

EU bars visitors from US where experts warn of potential virus surge

July 1 2020, by Chris Lefkow With Afp Bureaus



Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, warned that the US could see 100,000 new coronavirus cases a day

The European Union reopened its borders Wednesday to visitors from 15 countries—but not the virus-stricken United States, where a top

health official warned the country is headed in the "wrong direction" as cases spike in multiple states.

US infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci said that the United States could see 100,000 new COVID-19 cases a day, and several US states imposed 14-day quarantines on travelers from other states.

Also in the US, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden announced he will not hold rallies during the outbreak, a move that is in stark contrast with President Donald Trump, who has already held large campaign gatherings.

The 77-year-old former vice president delivered a blistering critique of his November opponent's handling of the virus, saying the Republican president had "failed" the country.

"This is the most unusual campaign I think in modern history," Biden said. "I'm going to follow the doc's orders—not just for me but for the country—and that means that I am not going to be holding rallies."

In Brussels, the EU finalized the list of countries whose health situation was deemed safe enough to allow residents to enter the bloc starting on Wednesday.

Notably excluded were Russia and Brazil, as well as the United States, whose daily death toll passed 1,000 Tuesday for the first time since June 10.



Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said he will not be holding campaign rallies because of the pandemic

The countries that made it onto the EU's list are Algeria, Australia, Canada, Japan, Georgia, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.

Travelers from China, where the virus first emerged late last year, will be allowed on the condition that Beijing reciprocates and opens the door to EU residents.

The border relaxation, to be reviewed in two weeks and left to member states to implement, is a bid to help rescue the continent's battered tourism sector, which has been choked by a ban on non-essential travel

in place since mid-March.

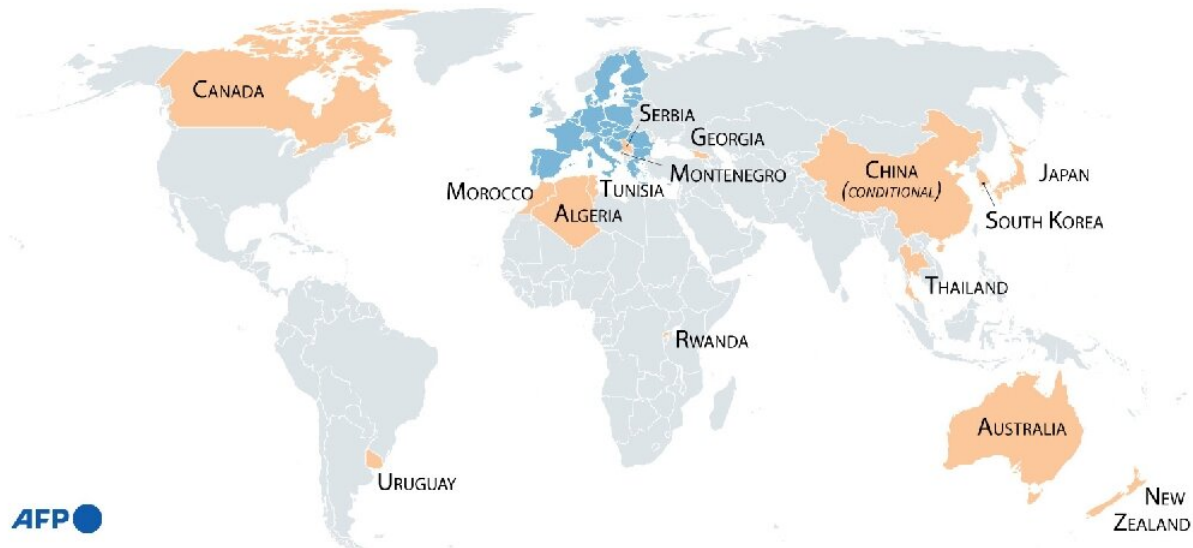
But with some 10.4 million known infections worldwide, the pandemic is "not even close to being over," the World Health Organization has warned.

'Very disturbing'

In Washington, Fauci, a member of Trump's coronavirus task force, warned Congress that "clearly we are not in total control right now."

EU opens borders to safe list of countries

COVID-19 rate considered low enough for travellers to visit Europe from July 1



EU opens borders to safe list of countries

"I would not be surprised if it goes up to 100,000 a day if this does not turn around."

Alarming spikes in Texas and Florida are driving the national total of new cases to over 40,000 per day, and they need to be tamped down quickly to avoid dangerous surges elsewhere in the country, Fauci stressed.

Texas alone reported 6,975 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, its highest tally yet.

"I'm very concerned and I'm not satisfied with what's going on, because we're going in the wrong direction," Fauci said.

The pandemic has claimed some 127,000 American lives so far and more than 508,000 around the globe.

Senator Lamar Alexander, a Republican who chairs the Senate panel, urged Trump to end the politicization of mask-wearing by putting on one himself.

"The president has plenty of admirers, they would follow his lead," Alexander said. "It would help end this political debate."



A woman is tested at a walk-in testing centre opened by German biotech company Centogene, at the airport in Frankfurt am Main

New York, New Jersey and Connecticut on Tuesday doubled to 16 the number of US states whose residents must go into quarantine for 14 days if they visit any of the northeastern states.

The Pan American Health Organization warned, meanwhile, that the [coronavirus](#) death toll in Latin America and the Caribbean could top 400,000 by October without stricter public health measures.

That would represent a quadrupling of the fatal cases of COVID-19 in the region.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, meanwhile, scored a victory Tuesday when a judge overturned a ruling that had forced him to wear a mask in public. The judge deemed the rule redundant since face masks are already mandatory in Brasilia.

'Infrastructure revolution'

European aircraft maker Airbus said it is planning to cut around 15,000 jobs worldwide, 11 percent of its total workforce.



A health official conducts tests in New Delhi



Pubs in England are set to re-open

COVID-19

World toll on Tuesday June 30 at 1100 GMT

Countries and territories affected **196**

Deaths	new deaths	Cases	new cases
505,652	2,876	10,322,408	105,516

New deaths and cases since June 29 at 1900 GMT

Worst-affected countries

	Deaths	new deaths	Cases
UNITED STATES	126,141	213	2,590,582
BRAZIL	58,314	692	1,368,195
UNITED KINGDOM	43,575	—	311,965
ITALY	34,744	—	240,436
FRANCE	29,813	—	200,667
SPAIN	28,346	—	248,970
MEXICO	27,121	473	220,657
INDIA	16,893	418	566,840
IRAN	10,817	147	227,662
BELGIUM	9,747	15	61,427
PERU	9,504	187	282,365
RUSSIA	9,320	154	647,849

Increases over 24 hours may not tally exactly with previous day's total due to inavailability or late publication of data or corrections made by authorities

Sources: AFP tally based on official tolls



COVID-19: World toll

Britain, home to Europe's deadliest outbreak, has already seen its sharpest quarterly contraction in 40 years, shrinking 2.2 percent from January-March.

The worst is yet to come, with economists predicting a double-digit slump in output during the second quarter, tipping Britain into a technical recession.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed Tuesday to deliver an "infrastructure revolution" to help the country out of the economic downturn.

Germany, which has been praised for its handling of COVID-19, saw its North Rhine-Westphalia state extend a lockdown on a district hit hard by a slaughterhouse outbreak.

And in Australia, a spike in cases in parts of Melbourne spurred new stay-at-home measures affecting some 300,000 people.

Around the world, sporting events continued to fall off the calendar, including the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations and the remainder of this year's World Rugby Sevens Series.

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