

Turkey's COVID-19 numbers at record levels for second day

22 November 2020



Police officers patrol Istiklal street, the main shopping street in Istanbul, minutes into the lockdown, part of the new measures to try curb the spread of the coronavirus, Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced a series of restrictions, including partial weekend lockdowns, to help the country grapple with the resurgence of the pandemic. Restaurants and cafes are closed and will only be allowed to serve take-away food. People won't be able to venture out of their homes after 8:00 p.m. on weekends. The restrictions also limit the hours that shops, markets and hairdressers can operate. (AP Photo/Emrah Gurel)

Turkey saw a record number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 for the second day running on Sunday as 6,017 new symptomatic patients were documented, the health ministry said.

The number of new daily cases are now running at higher levels than the outbreak's previous peak in April.

Evening lockdowns were introduced over the weekend for the first time since June, with businesses such as restaurants and bars ordered to close.

The ministry said a total of 446,882 patients with symptoms had been identified since the country's first recorded case in March. Turkey doesn't publicly report confirmed coronavirus cases in people without COVID-19 symptoms, a policy that has been criticized for masking the true scope of the national [outbreak](#).

"Let's follow the precautions for our loved ones," Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted, referring to hand-washing, distancing and mask-wearing measures.

Turkey recorded 139 COVID-19 deaths over the previous 24 hours, taking the country's total to 12,358, the [health ministry](#) reported.

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