

# Virus deaths in Russia hit daily record despite work halt

November 9 2021, by Daria Litvinova

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A woman carries a cat in her bag as she goes shopping in a store in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. Russian capital had return to work on Monday after nonworking days due to coronavirus. Certain restrictions will remain in place, such as a stay-at-home order for older adults and a mandate for businesses to have 30% of their staff work from home. Access to theatres and museums is limited to those who either have been fully vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 within the last six months or can present a negative coronavirus test. Credit: AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin

Coronavirus deaths in Russia hit a new record Tuesday and new confirmed cases remained high two days after a nine-day work stoppage ended in most of the country's regions.

The state coronavirus task force reported 1,211 COVID-19 deaths, the highest daily death toll in the pandemic, and 39,160 new cases. The task force has reported around 40,000 cases and over 1,100 deaths every day since late October.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered many Russians last month to stay off work between Oct. 30 and Nov. 7. He authorized regional governments to extend the number of non-working days if necessary, but only five Russian regions have done so.

Other regions have restricted access to restaurants, theaters and other public places to people who either have been fully vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 within the last six months or tested negative in the previous 72 hours.

The daily tallies of new cases and COVID-19 deaths remained high throughout the non-working period. Officials in the Kremlin argued Monday that it was too early to tell whether the measure had the desired effect.

Russia's fall surge in infections and deaths comes amid low vaccination rates, lax public attitudes toward taking precautions and the government's reluctance to toughen restrictions.



People have a meal in a restaurant in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. Russian capital had return to work on Monday after nonworking days due to coronavirus. Certain restrictions will remain in place, such as a stay-at-home order for older adults and a mandate for businesses to have 30% of their staff work from home. Access to theatres and museums is limited to those who either have been fully vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 within the last six months or can present a negative coronavirus test. Credit: AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin



Visitors sit inside a cafe in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021. Russians have gone back to work after a nine-day break that was ordered by authorities to tame a record-breaking surge of coronavirus infections and deaths. Still, daily numbers of new cases and deaths have remained high throughout the non-working period. Credit: AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin



People visit a shopping mall in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. Russians have gone back to work after a nine-day break that was ordered by authorities to tame a record-breaking surge of coronavirus infections and deaths. Still, daily numbers of new cases and deaths have remained high throughout the non-working period. Credit: AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin

Less than 40% of Russia's nearly 146 million people have been fully vaccinated, even though Russia approved a domestically developed COVID-19 vaccine months before most countries.

In all, Russia's coronavirus task force has reported over 249,000 deaths in the pandemic, making it the worst off in Europe and one of the top five hardest-hit nations in the world.

However, reports by Russia's statistical service Rosstat that tally coronavirus-linked deaths retroactively reveal much higher mortality numbers: 462,000 people with COVID-19 died between April 2020 and September this year.

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

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Citation: Virus deaths in Russia hit daily record despite work halt (2021, November 9) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-11-virus-deaths-russia-daily-limits.html>

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