

The Guardian.-06.11.2021

Sarah Marsh

## Coronavirus live: England speeds up booster jab rollout, Ukraine reports record daily death toll

*Коронавірус у прямому ефірі: Англія пришвидшує розгортання прискорювача, Україна повідомляє про рекордну кількість загиблих за день*

*За даними Міністерства охорони здоров'я України на 05.11. зафіксовано рекордний щоденний рекорд – 793 смертельні випадки від коронавірусу. Україна бореться зі скептицизмом щодо вакцинації Covid. Більше тисячі людей перекрили кілька вулиць у центрі української столиці, протестуючи проти сертифікатів на вакцини та введених державою обмежень для боротьби з вірусом.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2021/nov/06/coronavirus-live-news-england-speeds-up-booster-jab-rollout-ukraine-reports-record-daily-death-toll>

**Russia's** Covid-19 cases hit another one-day record as the country struggles to contain a wave of infections that have persisted for more than a month. The national coronavirus task force on Saturday reported 41,335 new cases since the previous day, exceeding the previous daily record of 40,993 from Oct. 31. The task force said 1,188 people with Covid-19 died, just seven fewer than the daily death record reported Thursday.

Officials cite Russia's low vaccination rate as a major factor in the sharp rise in cases that began in mid-September. The task force reported about 57.2 million full-course vaccinations or less than 40% of the country's 146 million people. Last month, President Vladimir Putin ordered many Russians to stay off work between Oct. 30 and Nov. 7. He authorized regional governments to extend the number of non-working days, if necessary. Several regions, including Novgorod in the northwest, Tomsk in Siberia, the Chelyabinsk region in the Ural Mountains and Kursk and Bryansk regions southwest of Moscow, have extended the nonworking period through the end of next week. Moscow's mayor said the situation in the capital had stabilized sufficiently for people to return to work there on Monday. People in the Russia-annexed Crimea region also will resume working next week. Certain restrictions will remain in place in the Russian capital, such as a stay-at-home order for older adults and a mandate for businesses to have 30% of their staff work from home. Access to theaters and museums is limited to those who either have been fully vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 within the last six months, or can present a negative coronavirus test. Russia has recorded more than 8.75 million confirmed virus cases and 245,635 deaths in the pandemic, according to the national task force, which counts only deaths directly attributed to the virus. Figures from the state statistical service, which also count deaths in which the virus was a contributing factor or was suspected but not confirmed, indicate the virus' impact is significantly more severe; its most recent report tallied about 462,000 virus-connected deaths through the end of September.

**1h ago** 11:18

Eleven patients died Saturday after a fire broke out in a hospital's Covid-19 ward in the western **Indian** state of Maharashtra, police said. There were 17 patients in the ward in the city of Ahmednagar where the fire started, said police Inspector Jyoti Karkade. The remaining six patients are in stable condition, she added. While the fire has been brought under control, the cause was not immediately clear. Officials said they will carry out an investigation. The former chief minister of the state, Devendra Fadnavis, took to Twitter to express his condolences and called for "strict action" against those responsible. Such incidents are not uncommon in India. In May, when the country was battling a devastating surge in coronavirus cases, a fire in a Covid-19 ward in western India killed at least 18 patients. Poor maintenance and lack of proper firefighting equipment often cause deaths in India.

**2h ago** 10:59

**Austria** said on Friday it was barring those not fully vaccinated against Covid-19 from cafes, restaurants, and hairdressers as the government struggles to convince people to get vaccinated. Around 64% of Austria's population is fully vaccinated against Covid, one of the lowest rates in western Europe. Many Austrians are sceptical about getting jabbed.

**2h ago** 10:28

Officials say 10 patients have died after a fire broke out in a hospital's Covid-19 ward in the western **Indian** state of Maharashtra. An official told New Delhi Television on Saturday that around 17 patients were in the ward when the fire broke out. The remaining patients have been moved to a Covid-19 ward in another hospital, district collector Rajendra Bhosle said. While the fire has since been brought under control, the cause was not immediately clear, he added, saying officials will carry out an investigation.

**2h ago** 10:20

Two hyenas at the **US Denver** zoo have tested positive for Covid-19, the first confirmed cases among the animals worldwide. Samples from a variety of animals at the zoo, including the spotted hyenas, were tested after several of its lions became ill, according to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL). The hyena samples tested presumptive positive at a lab at Colorado State University and were confirmed by the national lab. In addition to the two hyenas, 11 lions and two tigers at the zoo tested positive.

### **Hyenas at Denver zoo catch Covid in world first**

**2h ago** 10:04

**Russia** reported 41,335 new Covid-19 infections in the last 24 hours, its highest single-day case tally since the start of the pandemic. The government's coronavirus task force also reported 1,188 deaths related to the virus. A week-long workplace shutdown in Russia, designed to curb the spread of the virus, is nearing its end. Some regions are planning to extend restrictions into next week, but many have opted to resume work from Monday.

**3h ago** 09:57

**US pharma giants** Merck and Pfizer have announced encouraging results for oral drugs, while an antidepressant has also shown promise in what could open up a new chapter in the fight against the pandemic.

## What are these treatments?

They are pills taken orally as soon as the first symptoms of Covid-19 appear, to avoid serious forms of the illness, and therefore hospitalisation. This form of treatment has been sought since the start of the global health crisis. Early October, Merck said it was seeking authorisation in the United States for its pill molnupiravir, and Pfizer followed suit on Friday with paxlovid. They are both anti-virals that act by reducing the virus's ability to replicate, slowing down the disease.

## Why are they important?

If the efficacy of these drugs is confirmed, it will be a major step forward in the fight against Covid-19. They would add to vaccines to bolster the world's therapeutic arsenal against the virus. Treatments already exist, mostly in the form of synthetic antibodies. But these drugs, which usually target those who already have severe forms of the disease, are injected and therefore more difficult to administer. A pill can be quickly prescribed to a patient who will then take it at home.

## What limitations?

It is difficult so far to properly evaluate Merck and Pfizer's treatments given both groups have only published statements and have not made the data of their clinical trials available. French infectious diseases specialist Karine Lacombe warned in September that these types of announcements should be treated with "caution" until the studies can be scrutinised. She pointed out that these treatments represent a "potentially enormous" market for pharmaceutical groups.

**3h ago**09:39

Covid infections have fallen among secondary schoolchildren in **England** for the first time in weeks, but experts from the government's pandemic advisory body **are warning** that deaths and hospitalisations from the disease across the UK could soar over the next nine days. Figures released on Friday by the Office for National Statistics show that infection rates among children aged 11 to 16 in school years seven to 11 dropped to 7.5% in the week ending 30 October, ending rises throughout September, and down from a high of 9.1% the week before. While the infection rate is still far higher than in any other age group in the UK, scientists said the downturn may signify that cases have peaked in England, at least for the time being. While the data includes the October half-term week when children mixed less, the ONS said the tests performed in the week ending 30 October would have identified those infected before the break. The ONS figures raised hopes that the wave of disease that swept through schools at the start of the autumn term may finally be on the decline. **Covid infections dip among secondary schoolchildren in England**

**3h ago**09:18

**New Zealand's** 206 new daily community infections on Saturday carried it past the double-hundred mark for the first time during the coronavirus pandemic, as the nation scrambles to vaccinate its population of 5 million. The most populous city of Auckland, which reported 200 of the new cases, has lived under Covid-19 curbs for nearly three months as it battles an outbreak of the infectious Delta variant, although restrictions are expected to ease on Monday. The prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, said she wanted Auckland residents to be able

to travel for the southern hemisphere summer and Christmas. "We will not keep Aucklanders isolated to Auckland through that period - we simply cannot do that," Ardern told a news conference at the national gathering of her Labour party. Saturday's cases served to remind people of the importance of vaccination as the number one protection against the virus, the health ministry said in a statement. It said 78% of New Zealanders aged 12 and above had been fully vaccinated, while 89% had a first vaccine dose by Friday. Once praised globally for stamping out Covid-19, New Zealand has been unable to vanquish the Delta outbreak in Auckland, forcing Ardern to abandon a strategy of eliminating the virus in favour of efforts to live with it.

**3h ago**09:08

Australia reached on Saturday a full inoculation rate of 80% of those aged 16 and older, a moment that was dubbed by the country's prime minister as a "magnificent milestone". "Another, magnificent milestone, Australia," prime Minister Scott said in a video post on Facebook. "That's four out of five, how good is that? This has been a true Australian national effort." While vaccinations remain voluntary on the federal level, Australia's states and territories introduced mandatory measures for many occupations and workers. The unvaccinated are barred from many activities, such as dining out or concerts.

**4h ago**08:48

Mainland **China** reported 55 new Covid-19 cases on 6 November, down from 78 a day earlier, the country's national health authority said on Saturday. The National **Health** Commission said in its daily bulletin that 40 of the new cases were locally transmitted, down from 68 the previous day, with 16 in the north-east border province of Heilongjiang. The number of new asymptomatic cases, which China does not classify as confirmed cases, stood at 27, down from 42 a day earlier. Mainland China has reported 97,660 coronavirus cases, with 4,636 deaths

**4h ago**08:45

**Ukraine** reported a record daily high of 793 Coronavirus-related deaths, the health ministry said.

It comes as the country grapples with Covid vaccination scepticism. More than a thousand people blocked several streets in the centre of the Ukrainian capital on Wednesday, protesting against vaccine certificates and state-imposed restrictions to control the virus. The protesters held up signs reading "Say No to Covid passports", "Say no to Covid genocide".

**4h ago**08:45

In **England**, people will be able to book their Covid-19 booster jab a month before they are eligible from Monday. The NHS is changing the booking system to allow people in England to arrange an appointment a month in advance, as the health service aims to ramp up vaccination uptake ahead of a "challenging" winter. Currently, anyone eligible who had their second dose of a coronavirus vaccine six months ago can only book their top-up once those six months are up. The update means that people can pre-book an appointment after five months, allowing them to get vaccinated on the day they reach the six-month milestone. The health secretary, Sajid Javid, said: "Covid-19 vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and your family ahead of a challenging winter and this

change to the booking system will make it as easy as possible for people to book their booster jabs.”