

# Germany shuts down as new virus curbs spur anger and frustration

November 2 2020, by Hui Min Neo With Afp Bureaus

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A tightening of restrictions across Europe in the face of spiking virus cases has brought sporadic protests notably in Germany—here people rally in Dresden—to Spain, Italy and the Czech Republic

Despite sporadic popular protests, Germany on Monday led a tightening

of coronavirus curbs in many parts of Europe while the COVID-19 crisis deepened in the United States on election eve.

The virus has infected over 46 million people worldwide, with more than 1.2 million deaths, and the acute outbreaks in Europe and America are sparking further alarm about the state of the already devastated [global economy](#).

To curb the spike in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, Chancellor Angela Merkel appealed to citizens to help achieve a "turnaround" by respecting a new round of shutdowns from Monday until the end of the month.

Germans will not be confined to their homes, but bars, cafes and restaurants must close, as well as theatres, operas and cinemas.

Looking ahead to the festive season, Merkel ruled out any "lavish New Year's Eve parties", but held out hope that families would be allowed to celebrate Christmas together.

The frustration over the economic and social cost of lockdowns has led to protests in many parts of the world, especially Europe, with some leading to violent skirmishes, notably in Spain and Italy as well as Czech capital Prague and the eastern German city of Dresden.

In Italy, the first European country to impose a lockdown during the first wave, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte resisted pressure for new national stay-at-home orders in favour of an approach targeting the hardest-hit regions.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged public support for new shutdowns but this protester in Dresden was unimpressed—he says she should be "behind bars"

In Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson came under fire for a looming second lockdown in England, with employers warning it would deal a "devastating" blow to business.

Professor Andrew Hayward, a scientist advising the government on virus planning, meanwhile said that if a shorter September lockdown proposal had been heeded, it would have "inflicted substantially less damage on our economy" and "would definitely have saved thousands of lives".

Johnson vowed "no apologies" over his decision. "I am truly sorry for the anguish these measures will impose, particularly for businesses that had

just got back on their feet."

## **'Catastrophic failure'**

Opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer accused Johnson of a "catastrophic failure of leadership" with Britain having surpassed one million cases on the weekend and its death toll nearing 47,000, Europe's worst.



# Covid-19

World toll Monday November 2, 1100 GMT

Deaths	New	Cases	New
1,201,450	5,189	46,543,100	457,794

New: 24-hour increase on Sunday November 01

## Hardest-hit countries

	Deaths	New (latest report)	Cases
UNITED STATES	231,003	614	9,208,874
BRAZIL	160,074	190	5,545,705
INDIA	122,607	496	8,229,313
MEXICO	91,895	142	929,392
UNITED KINGDOM	46,717	162	1,034,914
ITALY	38,826	208	709,335
FRANCE	37,019	231	1,413,915
SPAIN	35,878	0	1,185,678
IRAN	35,738	440	628,780
PERU	34,529	53	904,911
COLOMBIA	31,515	201	1,083,321
ARGENTINA	31,140	138	1,173,520

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 count based on official tolls



Toll of coronavirus infections and deaths worldwide and in worst-affected countries, as of Nov 2 at 1100 GMT

Restive members of Johnson's Conservative party, warned they would defy him in a parliamentary vote on Wednesday.

One Tory lawmaker, Charles Walker, said he would be voting against the government's "drift further into an authoritarian, coercive state", however the restrictions will still pass with opposition support.

Another cloud looming for the government was news that Nigel Farage, the [driving force](#) behind Brexit, was set to relaunch his political party as "Reform UK", with a main focus to oppose the government's [coronavirus](#) lockdowns.

British media also reported that Prince William, second-in-line to the throne, contracted coronavirus in April but kept his diagnosis secret, with one tabloid saying "he didn't want to alarm the nation".

Also Monday, the head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, began a first day in quarantine after coming in contact with someone with COVID-19, but the organisation said he does not need to be tested for now.

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