

'COVID-19 resources through Friends of Millbank website' – October 2020 update

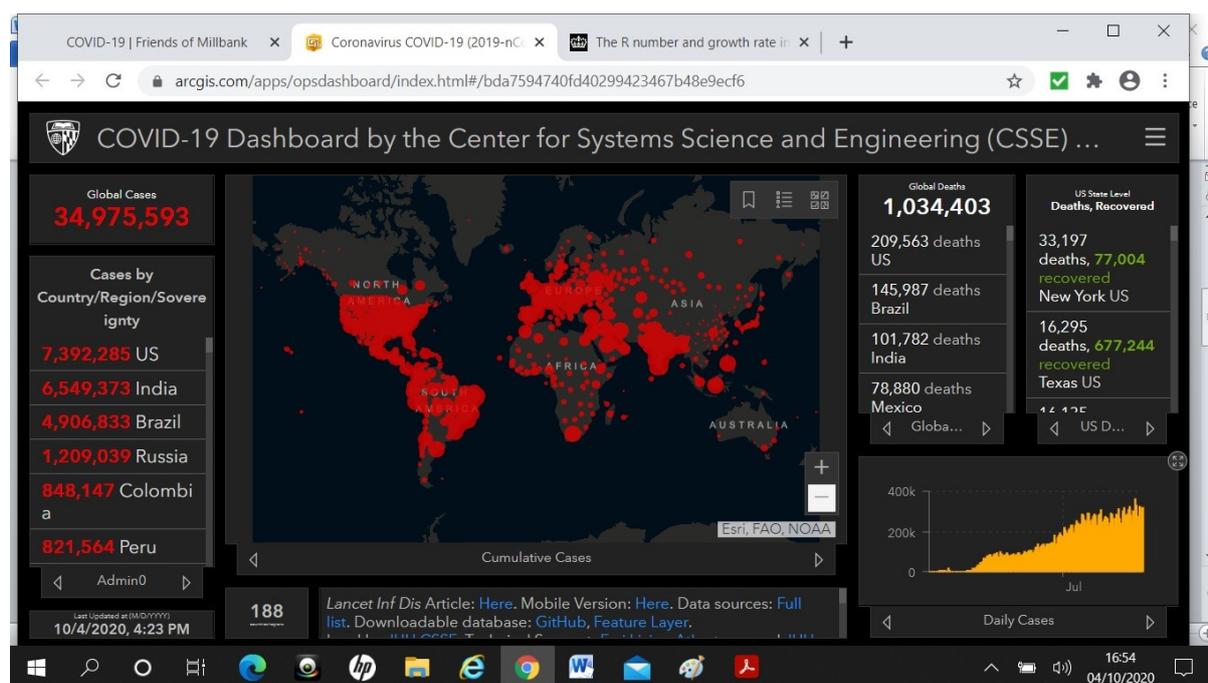
1. New links:

- [GOV.UK – COVID-19 cases by local area in England \(interactive map\)](#)
- [GOV.UK – The COVID-19 dashboard \(UK only\)](#)
- [IMF – National Policy Responses to COVID-19](#)

2. The following are updates to [A guide to COVID-19 resources on the Friends of Millbank website](#)

2.1. Paragraph Four (figures updated as of 4 October):

- The UK's official death toll (1st death on 8 March; 40,000 by 5 June) is now 42,407. This is the fifth highest in the world, after the USA, Brazil (145,987), India (101,782) and Mexico (78,880).
- The USA's official death toll (1st death on 6 February; 100,000 by 28 May) has doubled in the last four months, and is now 209,563.
- India's rapidly increasing death toll is estimated to overtake Brazil's in the next few months.



Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases – John Hopkins University Dashboard, 4 October 2020
<https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/covid-19>

2.2. Paragraph Five (figures as of 4 October):

- COVID-19 cases continue rising inexorably worldwide, and are rapidly escalating in some places. Many countries are now in the throes of a second wave of the pandemic, having eased lockdown restrictions (perhaps prematurely) after the first wave passed.
- **Cases:** The first cases occurred in Wuhan, China in November 2019. There were 7.6 million confirmed cases worldwide by 14 June this year; there are now practically 35 million.

- **Deaths** worldwide from confirmed COVID-19: 1st death on 11 January, 427,000 deaths by 14 June, and 500,000 by 29 June. Deaths had doubled over the next three months, passing the one million milestone on 30 September, and are today 1,034,403.
- **Catastrophe** is indeed hitting low-income countries and those with divergent health policies: Brazil (850,000 cases and 42,700 deaths by 14 June) sustained four million more cases and an extra 100,000 deaths in the next three months (4.9 million cases and 146,000 deaths as of 4 October). Rich countries and the world's main superpower are not immune, with this weekend's main news being that President Trump and his wife have been diagnosed with coronavirus, with the President being hospitalised. The USA has the world's highest number of cases (7.39 million to date), and three other countries have also suffered over one million cases (India 6.5 million, Brazil 4.9 million, and Russia 1.2 million).

2.3. Paragraph Seven

- Every country is facing massive economic burdens, and great difficulty in balancing the saving of lives against the severe economic effects of lockdown. Germany has been the COVID success story in Europe with a death toll of 113 per million of population, compared to Spain (652), the USA (615), the UK (614), Italy (591) and France (479).¹ Lockdown measures were eased prematurely or recklessly in some countries, with unrestricted summer travel resulting in a second wave sweeping Europe. Various lockdown measures are now being re-imposed, perhaps too little, too late. The virus's reproduction number (R) in UK (07-0.9 on 12 June) is now 1.3 – 1.6 (week ending Friday 2 October), with the number of new infections growing by 5% to 9% each day, and currently doubling every seven days.²

2.4. Paragraph Eight

- **'Hands, Face and Space'** is the new mnemonic to remember. The most effective prevention measures remain hand hygiene, face masks or coverings, and social distancing.
- The new [NHS COVID-19 App](#) was launched on 24 September.

Stay safe, stay well, and be kind to one another.

David Vassallo

Chairman, Friends of Millbank

¹ Evans-Pritchard, A. Why Germany's top virologist says Covid strategy has become alarmist. *The Daily Telegraph*, 22 September 2020, p.2

² GOV-UK. R number and growth rate in the UK (2 October 2020)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk> (accessed 2 October 2020)