

India hits 1 million virus cases, nations battle flare-ups

July 17 2020, by Elaine Kurtenbach, Nomaan Merchant and Menelaos Hadjicostis



Residents arrive for getting themselves tested for COVID-19 symptoms in Mumbai, India, Friday, July 17, 2020. India crossed 1 million coronavirus cases on Friday, third only to the United States and Brazil, prompting concerns about its readiness to confront an inevitable surge that could overwhelm hospitals and test the country's feeble health care system. (AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade)

A return of stringent coronavirus restrictions in Israel, another daily record of reported cases in Japan's capital and outbreaks in remote areas such as China's Xinjiang region underscored Friday the ongoing battle to quash COVID-19 flare-ups as the world's latest hot spots pushed the confirmed global case tally toward 14 million.

India said the country's total confirmed cases surpassed 1 million, the third-highest number behind the United States and Brazil, and its [death toll](#) reached more than 25,000. That followed Brazil's announcement Thursday evening that its confirmed cases exceeded 2 million, including 76,000 deaths.

Governments are frantically trying to prevent and put down fresh outbreaks and keep their economies running as the pandemic accelerates in some parts of the world and threatens to come roaring back in others. Worldwide, confirmed cases numbered more than 13.8 million Friday and COVID-19 deaths totaled more than 590,000.

Israel on Friday reimposed sweeping restrictions to tackle a new surge in coronavirus cases in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called "interim steps" to avoid another general lockdown.

Stores, malls, barber shops, beauty salons, beaches and tourist sites will also be closed on weekends. Public gatherings will be limited to 10 people indoors or 20 outside.

New virus cases have soared in Israel since restrictions were lifted in late May. The country reported around 1,900 new cases on Thursday. At least 384 people have died since the outbreak began.



A health worker checks the body temperature of a boy at a medical camp to screen residents for COVID-19 symptoms in Mumbai, India, Friday, July 17, 2020. India crossed 1 million coronavirus cases on Friday, third only to the United States and Brazil, prompting concerns about its readiness to confront an inevitable surge that could overwhelm hospitals and test the country's feeble health care system. (AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade)

Japan's capital recorded a single-day record number of new coronavirus cases for a second straight day on Friday with 293. Tokyo was taken off a list of places around the country where discounts are offered under a government scheme to encourage domestic tourism.

Like elsewhere around the world, the recent infections have triggered concerns that the government moved to ramp up the Japanese economy too quickly. Many governments—national, regional and local - have

been rolling back reopenings and tightening restrictions to try to stave off more waves of new cases.

Spain, which earlier in the pandemic was one of the world's hardest hit countries, was grappling with more than 150 active outbreaks, most of them in the northern Aragon and Catalonia regions. Health authorities on Friday asked the 5.5 million residents of Barcelona, the regional capital of Catalonia, to stay at home as much as possible to stem the virus' spread.



CORRECTS NAME TO KATIE FROM KATY - Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force members Army Maj. Katie Bessler, right, and Infectious Disease Physician Maj. Gadiel Alvarado, enter a wing at United Memorial Medical Center, Thursday, July 16, 2020, in Houston. Soldiers will treat COVID-19 patients in the newly prepared hospital wing as Texas receives help from across

the country to deal with its coronavirus surge. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

They also announced a local ban on social gatherings over 10 people, and nightclub and gym closures. Spain reported 580 new cases Thursday, the highest daily number since May 10.

Australia's most populous state, New South Wales, on Friday announced increased pandemic restrictions after detecting eight new COVID-19 cases in a cluster that began in a Sydney pub and was traced to a visitor from Melbourne. Around 42 cases have since been linked to that cluster.

Authorities were hoping that fresh controls might bring the infection count to a plateau, as Melbourne reported a record 428 new COVID-19 cases on Friday.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson charted a different course, announcing that the government was no longer asking people to avoid public transit and that as of Aug. 1 would stop advising workers in England to work from home.



An employee cleans a booth at a testing and screening facility for the new coronavirus, in a hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, Friday, July 17, 2020. (AP Photo/Fareed Khan)

Keen to reinvigorate the economy, Johnson wants to see struggling businesses that rely on office workers to rebound. He also announced that beauticians, casinos, bowling alleys and skating rinks would be allowed to reopen next month as long as infection rates don't start climbing again.

The prime minister's decision to give employers more leeway to ask their staffs to return to regular work locations appeared to conflict with the views of his chief scientific adviser, who said Thursday that there was "absolutely no reason" to change the work-from-home advice.

The U.K.'s official pandemic death toll, which stood at more than 45,000 as of Friday, has for several weeks been the highest in Europe and the third-highest in the world behind the United States and Brazil.

China, where the coronavirus first emerged late last year, on Friday reported nine imported cases. Health officials in the Muslim northwestern region of Xinjiang also reported six confirmed cases of local transmission. They said another 11 people tested positive but were asymptomatic. China does not include asymptomatic cases in its caseload totals.



A health worker puts on a protective suit before screening people for COVID-19 symptoms at residential building in Dharavi, one of Asia's biggest slums, in Mumbai, India, Friday, July 17, 2020. India crossed 1 million coronavirus cases on Friday, third only to the United States and Brazil, prompting concerns about

its readiness to confront an inevitable surge that could overwhelm hospitals and test the country's feeble health care system. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

Xinjiang, where Chinese authorities have been accused of mass detentions and other human rights abuses against ethnic Muslims, is so far from Beijing that residents operate by their own, unofficial time zone. Until now, the region had been little affected by virus outbreaks elsewhere that have since appeared to be under control.

The continuing surge of new cases in India drove home concerns over the readiness of some countries to cope with outbreaks that could overwhelm hospitals and test feeble health care systems. The government ordered a weeklong lockdown in the technology hub of Bangalore after confirmed cases there increased exponentially.

"The acceleration in cases remains the main challenge for India in the coming days," said Dr. Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, adding that a vast majority of cases were still being missed.



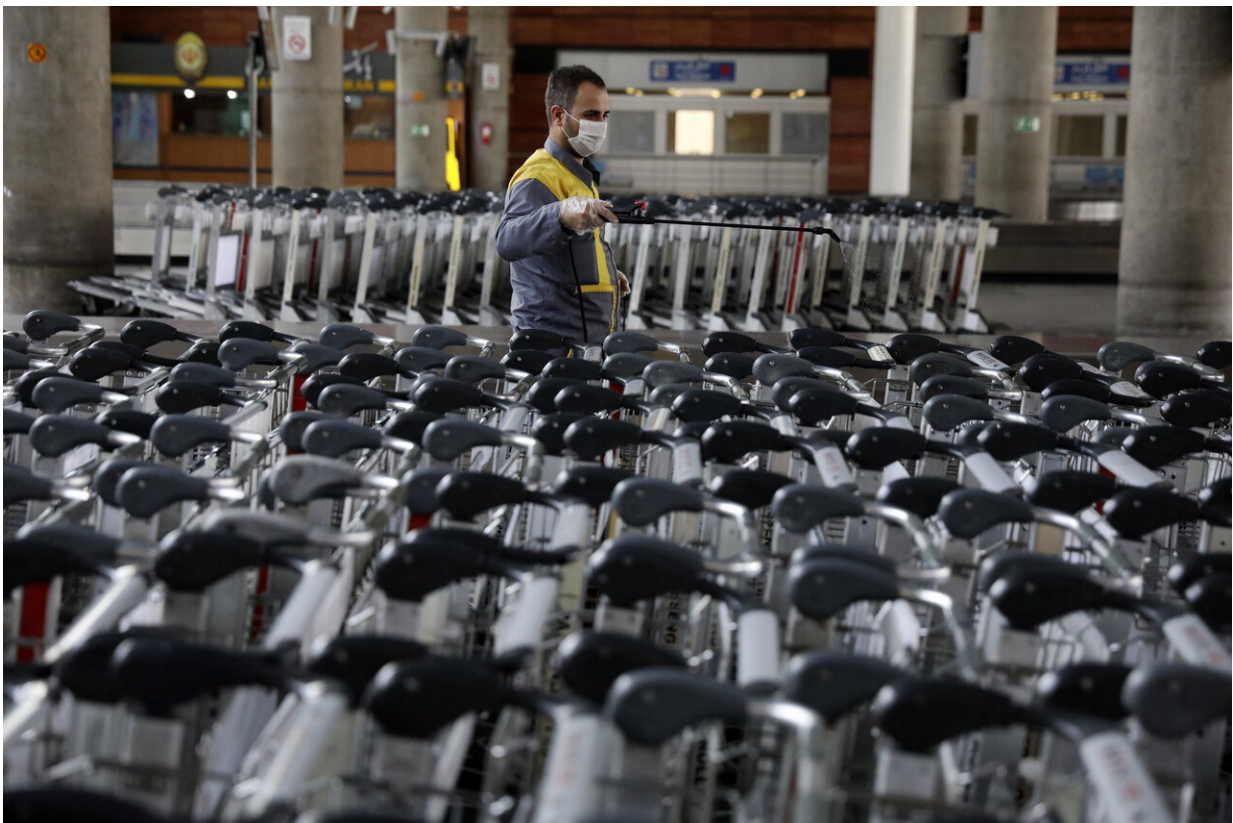
Girls in a car watch a drive-in concert at Gyeongbok Palace parking lot in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, July 17, 2020. The concert's aim is to provide entertainment for people during the coronavirus outbreak. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

South Africa now has the world's sixth-highest reported caseload, with 324,221 cases accounting for more than half the total confirmed in Africa. Many are clustered in South Africa's densely populated Gauteng province, home of Johannesburg and one-quarter of the country's population.

Meanwhile, the coronavirus deluge in parts of the United States produced more record numbers of confirmed infections and deaths in the South and West.

Hospitals are stretched to the brink in many areas amid fears that outbreaks were only getting started. At least half of the 50 states have adopted requirements for wearing masks or other facial coverings.

Texas reported 10,000 new cases for the third straight day and 129 additional deaths. A third of its more than 3,400 total COVID-19 fatalities came in the first two weeks of July alone.



A worker disinfects trolleys at terminal of Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport, Iran, Friday, July 17, 2020. The first Emirates flight arrived in Iran after nearly 5 months of suspension of the most airliners flights to the country due to the coronavirus outbreak, as Iranian officials at the airport say they are doing everything possible to ensure passengers are not infected, and isolate those with symptoms. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)



Customers buy fish at a market in Barcelona, Spain, Friday, July 17, 2020. Health authorities are asking Barcelona's 5.5 million residents to reduce their socialization to a minimum and to stay at home as much as possible to stem the spread of the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)



Visitors wearing masks to curb the spread of the coronavirus use their phones to record the opening day of the Apple Sanlitun store in Beijing Friday, July 17, 2020. China's economy rebounded from a painful contraction to grow by 3.2% over a year earlier in the latest quarter as anti-virus lockdowns were lifted and factories and stores reopened. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)



People walk on pedestrian crossings Friday, July 17, 2020, at Tokyo's Shibuya district. The Japanese capital has confirmed Friday more than 290 new coronavirus cases. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)



People sit in a terrace bar in Barcelona, Spain, Friday, July 17, 2020. Health authorities are asking Barcelona's 5.5 million residents to reduce their socialization to a minimum and to stay at home as much as possible to stem the spread of the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)



A man wearing a protective mask to help curb the spread of the coronavirus passes by a window display of a dress on a mannequin with a similar mask, Friday, July 17, 2020, in Tokyo. The Japanese capital has confirmed Friday more than 290 new coronavirus cases. (AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)



A girl reacts while getting a nasal swab sample at a testing and screening facility for the new coronavirus in a hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, Friday, July 17, 2020. (AP Photo/Fareed Khan)



Health workers record reports before collecting swab samples in Mumbai, India, Friday, July 17, 2020. India crossed 1 million coronavirus cases on Friday, third only to the United States and Brazil, prompting concerns about its readiness to confront an inevitable surge that could overwhelm hospitals and test the country's feeble health care system. (AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade)

Florida reached another ominous record, with 156 virus deaths, and a staggering 13,965 new cases.

© 2020 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: India hits 1 million virus cases, nations battle flare-ups (2020, July 17) retrieved 26 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-07-india-million-virus-cases-nations.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.