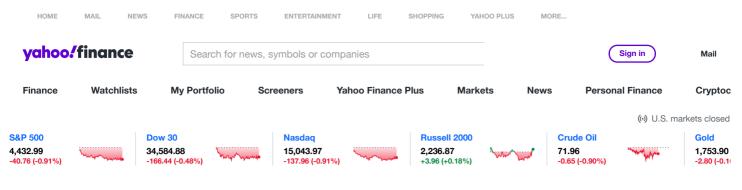
Singapore Shifts Covid Focus to Hospitalizations as Cases Set Daily Record



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(Bloomberg) -- Singapore is shifting the focus of its daily reports to turn attention to its medical capacity alongside the country's plans to live with the virus, amid an increase of its daily count of Covid cases in the local community to the highest it's ever been.

The Ministry of Health will now lead its report with data on serious cases as well as provide more information on large emerging clusters, it said Wednesday in a statement accompanying its daily update. It will no longer state the number of linked and unlinked cases "as this is no longer as relevant as before, given our current strategy of living with Covid-19."

At 81%, Singapore has the best vaccination rate in the world among countries of more than 1 million people, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Yet daily cases - the vast majority of which are mild or asymptomatic -- are on the rise.

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"We are now in a very different stage of our battle against Covid-19," the health ministry said. The revamped reports will "reflect the salient issues" such as whether hospital capacity is getting overwhelmed, it said.

Changing Approach

Singapore's shifting approach to deal with the virus has encountered headwinds, not least from Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's wife Ho Ching, underscoring the tensions between those who are worried that the surge in cases would get out of hand, and others who are pushing for a quicker reopening.

Ho, who's the outgoing chief executive officer of stateowned investment firm Temasek Holdings Pte, said in a Facebook post Thursday there should still be a daily case breakdown between linked and unlinked cases. "This gives us a sense of the pipeline of potential new cases ahead, and whether our contact tracing is keeping up," Ho wrote, debating her case with those who responded to her post.

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