

Hard-hit Russia sets another daily record for COVID deaths

November 2 2021, by Daria Litvinova



Medical worker walks in a hall at a hospital in Kommunarka, outside Moscow, Russia, Monday, Nov. 1, 2021. To contain the spread of COVID-19, Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a nonworking period from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, when most state organizations and private businesses are to suspend operations. Credit: AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin

Coronavirus deaths in Russia hit another daily record Tuesday, four days since a nationwide order for many Russians to stay off work took effect.

Russia's state coronavirus task force reported 39,008 new confirmed cases and 1,178 COVID-19 deaths. The task force has reported record daily infections or deaths almost every day for the last month.

To reduce the spread of the coronavirus, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a nationwide non-working period for Oct. 30-Nov. 7.

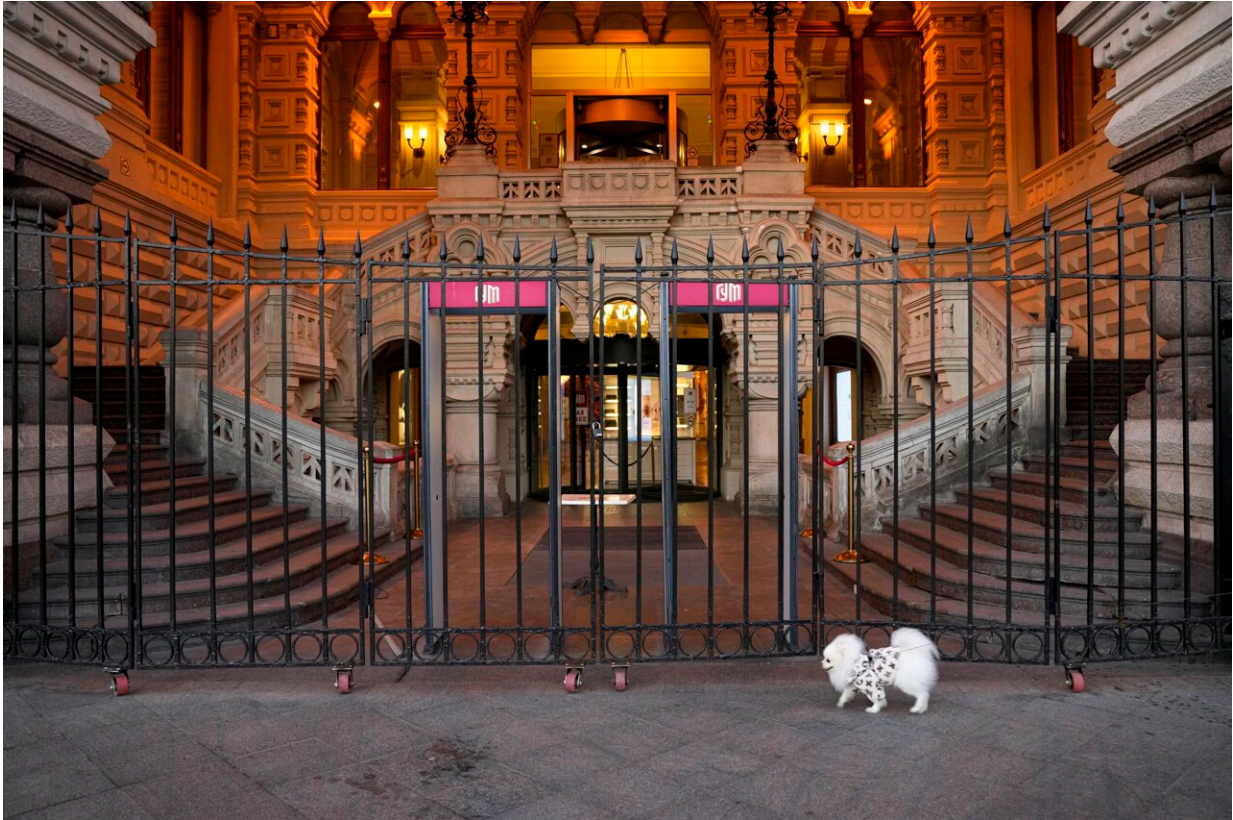
Putin has said that governments in regions where the situation is most dire could add more non-working days, if needed. The Novgorod region became the first one to do so Monday, extending the period by another week.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday brushed off rumors that the non-working period could be prolonged for all of Russia. He stressed that regional governments have been empowered to introduce their own measures to curb the outbreak.

Russia's weekslong surge in infections and deaths comes amid low vaccination rates, lax public attitudes toward taking precautions and the government's reluctance to toughen restrictions. Less than 35% of Russia's nearly 146 million people have been fully vaccinated so far, even though Russia approved a domestically developed vaccine against the coronavirus months before most countries.



Medical worker gets out from an ambulance at a hospital in Kommunarka, outside Moscow, Russia, Monday, Nov. 1, 2021. To contain the spread of COVID-19, Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a nonworking period from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, when most state organizations and private businesses are to suspend operations. Credit: AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin



A dog walks past an entrance of the GUM, the State Shop in Red Square, which is closed due to COVID-19, in Red Square in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Nov. 1, 2021. To contain the spread of infection, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a nonworking period from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, when most state agencies and private businesses are to suspend operations. Moscow introduced the measure beginning Thursday, shutting down kindergartens, schools, gyms, entertainment venues and most stores, and restricting restaurants to takeout or delivery. Credit: AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko



People lineup to get their takeaway food outside a cafe that is closed due to coronavirus in Manezhnaya Square near Red Square during sunset in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Nov. 1, 2021. To contain the spread of COVID-19, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a nonworking period from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, when most state agencies and private businesses are to suspend operations. Moscow introduced the measure beginning Thursday, shutting down kindergartens, schools, gyms, entertainment venues and most stores, and restricting restaurants to takeout or delivery. Credit: AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko

Putin on Monday described the situation with COVID-19 in Russia as "very difficult."

In all, Russia's state coronavirus task force has reported nearly 8.6

million confirmed coronavirus cases and over 240,000 deaths in the pandemic—by far the highest death toll in Europe.

However, reports by Russia's state statistical service Rosstat that tally coronavirus-linked deaths retroactively reveal much higher mortality numbers. A report released last week indicated that some 462,000 people with COVID-19 died between April 2020 and September of this year.

Russian officials have said the task force only includes deaths for which COVID-19 was the main cause and uses data collected from medical facilities. Rosstat uses wider criteria for counting virus-related deaths and takes its numbers from civil registry offices where the process of registering a death is finalized.

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