

# India's capital to lock down as nation's virus cases top 15M

April 19 2021

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People wearing masks as precaution against the coronavirus shop for vegetables at a Sunday market in Kochi, Kerala state, India, Sunday, April 18, 2021. (AP Photo/R S Iyer)

New Delhi was being put under a weeklong lockdown Monday night as

an explosive surge in coronavirus cases pushed the India's capital's health system to its limit.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a news conference the national capital was facing shortages of oxygen and some medicine.

"I do not say that the system has collapsed, but it has reached its limits," Kejriwal said, adding that harsh measures were necessary to "prevent a collapse of the [health system](#)."

According to India's [health ministry](#) on Monday, Delhi reported 25,462 cases and 161 deaths in the past 24 hours.

India overall reported 273,810 new infections on Monday, its highest daily rise since the start of the pandemic and now has reported more than 15 million infections, a total second only to the United States.

The Health Ministry also reported 1,619 deaths from COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, pushing the toll over 178,769. India has the fourth highest number of deaths after the U.S., Brazil and Mexico—though, with nearly 1.4 billion people, it has a much larger population than any of those countries.

The soaring cases and deaths come just months after India thought it had seen the worst of the pandemic, but experts say even these figures are likely an undercount.



A view of deserted roads during a weekend lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus in Prayagraj, India, Sunday, April 18, 2021. (AP Photo/Rajesh Kumar Singh)



A buffalo crosses a street past a billboard erected as part of a campaign for vaccination against COVID-19 during a weekend lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus in Prayagraj, India, Sunday, April 18, 2021. (AP Photo/Rajesh Kumar Singh)

Similar virus curbs already have been imposed in the worst-hit state of Maharashtra, home to India's financial capital, Mumbai. The closure of most industries, businesses and public places Wednesday night is to last 15 days.

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