

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

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COVID-19

PART 22

(24 September – 07 October 2020)

HOW PANDEMIC SPARKED EUROPEAN CYCLING REVOLUTION

This report represents a summary of open source information, accumulated between 24 September and 07 October 2020, and was assembled on 08 October 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.

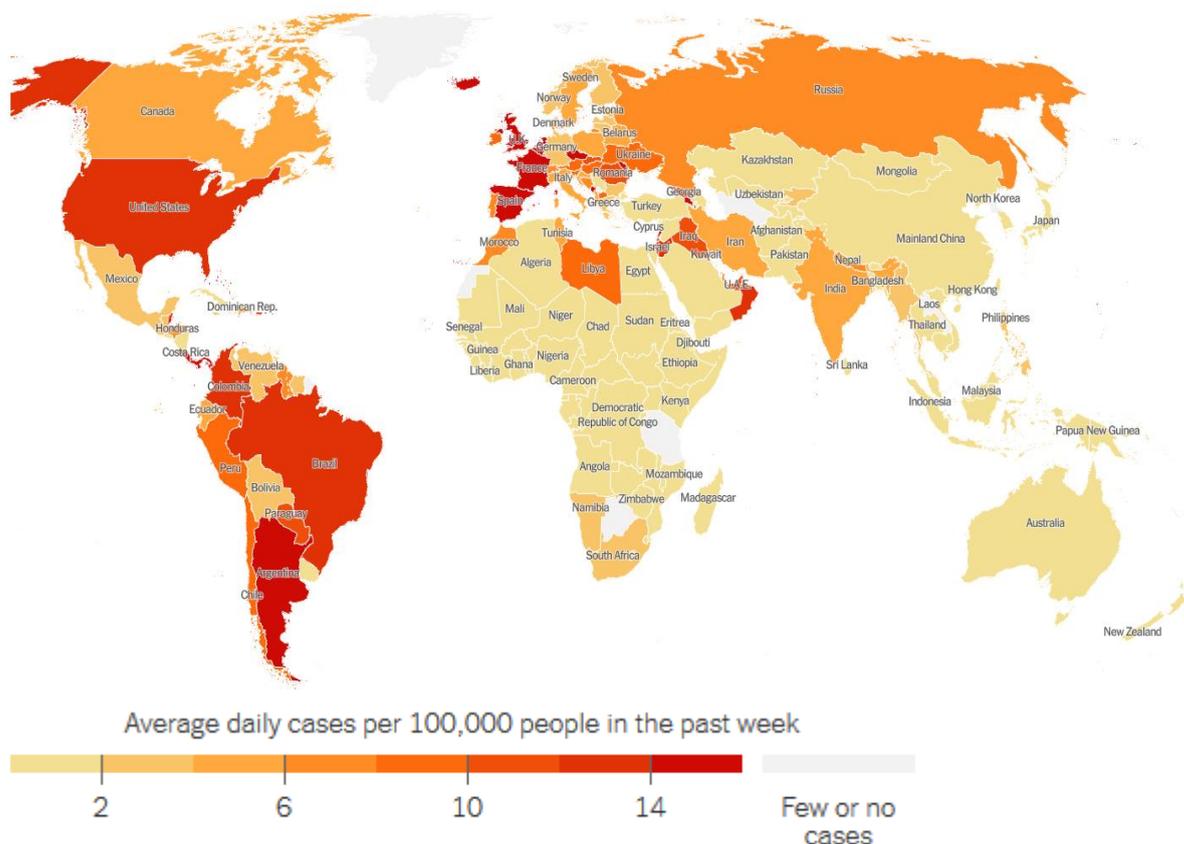
TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERAL SITUATION ON THE WORLD	3
HOW PANDEMIC SPARKED EUROPEAN CYCLING REVOLUTION	5
CMDR COE OPS LAP ANALYSIS	7
MONITORING	11
1. ARGENTINA.....	11
2. BRAZIL.....	11
3. CANADA.....	12
4. COLOMBIA.....	13
5. FRANCE.....	14
6. INDIA.....	16
7. ISRAEL.....	17
8. PERU.....	18
10. POLAND.....	19
11. RUSSIA.....	23
12. SPAIN.....	24
13. UNITED KINGDOM.....	25
14. USA.....	28
CONCLUSIONS	30
RECOMMENDATION (concerning only Bulgaria)	32

OVERALL SITUATION ON THE WORLD

COVID-19 cases crossed the 36-million mark globally during last two weeks, with still USA, India, Brazil, Russia and Colombia among the top five worst affected countries. Number of deaths crossed “magic” number of 1 million (1 054 057 as of 6 OCT) with USA, Brazil, India, Mexico, and UK among top five countries on the world.

The Region of the Americas remains the most affected, accounting for 50% of all reported cases and 55% of deaths. The Region reported similar numbers of new cases and deaths this past week as compared to the previous week and accounts for 38% of new cases and 52% of new deaths. The United States of America, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia continue to report the highest number of new cases in the past week. Mexico reported the sixth highest number of new cases and third highest number of new deaths.



Over the past weeks, the number of new cases and deaths reported in the Eastern Mediterranean Region has consistently increased, with a 9% and 3% increase respectively. The

highest numbers of new cases were reported by Iraq, Iran and Morocco. Somalia, Jordan, United Arab Emirates and Tunisia reported the greatest relative increase in cases compared to the previous weeks. While Iraq reported the highest number of new deaths, Bahrain and Jordan reported the greatest increase in deaths compared to the previous weeks.

While the number of new cases and deaths reported in the European Region continued to increase in the past seven days, the rate slowed, with only a 5% increase in new cases and 9% increase in new deaths reported (compared to 11% and 27% increase, respectively, the previous week). France, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United Kingdom continue to report the highest numbers of new cases. Turkey reported the third highest deaths in last seven days after the Russian Federation and Spain. In France, the highest 7-day incidence was observed in the regions of Île-de-France, Hauts-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur – the latter including the city of Marseille, which has emerged as the epicentre of the country's second wave in recent weeks. While the number of hospitalized cases has doubled in the past 10 days, hospitalization numbers remain a magnitude smaller than observed earlier this year and hospital stays have tended to be shorter. Nonetheless, test positivity rates have continued to trend upwards (reaching 7.4% on 27 September), and 58/101 departments are now classified in the red zone indicating very high levels of infection.

In the United Kingdom, there has been an increase in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in all age groups, with the regions of Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the North West and the North East reporting the highest incidence in the past weeks. Wales has reported the highest rates of infection to date (727.7 per 100 000 population), followed by England (664), Northern Ireland (566.6) and Scotland (504.7).

The South-East Asia Region is the second most affected Region, accounting for 21% and 11% of cumulative cases and deaths, respectively. While the Region had been reporting increasing cases and deaths since March, in the past week, a 7% decrease in new cases and a 3% decrease in new deaths were observed. The countries reporting the highest number of new cases continue to be India, Indonesia and Bangladesh, while Myanmar reported the highest increase in cases (92% increase) and deaths (80% increase) compared to the previous weeks.

Overall, the Western Pacific Region continues to show the lowest cumulative cases, accounting for just 2% of global cases and 1% of all deaths. The Philippines and Japan account for the highest number of new cases and new deaths in the Region. All countries in the Region except Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Guam reported decreases in new cases, as compared to the previous week. Only Malaysia reported an increase in new deaths.

HOW PANDEMIC SPARKED EUROPEAN CYCLING REVOLUTION

From Bucharest to Brussels, and from Lisbon to Lyon, the coronavirus pandemic has triggered unprecedented investment in cycling around Europe and has shown the potential that cycling has to change different cities and our lives.

In Europe, in order to create an alternative to the public transport, more than €1bn has been spent on cycling-related infrastructure and 2,300km (1,400 miles) of new bike lanes have been rolled out since the pandemic began.

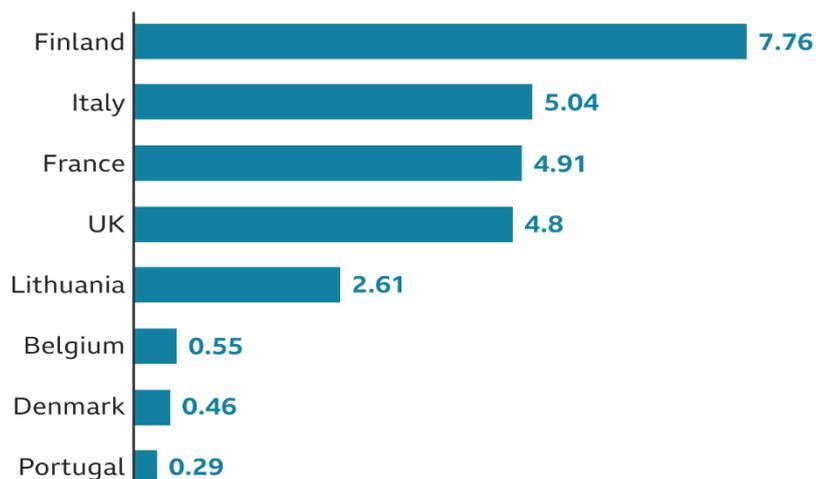
In Milan for example, the efforts to build new bike lanes before the pandemic met the car drivers' opposition. The coronavirus helped to the local authorities to invest in cycling as a way to get people moving around again. 35km of new cycle paths were build, although many of these are temporary. In Paris, €20m invested in the cycling infrastructure since the start of the pandemic. Some of the busiest roads are now completely car-free. Cycling levels have increased by 27% compared with the same time last year. In Brussels, 40km of cycle lanes have been installed along some of the city's busiest roads. In order to free up space so that social distancing rules can be adhered to, there is a zone where pedestrians and cyclists have priority over cars. Speed limits have also been reintroduced across the entire city. Unlike most big cities, Amsterdam already had a cycling infrastructure long before the pandemic. The Dutch capital famously has more bikes than people and 767km of well-established cycle lanes. However, the impact of coronavirus on urban mobility has been far-reaching, and it has still had an impact here. Some bicycle retailers claim that they sold more bikes in the first four months of 2020 than it did in the previous two years. The e-bike is now the most commonly sold type of bicycle in the Netherlands. In addition, cargo bike sales are surging too - up 53% since the start of the pandemic.

Despite the boost to bike-related businesses, not everyone is happy. Many think the changes do not go far enough and that the few new lanes that have been built are really a drop in the ocean compared with the need and the necessity the cities and the will of people. Such people consider the pandemic crisis as a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the policy makers to redesign the cities. In an attempt to prepare people for such major change, governments in different countries spend substantial amount of money to stimulate cycling. For example, the authorities in Milan has spent €115m. They pledged subsidies of up to €500 if citizens want to buy a new bike or an e-scooter in a bid to keep people off public transport and out of cars. In France, the government is offering a €50 subsidy towards the cost of bike repairs and free cycling

lessons.

Additional cycling funding

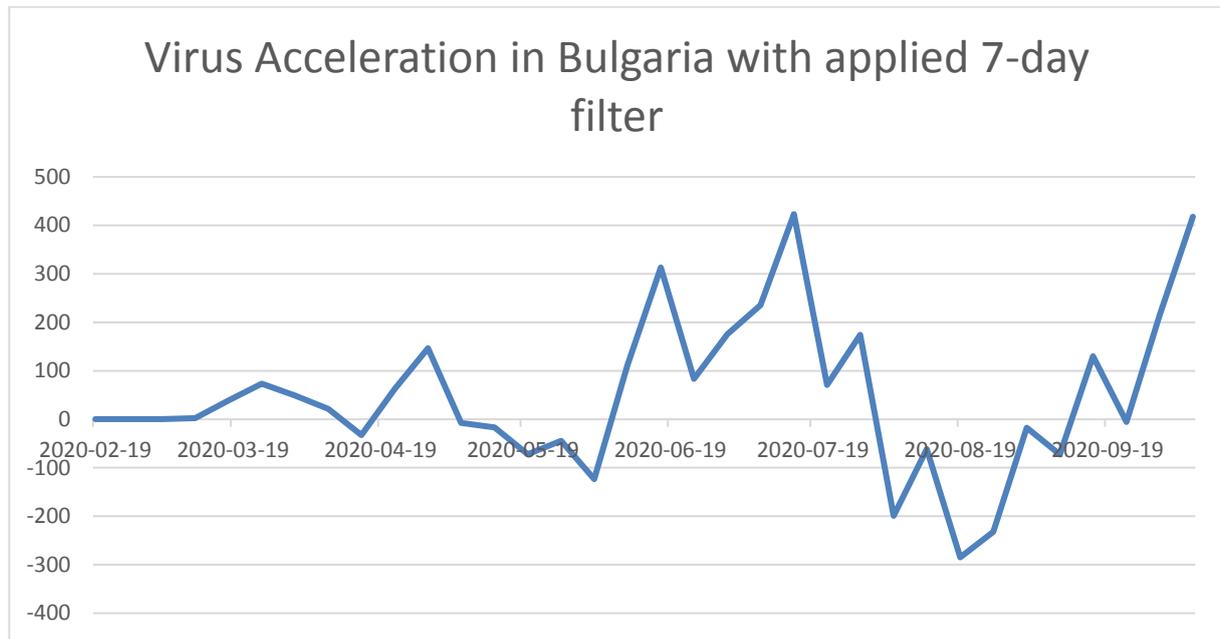
Euros per person



COVID19 not only promoted cycling among the population of big industrial hubs, but also created opportunities to bike-related businesses. So many people decided to buy a new bicycle that the bicycle retailers had difficulties to satisfy the increased demand. This presented opportunities to subscription-based bike service like “Swapfiets”, which flourished in Brussels, where their business grew by 60% during the lockdown. The “Swapfiets” are considering now to open their next shops in Milan and Paris. Bike mechanics also enjoyed increased interest toward their services during the pandemic, their shops staying busy and open throughout the whole of lockdown and actually had to hire more employees to cope with the situation. However they also faced some COVID19 related challenges such as lack of enough spare parts.

As many cities are preparing for an uncertain future, unsure if the old way of living will be possible again, the cycling is proving to be a solution for more and more people. But the question is whether they will keep it up once the fear of coronavirus subsides and whether the move to the bicycle is permanent.

CMDR COE OPS LAP ANALYSIS



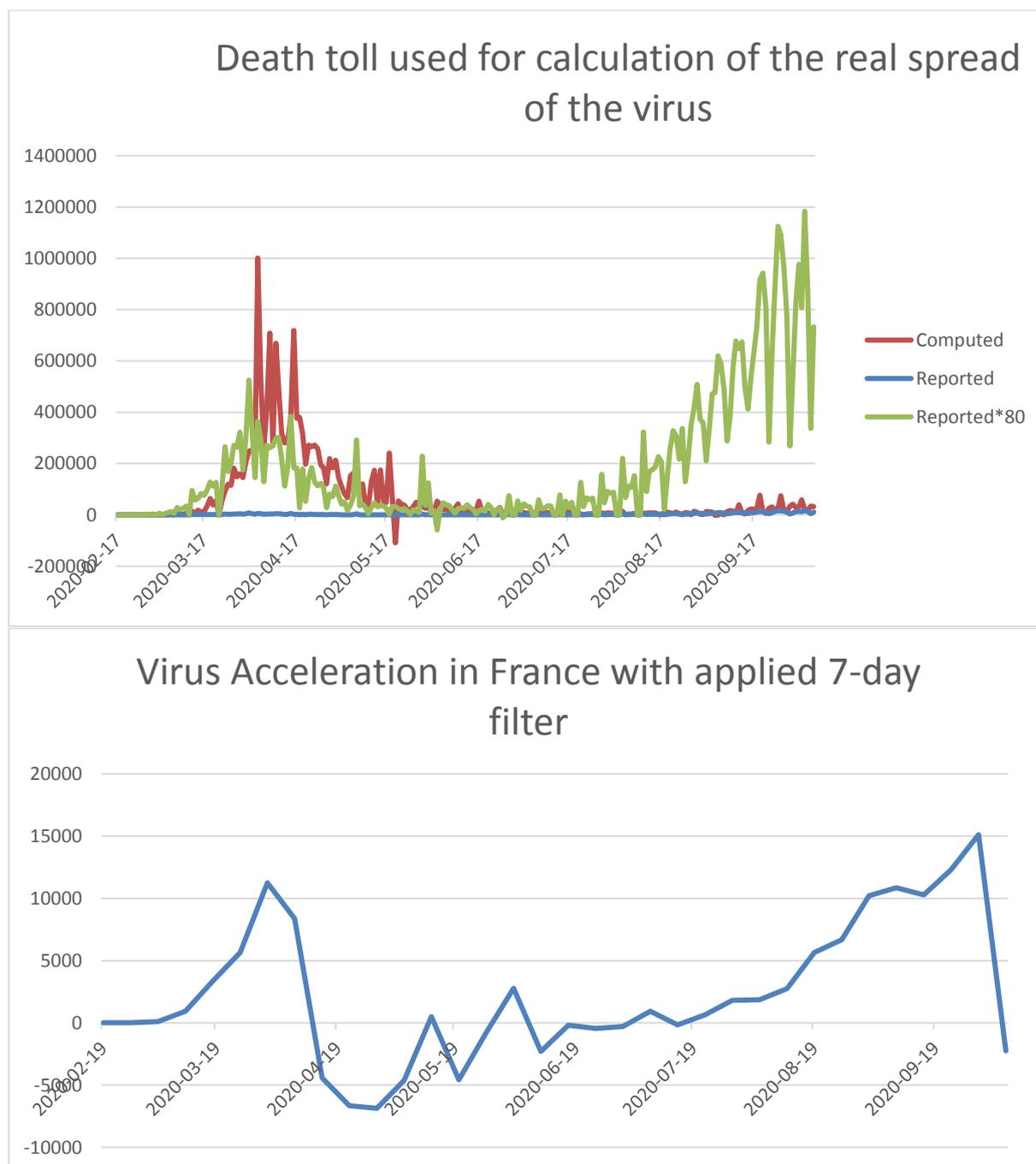
The situation in Bulgaria is dynamic and this make more difficult to predict the virus distribution. The start of the new virus spread acceleration increase was observed a month later comparing with other European countries and more than a month in comparison with the USA. At the same time, the behaviour and characteristics of the pandemic are preserved. The relative number of the deaths from the virus is decreasing accompanied with significant number of newly affected. The acceleration now is with positive sign and a value forming a new exponential part of the total number function. The important question is “Why?”

Actually, the nowadays conditions for the virus spread are not as good as they were a few months ago. In the spring the restrictions were not applied, people did not have necessary motivation and habits; herd immunity was not developed among the population. Now the situation is better. The people are warned, part of them already had contact with the virus and even though we witness more rapid acceleration than few months ago. One of the reason could be the possible mutation of the virus in USA, which CMDR COE mentioned earlier in its reports. The strong deviation of the calculated deaths to affected ratio was observed for the first time there in April. The new virus came back to Europe causing the escalation of virus spread acceleration. It does not stopped spread of the previous deadlier strain but suppressed it slightly.

That explained the reports from the affected countries. Certain distortion of the reported data is fixed comparing data for death causes in many countries. There is decrease in the cases of the death people dying from other disease like cancer, heart attack, etc. It seems that the coronavirus has some prioritization in the medical reports and it should be taken under

consideration. The compensating coefficient is calculable giving the trend from the statistics of previous years and the deviation with the reports from 2020. This coefficient means that the calculations for the death toll could be revised.

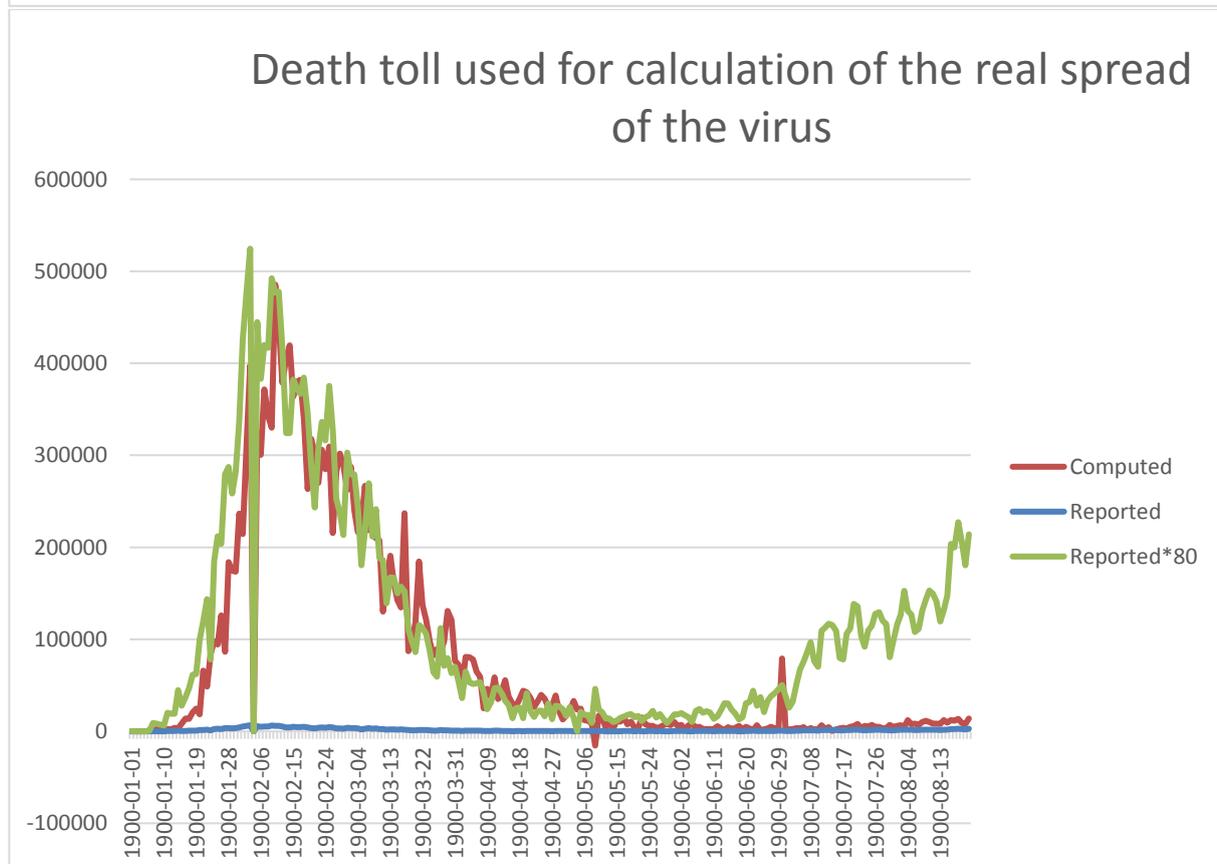
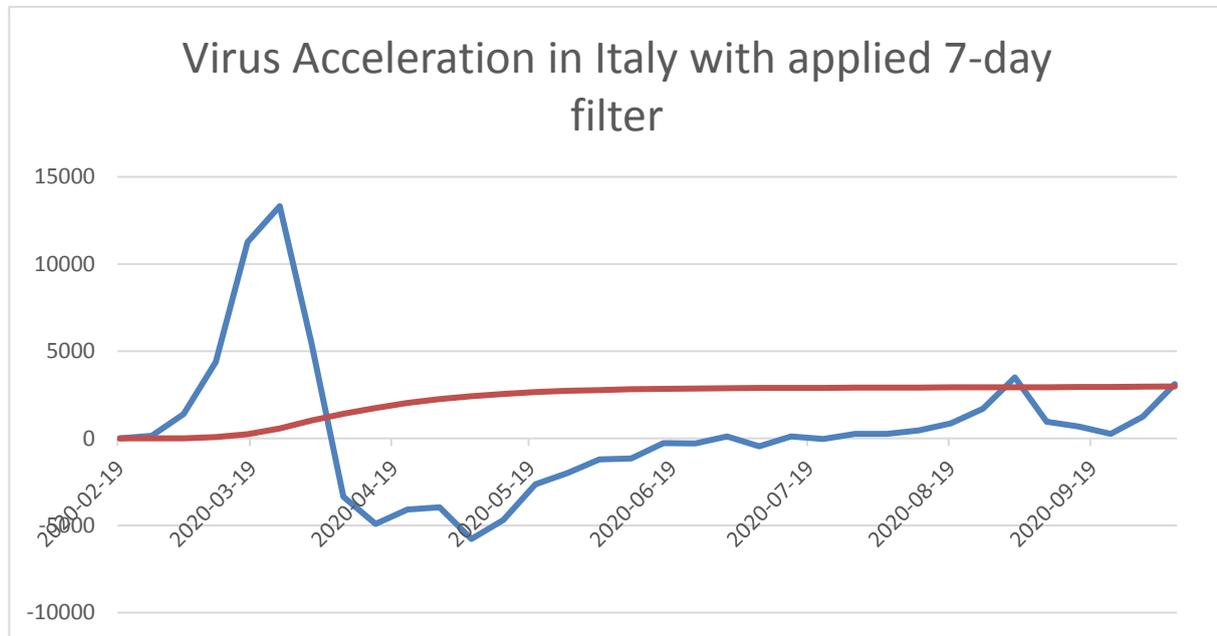
As it is written above, the acceleration now in Bulgaria determines new peak in the daily affected people. According to the model, it will continue for two more weeks and will be followed by decrease of the number of daily affected people.



The development of the virus crisis in Bulgaria is delayed the with a month in comparison with France. There the new virus strain achieved significant value of the virus spread

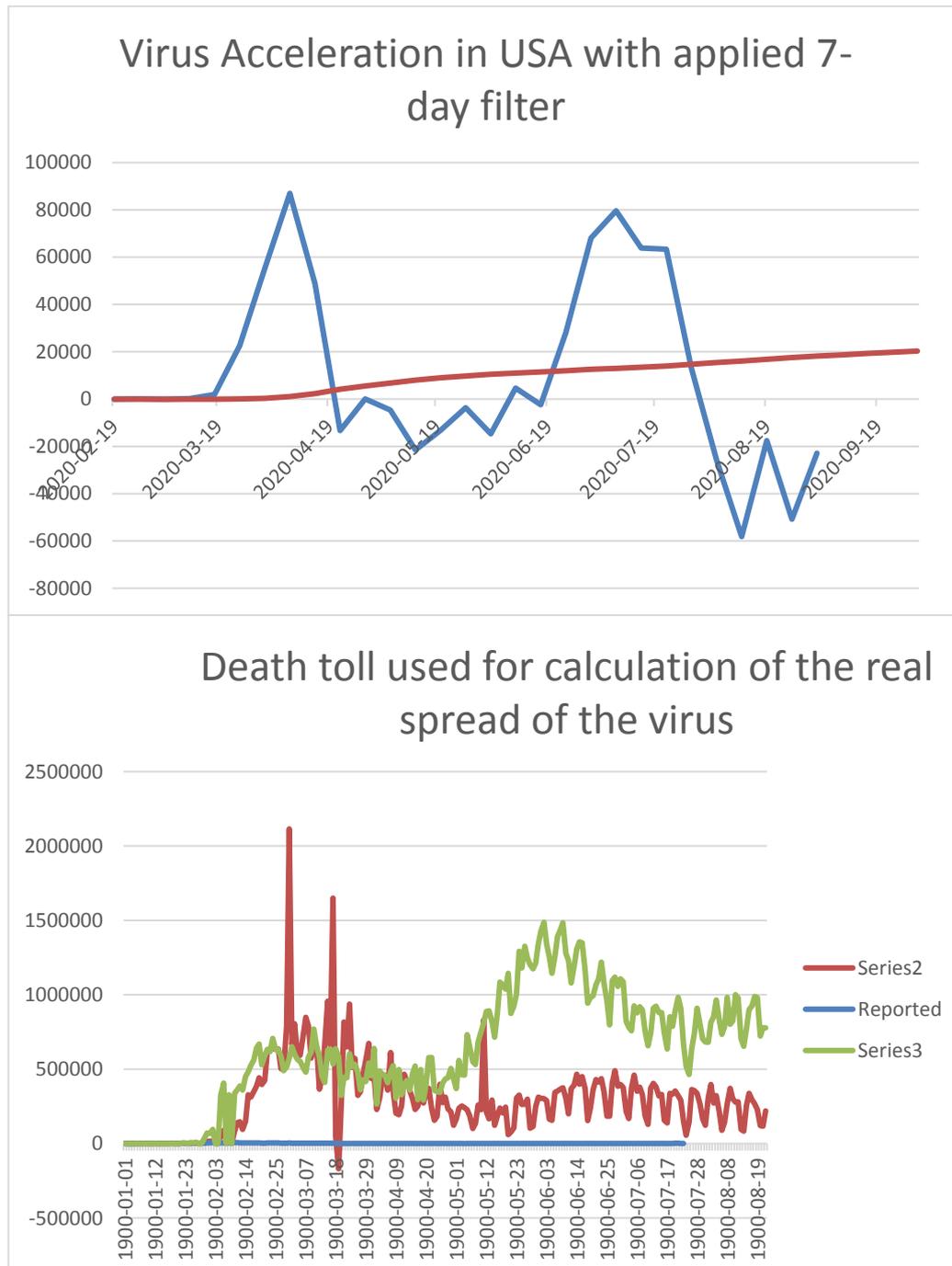
acceleration and the trend now is going back to negative sign, which means that the situation is under control. The new strain strikes heavily the part of the population without contact with the previous strain.

The picture in Italy is different.



We witness just a slight peak in the acceleration not comparable with the previous one.

CMDR COE few times pointed that after the first huge shock the country now is less vulnerable. The population achieved the necessary immune response. CMDR COE admits appearance of new small peaks in the acceleration caused by the virus impact of some isolated parts of the country.



The analysis of the data suggest that crisis in USA is contained. The acceleration is with negative sign and it will determine the decrease of the number of daily affected people for the next few weeks.

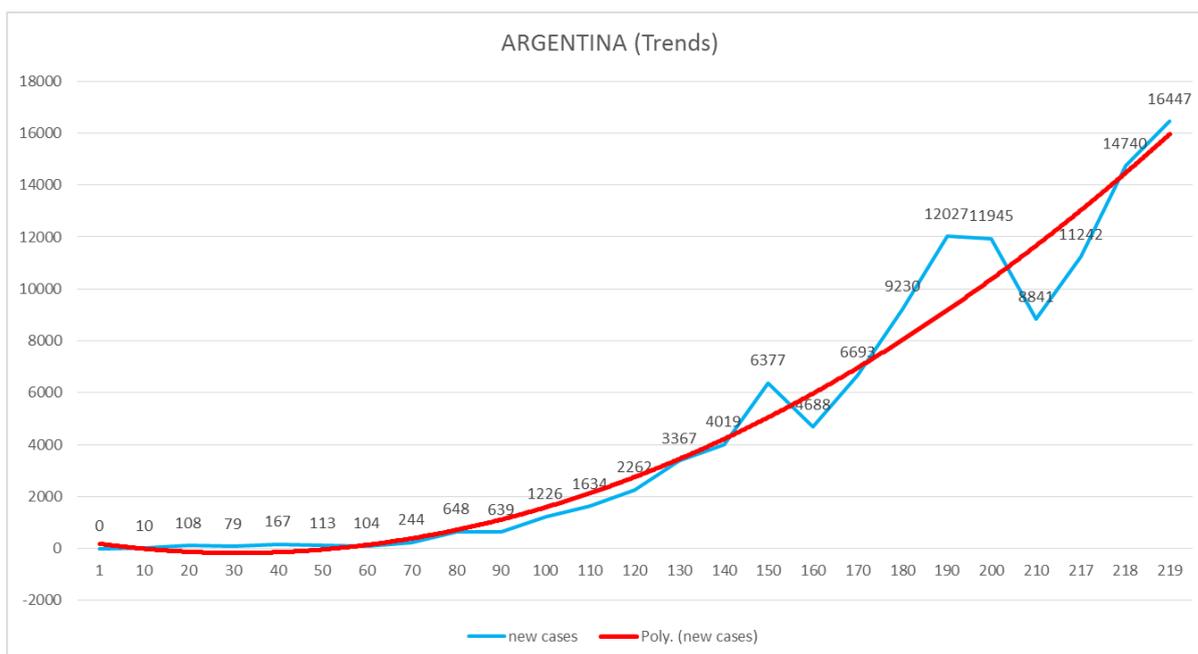
MONITORING

1. ARGENTINA

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

- Infected – 840 915 (Seventh in the World);
- Coronavirus deaths – 22 226 (2,6 %);
- New cases for the last 24 hours as of 07.10.2020 – 16 447;
- Recovered after illness – 670 725 (80 %);
- Cases per 1 M of the population – 18 560.

1.2 Trends. The number of new cases is growing exponentially and out of control. To date, there are no indications of a peak or approaching a peak in the coronavirus spread in Argentina. The negative tendencies continue, however, there is no change in the already established measures, which so far proved ineffective.



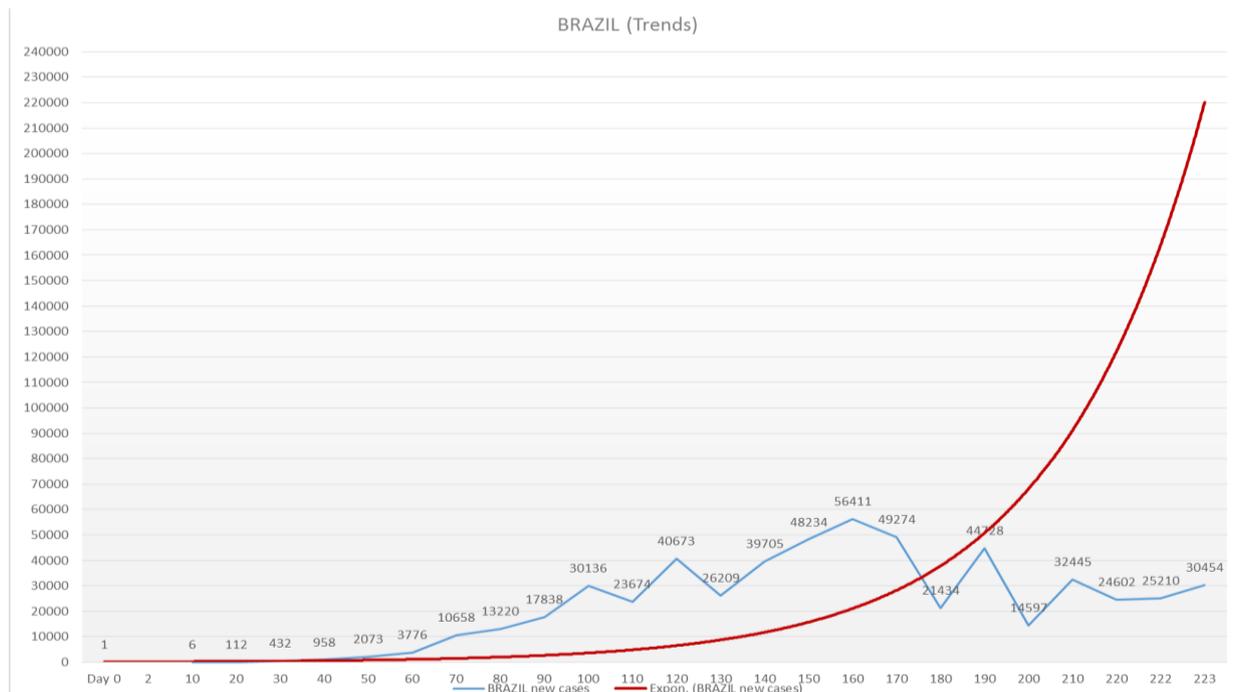
2. BRAZIL

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

- Infected – 5 002 357 (Third in the World);
- Coronavirus deaths – 148 304 (3 %);
- New cases for the last 24 hours as of 07.10.2020 – 31 404;
- Recovered after illness – 4 391 424 (88 %);

- Cases per 1 M of the population – 23 489.

1.2 Trends. Similar to Argentina the number of new cases is growing exponentially and out of control. To date, there are no indications of a peak or approaching a peak in Brazil. The negative tendencies continue, without any change in the already established measures, which so far proved ineffective.



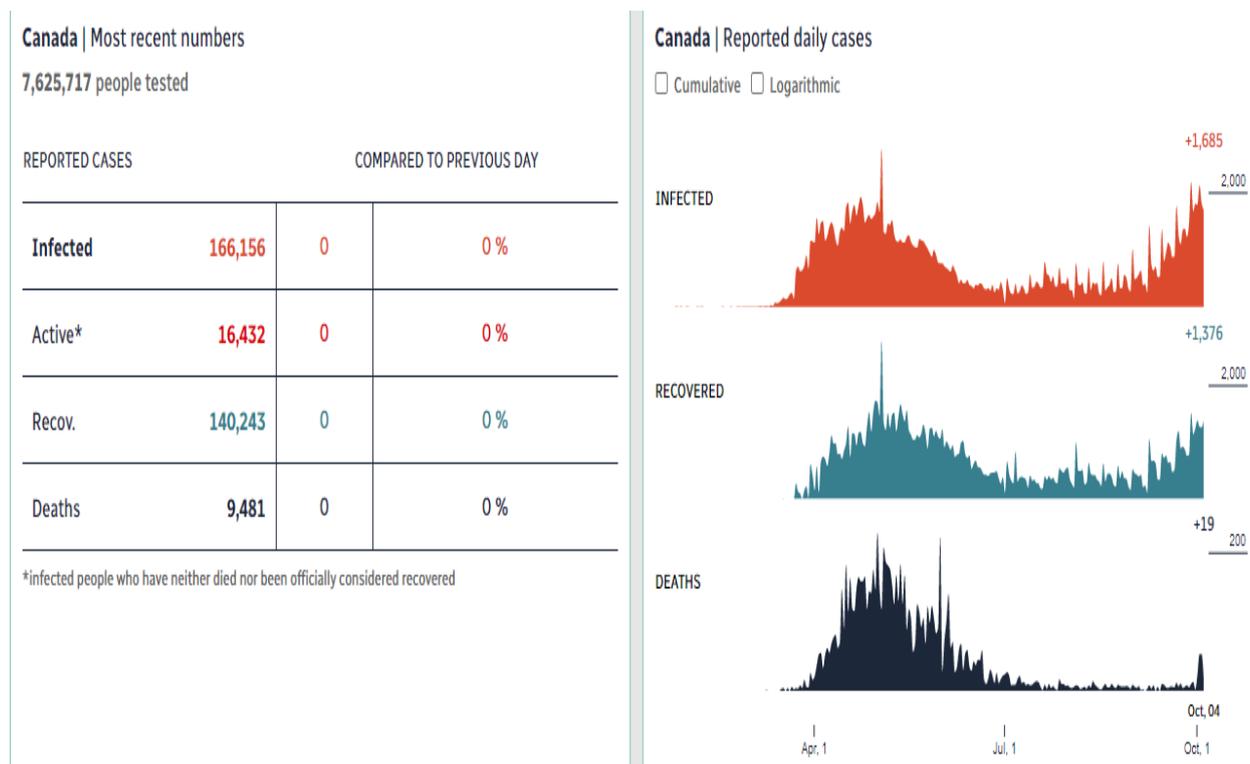
3. CANADA

The newly confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by the provinces have brought the national total to 166 156 cases and over 9 481 deaths. Canada’s second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is intensifying with more than 1 300 newly diagnosed cases daily during the reported period bringing the curve back to levels last seen in early May. On 28th September Canada added 2 243 new infections to its cumulative tally, followed by 1 669 on 29th September and 1 818 on 30th September. The last time Canada had three consecutive days of more than 1,500 cases was 3rd May, near the very peak of the spring crisis. The number of new cases being reported daily has increased by more than 60 per cent in the last two weeks, and demand for testing has increased sharply as well.

As a whole, the nation is now adding 42 cases per million people per day, the highest level since 9th May. The increase has been driven largely by Quebec, which is adding 87 cases

per million people and doubling its number of new cases every 10 days. The caseloads in Quebec and Ontario are rising so quickly that they are forecast to soon surpass their spring highs. The number of infected people in CANADA reached the level of infected people from the first wave with the young people to account for most of Canada’s recent cases of COVID-19. They do not worry about the well-known health threat of COVID-19. New outbreaks of COVID-19 among young adults across the country are sparking concern about the impact these clusters of new cases could have on the ongoing situation.

The number of deaths is now relatively low, but some experts say there is a two-week delay between the increase in the number of infected people and the increase in the number of death toll. Now, after several weeks of increasing numbers of new cases, hospitalizations are growing in COVID-19 hotspots. Experts say it is only a matter of time before the death toll starts rising.

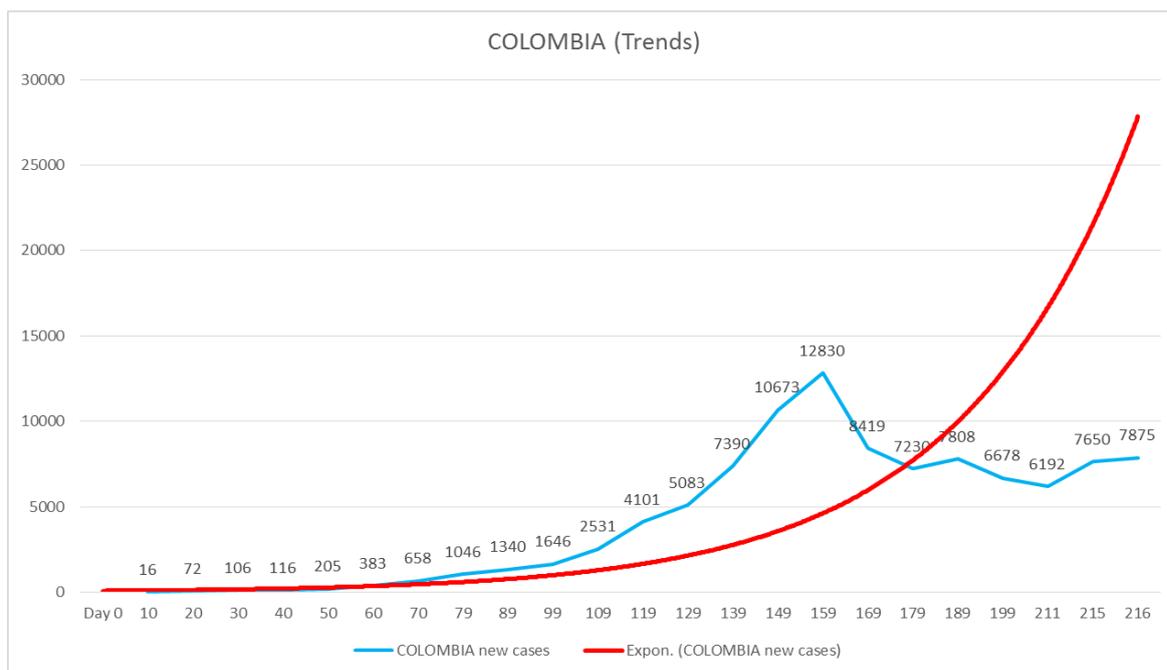


4. COLOMBIA

- 4.1 The total number of infected, deaths, new cases and recoveries is as follows:
- Infected – 877 683 (Fifth in the World);
 - Coronavirus deaths – 27 180 (3 %);
 - New cases for the last 24 hours as of 07.10.2020 – 7 875;

- Recovered after illness – 773 973 (88 %);
- Cases per 1 M of the population – 17 200.

4.2 Trends. As in many South American countries, the number of new cases is growing exponentially and out of control and there are no indications of a peak or approaching a peak in Colombia. The situation to date shows the ineffectiveness of the current measures but the government has not changed them. The negative tendencies continue with one exception - the number of recovered people is notable.



5. FRANCE

The figures for the coronavirus epidemic in France remain bad. As of 07th October 2020 the COVID19 infections in France are 634 763. 16 972 more cases were confirmed on Saturday -- the highest-daily figure since the beginning of the pandemic. The death toll is 32 365.

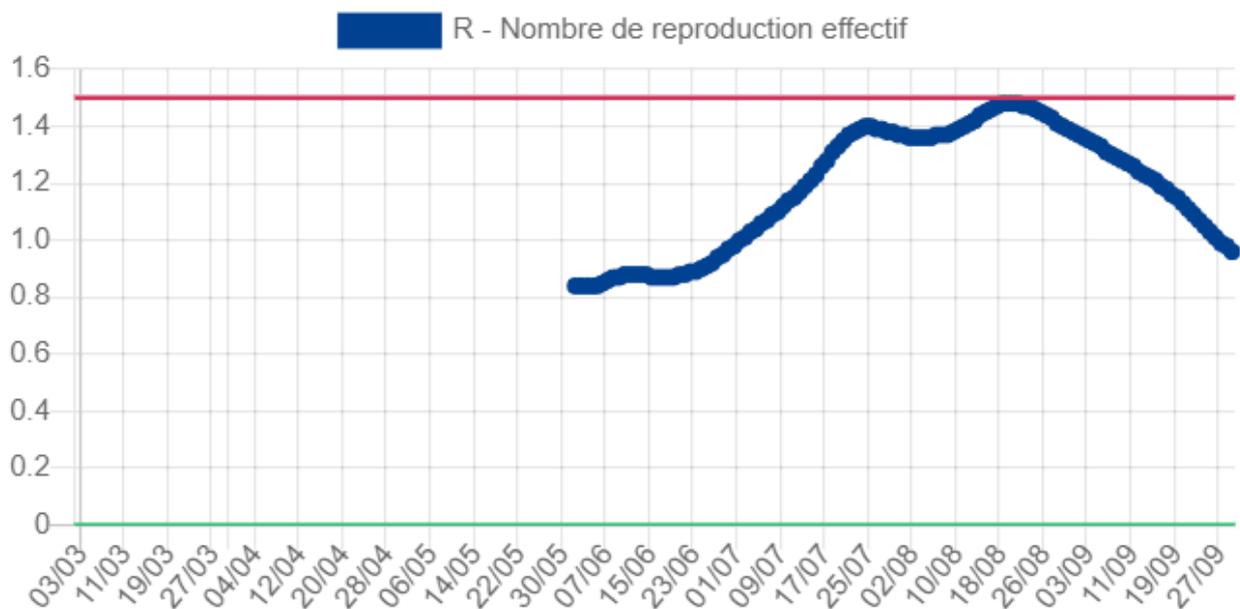
Currently, COVID19 patients occupy 40% of the beds in the hospitals in Île-de-France region; this figure should reach 50% within two weeks, according to the warning of the regional health agency. In the last days, more and more patients with the most severe form of COVID19 had to be transferred to an intensive care unit. As a result, many hospitals in France are considering deprogramming operations.

Paris and neighbouring suburbs have been placed on maximum coronavirus alert, with the city's iconic bars closing, as alarming COVID19 infection numbers appeared to leave the French government little choice. Bars in three surrounding Paris counties were also closed as

part of these measures. However, restaurants will stay open with "reinforced precautions". The government recommended that "more than ever" those who can work from home do so and university lecture halls should be no more than half-full.

Health minister Olivier Véran said three key COVID19 indicators had been hit in Paris: the city has 263 new COVID19 cases daily per 100 000 people, 105 new cases daily per 100 000 people over the age of 65, and between 30-35% of intensive care units now treat COVID19 patients¹. One worrying trend is that at least three of every ten people in intensive care in France during the reported period were under the age of 65.

However, one data allows us to remain optimistic about an imminent return to a stabilization phase, or even control of the COVID19 epidemic in France: the number of reproductions of the virus has been declining for more than 10 days across the country. According to the latest figures from the Ministry of Health, it reached 0.96 at the end of September, which means that a person infected with the coronavirus transmits the disease to less than one person. Another reason for hope is the rate of the virus in Paris, where the situation is worse than elsewhere but the reproduction number is still below 1 (0.99)



Sources:

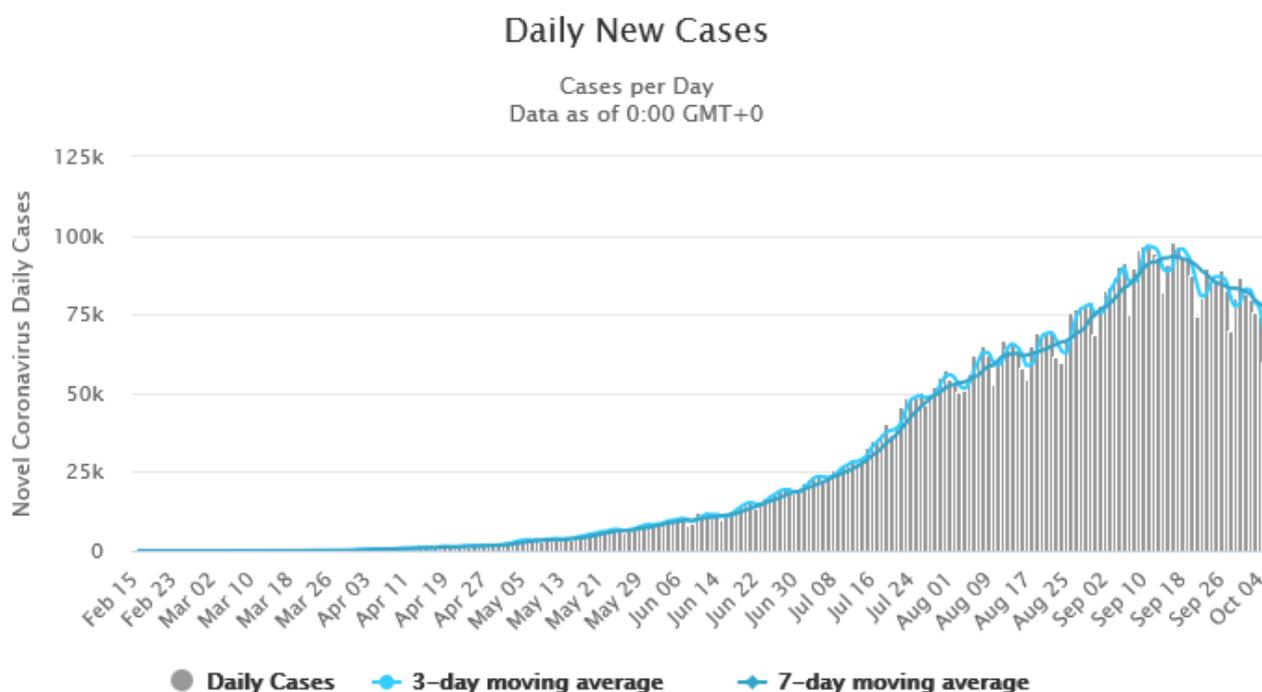
1. <https://www.france24.com/en/20201004-paris-braces-for-top-covid-19-alert-level-as-virus-resurges>
2. <https://www.euronews.com/2020/10/01/paris-could-see-bars-and-restaurants-close-as-covid-19-worsens-in-six-french-cities>
3. <https://www.linternaute.com/actualite/guide-vie-quotidienne/2462477-direct-covid-en-france-les-formes-graves-en-augmentation-mais-le-virus-se-reproduit-moins/>

¹ France officially has 5 000 ICU beds available. Currently, 1 200 are occupied by COVID19 patients — well below the 7 000 recorded at the height of the health crisis in April. At the time, the country's health authorities managed to open up a total of 12,000 ICU beds

6. INDIA

During the last two weeks the quick spread of coronavirus infection in India continued. The highest number of new daily infections during the reported period was on 26 September with 89 010 new cases. As a result, on 27 Sep India reached 6 000 000 cases and is still the second worst affected country in the world, quickly closing to the leader - the United States. Furthermore, India's coronavirus death toll passed the 100 000 mark on 03 October, a milestone reached only by the U.S. and Brazil. As far as COVID19 in India is concerned, September has been the worst month so far, accounting for more than 40 percent of its cases and about a third of its deaths.

As of 07 October, India has reported 6 757 131 confirmed infections, 908 335 of them active, and 104 591 deaths. The numbers have fallen in the last week but remain high. After 01 October, India has never registered more than 80 000 new case per day.



This new trend seems surprising, given the India's government policy to ease the COVID19 restrictions and the fact that the infection is now quickly spreading through the small towns and rural territories, where it is far more difficult to contain it. While many experts suspect that numerous COVID19 infections and fatalities in India have gone unreported, the latest statistics allowed some officials to predict that COVID19 infections may have already peaked last month. The last week statistics also will allow the central government to continue to lift pandemic-related restrictions in an attempt to revive the economy. The India's Finance Ministry

optimistic expectations are for steady recovery in almost all sectors, with some sectors even shooting above their previous-year levels.

7. ISRAEL

During the reported period the number of infected in the country reached a total of 278 585 cases of coronavirus and 1 803 deaths (the low death rate of 0,84 is notable). Israel remains twenty fourth in the world in this indicator. The share of the recovered is approximately 99.16 % of the total number of infected in Israel. Daily new cases went down from almost 9 000 on 30 September to 4 717 on 06 October. However, the key figure of seriously ill patients continues to climb, reaching 900 on Sunday night. Health officials have expressed “cautious optimism” in recent days that the curve of infection has begun to flatten, following several days of declining numbers of daily-confirmed carriers and a drop in the “positivity rate”.

Last week, the Prime Minister (PM) Netanyahu said the lockdown would last at least a month, and many of its restrictions could be in place for as long as a year. In the light of the new positive developments in the country, cabinet ministers are set to debate the next stage of the coronavirus lockdown, with many top officials calling for easing the restrictions as the infection rate appears to stabilize. Finance, Economy and Science Ministers of Israel support reopening many businesses, as well as permitting preschools to open so that parents of small children are able to go to work. Despite that on Sunday (04.10.20) the PM pushed back against the pressure to reopen quickly. He declined the advices from his colleagues to ease restrictions, saying he would wait until at least 10 days of full lockdown to reassess the situation. This means that decisions on continuing the lockdown (which ends on 10 October) will be made no earlier than 8 October. In support of PM, Health Ministry officials are insisting that the government should not lift the lockdown measures until the infection rate drop dramatically².

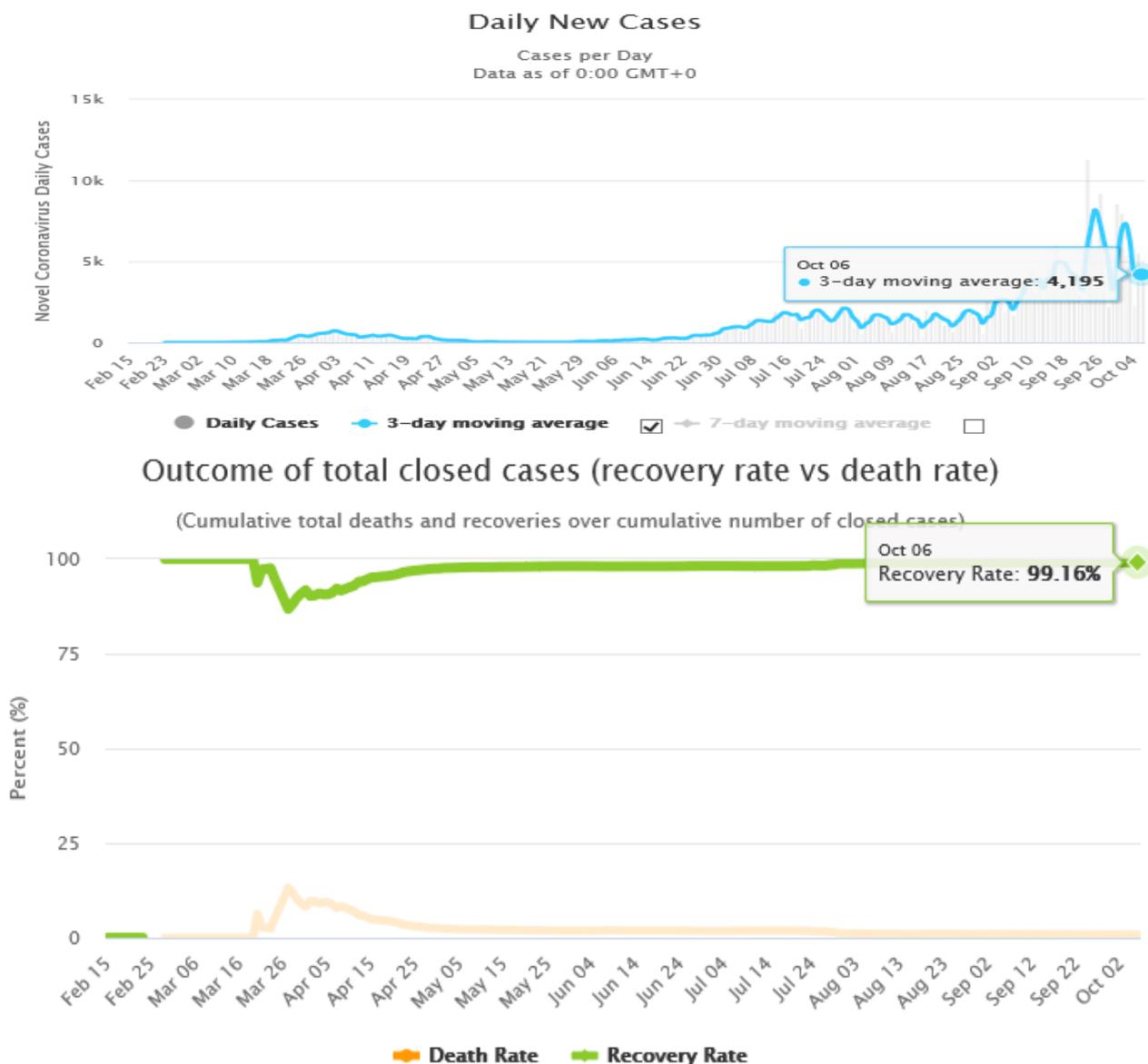
Protests against Netanyahu have been ongoing on for more than four months. The main protest site used to be at the PM's residence, but the new emergency law bans protesters from holding demonstrations more than a kilometre from their homes. In response, some activists have turned to WhatsApp, Facebook and even an interactive map to find protests near them.

SOURCES:

1. <https://www.ibtimes.com/israel-returns-lockdown-jewish-new-year-begins-amid-rising-covid-19-cases-3048217>
2. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/israel-to-revert-back-to-full-lockdown-as-coronavirus-cases-climb/ar-BB19aUNA>
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_Israel

² Until the number of daily-confirmed carriers drops below 2,000 and the positivity rate goes under 7%.

Daily New Cases in Israel



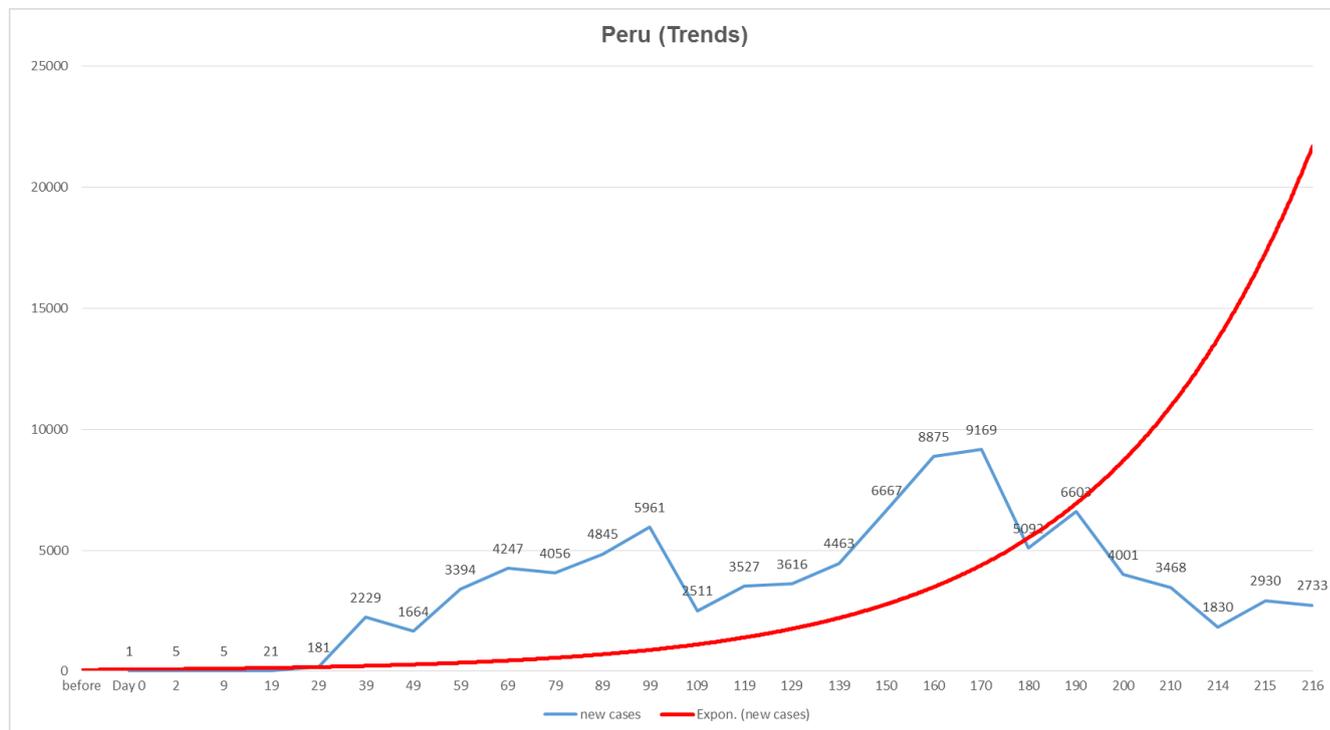
8. PERU

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

- Infected – 835 662 (Eight in the World);
- Coronavirus deaths – 33 009 (4 %);
- New cases for the last 24 hours as of 07.10.2020 – 2 733;
- Cases per 1 M of the population – 25 251.
- Recovered after illness – 723 606 (87 %);

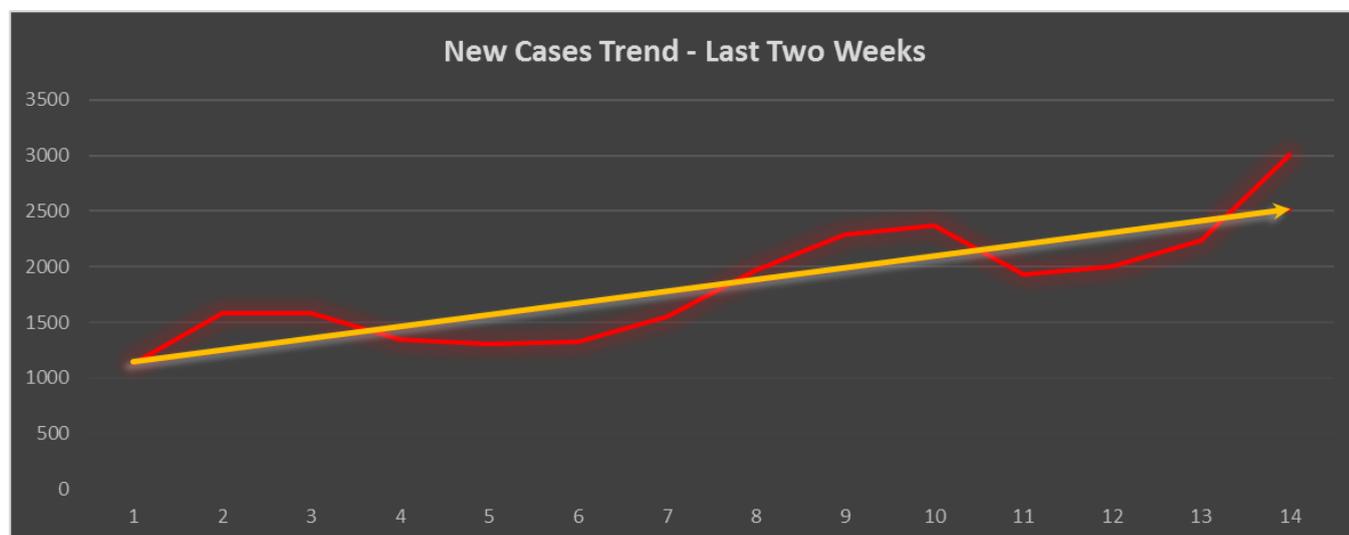
8.2 Trends. The number of new cases is growing exponentially and out of control and there are no indications of a peak or approaching a peak in Peru. The negative tendencies

continue, without any change in the already established measures, which so far proved ineffective.

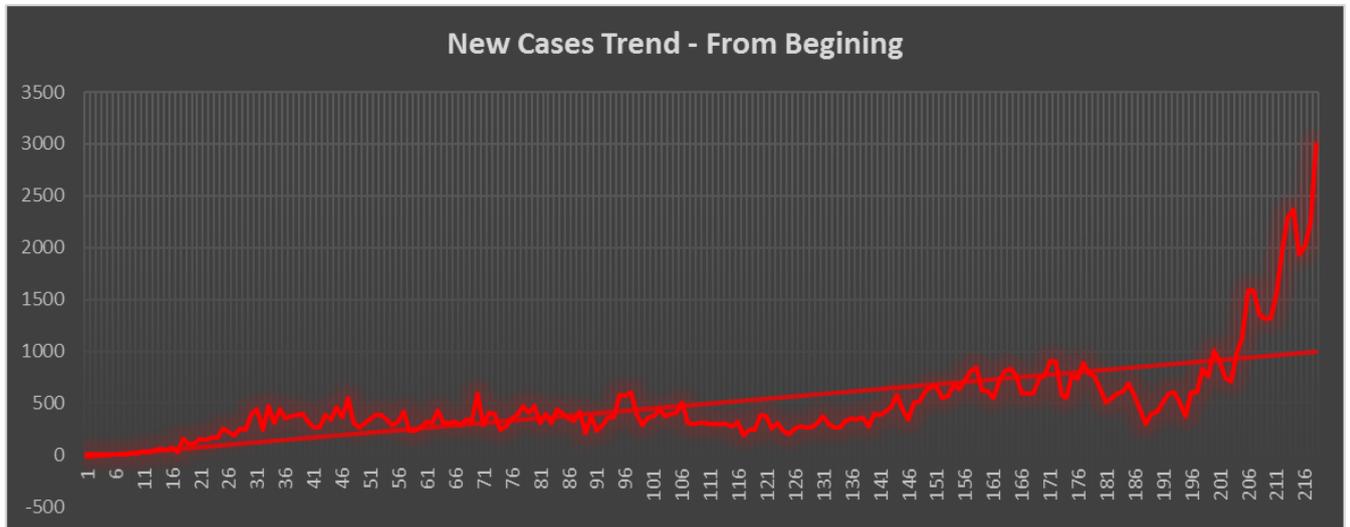


10. POLAND

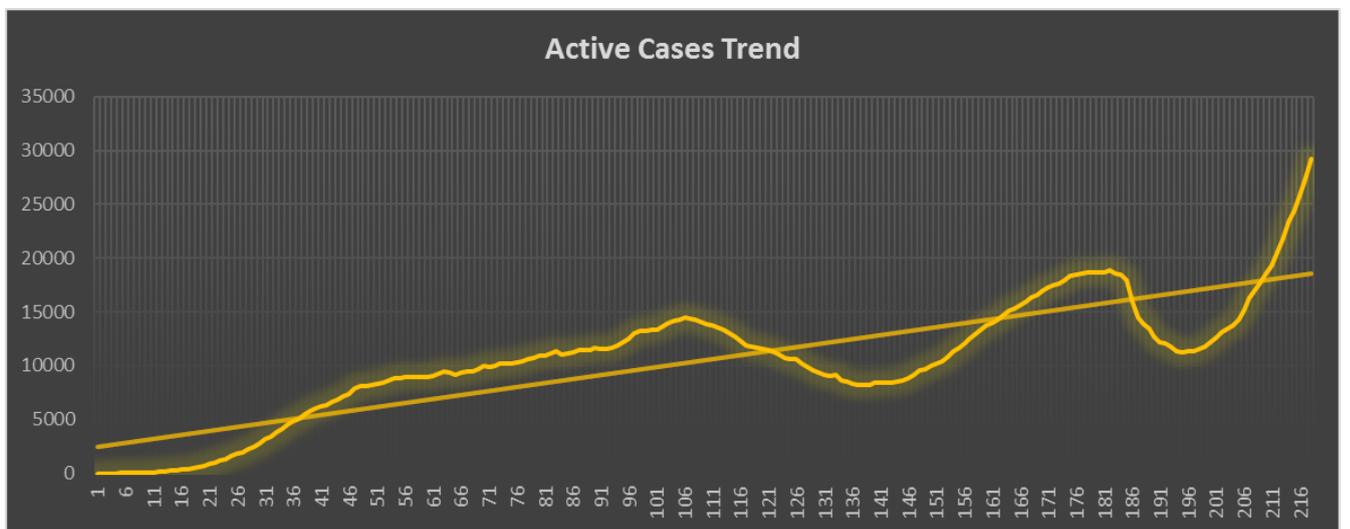
From the beginning of pandemic number of infected people has grown and reached 107 319 (+ 25 646), disease trend rate is higher comparing to previous period and is far above linear trend line. Currently average number of infected is 1885 (recently 709) people a day during last two weeks, which placed Poland on 13th place in Europe and 27th on the world. However, during last week Poland reached next daily record of new cases, 3003 on 7 October 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 1 885.

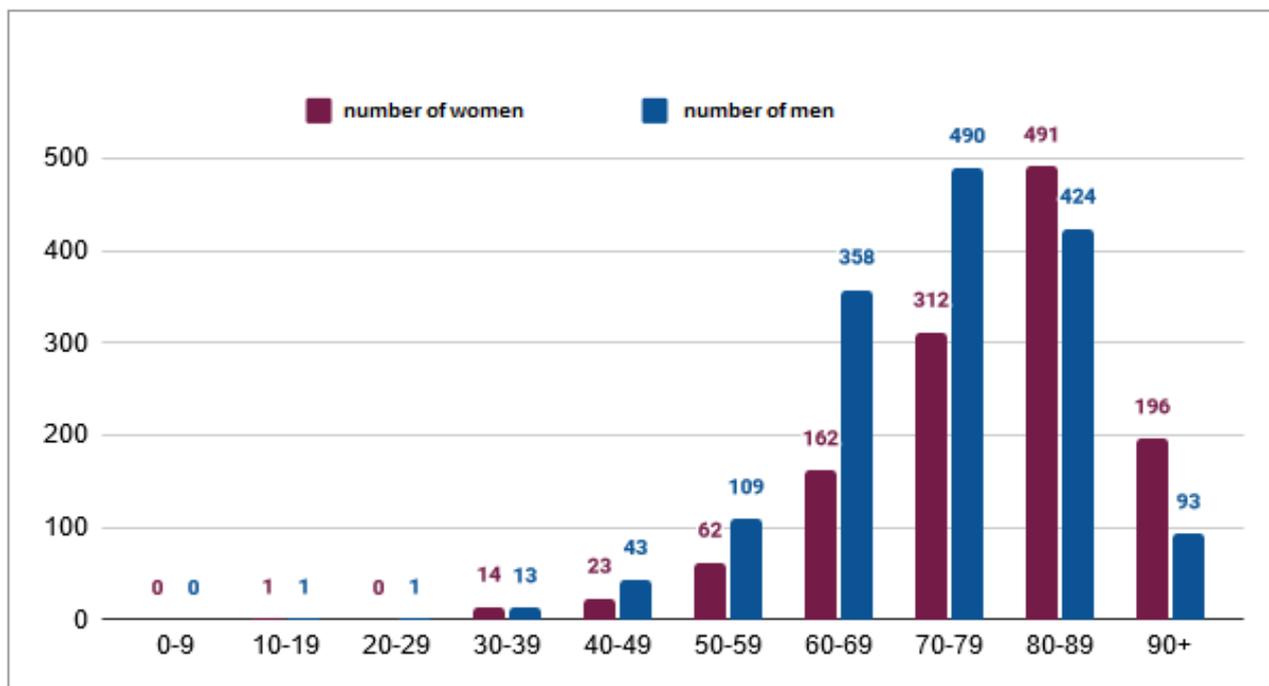


Number of active cases trend line started to grow 25 days ago and now is close to 30 000 cases and much above overall trend line.

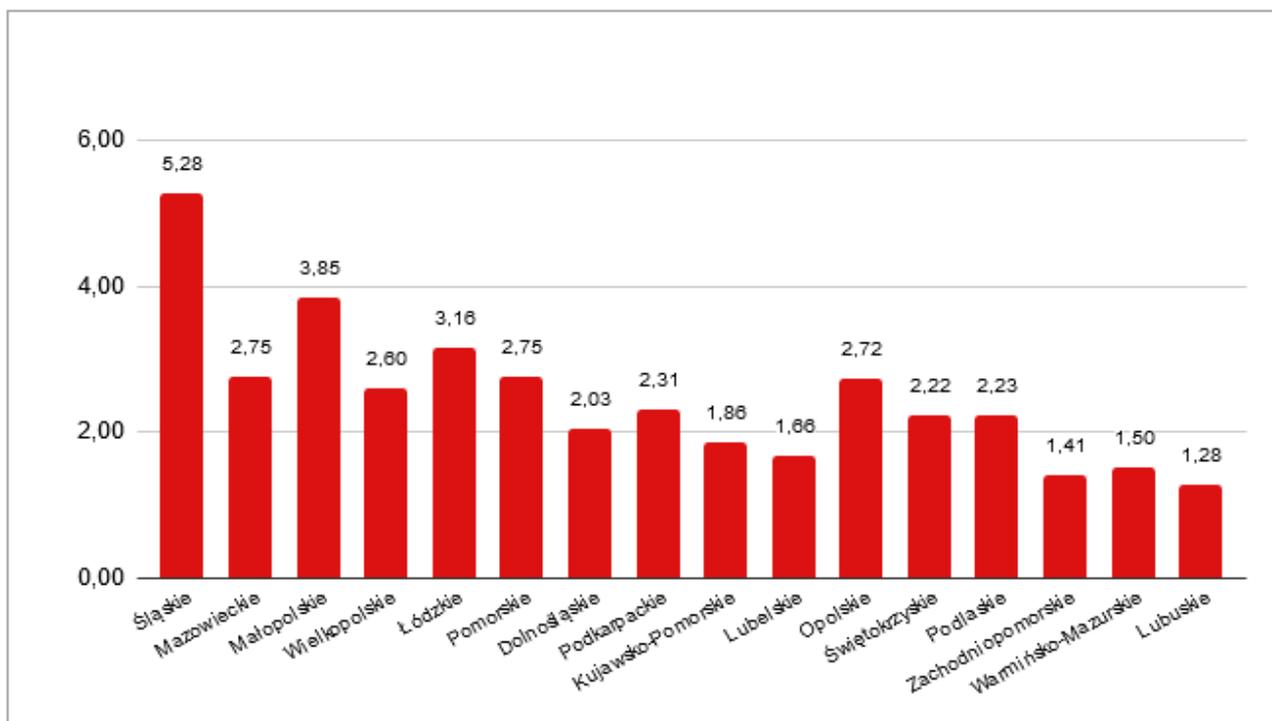


Number of tests done so far is 3 533 697 / +355 921 from last report. Reported number of people cured from coronavirus so far – 75 346 / +9 785 from last report which is one the same level like previous period. 2 792 (+448) people died so far (1 532 men and 1 261 women), average age of died person is 76 years.

Age structure of people died in Poland



Morbidity rate by district in Poland



The chart above presents morbidity rate divided by district. It is seen that now in all 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.

The epidemic is real and has real, tragic consequences: more and more Poles are infected with the coronavirus; we also have more and more deaths, occupied hospital beds and seized respirators. If the current spectacular increase in the number of patients cannot be stopped, the ability of the healthcare system to deal with the situation will be questioned.

On 6 October, the Minister of Health, Adam Niedzielski, at a joint press conference with Jarosław Szymczyk, the Chief of Police, announced:

- from Saturday, not only in the red zones, but also in the yellow zones, there will be an order to wear masks, also outside;
- any person without a mask (and without a document confirming a medical indication not to wear a mask) will be severely punished by the police;
- alerts of the Government Security Center will inform residents about the introduction of a specific zone.

The rising tide of infections since mid-September meant that the number of deaths must have increased. And it does. On 6 October, the Ministry of Health said 58 people had died. Unfortunately, this is the highest result in this epidemic - the second largest was recorded at the end of April, when 40 people died then. The ministry's new strategy is to test mostly people with clear symptoms. As a result, the percentage of detected infections among the surveyed people is increasing and currently amounts to over 10%. This approach makes it impossible to capture asymptomatic or low-symptomatic infected individuals, which could limit virus transmission. It also means that we detect a relatively small proportion of people who are infected, in other words that the percentage of people who caught SARS-CoV-2 and not caught by statistics is now much higher than in the summer - before the new strategy was introduced.

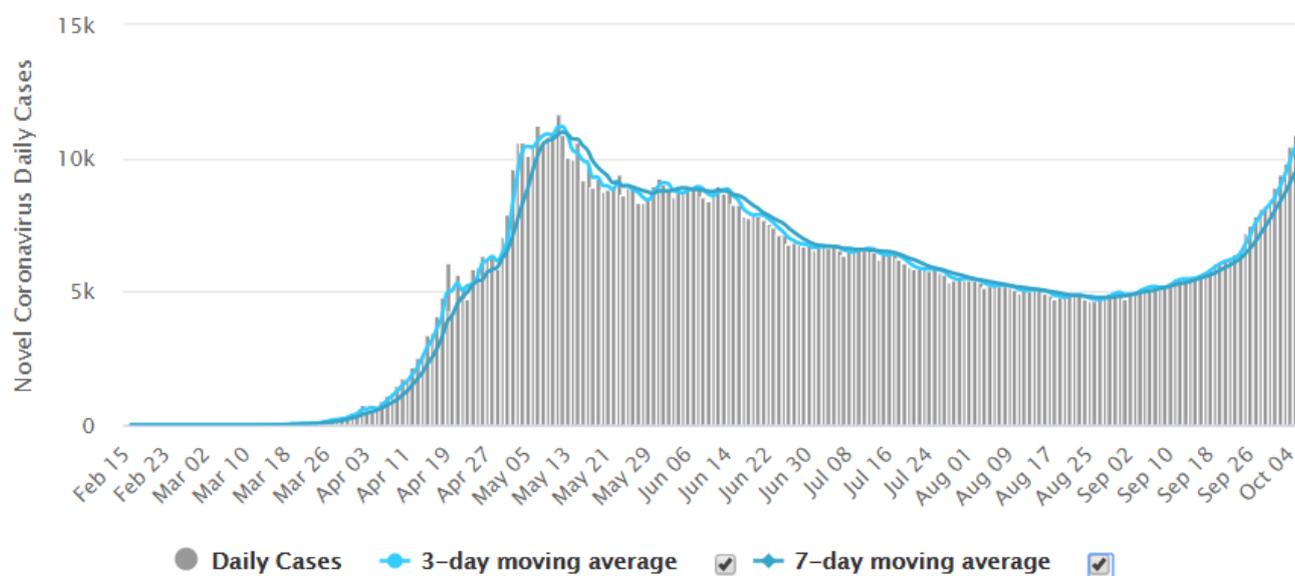
The number of occupied beds in hospitals is also growing rapidly – on last Tuesday it was 3 719. The Ministry of Health is increasing the number of beds in the most endangered provinces and 8 000 are now available. Due to the chaos prevailing with the implementation of the new system, not all hospitals have managed to prepare for such a violent attack of the virus.

The number of patients in a serious condition requiring the use of a respirator is also increasing (record 283). According to official information, we have over 1000 ventilators prepared, but the problem is their location and the appropriate number of staff that can handle them.

The number of people in quarantine is also increasing, which further confirms that the transmission of the virus is accelerating. There are 160 thousand people in quarantine on 6 October, while on 1 October there were 134 thousand.

11. RUSSIA

On 5 October, Russia confirmed 10 499 new COVID19 cases, the highest number above 10 000 per day since the first peak on 12 May. The largest number of these new cases were registered in Moscow – 3 327 (this is the maximum since mid-May), St. Petersburg - 392 and the Moscow region - 296. According to the health authorities the official number of cases is now 1 215 001, with 21 358 deaths and new infections across the country continue to rise.

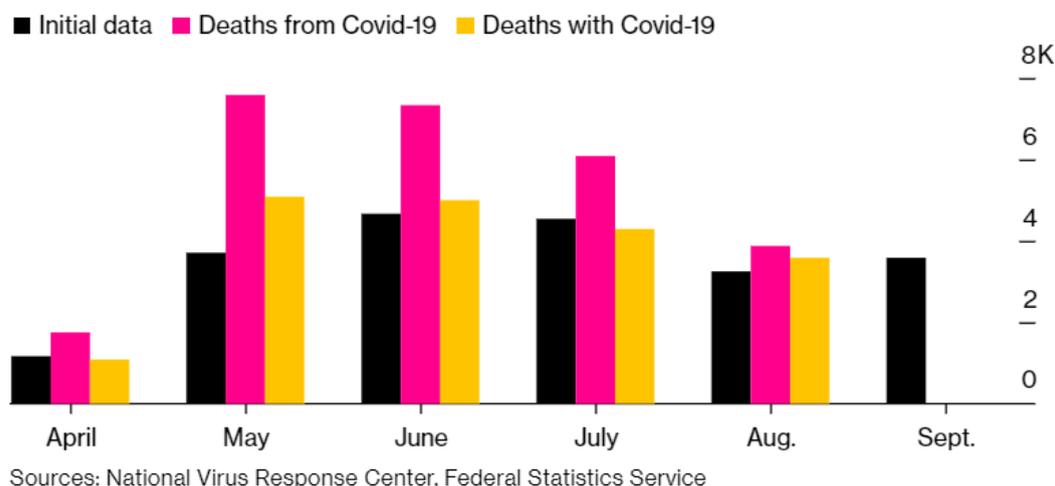


The Moscow Mayor signed a decree (in force as of 5 October), according to which 30% of employees in enterprises must switch to distance form of working. The Capital’s schools are on vacation until 18 October, after which it is possible to return to the distance form of education. An isolation regime has been introduced for people over the age of 65 and people with chronic diseases. Wearing gloves and masks in public transport and in closed public places remains mandatory.

Russia’s Federal Statistics Service said 45 663 people have died with COVID19 in April through August, more than double the death toll released by the government’s virus-response staff³. The latest figures from the statistics agency, known as Rosstat, include deaths both directly attributed to the novel coronavirus and cases where it was listed as an “important

³ The government’s virus-response staff puts the total deaths at 21 475 from the start of the epidemic until 4 October. According to those figures, the accuracy of which has been questioned by the World Health Organization and outside experts, Russia has one of the lowest death rates in the world.

condition” leading to the lethal outcome. The Rosstat data showed Covid-19 deaths dropped in August to 7 463 compared to the 10 371 in July. Meanwhile, deaths from all causes in the first eight months of the year were 71 700 ahead of the last year. Combined with a lower number of births in the period, the higher death toll means Russia reported a 346,900 reduction in population in the first eight months of 2020, a 58% increase in comparison with 2019.



Sources:

- [1. https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/life-and-public/2020/10/masks-selfie-murmansk-bikers-parade-russia-hits-10000-cases-day](https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/life-and-public/2020/10/masks-selfie-murmansk-bikers-parade-russia-hits-10000-cases-day)
- [2. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-10-05/russia-says-covid-19-death-toll-more-than-double-initial-reports](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-10-05/russia-says-covid-19-death-toll-more-than-double-initial-reports)

12. SPAIN

In Spain, the second wave of the coronavirus burnt through the stages, and there was no slow transition from one alert level to the next. The gauge is about:

- COVID-19 infection rate of over 500 per 100 000 inhabitants;
- A percentage of over 10% positive results based on COVID19 testing;
- A hospital bed occupation rate in intensive care units 35% over pre-COVID19

ICU bed availability.

The rising number of coronavirus cases in Spain is accelerating the introduction of new confinements across the country. For now, the restrictions being introduced are not as severe as they were during the first wave, when the central government implemented a state of alarm that saw Spaniards confined to their homes for several months. However, perimeter lockdowns are being established where the transmission rate of the virus is on the rise. Currently, more than 5.2 million Spaniards – 4.7 million of them in the Madrid region – are not allowed to leave their municipalities, apart from going to work, to school or to university, among other reasons. The latest areas to implement such measures are the municipalities of León, Palencia and San

Andrés de Rabanedo, in Castilla y León, and La Almunia de Doña Godina in Aragón. Experts warn that while perimeter confinements are necessary when transmission is rising, they are insufficient if not accompanied by social limitations within the zone that has been locked down.

Effective from 3 October 2020, any city that has more than 100 000 inhabitants has new statewide restrictions that include:

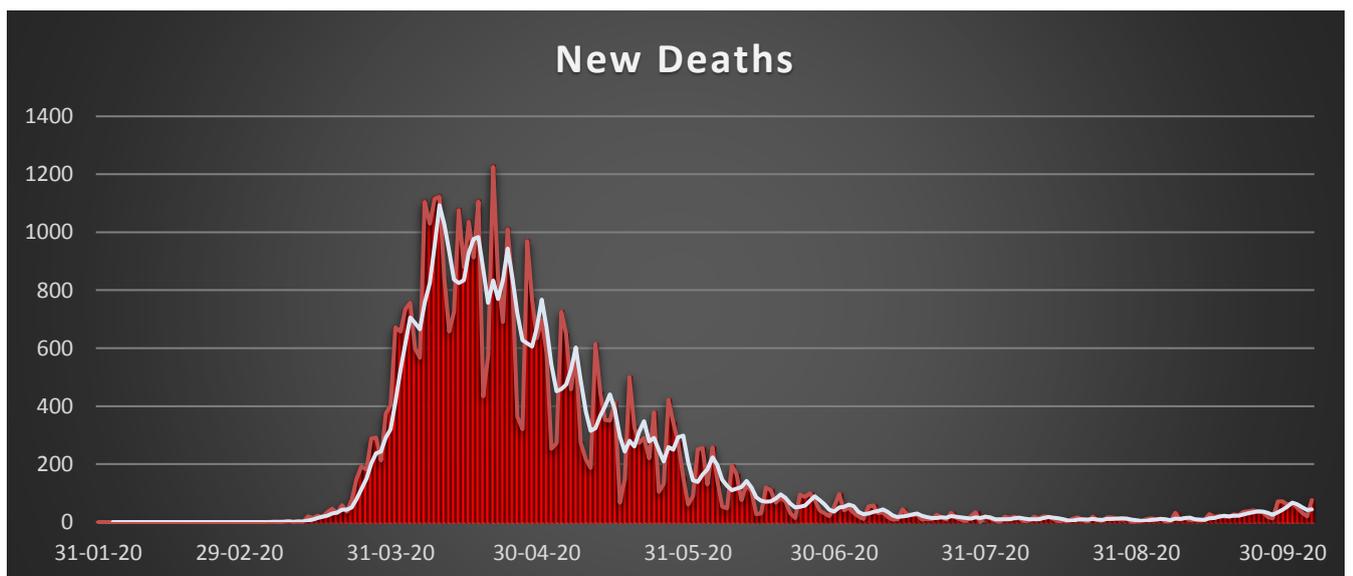
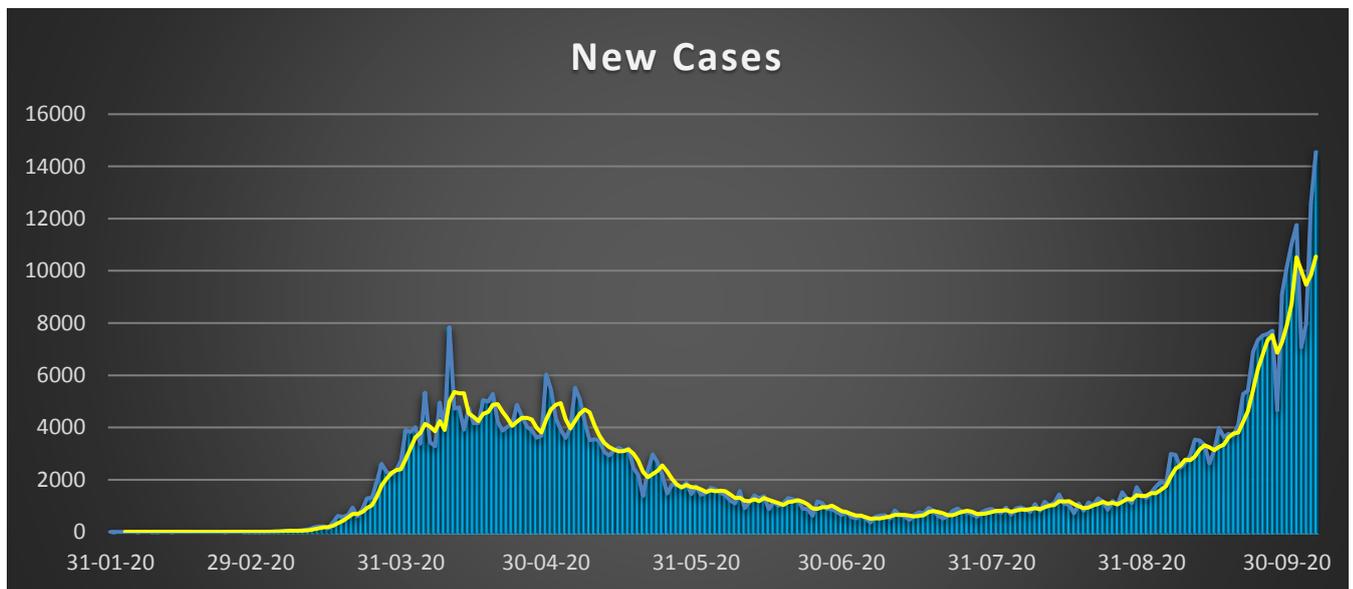
- Movements to and from the affected cities are limited, so you cannot come to or leave unless it is for a legitimate and essential purpose.
- Entry and exit is only authorized for work, medical reasons, access to educational facilities, returning to your residence, taking exams, helping the elderly, minors or disabled population, banking, insurance, legal, or administrative matters, and any emergency or force majeure situation.
- Religious facilities allow only one third of their capacity.
- Funeral homes allow a maximum 15 people outdoors and 10 indoors.
- Shops allow only 50% of their capacity. Closing time is 10pm except for pharmacies, medical and veterinarian facilities, gas stations, and essential goods.
- Restaurants and bars can only have 50% of occupancy indoors, and 60% outdoors, with a maximum of 6 people at each table and closing time at 11 pm (except for take away and delivery). Consumption while standing at a bar is forbidden.
- Learning facilities allow a maximum of 50% of their capacity. This includes academies, driving schools, and private unregulated education and training centres. Sports and leisure facilities are also limited to 6 people in the group.

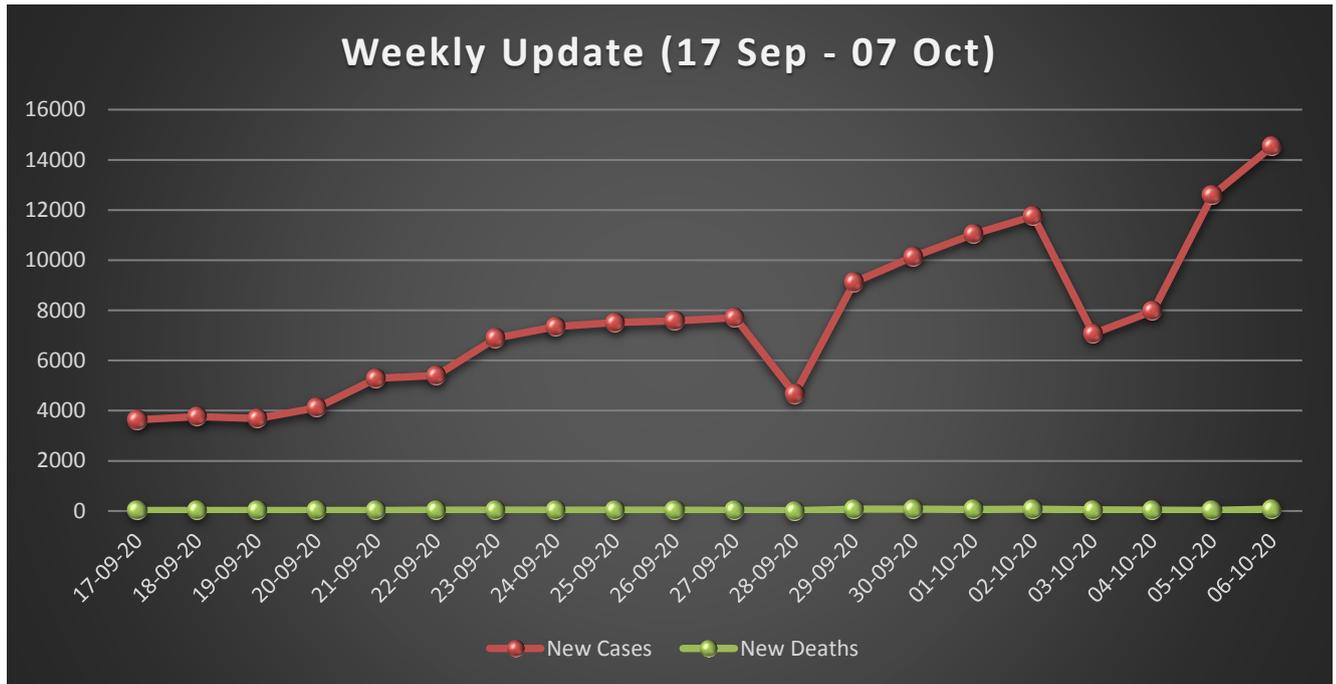
In most regions of Spain, facemasks are mandatory for everyone at the age of six or older in enclosed spaces and public areas at all times. There are few exceptions to this rule such as medical waivers, eating or drinking, or while practicing sports. Travelers to Spain are not subject to any quarantine requirement unless directed by Spanish authorities upon arrival in Spain due to specific circumstances. According to Spanish regulations dated 29 September 2020, Spain's borders continue to be open for habitual residents in the European Union and Schengen Area States. The fines for non-compliance with the above-mentioned regulations are significant, ranging from 600–60 000 euro.

13. UNITED KINGDOM

Within the reported period, UK has announced for the first time more than 10 000 coronavirus cases per day since mass testing began. As of 06 October, total cases in UK are

more than 530k and the death cases are more than 42k, counting only the dead within 28 days of testing positive for COVID19. However, the government claimed that the peak is due to a technical issue. The issue was identified on 2 October in the automated process that transfers positive cases data to PHE. It has now been resolved. The cases by publishing date for 3 and 4 October include 15 841 additional cases with specimen dates between 25 September and 2 October — they are therefore artificially high for England and the UK. This issue suspiciously comes after data earlier had suggested infections might be rising more slowly than in previous weeks.





Despite the low daily total during the last weekend (03-04 Oct), at the beginning of this week the daily total saw a significant rise at a time when continued increases have been expected. Daily deaths are also starting to increase slowly but steadily. Obviously, a second wave of COVID19 is active in UK and the government put a three-tier plan into place on controlling the spread. The first tier includes the level of measures, which were active until 03 October, in most parts of UK (with social distancing as the key aspect). The second tier, which was triggered after 03 October involves what has been already imposed in northeast of England - curfews on hospital venues and a ban on meetings between households. Currently these restrictions are imposed on a region-by-region basis, but it is thought likely that they could eventually cover almost all of the UK. The final third tier would involve stricter lockdown measures.

On 03-Oct, Saturday tighter restrictions came into force in parts of northern England after a spike in coronavirus cases. It is now illegal to meet people indoors from other households in the Liverpool City Region, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Warrington. It means that a third of the UK is now under heightened restrictions. The restrictions were also tightened in other areas in England, as well as four areas of north Wales. Elsewhere, people arriving in the UK from Turkey and Poland now have to quarantine for two weeks.

14. USA

More than 7 444 700 people in the United States have been infected with the coronavirus and at least 209 600 have died; representing 20% of the world's known COVID-19 deaths. Over the past week, there have been an average of 43 586 cases per day, a 6 % increase compared with the two earlier weeks. Case numbers remain persistently high across much of the country, as reports of new infections surge in the Upper Midwest and parts of the West. Still, the number of new cases nationally has dropped considerably since late July, when the country averaged well over 60 000 per day. Deaths, though still well below their peak spring levels, averaged around 720 per day by early October, far more than were reported in early July.

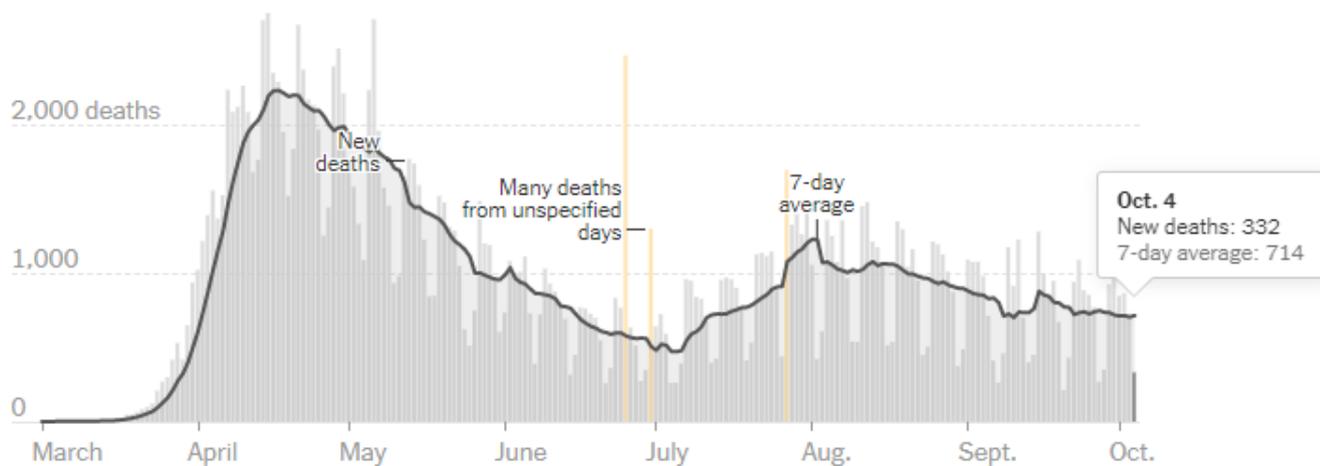
California reached a bleak milestone, becoming the first state in the nation to reach 750 000 coronavirus cases. Los Angeles County claims a third of those cases, becoming the first county to surpass 250 000 cases.

American life has been fundamentally reordered because of the virus. Concerts, parades and high school football games continue to be called off. Many schools and colleges will hold few or no in-person classes this fall. More than 130 000 cases have been linked to colleges and universities over the course of the pandemic. Schools and non-essential businesses in nine New York City neighbourhoods will close again due to an uptick in coronavirus cases. Some universities have decided to hold most or all classes online, but many others have reopened their campuses, often with extensive procedures and rules governing behaviour and testing. In August and September, as the fall term began, college towns saw some of the highest per capita case growth in the country.

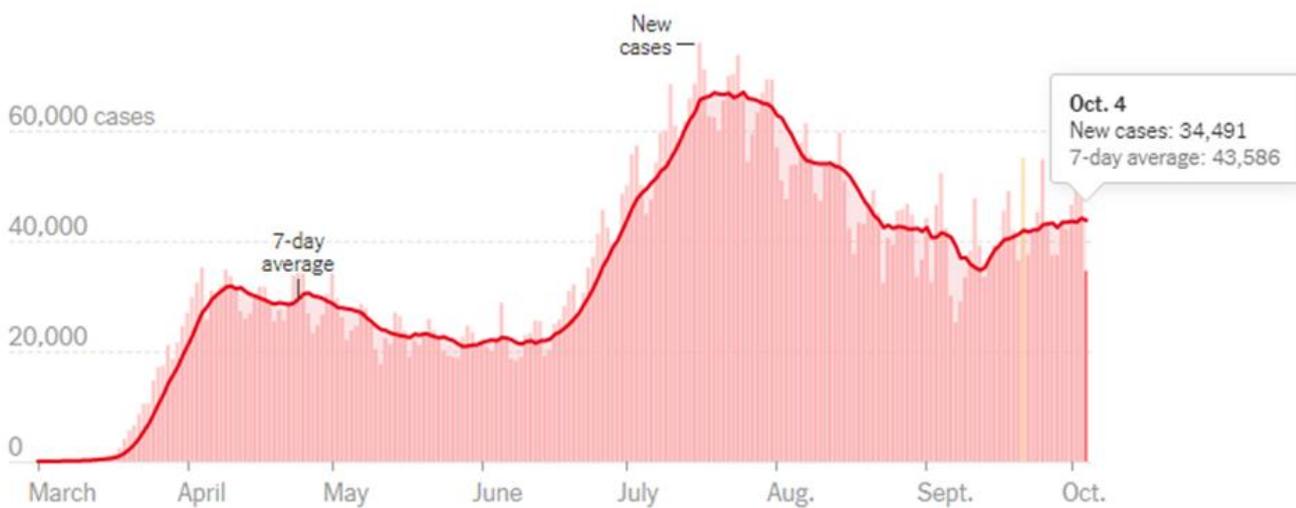
Countless people have found themselves jobless and struggling to afford housing. More than 857 000 Americans filed first-time applications for unemployment insurance last week, the Labour Department said Thursday.

President Donald Trump, who on Friday revealed he had contracted the coronavirus, is more vulnerable to developing severe COVID19 because of his age, gender and weight in accordance with some experts. Now he is experiencing mild symptoms.

New reported deaths by day in the United States



New reported cases by day in the United States



CONCLUSIONS

1. Coronavirus is continuing its spread across the world, with more than 36 million people infected, more than 1 million deaths and more than 7 million active cases.
2. There are evidences that second COVID19 wave is now ongoing across Europe and around the World.
3. 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.
4. Asia and South America are the continents that currently have the highest number of daily-confirmed cases.
5. Until now 1 060 002 deaths from COVID-19 are recorded worldwide, almost 217 000 of which are from the United States, which has the world's highest death toll.
6. USA, India, Brazil, Russia, and Columbia are the top 5 countries with the highest number of new cases per day. India, USA, Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina are the top 5 countries with the highest number of daily deaths. Therefore, India, USA and Brazil are still the 3 worst affected by COVID19 countries in the world.
7. COVID19 cases are on the rise among young people.
8. The start of the school year around the world has a potential to greatly increase the number of infections. Especially the return to in-person classes may have a deadly impact, if proper precautions are not taken.
9. Governments are still looking for social and political responses to the COVID19 pandemic and for striking the right balance between the restrictive measures to confine the pandemic and the measures to ease the economy.
10. In EU Spain, France, the Netherlands, Romania and the Czech Republic are recording their highest numbers of daily cases since the spring, and we are probably seeing resurgence of the disease in Europe in October.
11. Pandemic has significant socio-economic impact especially in India, Middle East, Africa and South America, which is already leading to growing unemployment and increasing poverty of local societies. This can trigger social dissatisfaction, widening differences between social classes and civil unrest.
12. 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.

13. 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.
14. While the effects of the pandemic are generally devastating for the affected individual, societies and countries, it also presents some opportunities (as for example explained in the paragraph “How pandemic sparked European cycling revolution”), which can be exploited by good government.

RECOMMENDATION (for improvement of emergency situation SOPs)

Due to continuing spread of the coronavirus infection, with decision № 673 the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, on 25 September 2020 extended the declared emergency epidemic situation from 14 May 2020. In addition to the different measures declared by the government, one would expect that the state's healthcare system would react to the emergency situation and would change the way in which patients experiencing the well-known COVID19 symptoms would be treated, all the way from the early diagnosis to full recovery.

However, during the regular COVID19 research and analysis of the CMDR COE, experts from the center noticed that the way in which the Bulgarian health system is reacting to possible new COVID19 cases remains the same, as it would react to any other illness experienced by Bulgarian citizens. The Bulgarian citizens or country's guests who want to be tested for coronavirus, because of various reasons (work, travel, COVID19 symptoms, etc.) have few different options:

1. Go to certified laboratory and pay for the test;
2. Get a referral for free medical examination from the Regional Health Inspectorates (RHI) (given that certain conditions are met);
3. As of today, the Bulgarian citizens also can get a referral for free medical examination from their personal General Practitioner (GP) (if the doctor believes that they may be infected, given the patient's symptoms).

Either way, in order to be tested for coronavirus in accordance with the current procedures, people with COVID19-like symptoms will have to travel – by private car or taxi with another driver, by public transport endangering many passengers or even walking on the streets among the other pedestrians). With the options 2 and 3 listed above (which many will prefer as free of charge) people who are potentially infected with COVID19 will have travel even additionally – 1st to the RHI or GP to get referral, then to the lab and back home. Obviously this:

1. Increases the time until the tests are completed and results available. During this prolonged period, the potential COVID19 patients will be in contact with more people for longer and thus conditions for quicker spread of the infection are created.
2. Forces people to travel more to be tested and this makes social distancing more difficult. As seen from paragraph 2 of this report, many big cities are looking for alternatives of the public transport, while in Bulgaria are doing the opposite. In addition, because of the

particularities of our public transportation system keeping social distancing or following other precautionary measures is quite difficult, if not impossible. No doubt this aid the infection to spread even quicker.

Therefore, CMDR COE is offering the following recommendation to be considered by the respective decision makers:

If somebody is experiencing medical conditions, which can lead to the conclusion that one is infected with coronavirus (based on the well-known COVID19 symptoms, GP's advice can be sought via phone) he/she should be handled in a similar way as the patients requiring emergency healthcare assistance. Namely, the patient should stay at home (not exposing others, his GP included, to risk), should call 112, explain his symptoms and wait for a specialized, adequately equipped and trained team of experienced medics to arrive and check his condition and do the COVID19 test (as necessary) on the spot. If additional medical tests, that require hospitalization, are necessary, the patient still can be safely transported to a suitable healthcare facility without endangering the health of the other unaware and improperly protected people. In this way, the unnecessary personal contacts will be avoided or at least reduced and the RHIs will have better visibility on the spread of the pandemic.

Of course, this will present additional requirements to the Bulgarian healthcare system. The procedures for emergency assistance in case of pandemic would have to be revised and the state must ensure sufficient funding for additional medical teams and their training and equipment.