

Russia hits a new record for COVID-19 infections this year

October 7 2021, by Vladimir Isachenkov



A grave digger wearing a protective suit stands during a COVID-19 victim burial at a cemetery outside in Omsk, Russia, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021. Russia's daily coronavirus infections have soared to their highest level so far this year as authorities have struggled to control a surge in new cases amid a slow pace in vaccinations and few restrictions in place. The daily coronavirus death toll topped 900 for a second straight day with 924 new deaths reported Thursday. Russia already has Europe's highest death toll in the pandemic and a conservative way of calculating the number suggests the actual number could be even higher.

Credit: AP Photo

Russia's daily coronavirus infections soared Thursday to their highest level so far this year, as authorities have struggled to control a surge in new cases amid a slow pace in vaccinations and with few restrictions in place.

The daily COVID-19 death toll exceeded 900 for a second straight day, with 924 new deaths reported Thursday—a day after reaching a record 929.

Russia already has Europe's highest death toll in the pandemic—topping 213,000—and the authorities' conservative way of recording COVID-19 fatalities suggests the actual number could be even higher.

On Thursday, the government's coronavirus task force reported 27,550 new confirmed cases, a nearly 10% rise from the previous day. New infections in Moscow soared by nearly 50% to 5,404.

A quick rise in infections and deaths began in late September, with authorities blaming it on the low vaccination rate. As of Tuesday, almost 33% of Russia's 146 million people had received at least one shot of a coronavirus vaccine, and 29% were fully vaccinated.

But the Kremlin has shrugged off the idea of imposing a new nationwide lockdown, delegating the power to tighten restrictions to regional authorities.

Some regions have limited attendance at large public events and restricted access to theaters, restaurants and other places to people who have been vaccinated, recently recovered from COVID-19 or tested

negative in the previous 72 hours.



Grave diggers wearing protective suits prepare a coffin of a COVID-19 victim for burial at a cemetery outside Omsk, Russia, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021. Russia's daily coronavirus infections have soared to their highest level so far this year as authorities have struggled to control a surge in new cases amid a slow pace in vaccinations and few restrictions in place. The daily coronavirus death toll topped 900 for a second straight day with 924 new deaths reported Thursday. Russia already has Europe's highest death toll in the pandemic and a conservative way of calculating the number suggests the actual number could be even higher. Credit: AP Photo



Grave diggers wearing protective suits disinfect a coffin of a COVID-19 victim for burial at a cemetery outside Omsk, Russia, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021. Russia's daily coronavirus infections have soared to their highest level so far this year as authorities have struggled to control a surge in new cases amid a slow pace in vaccinations and few restrictions in place. The daily coronavirus death toll topped 900 for a second straight day with 924 new deaths reported Thursday. Russia already has Europe's highest death toll in the pandemic and a conservative way of calculating the number suggests the actual number could be even higher. Credit: AP Photo



In this Aug. 6, 2020, file photo provided by Russian Direct Investment Fund, a COVID-19 vaccine is on display at the Nikolai Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow, Russia. The World Health Organization is still reviewing data about Russia's Sputnik V vaccine as part of hopes that it can be approved by the U.N. health agency for emergency use against coronavirus, but said Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021 that no decision is imminent. Credit: Alexander Zemlianichenko Jr/ Russian Direct Investment Fund via AP, File



In this Tuesday, July 13, 2021 file photo, a medical worker prepares an injection of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine at a vaccination center in Gostiny Dvor a huge exhibition place in Moscow, Russia. The World Health Organization is still reviewing data about Russia's Sputnik V vaccine as part of hopes that it can be approved by the U.N. health agency for emergency use against coronavirus, but said Tuesday, Oct. 5 that no decision is imminent. Credit: AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko, File

In some areas, Russia's vast yet severely underfunded health care system has started to show signs of being overwhelmed by the outbreak.

Russian media have reported long lines of ambulances once again forming in front of hospitals in St. Petersburg. And on Tuesday, the presidential envoy in the Ural Mountains district—a part of central

Russia that encompasses six regions—said 95% of the hospital beds for COVID-19 patients there have been filled.

Overall, Russia's coronavirus task force has registered nearly 7.7 million confirmed cases and 213,549 deaths. However, reports by Russia's state statistical service Rosstat that tally coronavirus-linked deaths retroactively reveal significantly higher mortality numbers.

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