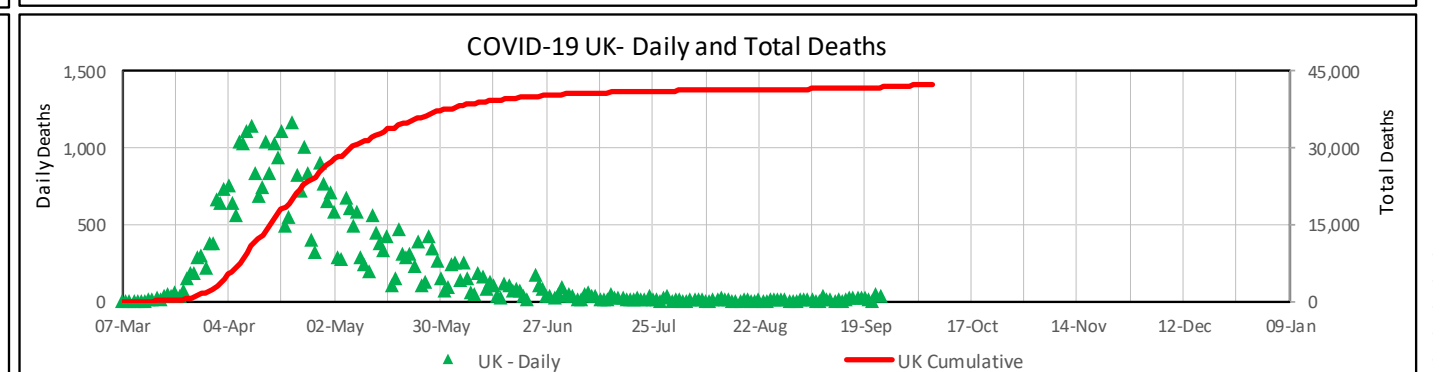
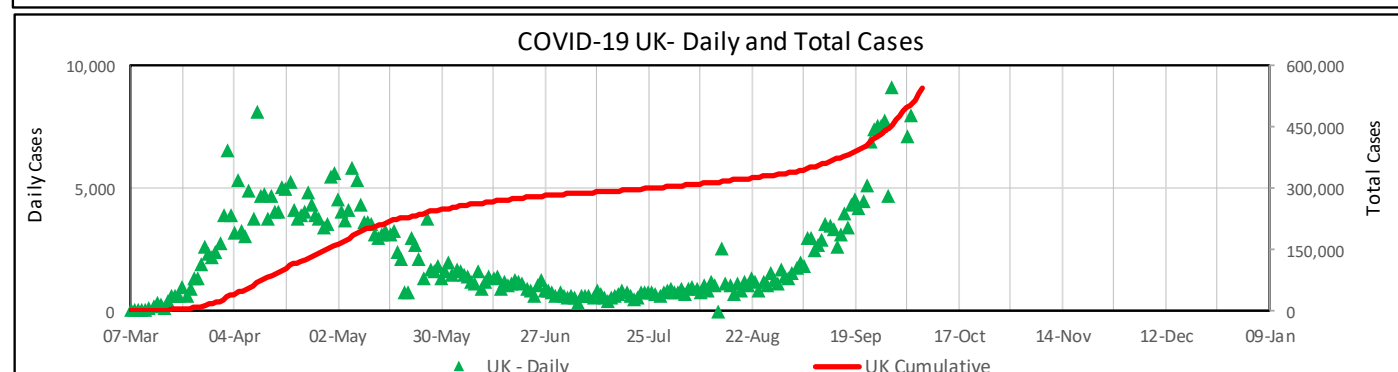
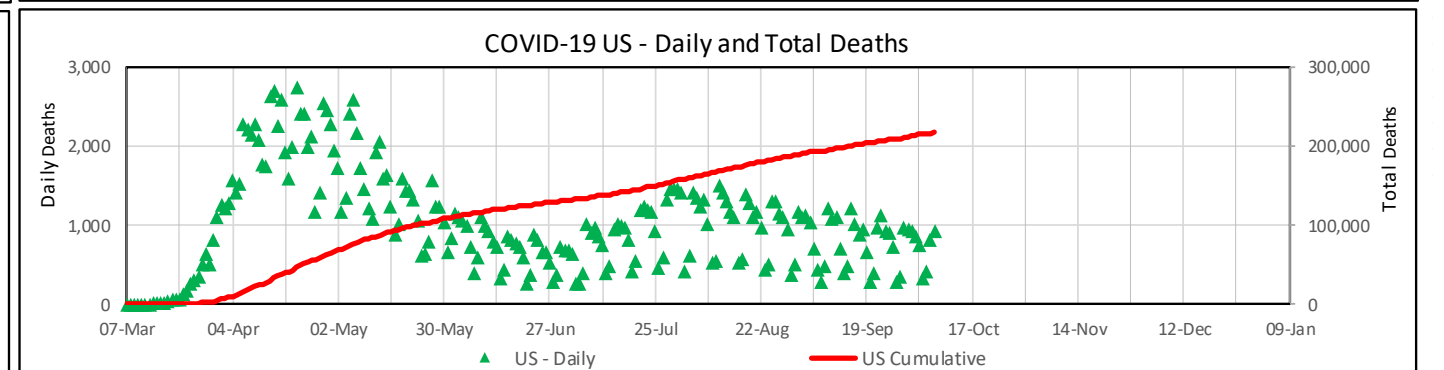
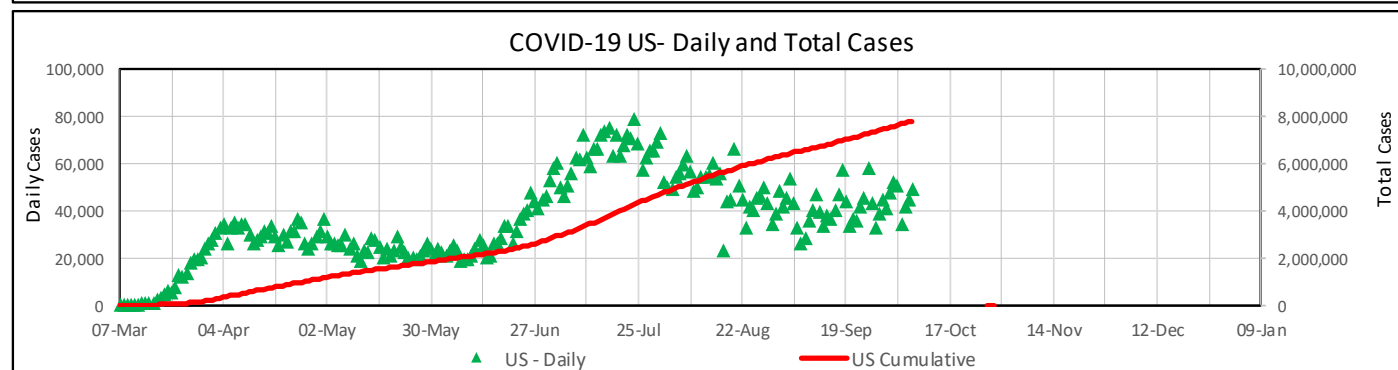
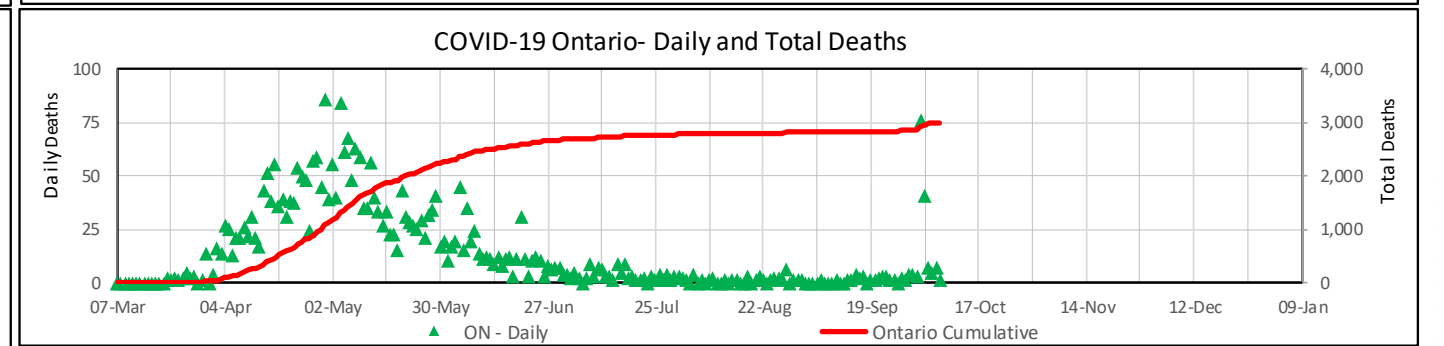
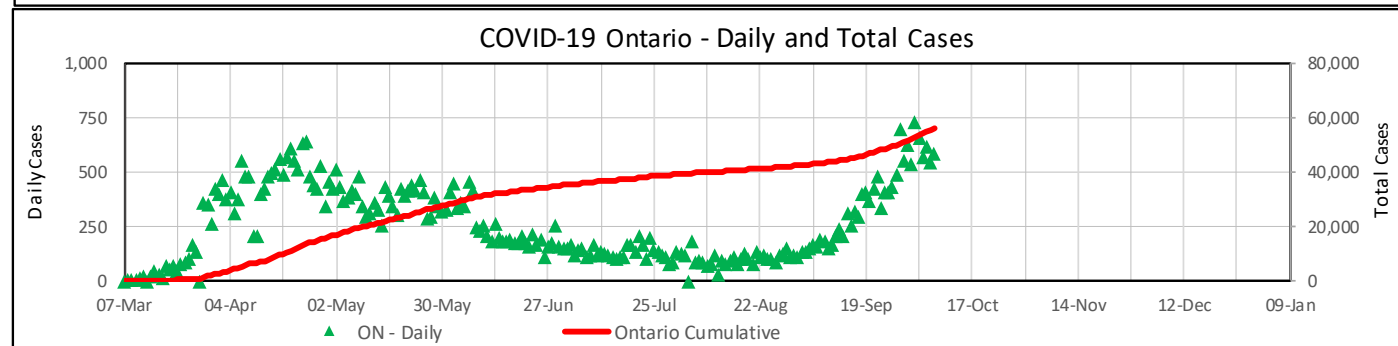
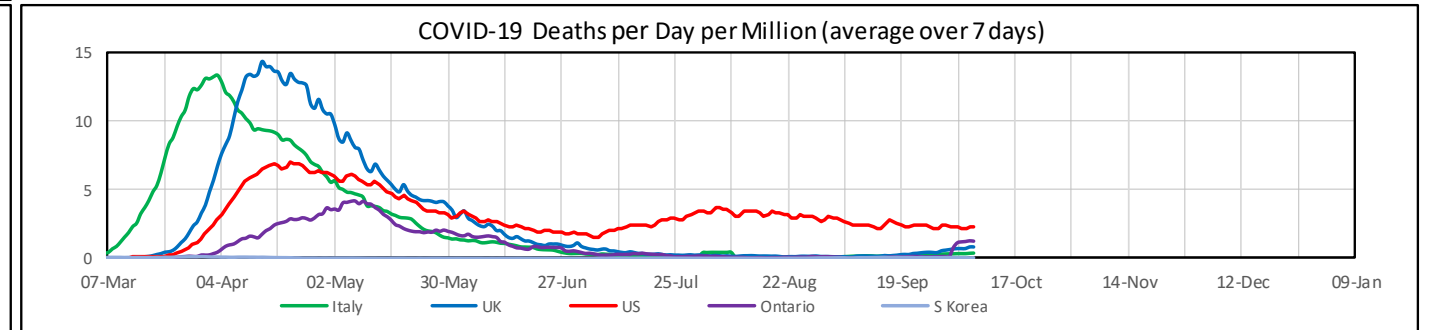
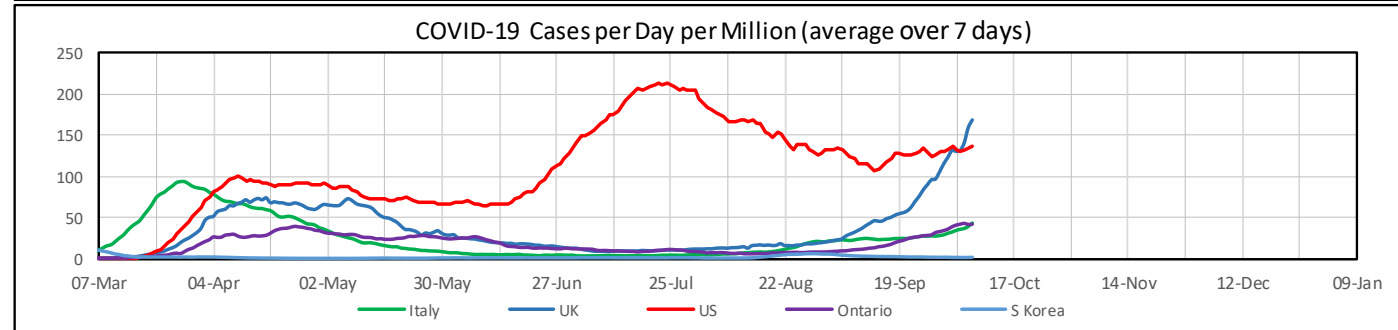
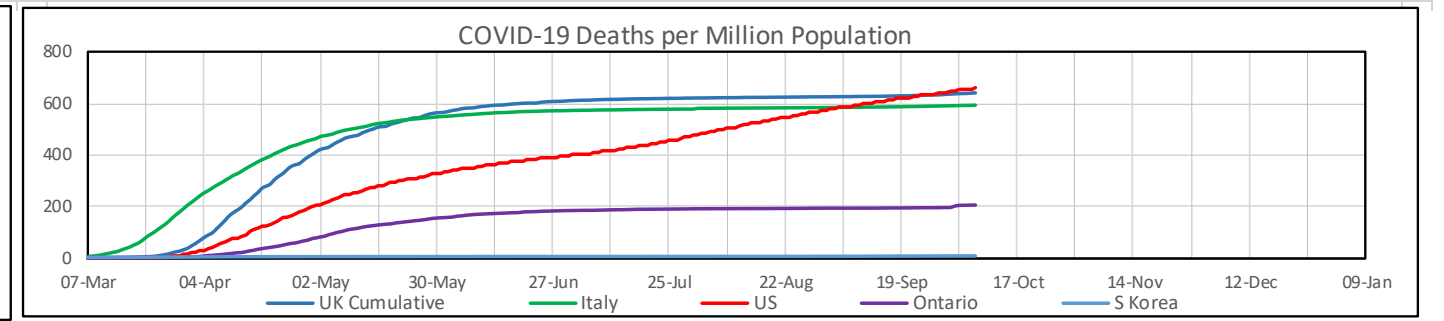
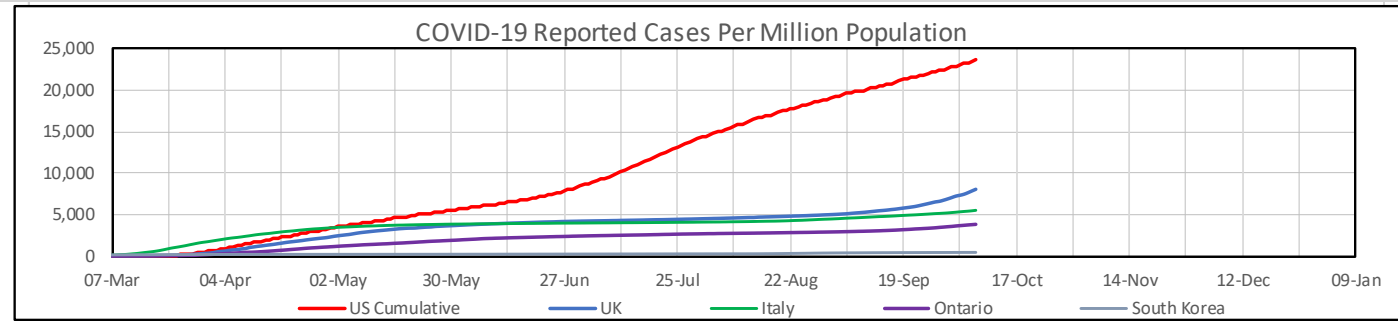


COVID-19 Observations – 8 October 2020 – by Alex Harrington



So much news this week! Where to start? What to say?

Unfortunately, there is little to say that I haven't said before.

There was another chart update issue last week – just as well because this week's update shows the action much more spectacularly. Our cases are past our spring peak, the US has started another upturn and the UK is rocketing skyward. Not exactly where anyone wants to be.

Our testing is hopeless. The testing chart shows a huge leap in tests. That's true – but they can't get analysed. They're being sent to California, so we have a huge backlog. Our real testing effort is not much better than it was in May, and it was totally inadequate then. Now you need an appointment for a test. None of this should be happening – anyone who's been watching this knew what was coming. There are cajillions of underemployed chemistry and science grads and lots of spaces that could have been turned into analysis centres while we had a pause over the summer. Didn't happen. It will be hard to get this under control while we're in the midst of it. The totally shoddy testing response is going to make this fall and winter a lot worse than they had to be. Once again we'll be looking a week or more behind us as we try to plan a response to the wave ahead of us.

Deaths are still low but creeping up. There are some huge spikes in Ontario's death data – these are from reclassified data months old and being reported now. The more troubling thing is hospitalizations are rising, as are ICU admissions, although not as rapidly. We are not at levels seen in the spring, but the rise in hospitalizations is alarming. It may well result in disruption to other hospital procedures as cases increase. The backlog from the first round has barely been cleared and another disruption will be a setback for those awaiting hospital procedures.

Then there is the US. The Pres got the virus. No one should be surprised – he and his minions have flaunted their disregard and disbelief for months so it was only a matter of time. With news of the infection, came news of the true nature of things – daily tests of the Pres were fiction as were many other things, including his claim of a negative test at the first debate. So the leadership in the US has been decimated. (I am using the word decimated as it was intended from its Latin roots – removal of a tenth. For serious misdeeds, the Romans would punish troops or enslaved populations by killing one in every ten. This was sufficient to get their attention, but not so severe as to get rid of an army or slaves they needed. Modern usage has exaggerated the tenth into a large proportion, the word another victim of the hyperbole associated with our modern usage.) But I digress – not only has the Pres been infected, he is now claiming not to be infectious – a modern miracle since the normal progression of the disease would see him infectious for some time yet. And another troubling thing in the US – a right wing group was foiled in their attempt to kidnap the governor of Michigan.

The troubling part of the US lunacy is that so many here see it and believe it and follow the behaviour it espouses – no masks or distancing, and total disregard for others. I was in the grocery store today trying to avoid a woman muttering *this is such BS* as she wondered along with her mask on her chin.

If you let it, this could get really depressing. Don't let it – there are a lot of worse places you could be.

Take care of yourselves and don't endanger others.

COVID-19 Summary Data											
	Tests per Million		Tests per Day		Tests per Reported Case		Cases per Million		Deaths per Million		Deaths Per Case
	Total to Date	Average over Last 7 days	Total	Per Million	Total	Last 7 days	Total to date	Average per day Last 7 days	Total to date	Average per day Last 7 days	Total to date (%)
South Korea	45,992	8,992	176		97	125	475	1.6	8	0.044	1.7%
Italy	119,180	61,426	1,014		22	24	5,515	43	596	0.4	10.8%
UK	333,652	237,809	3,579		42	22	8,192	168	640	0.8	7.8%
US	337,554	941,108	2,860		14	21	23,631	137	659	2.3	2.8%
Ontario	292,458	42,571	2,922		76	70	3,840	42	205	1.2	5.3%

South Korea, Italy and Canada report people tested. The others report total tests. Total tests can be 10-50% higher than people tested

