

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

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# COVID-19

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(25 MAR – 07 APR 2021)

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## OVERALL SITUATION ON THE WORLD.

Globally, new COVID-19 cases rose for a fifth consecutive week, with just over 3.8 million new cases reported in the last week. The number of new deaths increased for the second consecutive week, increasing by 5% compared to last week, with over 64 000 new deaths reported.

All regions reported an increase in the number of cases this week, with the largest increases in the South-East Asia, Western Pacific, and African Regions, all of which have been on an upward trajectory in recent weeks.

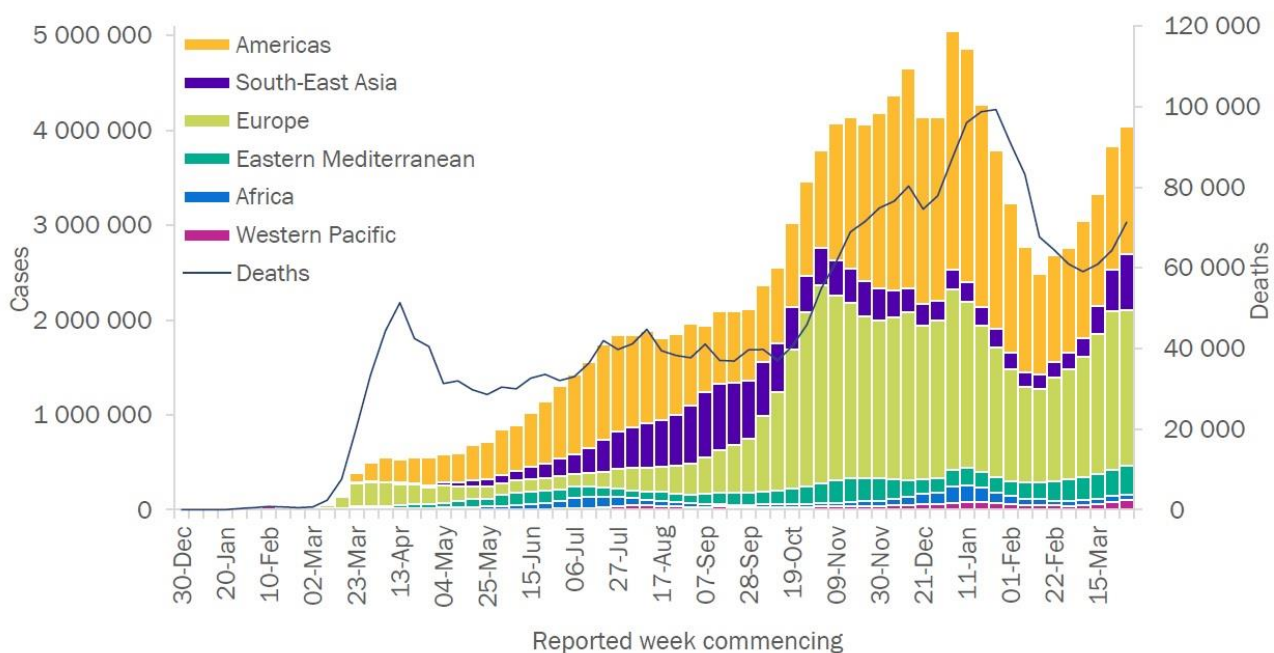
All regions, except for the African Region, reported an increase in the number of deaths, with the largest increase of 21% from the South-East Asia Region, which is on its third week of an increasing trend.

The European Region and the Region of the Americas continue to account for approximately 80% of all new and cumulative cases and deaths.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Brazil (533 024 new cases; 5% increase), the United States of America (421 936 new cases; 13% increase), India (372 494 new cases; 55% increase), France (254 228 new cases; 24% increase), and Poland (192 441 new cases; 27% increase).

COVID-19 cases were close to 127-million mark globally during the last two weeks, with USA, Brazil, India, Russia and France occupying top five worst affected countries on the world respectively. Number of deaths is above 2,7 million with USA, Brazil, Mexico, India, and UK among top five countries on the world.

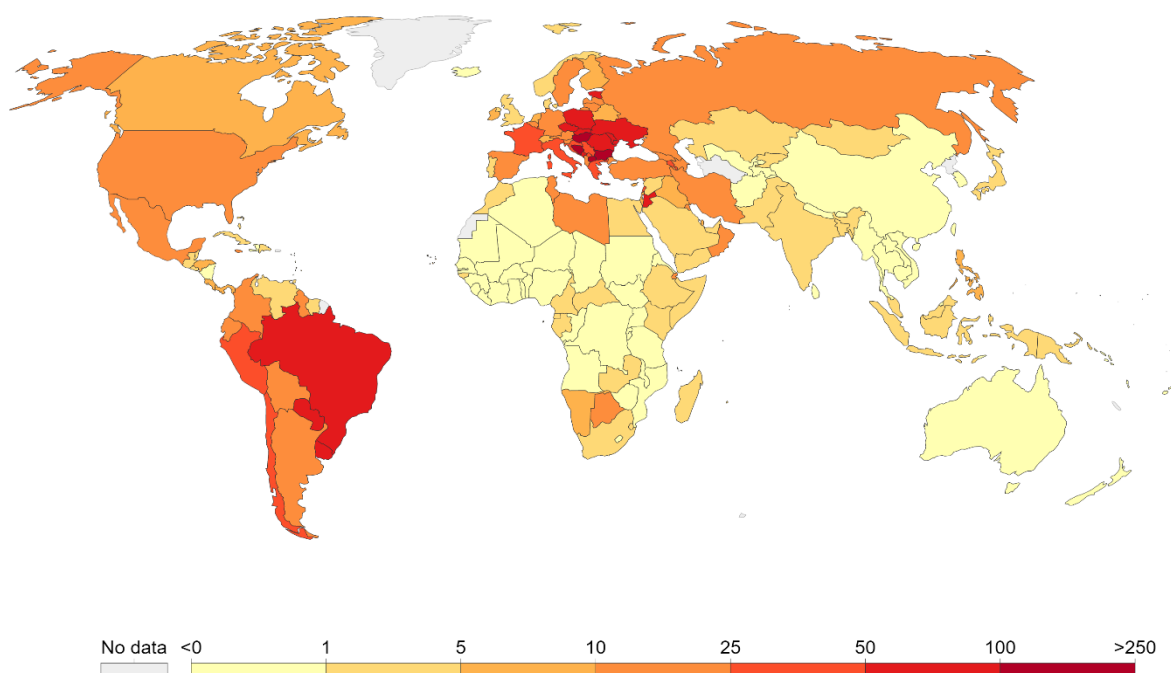
**Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 4 April 2021\*\***



## Weekly confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people, Apr 6, 2021

Weekly confirmed deaths refer to the cumulative number of confirmed deaths over the previous week.

Our World  
in Data



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data – Last updated 7 April, 17:03 (London time)

OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

The African Region reported around 59 000 new cases and 1000 new deaths last week, a 6% and 20% decrease respectively compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Ethiopia (14 517 new cases; 12.6 new cases per 100 000 population; a 10% increase), Kenya (8747 new cases; 16.3 new cases per 100 000; a 5% decrease), and South Africa (7035 new cases; 11.9 new cases per 100 000; an 8% decrease).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from South Africa (306 new deaths; 0.5 new deaths per 100 000 population; a 46% decrease), Ethiopia (152 new deaths; <0.1 new deaths per 100 000; a 11% increase), and Kenya (102 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 13% decrease).

The **Region of the Americas** reported over 1.3 million new cases and over 37 000 new deaths, a 3% and a 15% increase respectively compared to the previous week. Overall, there has been an increasing trend in weekly case incidence over the last six weeks. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Brazil (505 668 new cases; 237.9 new cases per 100 000; a 5% decrease), the United States of America (444 756 new cases; 134.4 new cases per 100 000; a 5% increase), and Argentina (82 102 new cases; 181.7 new cases per 100 000; a 46% increase).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Brazil (21 094 new deaths; 9.9 new deaths per 100 000; a 26% increase), the United States of America (7536 new deaths; 2.3 new deaths per 100 000; an 8% increase), and Mexico (2992 new deaths; 2.3 new deaths per 100 000; an 18% decrease).

The **Eastern Mediterranean Region** reported over 297 000 new cases and about 3700 new deaths, a 10% and a 7% increase respectively compared to the previous week. Both cases and deaths are on an upward trajectory with new cases increasing for the past eight weeks. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (73 471 new cases; 87.5 new cases per 100 000; a 38% increase), Jordan (44 742 new cases; 438.5 new cases per 100 000; a 19% decrease), and Iraq (41 043 new cases; 102.0 new cases per 100

000; an 9% increase).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (691 new deaths; 0.8 new deaths per 100 000; an 18% increase), Jordan (658 new deaths; 6.4 new deaths per 100 000; a 4% decrease), and Pakistan (539 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 50% increase).

In the **European Region** after reporting a progressive increase in weekly cases for five weeks, the number of new cases reported this past week is similar to that reported in the previous week, with over 6.2 million new cases reported. The number of new deaths, however, has continued to increase for the past four weeks, with 24 000 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Turkey (265 937 new cases; 315.3 new cases per 100 000; a 43% increase), France (244 607 new cases; 374.7 new cases per 100 000; a 4% decrease), and Poland (187 551 new cases; 495.6 new cases per 100 000; a 3% decrease).

The **South-East Asia Region** reported over 592 000 new cases and 4300 new deaths, a 36% and a 46% increase respectively compared to the previous week. Case incidence rates have risen markedly through March, with a sharp increase in the past three weeks. The number of new deaths continued to increase in the past three weeks with a steep increase reported in past one week. India contributed 87% of new cases and 71% of new deaths in the Region in the past week. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from India (513 885 new cases; 37.2 new cases per 100 000; a 38% increase), Bangladesh (38 471 new cases; 23.4 new cases per 100 000; a 67% increase), and Indonesia (35 522 new cases; 13 new cases per 100 000; a 2% decrease).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from India (3071 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 71% increase), Indonesia (878 new deaths; 0.3 new deaths per 100 000; a 4% decrease), and Bangladesh (344 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 71% increase).

The **Western Pacific Region** reported over 106 000 new cases and over 500 new deaths, a 25% and a 5% increase respectively compared to the previous week. A steep increase in the number of new cases has been observed over the past four weeks. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Philippines (71 606 new cases; 65.3 new cases per 100 000; a 27% increase), Japan (16 018 new cases; 12.7 new cases per 100 000; a 43% increase), and Malaysia (8968 new cases; 27.7 new cases per 100 000; similar to the previous week).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Philippines (264 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 15% increase), Japan (190 new deaths; 0.2 new deaths per 100 000; a 13% decrease), and Malaysia (35 new deaths; <0.1 new deaths per 100 000; a 59% increase).

Concerning the vaccine development as of 30 Mar 2021 the following is remarkable:

- 82 vaccines in clinical development
- 184 vaccines are in pre-clinical development
- Only a quarter of all candidates in clinical development uses RNA or DNA platforms, the remaining 75% use “traditional” technologies, such as protein subunits, or inactivated viruses
- The majority of vaccines (61%) has to be administered in two doses, only 15% of all candidates in clinical development use a single dose scheme, only 1 candidate requires three doses, for 19 candidates (23%) there is no information available yet.
- Two of the candidates in clinical development can be administered orally, the majority (69 candidates) has to be injected (thereof 63 intramuscular). For 13 candidates there is no information available or the route of administration has yet to be determined.

### **Sources:**

<https://www.who.int/>

## THE ASTRA ZENECA VACCINE ISSUE

Possible side effects of AstraZeneca vaccine came into sharper focus. Regulators may soon issue their first formal warnings about rare blood clots, threatening to cloud the global rollout of a cheap and easy-to-store vaccine.

For months, European countries have seesawed between craving and rebuffing AstraZeneca's vaccine, with the shot's fortunes rising and falling on spats over supply and on questions over the efficacy of the vaccine itself.

But few concerns have proved as disruptive to the rollout of the world's workhorse vaccine in Europe as reports of very rare blood clots in some recipients. Many countries responded by halting the shot's use, only to start giving it again after an all-clear from regulators at the European Medicines Agency, and then stopped inoculations a second time in certain age groups after doctors became more concerned about the clots.

On Tuesday, those concerns were reinforced yet again when a top vaccines official at the European Medicines Agency said that the vaccine was linked to extremely rare, though sometimes fatal, blood clots in a small number of recipients. It was the first indication from an international regulatory body that the clots may be a real, if very unusual, side effect of the shot.

Regulators now appear to be considering issuing their first formal warnings about the potential side effects — not only in continental Europe, which has long been wary of the shot for political and scientific reasons, but also in Britain, the birthplace of the AstraZeneca vaccine and long its biggest champion, where new data have sown concerns as well.

The University of Oxford, which developed the vaccine with AstraZeneca, said on Tuesday that it had suspended a two-month-old trial of the vaccine in children and teenagers in Britain while it waits for regulatory guidance.

The looming concerns are threatening to ripple worldwide and cloud the global rollout of a cheap and easy-to-store vaccine, one that remains many countries' best hope for saving lives amid a widespread surge in coronavirus cases. At least 94 countries of varying income levels have administered doses.

Most scientists and health officials say that the vaccine's benefits still far outweigh the risks in older people, who appear less susceptible to the clots. Several dozen cases of the blood clots, mostly in younger people, have been recorded among the tens of millions of people who have received the vaccine across Europe.

But more countries could restrict the vaccine's use in younger people, setting back efforts to inoculate enough people to reopen struggling economies. The European Medicines Agency said it will meet this week to consider updating its guidance.

That agency and the World Health Organization have said that no causal link between the vaccine and clots had been proved, and advised that suspending the shot would cost more lives than it saved.

Regulators in Britain, where the shot is the backbone of the country's speedy inoculation program, have also insisted that the vaccine's benefits far outweigh the risks. They and the company cited a lack of evidence in Britain that the clotting events were any more common than would be expected among people who had never been given AstraZeneca's vaccine.

But the evidence changed last week when Britain reported 30 cases of the rare blood clots, 25 more than previously. This week, a prominent scientific adviser to the British government said there was "increasing evidence" of the clots being associated with the vaccine.

AstraZeneca did not comment on Tuesday.

Nonetheless, news reports indicated that British regulators were considering updating their guidance on its use in younger people, who are believed to be more susceptible to the side effects.

"No vaccine, no medicine, is risk-free," said the government scientific adviser, Neil Ferguson, an epidemiologist at Imperial College London. He added that British regulators were



“considering this matter very urgently.”

For the AstraZeneca vaccine, the latest concerns have added a new chapter to a tumultuous rollout in Europe. In Germany, health officials initially broke with European regulators in mid-February and recommended that the shot be given only to adults under 65, citing insufficient clinical trial data on its efficacy in older people. As a result, most of the Germans first given the vaccine were medical workers and teachers, many of them women.

That may be one reason the possible side effects showed up sooner in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, rather than in Britain, where the vaccine was first rolled out among older people and has only recently been administered to younger age groups.

On March 15, Germany's health minister announced that the country was suspending use of the shot, over blood clotting issues. Health officials there reversed course after European regulators determined that the risk was so low that it would be more dangerous to withhold the vaccine.

Last week, Germany flip-flopped again, recommending that no one under 60 be given the vaccine. Since then, the Netherlands has followed suit. Other countries, like France and Canada, have also suspended use of the vaccine in younger people. Norway and Denmark have put a total stop on the shot while they investigate.

Believed to be more common in younger women, the cases are an unusual condition in which clots are combined with unusually low levels of platelets, a disorder that can lead to bleeding.

The vaccine appeared to be causing an immune reaction in which antibodies bind to platelets, activating them, Andreas Greinacher, a German doctor leading an investigation at the University of Greifswald, said at a news conference on Wednesday.

Those platelets, in turn, were triggering the formation of dangerous clots in certain parts of the body, including in veins that drain blood from the brain, leading in some cases to a rare type of stroke.

Why exactly the vaccine was giving rise to those antibodies remained unclear. He said there was no evidence that pre-existing conditions disposed certain people to the side effects.

Doctors and health officials appeared to be growing more confident that the blood clots were a genuine, though as yet unexplained, response by very small numbers of people to the AstraZeneca vaccine.

European regulators were analyzing 44 cases of the rare clots in the brain, 14 of them fatal, out of 9.2 million people given the vaccine across Europe. For people under 60, who account for most of the cases, that translated to a risk of one in 100,000, Emer Cooke, the European Medicines Agency's director, said.

In Britain, regulators reported 30 cases of the rare blood clots combined with low platelets among 18 million people given the AstraZeneca vaccine. That translated to roughly one case in 600,000 recipients of the vaccine.

European countries' divergent approaches to the vaccine stem from a number of factors, including the supply of vaccines and severity of the pandemic. Marco Cavaleri, the official at the European Medicines Agency who spoke about the link between the vaccine and blood clots, said on Tuesday that those factors would likely continue to dictate how countries used the shot.

Beyond those factors, countries also took very different approaches to managing risk, scientists said. Countries that have continued using the shot were more focused on securing the overall health of their citizens. Others were more preoccupied with minimizing the risk to any single person.

**Sources:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/06/world/europe/astrazeneca-side-effects-vaccine-covid.html>

## MONITORING

### 1. DENMARK

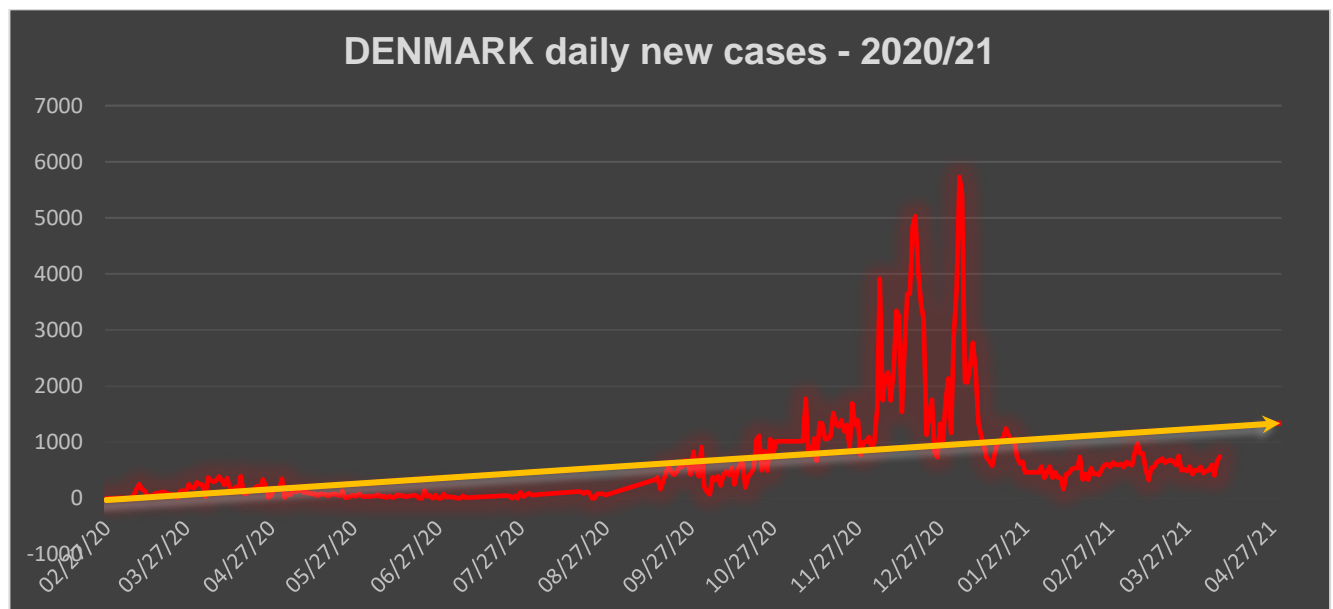
Denmark first announced at the end of February that it would begin to gradually lift its winter Covid-19 lockdown. Since then, restrictions on sectors of society including schools and retail have been partially lifted on two occasions, and the government has also announced a plan for a longer-term reopening of society. Under that plan, recently announced, the country hopes to be able to have lifted the majority of all Covid-19 restrictions by the end of May. That is contingent on the current vaccination plan holding – this would see all over 50s vaccinated (should they wish to be) by that time.

When the first, tentative easing of restrictions was agreed in late February, the government said the decision was taken in accordance with recommendations submitted by an expert group to the Ministry of Health.

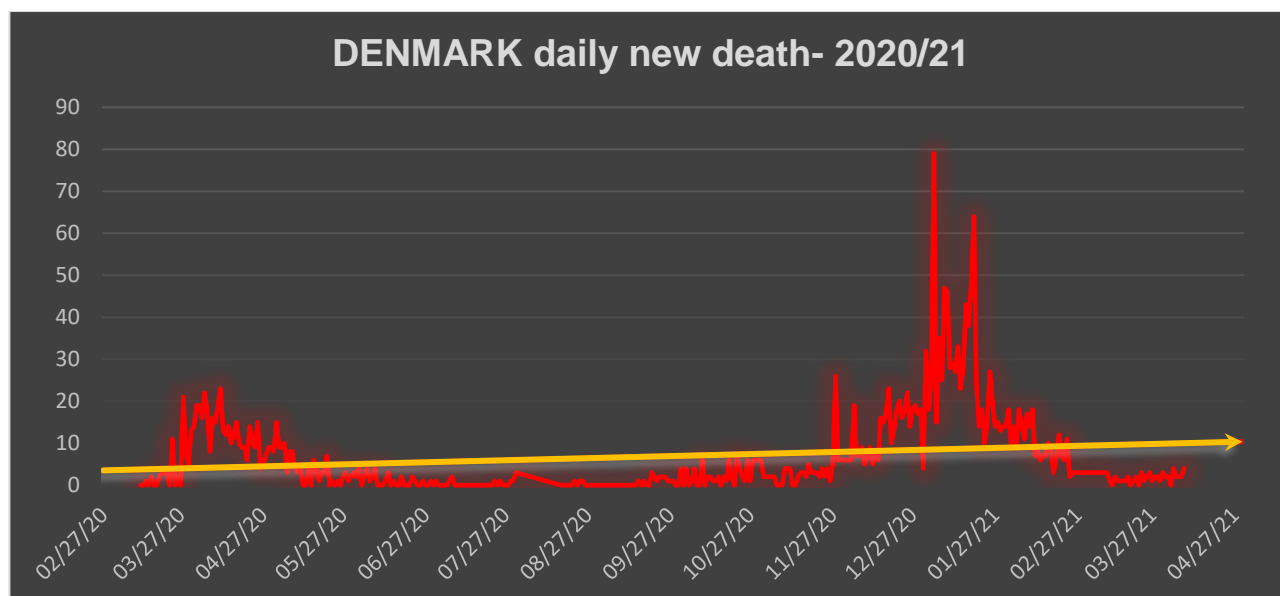
According to mathematical modelling used by a group, worked on a worst-case scenario, recommends for reopening to be followed. The number is considered to be close to the threshold of the health system’s ability to efficiently cope with patients with the virus.

“That is a combination of the English [B117, ed.] variant becoming dominant and it is expected the upcoming Easter period see an acceleration in the pandemic, there may be cause to reconsider the plan for the later stages of reopening. A new round of restrictions are scheduled to be lifted after Easter, on April 6th. The reproduction rate or R-number for the coronavirus in Denmark is currently 1.1. which means the epidemic is still in weak growth.

Denmark intends to apply a strategy of “Fast and effective local lockdowns to keep the epidemic in control while they gradually reopen trusting people would stick to the good habits to restrict infections.





**Sources:**

<https://www.thelocal.dk/20210330/one-month-after-first-restrictions-eased-what-is-status-of-covid-19-pandemic-in-denmark/>

**2. FINLAND**

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) on Thursday revealed that the number of laboratory-confirmed infections has increased.

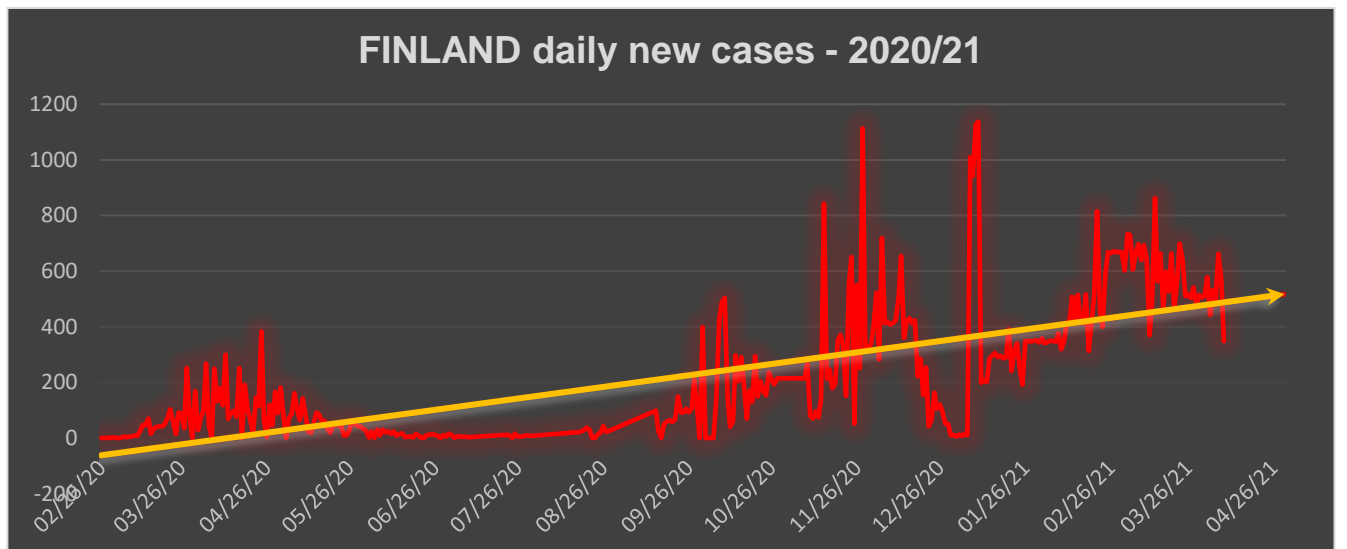
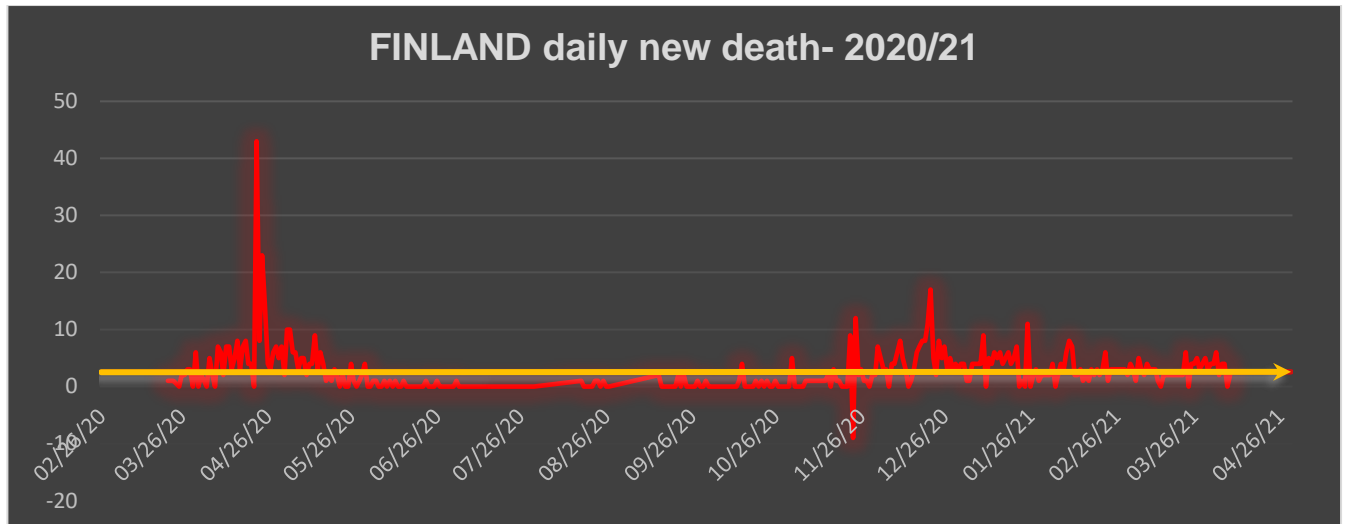
The good news is that the accelerating growth of the epidemic has levelled off. But that's still a very recent development.

Many European countries have recently seen their infection numbers rebound after substantial declines and if Finland wants to avoid following in the same footsteps it must resist the urge to relax the restrictions and continue to work toward reducing the number of infections. Relaxing the restrictions should not be considered until the decline in infections is stable and long-standing, echoed Voipio-Pulkki.

Finland is not yet in a situation to relax but it has a great opportunity to get there, but the number of infections should decrease notably and the downward trend should be very stable. Statistics from 15 to 21 March reveal that about a half of the infections were traced back to a source within the same household. Over a quarter (28%) of infections were traced back to other sources, such as meetings with friends and relatives, trips to cottages with friends, and weddings, birthday parties and other private events. When people get together in larger numbers, the risk of there being someone who doesn't know they're transmitting the virus and causing a large chain of infection increases.

A positive development is evidence of the impact of the restrictions adopted in various regions and sectors of society.

If they are strong enough they will get a low-enough level quickly enough – without hesitation this is the right direction.



**Sources:**

<https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/finland/finland-news/domestic/18982-number-of-covid-19-cases-is-decreasing-but-remains-at-high-level-in-finland.html>

**3. FRANCE**

The Covid-19 epidemic is normally expected to peak in a few days. For now, the situation remains tense, with hospitals continuing to fill up.

The latest assessment of the Covid-19 epidemic in France, released this Sunday, April 4, reports 185 more deaths in hospitals, where the situation continues to be tense. In 24 hours, the number of patients in the hospital increased by 470 patients, while there were 68 people in intensive care more than in the balance sheet on Saturday. Saturday, Public Health France was not able to deliver the number of cases following an incident on the flow of data. The number of new cases is around 80,000 over the weekend as a whole.

Containment began yesterday across France. All departments are therefore now affected by restrictive measures, aimed at limiting the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic.

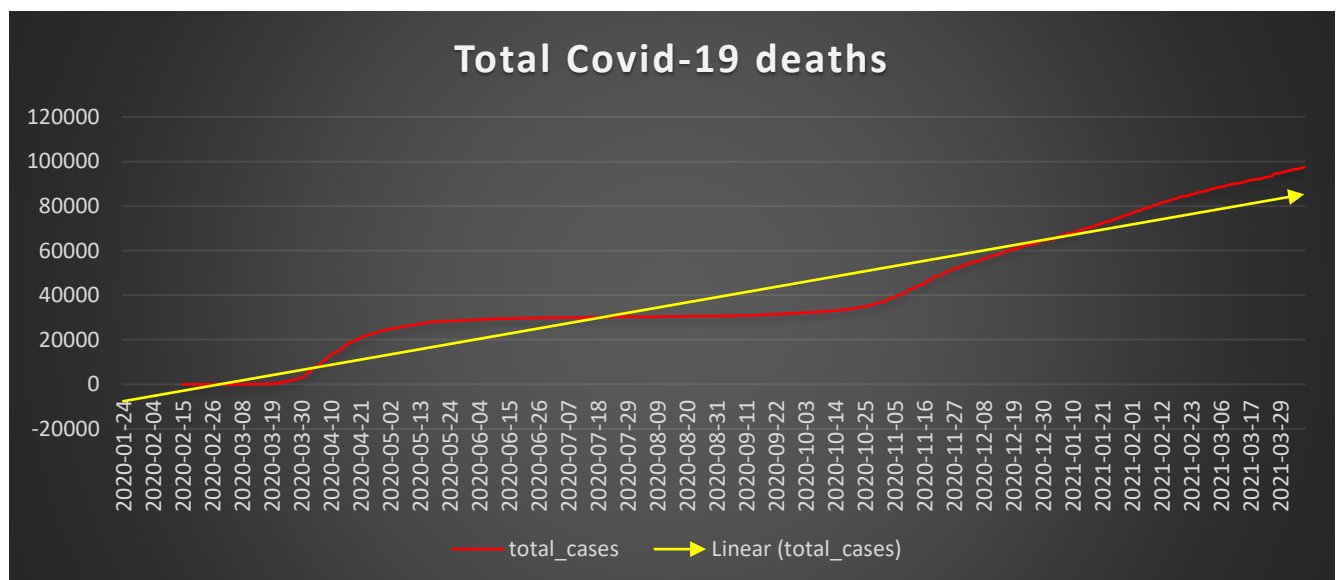
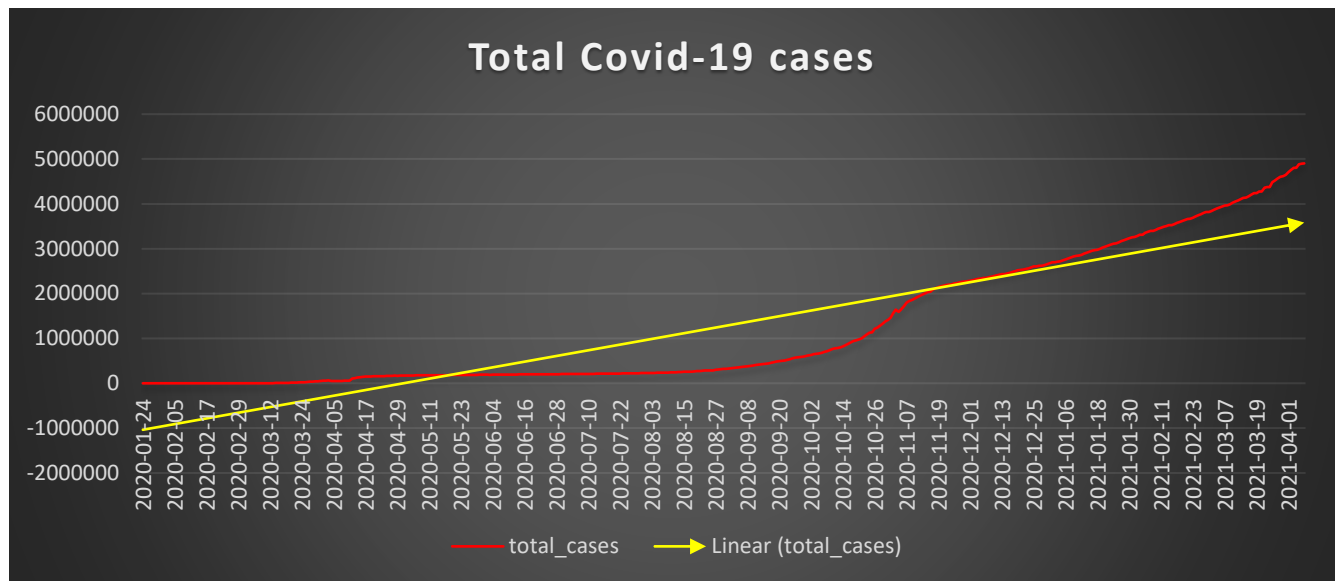
The situation is particularly worrying among young people. Public Health France, in its last weekly update, accurately reported on this development, especially among 11-17 year olds. The incidence rate among 15-17 year olds, for example, is now approaching 600 positive cases

per 100,000 people, more than 1.5 times the national incidence rate and all ages combined. Find out what to remember from this epidemiological point.

Self-tests will be sold in pharmacies from April 12. The Minister of Health indicated that these new tests would be useful complements to those already in place.

This Saturday 3 April 2021, 9,251,321 people have been given the first dose of the vaccine in France, namely 13.80% of the population. 3,091,225 people have been given the second dose of vaccine, namely 4.60% of the population.

Vaccine is currently made available to people aged 75+ living in nursing homes, and to caregivers, firefighters and home helpers aged 50+. Since January 18, people over 75 not living in nursing homes are allowed to get vaccinated. They can sign up and book an appointment in the vaccination center near them.



**Sources:**

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- <https://www.sortiraparis.com/news/in-paris/articles/239732-vaccination-in-france-how-many-people-are-vaccinated-as-of-datacovid-confirmedfr/lang/en>

#### 4. GERMANY

As of 05 April 2021, Germany has the 10th most coronavirus confirmed cases worldwide, as the same two weeks ago. As of the same date the total numbers are: Over 2.8 million (2,893,883) confirmed cases, 77,013 COVID-19 related deaths with a fatality rate of 2,66% while approximately 2,581,500 people have recovered from their virus infection.

Germany has recorded its highest number of new COVID-19 infections since January, on April 01 (24,300 cases). In the past 14 days, there have been 226,658 newly registered virus infections throughout Germany, around 40% increase compared to the previous two weeks (with 162,032).

On 18 December 2020, daily reported cases reached the maximum since the start of the pandemic with 33,777 new cases and furthermore on 14 January 2021 a daily record of 1244 deaths.

The cumulative nationwide incidence over the past 7 days was 128.0 cases (while 107.0 two weeks ago) per 100,000 inhabitants. The 7-day incidence of people 60-79 years is currently 82.0 cases/100,000 population (from 68.0 two weeks ago).

On December 13, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that most stores in Germany will shut from December 16, along with schools and day care centers.

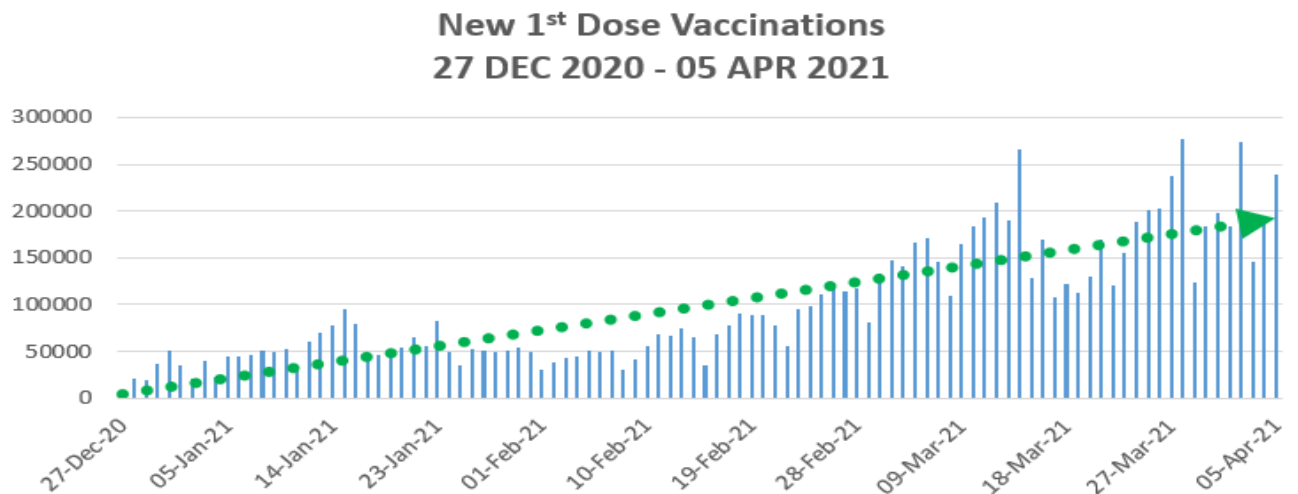
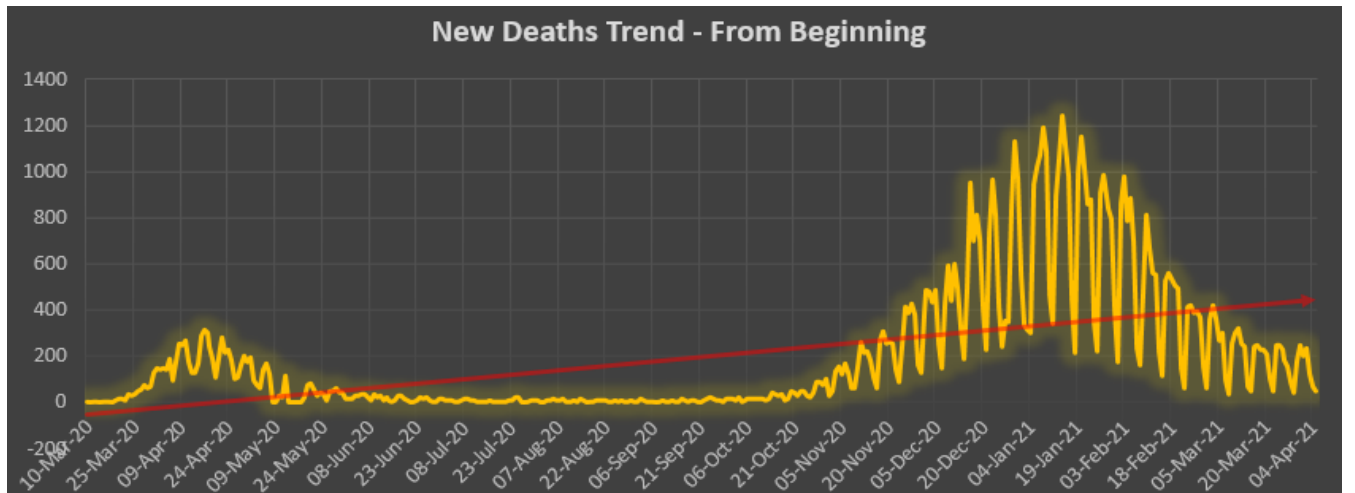
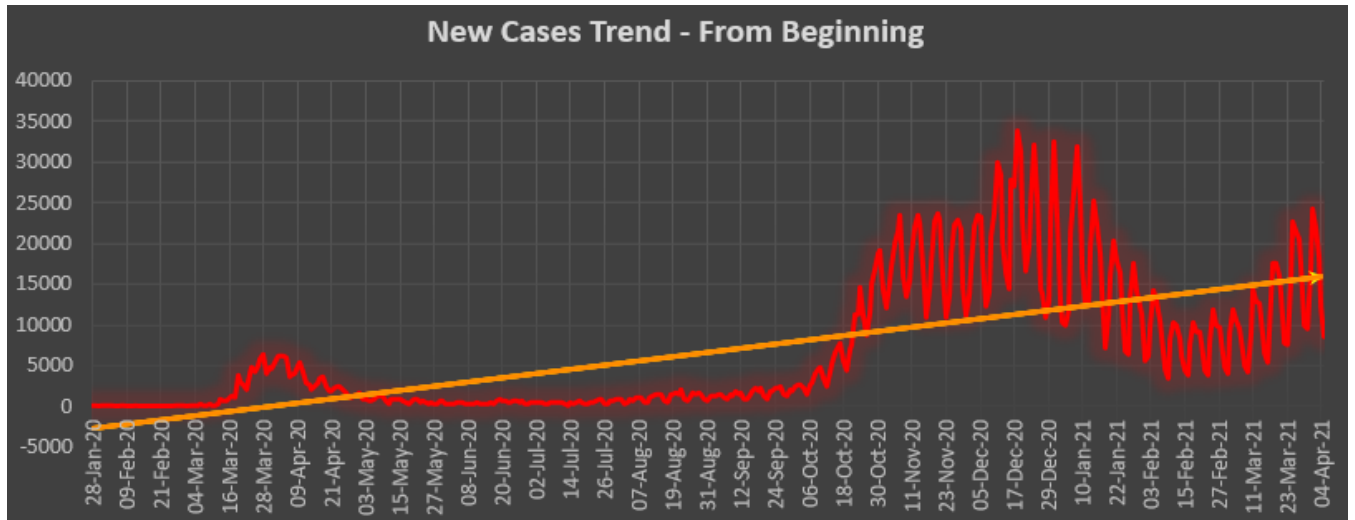
As of January 05 lockdown has been extended for another three weeks. The current lockdown regulations, including the closure of schools, will now be in place until at least January 31, and new rules have been introduced: i. Hotspot travel ban, ii. Private meeting limit, iii. Double testing for people arriving from high-risk areas and iv. Extra leave for parents.

As of March 22 lockdown has been extended until April 18 (from Mar 28). There is a five-step plan to relaxing restrictions on a regional or state level. Each step will be taken every (14) days if regional infection numbers are stable or reduced. An emergency brake system will return regions to current lockdown levels if there are (3) consecutive days with an incidence rate above 100 per 100,000 people per week.

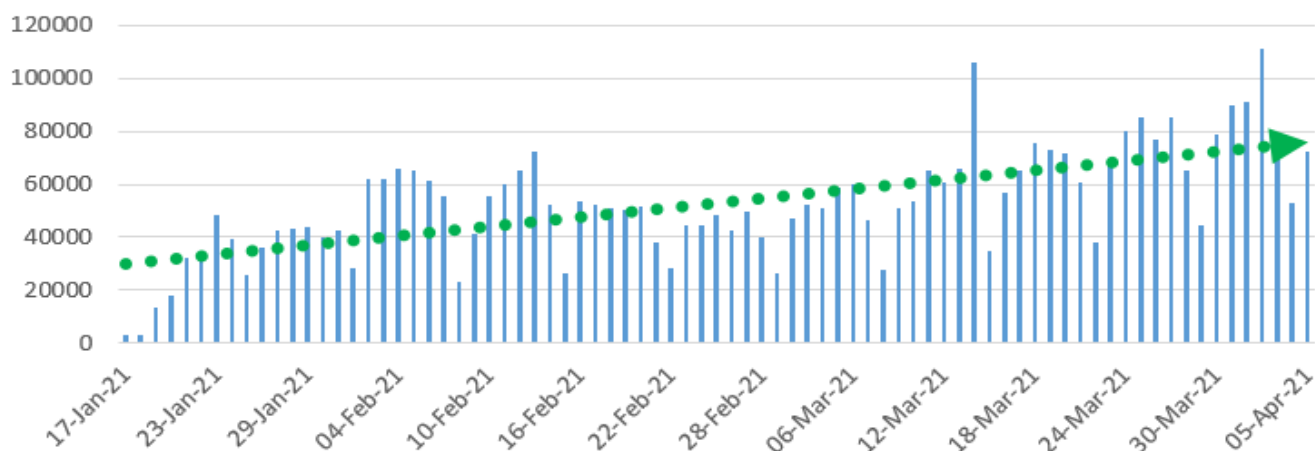
The first doses of the BioNTech-Pfizer coronavirus vaccine arrived in Germany's 16 states on December 26, a day before the country begins a large-scale immunization program.

As of April 05, 10,540,309 German citizens, around 12.58% of total population, had been vaccinated with the 1st dose (see figure 3) and 4,534,755, around 5.41% of total population, had been vaccinated with the 2nd dose, which phase began on January 17 (see figure 4).

As of March 15, Germany has temporarily halted the use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as a precaution and restarted its vaccinations on March 19, after EMA declared it safe for use. Furthermore, on March 31 it was decided to suspend the routine use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for people under age 60. People under 60 can still receive the shot, but only at the discretion of doctors, and after individual risk analysis and thorough explanation.



## New 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Vaccinations 17 JAN - 05 APR 2021



### Sources:

<http://analytics.dkv.global/covid-regional-assessment-infographic-summary.pdf>

<https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/coronavirus-in-germany-informations>

<https://www.dkv.global/governments-ranking>

[https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/Situationsberichte/2021-04-05-en.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Situationsberichte/2021-04-05-en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile)

## 5. GREECE

As of 05 April 2021, Greece has the 52st most coronavirus confirmed cases worldwide. As of the same date the total numbers are: More than 275 thousand (277,277) confirmed cases, 8,453 COVID-19-related deaths with a fatality rate of 3,04 %.

While Greece has been under lockdown for months, the country recorded the highest number of coronavirus cases (4340 cases) and intubations (755 patients) it has ever had in one day, on March 30 & April 03 respectively.

Starting from November 11, Greek borders will remain open, but anyone arriving from abroad by any way will have to present a negative COVID-19 PCR test performed at least 72 hours prior their arrival. At the same time, all travelers must continue to complete the Passenger Locator Form (PLF) at least 24 hours before their departure or arrival respectively. As of April 04, the decision applies until April 19.

Starting from November 09 only essential travel, properly documented is allowed for passengers on all domestic flights, commercial and general/business aviation. Essential travel should include travel for health issues, business purposes, for imperative family reasons and return to their permanent residence. As of April 04, the decision applies until April 12.

As of March 19, Greece loose Covid-19 restrictions: i. As of March 20, the existing weekend curfew from 7:00 PM to 5:00 AM will start later, in effect from 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM. ii. Hair salons will open again by appointment starting on March 22, the first step in re-opening non-essential businesses in the country. iii. Archaeological sites will welcome visitors starting March 20. iv. Churches will be open to the faithful on Holy Days with strict social distancing measures in place.

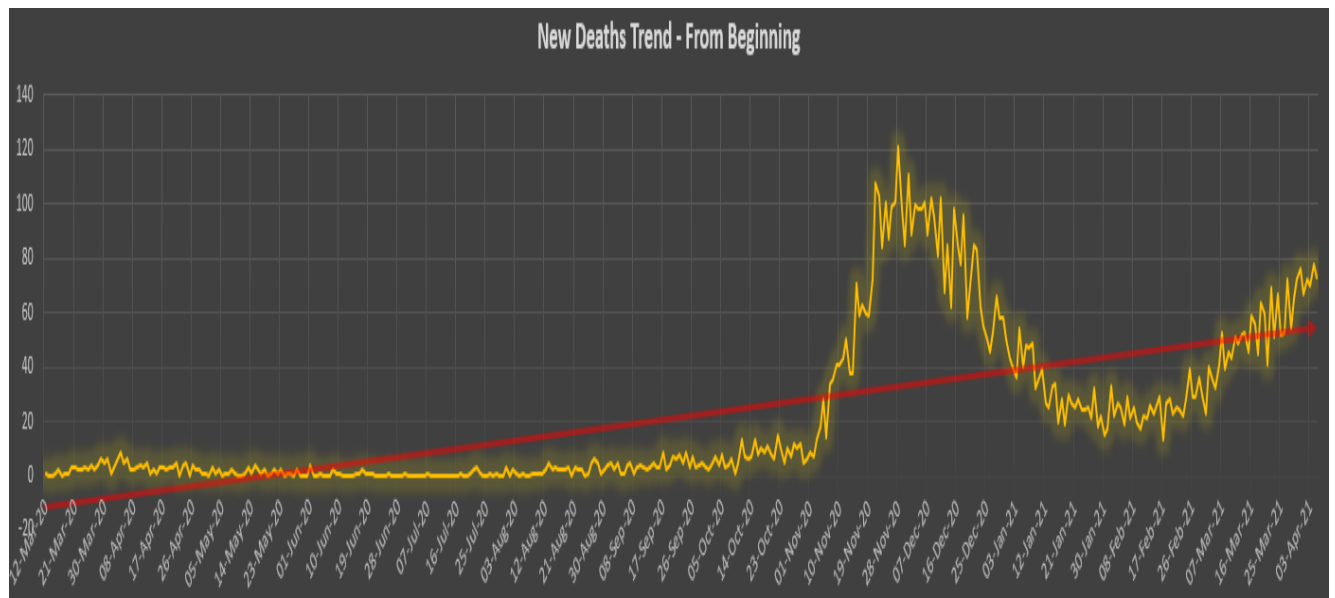
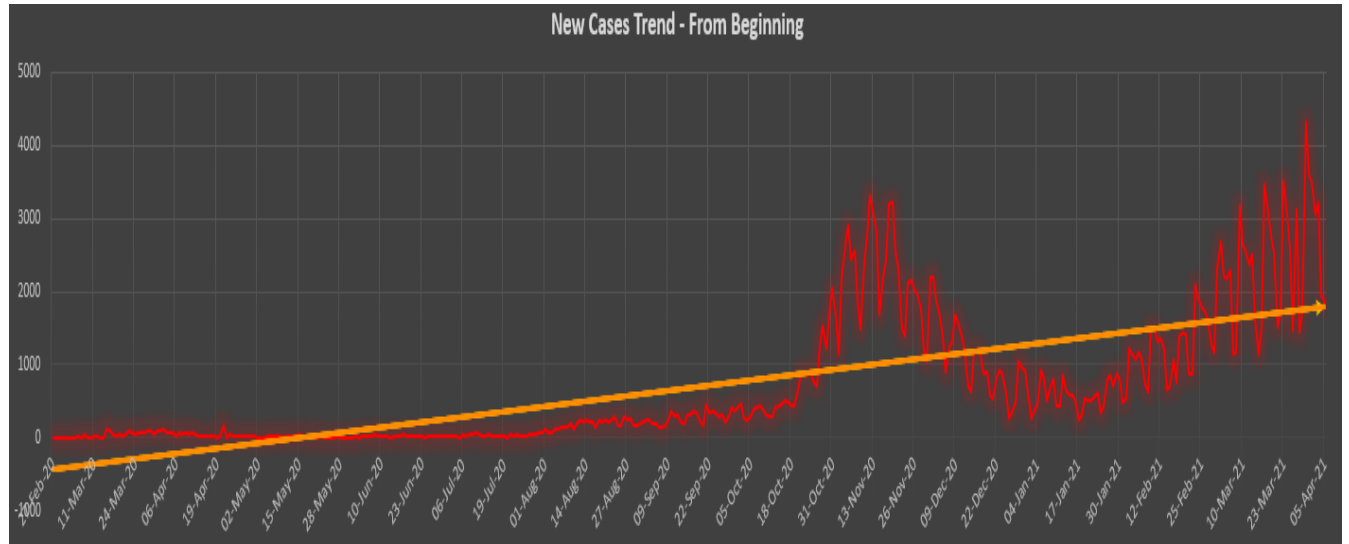
As of April 05, the retail sector is re-opening under strict anti-virus measures but shopping malls and schools will remain closed.

The first 9,750 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine against Covid-19

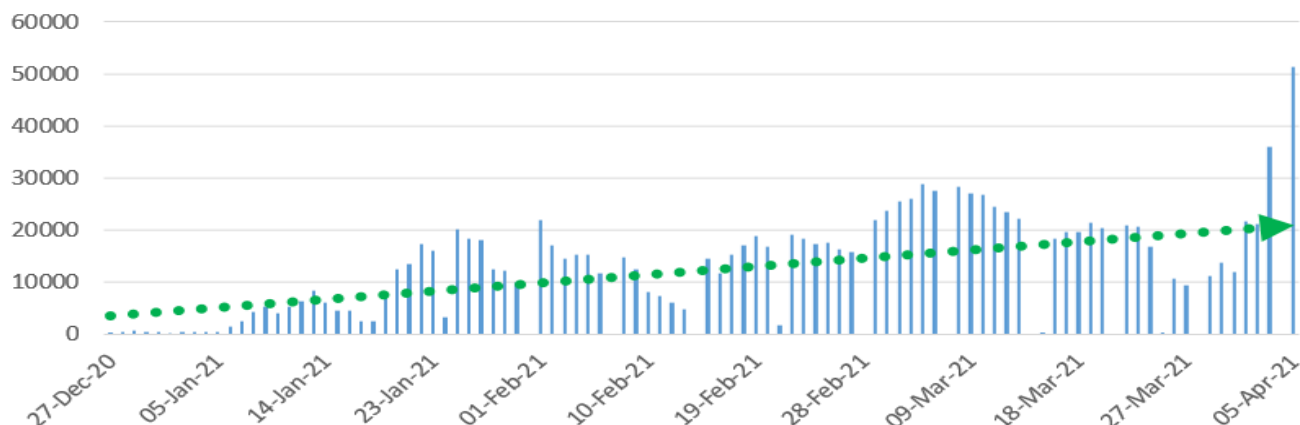


arrived in Greece under tight security on December 25. The vaccination against COVID-19 started on December 27 at five (5) hospitals in Attica region. Vaccination of the general population against the coronavirus - starting with those aged 85 or over - started on January 18. Currently vaccinated are those aged over 60 and patients with high risk diseases.

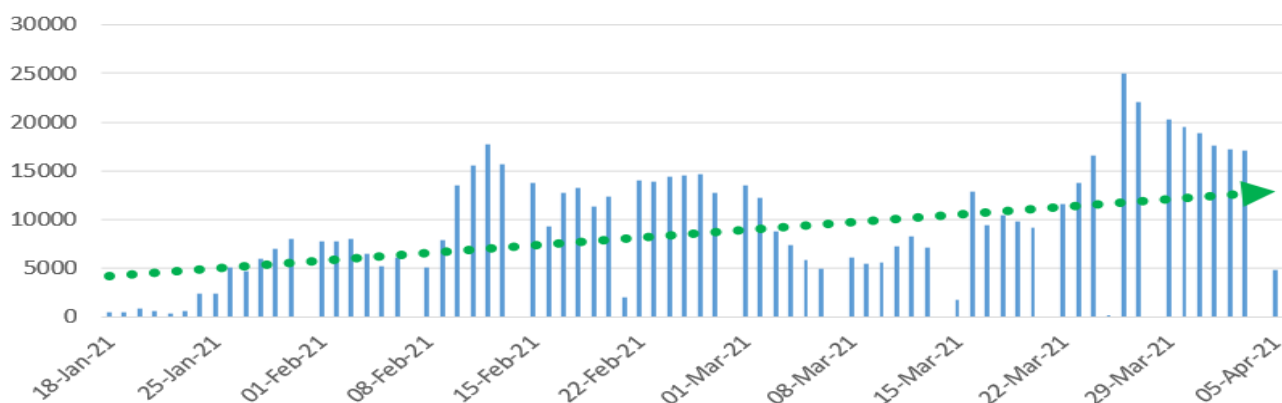
As of April 05, 1,222,690 Greek citizens, around 11.74% of total population, had been vaccinated with the 1st dose (see figure 3) and 663,680, around 6.37% of total population, had been vaccinated with the 2nd dose, which phase began on January 18 (see figure 4). It is noticeable that Greece never halted the AstraZeneca vaccine like other European countries did at mid of March.



**New 1<sup>st</sup> Dose Vaccinations  
27 DEC 2020 - 05 APR 2021**



**New 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Vaccinations  
18 JAN - 05 APR 2021**



**Sources:**

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- <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

**6. HUNGARY**

Prime Minister Orbán revealed that more than 2 million people in Hungary have already been vaccinated, and around 860,000 of these have already received their second dose. However, if we disobey the regulations we could find ourselves in big trouble.”

It is expected they will reach the point where the vaccination progress will lead to decreasing infection figures.

PM Orbán stressed “Many believe that we can stop the virus with restrictions. They are wrong. This British mutation of the virus is different; we can slow its spread, but we cannot stop it. The only way to kill it is with the vaccine,”. Postponing inoculation process due to political and ideological reasons, or because of an old feeling of superiority, is a mistake.

“The question is not when will we reach the peak of the third wave, but when will we be able to come down from the so-called plateau,” Prime Minister Orbán said.

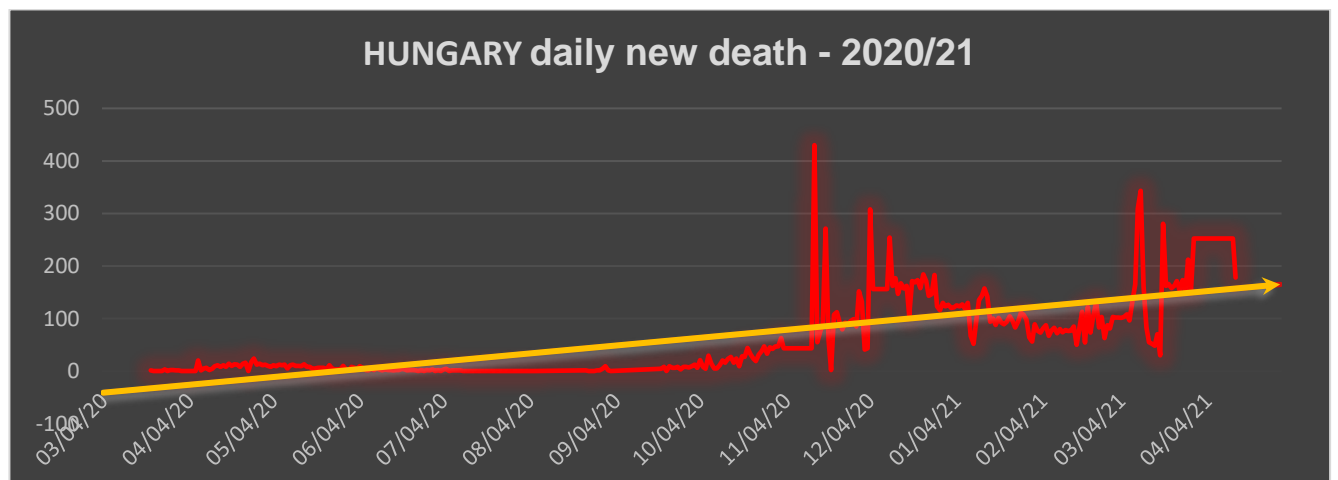
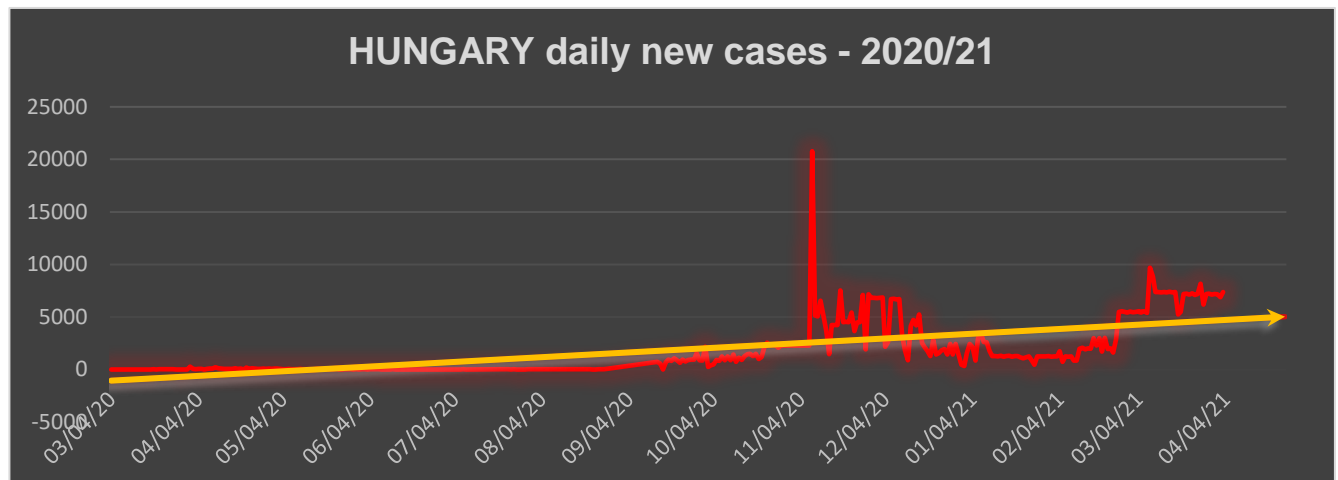
According to the prime minister, Hungary will be able to administer one and a half times as many vaccines in April and May as they did in March. “I have no doubt that we are going to have a free summer in Hungary,” the PM said.

Commenting on the topic of a potential reopening, the prime minister said that we cannot talk about the lifting of all restrictions until everyone above the age of 65 has received at least the first dose of the vaccine. Some changes, however, will be made in the near future, as Hungary will shift to a new measure for stores based on the number of people allowed per square meter.

Regarding the reopening of schools, the prime minister argued that it may only happen once every Hungarian above the age of 65 has been vaccinated. “However, if we want to allow our kids back to school, we will first have to inoculate teachers and school staff”.

Approaching his closing remarks, the prime minister reiterated that he can “certainly promise that we are going to have a free summer.”

“There are difficult days ahead of us, but Hungary will precede all other EU countries in terms of making our lives free again,” the PM said.



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## 7. INDIA

India is experiencing a 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID-19 wave, which has potential to be much worse than the 1<sup>st</sup> wave from August – September 2020. The positive trend from the beginning of 2021, reversed abruptly in early March 2021 and since then the country is registering a sharp increase in the number of active COVID-19 cases and new daily infections. One good news in this situation is that the new daily deaths are increasing with significantly lesser pace. As of 07 April, India has 12,801,785 COVID-19 cases, quickly heading to the 13 million benchmark, and is occupying the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the world among the worst affected countries by the pandemic. The country has also registered 166,208 deaths so far and 843,779 active cases. On 04 April India became the 2<sup>nd</sup> country after the US to report 100,000 new cases in a single day, a record broken just 2 days later – with 115 269 new cases registered. More than half of those were confirmed in Maharashtra, which has India's largest city Mumbai as its capital. The number of daily deaths in April is steadily above 500, with peaks up to 600 and even 700 per day. According to health experts the new wave is fueled by the different COVID-19 variants, but more importantly - by people being less cautious and by mixed messaging by the government. Many of these experts are also worried that the new COVID-19 wave will be more devastating and deadlier.

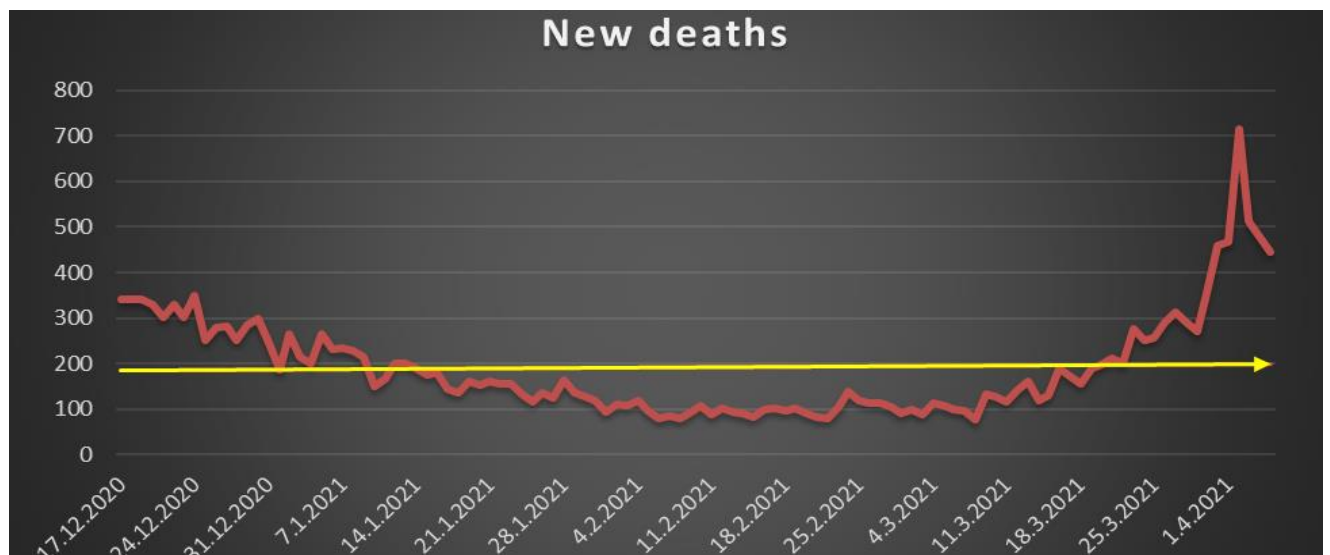
In this serious situation no restrictions so far have been placed on unfettered political campaigning - India is in the middle of five key state elections - which are attracting top leaders and massive crowds. And in recent weeks, religious gatherings, festivals and cricket games drawing tens of thousands of mostly unmasked people have been allowed. Experts believe that India should step up genomic surveillance to track down variants and ramp up vaccination in areas of high transmission and in states where elections are being held to prevent the virus from spreading. Also, states most affected by the last wave should be targeted as immunity of the population may be waning. Lockdowns may be needed in areas of very high transmission if the health system is overwhelmed. The central government has to act fast and ahead of time, as hospitalisations and deaths from COVID-19 are lagged. Still, the government is not introducing new nationwide restrictions and is just urging people to take all possible precautions. Some states and union territories are considering local restrictions as total ban of large gatherings, lockdowns and night curfews.

**Vaccination.** India continues to use 2 vaccines (the Oxford-AstraZeneca and local Bharat Biotech) in its vaccination campaign against COVID-19 virus. Other vaccine candidates are still under consideration for approval by Indian regulators but as the country is producing enough vaccines to support its vaccination drive and to export millions of doses abroad, there is no urgent need for approval of other vaccine. Phase I of the vaccination in India (for healthcare and frontline workers (HCW and FLW)) started on 16 January 2021. On 1st March started the 2nd phase of the vaccination drive for 270 million people above the age of 60 and those older than 45 but with comorbidities. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April, the central government allowed vaccination of all people older than 45 years. Some of the worst affected states and union territories (e.g., Maharashtra) even requested central government to allow vaccination of all

above the age of 25 years, however no such decision has been taken so far.

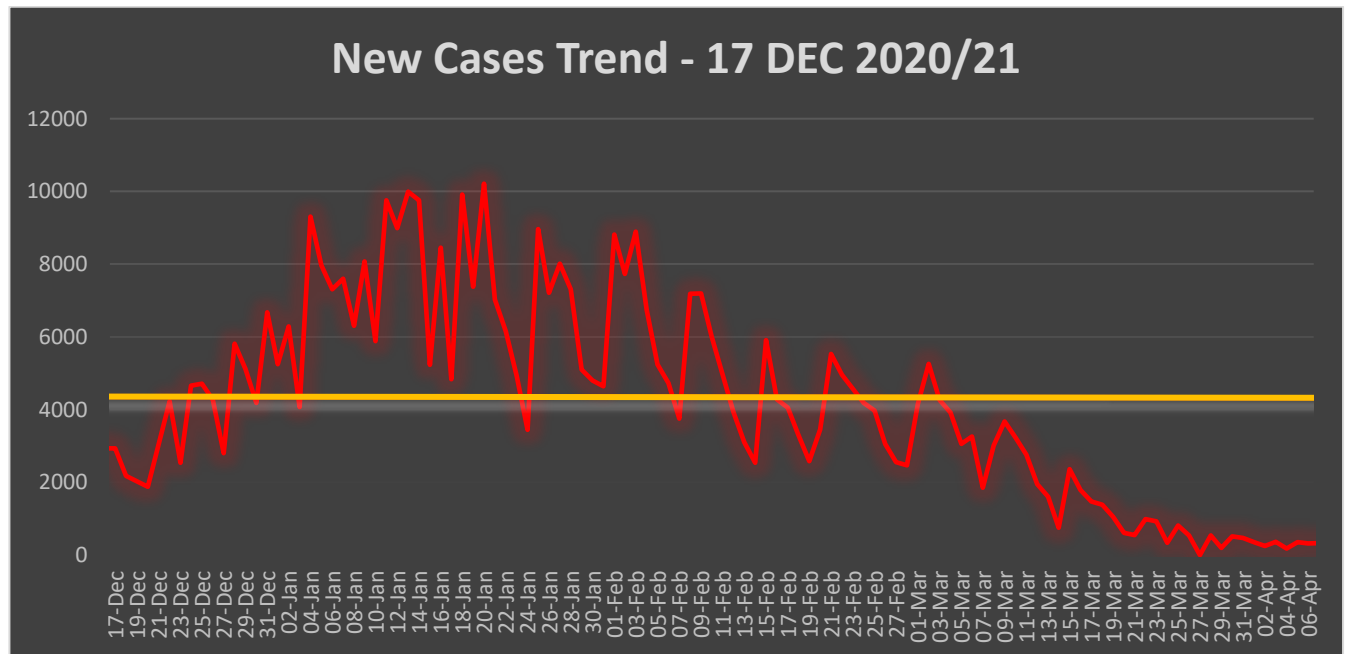
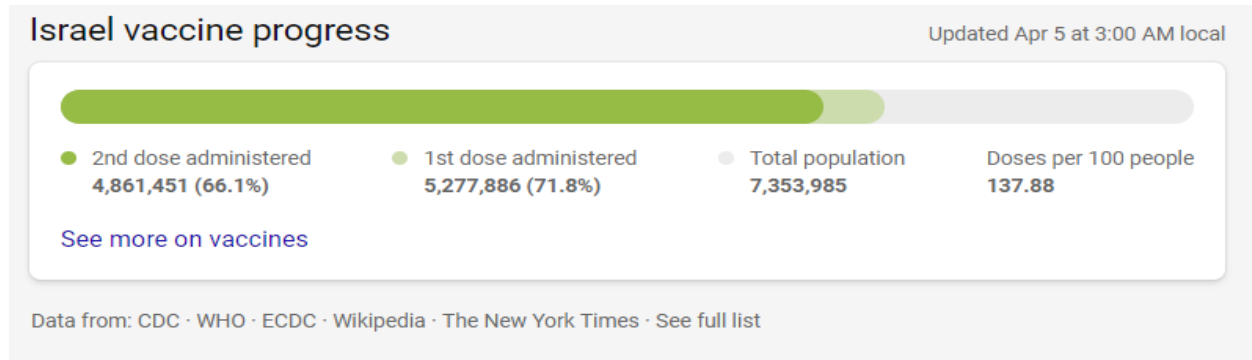
On day-80 of the vaccination drive (5<sup>th</sup> April), a total 4,300,966 vaccine doses have been given out, the highest single day vaccination coverage in the country so far. The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in India has crossed 83 million. The first dose vaccinations have also exceeded the landmark figure of 72 million. So far more than 8,9 million HCWs have taken the 1st dose, with over 5,3 million HCWs who have taken the 2nd dose. Also, about 9,7 FLWs have received the 1st dose and almost 4,3 of them have taken the 2nd dose. Besides, the beneficiaries more than 60 years old who have been administered the 1st and 2nd dose respectively are over 34 million and 800,000, while the beneficiaries aged 45 and above who received the 1st and 2nd doses are 19,5 million and almost 400,000 respectively.

Although the figures above look impressive, the government needs further to speed up the vaccination. Since the beginning of the campaign India managed about 6.5 million doses per week. From April to August, the country will need to hit 24 million doses a week in order to administer 535 million doses in the remaining 22 weeks and to reach the target of 300 million people vaccinated with 2 doses by mid-summer, set by the Prime Minister in January. Given the record from 5<sup>th</sup> April, this still looks doable but not with the kind of project management on display so far.

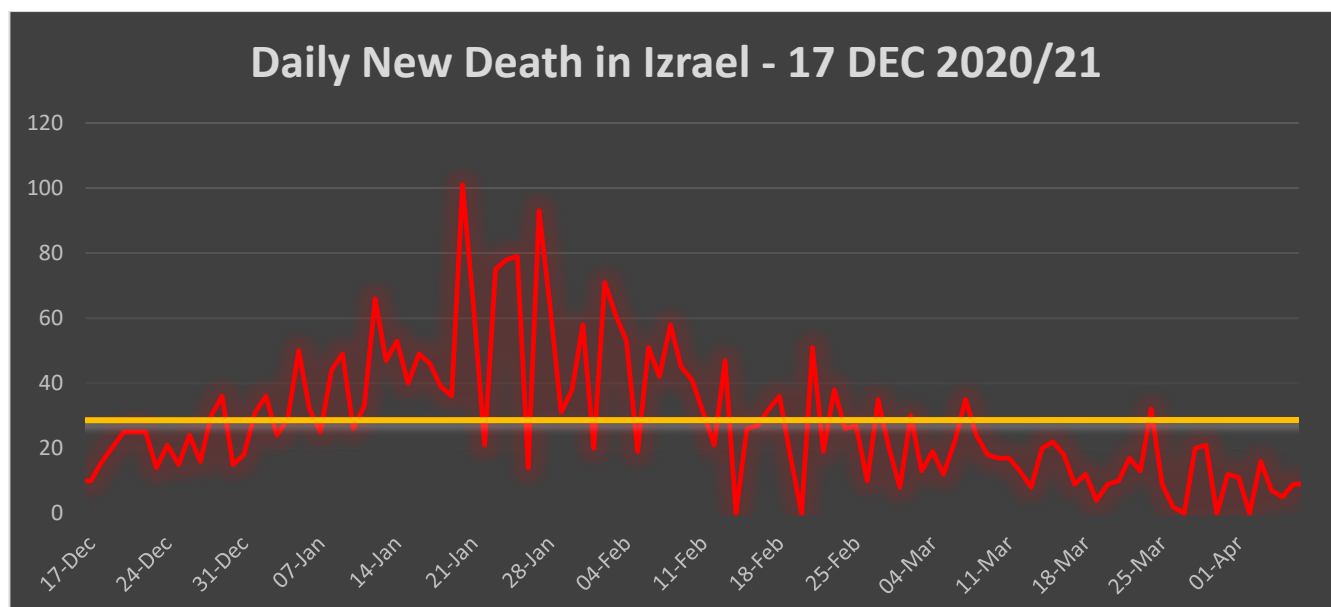


## 8. ISRAEL

The number of infected in the country reached a total of 4931 currently infected cases of coronavirus and 6122 deaths (low death rate 0,87). Israel remains 28 in the world in this indicator. The share of the recovered is approximately 99.13 percent of the total number of infected. Daily new cases on 06 APR – 317.







So far, around 6257 Israelis have died of COVID-19. January 2021 saw the highest number of COVID-19 patients die in a single month. More people died of COVID-19 in Israel because hospitals struggled to manage the heavy workload, according to a new Israeli study published over the weekend.

Israel and New Zealand have given interim approval for the sale of biotech firm SaNOtize Research and Development's Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray (NONS) which could help prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the company said on Monday. Manufacturing of NONS, under the brand name Enovid, has begun in Israel and it is expected to be on sale there this summer.

A novel oral Covid-19 vaccine will be developed by Jerusalem-based Oramed Pharmaceuticals through a new company, Oravax Medical, using Oramed's proprietary oral delivery technology and India-based Premas Biotech's novel vaccine technology.

In a pilot study performed on pigs, the vaccine candidate promoted systemic immunity via Immunoglobulin G (IgG), the most common antibody in blood and bodily fluids that protects against viral infections, and Immunoglobulin A (IgA).

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## **9. POLAND**

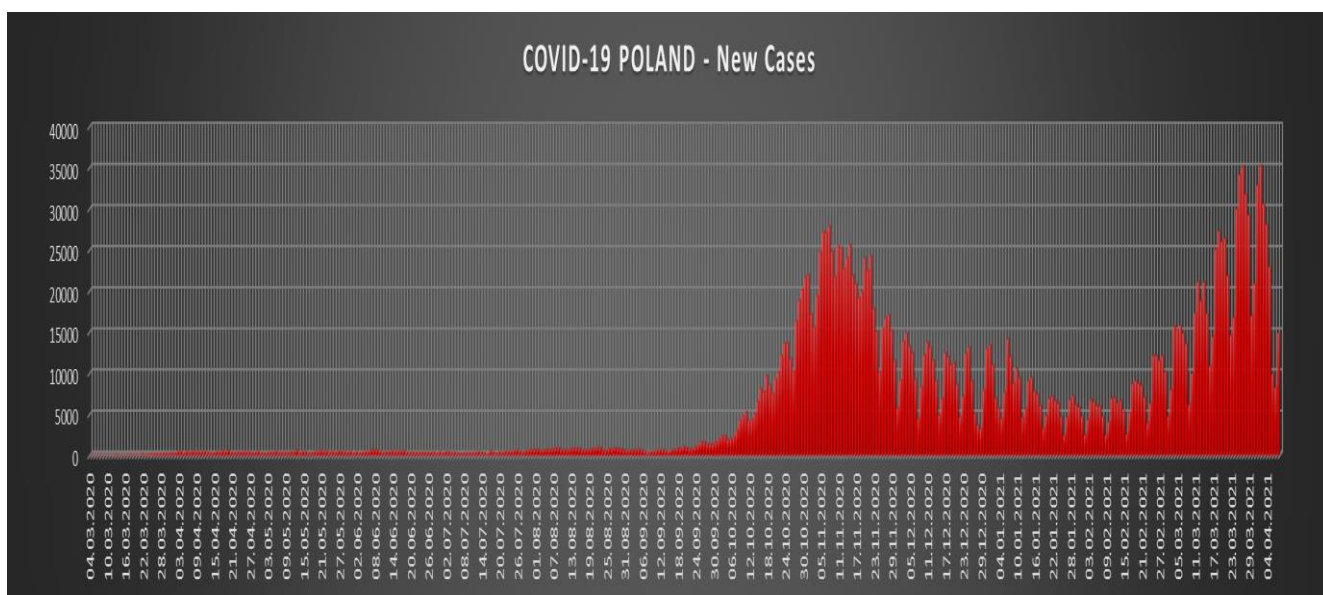
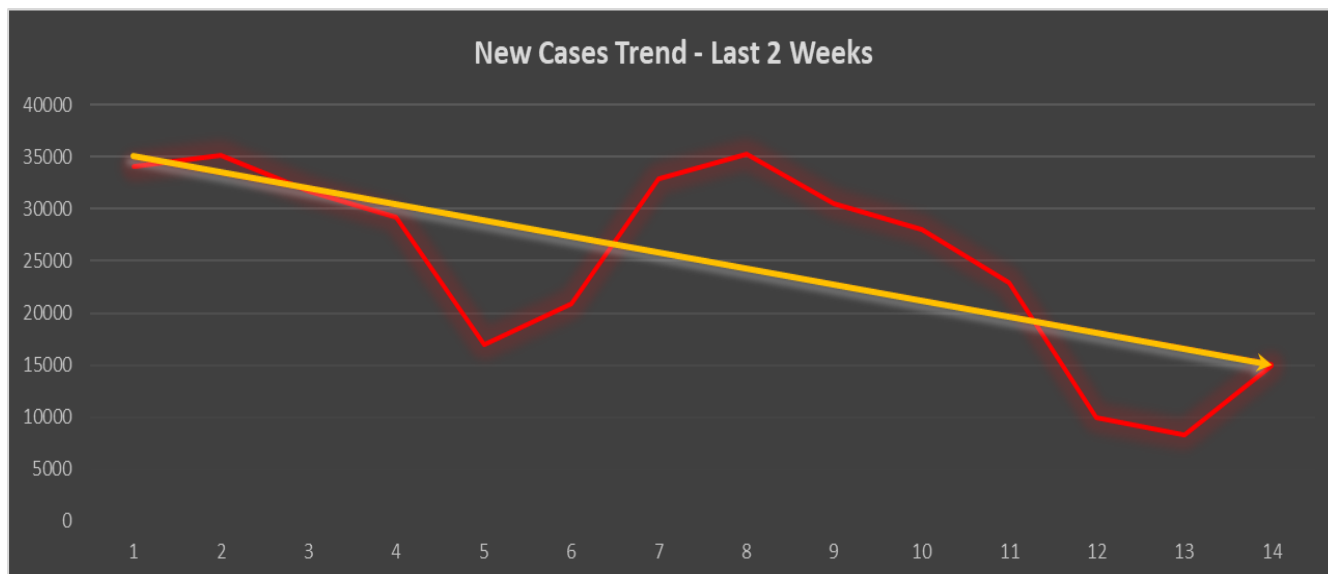
The third wave of pandemic is still in ongoing in Poland since 24<sup>th</sup> of February. The epidemic situation in Poland is getting worse, even number of new cases dropt down during last days, however this could be Eastern Holidays effect. Therefore, government decided to keep extended safety rules throughout Poland. The new rules were introduced from Saturday, March 20. They will be valid until April 18.

The total number of infections increased 16% from last report. The average daily number of new cases has already reached 25,000 that makes rise of 16% comparing to previous period. British mutations of virus have been identified in Poland, which now is estimated to be at level

of 80% of all infections.







Ministry of Health decided to keep measures:

- Full lockdown on entire territory of the country;
- All students and pupils will to conduct remote education;
- Whenever possible distributed work is recommended.
- Acceleration of national vaccination program








**Statistic Dashboard**

	Total	New	Trend	Percentage
<b>Cases</b>	<b>2 470 370</b>	<b>+ 350 887</b>		<b>+17%</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>55 623</b>	<b>+ 9 689</b>		<b>+55%</b>

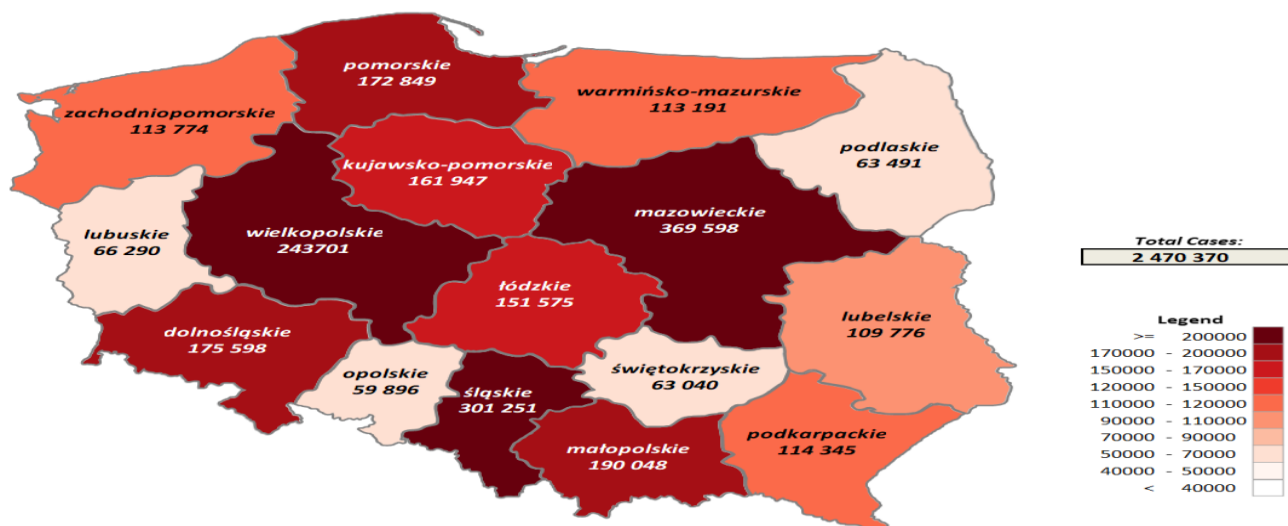
Recovered	2 054 697	+546 792		+64%
Active Cases	360 050	+85 703		-2%
Critical	3 342	+ 805		+21%
Daily Average	25 063	+ 4 256		-52%
Hospitalized	34 691	+ 8 180		+1%
Quarantine	414 373	+17 672		-88%

### National Vaccination Program

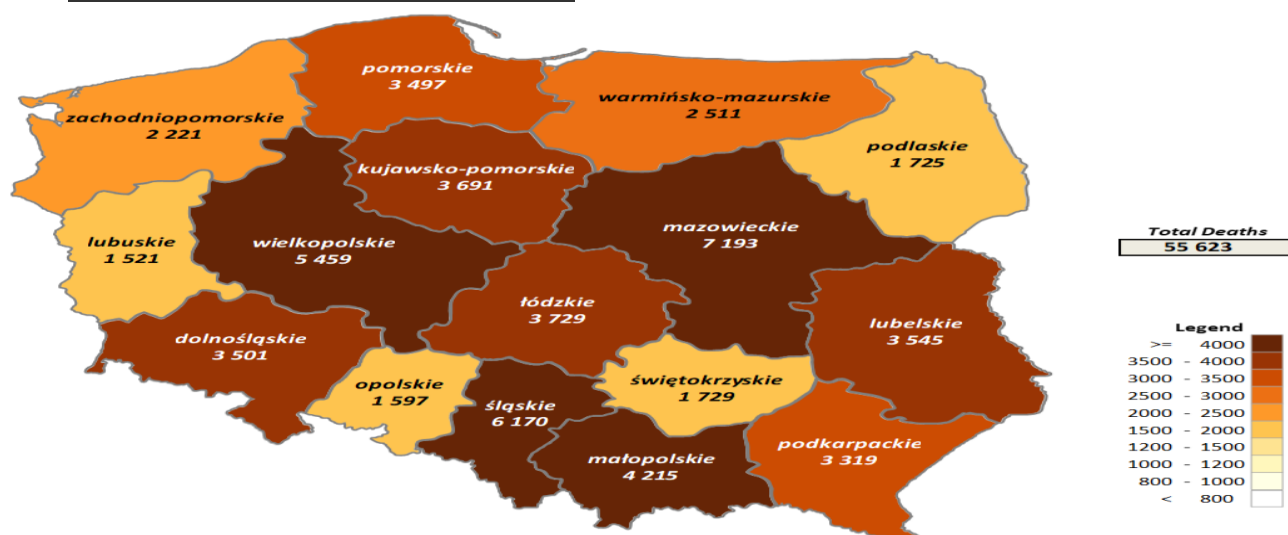
Logistic Data		
	<i>Number of delivered doses</i>	8 952 050
	<i>Doses delivered to vaccination points</i>	7 774 610
	<i>Doses in reserve medical storage</i>	390 260
	<i>Utilized doses</i>	7 769
Vaccination		
	<i>Number of vaccinations done</i>	6 790 945
	<i>Vaccinated with first dose</i>	4 708 238
	<i>Vaccinated with two doses</i>	2 082 707

National vaccination program is continued, still focusing on people over 60 years old, patients with chronic diseases and uniformed services. Next foreseen faze will cover those born between 1962 and 1973. As of now **17, 94%** from entire population took at least 1 dose, which placed Poland on 16<sup>th</sup> place among NATO countries

#### Number of cases by voivodship:



**Number of deaths by voivodship:**



**10. TURKEY**

Turkey has recorded 3 579185 million infections and 32 667 deaths due to COVID-19 as of April 6,2021. Daily cases have increased over 40 000 in recent days, and reached 449584 on April 6, 2021. According to data, a jump is about 2000 for the last days. Currently, the average number of infected people is 43 000 a day. Things are more complicated in the big cities, especially Istanbul. Turkey dropped to 8th place in the world among the countries.

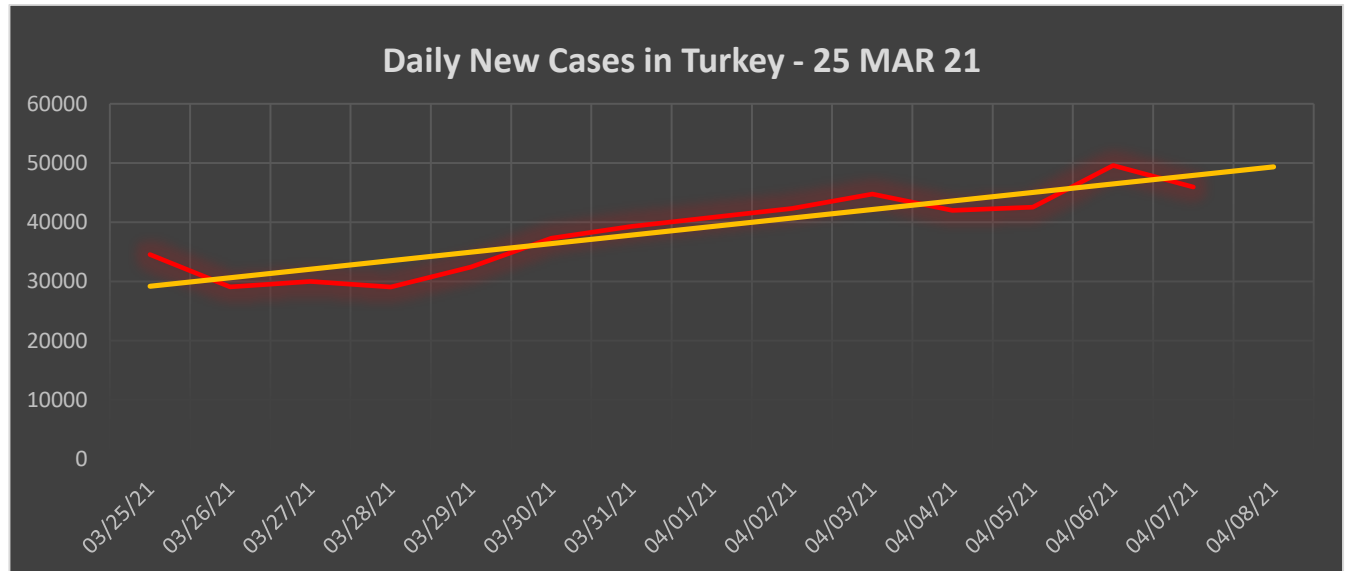
Turkey’s fight against the coronavirus pandemic continues with daily cases reaching a new high. COVID-19 is less among senior citizens who make up only 11.3% of total cases now. No province is in the low-risk category, as the latest figures from a map showing. The map gives colour codes to provinces based on the number of weekly cases per 100,000, where any province with less than 10 cases per 100,000 viewed as “blue” or low risk. Şırnak in the southeast was the only province with that distinction until the last week of March, and it now has around 23 cases per 100,000.

Vaccinations go on. So far, 16,6 million vaccine doses administered across Turkey. These include 9.5 million first doses and 7.1 million second doses.

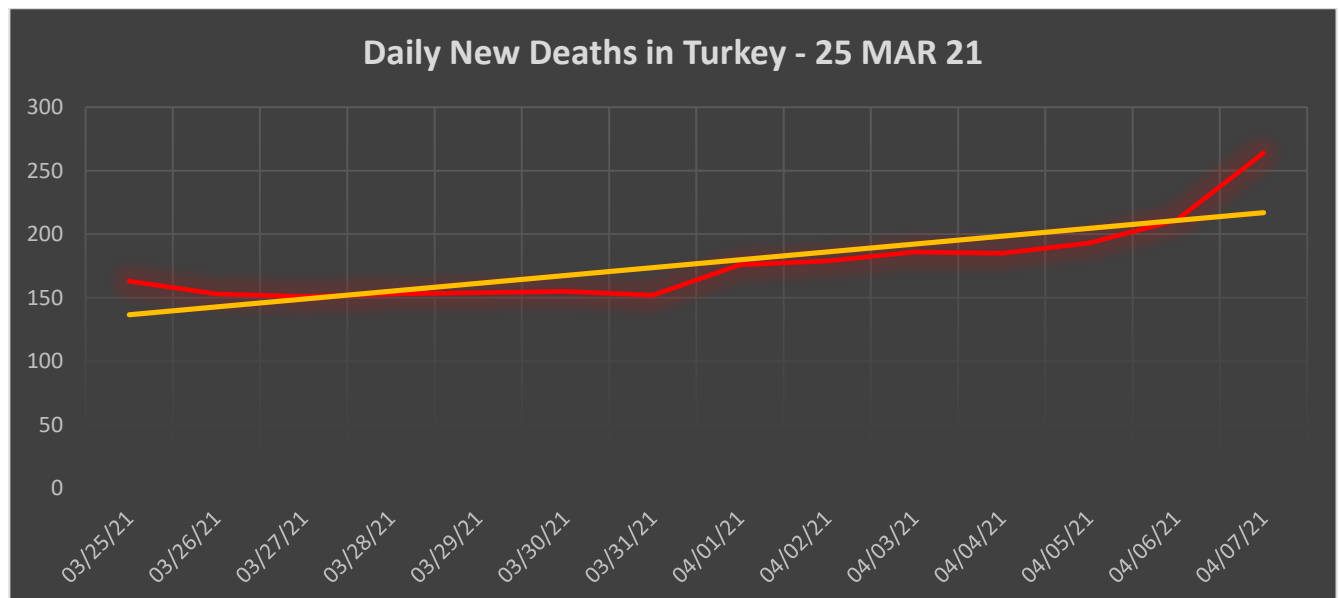
In Turkey's most populated city Istanbul, weekly cases per 100,000 reached 591. In the

capital Ankara, where weekly cases reached 272, local authorities shut down middle and high schools, except for their final years.

Experts tie the rise in case numbers to three factors: increased mobility amid normalization, new variants of the virus spreading faster across the country, and the public failure to comply with rules drop their guard in light of the normalization process.



The number of new cases is showing increasing tendency, a daily level is nearly 43 000 last days.



The number of daily new deaths trend line continues to going slightly up, approximately 200 daily, and now is over 30 000.

Direct flights from Brazil, Denmark, South Africa, and the UK remain cancelled.

COVID-19 control measures for land and sea travel continue. Passengers arriving in Turkey will be required to complete an information form and checked for symptoms. Anyone, who suspected of having COVID-19, will be transported to a hospital for examination or a dormitory for self-isolation. If an individual on a particular aircraft/vehicle/vessel is found to have COVID-19, the information forms completed upon arrival will identify others who have been in

contact with them; those individuals will then be subject to 14-day isolation/quarantine.

However, short-notice changes, especially temporary closures of land borders, are possible. All travellers from all points of departure to Turkey must have a negative PCR test undertaken within 72 hours before departure. The wearing of masks is mandatory at all times outside the home throughout Turkey. It includes, but is not limited to, all public places, including streets, side streets, parks, gardens, picnic areas, markets, and public transportation Metro, buses, taxis, and ferries. Curfews imposed on weekends.

Turkey COVID-19 Patient Table	Today	THIS WEEK	Total
	NUMBER OF TESTS	<b>271.547</b>	PNEUMONIA RATE IN PATIENTS <b>%3,1</b>
NUMBER OF CASES	<b>49.584</b>	BED OCCUPANCY RATE <b>%55,7</b>	NUMBER OF CASES <b>3.579.185</b>
NUMBER OF PATIENTS	<b>2.003</b>	INTENSIVE MAINTENANCE OCCUPANCY RATE <b>%66,5</b>	NUMBER OF DEATHS <b>32.667</b>
NUMBER OF DEATHS	<b>211</b>	VENTILATOR OCCUPANCY RATE <b>%33</b>	NUMBER OF SEVERE PATIENTS <b>2.477</b>
NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS	<b>28.498</b>	AVERAGE CONTACT DELIVERY TIME <b>9 HOURS</b>	NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS <b>3.159.475</b>
		FILIATION RATE <b>%99,9</b>	

<https://covid19.saglik.gov.tr/>

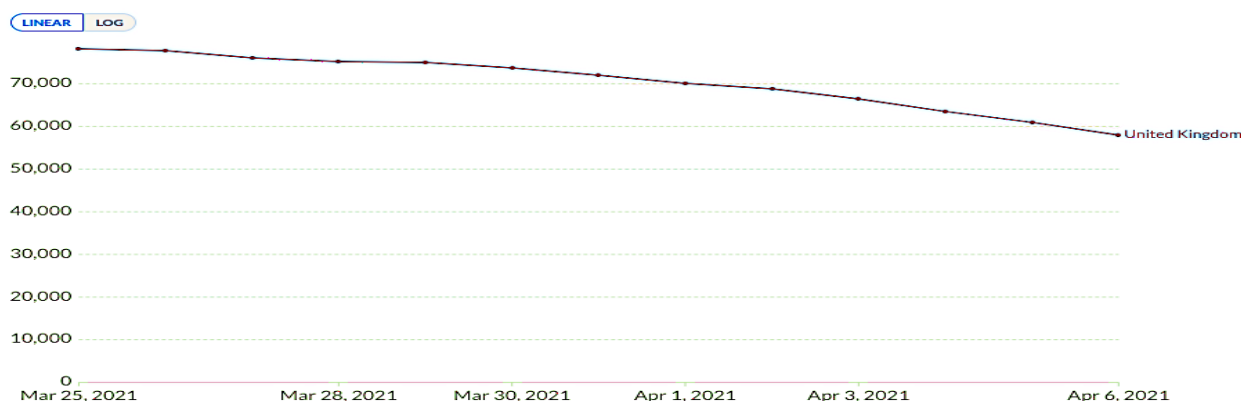
Turkey has launched a 21 point stimulus package (Economic Stability Shield) worth USD 15.4 billion to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, Turkey has pledged a “series of measures” relating to Fiscal Policy, comprising tax breaks and deferrals, along with credit guarantees and delays in loan repayments.

## 11. United Kingdom

As of 7 APR, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the UK is more than 4.3 million. It currently has the 6th highest number of recorded cases in the world (falling from 5th place).

### Biweekly confirmed COVID-19 cases

Biweekly confirmed cases refer to the cumulative number of confirmed cases over the previous two weeks.



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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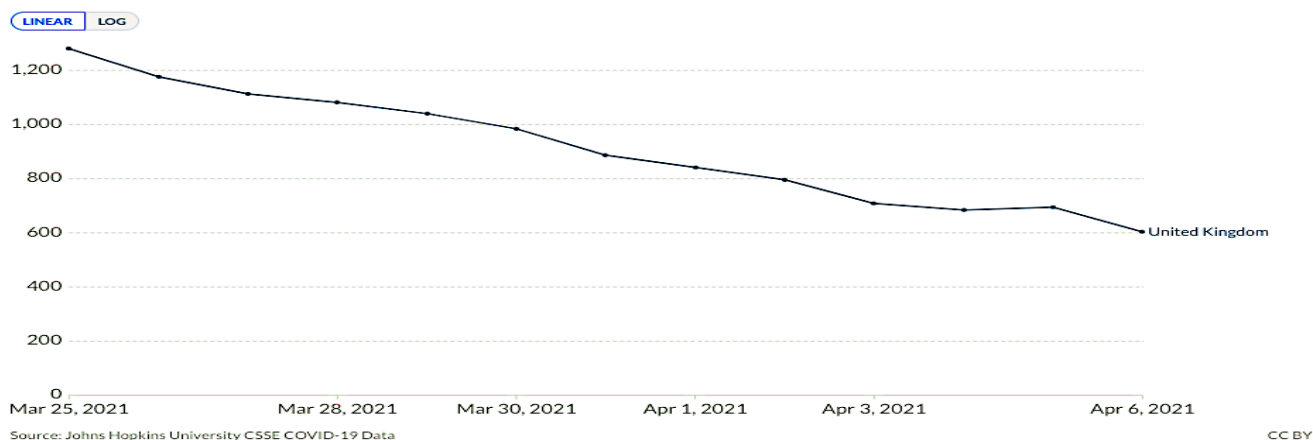


The latest estimated R number provided was 0.7 to 0.9 and on 26 MAR, the estimated daily infection growth rate range was -5% to -2%, implying that the situation is getting under control<sup>1</sup>.

#### Biweekly confirmed COVID-19 deaths

Biweekly confirmed deaths refer to the cumulative number of confirmed deaths over the previous two weeks.

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The number of positive cases continues on its downward trend, as does the number of patients admitted and the number of related deaths<sup>2</sup>. On 6 APR, the death toll rate was reported to have declined by 45% in comparison to the week prior. More than 127K Covid-related deaths have been registered in UK since the beginning of the pandemic<sup>3</sup>.

#### VACCINATIONS:

On 18 MAR, the UK Health Secretary announced that despite an expected dip in supplies in April, the UK vaccination programme continued to be on track<sup>4</sup>. The focus is now beginning to shift from administering first doses to second doses<sup>5</sup>. Up to and including the 5 APR, 31,622,367 people have received their first dose of the AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccine. 5,496,716 have received their second dose.

The Moderna vaccine, approved in January 2021, is expected to be rolled out next week (12 APR)<sup>6</sup>. At least three other vaccines are being tested and are awaiting approval for use in the UK, namely- Novavax (US-made), Janssen/Johnson-Johnson (Belgian-made) and Valneva (French-made)<sup>7</sup>.

Ministers have noted a substantial improvement in vaccine confidence among people of colour and minorities in the UK after public figures came together to encourage people to get vaccinated<sup>8</sup>. Ministers plan to move vaccination centres to make it easier for these communities to get jabs.

#### TESTING:

Currently the UK is conducting more than 1.2 million Covid-19 tests a day<sup>9</sup>. The number of tests carried out has decreased over the two-week period, but this looks set to change as on 5 APR, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that from 9 APR onwards every adult will be given access to two free rapid tests a week<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> (UK Government, 2021)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> (Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at John Hopkins University, 2021)

<sup>4</sup> (Elgot & Safi, 2021)

<sup>5</sup> (BBC News, 2021)

<sup>6</sup> (Swinford & Smyth, 2021)

<sup>7</sup> (McKie, 2021)

<sup>8</sup> (Smyth, 2021)

<sup>9</sup> (UK Government, 2021)

<sup>10</sup> (Department of Health and Social Care, 2021)

## **POLICY MEASURES AND DEVELOPMENTS<sup>11</sup>:**

### **England**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on 5 APR that England will now be preparing to head into step 2 of its four-step Covid-19 Response- Spring 2021 (roadmap)<sup>12 13</sup>.

Developments:

- 29 MAR- People allowed to meet outdoors in groups of up to 6 people or 2 households. Outdoor sports facilities reopened. Travel continues to be restricted and social distancing/stay at home still advised.
- 31 MAR- Shielding ended.
- 9 APR- Free rapid Covid-19 tests will be made available to everyone in England twice a week.
- 12 APR- More businesses and venues are set to be reopened including sports facilities and non-essential stores. Smaller outdoor activities and festivities will be allowed, including outdoor table service at restaurants and pubs<sup>14</sup>.

### **Scotland**

Developments:

- 2 APR- 'Stay at home' restrictions adjusted to 'stay local'.
- 5 APR- Further lockdown easing. Outdoor sport for children, click and collect for some non-essential shops, return of college students most in need of special attention. The list of retail permitted will also be extended allowing more shops to reopen.

### **Wales**

Developments:

- 27 MAR- 'Stay local' restriction was lifted allowing people to travel around Wales. Holiday accommodation is permitted for people living in Wales. Travel in and out of the country remains restricted.

### **Northern Ireland**

Developments:

- Set to review its measures and restrictions on or before 15 APR.

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## 12. USA

The U.S. has over 31.383 million confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 568,513 deaths. The United States' Covid-19 cases are trending upward again, with nationwide infection levels far below January's peak of about 250,000 new cases per day but approaching numbers seen during the summer surge when average daily case counts reached nearly 70,000. Over the past week, there has been an average of 65,196 cases per day, an increase of 19 percent from the average two weeks earlier.

	TOTAL REPORTED	ON April 3	14-DAY CHANGE
Cases	31.3 million	63,880	+19%

Deaths	568,510	748	-22%
Hospitalized		41,300	Flat

Amid growing fears of a fourth wave of U.S. Covid-19 cases, government officials urged Americans to continue taking precautions to prevent the spread of the virus. The country is faring much better than it was in January. But cases are rising again, and the outlook is concerning in the Northeast and Upper Midwest. Michigan is adding cases at a higher rate than any other state. As of April 2, the six metro areas with the country’s worst outbreaks were in Michigan.

Hospitalization and case numbers have fallen sharply in much of the South and West, though testing has also decreased. Alabama, which averaged more than 4,000 cases a day at its peak, is now identifying about 400 infections each day.

As the daily number of deaths has dropped significantly since its winter peak, the country is averaging less than 900 newly reported deaths per day for the first time since early November. But the number of hospitalizations have started to level off after a sustained decline.

The pace of vaccination continues to increase, and states are moving rapidly to expand eligibility. Over the last week, an average of nearly three million people have received a shot each day. The vaccine rollout may be a reason for optimism on this front. If the most vulnerable populations of Americans are protected, the death toll may not rise as significantly as it has during prior periods of case count increases.

As more states expand eligibility rules for who can receive a vaccine — President Joe Biden said Monday that 90% of adults in the U.S. will be eligible for shots by April 19 — the daily pace of vaccinations continues to rise. Nearly 32% of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of vaccine, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, and 18% of the population is fully vaccinated.

A new CDC study of vaccinated health-care workers showed that one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine was 80% effective in preventing coronavirus infections, and 90% two weeks after the second dose.

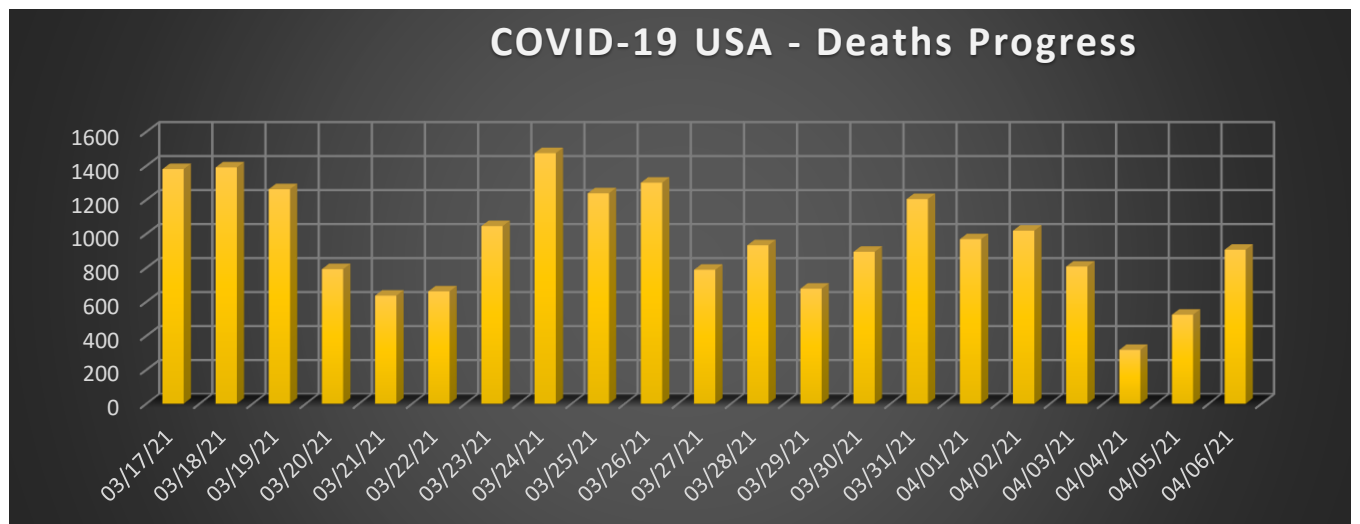
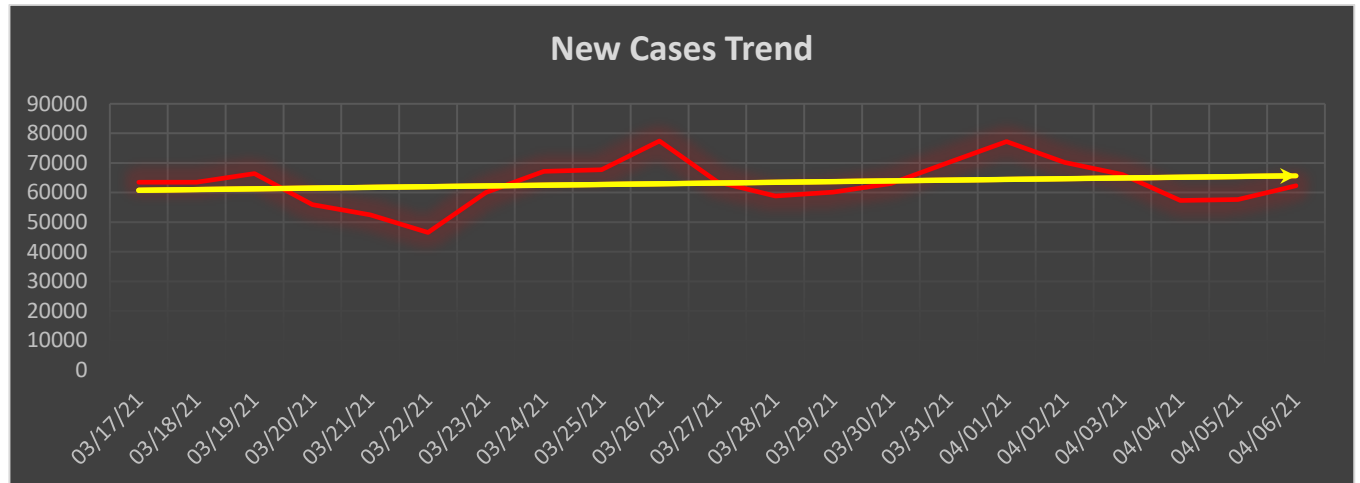
The National Institutes of Health has started testing a new coronavirus vaccine from Moderna designed to protect against a problematic variant first found in South Africa. The phase one trial will test how safe and effective the new shot is against the variant in approximately 210 healthy adults. Researchers expect the trial to be fully enrolled by the end of April.

Vaccination	At least one shot	Two shots	Doses delivered	Shots given	Doses used
U.S. total	32% -106.2 million	18% -61.4 million	207,891,295	165,053,746	79%

The B.1.351 variant first discovered in South Africa late last year has given scientists more cause for concern compared with other variants. The variant appears to spread easier than the original strains, and research indicates it can possibly evade some of the protections generated by therapeutics and vaccines.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance to say fully vaccinated people can travel within the U.S. without getting tested for the coronavirus or going into quarantine afterward.

The US is at risk of losing all its recent gains in the battle against Covid-19 as highly contagious variants take advantage of Americans loosening up with security measures. The United States remains the most affected country, with more than 31.3 million infections and more than 568,513 deaths. As the virus continues to circulate widely within the United States and thousands of new cases are still being identified each day true normalcy remains a distant vision.



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## CONCLUSIONS

1. As of March 08 APR 2021 the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 134 million, more than 2.9 million deaths and almost 23,3 million active cases.
2. The benefits of the vaccines in particular outweigh the risk of coagulation disorders and the vaccines prevents other effects of COVID-19, including deaths.
3. The United States is still experiencing a welcome fall in the number of new deaths and seems to be in plateau concerning the new cases. The reduction in Covid-19 cases is came as more than 171 million Americans have received their first vaccine.
4. Vaccination in the EU is already lagging behind that of the United Kingdom and other countries due to problems with vaccine supplies.
5. The use of one of the more widely available vaccines had been temporarily suspended by many countries in the EU, and fears of an increase in the spread of the virus have grown.
6. There is enough evidence that a third (and more serious) wave of COVID-19 is ongoing across Europe and around the world.
7. In many countries around the world, experiencing yet another significant upward trend in new infections and deaths, the government has been forced to reintroduce restrictive measures, including lockdowns and curfews.
8. Living with COVID-19 will require ongoing effort that's why the risks associated with spread of COVID-19 and the unintended social and health consequences of restrictive public health measures must be carefully balanced.
9. The pandemic and stemming from it social distancing and confinement and also loses of jobs could be harmful for the mental health of the people. That should be taken in account and the societies to be prepared to cope with this possible problem.
10. A couple of Covid-19 variants are moving across the world making fight against the disease more difficult. There is question if the new variants can be discovered by the ordinary PCR tests and if the available vaccines are effective against them.