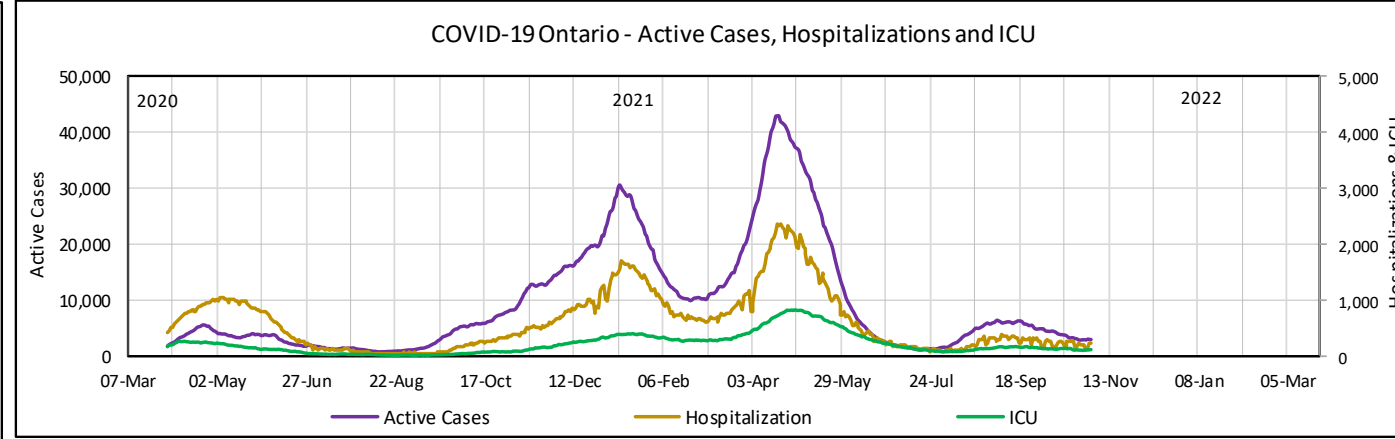
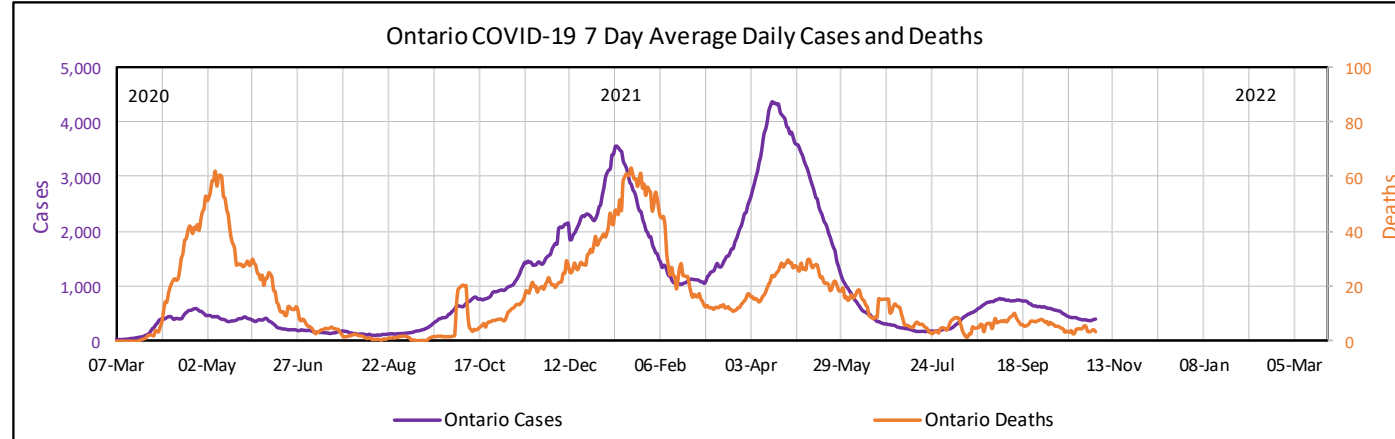
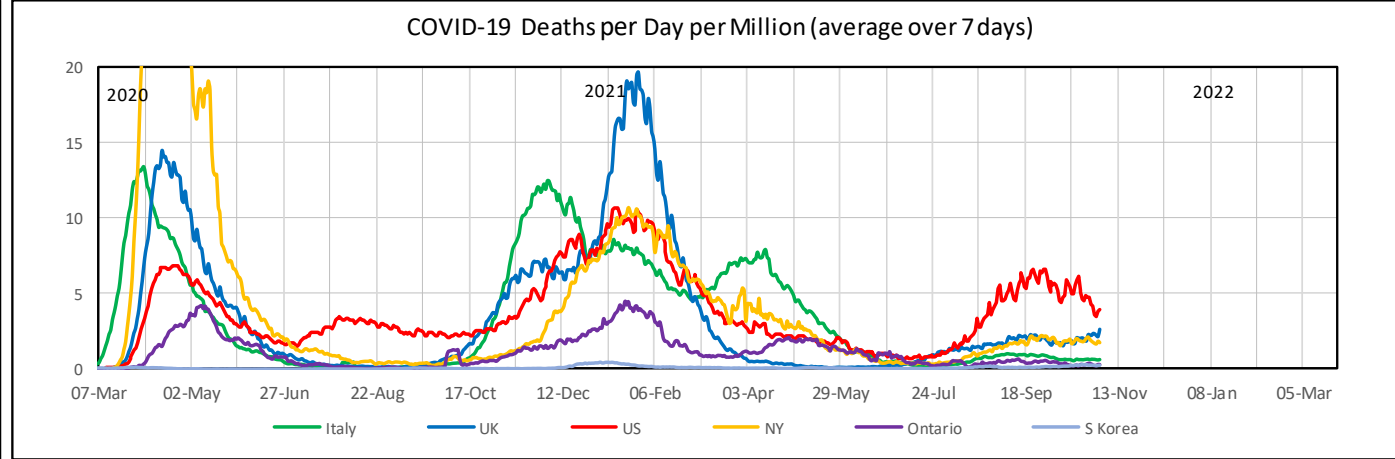
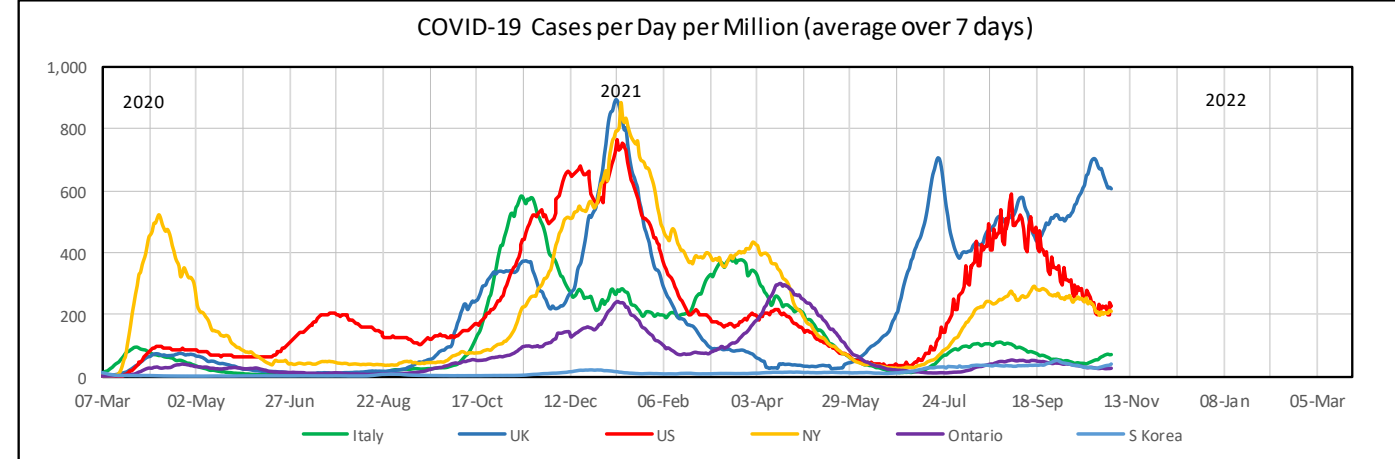
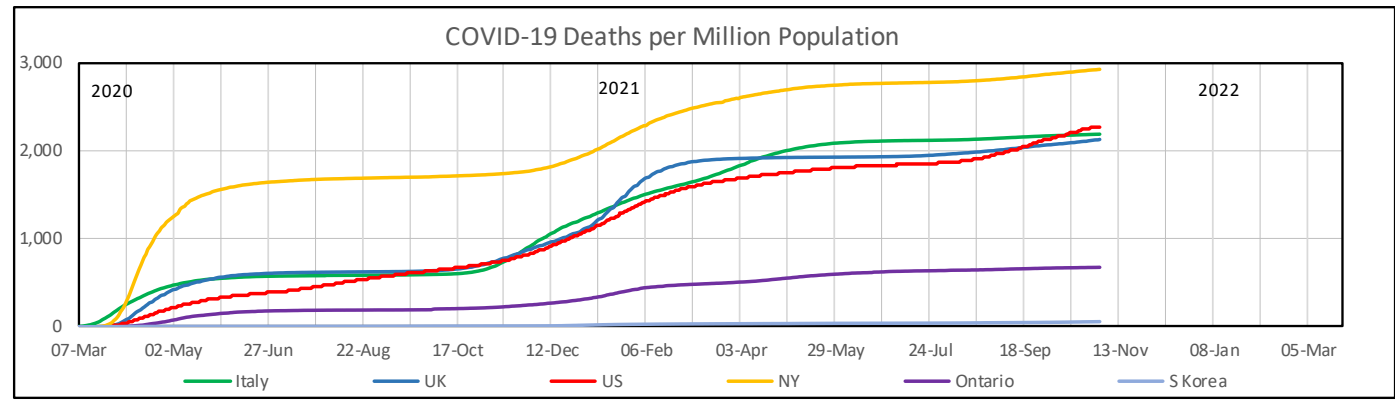
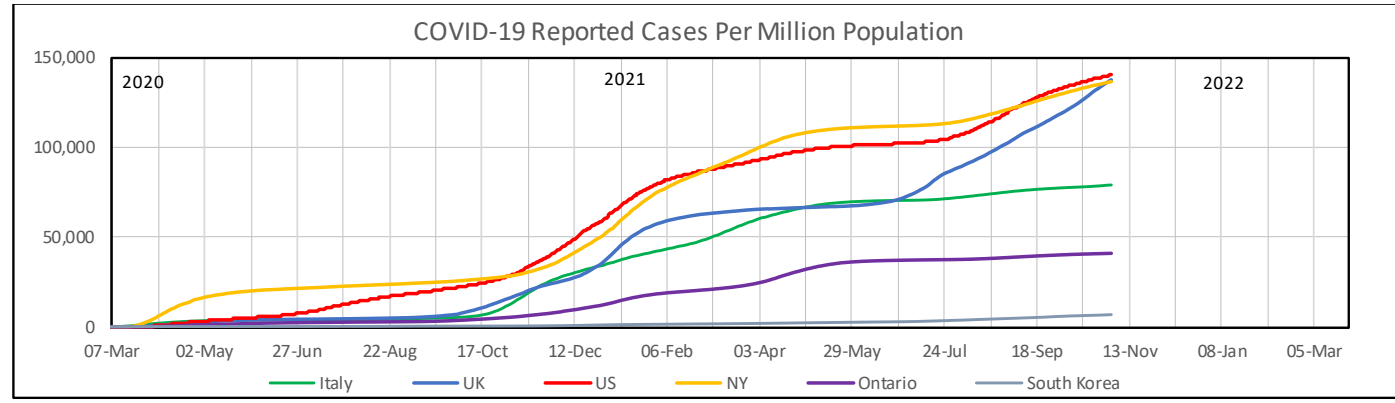


COVID-19 Observations – 04 November, 2021 – by Alex Harrington



Today our premier announced that vaccines would not be mandatory for health care workers. Didn't want to risk the staff loss and the resulting stress on the system. I have many problems with this decision, but the main one is simple. If you are in health care, you have many responsibilities. One is to minimize risk to patients and staff, and another is to set an example. Allowing unvaxxed workers to continue with their duties allows them to ignore both of these basic responsibilities. The argument is that they'll be tested and isolated if needed – none of this would be necessary if the vaccination requirement were enforced.

What we have now is a situation where the message to the public is clear – do whatever you want because we don't care. Never fear, we'll jump on some little guy with a store if his mask is crooked and fine him till he's out of business, but we have no intention of making sure that you are safe if you have to interact with the health care system. After having been told that the plan is to drop the proof of vaccination requirement in January, this is another huge victory for the anti vaxxers. They'll just sit and wait, with no consequences for their actions.

We now have approvals for boosters. Higher risk groups are eligible now, while the masses will be told a bit later when they can start getting shots.

We can pretty well tell now how the pandemic will end here. The government is quickly losing interest – you can tell because they've started a series of commercials for the next election, and they're washing their hands of vaccination enforcement - so we'll be left to do whatever we want. That's not necessarily bad, but we'll have another flare-up over the winter, and I doubt it will reach the level of the surge that's just ending. The unknown that could mess this up is how many people get boosters and will immunity last without them.

For me, I'm keeping my mask – not for covid so much right now, but cold and flu season is starting and they should see a resurgence this year. I've been quite happy without them, and if a mask keeps them away, I'll mask.

Take care of yourselves and don't endanger others.

