

Russia Reports Record Virus Deaths Second Day in a Row



Russia, the fourth worst-hit country in the world in terms of cases, has since June been hit by a wave of infections driven by the Delta variant. Kirill Zykov / Moskva News Agency

Russia on Friday recorded its highest daily coronavirus death toll for a second day running, as a third wave of infections persists despite efforts from authorities to boost vaccinations.

A government tally showed 815 fatalities over the past 24 hours and 22,277 new cases.

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As Coronavirus Fatalities Hit a Record High, Russia's Vaccination Campaign Falters

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Russia, the fourth worst-hit country in the world in terms of cases, has since mid-June been hit by a new wave of infections driven by the highly transmissible Delta variant.

The new figures bring Russia's total fatalities from COVID-19 to 168,864 — the highest toll in Europe.

This figure, however, only takes into account deaths where the virus was established as the primary cause of death after an autopsy.

Under a broader definition for deaths linked to the coronavirus, statistics agency Rosstat said that Russia has seen more than 300,000 fatalities as of the end of June.

Authorities have faced a vaccine-skeptic population, with a poll by the independent Levada Centre this week showing that 55% of Russians do not plan on getting inoculated.

Moscow, the epicenter of Russia's outbreak, and a host of regions have introduced mandatory vaccination measures to speed up the country's inoculation drive, and President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly called on Russians to get vaccinated.

While Russia has three homegrown vaccines available to the population, it does not distribute any of the Western-made jabs.

But as of Friday, just over 30 million of Russia's some 146 million people had been fully vaccinated, according to the Gogov website, which tallies Covid data from the regions.

Moscow on Friday proceeded with lifting virus restrictions with Mayor Sergei Sobyenin canceling the obligation for employers to keep at least 30% of employees working from home.

Sobyenin said on his website that the pandemic "continues to retreat" and the number of new hospitalizations in the capital has more than halved when compared to mid-June.

In total, Russia has so far registered 6,557,068 cases.

Source:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/08/13/russia-reports-record-virus-deaths-second-day-in-a-row-a74780>

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