

EDITORS' PICK | May 11, 2021, 01:32pm EDT | 194,881 views

# Covid Surges In 4 Of 5 Most Vaccinated Countries—Here's Why The U.S. Should Worry

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*I cover breaking news.*

Updated May 11, 2021, 02:19pm EDT

**TOPLINE** Countries with the [world's highest vaccination rates](#)—including four of the top five most vaccinated—are fighting to contain coronavirus outbreaks that are, on a per-capita basis, higher than the surge devastating India, a trend that has experts questioning the efficacy of some vaccines (especially China's Sinopharm) and the wisdom of easing restrictions even with most of the population vaccinated.



Some of the most vaccinated countries have the biggest Covid surges. GETTY

## KEY FACTS

- Of the Seychelles, Israel, the UAE, Chile and Bahrain—respectively the world's five most vaccinated countries—only Israel is not fighting to contain a dangerous surge in Covid-19 infections.
- Controlling for population, the Seychelles and Bahrain, alongside other highly vaccinated countries like the Maldives and Uruguay, recorded the highest number of daily coronavirus cases worldwide.
- The Seychelles, a small island nation with almost double the U.S.' vaccination rate, **recorded** 328 cases per 100,000 people, a far higher incidence than India (28) when population is accounted for.
- The outbreaks in vaccinated countries have sparked **concern** over **how effective** some of the Chinese vaccines are versus the western vaccines Israel used, including the Sinopharm vaccine the World Health Organization **endorsed** Friday that makes up a large part of the countries' immunization programs.
- A relaxation of pandemic restrictions and mixed messaging from governments are also touted as potential explanations—tourism-reliant Seychelles and Maldives both (still) **welcome tourists**, Dubai **exited lockdown rapidly** and Chile **loosened** its restrictions and allowed domestic travel.

## KEY BACKGROUND

In many wealthy countries, vaccines have often been framed as the ultimate exit strategy from lockdown. Cases have declined in some countries executing successful and rapid campaigns, including the U.S., the U.K. and Israel, though experts **point** to places like Chile as a frightening example of what can happen if things are **eased too quickly** and **warn** a vaccine on its

own is likely not enough. The efficacy of particular vaccines is likely to become a prominent concern as more countries begin to ramp up inoculation campaigns and there are concerns that some, [like](#) China's Sinopharm vaccine, are far less effective at controlling the disease than those produced by the likes of Moderna and Pfizer.

#### WHAT TO WATCH FOR

World leaders, including the head of the World Health Organization, issue frequent [reminders](#) that nobody is “safe until everyone is safe,” an issue underscored by the vast [vaccine inequity](#) between nations. New, potentially more dangerous, variants are [emerging](#) across the globe, some of which could potentially evade existing vaccines. The WHO [classified](#) the B.1.617 variant tearing through India as a variant of concern Tuesday, noting it may be more infectious.

#### BIG NUMBER

45%. All five of the world's most vaccinated countries have at least this proportion of their population partially vaccinated. [Data](#) is available for Bahrain (47%), Chile (45%), Israel (60%) and the Seychelles (69%), with the UAE claiming third place thanks to its high number of doses given per capita (which is around 115,000 per 100,000 people; the UAE does not declare more granular data). The Seychelles (61%) and Israel (56%) also have the highest proportion of their population fully vaccinated, followed by Chile (38%) and Bahrain (35%). The U.S., where vaccination rates are [declining](#) in all but four states, sits just behind Chile and Bahrain, with 35% of its population now fully vaccinated and 46% partially.

#### TANGENT

In the U.S., where [vaccine hesitancy remains high](#), [polling indicates](#) that unvaccinated Americans are likely to be the most comfortable engaging in normal activities. This risks sustained community transmission as many states begin to reopen in response to rising vaccination rates.

#### FURTHER READING

[Covid Is Surging In Chile Despite High Vaccination Rates — Here's Why The U.S. Should Take Notice \(Forbes\)](#)

[Reaching 'Herd Immunity' Is Unlikely in the U.S., Experts Now Believe \(NYT\)](#)

[Vaccinations Are Now Declining In All But Four States—Here's Where The Drop Off Is The Worst \(Forbes\)](#)

[Travel Interest Surging As States Reopen — But Unvaccinated Americans Are More Likely To Be Getting Out, Poll Finds \(Forbes\)](#)

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