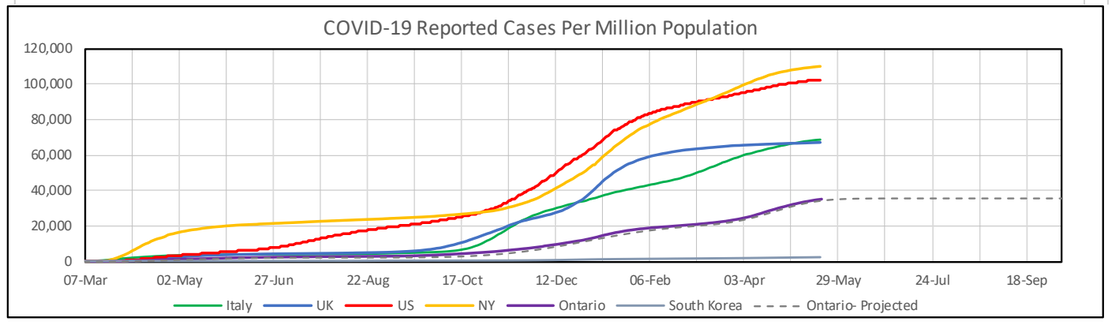
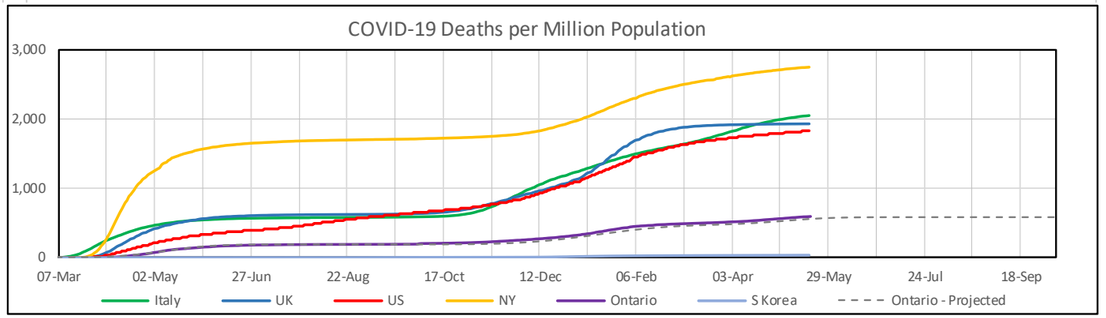
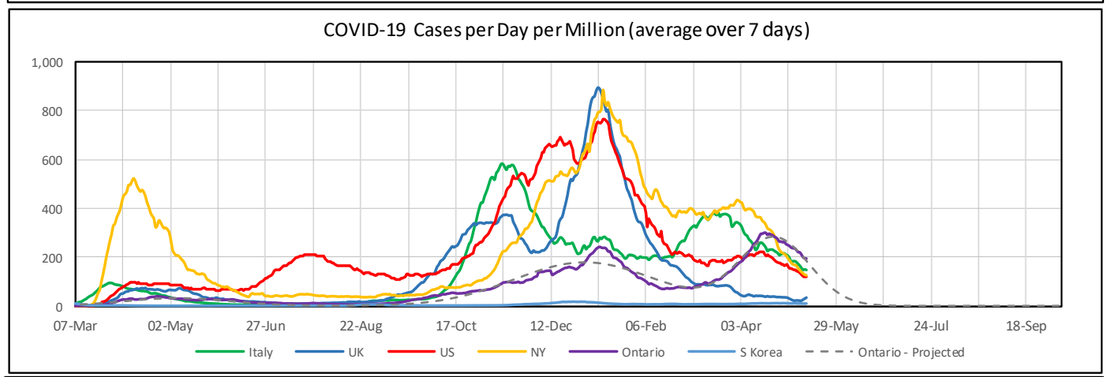
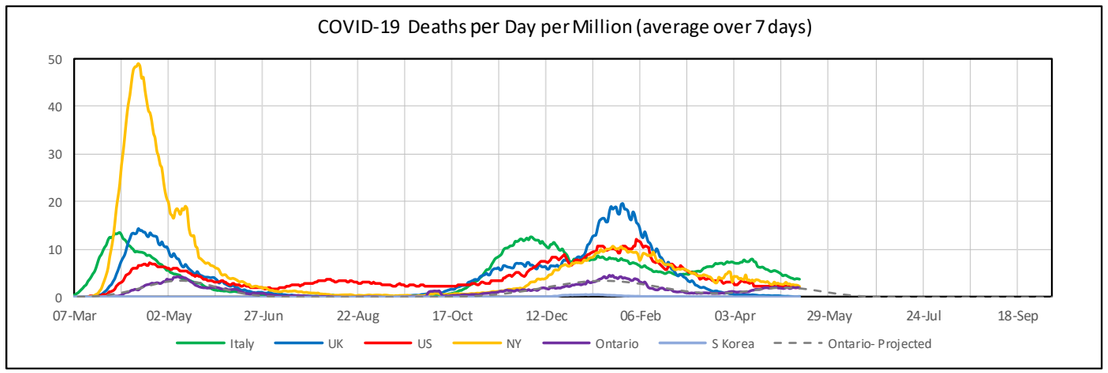
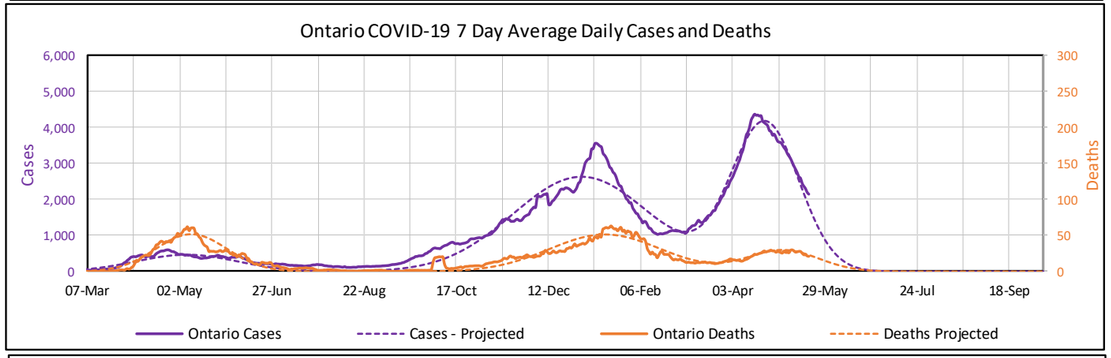
COVID-19 Observations – 20 May, 2021 – by Alex Harrington

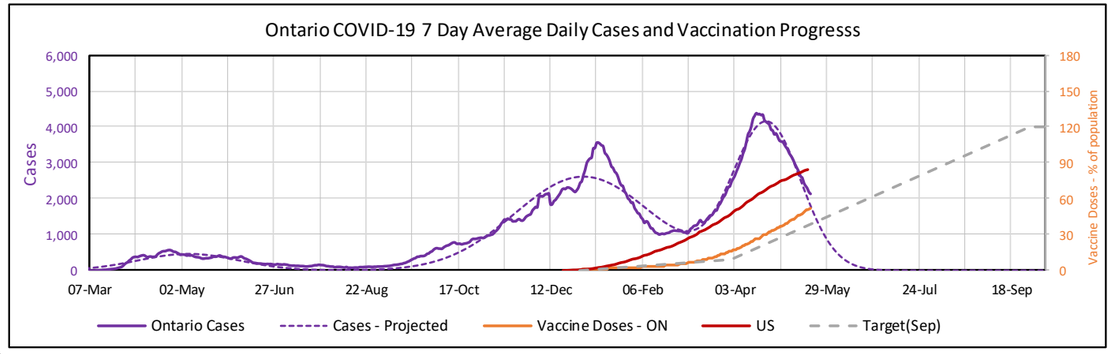


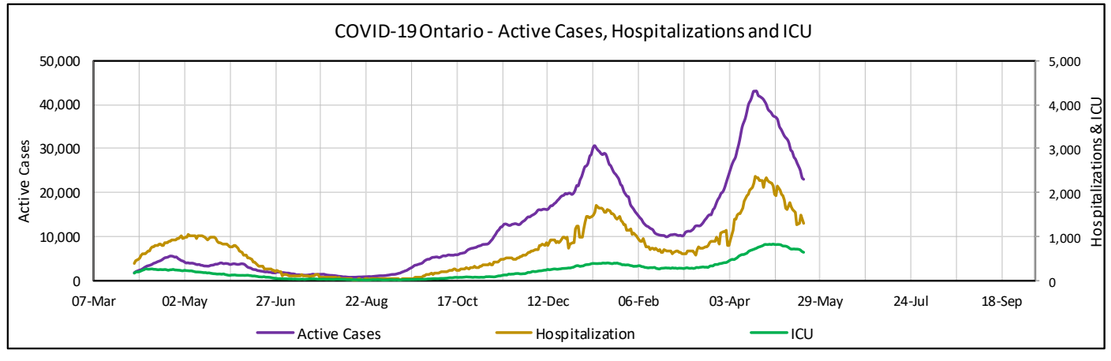












Once again, the federal government has made it embarrassing to be Canadian. When I think they can't get any sleazier, they manage to move the bar lower than I thought possible. Remember the COVAX program – vaccines for poorer countries. The one that Canada dipped into a while ago, the only developed country to pull that stunt. Last week, nearly a million AstraZeneca vaccines earmarked for COVAX arrived in Canada and our government sat on them. Despite international outcry to use them or give them to COVAX, we are sitting on them "just in case we need them".

Other than the endless embarrassment caused by our federal government (my editor won't let me say any more), things continue to improve. As the charts on the right show, our daily vaccination rates continue to climb, as opposed to the US where they are now having a hard time finding people to vaccinate. The number of doses of vaccine distributed has climbed to a level equivalent to 50% of the population. If we can maintain the current vaccination schedule, the vaccination program could be effectively complete by the end of July.

Our cases continue to drop, and the ban on non-emergency surgeries has been lifted – another sign that the situation is improving.

We now have a re-opening plan. There are three steps, each one based on vaccination thresholds, case numbers and health care indicators. The colour coded system is finished – I guess running around yelling "code red code red" wasn't as much fun as they thought it would be.

Golf courses and other outdoor resources can re-open Saturday, with a limit of groups of no more than five people. That's the only change until June 14 – maybe sooner if we're really good. Then we enter Step 1 if we reach 60% of all adults vaccinated with at least one dose. Non-essential businesses can open – limited to 15% capacity. Outdoor limit raised to 10 people and outdoor dining with up to 4 people per table. That will last for at least 21 days.

After 21 days and when we reach 70% of adults vaccinated with at least one dose and 20% with two doses we go to Step 2. If all goes well, this will be July 5. Then you can get a haircut. Outdoor limits go to 25 and sports leagues can start. Indoor religious services can start at 15% capacity.

After 21 more days and when we reach 70 to 80% of adults vaccinated with at least one dose and 25% with two doses we go to Step 3. If all goes well, this will be July 26. Then indoor sports and recreation can open with limits, as can restaurants, museums, casinos and most other things.

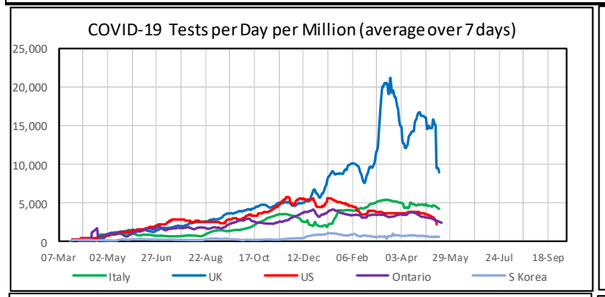
At the rate we're going, this is easily achievable, as long as people don't get stupid. I just hope they're going to be able to fix my hair in July.

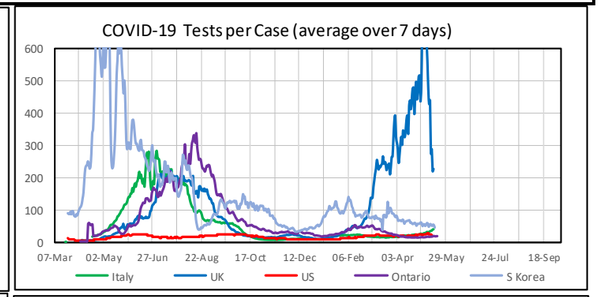
Take care of yourselves and don't endanger others.

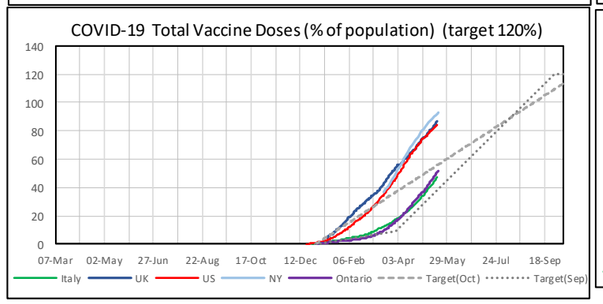
COVID-19 Summary Data

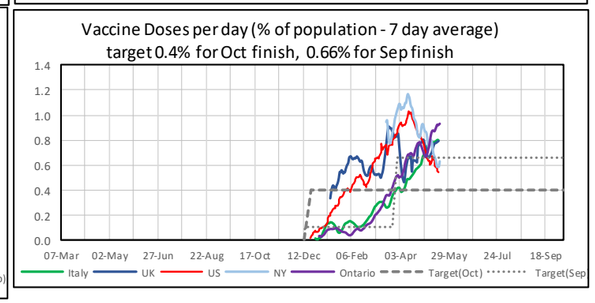
	Tests per Million	Tests per Day		Tests per Reported Case		Cases per Million		Deaths per Million		Deaths Per Case
	Total to Date	Average over Last 7 days		Total	Last 7 days	Total to date	Average per day Last 7 days	Total to date	Average per day Last 7 days	Total to date (%)
		Total	Per Million							
South Korea	180,604	30,405	594	70	43	2,593	11.3	37	0.107	1.4%
Italy	1,038,854	257,949	4,260	15	39	68,819	147	2,056	3.7	3.0%
UK	2,504,277	593,944	8,940	37	225	66,975	34	1,922	0.2	2.9%
US	1,317,583	717,437	2,180	13	18	102,631	118	1,827	2.0	1.8%
Ontario	1,022,772	35,820	2,459	29	16	35,490	193	587	1.9	1.7%

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









Vaccination charts assume half the people require 2 shots and half require 1 shot, so 1.5 doses per person on average.
Assume 80% of population needs vaccination for it to be effective, 80% of 1.5 = 1.2 doses per person on average, so total doses = 120% of population.
Assume vaccination program completed in October - 300 days from January, so 1.2 / 300 or 0.004 doses per day, or dosing rate = 0.4% of population per day
To start on Apr 1 and finish by Sep 30 (180 days), dosing rate = 1.2 / 180 or 0.0066 doses per day, or dosing rate = 0.66% of population per day