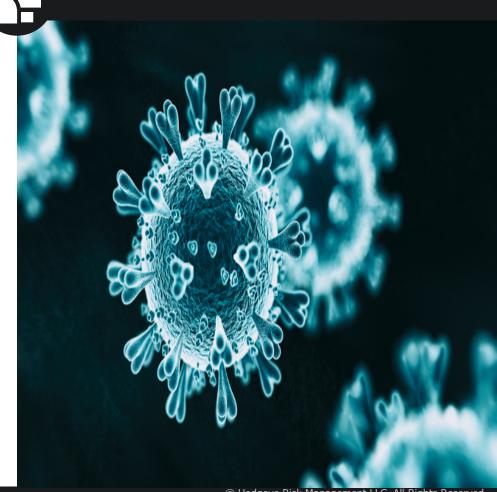
HEDGEYE

COVID-19: MARCH 11 UPDATE



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COVID-19 UPDATE, MARCH 11

OUTLINE

- Overall Observations
- C19 Case and Death Count Update, by Country
- Vaccine Rollout
- Variant Watch
- Face Masks: Revisiting the Evidence
- Q & A

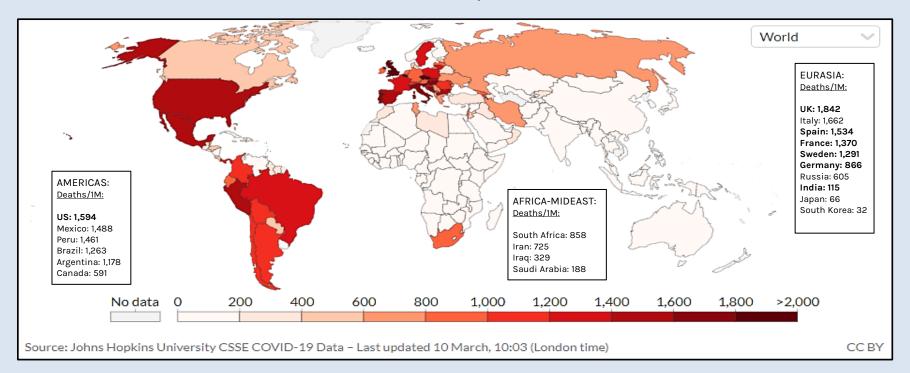
FOR STARTERS...

OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

- o Summary: Near-term indicators: very strong/positive; but rate of change is slowing down.
 - 7d-trend in cases (now 56K) is -46% since last report (decelerating decline, $+\Delta 11\%$).
 - 7d-trend in hospitalizations (now at 77K) is -48% (<u>rapid decline</u>, $-\Delta 8\%$).
 - 7d-trend in deaths (now at 2818) is -44% (accelerating decline $-\Delta 26\%$).
 - Very mixed trends in EU; growing certainty of double-dip recession.
- US mobility: Show in large gains over last month in tandem with <u>accelerated employment</u> <u>gains and declining new claims</u>. Nearly-full Biden stimulus package now a certainty. <u>All</u> <u>engines ahead full... for now</u>.
- Positive C19 trends: (1) rapid rollout in US of world's two best vaccines; (2) warmer, drier spring weather. Negative C19 trends: (1) relaxation of social distancing; (2) variant "undertow"; (3) declining marginal vaccination gains; (4) antivax resistance.
- Antivax resistance? Latest KFF survey: 44% of Americans say: "wait and see" (22%), "only if required (7%), "definitely not" (15%). For Republicans it's 56% (18%, 10%, and 28%, respectively).
- My outlook for C19, economy, & markets: very positive to mid-May. Thereafter, headwinds: first, hit of rising inflation expectations followed (late spring/summer) by post-vaccine reality that C19 was slowed but not eliminated.

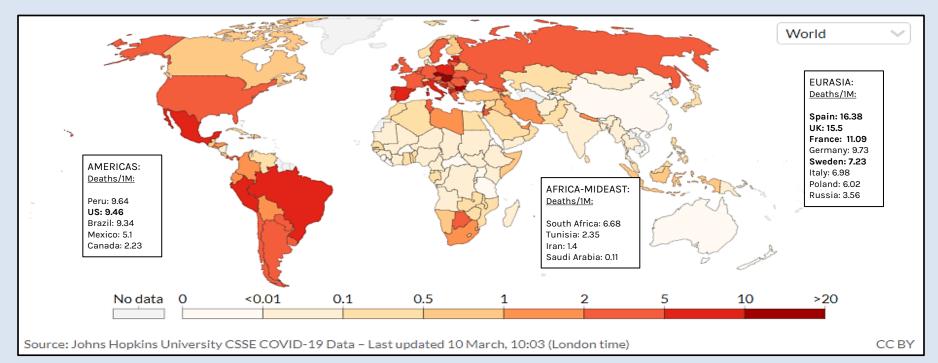
TOTAL DEATHS WORSE IN THE WEST

Total Confirmed COVID-19 Deaths Per Million People March 11, 2021



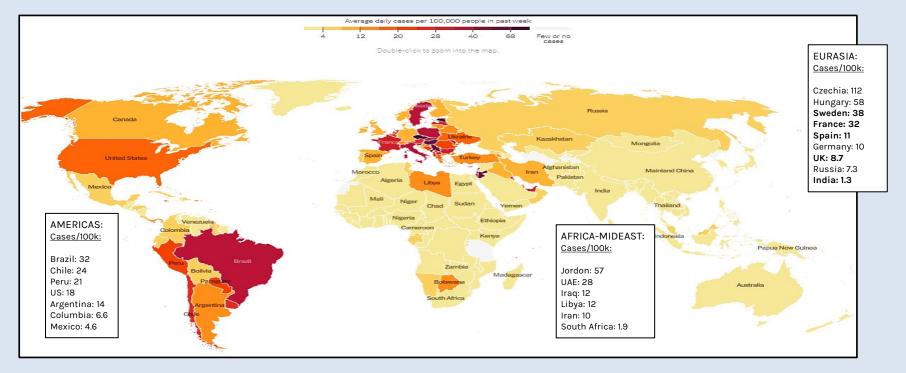
DAILY DEATHS

Daily Confirmed COVID-19 Deaths Per Million People, 7-Day Average. March 10, 2021

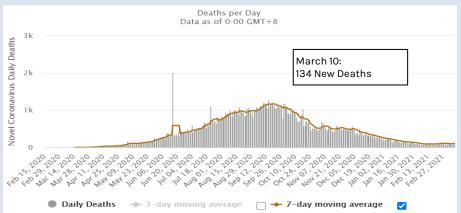


EUROPE SUFFERS

Average Daily Covid-19 Cases Per 100,000 People In the Last Week. Updated March 11, 2021.

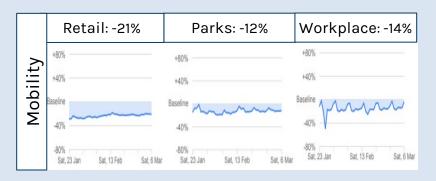


THE SITUATION IN... INDIA

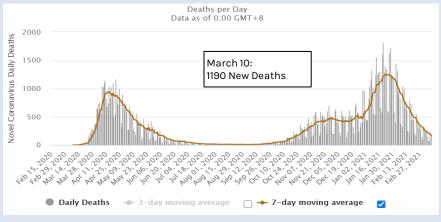


	any beating average
	Cases per Day Data as of 0:00 GMT+0
150k —	
irus Daily Ca	March 10: 22,841 New Cases
Novel Coronavirus Dally Cases 7001	
650 650 Wat Was	k to to the the the the to the to the to the to to to the the to the to the the to to the to to to the to to t ''' to '''''' '''''''''''''''''''''''''
	Daily Cases → 3-day moving average → 7-day moving average

Effective RO (90% Credible Interval)	Expected Change In Daily Cases	Govt Stringency Index
1.1 (0.94-1.3)	Likely Increasing	63
Total Cases	Total Deaths	Tests/Deaths Per 1 Mil Pop
11,248,311	158,213	160,853/114



THE SITUATION IN... UK

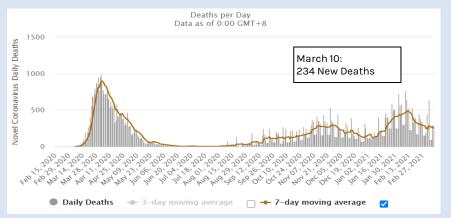




Effective RO (90% Credible Interval)	Expected Change In Daily Cases	Govt Stringency Index
0.81 (0.62-1.1)	Likely Decreasing	88
Total Cases	Total Deaths	Tests/Deaths Per 1 Mil Pop
4,234,924	124,987	1,462,465/1,834



THE SITUATION IN... SPAIN

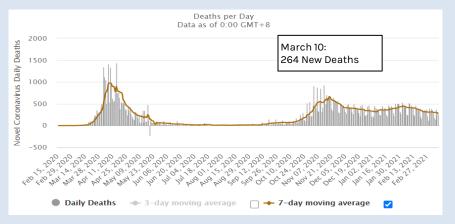


		Cases per Day	
40k		Data as of 0:00 GMT+0	
Novel Coronavirus Daily Cases	March 10: 6,672 New Cases		
AND 20k			
Novel Coror			
\[\left\) \text{\te}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\te}\text{\			
	Daily Cases 3-day	moving average	

Effective RO (90% Credible Interval)	Expected Change In Daily Cases	Govt Stringency Index
0.73 (0.42-1.1)	Likely Decreasing	71
Total Cases	Total Deaths	Tests/Deaths Per 1 Mil Pop
3,178,442	71,961	861,550/1,539

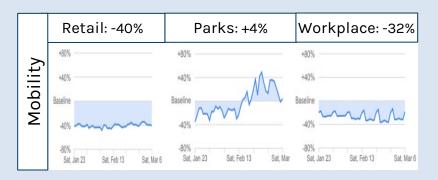


THE SITUATION IN... FRANCE

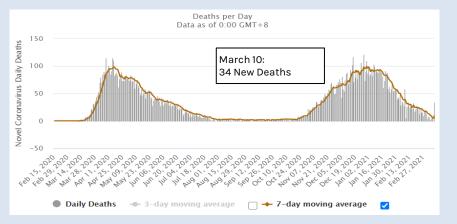


	Cases per Day Data as of 0:00 GMT+0		
Novel Coronavirus Daily Cases o 9001	February 10: 30,303 New Cases		
Daily Cases → 3-day moving average -50k -50k			

Effective RO (90% Credible Interval)	Expected Change In Daily Cases	Govt Stringency Index
1.0 (0.84-1.3)	Likely Increasing	82
Total Cases	Total Deaths	Tests/Deaths Per 1 Mil Pop
3,963,165	89,565	851,361/1,370

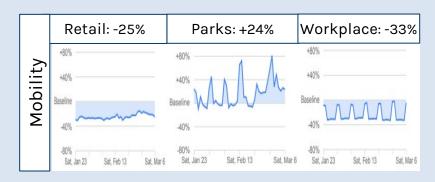


THE SITUATION IN... SWEDEN



	Cases per Day Data as of 0:00 GMT+0		
15k			
avirus Daily Cases	March 10: 5,892 New Cases		
Novel Coronavirus			
ליבה ליבה יליבה ויליב, ויליב יליבה יליבה ליבה ליבה ליבה ליבה ליב			
	■ Daily Cases → 3-day moving average → 7-day moving average		

Effective RO (90% Credible Interval)	Expected Change In Daily Cases	Govt Stringency Index
1.1 (0.94-1.3)	Likely Increasing	69
Total Cases	Total Deaths	Tests/Deaths Per 1 Mil Pop
701,892	13,088	628,879/1,290



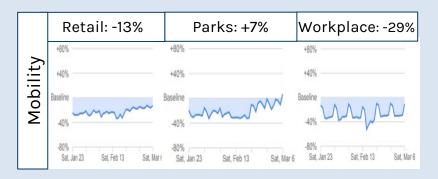
THE SITUATION IN... US



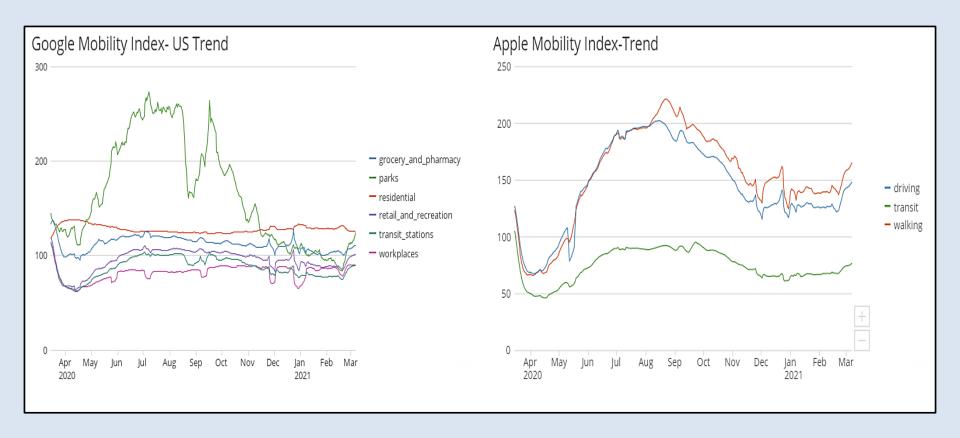
	Cases per Day Data as of 0:00 GMT+0		
40 Seg 40	Ok		
.] 30	ok	March 10:	
.ns Da		60,355 New Cases	
Novel Coronavirus Daily Cases	0k		
10	Ok		
Nov	0		
The state of the s			
(5) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4			
■ Daily Cases → 3-day moving average → 7-day moving average			

Effective RO (90% Credible Interval)	Expected Change In Daily Cases	Govt Stringency Index
1.0 (0.569-1.4)	Stable	64

Total Cases	Total Deaths	Tests/Deaths Per 1 Mil Pop
29,862,124	542,191	1,122,655/1,631

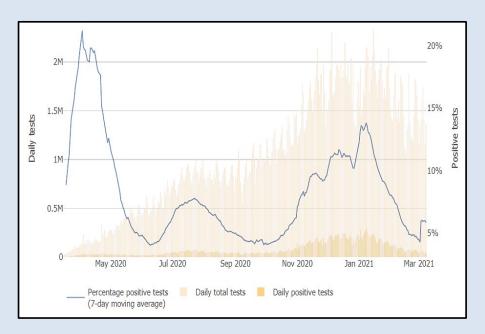


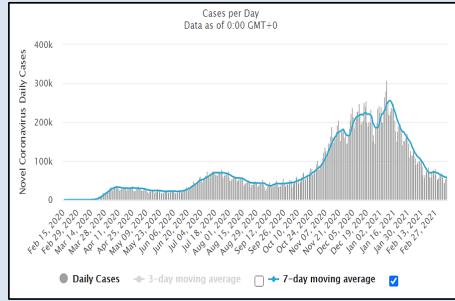
MOBILITY



FALLING CASES

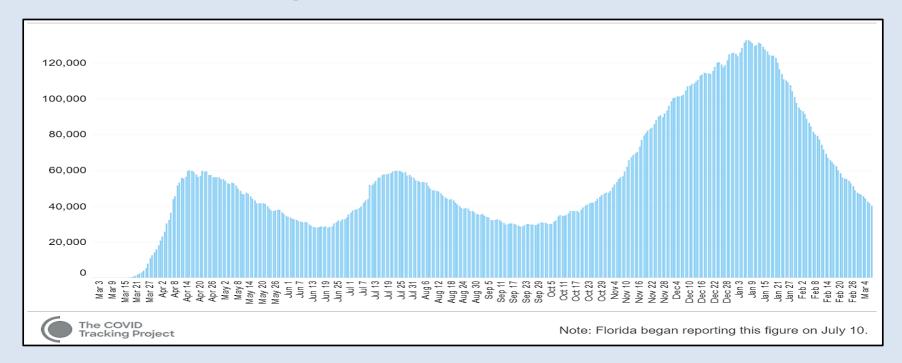
US Daily COVID-19 Tests/Positive Tests and Daily Cases. Updated March 11, 2021.





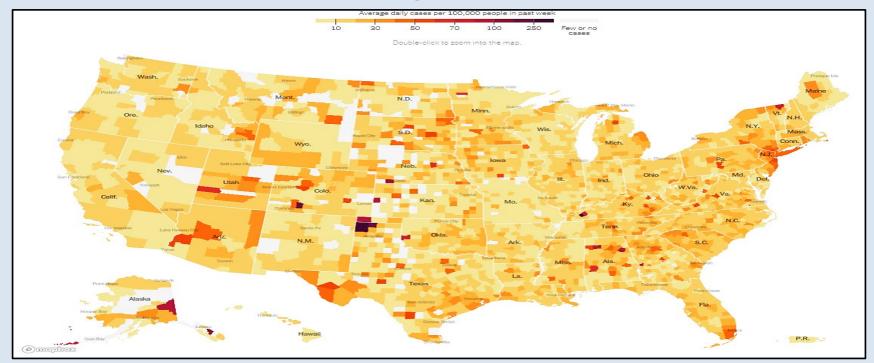
HOSPITALIZATIONS FALLING

Number of Covid-19 Patients in Hospitals. Updated March 10, 2021.



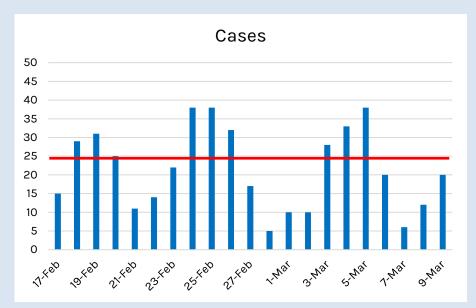
C19 GEOGRAPHY

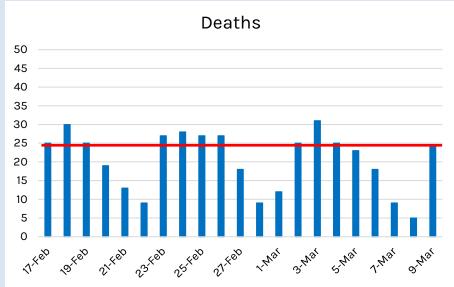
Average Daily Covid-19 Cases Per 100,000 People In The Last Week. Updated March 10, 2021.



STATE DIFFUSION INDEX IN CASES & DEATHS

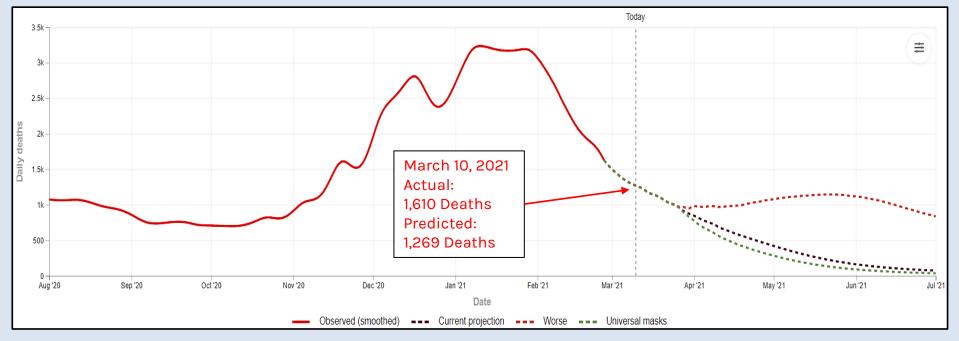
Number of US States Whose Case and Death Count Was Larger or Equal Than Previous Week's Average.





THE PEAK IS OVER?

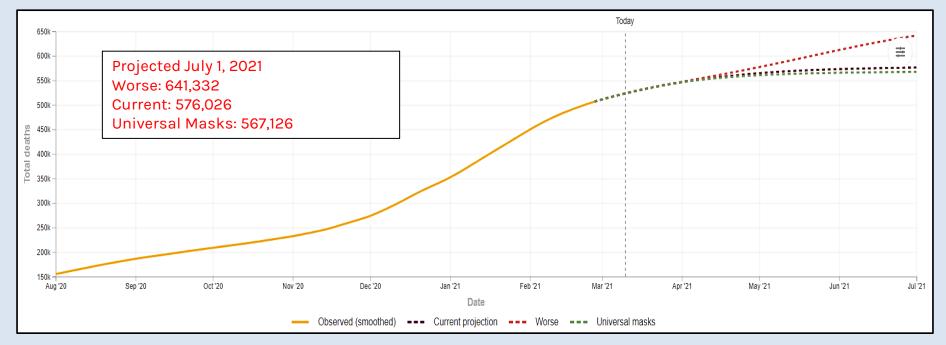
Projection of Daily COVID-19 Deaths, Last Updated March 11, 2020.



Current Projection Only Differs From "Mandates Easing" When Deaths/Day Rise Above 2,500

THE PEAK IS OVER?

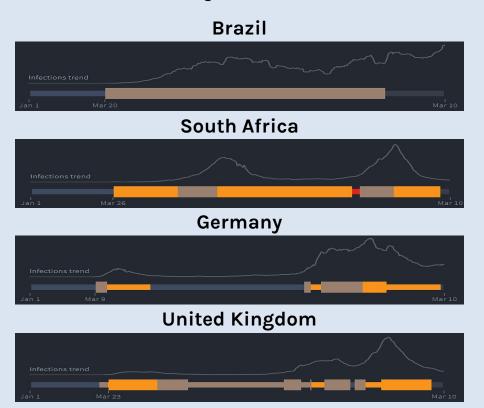
Projection of Total COVID-19 Deaths, Last Update March 11, 2020



Current Projection Only Differs From "Mandates Easing" When Deaths/Day Rise Above 2,500

WHO'S STAYING HOME?

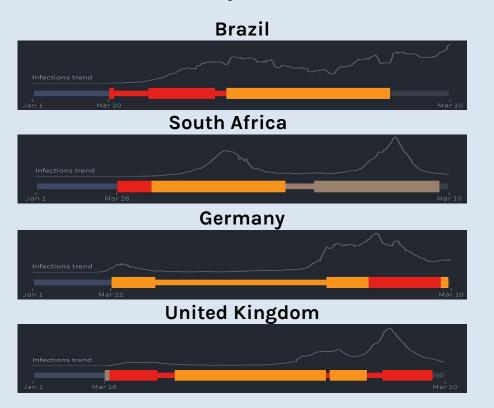
Stay-at-Home Lockdown Measures By Country.





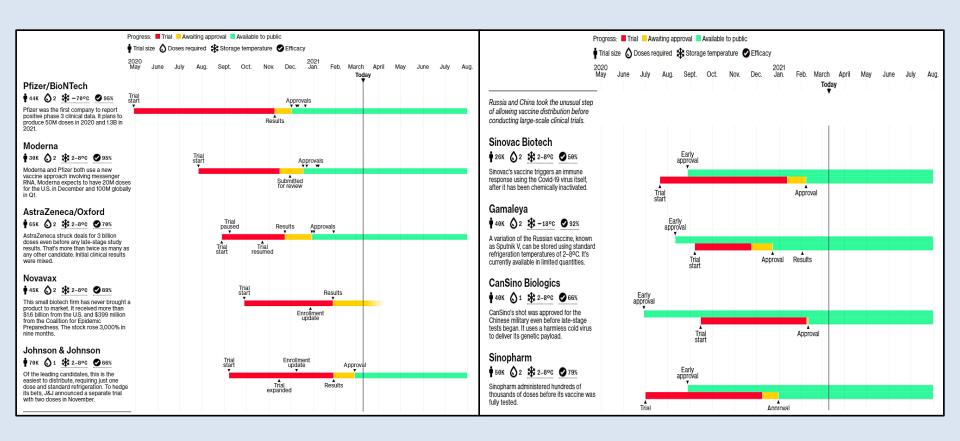
WHO'S GOING INTO THE OFFICE?

Workplace Lockdown Policy Measures By Country.



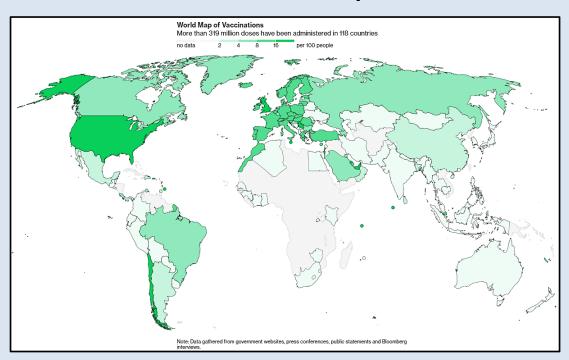


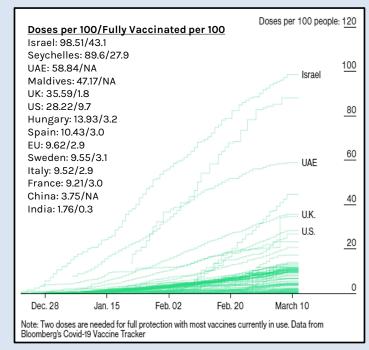
VACCINE APPROVAL TIMELINE



VACCINES ADMINISTERED

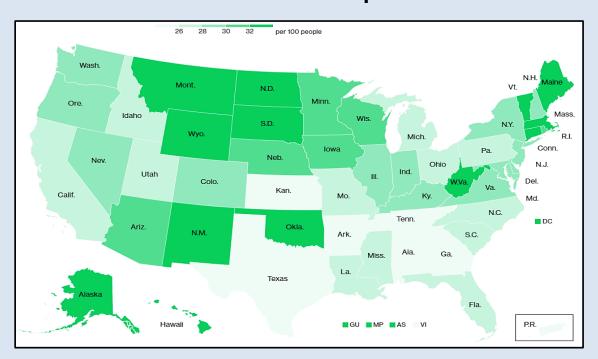
Number of Covid-19 Doses Administered Per 100 People. Updated on March 10.

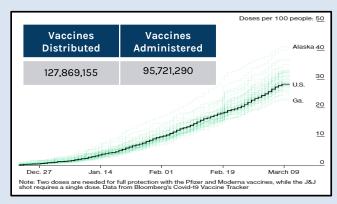


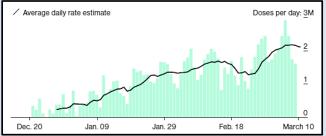


VACCINES ADMINISTERED

Number of Covid-19 Doses Administered Per 100 People In US. Updated on March 10.







VACCINE ROLLOUT

- Biden has announced that there will be enough vaccines for the entire US adult population by the end of May. He previously said they would reach this milestone by the end of July.
- The White House has brokered a deal between the competitors Merk and J&J. Under the agreement, Merk will help produce the J&J vaccine in two of its manufacturing facilities. Biden is determined this will significantly increase vaccine availability. A few anonymous J&J officials have cast doubts on Merk's ability to quickly transform its factories to produce the vaccine. Nevertheless, Biden has ordered 100M more doses from J&J.
- Percentage of Distributed Vaccines That Have Been Administered:
 - Fastest States:

• North Dakota: 87.23%

• Minnesota: 86.87%

New Mexico: 86.31%

Arizona: 85.11%

Wisconsin: 84.12%

· Slowest States:

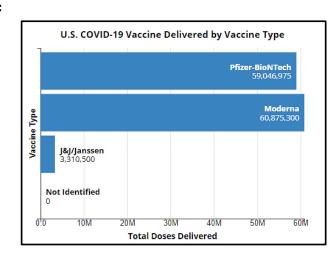
Alaska: 70.28%

Kansas: 68.66%

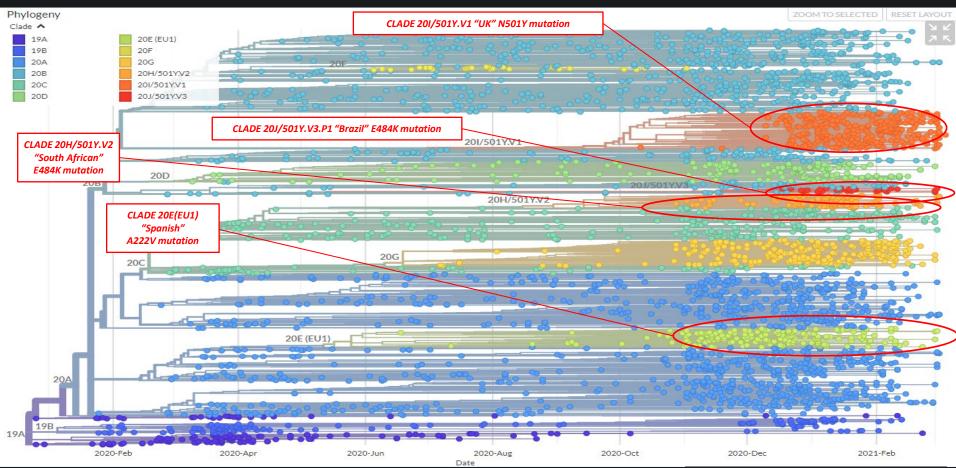
• Arkansas: 67.56%

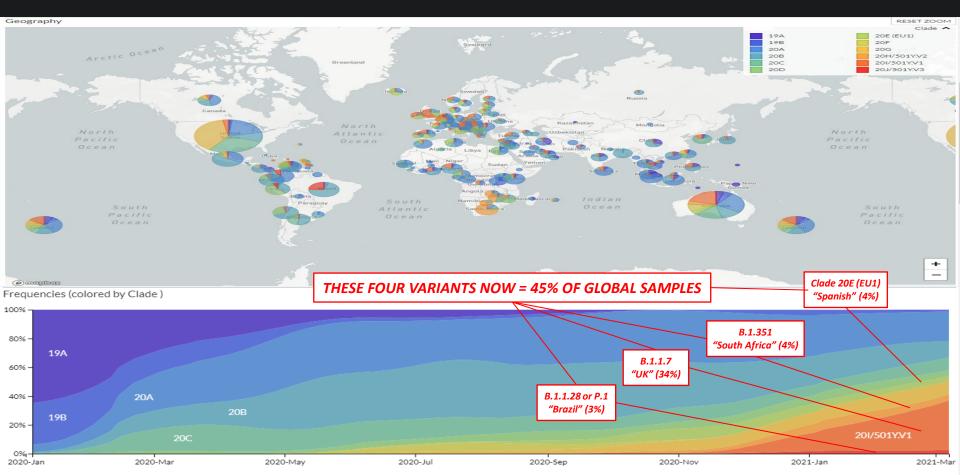
Alabama: 67.55%

Georgia: 64.91%

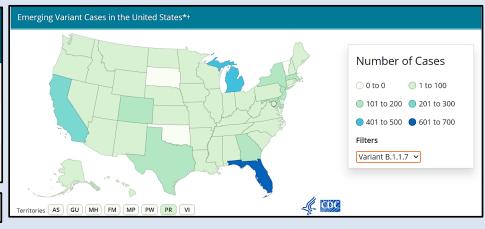


- o As a share of global genomic samples, <u>adaptively mutating variants</u> are growing:
 - o Over last month (Feb 6 to Mar 7), Big Four share has grown from 35% to 45%
 - o "UK" Variant (B.1.1.7). from 23% to 34% (+11%)—now dominant in 10 Western European nations
 - o "Brazil" Variant (P.1). from 2% to 3% (+1%)
 - o "South African" Variant (B.1.351). from 6% to 4% (-2%)
 - "Spanish" Variant (EU 1). from 4% to 4% (--)
- o In U.S., all Big Four variants continue to grow as share of all samples (though estimates are highly uncertain):
 - o "UK" variant now accounts for est 20-25% of all new U.S. samples in the U.S.
 - o Transmission rate within the U.S. is est 30-40% higher than earlier clades
 - o "South African" variant new accounts for est 1.0-2.0% of all new U.S. samples
 - o "Brazil" variant new accounts for est 0.5-1.0% of all new U.S. samples
- o <u>IMPORTANT</u>: Sample magnitude varies according to recent caseload trend <u>AND</u> according to size of national genomic sampling efforts. Consider contrast between UK and US:
 - o Testing per 1,000: in UK, 10; in US, 3
 - o Positive Rate: in UK, 0.9%; in US, 6%
 - o Current share of tests that are genomically sampled: in UK, 33%, in US, 3%
 - o Moreover, in US, there is a <u>vast variation in sampling rate by state</u>

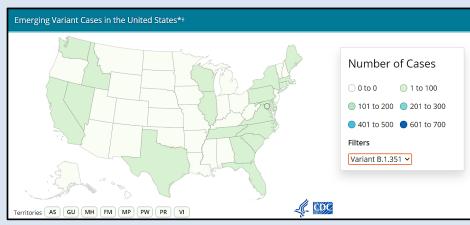


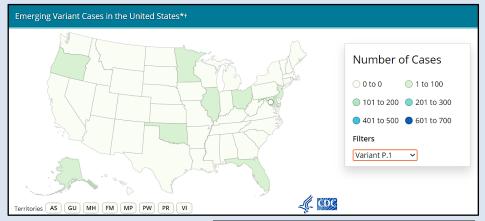


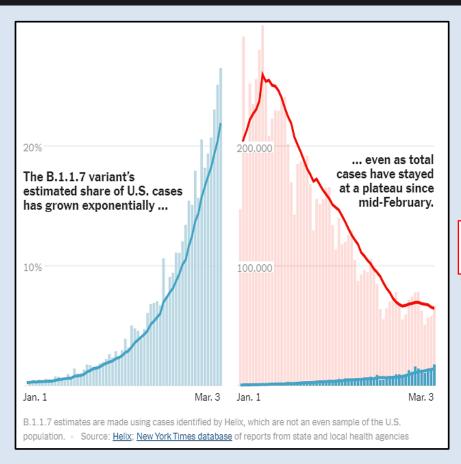
Variant	Reported Cases in US	Number of Jurisdictions Reporting
B.1.1.7	3283	49
B.1.351	91	21
P.1	15	9

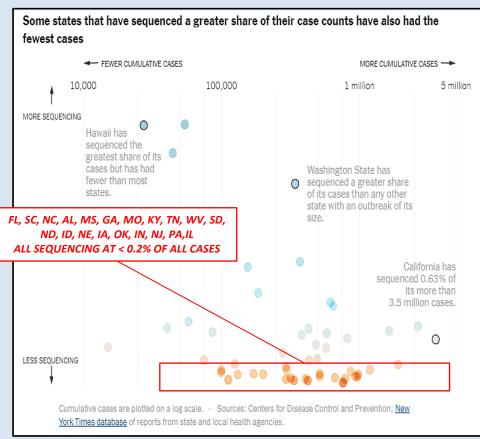


CDC C19 Cases Caused by Variants, Updated Mar 9, 2021









- Most positive news about variants: The two identified variants proven to be most resistant to prior wildtype immunity and to existing vaccines—B.1.351 and P.1—are not currently spreading beyond their original borders (South Africa and Brazil) at a worrisome rate.
- More troubling news about variants: Migration of the South African and Brazil variant may be unnecessary. Most or perhaps all of the adaptive mutations needs to evade existing immunity are being generated independently by domestic variants within countries. For example, the key South African mutations (484K, 417N, and 501Y) are turning up in other clades all over the world.
 - After taking its own (1,142) samples, Columbia U now estimates that the E484K mutation is now present in 12% of New York City infections.
 - o Many of these are appearing in a whole new variant, B.1.526, which now comprises 39% of NYC infections (up from 27% just one month ago). Total new variants (including UK) now comprise 51% of infections.
 - Two new variants are now spreading in California, B.1.427 and B.1.429 (from 20C clade) and are expected to become dominant there in a week or two. These variants have three new spike mutations—whose implications await further research. Most recent research: <u>CA variants have higher transmissivity, higher hospitalized, and are more resistant to prior wildtype immunity (4X) and to mRNA vaccines (2X)</u>.

FACE MASKS: REVISITING THE EVIDENCE

- Knowledge of the efficacy of face masks has a long pedigree, going back to the Black Death of the 14th c. It was
 periodically practiced in the 19th c. Received its first data-driven scientific trial in the Manchurian Plague of 1910-11
 (led by Cambridge-trained doctor Wu Lien-the). Widely practiced around the world (including the U.S.) during the
 Spanish Influenza. Remained popular in East Asia and was reinforced by SARS in 2002-04,
- o <u>Best summary of evidence against C19</u> recently published by Jeremy Howard et al., "An evidence review of face masks against COVID-19" (PNAS, Jan 11, 2021).
- o Types of studies offering the most persuasive evidence of efficacy:
 - o Models based on understanding of <u>how respiratory pathogens spread</u> (esp when aerosols are operative)
 - o Empirical comparisons of countries by policy and date.
 - o Empirical comparisons of states (within U.S.) by policy and date.
 - o Empirical comparisons of counties (within U.S.) by policy and date.
- O CDC Director Robert Redfield (Sep 2020): "These face masks are the most important, powerful public health tool we have. And I will continue to appeal for all Americans, all individuals in our country, to embrace these face coverings. I've said if we did it for 6, 8, 10, 12 weeks, we'd bring this pandemic under control. I might even go so far as to say that this face mask is more guaranteed to protect me against COVID than when I take a COVID vaccine."

MASKS: SLOWEST SPREAD BY COUNTRY

Country or region	Daily growth	Reduction from peak	Masking culture?	Universal masking (date made mandatory or recommended)	Strict lockdown (mass home quarantine)
Macau	2.4%	96.0%	yes	Feb 19	
Beijing	3.6%	98.5%	yes	Feb 8	partial
Shanghai	3.7%	83.6%	yes	Feb 8	partial
Guangdong	5.0%	95.8%	yes	Feb 8	partial
Hong Kong	5.5%	69.8%	yes	Jan 15	
Taiwan	5.6%	85.0%	yes	Jan 27	
Singapore	6.8%	23.5%	yes	Jan 30 (sick) Apr 5 (all)	partial
Japan	9.1%	24.5%	yes	Mar 4	partial
Estonia	10.0%	69.4%			
Slovakia	11.3%	29.9%		Mar 24	
S Korea	11.6%	94.4%	yes	Feb 27	
Slovenia	12.0%	46.0%		Mar 19	
Malaysia	13.1%	38.2%			Mar 18
Australia	13.9%	77.7%			Mar 23
Finland	14.2%	27.3%			Mar 27
Hungary	14.3%	26.5%			Mar 28
Norway	14.5%	61.0%			Mar 12
Lithuania	15.5%	46.0%			Mar 16

Sweden	15.9%	17.2%		
Denmark	16.2%	20.3%		Mar 11
CZ	16.6%	36.8%	Mar 18	Mar 16
Israel	17.0%	54.9%		
Austria	17.0%	70.3%	Mar 31	Mar 16
Lux	17.0%	63.2%		
IT	17.2%	40.4%		Mar 9
NZ	17.2%	44.3%		Mar 26
СН	17.3%	45.8%		
ND	18.4%	16.6%		Mar 16
Pol	18.5%	17.5%		Mar 13
Belgium	18.5%	20.1%		Mar 18
Ire	18.6%	23.9%		Mar 12
Canada	18.7%	37.1%		
Germany	19.6%	36.0%		(only Bavaria)
France	20.2%	56.6%		Mar 17
Portugal	20.4%	27.1%		Mar 19
UK	20.4%	22.4%		Mar 24
				Mar 19-24
116	24 604	F 504		(CA, NV, CT,
US	21.6%	5.5%		IL, KS, MA, MI,
				NY, OR, WI)
Spain	21.9%	38.8%		Mar 14

MASKS: SLOWEST SPREAD BY COUNTRY

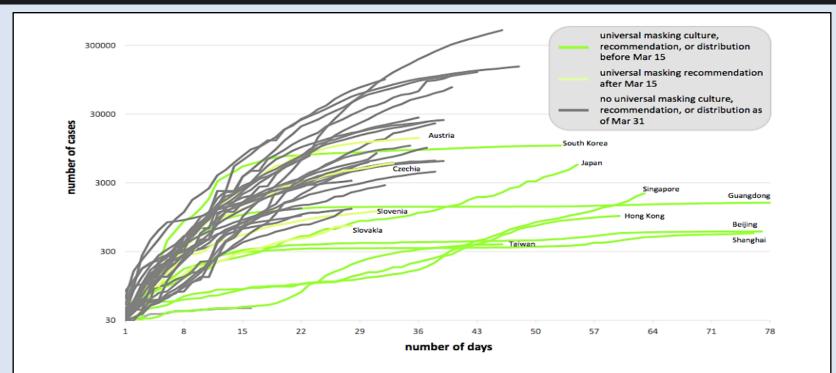
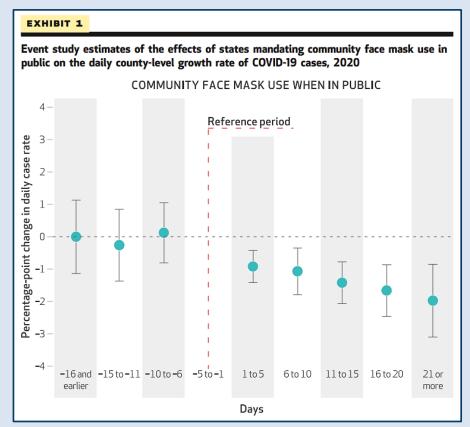
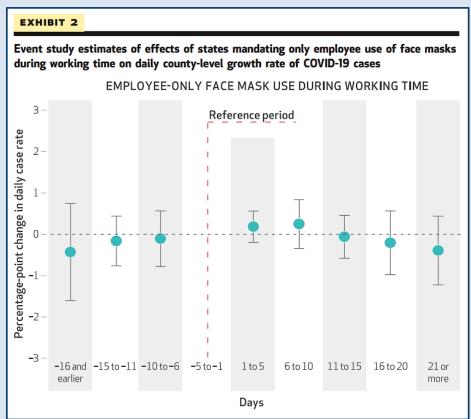


Figure 7: Daily growth curves showing the impact of universal masking on epidemic control: epidemic trajectory after 30 detected cases in universal masking selected countries and provinces (green) vs. others (grey). Masking is nearly perfectly correlated with lower daily growth or strong reduction from peak growth of COVID-19. Sources: John Hopkins, Wikipedia, VOA News, Quartz, Straits Times, South China Morning Post, ABCNews, Time.com, Channel New Asia, Moh.gov.sg, Reuters, Financial Times, Yna.co.kr, Nippon.com, Euronews, Spectator.sme.sk

MASKS: SLOWEST SPREAD BY STATE (U.S.)





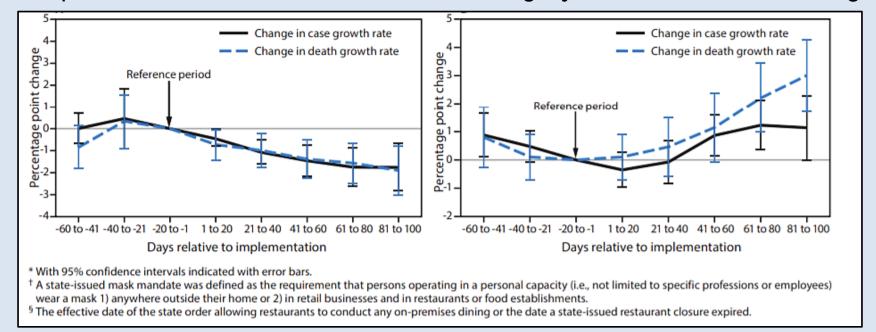
MASKS: SLOWEST SPREAD BY COUNTY (U.S.)

Association Between Policy + Changes in C19 Cases + Deaths Growth Rate.

Analysis of Daily County Data: March 1-December 31, 2020

Implementation of State Mask Mandaites

Allowing Any On-Premise Restaurant Dinning



MASKS: SLOWEST SPREAD BY COUNTY (U.S.)

Implementation of State Mask Mandates

Time relative to day state mask mandate was implemented		Case growth rates		Death growth rates		
		Percentage point change (95% CI) p-value [§]		Percentage point change (95% CI)	p-value [§]	
41-60 days before		0.0 (-0.7 to 0.7)	0.98	-0.8 (-1.8 to 0.1)	0.07	
21-40 days before		0.5 (-0.8 to 1.8)	0.49	0.3 (-0.8 to 1.5)	0.56	
1-20 days before	-Δ1.6% per DAY	Referent	_	Referent	_	
1-20 days after	= -Δ62.6% per MONTH	-0.5 (-0.8 to -0.1)	0.02	-0.7 (-1.4 to -0.1)	0.03	
21-40 days after		-1.1 (-1.6 to -0.6)	< 0.01	-1.0 (-1.7 to -0.3)	< 0.01	
41-60 days after		-1.5 (-2.1 to -0.8)	< 0.01	-1.4 (-2.2 to -0.6)	< 0.01	
61-80 days after		-1.7 (-2.6 to -0.9)	< 0.01	-1.6 (-2.4 to -0.7)	< 0.01	
81-100 days after		-1.8 (-2.8 to -0.7)	< 0.01	-1.9 (-3.0 to -0.8)	< 0.01	

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

- * A state-issued mask mandate was defined as the requirement that persons operating in a personal capacity (i.e., not limited to specific professions or employees) wear a mask 1) anywhere outside their home or 2) in retail businesses and in restaurants or food establishments.
- [†] Percentage points are coefficients from the weighted least-squares regression models. Reported numbers are from regression models, which controlled for county, time (day), COVID-19 tests per 100,000 persons, closure of restaurants for any on-premises dining, closure of bars for any on-premises dining, and the presence of gathering bans and stay-at-home orders.
- ⁵ P-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Allowing Any On-Premise Restaurant Dinning

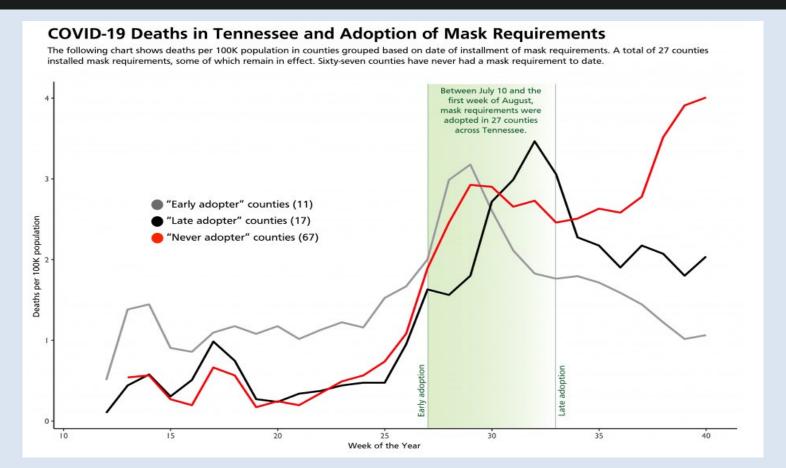
Time relative to day states	Case growth rates		Death growth rates		
allowed on-premises dining	Percentage point change (95% CI)	p-value§	Percentage point change (95% CI)	p-value§	
41-60 days before	0.9 (0.1 to 1.6)	0.02	0.8 (-0.2 to 1.8)	0.13	
21-40 days before	0.5 (-0.1 to 1.0)	0.08	0.1 (-0.7 to 0.9)	0.78	
1–20 days before	Referent	_	Referent	_	
1-20 days after	-0.4 (-0.9 to 0.2)	0.22	0.1 (-0.7 to 0.9)	0.78	
21-40 days after	-0.1 (-0.8 to 0.6)	0.83	0.5 (-0.5 to 1.5)	0.36	
41-60 days after	0.9 (0.2 to 1.6)	0.02	1.1 (-0.1 to 2.3)	0.06	
61-80 days after	1.2 (0.4 to 2.1)	< 0.01	2.2 (1.0 to 3.4)	< 0.01	
81–100 days after	1.1 (0.0 to 2.2)	0.04	3.0 (1.8 to 4.3)	< 0.01	

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

- * The effective date of the state order allowing restaurants to conduct any on-premises dining or the date a state-issued restaurant closure expired.
- † Percentage points are coefficients from the weighted least-squares regression models. Reported numbers are from regression models, which controlled for county, time (day), COVID-19 tests per 100,000 persons, mask mandates, closure of bars for any on-premises dining, and the presence of gathering bans and stay-at-home orders.

⁵ P-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

MASKS: SLOWEST SPREAD BY COUNTY (U.S.)



Q&A: SOME SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

- What are your thoughts on the recent AIER article regarding the effectiveness of face masks? See "Another Bungled CDC Study."
- Has the pandemic's effect, and the lockdowns on kids and teens clarified the generational boundary between Millennials and Homelanders?
- What percentage of the population suffers from long-term Covid-19 effects?
- Why is there limited media coverage on the use of Ivermectin against Covid-19?
- Has there been any new research on the effectiveness of Vitamin D?
- What are some possible permanent changes at a social, political, or economic level because of COVID?