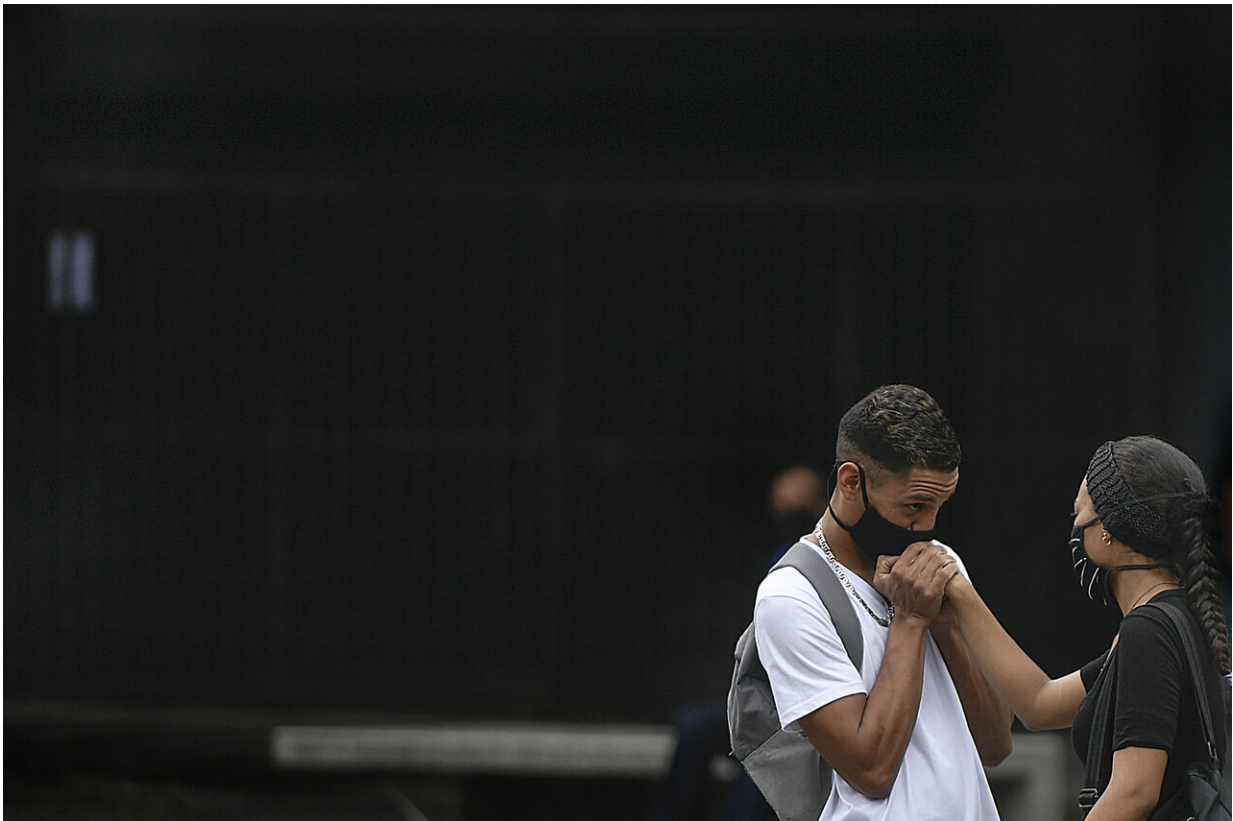


Virus surges in India, Philippines; Australia imposes curfew

August 2 2020, by Ashok Sharma and Joe McDonald



A man, wearing a protective face mask, kisses his girlfriend's hand on Sabana Grande boulevard in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, amid the new coronavirus pandemic. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)

Surges of new coronavirus cases continued Sunday in India and the Philippines, which recorded another daily high to surpass 100,000 total

infections, as officials across the globe considered stricter measures to stymie the spread of the pandemic.

A curfew was imposed on Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne, following a spike in infections.

Countries including the United States, India and South Africa are struggling to rein in their first wave of infections while South Korea and others where the disease abated try to avert a second wave as curbs on travel and trade ease.

Governments worldwide have reported 684,075 deaths and 17.8 million cases, according to data gathered by Johns Hopkins University.

India's 54,735 new cases were down from the previous day's record 57,118 but raised the total to 1.75 million. The month of July accounted for more than 1.1 million of those cases.

The major cities of New Delhi and Mumbai might have passed their peaks, said a government expert, Randeep Guleria. Subways, cinemas and other public facilities are closed until Aug. 31.

The Philippines reported 5,032 new cases, raising its total to 103,185, with 2,059 deaths.

On Saturday, leaders of Philippine medical organizations appealed to President Rodrigo Duterte to reimpose a lockdown on the capital, Manila. They said the health system was in danger as personnel fall ill or quit due to fear or fatigue.



A man prays with only a few other parishioners as a measure to prevent the spread of COVID19 during Mass at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020, in Quezon city, Philippines. Coronavirus infections in the Philippines continues to surge Sunday as medical groups declared the country was waging a losing battle against the contagion and asked the president to reimpose a lockdown in the capital. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

In Japan, the government reported 1,540 new cases, close to Friday's record of 1,579.

The spike in infections, most of them in their 20s and 30s, prompted warnings young people were letting their guard down. Gov. Yuriko Koike of Tokyo, which has about one-third of the new infections, says she might declare an emergency to contain the outbreak.

In Florida, authorities were trying to prepare storm shelters while enforcing social distancing as Tropical Storm Isaias churned toward the heavily populated state. It was due to be near the coast early Sunday.

Florida reported 179 deaths on Saturday, raising its total to more than 7,000.

The governor warned residents to expect power outages and said they should have a week's supply of water and food.

The United States has the world's biggest number of confirmed cases at 4.6 million, or one-quarter of the total, and 154,361 deaths. White House [coronavirus](#) task force leader Dr. Deborah Birx said Sunday that the virus had entered a "new phase" in the U.S. as it has rapidly spread in rural and urban America.



A man walks his dog as the sun sets in Asuncion, Paraguay, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, amid the new coronavirus pandemic. (AP Photo/Jorge Saenz)

"What we are seeing today is different from March and April. It is extraordinarily widespread," Birx told CNN's "State of the Union" as she urged Americans to wear face masks and observe social distancing measures.

In Australia, Premier Daniel Andrews of the southern state of Victoria announced a 8 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew on Melbourne, a city of 5 million people. Schools statewide are to return to home-based teaching and day care centers were closed.

Andrews said there were seven deaths and 671 new cases since Saturday.

"If we don't make these changes, we're not going to get through this," Andrews said.

Also Sunday, China and South Korea reported more infections but spikes in both countries appeared to be tailing off.

China had 49 new confirmed cases, up from the previous day's 45. Thirty were in Xinjiang in the northwest, where authorities are trying to contain an outbreak focused on the regional capital, Urumqi.



In this May 13, 2020, file photo, registered nurse Stephanie Mundo conducts a COVID-19 test at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in the Harlem neighborhood of New York. New York broke a COVID-19 testing record Friday, July 31, 2020, by conducting 82,737 tests, the highest number ever conducted in a single day in the state, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Saturday in a written statement. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File)

Three cases were found in students who returned from Russia to Wuhan, the southern Chinese city where the pandemic began in December. Most anti-disease controls were lifted there after the ruling Communist Party declared victory over the disease in March.

Hong Kong reported 125 new infections as authorities tried to find the source of its latest outbreak. The Chinese government said a team of

seven virus testing experts was sent to the city to help.

South Korea reported 30 new cases, raising its total to 14,366 with 301 deaths, but said only eight were acquired in the country.

The government warned earlier case numbers would rise as South Koreans came home from the Middle East and other places with outbreaks. Authorities say cases from abroad are less threatening because arrivals are quarantined for two weeks.



In this July 8, 2020 file photo, Eric Antosh has a nasal swab taken by a nurse at a COVID-19 testing site in the Brooklyn borough of New York. New York broke a COVID-19 testing record Friday, July 31, 2020, by conducting 82,737 tests, the highest number ever conducted in a single day in the state, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Saturday in a written statement. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)



People are silhouetted against the sky with a setting sun in Asuncion, Paraguay, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, amid the new coronavirus pandemic. (AP Photo/Jorge Saenz)



Austin, Texas made Tito's Handmade Vodka visits Brownsville, Texas Sports Park Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, to distribute thousands of Tito's made hand cleanser sanitizer to thousands of Brownsville residents to help fight the spread of COVID-19. (Miguel Roberts/The Brownsville Herald via AP)/The Brownsville Herald via AP)



Austin, Texas made Tito's Handmade Vodka visits Brownsville, Texas Sports Park Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, to distribute thousands of Tito's made hand cleanser sanitizer to thousands of Brownsville residents to help fight the spread of COVID-19./The Brownsville Herald via AP)



The Staatsphilharmonie plays a concert on the lake stage on the Gro'er Dutzendteich in front of spectators who watch the concert on their own boats, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, in Nuremberg, Germany. Due to the musical events Bardentreffen, Klassik Open Air and Stars in Luitpoldhain, which were cancelled due to the coronavirus, the project office in the Culture Division of the City of Nuremberg has organized three different concerts with an open-air concert weekend on the banks of the Dutzendteich. (Daniel Karmann/dpa via AP)



Deborah Thurman votes at the Brainerd Youth and Family Development Center on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020 in Chattanooga, Tenn. Saturday marked the end of the early voting period. (C.B. Schmelter/Chattanooga Times Free Press via AP)



People vote at the Brainerd Youth and Family Development Center on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020 in Chattanooga, Tenn. Saturday marked the end of the early voting period. (C.B. Schmelter/Chattanooga Times Free Press via AP)



Passengers write their names and contact numbers before boarding a passenger jeepney to help contact tracing in trying to curb the spread of the COVID19, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020, in Quezon city, Philippines. Coronavirus infections in the Philippines continues to surge Sunday as medical groups declared the country was waging a losing battle against the contagion and asked the president to reimpose a lockdown in the capital. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



Parishioners wearing masks as a measure to prevent the spread of COVID19 pray during a Mass at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020, in Quezon city, Philippines. Coronavirus infections in the Philippines continues to surge Sunday as medical groups declared the country was waging "a losing battle" against the contagion and asked the president to reimpose a lockdown in the capital. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



Protestors sit on the ground after the police declared the end of a protest, in Berlin, Germany, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020. Thousands converged in Berlin to protest Germany's coronavirus restrictions at a demonstration proclaiming "the end of the pandemic" has arrived. The protest comes as German authorities are voicing increasing concerns about an uptick in new infections. (Christoph Soeder/dpa via AP)

On Saturday, the leader of a secretive Korean church was arrested in an investigation into whether the group hampered the anti-virus response after thousands of worshippers were infected in February and March.

On Saturday, South Africa reported 10,107 new cases, raising its total to 503,290.

That put the country fifth behind the United States, Brazil, Russia and India in total cases, though its population of 58 million is much smaller than theirs.

In Europe, the number of new cases reported in Italy dipped below 300 for the first time.

An employee in the Austrian chancellery tested positive for the virus but didn't work directly with Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, the Austrian Press Agency reported.

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