

# Mexico hit new virus record of over 500 deaths per day

May 27 2020

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Ambulance workers unload a patient encased in a protective plastic tube and receiving supplemental oxygen at the COVID-19 triage unit at Mexico General Hospital, in Mexico City, Monday, May 25, 2020. Authorities have predicted that coronavirus cases in the city would peak in May, with reopening measures currently slated for mid-June. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

Mexico's health department reported 501 deaths from the coronavirus Tuesday, a new one-day high and the first time the figure exceeded 500.

The number of new cases also set a daily high, with 3,455 additional infections confirmed.

Mexico has so far recorded nearly 74,560 confirmed cases and 8,134 deaths, though officials acknowledge the number of cases is probably several times higher due to Mexico's extremely low rate of testing.

Mexico's daily death toll is now approaching that of the United States, at around 620, though Brazil leads in daily deaths with over 800.

The announcement came on the same day that dozens of health care professionals blocked a major boulevard in the capital for at least an hour to demand better [personal protective equipment](#). They displayed over-sized coveralls they were supposed to wear and held placards demanding better equipment.

It was the same day that the World Health Organization said in a letter to the Mexican government that it "wants to congratulate" Mexico on its social-distancing and lockdown measures. But the WHO insisted that testing is vital to containing the pandemic.

Mexico, with over 125 million people, has conducted about 230,000 tests to date, one of the lowest testing rates in the Western Hemisphere.

Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell said he believed the rate of increases in new cases in Mexico City, the worst-hit area of the country, would start to decline sometime next week.



Ambulance workers take turns spraying each other with disinfectant after delivering a patient to the COVID-19 triage unit at Mexico General Hospital in Mexico City, Monday, May 25, 2020. Authorities have predicted that coronavirus cases in the city would peak in May, with reopening measures currently slated for mid-June. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)





A medical worker moves a patient from the COVID-19 triage unit at Mexico General Hospital, in Mexico City, Monday, May 25, 2020. Authorities have predicted that coronavirus cases in the city would peak in May, with reopening measures currently slated for mid-June. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)



A patient encased in a protective plastic tube and receiving supplemental oxygen is wheeled into the COVID-19 triage unit at Mexico General Hospital, in Mexico City, Monday, May 25, 2020. Authorities have predicted that coronavirus cases in the city would peak in May, with reopening measures currently slated for mid-June. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)



An image of Santa Muerte, or Sacred Death, hangs on a tree on a block where family members typically wait for news of their loved ones outside Balbuena General Hospital, which is treating both patients with COVID-19 and those with other conditions, in Mexico City, Monday, May 25, 2020. Authorities have predicted that coronavirus cases in the city would peak in May, with reopening measures currently slated for mid-June. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

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