Orthodox population. Residents under curfew were restricted to 500 meters distance from their homes, from 7pm to 5am.

On 10 September 2020, Israel became the country with the highest rate of COVID-19 infections per capita. As confirmed infections continued to rise daily, Israeli officials warned that hospitals will eventually be incapable to confront the crisis.

On 13 September 2020, the government approved a 3-week lockdown, beginning Friday, 18 September at 2pm, and ending on 10 October. Restrictions include:

<sup>5</sup> Source: CNN, <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/11/asia/india-covid-death-rate-explainer-intl-hnk-scli/index.html>

- People will be limited to within 500 meters of their homes, except for work and essential activities such as buying food and pharmacy goods.
- Closure of malls, stores (except food and pharmacies), hotels, restaurants, fitness clubs and swimming pools.
- Gatherings limited to 10 people indoors, or 20 people outdoors.
- Closure of schools except for special education and certain boarding schools (online schooling permitted for all schools).
- No sitting in bars or restaurants (delivery service and take-away allowed).

The 3-week lockdown takes place during the high holidays, during which many Jews attend synagogue. The lockdown rules for prayer are as follows:

- Outdoor prayer groups limited to 20 people.

### **Economic response**

A number of steps were taken to provide financial assistance:

- A one-time payment for each citizen was given out in two installments: the first for parents of children under the age of 18, and the second for individuals 18 or older.
- Unemployment pay was extended through 30 June 2020.
- An additional grant was provided for low-income workers over age 67 who were fired or forced to take a leave of absence.
- Grants for businesses whose income suffered due to the pandemic.

On 21 September 2020, the government unanimously approved a 10% pay cut for all Knesset (a Jewish place of worship) members and government ministers.

### **Opening of 2020-2021 school year**

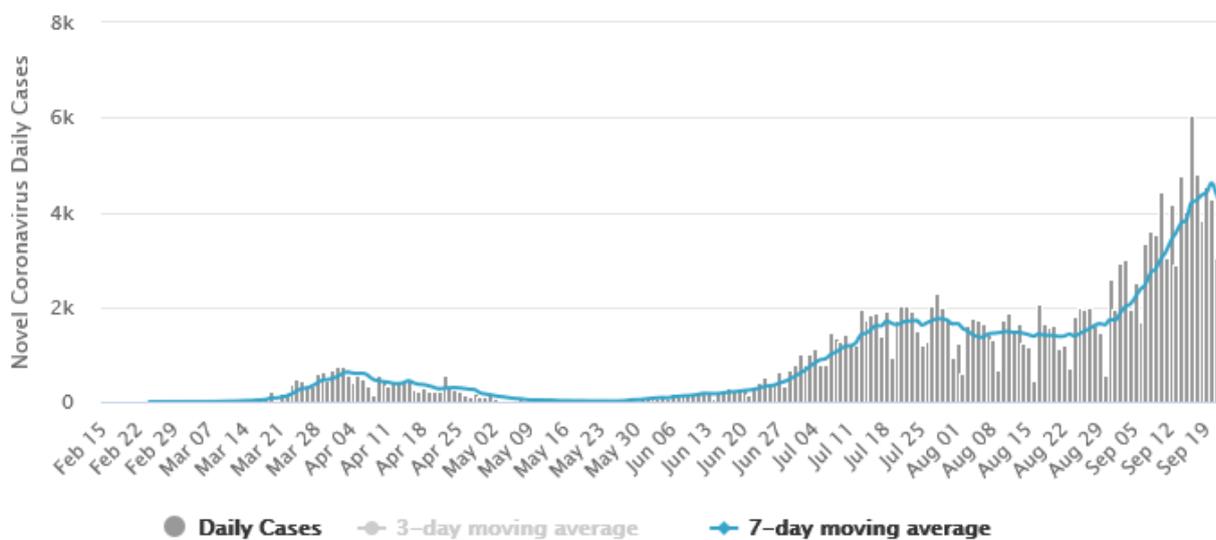
The Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) school year started on 24 August 2020, before the 'traffic light' plan was approved. All other schools in non-'red' cities opened on 1 September 2020. Within a week, a number of schools and kindergartens reported outbreaks, leading to quarantine of exposed staff members and students.

### **Protests**

During July and August 2020, many protests were held, with protesters voicing frustration over the response of the Netanyahu-led government to the pandemic.

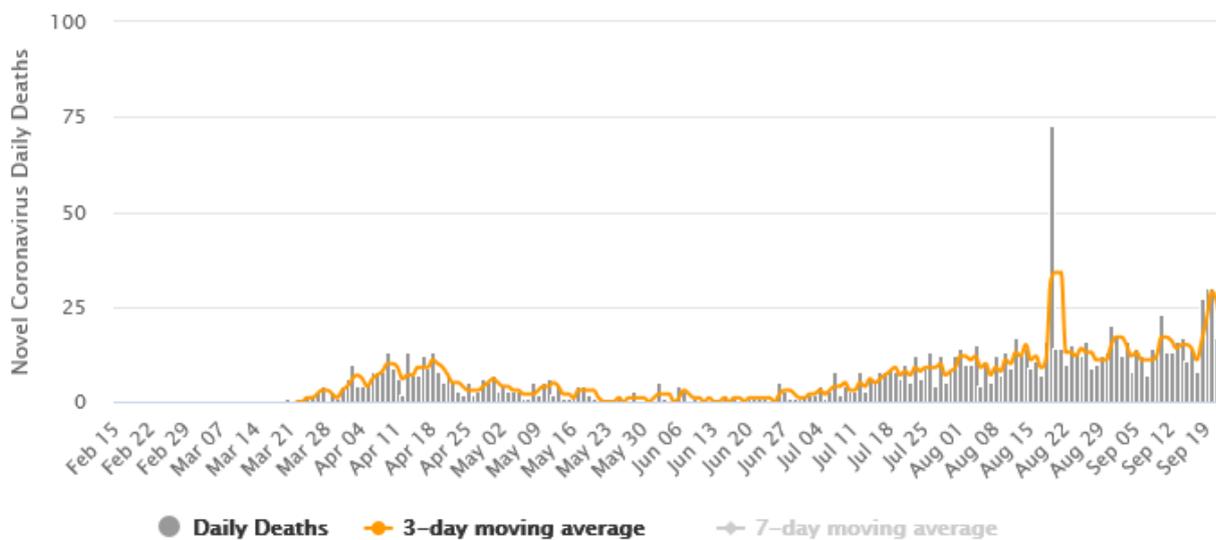
### Daily New Cases

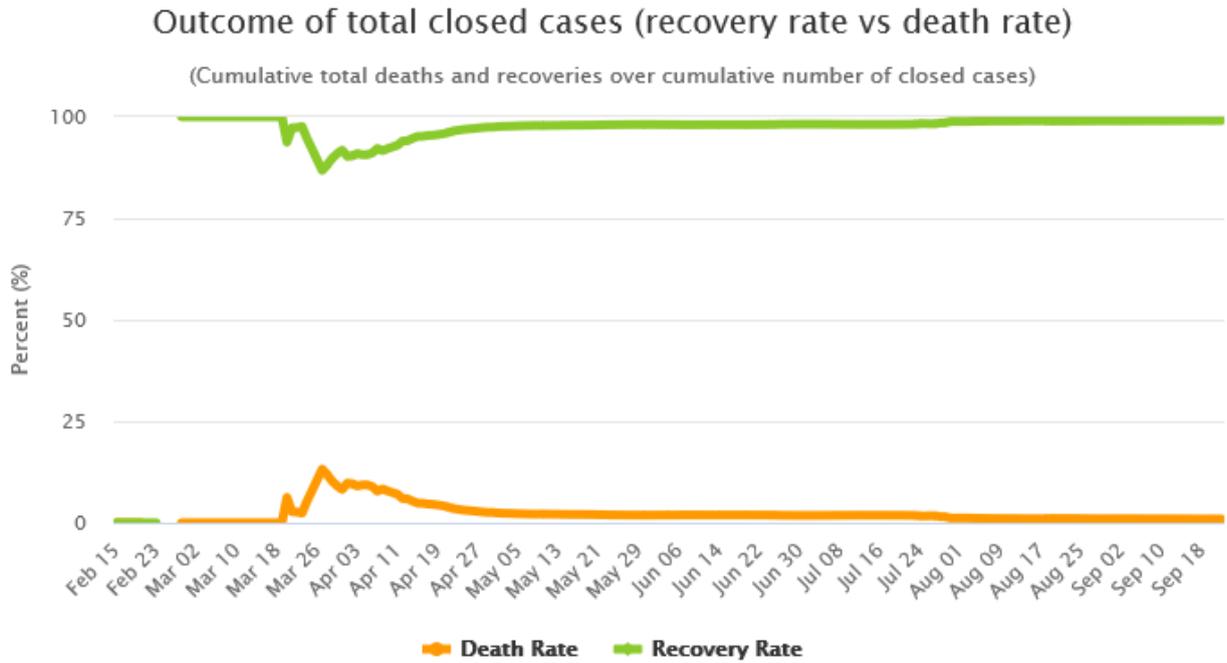
Cases per Day  
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0



### Daily Deaths

Deaths per Day  
Data as of 0:00 GMT+8

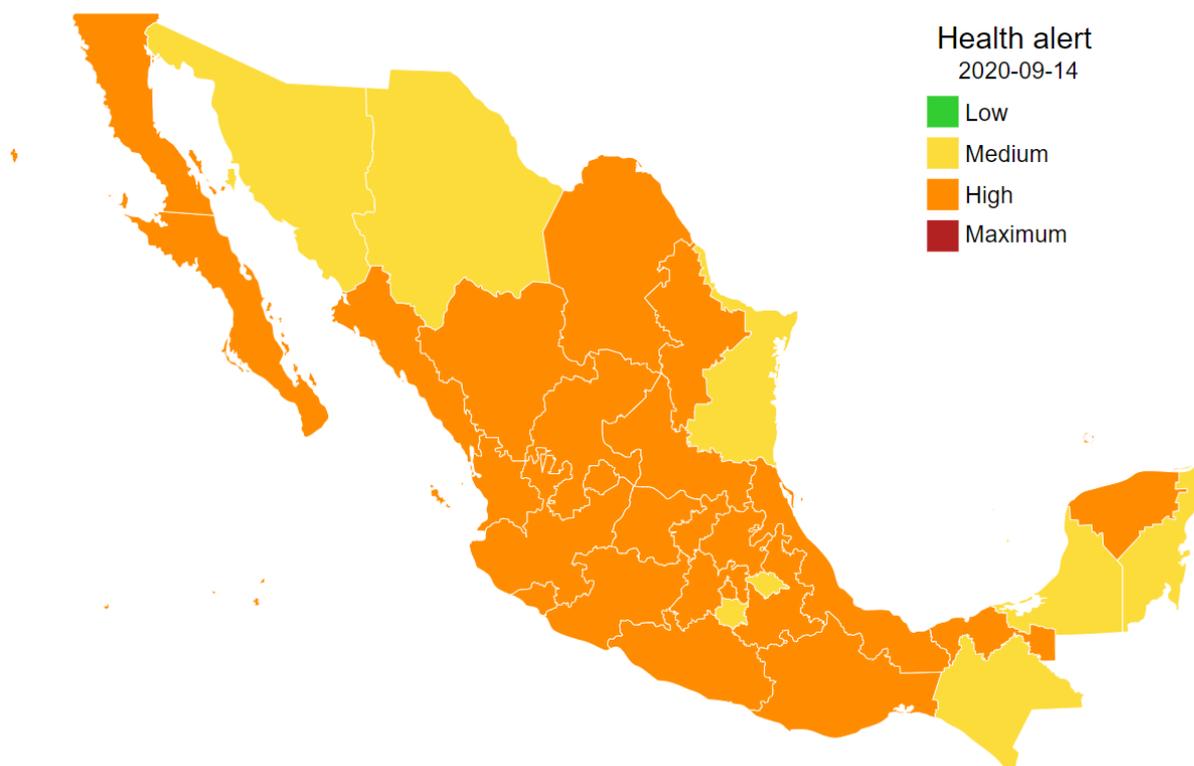




## 6. MEXICO

Mexico rank the fourth place in the world with 710,049 infected till 24 September. 74,949 have died and 510,237 have recovered.

Some Mexican states reopen their public spaces after changing to the yellow color of the coronavirus epidemiological traffic light. Beaches, cultural centers, and important archeological zones, even movie theaters, gyms, and bars can reopen, with the proper health recommendations.



The Undersecretary of Prevention and Health Promotion, Hugo López Gatell, again reiterated to the population that the Covid-19 pandemic would continue for a longer time. It is an epidemic that will last from February at least until October. That was the prediction of a long epidemic, considering the main community mitigation action that was the Healthy Distance Campaign and all its local variants that have continued so far.

The expectation is that also during October and until March and April, there will be persistence or re-emergence of Covid-19 not only in Mexico but also in the countries of the Northern Hemisphere, including Mexico, so it is important that the authorities and society do not lose sight of it.

Schools will not return to classes until the traffic light is green, but teachers will start going to schools to prepare for the eventual return.<sup>6</sup>

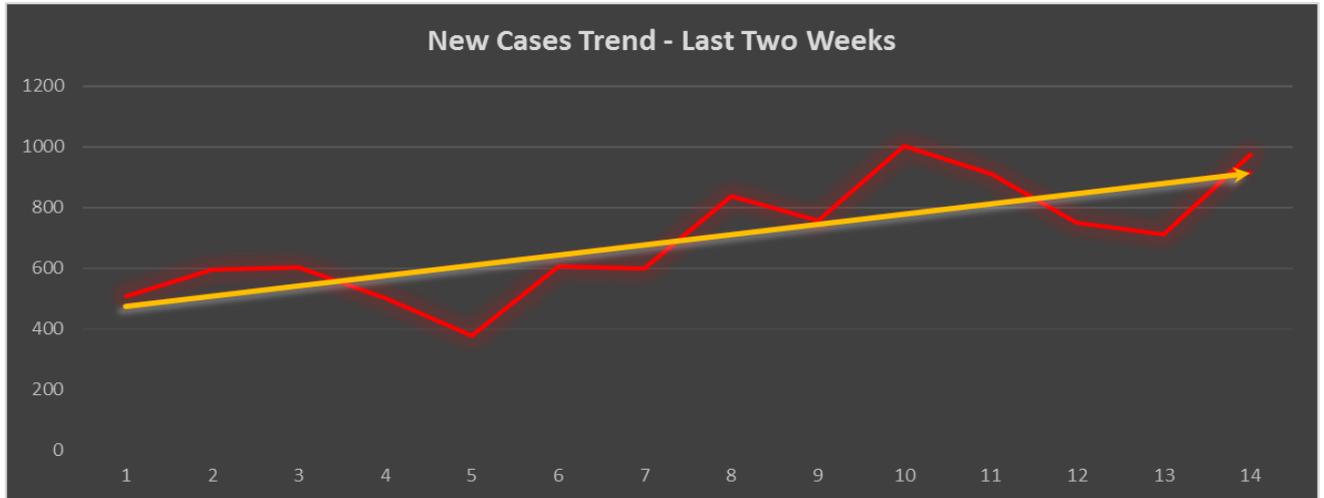
Mexico has very high level of infections but the level of the recoveries is also very high. The number of the active cases is going down very fast.

## 7. POLAND

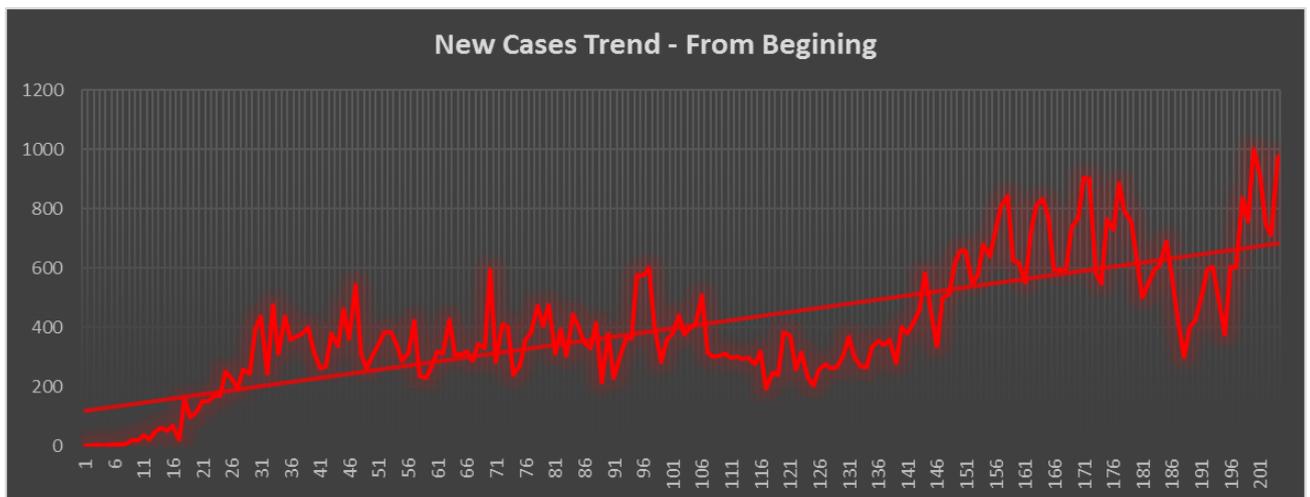
From the beginning of pandemic number of infected people has grown and reached 81,673 (+ 10 147), disease trend rate is higher comparing to previous period and now is above linear trend line. Currently average number of infected is 709 (recently 604) people a day during last two weeks, which placed Poland on 12<sup>th</sup> place in Europe and 40<sup>th</sup> on the world.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.mexicanist.com/l/coronavirus/>

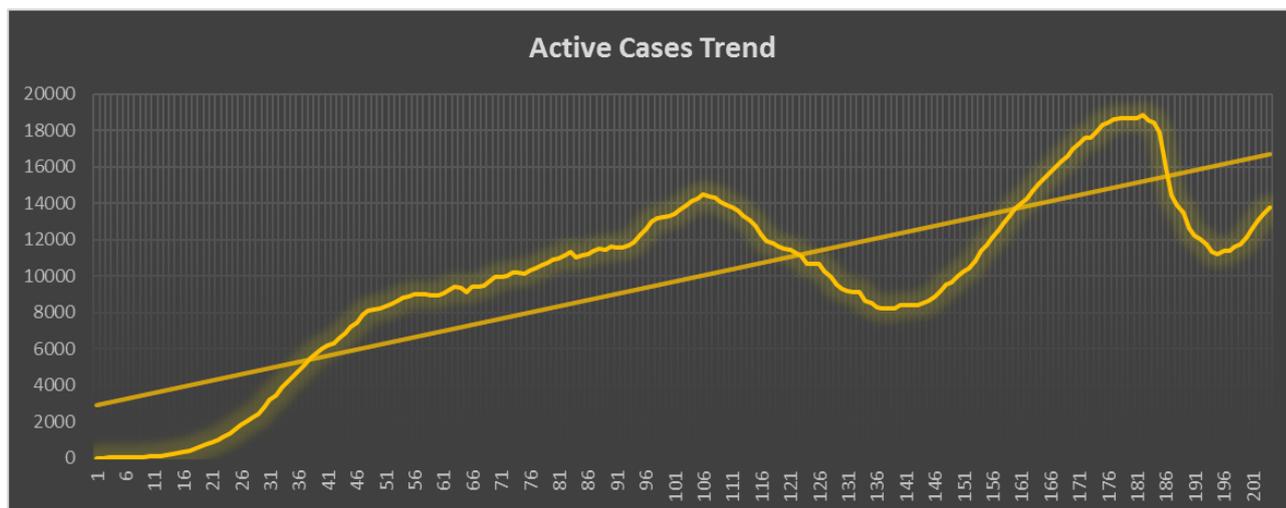
However, during last week Poland reached next daily record of new cases, 1,002 on 19<sup>th</sup> of SEP 2020.



Now number of new cases is much higher than ever from the beginning of pandemic and leveraged average number of daily cases to around 700.

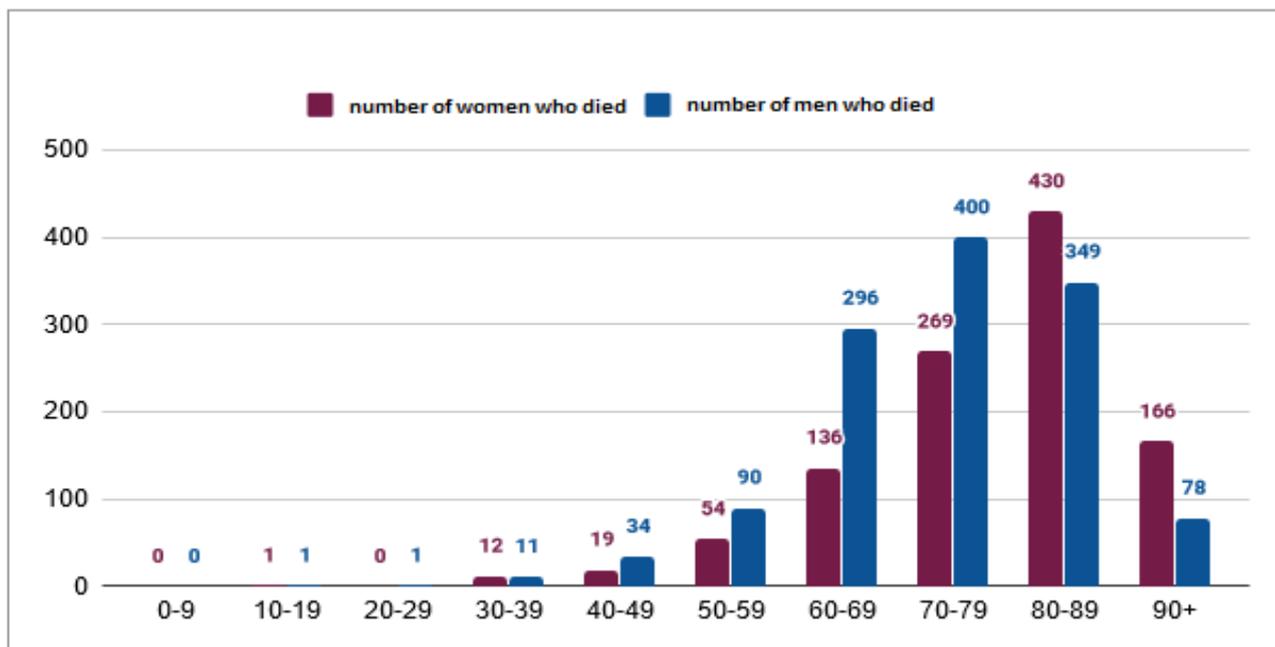


Number of active cases trend line started to grow 10 days ago and now around 14,000 cases, however is still below overall trendiness.



Number of tests done so far is 3,177,776 / +307,510 from last report. Reported number of people cured from coronavirus so far – 65,561 / +9,651 from last report which is more than double comparing to previous report and can be a reason of lowering number of active cases. 2,344 (+208) people died so far (1,258 men and 1 087 women), average age of died person is 76 years.

### Age structure of died people in Poland



### Morbidity rate by district in Poland

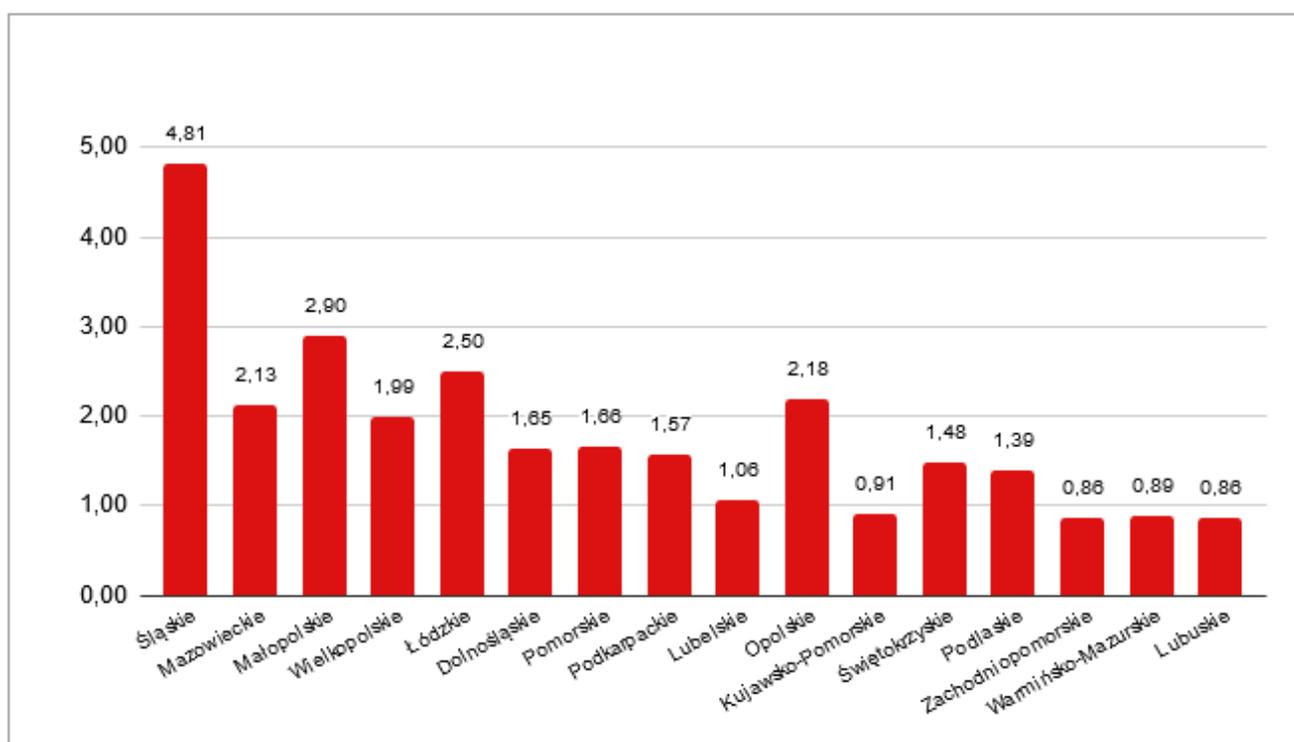


Chart above presents morbidity rate divided by district. It is seen that in 12<sup>th</sup> districts this rate is bigger than one, which means that one infected can transmit virus to more than one person that facilitates potential disease acceleration. Moreover, numbers grown in each of district comparing to previous period.

After two weeks of relative calm period pandemic started again. It is easy to notice a correlation with children and adolescents returning to school on September 1, although there is no public data on how many infections are detected in school outbreaks. From the reports

of health authorities, we know, that many infections are also found in hospitals - and, for example, at the construction site of the Warsaw metro.

The spike in new detected infections began on September 14. Before, both the decrease in positive results in the daily pool of tests and the decrease in hospitalization, indicated that the August increase in infections is slowly being brought under control. Now, the percentage of positive results in the daily pool of tests is increasing - the average for the last weeks is 3.34%. According to epidemiological standards, the situation is good if this percentage is less than 3%. This is despite the fact that the number of tests performed daily is decreasing.

This is partly the result of the new strategy of the Ministry of Health - tests are to be performed primarily on patients with symptoms of COVID-19. People in quarantine, which ends automatically after 10 days, will not have them, nor will patients in home isolation. However, the steady increase in positive results after the new rules have been introduced shows that the epidemic is indeed spreading more actively.

Scientists from the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS) published their report "Understanding COVID-19". It summarizes the latest pandemic knowledge and recommendations for fall. Experts emphasize that we learn more and more about the new virus and this knowledge will change. Even so, some things are already quite obvious - for example, that it is easiest to get infected during direct contact lasting more than 15 minutes in a closed room, and that it is better to avoid boisterous weddings, sports events and large religious celebrations. And also that people 65+ and with weakened immune system can suffer the most when they face the virus.

That is why researchers from PAS remind seniors to:

- limit contacts with other people;
- in the case of necessary contacts, they should try to keep a distance of min. 2 meters, and if it is impossible, wear a mask and demand it from interlocutors as well;
- closely monitor their health condition;
- get vaccinated against influenza and pneumococcus (vaccines for seniors are to be free).

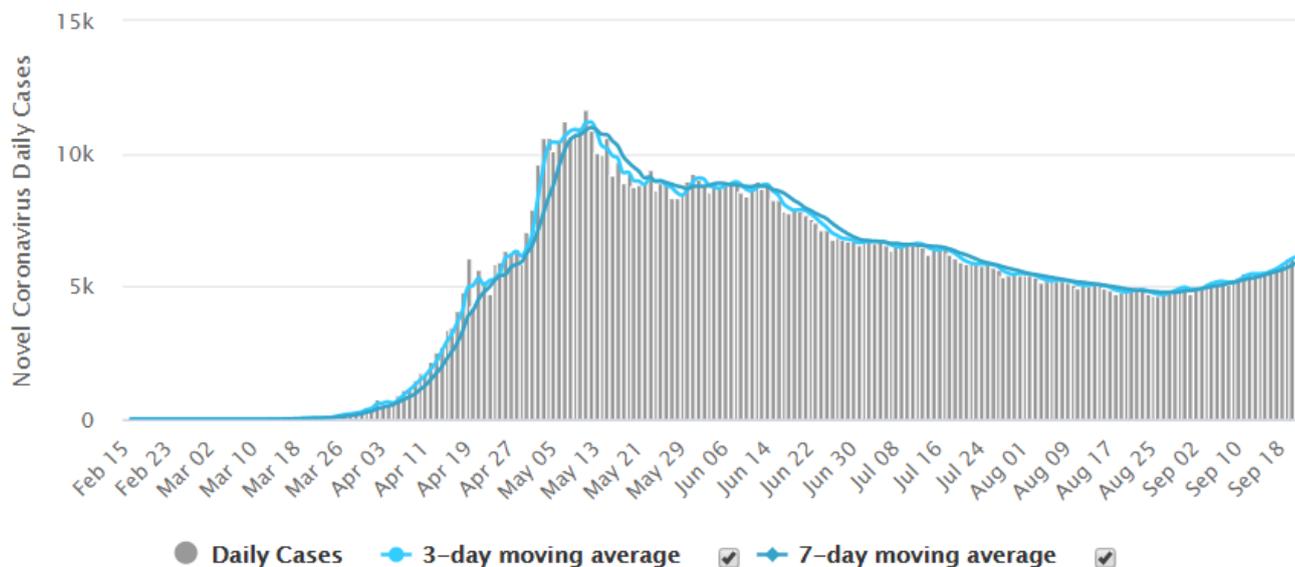
## 8. RUSSIA

On Saturday September 19, Russia has surpassed 6000 cases per day, this is the fourth day in a row this is the fourth day in a row with such a trend. As on September 22, Russia has registered 6,215 new COVID-19 cases, taking its total to 1,115,810, in accordance with the country's COVID-19 response center.

Meanwhile, 160 new deaths were reported, taking the death toll to 19,649.

Moscow, the worst-hit part of Russia, reported 980 new cases, bringing its tally of infections to 278,388. According to the data, 917,949 patients have recovered so far across the country, including 5,976.

As of September 21, 221,141 people were still under medical observation, while over 43.3 million tests have been conducted in Russia.



In regard to newly developed Russian’s coronavirus vaccine, for the time being 1.2 billion doses have booked, at least ten countries in Asia, South America and the Middle East have entered into agreements to access the Russian coronavirus vaccine Sputnik V.

The list of countries includes India where Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy’s Laboratories has partnered with the vaccine developers for carrying out late stage trials and then distribute 100 million doses of the vaccine. The Russian developers are also looking for an Indian partner to manufacture the vaccine in India.

Among other countries that have struck deals to bring the Russian vaccine for their people were Brazil, South Africa, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile, Russia has approved a new antiviral drug it is called Coronavir, and recently is designated for outpatients with mild to moderate coronavirus infections, this drug is expected to be rolled out to pharmacies in Russia no early than the end of the next week.<sup>8</sup>

## 9. SPAIN

Spain ended the period 7-14 September with the worst figures so far from the second wave of the coronavirus epidemic – 12,183 cases reported. The number of Covid-19-related deaths over the period was 241, according to Spain Health Ministry report from September 14, 2020.

This sharp rise in new infections over two consecutive days (September 12 and 13) threatens to end the trend of slower increases that had been seen over previous period. But any interpretation of a specific daily report issued by the Spanish Health Ministry is subject to many variables, making it impossible to tell if we are faced with a trend or simply peaks and troughs.

There are numerous changes in Spain in September after a particularly unusual and difficult return-to-school period.

<sup>7</sup> <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/september-21-coronavirus-vaccine-tracker-covid-19-latest-news-russia-vaccine-oxford-astrazeneca-6604198/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/09/18/russia-approves-first-prescription-covid-19-drug-for-sale-in-pharmacies.html>

After months of closure, Spain's schools are technically reopening at the start of September. The country's coronavirus infection rates are as high as they were during the months of lockdown, which is turning the reopening process into a logistical nightmare for regional authorities.

Region of Madrid gradually welcomed back pupils to the classroom from September 4th in a staggered manner, which means half-empty classrooms at first. Catalonia has announced September 14, as the date to reopen schools. Almost every region has set a different date: Asturias on September 22, the Balearics on September 10, the Canaries on September 15, and the dates also vary depending on whether it's a primary, secondary or high school.

The government has given itself until September 25 to decide whether new restrictions are needed to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the regions, which has the highest cumulative incidence rate of Covid-19 in Spain. This may include cutting capacity in shops, bars and restaurants to 50%; closing bar counters; and reducing the business hours of all stores and hostelry, which could be told to close at 10 pm.

These measures have already been applied to 37 basic health areas in the region of Madrid, which have been confined since September 21 due to their high incidence rates of Covid-19. Under the confinement measures, more than 850,000 residents in the affected neighborhoods are only allowed in and out for essential activities such as going to school or work, or to care for dependents.

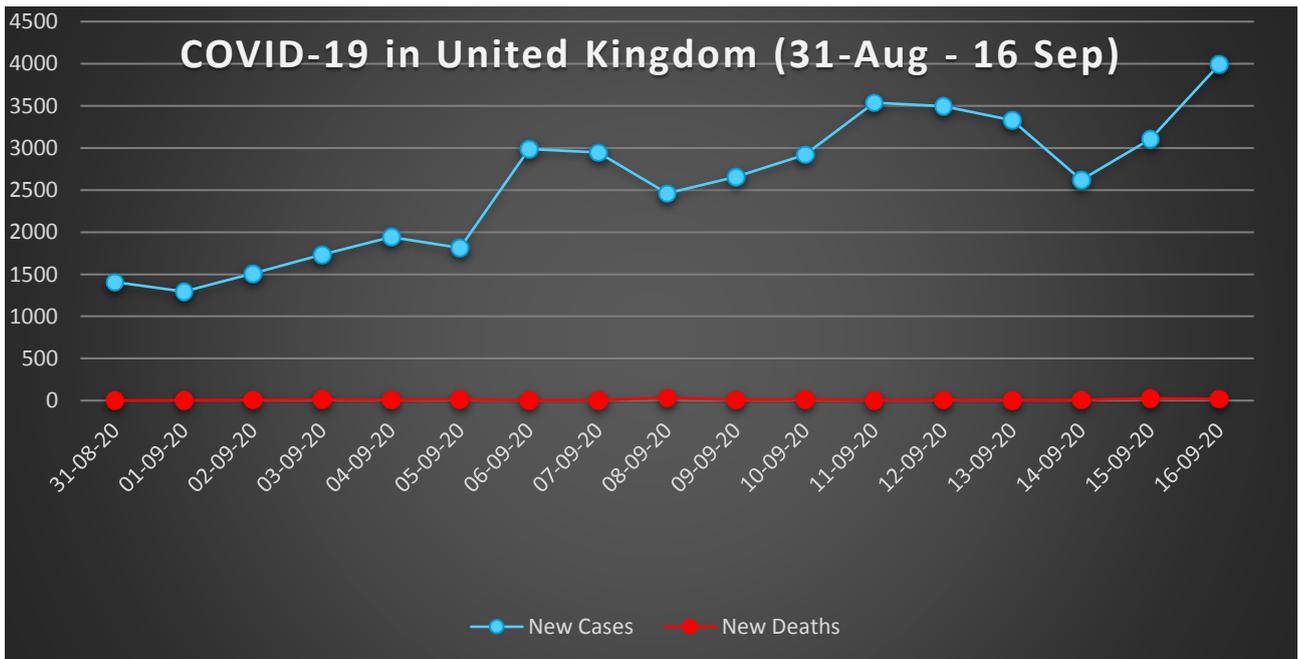
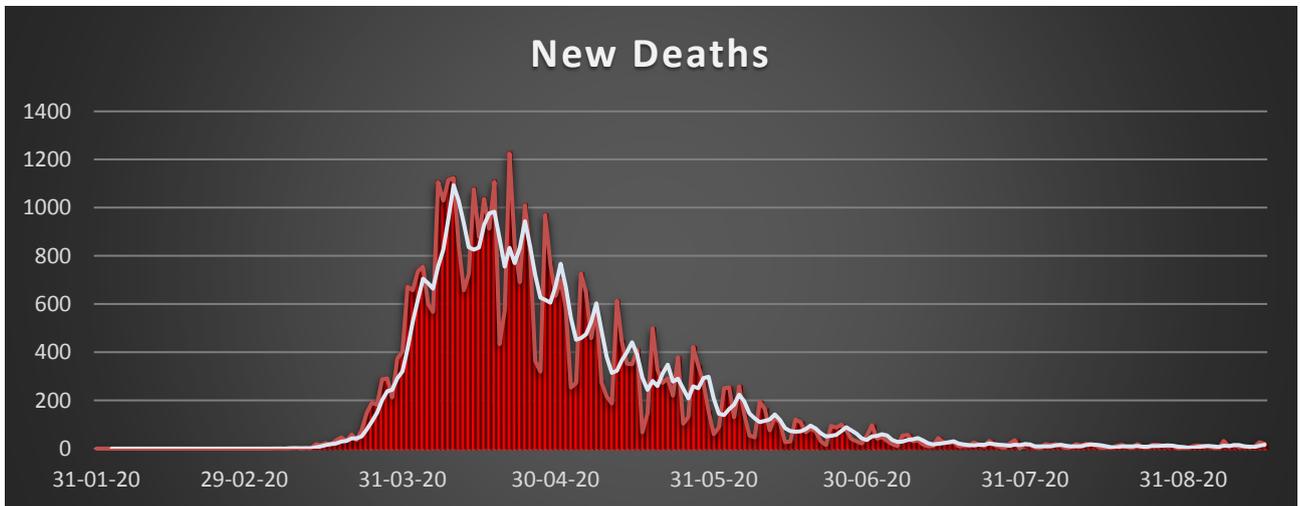
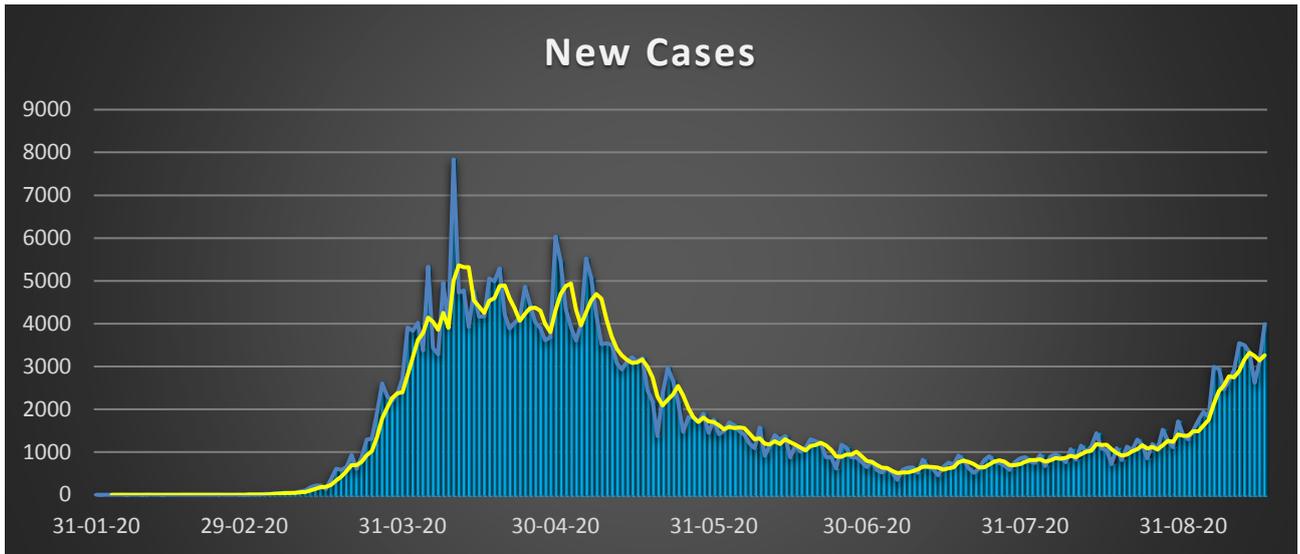
On September 23, Madrid authorities also requested logistical support from the Spanish armed forces to help curb the spread of the coronavirus in these areas. The formally request demands the urgent logistical support of the military to set up tents, carry out tests and disinfections in each of the areas subject to restrictions.

Spain's Labour Ministry reported that anyone who started receiving 70 percent of their salary in March as part of the Temporary Unemployment (ERTE) Subsidy will see this sum reduced to 50 percent per month from their September payroll onwards. This 20 percent decrease applies six months after the ERTE subsidy started to be received.

Changes to remote working are set to be passed due to recent amendments to labor laws in Spain, which to guarantee that employees have the right to carry out 20 to 30 percent of their job responsibilities from home (when the nature of the work allows for it). Spanish trade unions have said that the amount is too low considering the current coronavirus situation and the prevalence of remote working as an acceptable means of work.

## **10. UNITED KINGDOM**

During the period, the COVID-19 daily cases doubled the number in comparison to the previous period. Currently there are 409,729 registered cases and 41,862 officially stated COVID-19 related deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. The growth rate of infections for the bi-weekly period is – 100 %. The daily new cases numbers in the UK is again as those in April-May timeframe. Nonetheless, the daily death cases in the state remains 10 times lower than those in April-May. Despite these numbers, the increase of daily death cases is also 100% in comparison to the previous be-weekly period.



Currently UK is not in the leading positions on the world chart of number of infected but still the country is on the first place by total deaths in Europe.

At the end of July some of the Nations made face coverings mandatory for public places and later it was introduced nationally wide. At the beginning of September, the UK Government modified the COVID-19 restrictions putting focus on face coverings and social distancing (more than six people are not allowed on public places except weddings, funerals and organized sports activities) but as the statistics show these measures seem not to be effective, as expected. The authorities also announced an update on the R-number value from 0.7-0.9 (since May) to 1.1-1.2 meaning that the COVID-19 spread is getting out of control making path for a second wave.

Following the development of the pandemic, on 22 September, UK Government announced new COVID-19 rules.

"This is the moment when we must act," Johnson said. "If we can curb the number of daily infections and reduce the reproduction rate to one, then we can save lives, protect the NHS [National Health Service] and the most vulnerable, and shelter the economy from the far sterner and more costly measures that would inevitably become necessary later on."<sup>9</sup>

PM Johnson marked some of the new rules:

- pubs, bars and restaurants in England must close at 10 p.m.
- weddings will be limited to 15 people, though funerals are limited to 30
- people who are able to work from home to do so

The government's scientific advisers say that if the virus is left unchecked, the U.K. can expect to see 50,000 cases a day by mid-October and more than 200 deaths a day by mid-November.

There is skepticism about how much of an impact Johnson's new measures will have. For instance, in suburban London, the curfew would trim the operating time of some pubs only by 90 minutes. Meanwhile, the government continues to fail to meet the demand for coronavirus testing, raising concerns it won't be able to track the virus's spread this fall.

## 11. USA

The number of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 grows every day throughout the U.S. and across the world. The U.S. has passed another grim milestone in the coronavirus pandemic and now has recorded more than seven million cases of COVID-19 and more than 207,000 deaths.

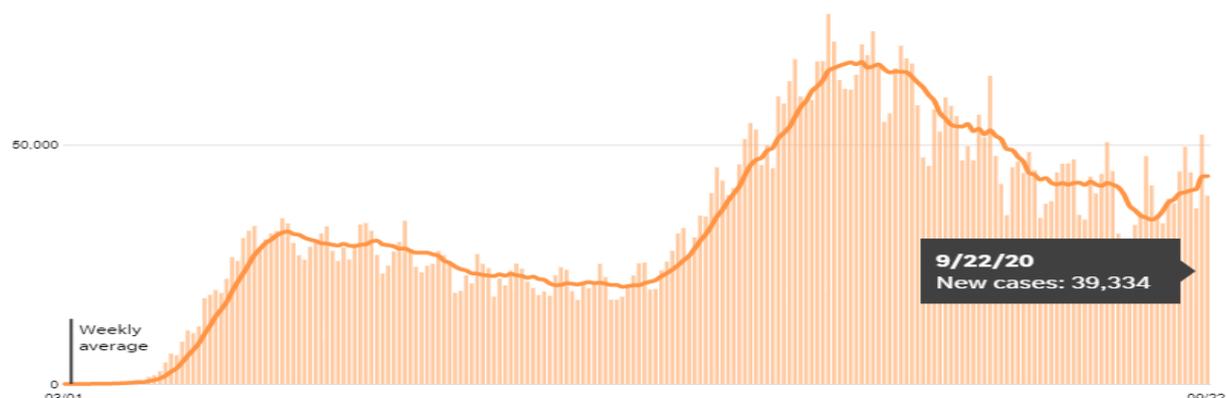
The number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 each day plateaued after reaching a peak in late April, but in recent weeks, there has been a new surge of cases across the country.

While New York has seen the largest number of cumulative cases of any state, more recently the spread of the disease has slowed there and accelerated in other states, such as California, Texas, Arizona and Florida.

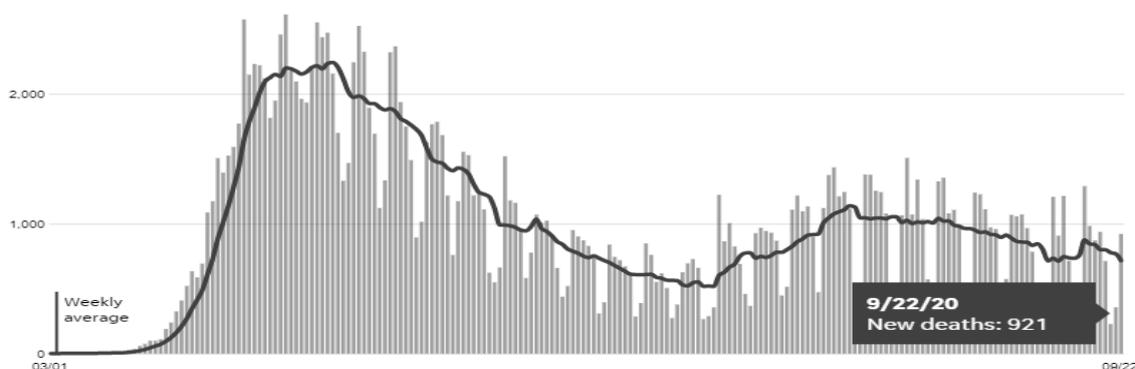
<sup>9</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/09/22/915599133/this-is-the-moment-when-we-must-act-u-k-government-imposes-new-coronavirus-rules?t=1600929965892>

**New deaths and confirmed cases of COVID-19 by day**

New cases per day



New deaths per day



Data as of: 9/22/20

Although the nation is partially recovering from its steepest-ever recession amid the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses continue to lay off hundreds of thousands of workers as they struggle with fewer sales and depleted federal aid.

Over 55 million workers have filed for benefits over the past six months. More than 857,000 Americans filed for unemployment insurance for the first time last week, the Labor Department said, as the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic continues to mount.

Six states set records for new cases in a week while two states had a record number of deaths in a week. New case records were set in Arkansas, Montana, North Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Record numbers of deaths were reported in Kansas and North Dakota, and also Puerto Rico.

Moderna, one of the companies leading the effort to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, announced September 17 it could have enough clinical trial results as soon as November to confirm the effectiveness of its candidate vaccine.

As the virus continues to circulate widely within the United States and thousands of new cases are still being identified each day true normalcy remains a distant vision.

## 12. EUROPEAN UNION

On 10 September 2020, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the Director General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, launched and co-hosted the first meeting of the High Level Facilitation Council to speed up the development

and deployment of vaccines, tests and treatments against COVID-19. The Facilitation Council build on what the ACT-A has achieved so far: over 200 vaccine candidates, 1700 clinical trials, and 80 diagnostics are being followed. President von der Leyen said: “Today’s launch of the Facilitation Council brings us closer to our global goal: access to coronavirus vaccines, tests and treatments for everyone who needs them, anywhere. The EU will use all its convening power to help keep the world united against coronavirus.”

The European Commission has set out guidance for the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility in its 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy. The new growth agenda helps to build a green, digital and sustainable recovery. The Facility, managed by a Task Force, is the key instrument at the heart of NextGenerationEU and will help the EU become stronger and more resilient. The four dimensions of environmental sustainability, productivity, fairness and macroeconomic stability are guiding principles underpinning Member States’ recovery and resilience plans and their national reforms and investments. Member States should submit their draft plans from 15 October 2020 onwards, outlining national investment and reform agendas to benefit from the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

On 22 September 2020, The Commission welcomes the activation of the SURE - the temporary Support mitigating Unemployment Risks in Emergency instrument, which will provide up to €100 billion in financial support to help protect workers and jobs affected by the coronavirus pandemic. This follows the finalization of national approval procedures and signatures by all Member States to provide for the guarantee agreements with the Commission worth a total of €25 billion. The Commission has already presented proposals to the Council for decisions to grant financial support in the order of €87.3 billion to 16 Member States under the SURE instrument. Once the Council adopts these proposals, the financial support will be provided in the form of loans granted on favourable terms from the EU to Member States.

The ECDC has its updated rapid risk assessment on the development of the epidemiological situation and finds that infection rates have increased across the EU and the UK. This poses an increasing risk for certain groups and health care workers. The ECDC also published its new guidelines for non-pharmaceutical interventions. The Commission has also published questions and answers on the EU Vaccination strategy.

## 13.NATO

NATO with the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), stands ready to assist in the coordination of any offers being considered in support of the stricken nations. At this moment, seven (7) allied and nine (9) partner nations have requested international assistance through the EADRCC. In chronological order of requesting, these are: Ukraine, Spain, Montenegro, Albania, The Republic of North Macedonia, The Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Colombia, Slovenia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Bulgaria, Tunisia and Iraq. To date thirteen (13) requests for International assistance are active right now, since Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Montenegro and Slovenia have retrieved their respected requests. It is proven that the majority of Member States are difficult to react, since each of them needs the same materials and equipment. In addition, the Republic of Moldova issued a second request for international assistance.

On 18th of September 2020, the United States donated 200 ventilators to a stockpile of medical supplies that NATO has established to respond to a potential second wave of COVID-19. The US Agency for International Development delivered the ventilators to the NATO Support and Procurement Agency’s (NSPA) Southern Operational Centre in Taranto, Italy.

An overview of the outstanding requests for International assistance up today can be

found here - [https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2020/5/pdf/2005-EADRCC-COVID-19\\_overview.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2020/5/pdf/2005-EADRCC-COVID-19_overview.pdf).

In brief until now, NATO contributes to the fight against pandemic as follows:

- More than 350 flights transporting medical personnel,
- 100 field hospitals built,
- 45.000 treatment beds provided,
- 14.000 military medical professionals deployed to assist in civilian Hospitals,
- 500.000 troops around the alliance helped respond,
- 6.000 defense scientists work to improve virus detection and decontamination,
- 13 allies received assistance from NSPA,
- 24/7 support from NATO EADRCC, to facilitate medical and financial assistance to 16 NATO and Partner Nations (more than 300 ventilators, more than 10.000lts of disinfectant and more than 2 million masks, were donated).

As announced on the 17th of September 2020 and since the start of the pandemic, NATO's Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme has involve its broad network of scientists and research institutions and partner countries into finding innovative solutions against the spread of the COVID-19, through collaborative initiatives. For example, under the SPS Programme, the use of the NICS the Next-Generation Incident Command System – a tool that helps to enhance response coordination among state institutions and organizations like the Red Cross, has spread across the Western Balkans to improve cooperation and information-sharing among first responders during disasters.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. There are evidences that second COVID -19 wave has started to roll across Europe and World.
2. Cases of the disease are continuing to surge in many countries. Some that had apparent success in suppressing initial outbreaks have seen infections rise again.
3. Coronavirus is continuing its spread across the world, with more than 32 million people infected, more than 987,000 deaths and more than 7 million active cases.
4. Asia and Latin America are the continents that currently have the highest number of daily confirmed cases.
5. Until now 987,000 deaths from COVID-19 are recorded worldwide, almost 207,000 of which are from the United States, which is the world's highest death toll.
6. Given the size of its population, India has low death rate from Covid-19. But more than 1,000 deaths have been recorded every day from across the country for the last seven days.
7. USA, India, Brazil, Russia, and Columbia to be top 5 in regards of new cases per day.
8. India, USA, Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina are among top 5 with highest number of daily deaths.
9. Covid-19 cases rise among young people. The return to in-person classes will have a deadly impact if proper precautions aren't taken.
10. Governments are still looking for social and political responses to balance smoothly economic pressure while the hazardous spread is scrambling.
11. The COVID-19 pandemic has more negative impacts than it was anticipated in the first half of 2020. The recovery is projected to be more gradual amidst a lot of uncertainty.
12. Spain, France, the Netherlands, Romania and the Czech Republic are recording their highest numbers of daily cases since the spring, and we probably are seeing resurgence of the disease in Europe in October and November.
13. Pandemic has significant socio-economic impact especially in Middle East, Africa and South America, which can lead to growing unemployment and increasing poverty of local societies. This can trigger social dissatisfaction, widening differences between social classes and civil unrest.
14. There are several vaccines in process of development by different producers. The most advanced is the vaccine developed by Moderna Therapeutics which is on the third phase. Despite Russia announced its vaccine to be ready for use there are widespread concerns that the approval is premature.
15. Covid-19 may have surprised us with the wide range of disease symptoms and lingering effects on our bodies, but we have learned that our immune system is taking all the right steps for its elimination.
16. NATO wasn't enough prepared for this pandemic and under the light of a second wave of COVID 19 infection, actions are already taken IOT provide in both Political and Military domains, realistic and flexible operations plans and directives (for example better

organization and coordination of the available airlift capabilities of the Alliance thought out member states).

17. The negative effect of the pandemic in the Nations GDP, might also force the majority of the Allies to be extremely reluctant to assign their limited financial budget to upgrade national defence capabilities and maintain costly procurement programmes, according to NATO obligations. As an outcome the Alliance will have to find “smart” ways to adjust defence capability requirements towards traditional security threats (nuclear, conventional, cyber and hybrid) and new challenges that arise from climate change, pandemics and mass migration.

18. NATO’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic thus far has shown that the Alliance can play a positive supporting role in helping not only the member states, to respond to health emergencies. Across the Alliance, more than half a million troops have supported the response to date, setting up almost 100 field hospitals and airlifting hundreds of tons of critical supplies around the world. The lessons learned until now of COVID-19 also cites that pandemics pose a risk to the health and safety of service members and their families, while posing a challenge to maintaining the desirable level of military readiness.

19. This pandemic crisis is a unique opportunity to enhance further the solidarity between the alliance and the cooperation and coordination with other organizations such as EU and UN. NATO should demonstrate coherence and support in the current crisis by putting in place political and military measures, to ensure the long-term health of the alliance.

20. NATO took under serious consideration the Alliance scientific community (a network of more than 6.000 experts and scientists), in the decision making process, regarding the proper understanding of virus/pandemic dynamics and the resilience building for the armed forces and local societies.

21. NATO pays significant attention to counter any disinformation and fake news from any state or non-state actor, especially during the pandemic period when the risk of harming the Alliance and the relevant communities is higher by undermining vital public health messages. It is obvious that the common strategy should be updated accordingly in order to be able coordinate efficiently all the key players in the information domain (international organizations, national and local governments, private companies, civil society and independent media).