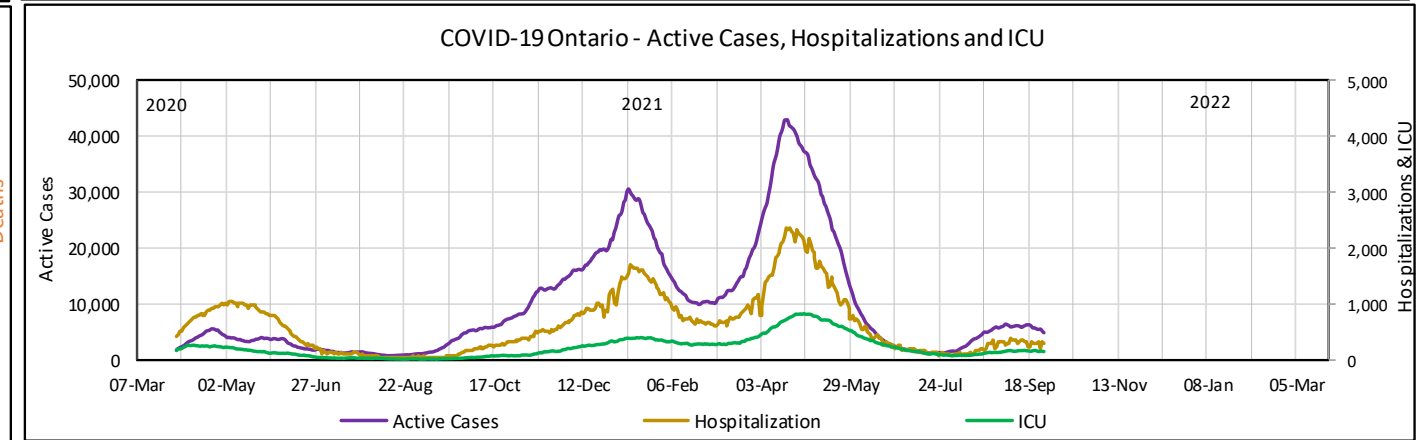
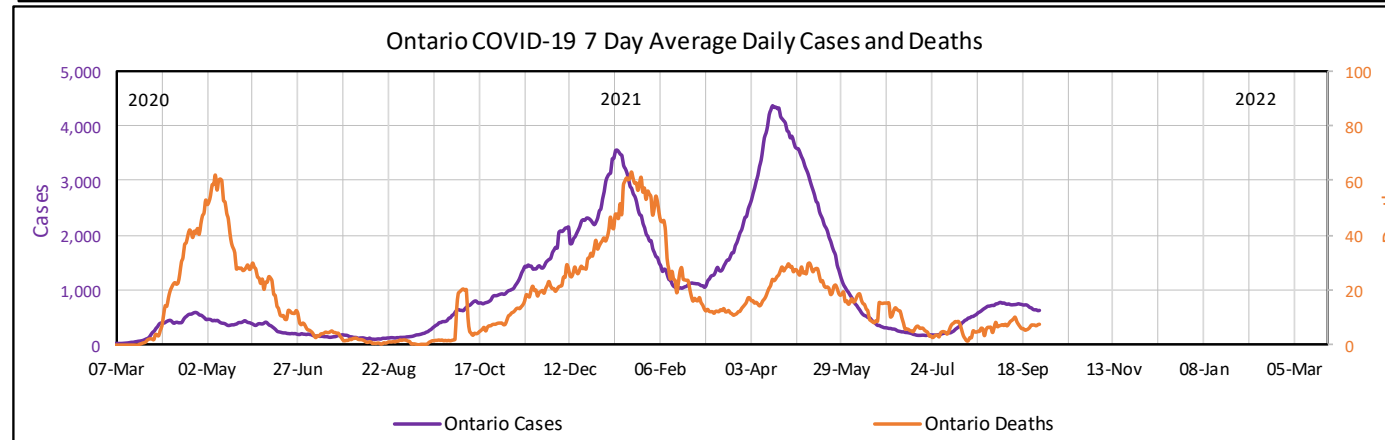
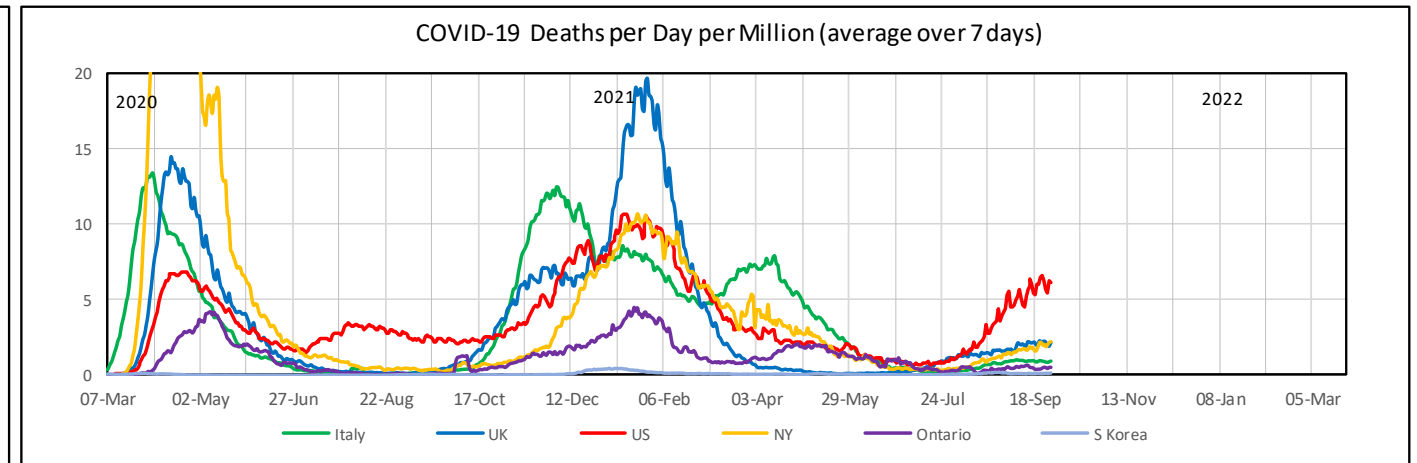
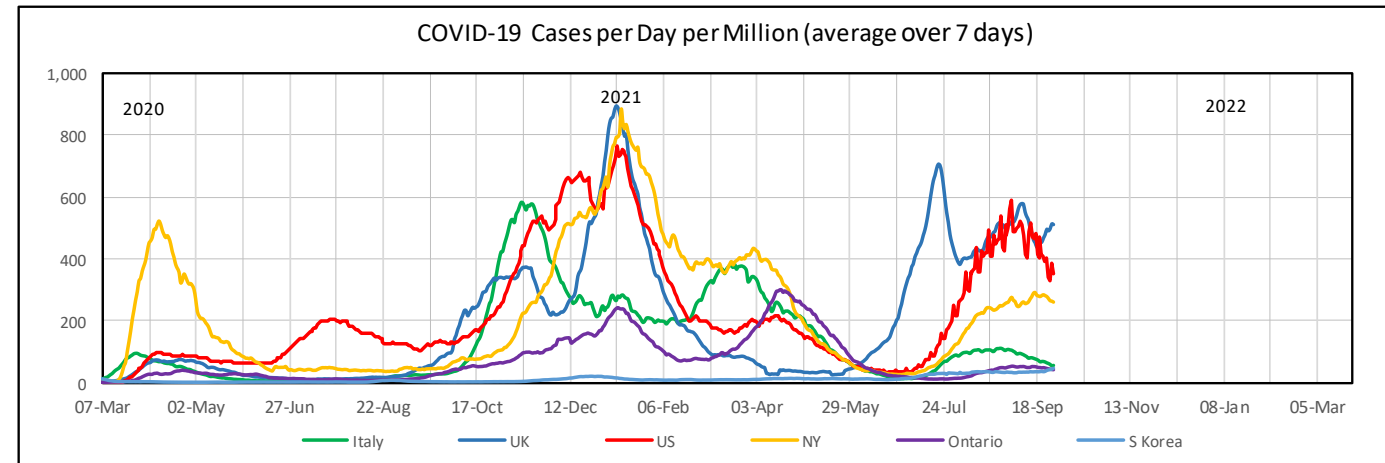
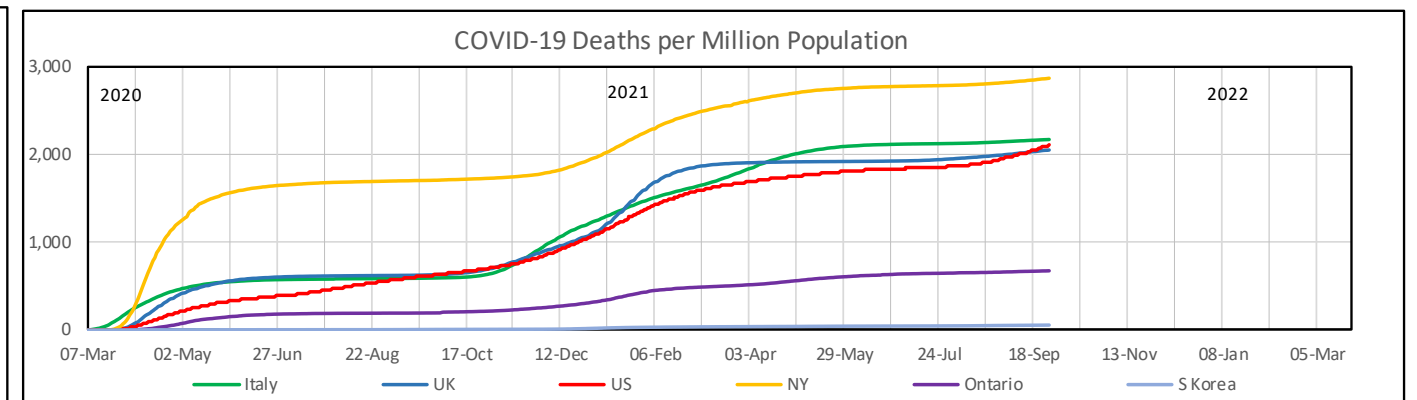
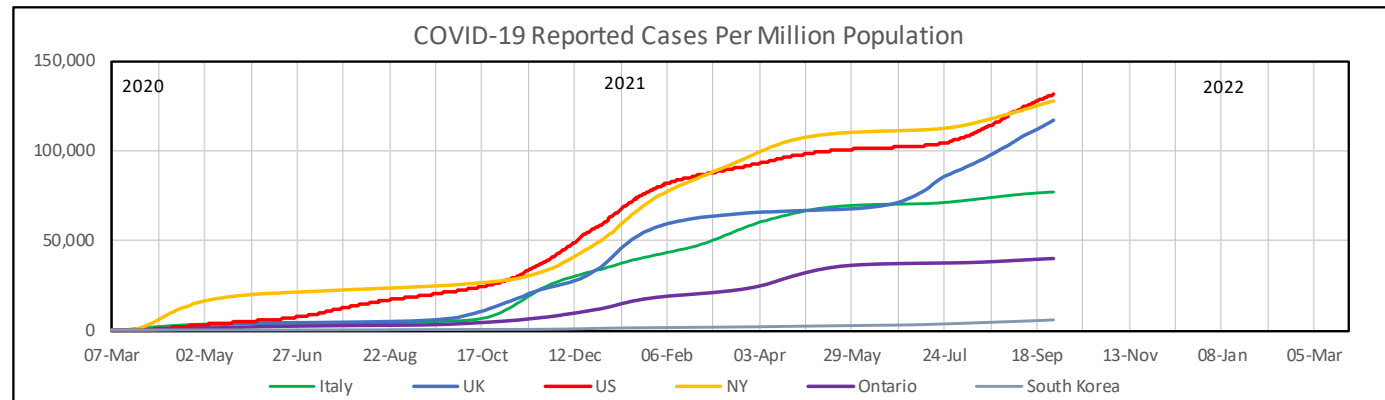


COVID-19 Observations – 30 September, 2021 – by Alex Harrington



I had to extend the charts again this week – they now go into 2022. That means I’ve been doing this for a year and a half, every week (except one), and initially twice a week. I must be really stubborn or really boring - probably both. I remember at the beginning I said this pandemic would last a long time. That was a pretty easy call – all you had to do was look at the Spanish flu pandemic. (I hope we’re still allowed to call it by what has been its name for 100 years – don’t get me started on wokeness). That one was around for three years, and that’s at least what we’ll see with this one.

We’re at a very delicate point right now – cases can go up or down depending on the choices we make. We can see an example in the UK data – they got through their 4th wave and cases were on the way down when they relaxed restrictions. Cases rose for a while, but started to decline, until the mask mandates were lifted. Now cases are on the rise again. Appeasing people’s frustrations will not get us through this – things will suck for a while longer. It’s your choice how much things will suck – be stupid and we will be forced into more restrictions. Be smart and we’ll be stuck with masks but we will be able to do things. Of course, get vaccinated – see last week for my vaccination opinion.

South Korea is hitting record highs in cases, and will likely extend distancing measures. Australia is having problems containing things, and they’re an island, and have been protected by their isolation for much of the pandemic. You can look anywhere and see that this is not over. There are always examples of people thinking that now we can relax, only to find that this virus is a stubborn foe, and every setback just prolongs the frustration.

Here at home, we’re now dealing with schools and kids, and soon fall will arrive with much more indoor activity. The Ontario government has huge stockpiles of rapid tests. They’ve now decided the tests cannot be distributed to schools or parents – only to industry. Of course, they won’t tell us which industries are getting them. So we have this constant debate about mask in school or vaxx in school or even go to school, and one of the things that will help determine if there is or isn’t a problem is denied to schools. It seems our government is just another one of the players doing all it can to prolong the misery of this pandemic.

We know what has to be done to get over this – vaxx, mask and distance - but will we do it?

Take care of yourselves and don’t endanger others.

| | 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 (%) |
| South Korea | 259,446 | 24,967 | 487 | 43 | 11 | 6,027 | 47 | 48 | 0.1 | 0.8% |
| Italy | 1,509,475 | 282,623 | 4,668 | 20 | 85 | 77,044 | 55 | 2,160 | 0.9 | 2.8% |
| UK | 4,068,476 | 948,339 | 14,274 | 35 | 28 | 116,990 | 512 | 2,058 | 2.2 | 1.8% |
| US | 1,732,427 | 1,381,605 | 4,199 | 13 | 12 | 131,365 | 354 | 2,105 | 6.1 | 1.6% |
| Ontario | 1,237,981 | 31,668 | 2,173 | 31 | 51 | 40,185 | 41 | 667 | 0.5 | 1.7% |

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

