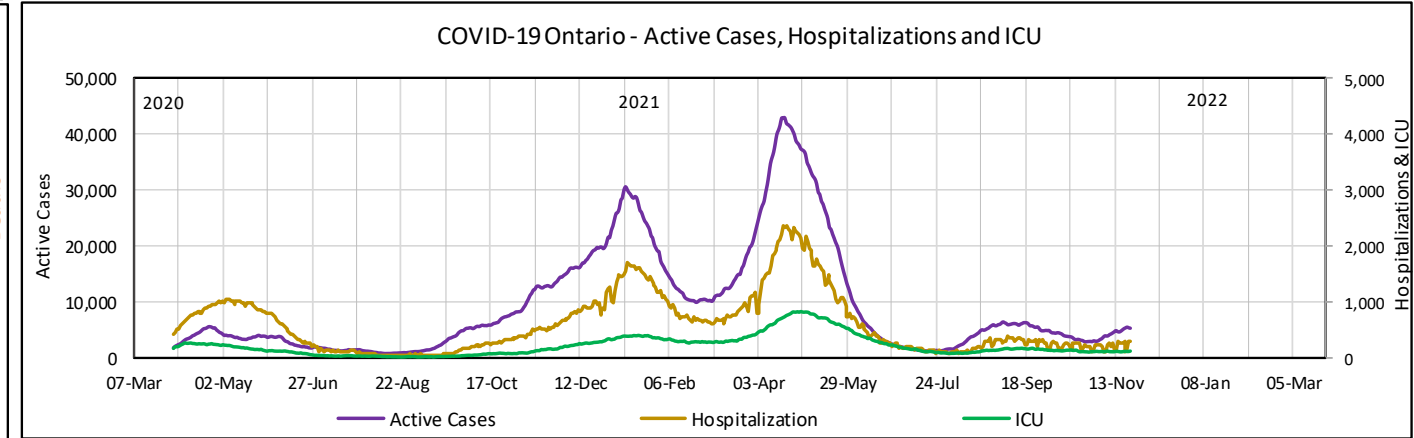
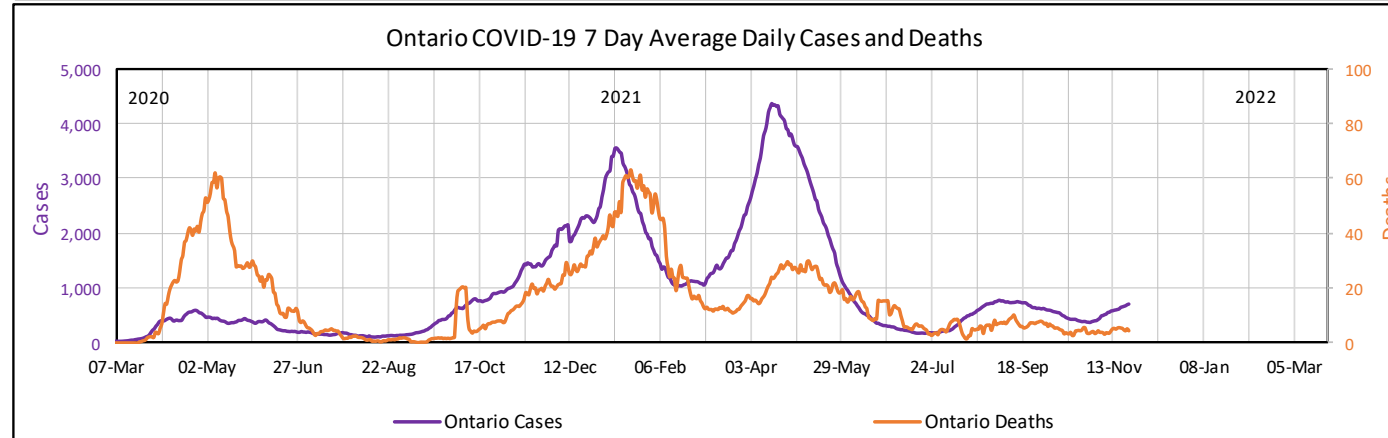
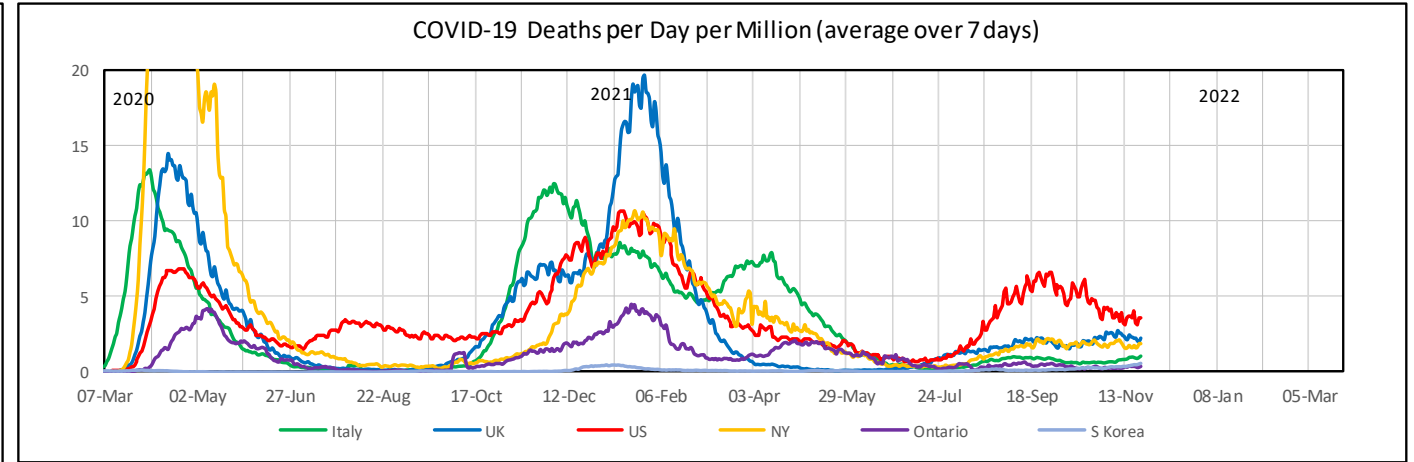
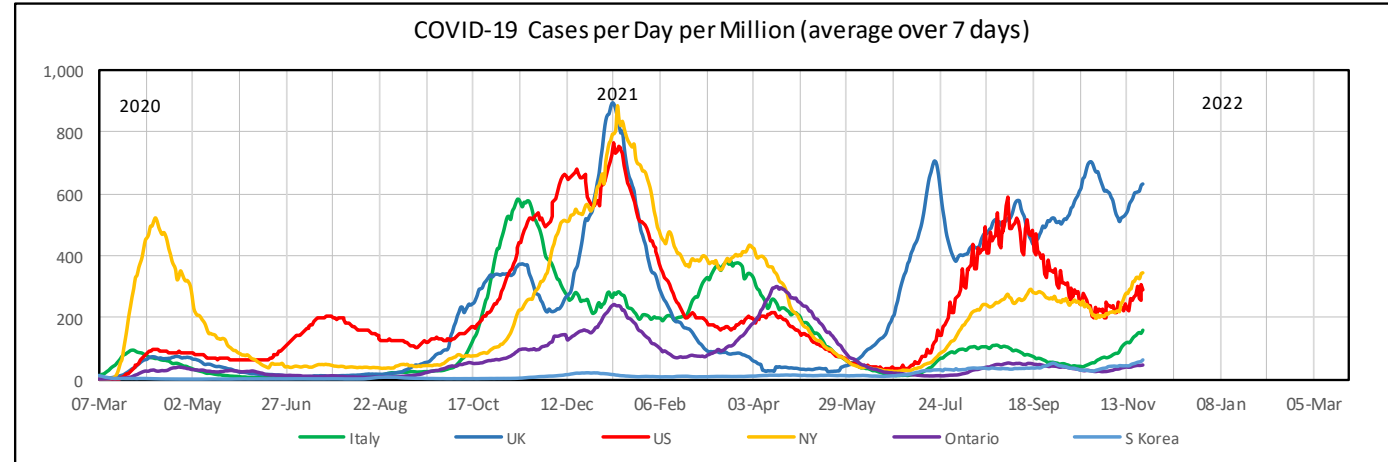
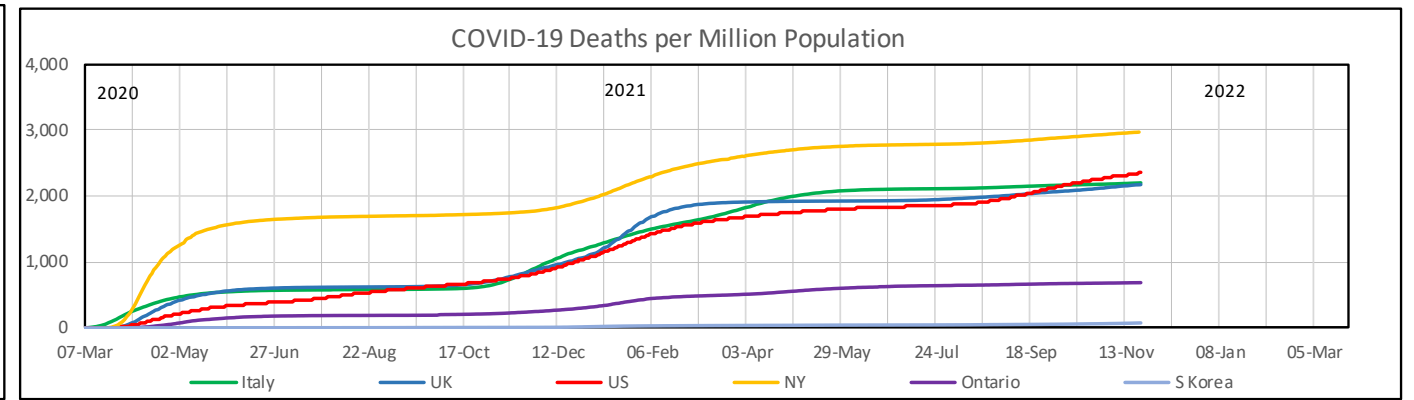
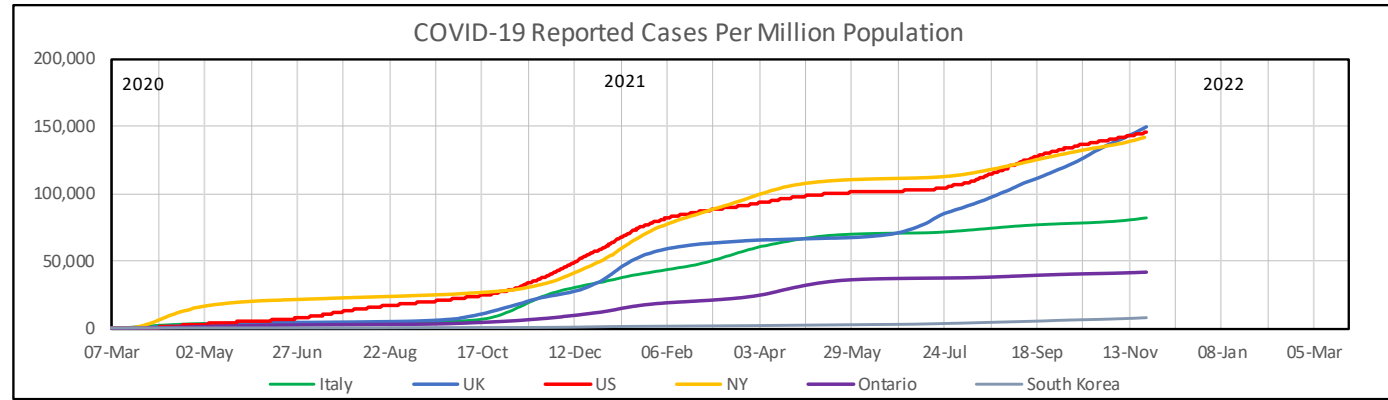


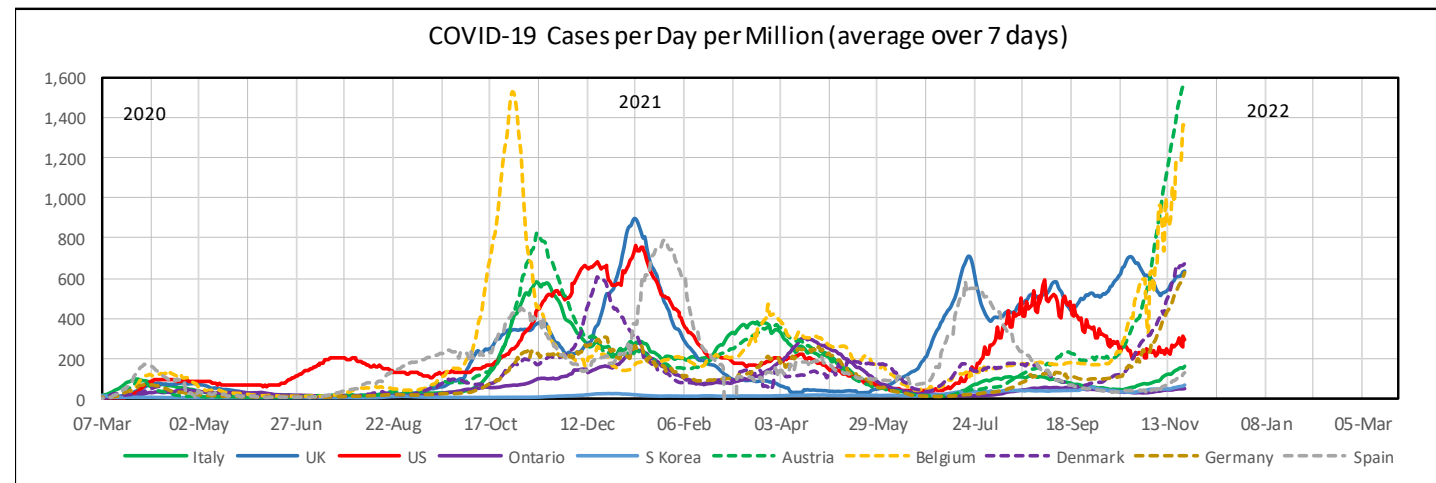
COVID-19 Observations – 25 November, 2021 – by Alex Harrington



Your Latin saying for today - *malo accepto stultus sapit* (from experiencing trouble a fool is made wise). Winston Churchill paraphrased it as “those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it”.

Last week I said that the pandemic seems to have released our deep seated stupid. That’s what prevents us learning from history, even the very short history we have experienced over the past two years. Look at the daily case chart from the UK (above, centre left). They gave up masking, distancing and other restrictions in August, even though they knew that these measures were effective. Since then, their cases have been rising in waves – making higher highs and higher lows with each surge. They know what works but choose to not learn from it – for no reason other than stupidity. I’m not being very kind – some may say stubbornness or appeasement or some other euphemism, but it’s just stupid. They’re relying on vaccinations. That’s not going too well – there is reluctance in the younger age group that is least vaccinated, and the older ones are seeing the effectiveness of vaccine protection wear off.

That’s just one example. South Korea has reached record highs again. New Zealand continues to see cases escalate. Austria is implementing lock downs. I’ve grabbed some data from a few places in Europe and added them to the case chart, below.



Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Germany are at or near new record highs, while Spain and Italy are no where near their old highs. There are many other examples – I just grabbed a few. Some places are in trouble while others aren’t. It’s not as if the virus is sweeping across the continent, rather, the virus is taking advantage of opportunities. It has done this from the start, and it will continue to do so. We provide these opportunities when we refuse to learn from history. Vaxx, mask and distance, and the virus is held at bay. Refuse, and the virus exploits the chances we give it.

Another difference with the latest wave in Europe is that the covid deaths are also rising in many of these countries with lower vaccination rates, once again demonstrating the effectiveness of vaccination.

I’ve said again and again that this is not over. Vaccination will ultimately end the pandemic, but not until high enough levels are reached. Our vaccination curve (bottom, right) shows that our rate continues to drop – boosters and young people have not contributed enough to get our vaccination totals up. Maybe next week, as school vaccination programs kick in. As vaccine effectiveness wears off, we may well have an unpleasant covid winter – all avoidable if we are willing to learn from history. Vaxx, mask and distance and we’ll be fine. Don’t, and covid will be very happy.

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 (%)
South Korea	307,090	41,914	818	43	26	8,298	62	66	0.6	0.8%
Italy	1,906,795	531,543	8,779	23	54	81,621	159	2,202	1.1	2.7%
UK	4,836,704	921,071	13,863	32	22	150,299	633	2,176	2.2	1.4%
US	1,986,790	1,151,209	3,498	14	12	145,809	288	2,351	3.6	1.6%
Ontario	1,345,221	27,022	1,855	32	38	42,109	46	685	0.4	1.6%

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

