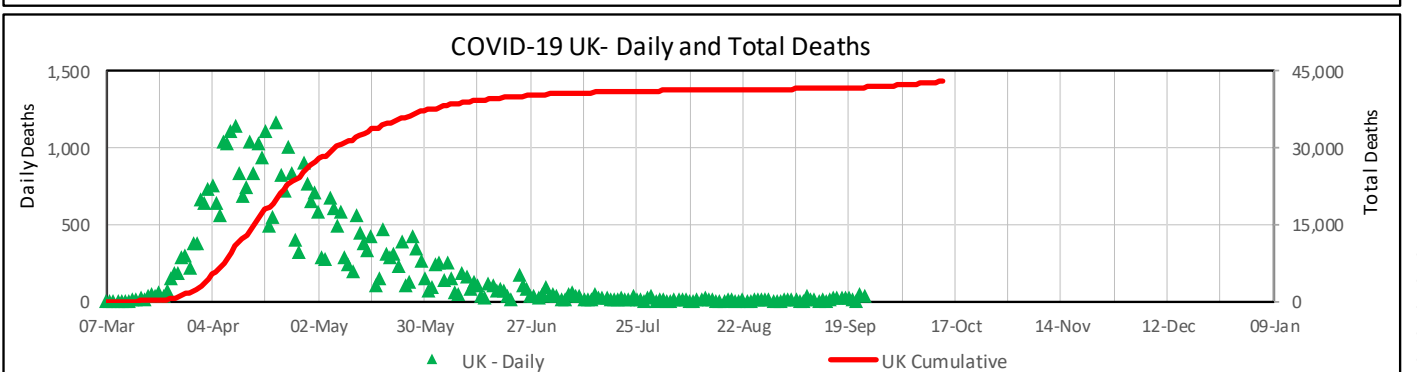
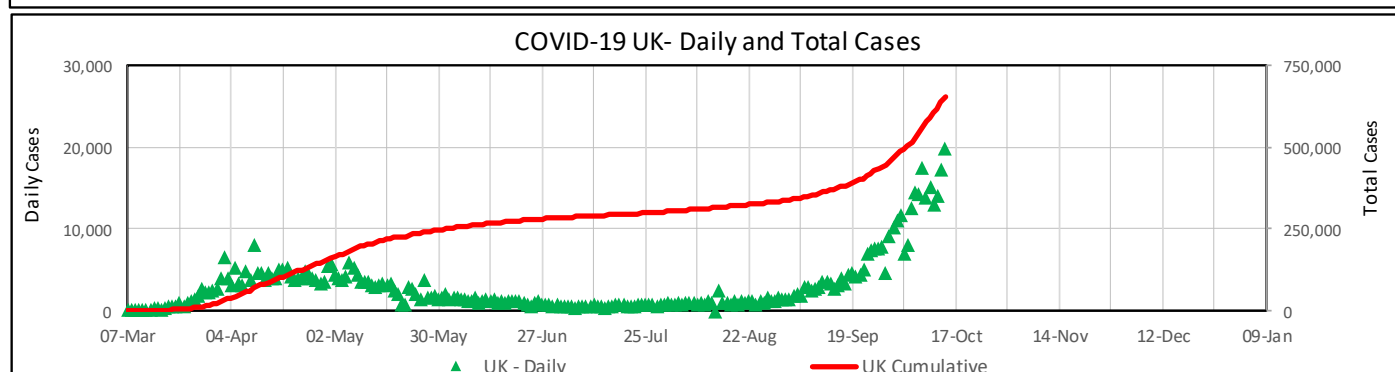
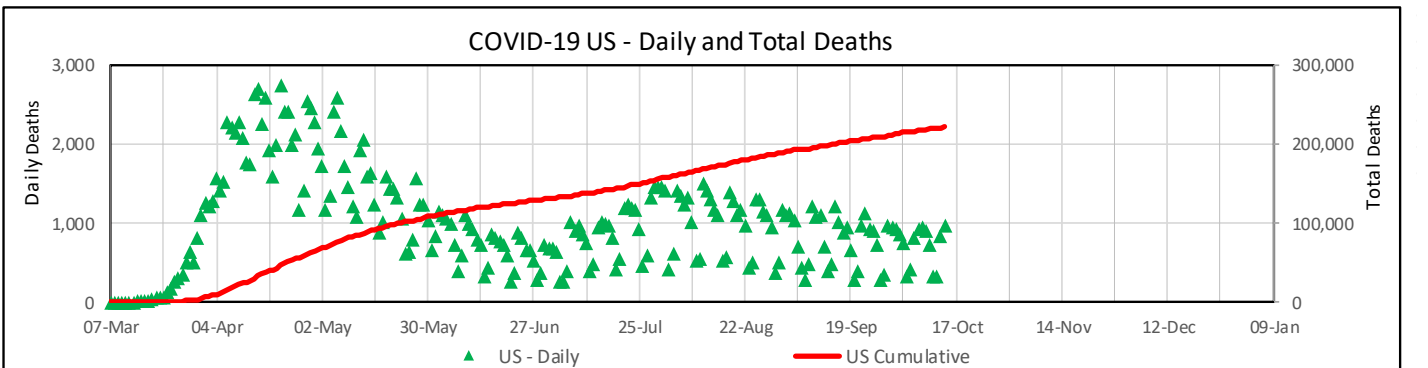
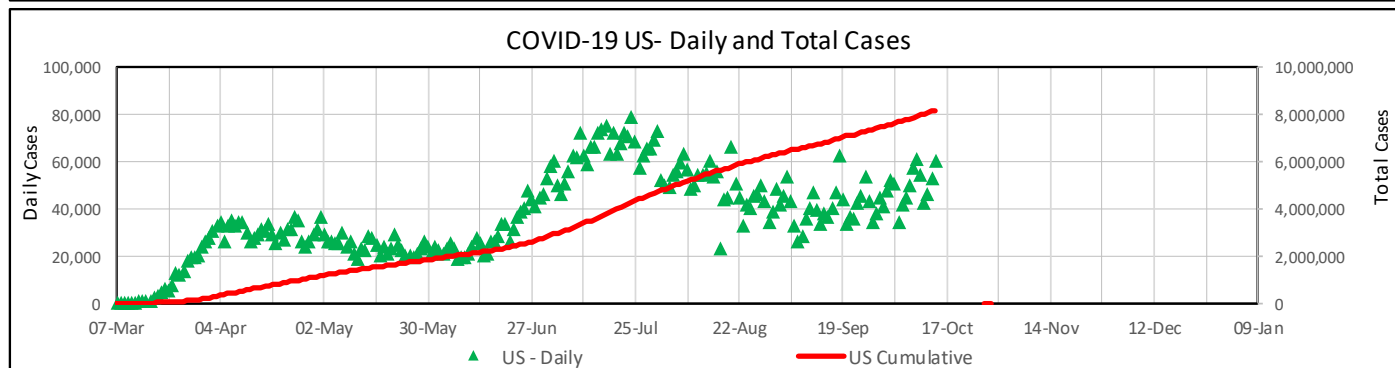
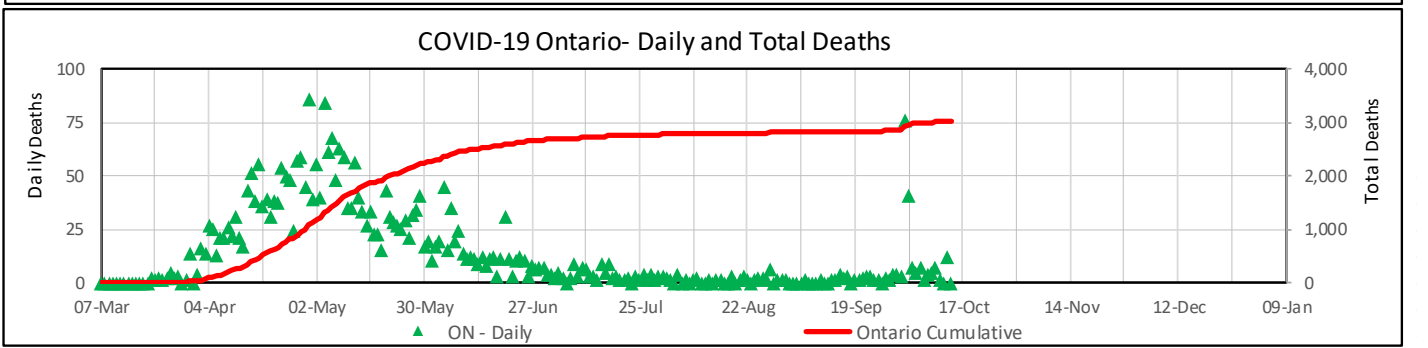
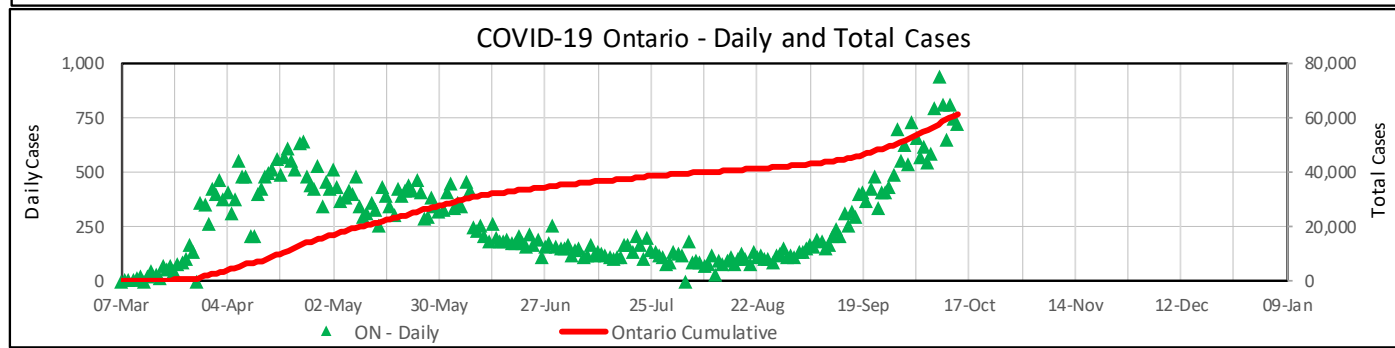
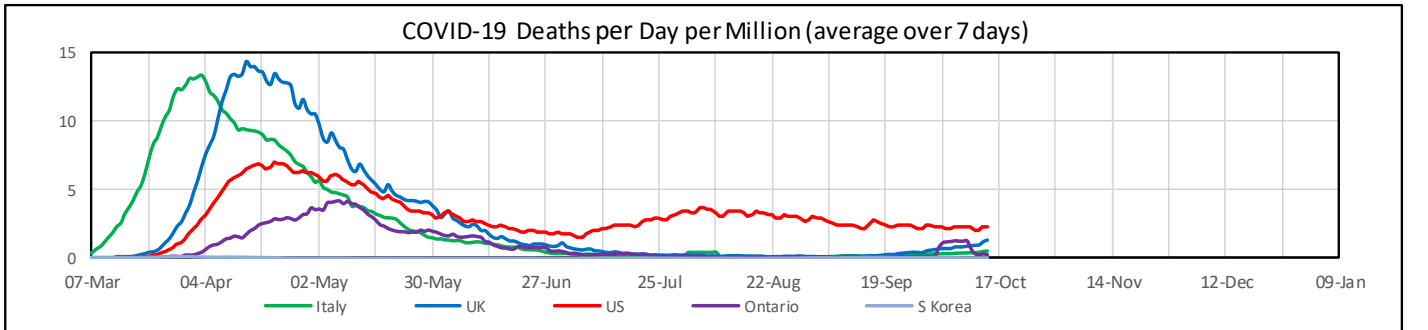
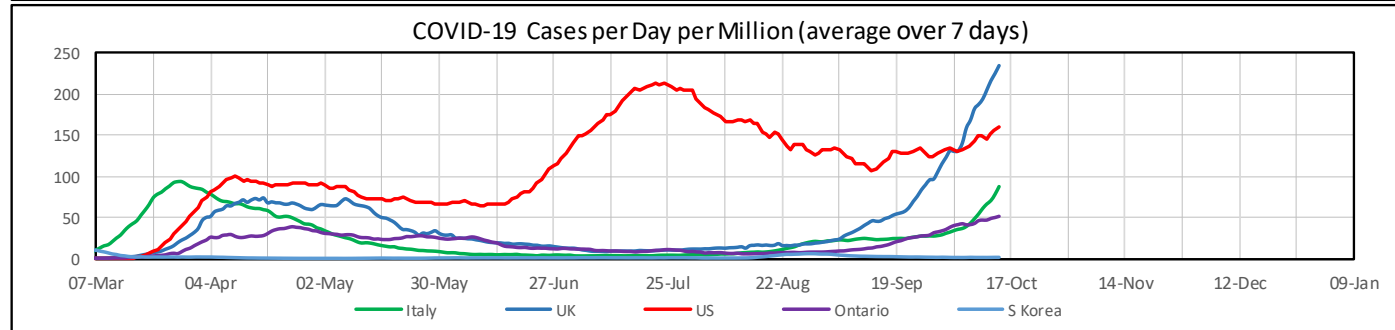
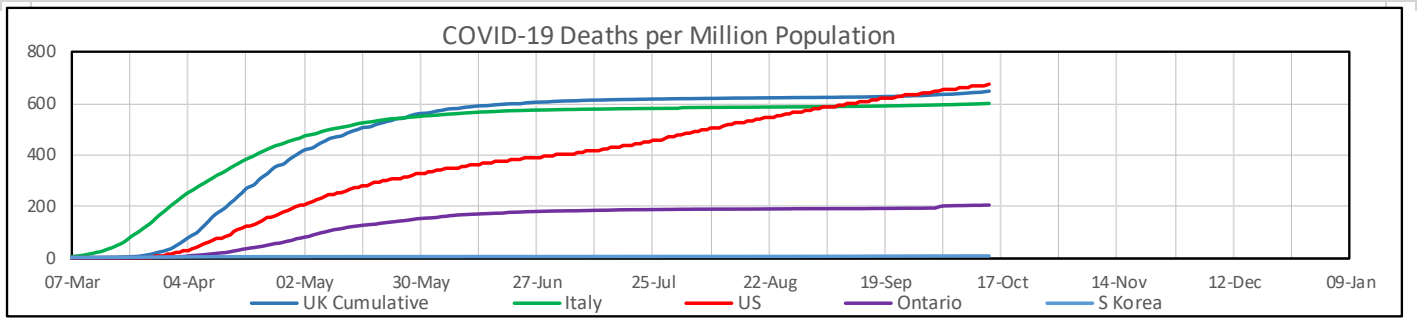
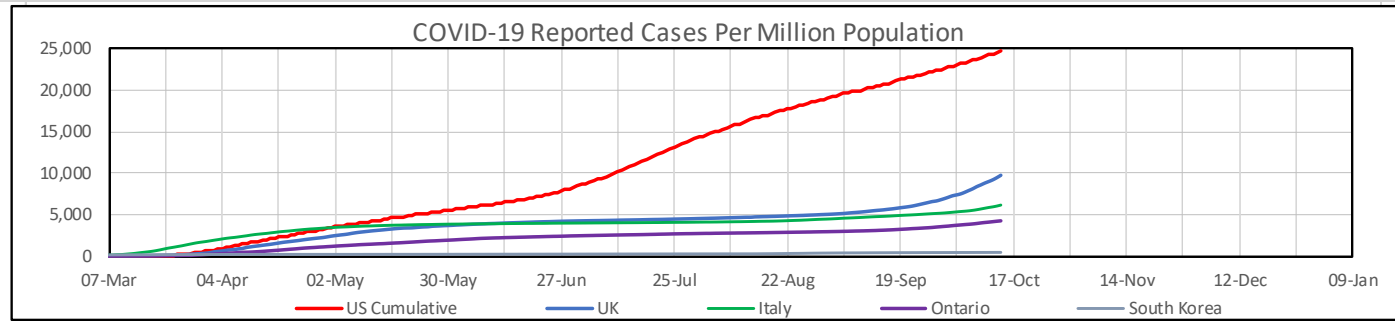


COVID-19 Observations – 15 October 2020 – by Alex Harrington



Many months ago, just before the vernal equinox, covid 19 was making its presence known in Ontario. People went off on March break. They returned. The equinox arrived and Ontario shut down essential services, including schools.

The summer solstice came and went, many places re-opened, and the virus cases declined, only to start rising again as the autumnal equinox approached. The equinox passed, cases rose and schools reopened.

I don't think the position of the sun has too much to do with the virus – I only use it to measure the passage of time. But any way you measure it, we are trying to keep our society functioning as the virus cases mount – the opposite of what we did six months ago when we were willing to stop to gather our defenses. Most things are against us – we operate in groups, the weather forces us inside, our groups split up and we remingle and create new groups, all the while with the virus among us, waiting to move on to a new host.

There are really only two things we can do – mask and test. Everything else is a reaction to how well we do the two most important things. Shutting things down or creating new rules are just an indication of our failures at the only two things asked of us.

Testing allows us to find the virus, focus our efforts and minimize spread. We've known that since the start. We scrambled to get over the first wave with noble vows of how we would be ready for the next.

How did that work out?

Look at the testing chart to the right – it appears we're doing well but it doesn't tell you how long it takes to get tests back. Way too long and in that time how many have isolated waiting for results. Not enough. Not enough, so the virus wins that round. Look at the tests per case – just when we want a high value so we can contact trace and isolate cases, the value has crashed – it's even worse than it looks because of the huge case backlog. And rapid testing so we can get on top of things when cases rise – not here yet.

How about masking (and the other things that go with it – distancing etc)? Better. But we have really stupid rules. Why no masks in gyms? You're working hard – your breath moves further and hangs in the air longer. So what if it's harder with a mask on. Wear a mask and stay further apart. About 55% of cases are in the under 40 age group – who is the highest user of gyms? So do things you know work – don't fart around doing half a job. And why are churches exempt from these tighter rules? Will God or Allah or someone protect them? We know what we have to do but we find all kinds of ways not to do it.

The cases are taking off again. With our hopeless testing, things are worse than the charts show. It's not just our testing that's hopeless. The US is worse – unless you're the Pres or a professional athlete – there's nothing money can't buy. Speaking of the Pres – he says he's cured. The nonsense he's spewing is ensuring the US stays trapped in their situation for a long time.

We should see the results of all the Thanksgiving get togethers in the next week or so. That will give us a hint of what the US thanksgiving will do to them.

Cheer up – the weather's turning. Maybe we'll all stay inside and avoid each other this time.

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	Last 7 days	Total	Last 7 days	Total to date	Average per day Last 7 days	Total to date	Average per day Last 7 days
South Korea	47,302	9,589	187	98	122	486	1.6	9	0.039	1.8%	
Italy	127,536	72,277	1,194	21	13	6,157	88	599	0.5	9.7%	
UK	359,885	248,987	3,748	38	17	9,853	234	650	1.3	6.6%	
US	359,729	1,022,730	3,108	15	19	24,767	160	674	2.3	2.7%	
Ontario	311,210	39,032	2,679	74	49	4,215	52	207	0.3	4.9%	

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

