

Mexico reverses some openings as virus cases continue high

July 4 2020



A waiter hands out disinfectant to customers before entering a Chinese restaurant in downtown Mexico City, Friday, July 3, 2020. Limited reopening of restaurants and other businesses in the capital this week came as new coronavirus cases continued to climb steadily. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Mexico's coronavirus outbreak rose by about 6,740 newly confirmed

cases Friday for a second straight day, while 654 more deaths raised the country's total to 29,843.

The number of deaths is the sixth-highest highest in the world, and Mexico is just a few dozen from overtaking France for the fifth-highest [death](#) toll, though Mexico's population is about double that of France.

The continued increase in cases and deaths has stalled Mexico's planned re-opening. The northern border state of Nuevo Leon, home to the city of Monterrey, declared a weekend curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Given the spike in cases in the United States, several Mexican border states announced they would establish temperature checks for visitors coming from the U.S., or require they show have hotel reservations or are engaged in some essential business or work activity.

The Mexico City government said Friday it will re-close some of the streets and businesses allowed to open during the week in the capital's historic colonial-era downtown, after crowding and a lack of sanitary measures were reported at some stores. While most customers and clients wore some form of face mask, many stores didn't reduce the number of clients allowed in, provide foot-wiping pads or sanitizer gel.



A Mexican police officer gives social-distancing and precautionary COVID-19 related guidelines to tourists in the historic center of Mexico City, Friday, July 3, 2020. Limited reopening of restaurants and other businesses in the capital this week came as new coronavirus cases continued to climb steadily. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)



A pedestrian wears a makeshift face mask as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19, in downtown Mexico City, Friday, July 3, 2020. Limited reopening of restaurants and other businesses in the capital this week came as new coronavirus cases continued to climb steadily. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)



Caution tape blocks off access to the Bellas Artes Palace despite the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions, in downtown Mexico City, Friday, July 3, 2020. Limited reopening of restaurants and other businesses in the capital this week came as new coronavirus cases continued to climb steadily. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)



Mexicans are seen out and about after the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions, near the Bellas Artes Palace in downtown Mexico City, Friday, July 3, 2020. Limited reopening of restaurants and other businesses in the capital this week came as new coronavirus cases continued to climb steadily. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said the re-closing of the Centro area "is not a punishment, it is simply a pause in the voyage."

The joint plan required the active participation of the government, the public and store owners, and Sheinbaum said it will now be rethought.

"We planned it together, we tried it and it got out of control," she said.

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