



## Swiss Policy Research

# Facts about Covid-19

**Updated:** December 2021

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Fully referenced facts about covid-19, provided by experts in the field, to help our readers make a realistic risk assessment. (Regular updates below).

**“The only means to fight the plague is honesty.” (Albert Camus, 1947)**

## Overview

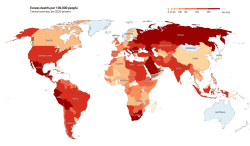
1. **Lethality:** According to the latest immunological studies, the overall infection fatality rate (IFR) of covid in the general population is **about 0.1% to 0.5%** in most countries, which is most closely **comparable to** the medium influenza pandemics of 1936, 1957 and 1968.
2. **Vaccines:** Real-world studies have shown a very high, but **rapidly declining** covid vaccine effectiveness against severe disease. Vaccination **cannot prevent** infection and transmission. Various severe and fatal vaccine adverse events **have been reported**, including in young people. A prior infection generally confers **superior immunity** compared to vaccination.

3. **Treatment:** For people at high risk or high exposure, **early or prophylactic treatment** is essential to prevent progression of the disease. According to numerous international studies, early outpatient treatment of covid may significantly reduce hospitalizations and deaths.
4. **Age profile:** The median age of covid deaths is **over 80 years** in most Western countries (78 in the US) and **about 5%** of the deceased had no serious preconditions. The age and risk profile of covid mortality is therefore **comparable to normal mortality**, but increases it proportionally.
5. **Nursing homes:** In many Western countries, **about 50%** of all covid deaths have occurred in nursing homes, which require targeted and humane protection. In some cases, care home residents died **not from the coronavirus**, but from weeks of **stress and isolation**.
6. **Excess mortality:** Overall, the pandemic has increased mortality by **5% to 25%** in most Western countries. In some countries, up to 30% of additional deaths have been caused **not by covid**, but by **indirect effects** of the pandemic and lockdowns (including **drug overdose** deaths).
7. **Antibodies:** By the end of 2020, between **10% and 30%** of the population in most Western countries had coronavirus antibodies. In India and some Latin American countries, coronavirus infection prevalence reached **up to 75%** by the summer of 2021.
8. **Symptoms:** About 30% of all infected persons **show no symptoms**. Overall, **about 95%** of all people develop at most mild or moderate symptoms and do not require hospitalization. Early outpatient treatment may **significantly reduce** hospitalizations.
9. **Long covid:** Up to 10% of symptomatic people experience **post-acute or long covid**, i.e. covid-related symptoms that last several weeks or months. Long covid may also affect younger and previously healthy people whose initial course of disease was rather mild.
10. **Transmission:** Indoor aerosols appear to be the **main route of transmission** of the coronavirus, while outdoor aerosols, droplets, as well as most object surfaces appear to play **a minor role**. The coronavirus season in the northern hemisphere usually lasts from **November to April**.
11. **Masks:** There is still **little to no scientific evidence** for the effectiveness of face masks in the general population, and the introduction of mandatory masks **couldn't contain** or slow the epidemic in most countries. If used improperly, masks **may increase** the risk of infection.

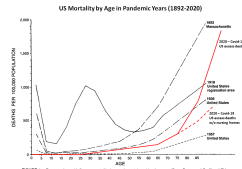
12. **Children and schools:** In contrast to influenza, the risk of disease and transmission in children is **rather low** in the case of covid. There was and is therefore **no medical reason** for the closure of elementary schools or other measures specifically aimed at children.
13. **Contact tracing:** A WHO study of 2019 on measures against influenza pandemics concluded that from a medical perspective, contact tracing is **“not recommended in any circumstances”**. Contact tracing apps on cell phones have also **proven ineffective** in most countries.
14. **PCR tests:** The highly sensitive PCR test kits may in some cases **produce false positive** or false negative results or react to **non-infectious virus fragments** from a previous infection. In this regard, the so-called **cycle threshold or ct value** is an important parameter.
15. **Virus mutations:** Similar to influenza viruses, mutations occur frequently in coronaviruses. Most of these mutations are insignificant, but some of them **may increase** the transmissibility, virulence or immune evasion of the virus to some extent.
16. **Lockdowns:** In contrast to **early border controls**, lockdowns have had **no significant effect** on the pandemic. According to the UN, lockdowns may put the livelihood of **1.6 billion people** at acute risk and may push an additional **150 million children** into poverty.
17. **Sweden:** In Sweden, covid mortality without lockdown has been **comparable to** a strong influenza season and **somewhat below** the EU average. About 50% of Swedish deaths **occurred in** nursing homes and the **median age** of Swedish covid deaths was about 84 years.
18. **Media:** The reporting of many media **has been unprofessional**, has increased fear and panic in the population and has led to a **hundredfold overestimation** of the lethality of the coronavirus. Some media even used **manipulative pictures** and videos to dramatize the situation.
19. **Virus origin:** The origin of the new coronavirus remains unknown, but the best evidence currently points to a covid-like **pneumonia incident in a Chinese mine** in 2012, whose virus samples were collected, stored and researched by the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). Due to cooperations, some US labs may also **have had access** to these viruses.
20. **Surveillance:** NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden warned that the coronavirus pandemic may be used to **expand global surveillance**. Many governments have

restricted fundamental rights of their citizens and announced plans to introduce digital **biometric vaccine passports**.

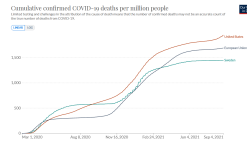
### Overview diagrams



**Excess mortality by September 2021 (S)**



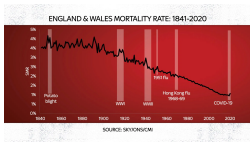
**Covid vs. flu pandemics (S)**



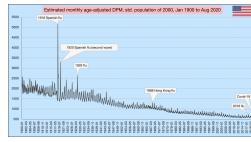
**Covid mortality in Sweden, the EU, and the US (S)**



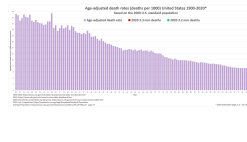
**Sweden: Mortality since 1835 (S)**



**UK: Mortality since 1842, age-adjusted (S)**



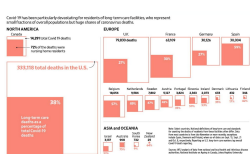
**US: Monthly age-adjusted mortality (S)**



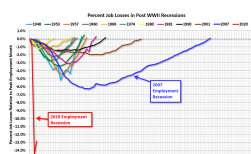
**US: Yearly age-adjusted mortality (S)**



**Germany: Monthly mortality s. 1950 (S)**



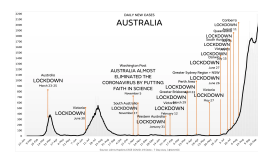
**Percentage of care home deaths (S)**



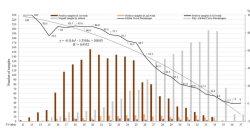
**US recessions in comparison (S)**



**North Dakota vs. South Dakota (S)**



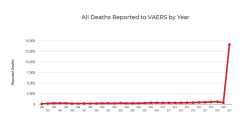
**Lockdowns in Australia (S)**



**PCR tests: Sensitivity vs. Infectiousness (S)**



**Infections in Israel (S)**



**Post-vaccination deaths, USA, 1990-2021 (S)**



**Digital Identity (S)**

### Latest updates

## Basics

1. [Covid vaccines](#)
2. [Face masks](#)
3. [Covid treatment](#)
4. [Coronavirus origins](#)
5. [“Vaccine passports”](#)

## General

- [The Covid Vaccine War](#) (December 2021)
- [The Return of the Flu](#) (November 2021)
- [The WEF and the Pandemic](#) (October 2021)
- [Global Covid Mortality](#) (September 2021)
- [Variants: What’s next?](#) (July 2021)
- [Obesity and the pandemic](#) (June 2021)
- [The failure of PCR mass testing](#) (June 2021)
- [Pre-symptomatic transmission](#) (June 2021)
- [Covid versus the flu, revisited](#) (March 2021)
- [Lockdowns in China in 2021](#) (February 2021)
- [Why Covid-19 is a “strange pandemic”](#) (Sept. 2020)

## Vaccines

- [Covid Vaccines: A Reality Check](#) (December 2021)
- [Covid vaccine adverse events](#) (December 2021)
- [Israel: Highest infection rate in the world](#) (Sept. 2021)
- [Israel: Why is all-cause mortality increasing?](#) (April 2021)
- **Videos:** [Vaccines: Successes and Controversies](#) (Dec. 2020)

## Early Treatment

- [The Ivermectin Debate](#) (July 2021)
- [Covid and anti-androgens](#) (July 2021)
- [Molnupiravir: Caution](#) (October 2021)

- [Severe covid: An autoimmune attack](#) (July 2021)
- [Is budesonide really effective against covid?](#) (April 2021)
- [Remdesivir: An Epidemic Failure](#) (October 2020)

### Face masks

- [The Mask Folly in Retrospect](#) (August 2021)
- [Danish Mask Study: No Benefit](#) (November 2020)
- [WHO Mask Study Seriously Flawed](#) (September 2020)

### Other topics

- [Judgment day: Sweden vindicated](#) (Dec. 2021)
- [Omicron Hits the Mutation Jackpot](#) (Nov. 2021)
- [Meanwhile in Australia](#) (June 2021)
- [The Censorship Pandemic](#) (May 2021)
- [On the “people collapsing in Wuhan”](#) (April 2021)
- [Lockdowns: Fewer Suicides in 2020?](#) (April 2021)

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