

Russia's September COVID deaths well above govt estimate

October 29 2021



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Russia's Federal Statistics Rosstat said Friday that 44,265 people died of coronavirus in the country in September—nearly double the official government figure.

This would bring the agency's tally of COVID-19 deaths in Russia to

nearly 450,000, the highest toll in Europe.

Russian authorities have been accused of downplaying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country and Rosstat's figure—released late Friday—painted a far darker picture than official figures suggest.

The number still fell short of Russia's monthly record of over 50,000 COVID fatalities in July, according to Rosstat.

An official [government](#) tally said Russia saw 24,031 deaths in September.

Government figures only take into account fatalities where the [virus](#) was established as the primary cause of [death](#) after an autopsy.

Rosstat, however, publishes figures under a broader definition for deaths linked to the virus.

Russia is the country hardest-hit in Europe by the pandemic, with authorities struggling to counter widespread anti-vaccine sentiment.

Despite pleas from President Vladimir Putin and the wide availability home-grown Sputnik V jab, only 32 percent of Russians are fully vaccinated.

Moscow shut down non-essential services for 11 days on Thursday as the country battles a record-breaking virus surge, driven by the low vaccination rates.

Russia recorded 1,163 COVID deaths on Friday.

Putin has ordered a nationwide paid week off starting Saturday in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

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