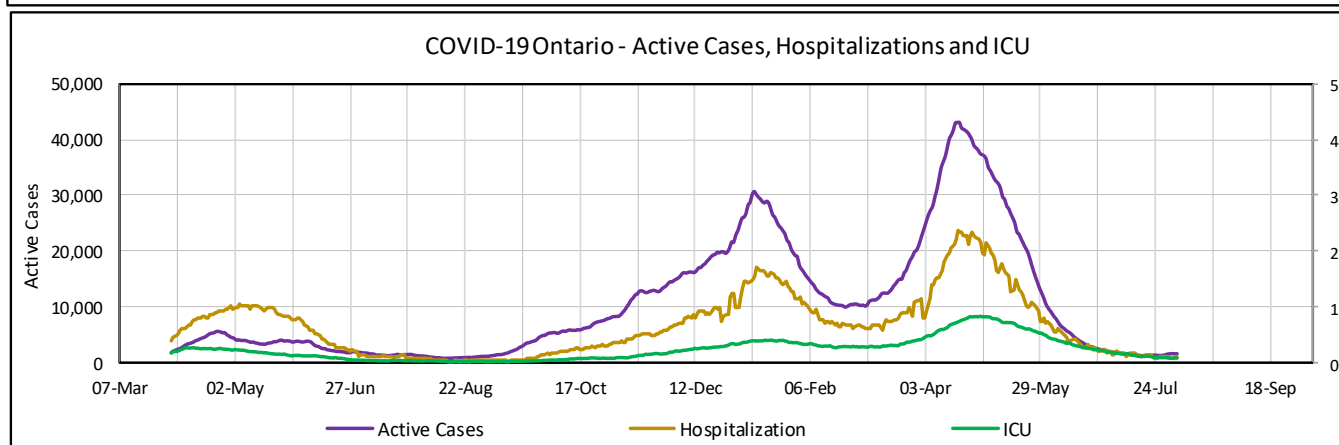
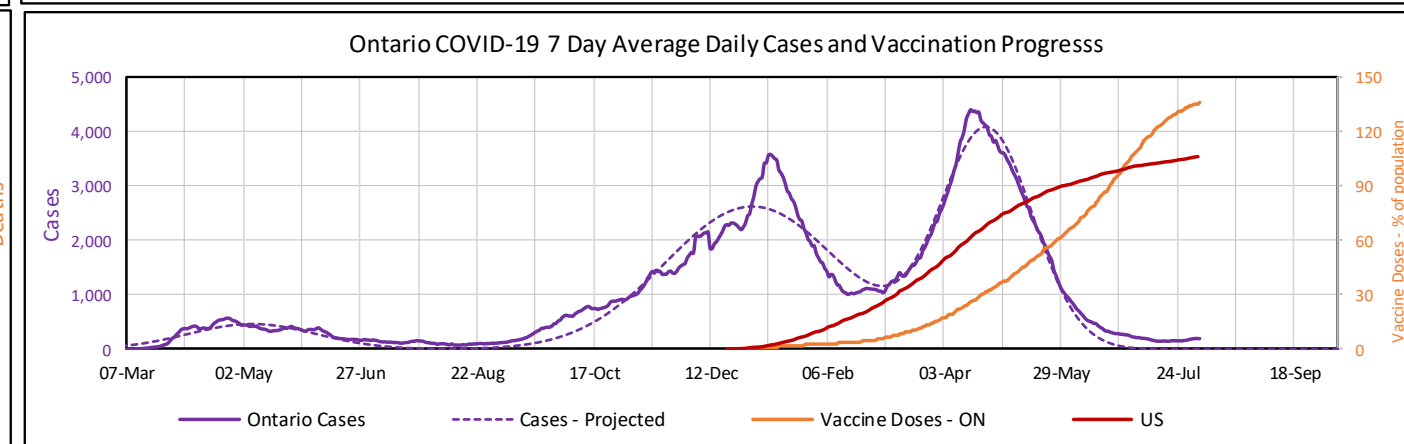
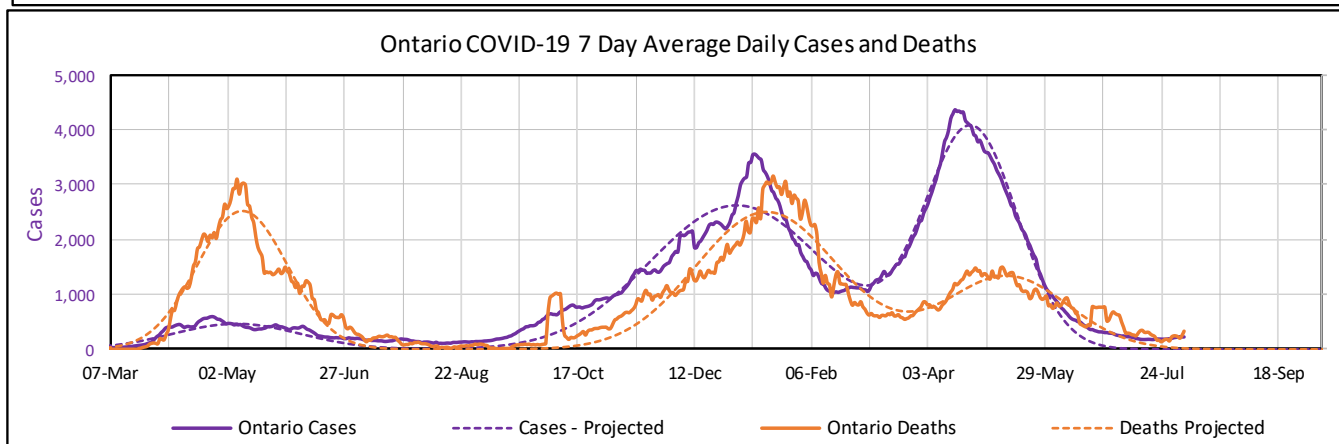
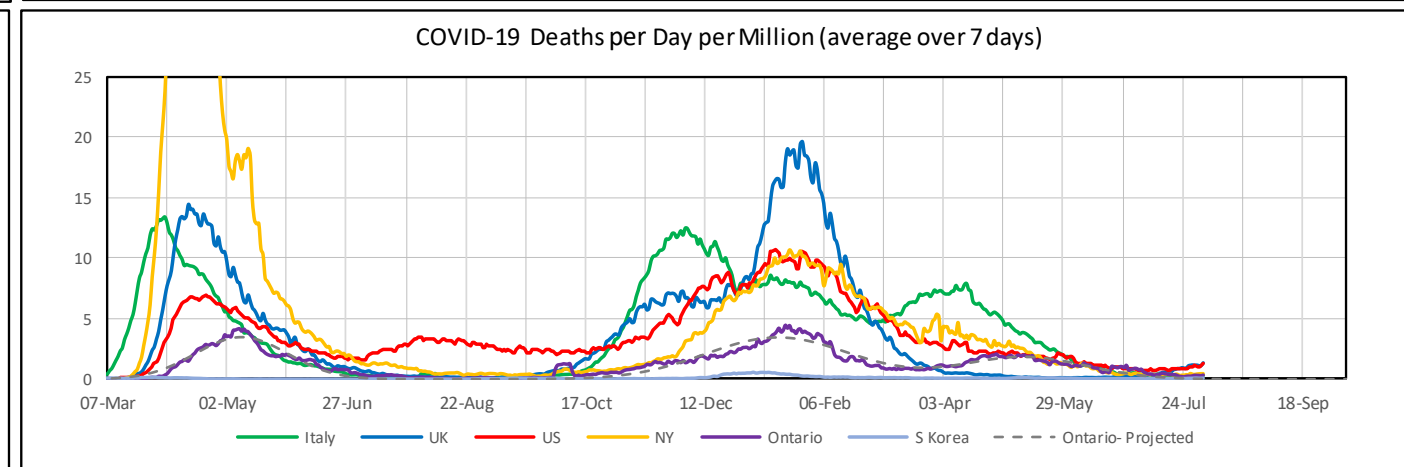
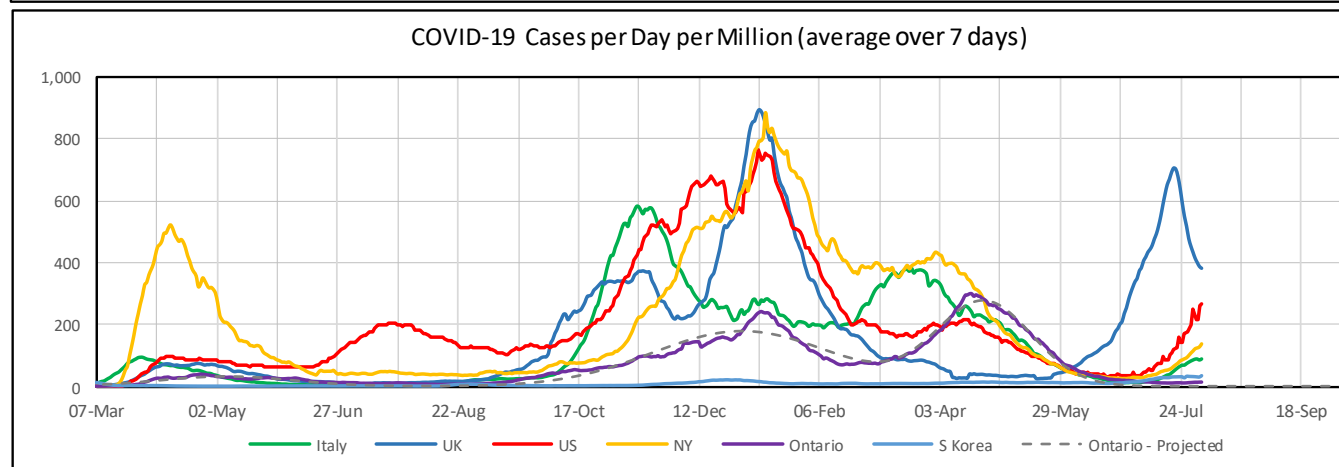
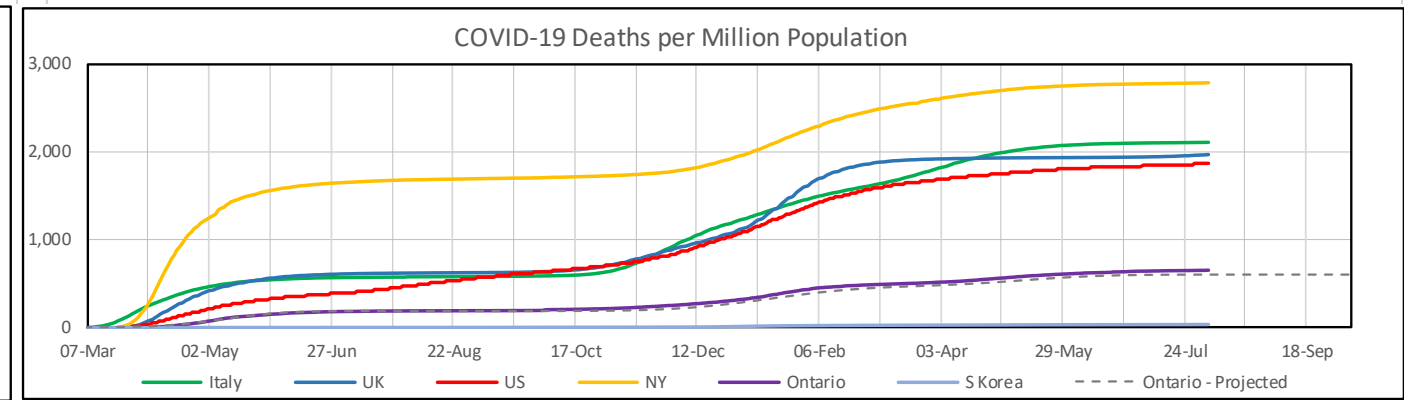
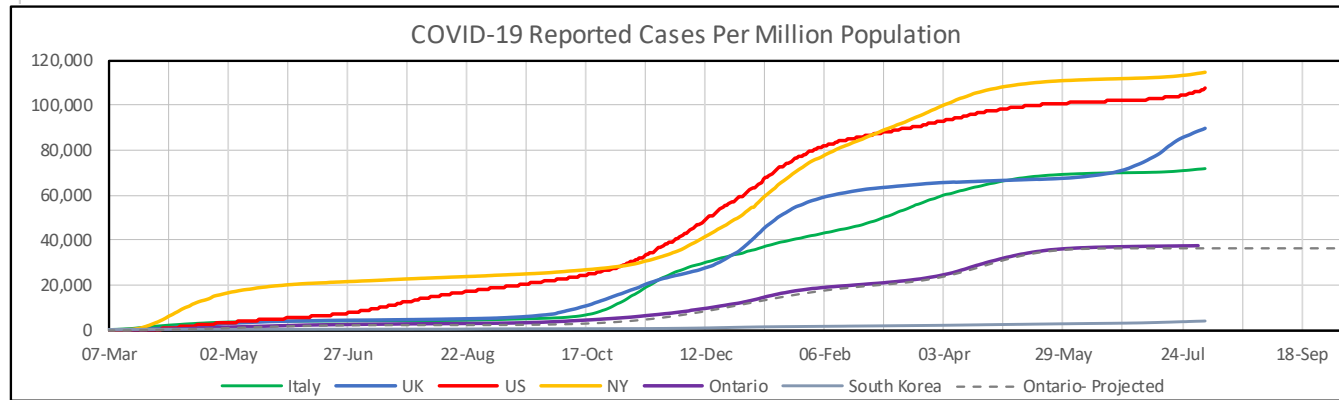
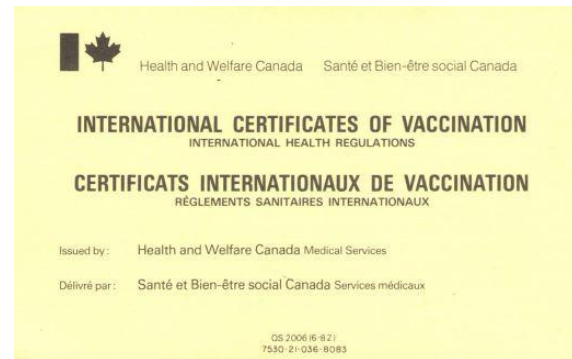


COVID-19 Observations – 5 August, 2021 – by Alex Harrington



When I was working in China some years ago, I had to show proof of vaccination. Little things – cholera, yellow fever, typhoid, hepatitis, and a tetanus, diphtheria and polio booster – diseases that I really did not want to get. To prove that I was vaccinated, I had a little booklet called International Certificates of Vaccinations. It contained the record of my various vaccinations. I still have it – I just updated it with copies of my covid shots. It wasn't a big deal – to travel to other countries (and, to get back into this one after they'd seen where you'd been), you had to show that you were protected from the nastier things to which you could be exposed.



It seemed reasonable at the time. If you were going to a place where there was a high risk of catching some nasty disease, you would take steps to protect yourself. And you would eliminate the risk of bringing the disease back and starting an epidemic at home. And it still seems reasonable. In different circumstances, covid would be just another entry on the list of things for which you are vaccinated.

But somewhere between then and now, a frighteningly large number of us have lost the ability for rational thought, and see vaccinations as some kind of plot. The unvaccinated now make up almost all covid cases, hospitalizations, ICU cases, and deaths. Some have changed their tune as they lie dying or near death, but there are still too many to reduce the spread of the virus. I would like to see the pandemic wind down, but it is not going to happen this year because of our inability to reach appropriate vaccination levels. As long as those unvaccinated hosts are there in the numbers we have now, the virus wins. Plus, it gets to practice on vaccinated people to see what new tricks it can learn, because we don't have the immunity levels to kill it off.

So all we do for now is watch our vaccinations rates steadily drop, watch our total vaccination curve flatten out, and wait for our covid cases to climb. Cases in the US have been climbing for a month. Thanks to its large proportion of unvaccinated, its death rate is also starting to climb. Last week I said we had a week or two before things started up again – that's still what I think. Not much has changed, and our US border will be open in one direction soon – the wrong direction.

As I said last week, not much to look forward to right now. We should find out soon if we will move on from Step 3 of the re-opening – the earliest that can happen is tomorrow. I wouldn't be surprised to see some easing of restrictions, but I don't know how we can avoid another surge when you see what's going on in every other comparable country in the world.

Take care of yourselves and don't endanger others.

COVID-19 Summary Data										
	Tests per Million Total to Date	Tests per Day Average over Last 7 days		Tests per Reported Case Total Last 7 days		Cases per Million Total to date Average per day Last 7 days		Deaths per Million Total to date Average per day Last 7 days		Deaths Per Case Total to date (%)
		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	222,970	28,932	565	56	19	4,016	34	41
Italy	1,283,433	211,929	3,500	18	40	72,171	88	2,116	0.3	2.9%
UK	3,592,740	914,076	13,758	41	31	90,019	383	1,961	1.4	2.2%
US	1,487,106	632,489	1,922	14	7	107,367	268	1,868	1.3	1.7%
Ontario	1,142,654	16,858	1,157	30	84	37,794	13	643	0.3	1.7%

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

