

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

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COVID-19

PART 20

(26 August – 09 September 2020)

COPING STRATEGIES IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

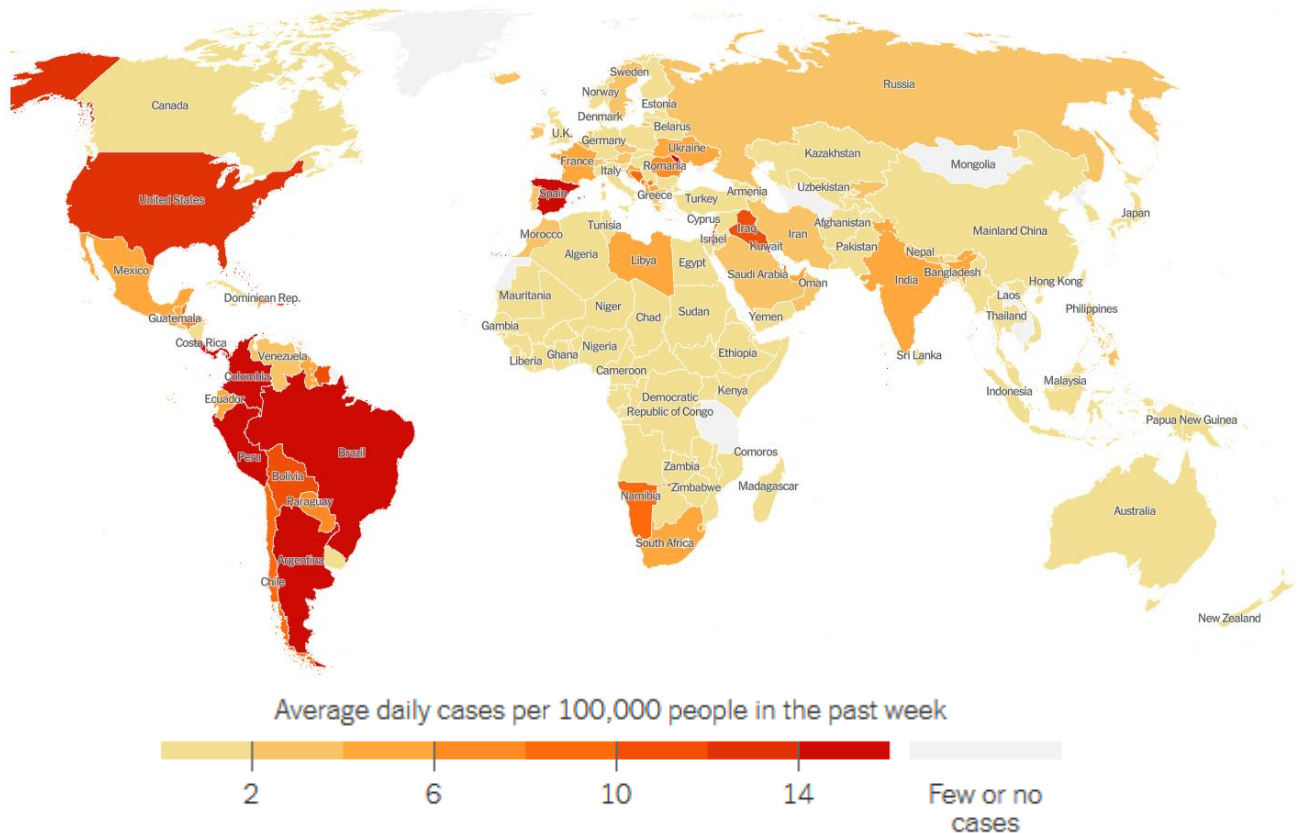
This report represents a summary of open source information, accumulated between 26 August and 09 September 2020, and was assembled on 11 September 2020. All views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author, unless otherwise stated and do not necessarily represent the official position of 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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WORLD SITUATION SNAPSHOT

COVID-19 cases is close to cross the 28-million mark globally during last two weeks, with USA, India, Brazil, Russia and Peru among the top five worst affected countries. Number of deaths crossed 902-thousand with USA, Brazil, India, Mexico, and UK among top five countries on the world. As testing is stepped up in India, a true picture of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country is emerging. And the news is certainly not good. On August 30 - Sunday, India reported the biggest single day rise in coronavirus cases anywhere in the world so far. As against the previous record of 78,619 cases in the US on July 24, India reported 79,457 cases. Among the top three countries in terms of total number of cases, the top two — the US and Brazil — are now on a downward trajectory when it comes to daily new cases.



In the USA, the White House has rejected the World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) concerns over the move to introduce a COVID-19 vaccine in the country without completing the Phase III clinical trials. A White House spokesperson said the president would spare no expense to ensure that “any new vaccine maintains our own FDA’s gold standard for safety and efficacy”. Calling the WHO “corrupt”, the spokesperson said the USA would not join any effort led by the multilateral organization to develop and manufacture a vaccine. Meanwhile, the USA Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reportedly asked all states to start preparations for distribution of a vaccine among high-risk categories beginning late October.

Even as efforts are on to have a vaccine as soon as possible, existing medicines continue to get a chance to prove their efficacy. An analysis of results from seven separate global trials has revealed that steroids can lead to survival of 68% of the sickest COVID-19 patients compared to around 60% in case of those not taking steroids. Following these

results, the WHO has updated its advice to include a “strong recommendation” for use of steroids in seriously ill patients.

Technology companies are also doing their bit in the fight against COVID-19. Google and Apple have come out with a new system, Exposure Notifications Express, which makes it possible for health officials to use smartphones for contact tracing without needing an app. Under the system, officials have to submit a configuration file to Google and Apple, which then use it to set up a functionality that phone users can opt for to determine their possible proximity to any person-testing positive for COVID-19.

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.¹

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

CMDR COE ANALYSIS OF COVID-19 SPREAD ACCELERATION

CMDR COE continues the mathematical analyses based on the reported statistics and mathematical instruments.

Using its own researches and analyses, CMDR COE found that there is significant difference in the COVID's parameters.

In the last CMDR COE OpsLab report was emphasized that the real distribution of the virus and the number of people having contact with it, is much higher than the reported.

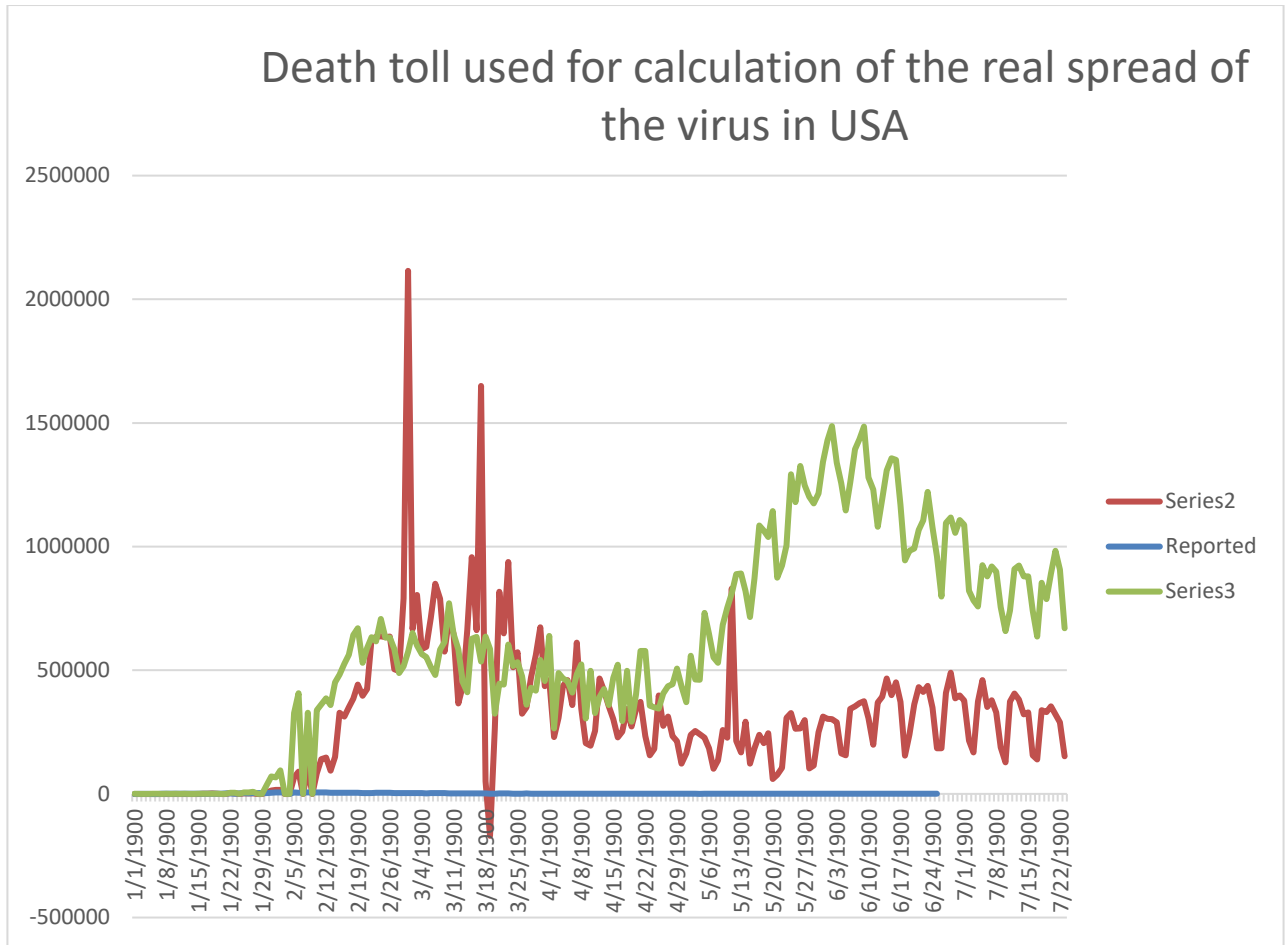
Furthermore, it was explained that the coefficient between the death toll and the new cases (real one, not reported) is approximately 0,002 - 0,003 for the western affected countries.

This coefficient is informative for the real distribution of the virus. It made possible the revelation of the certain percentage of the population having contact of the virus and changing the function of the spreading from exponential to linear.

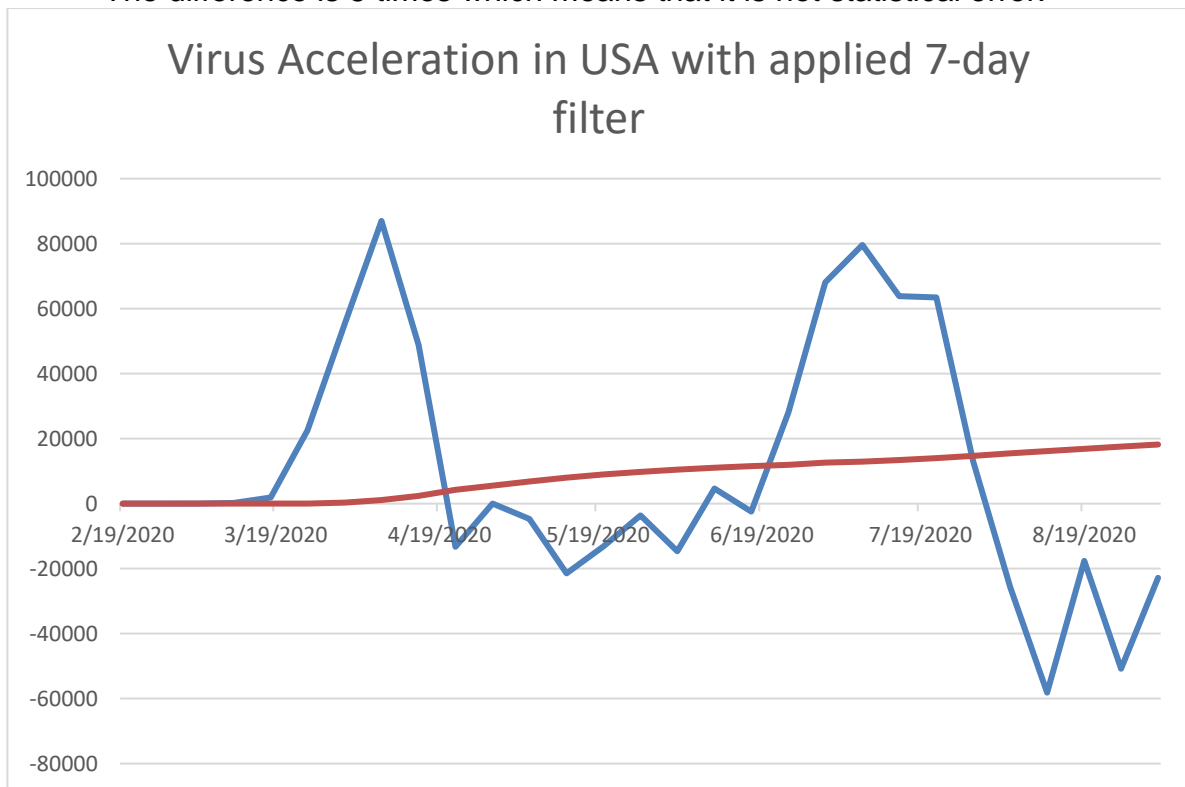
The exponential evolution is stopped when almost 15% of the population is covered or have immunity. Unfortunately, it doesn't mean that the virus will stop. Actually, it will prolong the presence of the virus.

In the last report for the first time CMDR COE showed graphically the correlation between the spread of the virus and the reported death toll. For the first part of the crisis the graphs show significant dependence.

Viewing the second part of the virus evolution a vast deviation is observed. It was noticed first on the USA graph, but now it is obvious for the western European countries also.



The difference is 5 times which means that it is not statistical error.



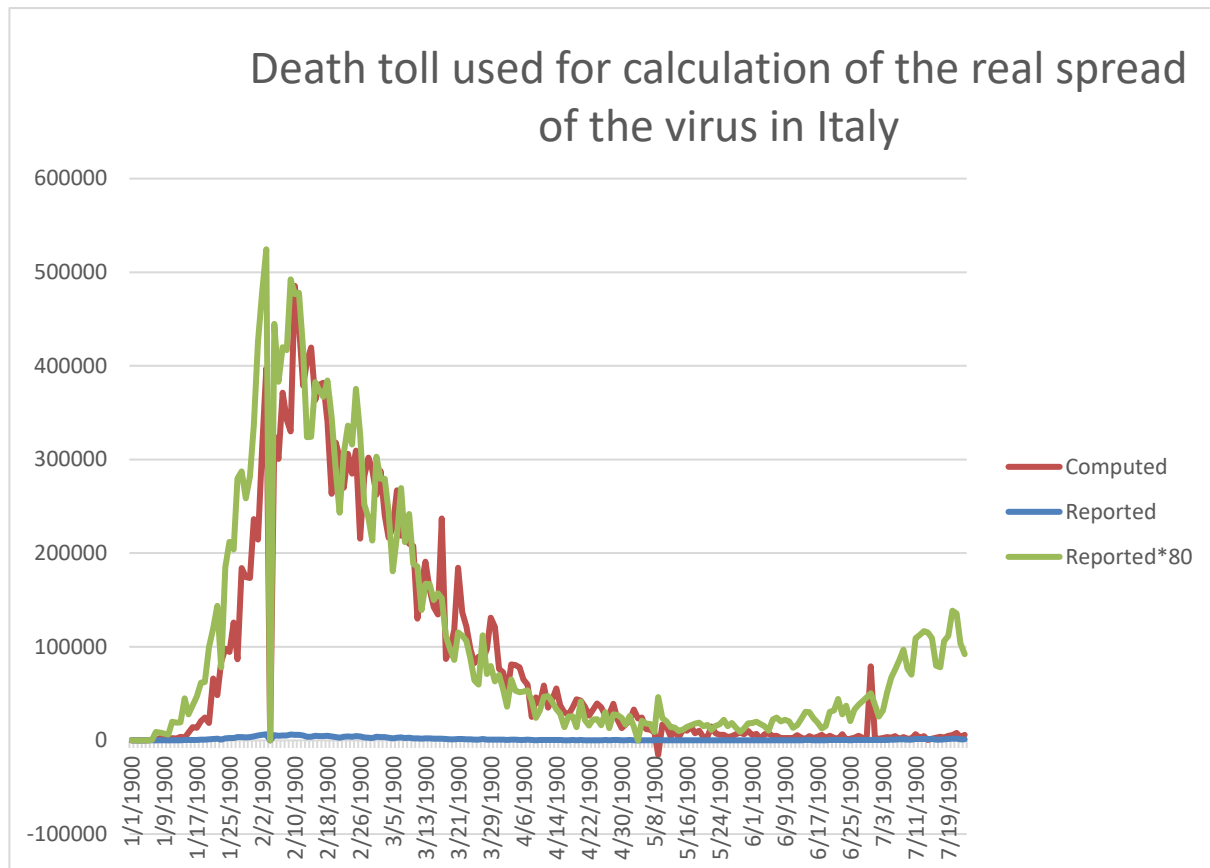
The acceleration of the spreading is with negative sign and it means that we will continue to

observe decreasing number of new cases. It was predicted by CMDR COE as parameters two reports ago.

The virus impact at the moment is not critical for the USA health system and possible crisis could be related with second and third order effect.

CMDR COE continue to explore the crisis development in Italy, Germany and France. It helps us to understand the process and to apply the developed models and theory to another country.

What is interesting now is the presence of deviation between the calculated and reported data same as the USA graph. The finding is critical for the crisis management.



We can see the same deviation on the graph as what is observed on the USA's. The question is why.

Without additional information about the virus at the moment we can mention several possible reasons:

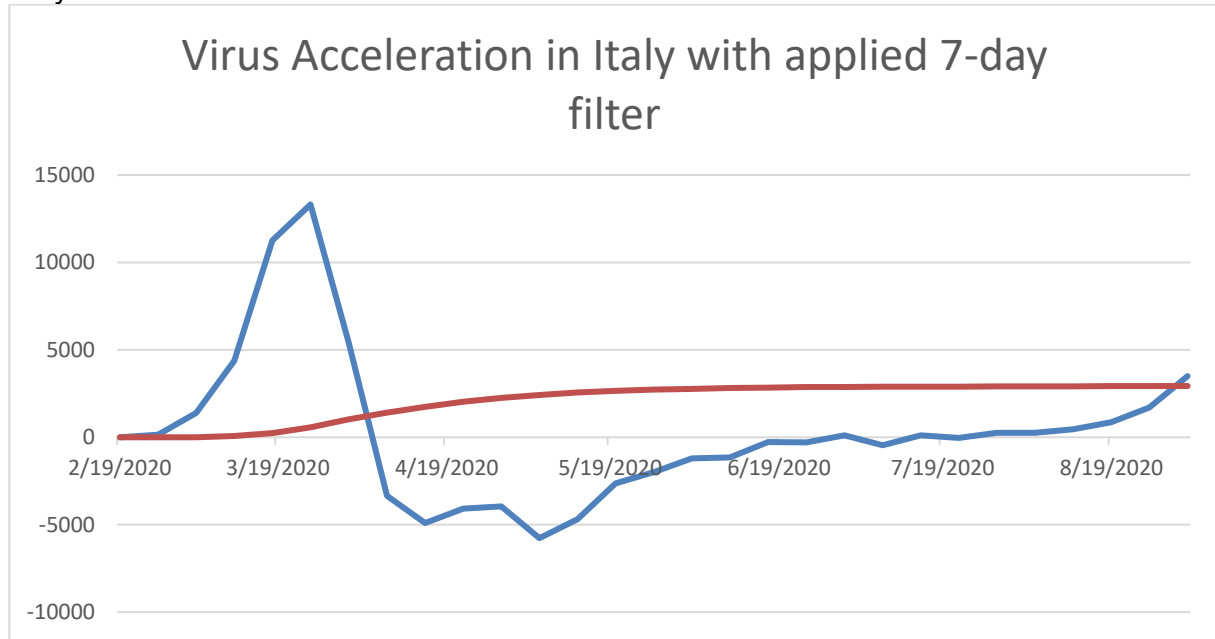
- Significant difference in the tests and reports;
- Highly improved medical protocols;
- Mutation of the virus;
- Presence of a new not so lethal virus triggering the coronavirus tests.

We are sure that the first three bullets are valid – the test and report system was improved with the crisis development. The mutation of the virus is also noticed by the laboratories across the world. Despite the short period, the virus could mutate, motivated by the will of vast distribution. According the CMDR COE's analyses the virus passed through hundreds of millions of people. It allows the virus to transform itself to not so lethal but very virulent form. The ratio of the reported victims of the virus to new cases is 5 to 10 times lower than the previous peak of distribution.

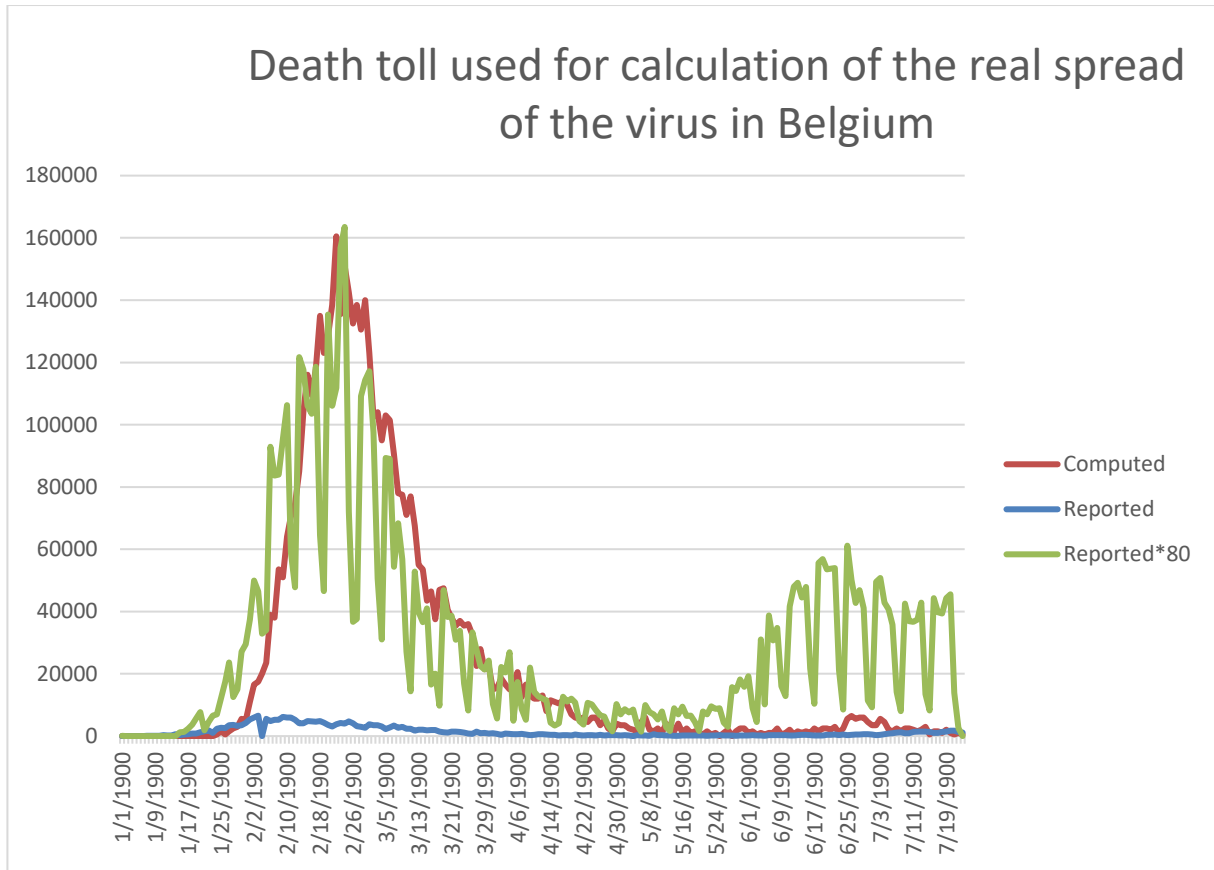
It is interesting that the second part of the distribution with the changed characteristics started in USA almost a month before it started in Europe. It tilts the scales in direction of virus mutation.

The long period of presence and big scale environment in USA could allow the virus to change itself and later to go back to Europe.

The deviations of the reported data and the computed by the mathematical model (valid for the first part of the crisis) in USA started in April. For Europe such deviations are observed in May.



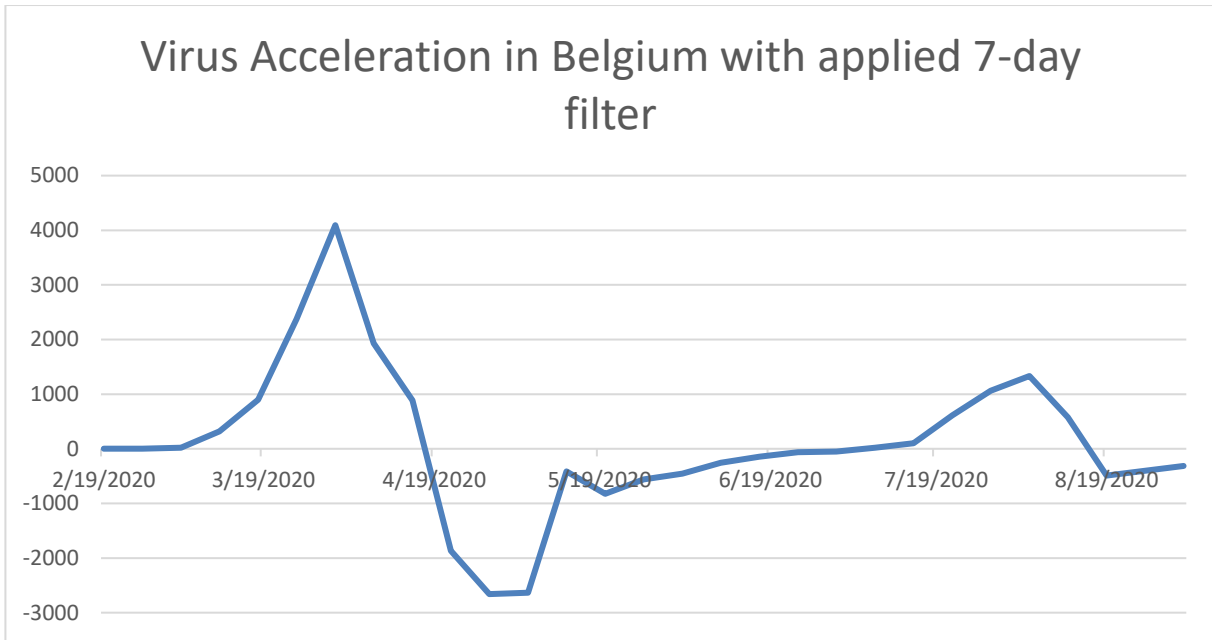
Despite the positive sign of the virus spread acceleration, the situation in Italy is not critical. Actually, the present development is highly acceptable. The collective immunity is fast rising, keeping low the death toll. CMDR COE expects in next 12 days another break of the graph and change of the acceleration vector direction.



In order to confirm the achieved results from the analyses, CMDR COE made additional computations related with other European countries.

Belgium also validated the maiden observations. Again the deviation started in May, a month later than USA. So, there is a possibility that very virulent and not so lethal form of the virus to come from America.

This form of the virus could affect number of people having contact with the previous form of the virus asymptotically. It is known for those people that they don't have sustainable immunity.

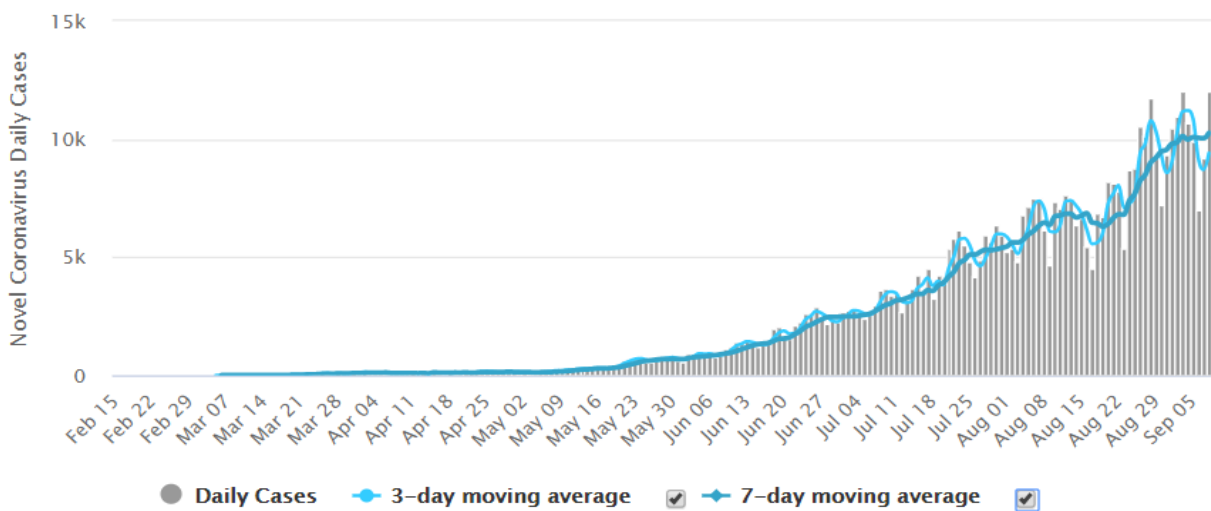


The virus spread acceleration in Belgium has negative sign at the moment which means that the situation is under control. The country was badly affected, paying devastating death toll. At the moment likewise Italy, they are not so vulnerable. CMDR COE doesn't exclude the possibility another circulating virus form to mislead the coronavirus tests performed at the moment across the world.

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 10,000 on Monday September 7.

There have been 10,129 deaths, with 488,007 confirmed coronavirus cases, according to government data. Almost half of coronavirus tests are yielding a positive result.

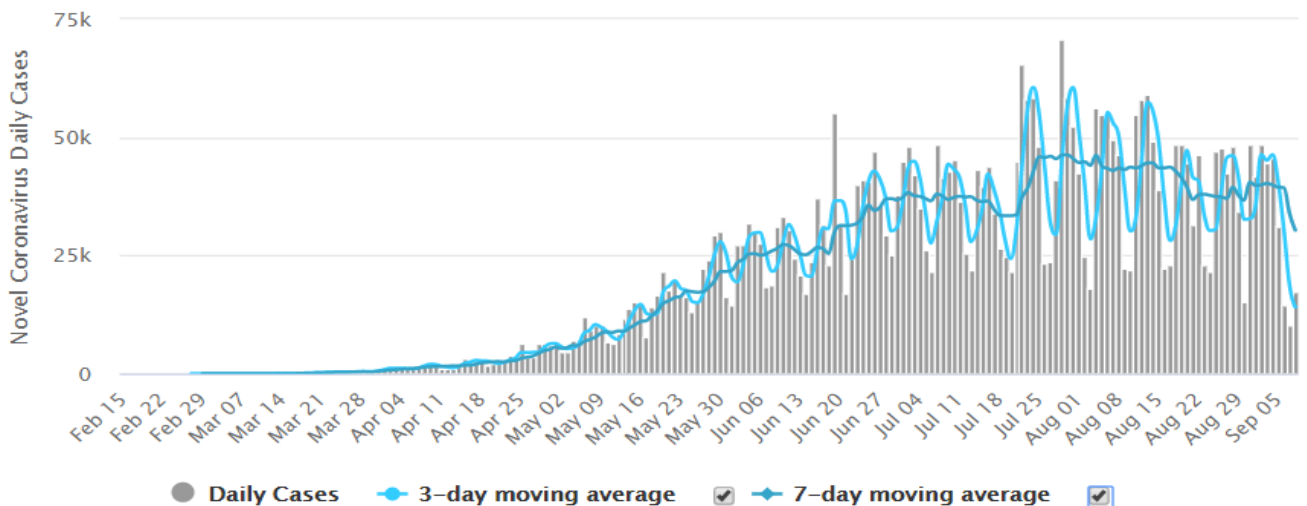
Health Ministry data show that over the past month, the number of confirmed infections daily is almost half that of the number of tests carried out, one of the highest "positive" rates in the world along with Mexico and Bolivia. For months, over 90% of cases were concentrated in the Buenos Aires metropolitan area - home to almost a third of Argentina's population - while the provinces were mainly spared. That changed abruptly in recent weeks. The provinces now account for almost a third of cases. The increase in cases, experts link to the easing of a nationwide lockdown amid rising economic and political pressure.

2. BRAZIL

Brazil has the third-worst outbreak of coronavirus globally with more than 4.1 million cases, passed this week by India for the second highest number of cases after the United States. More than 127,000 people have died from the disease, according to the official Health Ministry death toll. Sao Paulo, the most populous and hardest-hit state in the country, has reported 858,783 cases and 31,430 deaths, followed by Rio de Janeiro, with 233,373 cases and 16,646 deaths.

The virus killed 50,000 people in three months, but that number doubled in just 50 days. There have been more than three million confirmed cases so far. The pandemic is yet to peak but shops and restaurants have already reopened.

The high number of cases has led several vaccine makers to seek out Brazil for clinical trials. The country is testing a potential vaccine from AstraZeneca and has signed a memorandum of understanding to receive 30 million doses of it. Brazil's acting Health Minister said on Tuesday that a COVID-19 vaccine would be rolled out for all Brazilians in January 2021. Brazil's right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro, who has consistently downplayed the severity of the coronavirus outbreak, reiterated on Thursday that COVID-19 vaccinations will not be obligatory when they become available.



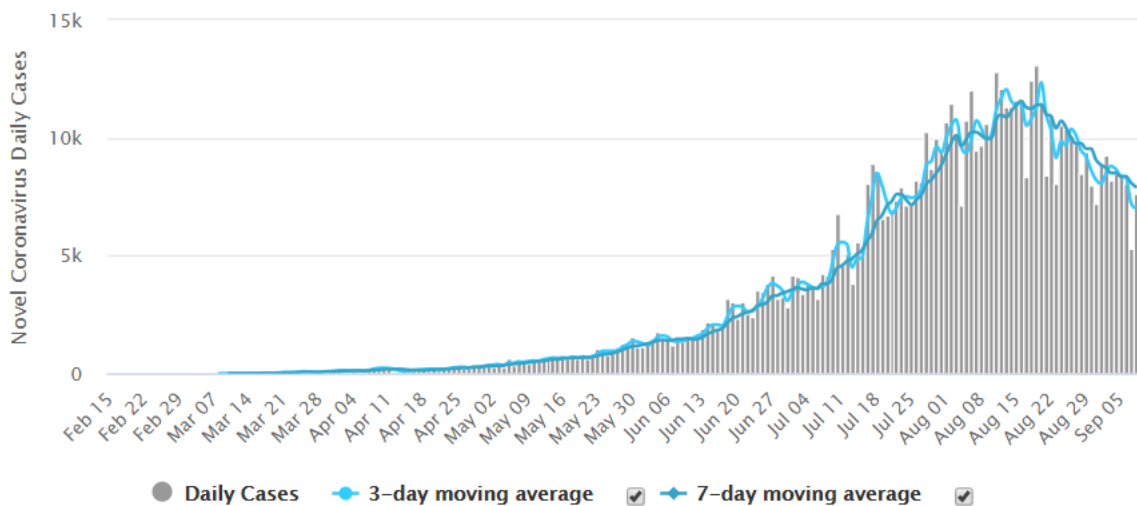
Experts have complained of a lack of a coordinated plan by the Bolsonaro government as local authorities now focus on restarting the economy, which is likely to boost the spread of the virus.

3. COLOMBIA

On Monday September 7, the lowest daily increase in coronavirus cases have been registered for Colombia, since early July, with 5,327 infections and sharp decline from weeks in which the country was registering day-on-day cases above 10,000. The lowering comes with 11,050 patients recovered and which also dipped the total number of active cases in the country. While Colombia maintains a sixth-place ranking among 10 nations with the highest recorded number of cases 679,513 – active cases now stand at 114,826.

According to Luis Guillermo Plata, General Manager of the country’s COVID-19 Emergency fund, “Colombia has passed the peak of infection,” and while there are still 1,346 clusters of the disease, the nation’s largest cities are also witnessing a deceleration in new cases.

Coronavirus has also claimed fewer victims since the beginning of September with 21 fatalities on Tuesday, without including the 181 deaths that were confirmed by health authorities and may have occurred up to 10 days ago. The death toll stands at 21,817.

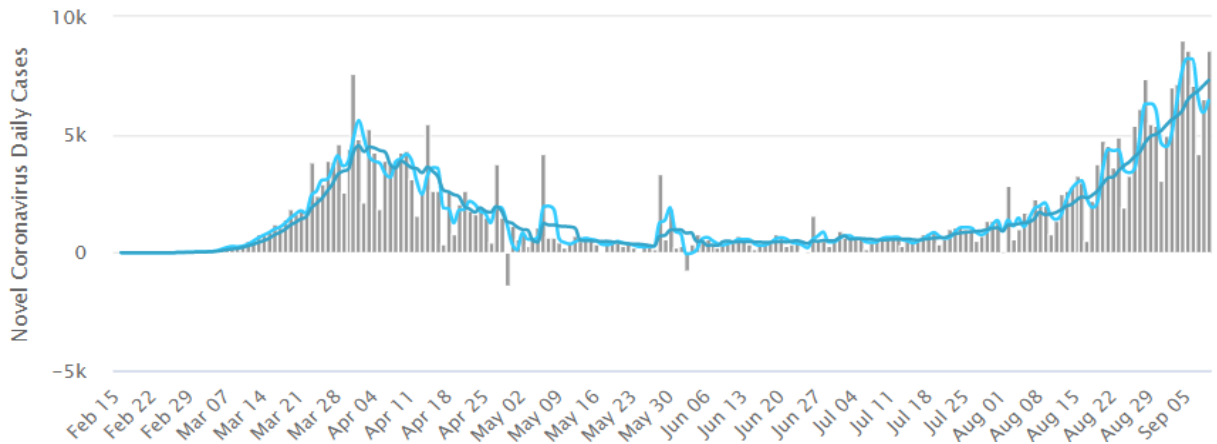


Plata’s remarks come more than a week after the National health Emergency was lifted to enable all sectors of the economy to resume work, and while Bogotá maintains certain restrictions to control over-crowding in supermarkets and retail outlets, on Tuesday, ICU occupancy in Bogotá was down to 62% and also the lowest number since the middle of June, when the capital’s 9 million residents were under strict quarantine.

4. FRANCE

France has set a new record of new Covid-19 cases per day in Friday – almost 9000. The number of people in France who have died from Covid-19 is 30 764, and the cumulative number of cases now totals 335 524. 88196 have been recovered.

The record figure on Friday came as the French education ministry said 22 schools were closed across France and its overseas territories due to Covid-19 outbreaks, just days after some 12 million children returned to school earlier this week.



The French labor ministry recommends working from home for those who can do so, while Paris and other cities have started requiring face masks in all public areas, including for children above 11.

But residents in some cities have been pushing back, seeking eased mask rules in public, for example at night or in areas where crowds do not generally gather.

On Friday, a court in the southeastern city of Lyon ordered the authorities to soften the rules to take "local circumstances" into account, though for now the strict requirement remains in effect.

In France, anyone can access a COVID-19 test for free and usually without an appointment. However testing sites in Paris have been dogged with long waiting times this week, with holidaymakers returning home after summer vacations in July and August.²

France has added several new departments to its list of COVID-19 "red zones" as the country experiences resurgence of cases of the virus.

A decree published on Sunday, which enters into force immediately, classifies seven areas as "zones where the virus is circulating actively". There are now 28 departments, including four located overseas, included in the list of "red zones".³

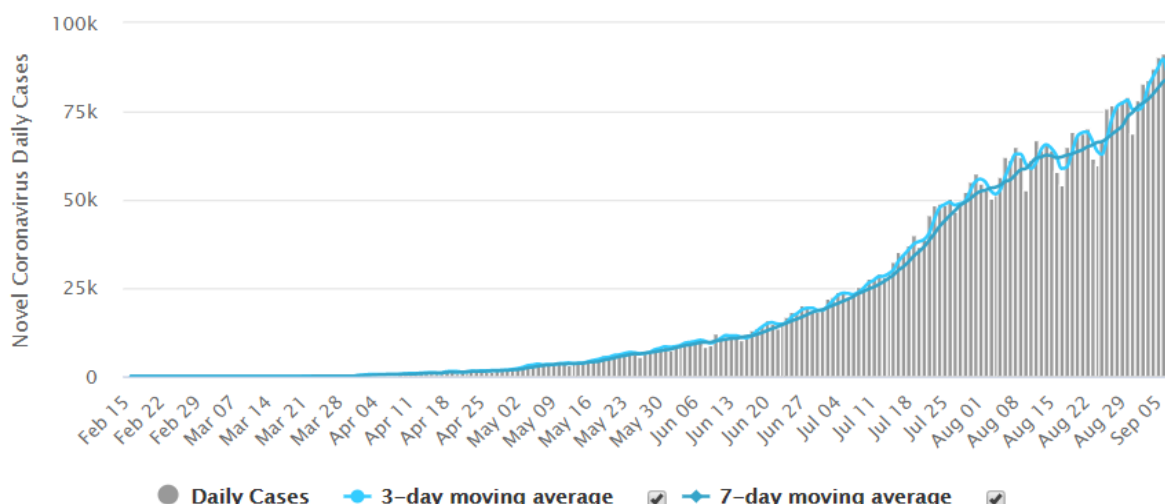
5. INDIA

During the last two weeks the coronavirus infections continue to accelerate throughout India. Ever since the country crossed the 3 million cases benchmark on the 23th August, it has been adding more than 80,000 confirmed infections per day. On 7th September India recorded 90802 new COVID19 cases – the highest single-day increase any country has recorded so far during the pandemic. On the same day India overtook Brazil and became the country with the second largest number of COVID19 infections in the world.

As of 09th September, India has 4,374,314 confirmed COVID19 infections, 897 486 of them active and 73,953 deaths.

² <https://www.france24.com/en/20200906-france-records-more-than-7-000-new-daily-covid-19-infections-as-virus-resurges>

³ <https://www.euronews.com/2020/09/06/covid-19-france-adds-seven-departments-to-red-zone-list-for-active-virus-circulation>



While the caseload is lower than that of the U.S., India is where the virus is spreading at the fastest pace. For about a month, India has been recording the largest number of new cases of any country.

The highest daily count of 1133 COVID19-related fatalities was registered on 08 September. According to the John Hopkins University India currently ranks third globally in virus-related deaths. The country's total COVID-19 death toll is the third highest in the world after the U.S. and Brazil. Still, India's coronavirus mortality rate of 1.7% is among the lowest of the worst-hit countries. But only about one in five deaths in India is medically certified so COVID-19 deaths could be substantially under-counted.

The surge in reported infections (over 60%) has mostly come from five states - Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state. It's now likely that the pandemic has, as feared, moved out of urban areas into India's vast and crowded rural hinterland, where medical facilities are scarce and the ability to contain infections is minimal.

While India continues to see a massive rise in new cases, the government, faced with a crashing economy has no real way to directly improve the welfare of those most affected. That is why the national and local authorities are trying to gradually lift pandemic-related restrictions. For example, the country's largest metro system in the capital New Delhi began operating again, as well as the trains, while limited tourist attractions, religious and sporting events have been allowed to restart and bars are set to open.

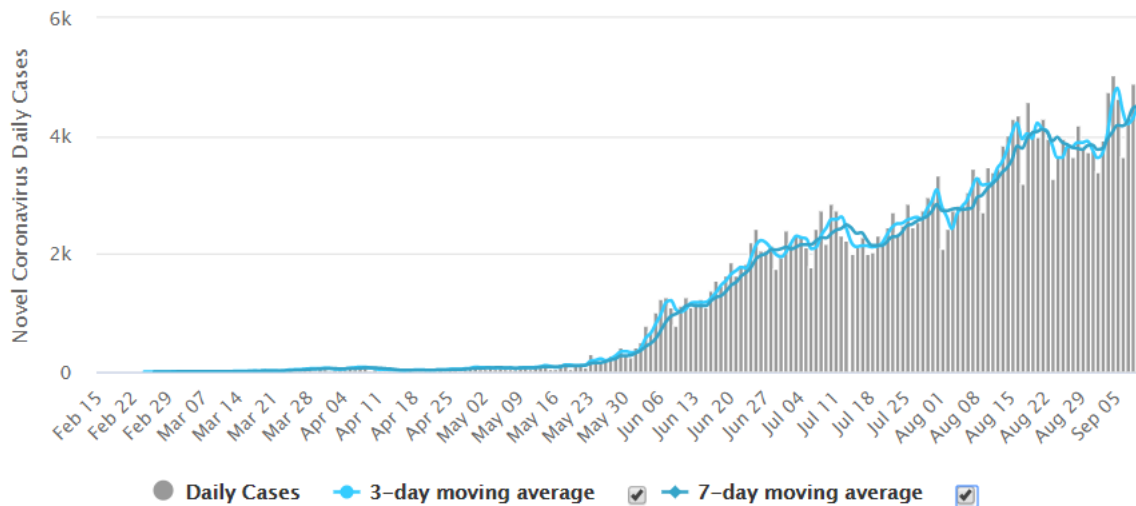
6. IRAQ

Iraq has recorded its highest single-day rise in coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic. 4,243 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday September 9 were registered, the highest daily increase among the Middle East states.

Iraq has so far confirmed 273,821 coronavirus cases in the country with few tangible signs of pandemic slowdown.

It also reported 75 fatalities on Wednesday, raising the death toll to 7,732, while 3,669 more patients recovered, bringing the total number of recoveries to 209,993.

A head of the Public Health Department in the Iraqi Health Ministry, noted 80 percent of COVID-19 cases in Iraq are mild with a good increase in the number of recoveries relative to the infections. The Health Ministry attributed the spike to recent "large gatherings" that took place without recommended safety measures, including mask-wearing or social distancing.



7. MEXICO

Mexico has registered over 69,095 coronavirus-related fatalities, putting it fourth in terms of Covid-19 deaths behind the U.S., Brazil and India. The cumulative number of cases now totals 647 507 and almost 455 000 have been recovered

Mexico’s deputy health minister said the government had ordered 1.1 million additional death certificates be printed as several parts of the country ran out and Covid-19 cases continue to soar.

The World Health Organization, though, said recently that Mexico’s Covid-19 cases and deaths are probably “under-recognized” due to limited testing there.

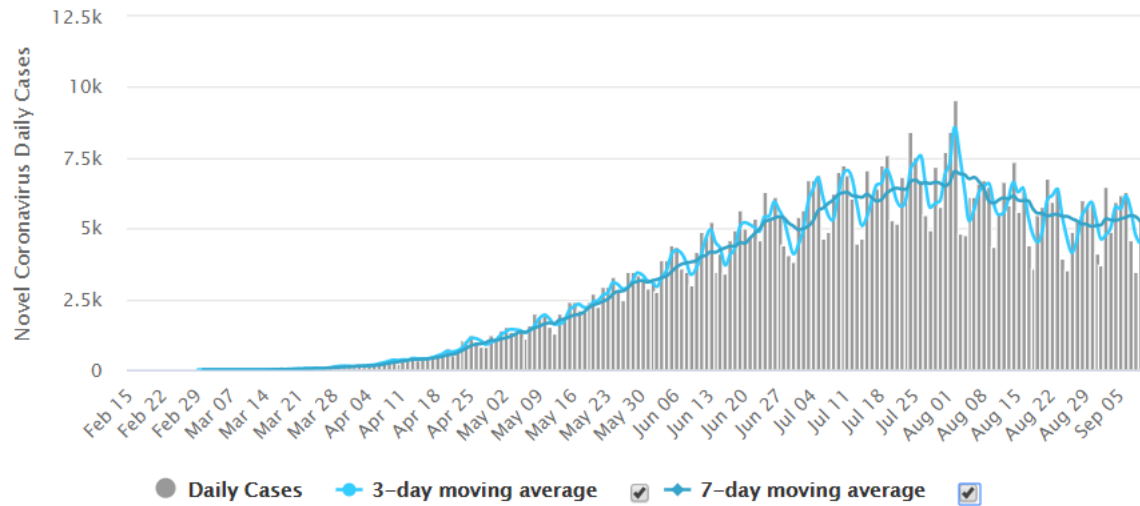
That assessment was backed up by new government figures showing deaths in Mexico from March to August from all causes were 122,765 more than what would be expected in a normal year. Excess mortality was concentrated in people from 45 to 65 years of age.

Despite this scenario, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has said the government’s strategy to tackle the coronavirus was “very good.”

Speaking in a press conference Friday evening, Hugo Lopez Gatell, the health official, said that some states, including Mexico State, were out of death certificates. Authorities had been working for the past two to three weeks to redistribute them from areas with larger stocks, he added.

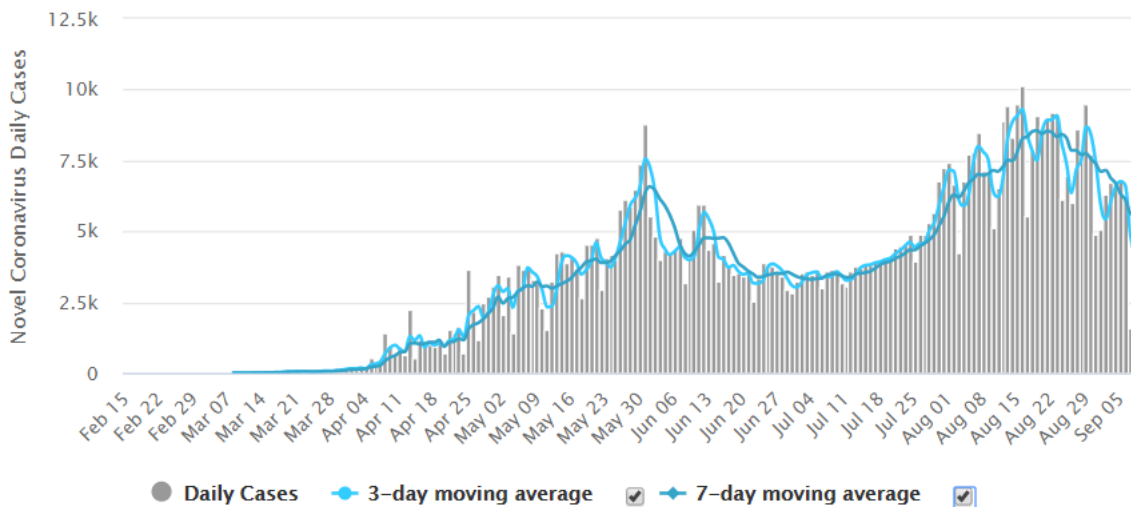
The new certificates started to arrive on Thursday, just before stocks from the redistribution also ran out, Lopez Gatell said.⁴

⁴ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-05/mexico-runs-out-of-death-certificates-after-rush-of-covid-cases>



8. PERU

Peru has now registered almost 30,000 coronavirus-related deaths, the largest toll in Latin America after Brazil and Mexico. That is despite the Peruvian government's imposing a nationwide quarantine less than two weeks after detecting the country's first case on March 6.



On August 28, Peruvian President Martín Vizcarra signed a supreme decree expanding quarantine measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Peru. The 10:00 pm to 4:00 am curfew from Monday to Saturday and all-day quarantine on Sunday remain in effect in most of Peru regions with some exceptions where there is a quarantine and a mandatory daily curfew from 8:00 pm to 4:00 am. In the quarantine areas, only one person per family is allowed to leave the home during non-quarantine hours.

Children under 14 years old, adults 65 and older, and those in high-risk groups are to remain in quarantine during the extended state of emergency. Children under 14 years old are permitted to be outside of their residence for 30 minutes per day, but must be accompanied by an adult and must remain within 500 meters of their residence. At all other

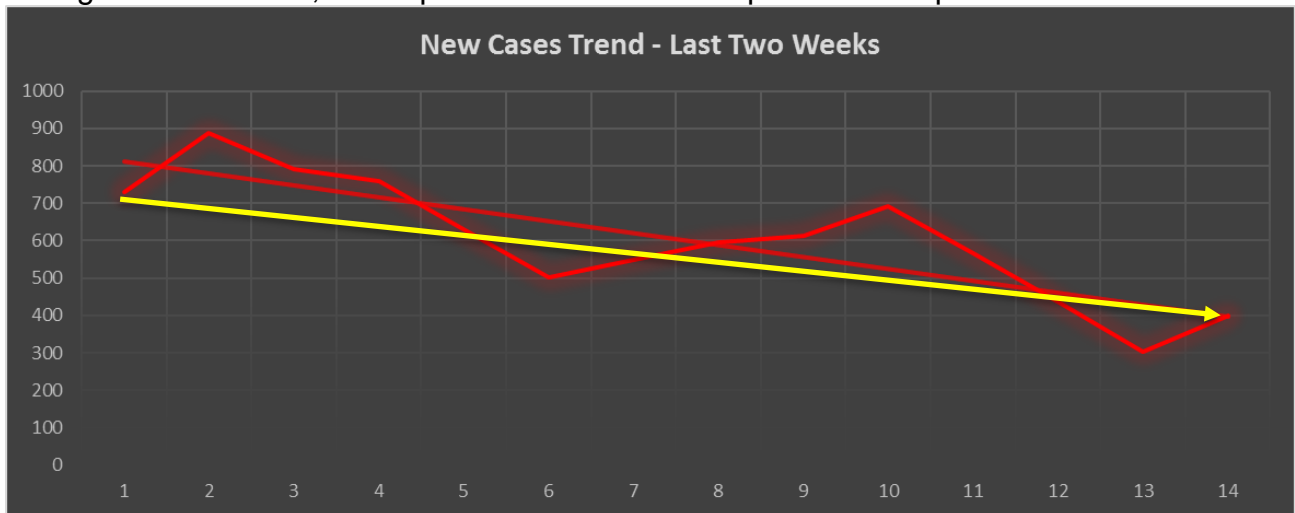
times, children must remain indoors with the exception of an emergency.

Peru's government has launched a campaign of emotional shock tactics to persuade its citizens to help stop the coronavirus from causing more death and misery in a country with one of Latin America's biggest outbreaks.

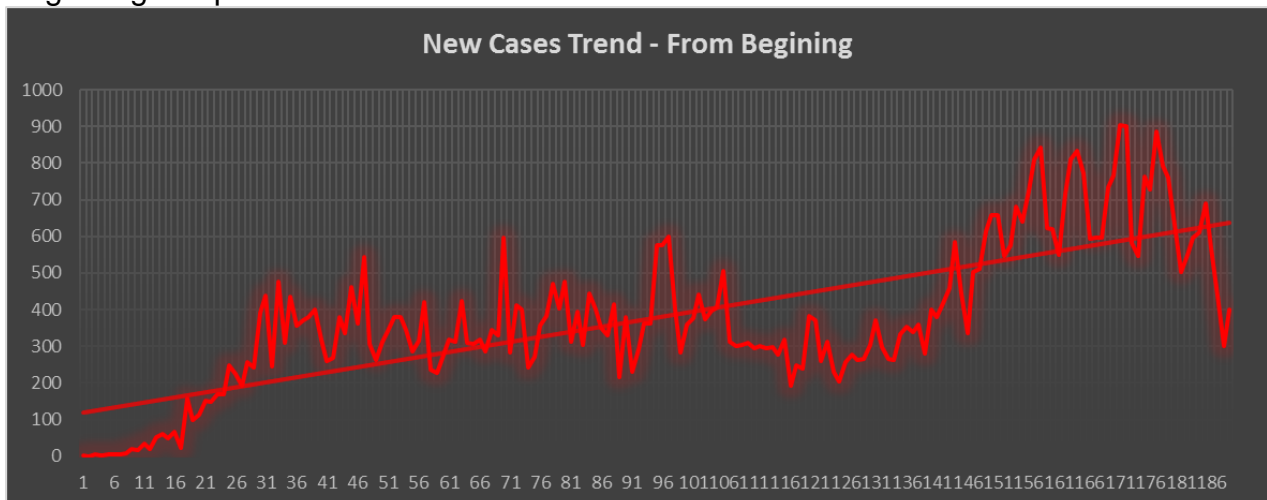
Peruvian President acknowledges the campaign "may seem too harsh" but it is better to call the things as they are". He noticed that, the "war" Peruvians are waging is a result of the virus's painful and unexpectedly widespread impact on his country with more than 30 million people population.

9. POLAND

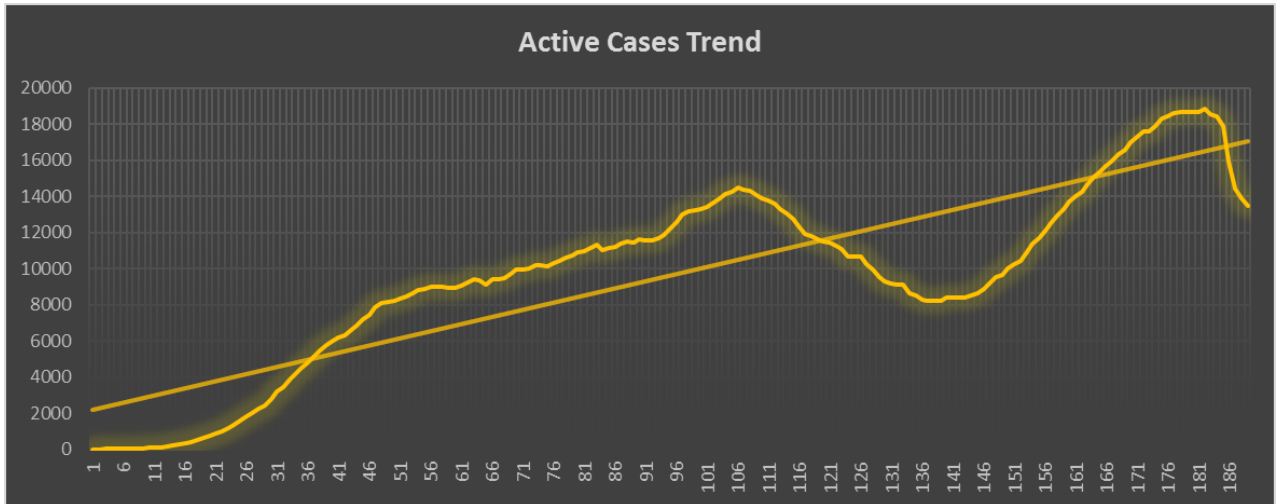
From the beginning of pandemic number of infected people has grown and reached 71 526 (+ 8 453), disease trend rate is lower comparing to previous period and now is below linear trend line. Currently average number of infected is 604 (recently 722) people a day during last two weeks, which placed Poland on 11th place in Europe and 43rd on the world.



Now number of new cases oscillating at the same level like it was at the Beginning of April.

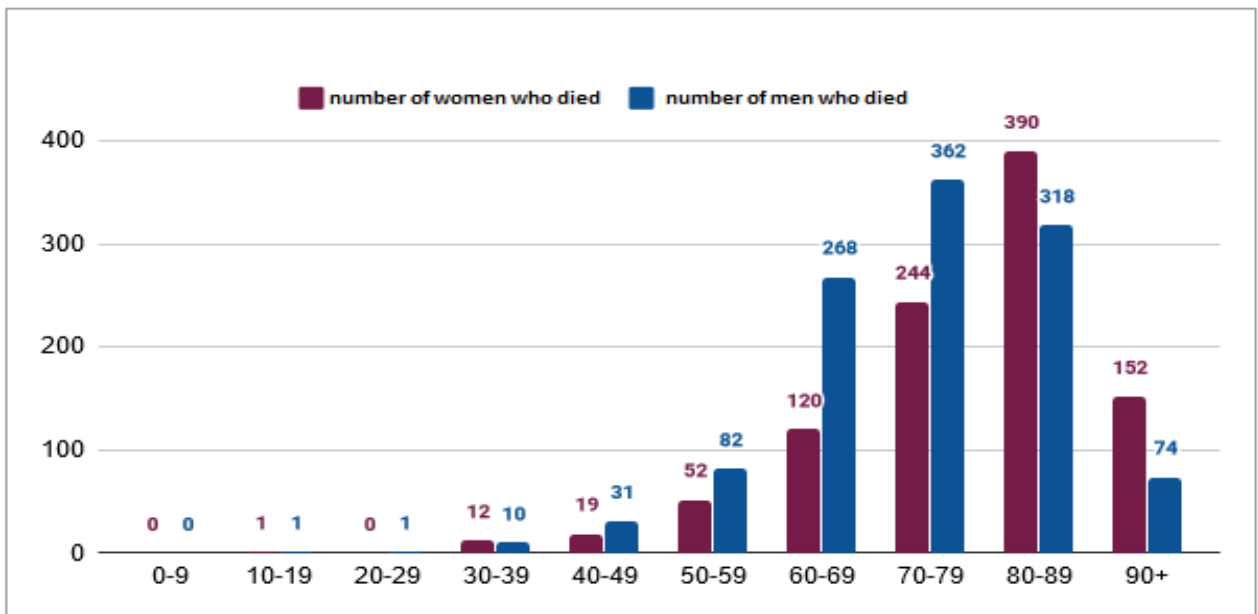


Number of active cases trend line going down from beginning of last week and now is on the same level like mid-June and August; however, this must be monitored further.



Number of tests done so far is 2 870 266 / +314 751 from last report. Reported number of people cured from coronavirus so far – 55 910 42 784 / +13 126 from last report which is more than double comparing to previous report and can be a reason of lowering number of active cases. 2 136 (+159) people died so far (1 147 men and 990 women), average age of died person is 76 years.

Age structure of died people in Poland



Morbidity rate by district in Poland

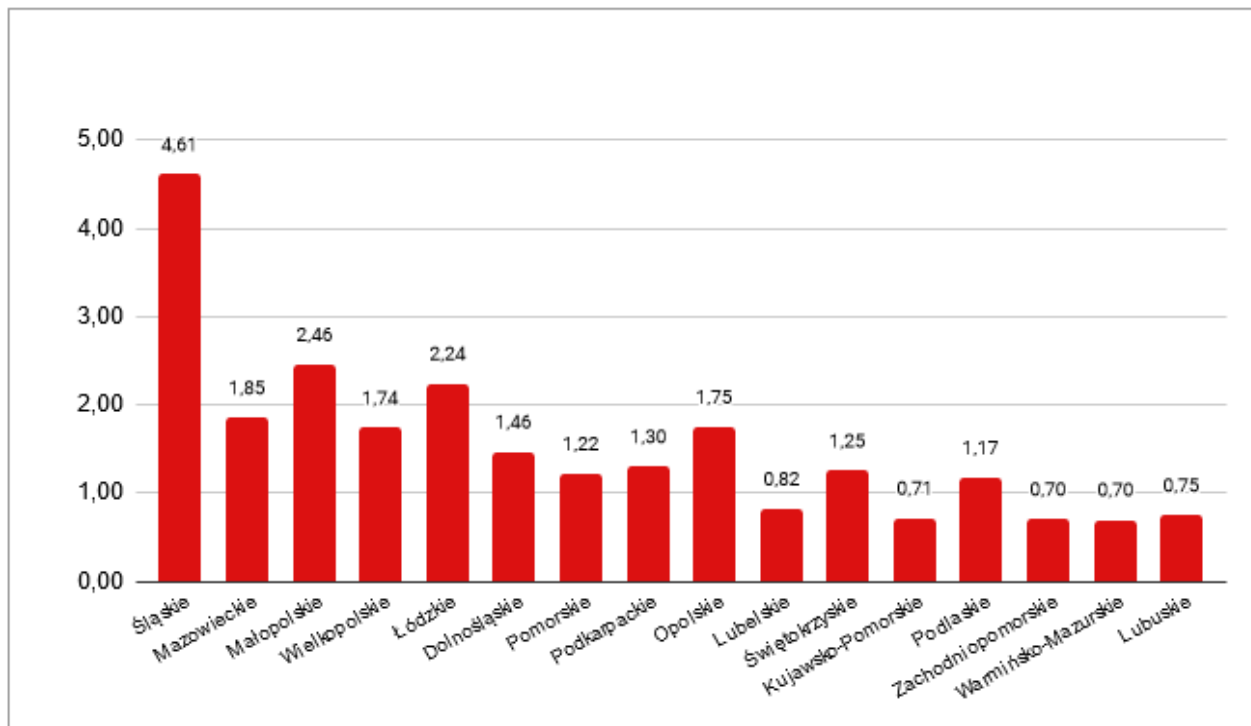


Chart above presents morbidity rate divided by district. It is seen that in 11th districts this rate is bigger than one, which means that one infected can transmit virus to more than one person that facilitates potential disease acceleration.

The way of COVID-19 in Poland is usually milder than in other EU countries, and severe pulmonary forms are much less. Such a picture of the pandemic can be expected even more or less until mid-September. Experts say that it will probably get worse later.

For more than a month, the number of newly diagnosed COVID-19 infections has exceeded 500 new cases every day. The number of infections has dropped in the last two days, on September 7, reaching the lowest value since July 20 (302 infections diagnosed), but it is most likely a matter of time before the critical value of 1,000 new infections in one day is reached.

It is difficult to say whether we are dealing with the second wave of infections, or whether it is the result of irresponsible behavior and irresponsible decisions of politicians. The decision to release weddings, to open stadiums and the earlier statements about defeating the pandemic, which cannot be explained in any way.

The Polish experience to date shows that while the actual morbidity of COVID-19 is similar to that observed in other European Union countries, the course of the disease itself is usually much milder, and the incidence of severe pulmonary forms is much lower.

The appearance of additional illnesses caused by infection with influenza and parainfluenza viruses will result in a sharp increase in the frequency of hospitalization and isolation (each viral infection, until its background SARS-COV-2 is excluded, will be treated as another COVID-19 illness).

Complex infections will appear, in which the influenza virus, damaging the lower respiratory tract, will facilitate the invasion of coronaviruses, but also the development of bacterial lung infections. The most severe forms of these infections commonly referred to as "superinfections", will lead to pneumonia complicated by multiple organ failure. The causative agents here will be pneumococci and pertussis, but also all other highly resistant microorganisms colonizing hospitals.

Therefore, from that point of view, it is not so certain that the worst is over. So again, we

should pay attention to:

- having enough medical staff and possibility to reinforce them;
- availability of the number of intensive care places for new admissions;
- the number of respirators;
- oxygen, air and vacuum access points, liquid oxygen supplies.

What else can we do to reduce risk of getting seriously ill with COVID-19? Get vaccinated against the flu - specialists advises. Unfortunately, it will not be easy. Poland will buy about 2 million doses this year, which means that about 5 percent of Poles will be able to get vaccinated.

World Health Organization guidelines indicate that a country can effectively protect itself against flu if 75 percent of its population is vaccinated. Some European countries have already reached this level or are close. Poland is far away from meeting the guidelines.

10. RUSSIA

The number of infected in the country, as on September 9 reached a total of 1,035,789 cases of coronavirus and 17,993 deaths. Russia remains fourth in the world in this indicator after the United States, India and Brazil.

Daily new COVID-19 cases in Russia gradually decreased since end of June 2020, reaching approximately 5.18 thousand on September 7, 2020. An increase in new cases was recorded in the last week of August. For the fifth day in a row, more than 5,000 new infections have been recorded. The total number of confirmed cases of the disease in the country on 1 September, surpassed one million, with the capital Moscow accounting for the largest number of infected individuals, becoming the fourth country to reach that mark.

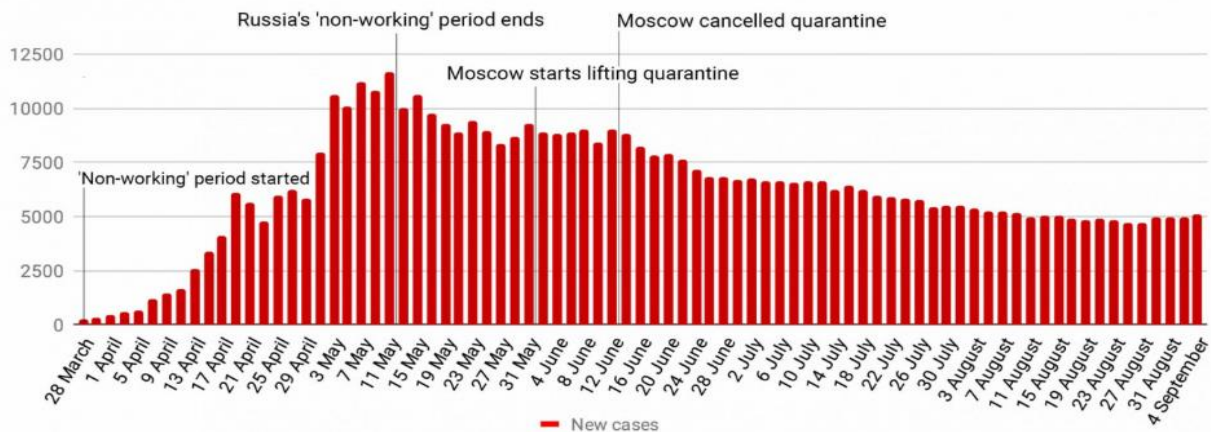
Meanwhile, the first Russian vaccine "Sputnik V" against the coronavirus has been launched in Moscow.

Volunteers are already being recruited to take part in the so-called post-registration testing period of the vaccine. At the end of August, it received the necessary registration and approval for the next stage of testing. In this way, additional data on the effectiveness and safety of vaccine will be collected. Then it will be released for mass use, with several million doses expected to be ready by early 2021. The health minister said coronavirus vaccines would be free for citizens and would be fully covered by the budget. In addition, immunization against the virus will be voluntary.

Russia is considering cutting military spending after low oil prices and the coronavirus crisis have shrunk its economy. This was published by the Ministry of Finance.

The ministry proposes that the government should reduce spending on the army by 5% between 2021 and 2023. The proposal also includes budget cuts of 10% for other types of spending, but excludes the judiciary, Russian debt service and salaries for civil servants.

Numbers of Coronavirus Cases in Russia



11. SPAIN

Spain is the first country in Europe to record more than half a million cases on September 7, when reached 525 000 total infections.

The beginning of the school year in Spain has coincided with the worst coronavirus figures of the second wave of the pandemic.

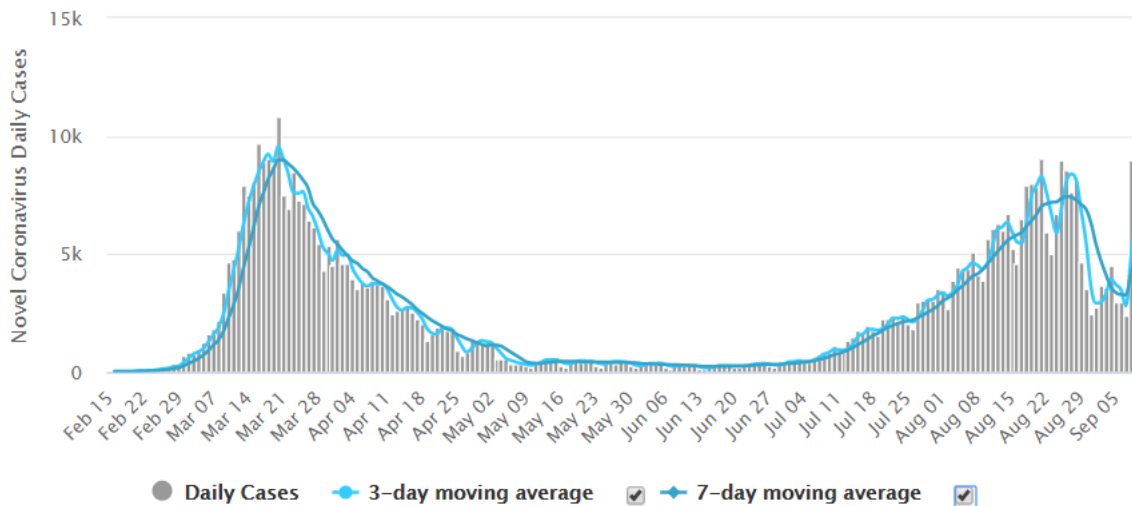
After months of closure, Spain's schools are technically reopening at the start of September. Madrid welcomed back pupils to the classroom from September 4, in a staggered manner, which means half-empty classrooms at first, whilst Catalonia has announced September 14, as the date it will reopen schools. 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.

According to data released by the Spanish Health Ministry on September 7, 2020, the total number of Covid-19 cases has risen to 525 000, meaning that infections spiked again last week, with nearly 9000 new daily cases.

The 14-day cumulative incidence of the virus, which is the parameter most commonly used to compare the epidemiological situation in each country, has risen at the same speed and is now at 230 cases per 100 000 people. According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Spain has the highest incidence in Western Europe and almost double that of France, which is second on the list.

The Madrid region continues to be the main concern, not only because it is reporting figures that are worse than the average in Spain, but also because these numbers continue to rise. The number of hospital beds occupied by coronavirus patients in the Madrid region has doubled in three weeks. If the regional government's new restrictions on social activities fail to curb contagion, some hospitals in the region may be overwhelmed within weeks, experts warn.⁵

⁵ <https://www.cgcom.es/coronavirus/destacados>



According to report for the period 1-7 September, more than 20,000 new cases are recorded in these seven days, and in the last two weeks, the cumulative incidence of the virus has risen to 520 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. In the second wave of the pandemic, only region of Aragon has reported a similar incidence rate.

The Spanish regions with the lowest incidence of the virus are Asturias (60), Galicia (128), Andalusia (129) and Catalonia (180). At the beginning of the second wave, Catalonia was one of the regions with the highest number of new coronavirus cases, but now has a lower 14-day cumulative rate than the national average (236).

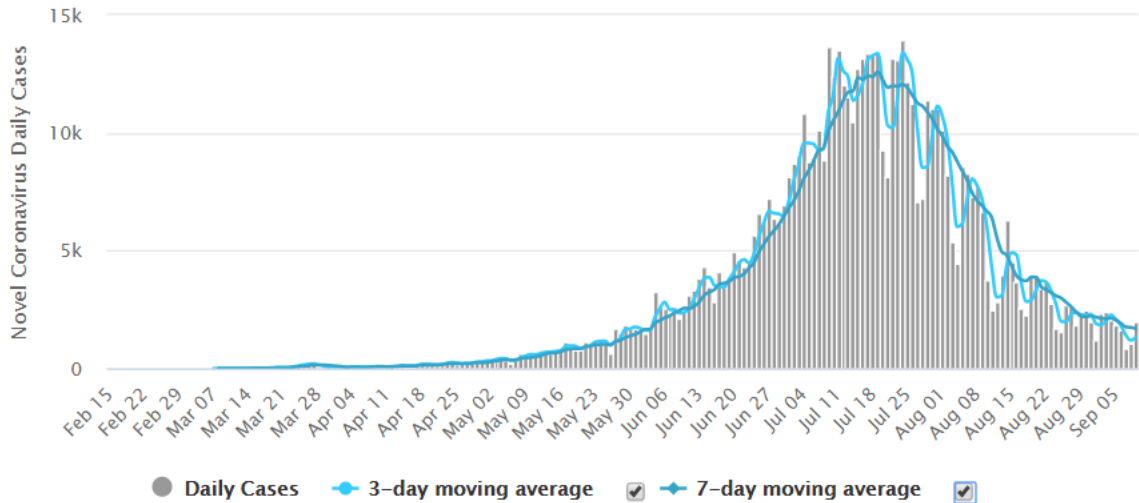
12. SOUTH AFRICA

The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in South Africa has continued to show a downward trend during this reporting period, reaching 640 441 and 15086 respectively. This observed decline should be interpreted with caution as many factors could explain this, including but not limited to changes in testing capacity and strategy, and reporting delays.

South Africa, that have been reporting the highest number of weekly deaths have seen a declining trend.

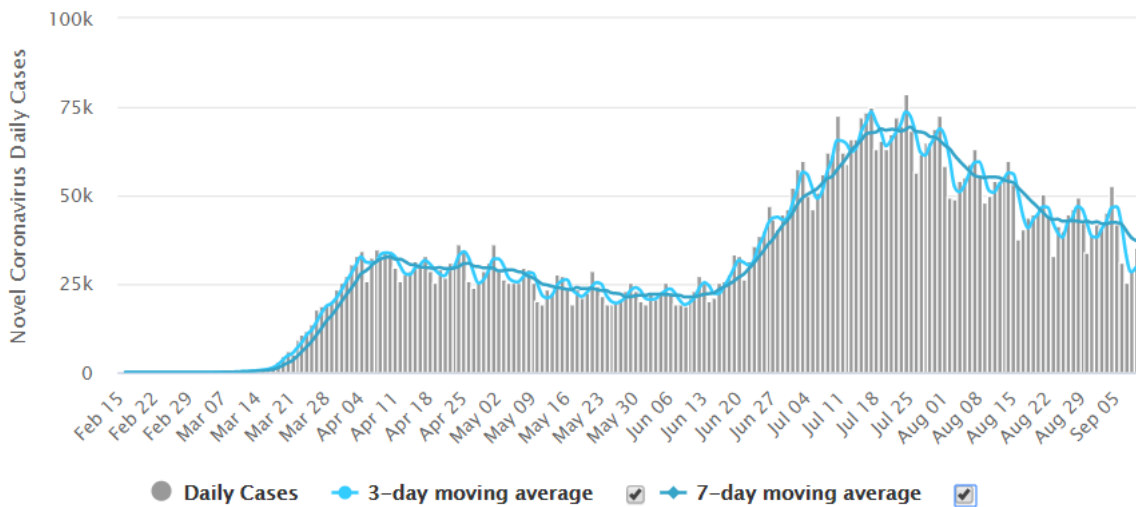
President Cyril Ramaphosa said nearly all restrictions on the country's economy will be eased from September. A controversial ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco will be lifted. Domestic travel, small family gatherings and the reopening of businesses will all be allowed. In a TV address, Mr. Ramaphosa said the easing of restrictions will help to revive the country's flagging economy after a period of great hardship for the country. However, he called on South Africans not to let their guard down against Covid-19 despite "signs of hope", warning of difficult times ahead.

Several constraints and increasing inequalities have been posed by COVID-19 regarding the ability of the countries to address other health issues, therefore they should use this opportunity to call for funding for other health issues beyond COVID-19. WHO also emphasizes the need to address mental health and other health issues beyond COVID-19. A mechanism for tracking of cases in neighboring countries in order to report confirmed cases during cross-border screening is being established to avoid missing cases from the country of origin or duplication of notifications in two countries.



13.USA

The U.S. has more than 6.3 million confirmed cases, almost a quarter of the world's total and more than 190,000 deaths which is the world's highest death toll, according to Johns Hopkins University data. It saw an increase in the number of daily cases to record levels in July, but the numbers have fallen since then.



A projection from the University of Washington suggests there could be more than 400,000 deaths by the end of the year, though it says this could be reduced to 286,000 if 95% of Americans wear masks in public.

The outbreak has had a devastating impact on the US economy, with GDP falling by a record rate of 33% in the three months from April to June.

Indoor dining is set to resume in New York City after being stopped in late March because of COVID-19. Governor of New York State, Andrew Cuomo announced Wednesday that restaurants can add indoor dining at 25% capacity in the city starting Sept. 30.⁶

The rest of the state has been allowed to have limited indoor dining, and the entire state

⁶ <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/09/09/covid-updates-astrazeneca-vaccine-trial-honolulu-trump/5754245002/>

has had outdoor dining since late spring as the virus' infection rate has stayed below 1% for 33 straight days.

The safety guidance will require temperature checks at the door for all indoor customers and require one member of each party to provide contact information for COVID tracing if needed. Indoor dining will also prohibit any bar service, and masks must be worn when not seated at tables. Restaurants will have to close at midnight, and the state is encouraging them to improve infiltration systems.

Los Angeles County health officials have set guidelines for Halloween celebrations amid the coronavirus pandemic. The city banned door-to-door trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treating events where children receive treats from car-to-car, haunted houses, festivals and other related events.

Instead, officials are encouraging families to celebrate by attending virtual events, car parades, drive-in movie theaters and other activities that follow the city's public health guidelines.

14. EUROPEAN UNION

On September 4, the European Commission has adopted a proposal for a Council Recommendation to ensure that any measures taken by Member States that restrict free movement due to the coronavirus pandemic are coordinated and clearly communicated at the EU level.⁷

The Commission's proposal sets out four key areas where Member States should work closer together:

1. Common criteria and thresholds for Member States when deciding whether to introduce travel restrictions;
2. Mapping of common criteria using an agreed color code;
3. A common framework for measures applied to travelers from high-risk areas;
4. Clear and timely information to the public about any restrictions

There is currently a wide discrepancy between national criteria for introducing measures that restrict free movement in the European Union. The Commission is proposing that each Member State takes into account the following criteria when putting in place any restrictive measures:

- The total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases per 100 000 people in a given area in a 14-day period;
- The percentage of positive tests from all COVID-19 tests carried out in given area during a seven-day period;
- The number of COVID-19 tests carried out per 100 000 people in a given area during a seven-day period.

Member States should provide this data on a weekly basis to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Member States should also provide this data at the regional level to ensure that any measures can be targeted to those regions where they are strictly necessary.

On the basis that the Member State of departure has a weekly testing rate of more than 250 per 100 000 people, the Commission is proposing that Member States should not restrict free movement of people travelling from another Member State where:

- The total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases in a given area is equal to less

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1555

than 50 per 100 000 people during a 14-day period, OR,

- The percentage of positive tests from all COVID-19 tests in a given area is less than 3%.

Based on the data provided by Member States, the Commission proposes that the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control publishes a map of EU and EEA countries, updated weekly, with a common color code to support Member States and travelers. The Commission proposes the following:

- Green for an area where the total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases is less than 25 during a 14-day period AND the percentage of positive tests from all COVID-19 tests is less than 3%;
- Orange for an area where the total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases is less than 50 during a 14-day period BUT the percentage of positive tests from all COVID-19 tests is 3% or more OR the total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases is between 25 and 150 BUT the percentage of positive tests from all COVID-19 tests is less than 3%;
- Red for an area where the total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases is more than 50 during a 14-day period AND the percentage of positive tests from all COVID-19 tests is 3% or more OR the total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases is more than 150 per 100 000 people during a 14-day period;
- Grey if there is insufficient information available to assess the criteria proposed by the Commission OR the number of COVID-19 tests carried out per 100 000 people is less than 250.

The Commission proposes a common approach amongst Member States when dealing with travelers coming from 'high-risk' zones. Member States should not refuse the entry of persons travelling from other Member States. Member States that introduce restrictions to free movement based on their own decision-making processes, could require:

- persons travelling from an area classified as 'red' or 'grey' to either undergo quarantine OR undergo a COVID-19 test after arrival – COVID-19 testing being the preferred option;*

Where justified, Member States could consider recommending that persons travelling from an area classified as 'orange' undergo at least a COVID-19 test prior to departure or upon arrival. Member States could require persons arriving from an area classified as 'red', 'orange' or 'grey' to submit passenger locator forms, notably those arriving by airplane, in accordance with data protection requirements. Travelers with an essential function or need – such as workers exercising critical occupations, frontier and posted workers, students or journalists performing their duties - should not be required to undergo quarantine.

The Commission proposes that Member States provide details of upcoming restrictions to free movement or the lifting of travel restrictions to Member States and the Commission on a weekly basis. Changes should be notified a week before entering into force.

Information should also be made available on the 'Re-open EU' web platform, with a link to the weekly-published map by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. There are next evidences that second COVID -19 wave is starting 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 28 million people infected, more than 908 000 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. Africa has recorded more than a million confirmed cases, although the true extent of the pandemic in the continent is not known. Testing rates are reported to be low, which could distort official estimates.
6. Until now 900,000 deaths from COVID-19 are recorded worldwide, 190,000 of which are from the United States, which is the world's highest death toll.
7. Given the size of its population, India has a low death rate from Covid-19. But nearly 1,000 deaths have been recorded every day from across the country for the last seven days.
8. Covid-19 cases rise among young people. The return to in-person classes will have a deadly impact if proper precautions aren't taken.
9. India, Mexico, Russia, Indonesia, and Philippines to be top 5 in regards of new cases per day.
10. Mexico, Russia, Iran, Indonesia, and India are among top 5 with highest number of daily deaths.
11. Governments are still looking for social and political responses to balance smoothly economic pressure while the hazardous spread is scrambling.
12. 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.
13. France and Spain have recently recorded their highest numbers of daily cases since the spring, and the WHO has warned of a possible resurgence of the disease in Europe in October and November.
14. 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.
15. Although final tests of the COVID-19 vaccine, developed at Oxford University, have been suspended. The reason is the appearance of a side effect in a patient. Works about vaccine are continued in phase 3.
16. 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.