

Russia hits new COVID-19 record; 10x more than a month ago

February 7 2022, by Jim Heintz



A teenager receives a dose of Russia's Sputnik M (Gam-COVID-Vac-M) COVID-19 vaccine in Krasnodar, Russia, Friday, Feb. 4, 2022. The Russian president says his government is considering loosening some coronavirus restrictions, even as the country is facing a record-breaking surge of infections because of the highly contagious omicron variant. Credit: AP Photo/Vitaliy Timkiv

Russia is reporting a record daily count of new coronavirus infections, a tenfold spike from a month ago as the highly contagious omicron variant spreads through the country.

The figure of 189,071 new infections released by the state coronavirus [task force](#) on Sunday was about 2,800 cases more than the previous day and continued a surge that began in mid-January, when daily new cases were around 17,000.

Although the number of infections has increased dramatically in recent weeks, the task force reported that daily deaths from COVID-19 are holding steady or marginally declining: 661 more deaths were recorded Sunday, compared with 796 on Jan. 6.

For the entire course of the pandemic, the task force has reported 12.8 million infections and 335,414 deaths, the highest [death](#) toll by far in Europe.

Despite the soaring infections, Russian President Vladimir Putin told Russia's top business association last week that authorities are not planning any lockdowns or other additional restrictions. Moreover, the government lifted the seven-day self-isolation restrictions for those who come into contact with COVID-19 patients.

Russia has had only one lockdown, for six weeks in 2020, and in October 2021 many people were ordered to stay off work for about a week. But beside that, life in most of the country remained largely normal.



A medical staff member wearing special suits to protect against coronavirus treats a patient with coronavirus at an ICU of the Clinical hospital in Volgograd, Russia, Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. Russia's state coronavirus task force reported a total of 11.8 million confirmed cases in the pandemic and 331,349 deaths—by far the highest death toll in Europe. However, reports by Russia's state statistics service Rosstat, which uses wider criteria for counting virus-linked deaths, revealed much higher numbers. Credit: AP Photo/Alexandr Kulikov



Medical staff members wearing special suits to protect against coronavirus discuss about treating a patient with coronavirus at an ICU of the Clinical hospital in Volgograd, Russia, Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. Russia's state coronavirus task force reported a total of 11.8 million confirmed cases in the pandemic and 331,349 deaths—by far the highest death toll in Europe. However, reports by Russia's state statistics service Rosstat, which uses wider criteria for counting virus-linked deaths, revealed much higher numbers. Credit: AP Photo/Alexandr Kulikov



Medical staff members wearing special suits to protect against coronavirus treat a patient with coronavirus at an ICU of the Clinical hospital in Volgograd, Russia, Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. Russia's state coronavirus task force reported a total of 11.8 million confirmed cases in the pandemic and 331,349 deaths—by far the highest death toll in Europe. However, reports by Russia's state statistics service Rosstat, which uses wider criteria for counting virus-linked deaths, revealed much higher numbers. Credit: AP Photo/Alexandr Kulikov

In recent weeks, a growing number of Russian regions have started introducing restrictions for those under 18, as officials noted that the current surge is affecting children much more than the previous ones. In many areas, schools have either switched to remote learning or extended holidays for students. In St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city, minors have been temporarily barred from most [public places](#).

Russia started vaccinating children aged 12-17 only last month with the domestically developed Sputnik M jab, which is the same composition as its Sputnik V but contains a smaller dose. According to [media reports](#) and social media users, only small amounts of the vaccine for teenagers have been made available.

Only about half of Russia's 146 million people have been vaccinated so far, even though the country was among the first in the world to roll out COVID-19 shots.

© 2022 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Russia hits new COVID-19 record; 10x more than a month ago (2022, February 7)
retrieved 23 April 2024 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-02-russia-covid-10x-month.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--