

# Testing stepped up as number of new coronavirus cases surges

June 29 2020, by Emily Schmall and Elaine Kurtenbach

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People wearing face masks to help protect against the spread of the new coronavirus cross a road in Seoul, Monday, June 29, 2020. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Governments were stepping up testing and warily considering their next

moves Monday as the number of newly confirmed coronavirus cases surges in many countries. India reported 20,000 new cases Monday, while the U.S. confirmed more than 40,000 new infections for the third straight day.

As infections rise in the northern hemisphere, many governments are stepping up testing and mulling more aggressive moves such as renewed lockdowns to stem fresh outbreaks.

India's 20,000 new infections was a new daily record. Several states reimposed partial or full lockdowns after the total number of cases jumped by nearly 100,000 in one week to 548,318.

While some states have tightened precautions, in the worst-affected regions of Maharashtra, which includes India's financial capital, Mumbai, and Delhi, home to the federal capital of New Delhi, most restrictions have been eased, with restaurants, shopping malls and parks reopened, and public buses and shared-ride services back on the roads.

The United States, the worst affected country, reported 42,600 newly confirmed infections as of Saturday, with the total surpassing 2.5 million, or about a quarter of all of the more than 10 million confirmed cases worldwide, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say the actual numbers, both in the U.S. and globally, are likely to be far higher due to the large number of apparently asymptomatic cases and issues with testing.





Financial union members wearing face masks to help protect against the spread of the new coronavirus attend a rally against government's financial policy in front of the Financial Supervisory Service in Seoul, Monday, June 29, 2020. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Beaches were closing and beer was going untapped as Florida, Texas and other states backpedaled on their pandemic reopenings, ordering mandatory use of masks in public places and closing down restaurants and bars in hopes of stemming a resurgence in cases.

Nearly 8.3 million out of about 21 million have undergone testing in recent weeks in the Chinese capital after an outbreak centered on a wholesale market. The country had 12 new cases Monday, including seven in Beijing, down by more than half from the day before, the

National Health Commission reported.

South Korean authorities reported 47 new cases as they struggled to curb outbreaks that have spread from Seoul to other regions.

Widespread testing and contact tracing helped South Korea contain its initial outbreak in which it was finding hundreds of new cases a day in late February and early March. Most of those cases were in the area surrounding the city of Daegu, where many were linked to a single church congregation with thousands of members.



Visitors set up inside circles designed to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus by encouraging social distancing, at Dolores Park in San Francisco, Sunday, June 28, 2020. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)



Tracing recent transmissions in the Seoul metropolitan area, home to about about half of the country's 51 million people, has proved to be more difficult.

South Korean health officials have said they are preparing to implement stronger social distancing measures—including banning all gatherings of more than 10 people, shutting schools, halting professional sports, and restricting operations of non-essential businesses—if the daily increase in infections doubles more than two times in a week.

Health authorities are using what they describe as a world-first saliva test for the coronavirus in Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne in the state of Victoria, where the disease is spreading at an alarming rate.

Victorian Health Minister Jenny Mikakos said Monday that 75 people had tested positive in the state in the latest 24 hours, bringing the total number to 2,099.



In this March 26, 2020, file photo, an indoors sitting bar is closed inside the Gelson's Market in Los Feliz neighborhood of Los Angeles. Gov. Gavin Newsom on Sunday, June 28, 2020, ordered bars that have opened in seven California counties to immediately close and urged bars in eight other counties to do the same, saying the coronavirus was rapidly spreading in some parts of the state. The counties under the mandatory bar closure order are: Los Angeles, Fresno, San Joaquin, Kings, Kern, Imperial and Tulare. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File)

Brett Sutton, Victoria's chief health officer, said the outbreak could surge out of control as pandemic restrictions ease elsewhere in Australia.

"I think it's a genuine challenge now. I think we're right at the edge in terms of being able to manage it," Sutton said.

In the Philippines, a Southeast Asian coronavirus hotspot with more than 35,000 confirmed infections, local officials were under fire for allowing a street parade and dance during a weekend religious festival to honor St. John the Baptist despite quarantine prohibitions against public gatherings.

Performers in native wear and face masks danced during the night procession, which drew a large crowd in Basak village on Cebu, in the central Philippines.

Restrictions have been eased in many places to help salvage the ailing Philippine economy, but Cebu resumed a strict lockdown this month after new cases spiked.





Workers collect the coffins of people that have been recently cremated amid the new coronavirus pandemic, at the La Recoleta cemetery in Santiago, Chile, Sunday, June 28, 2020. The coffins are collected, destroyed, and processed by a company specialized in organic waste. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

Some governments are pushing ahead with reopening travel, particularly between countries where outbreaks of the virus appear to be contained, though the changing landscape of the pandemic suggests the process will be complicated and subject to change.

The European Union is preparing a list of 15 countries whose nationals will be allowed to visit the bloc beginning Wednesday, Spain's foreign minister, Arancha Gonzalez Laya, told the Cadena SER radio network.



The resurgence of cases in the U.S. means Americans may not be on that list. Gonzalez Laya said countries will be chosen according to their coronavirus status and the reliability of their data.

"This is not an exercise to be nice or unfriendly to other countries, this is an exercise of self-responsibility," she said. She confirmed that Spain will reopen its borders with Portugal despite rising infections there.



Workers collect and stack the coffins of people that have been recently cremated amid the new coronavirus pandemic, at the La Recoleta cemetery in Santiago, Chile, Sunday, June 28, 2020. The coffins are collected, destroyed, and processed by a company specialized in organic waste. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)



Musicians perform in front of the Bergamo cemetery, Italy, Sunday, June 28, 2020. Italy bid farewell to its coronavirus dead on Sunday with a haunting Requiem concert performed at the entrance to the cemetery of Bergamo, the hardest-hit province in the onetime epicenter of the outbreak in Europe. President Sergio Mattarella was the guest of honor, and said his presence made clear that all of Italy was bowing down to honor Bergamo's dead, "the thousands of men and women killed by a sickness that is still greatly unknown and continues to threaten the world." (Claudio Furlan/LaPresse via AP)





Hundreds of LGBT members and supporters attend a gay pride rally under strict health restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak in Tel Aviv, Israel, Sunday, June 28, 2020. The rally has been down-scaled amid the coronavirus outbreak in Tel Aviv, which last year drew more than 250,000 people. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)





In this Wednesday June 17, 2020, file photo a health worker in personal protective gear takes a break at the Netcare Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. South Africa's Health Minister Zwelini Mkhize said, Sunday, June 18, 2020, that the country's current surge of COVID-19 cases is expected to dramatically increase in the coming weeks and press the country's hospitals to the limit. (AP Photo/Nardus Engelbrecht/File)

Travelers at Frankfurt airport, Germany's biggest and a major intercontinental hub, will be able to get an on-site coronavirus test before jetting off after the airport, German carrier Lufthansa and medical research company Centogene open a walk-in testing center Monday.

Fast-track tests providing results within two to three hours will cost 139 euros (\$156). Regular tests with results available within six to twelve

hours—recommended for travelers who can get tested the day before departure—cost 59 euros (\$52).

Meanwhile, civil aviation authorities in the United Arab Emirates announced they have suspended all flights to Pakistan until a "special laboratory" can be set up to conduct coronavirus tests for people traveling from the country to the UAE.

The UAE's state-run WAM news agency issued a statement late Sunday from the country's General Civil Aviation Authority announcing the decision.

Pakistan resumed international travel earlier this month even as critics said the airport precautions were limited and ineffective. Last week, Pakistani media reported 27 passengers traveling from Pakistan arrived in Hong Kong and tested positive for COVID-19. The passengers had transited through the UAE.

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