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Coronavirus: What's happening in Canada and around the world on Monday

Vietnam's capital on Monday extended COVID-19 restrictions for a further two weeks, as authorities launched a plan to test up to 1.5 million people for the coronavirus in higher-risk areas of the capital to containing infections.

The Southeast Asian country dealt successfully with the virus for much of the pandemic, but the virulent delta variant has proved more challenging in recent months.

Hanoi, which has ordered people to stay at home and has halted all non-essential activities since July, has now divided the city into "red," "orange" and "green" zones based on infection risk.

"Accordingly, people in red areas must shelter in place and one person of every household there will be tested three times per week," a statement from city authorities said, noting that in other zones people would be tested every five to seven days.

Barricades on Monday separated red zones from other areas, photographs posted on social media and media outlets showed.

A barricade installed in Hanoi to restrict people's movements is part of plans by authorities to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Hanoi authorities expect up to 1.5 million test samples to be collected in the next week. The government is eager to keep the outbreak from reaching the intensity seen in Ho Chi Minh City.

Hanoi has been reporting on average 50 cases daily and has



recorded over 4,000 cases since the pandemic began, official data showed.

Although the numbers are still low, authorities are wary after the delta variant helped drive up infections across the country to over 524,000 cases.

One third of Hanoi's eight million residents have been given at least one dose of a vaccine and on Sunday the health ministry called on the capital and Ho Chi Minh City to vaccinate all adult residents with at least one dose by Sept. 15.

Vietnam has one of the lowest coronavirus vaccination rates in the region, with only 3.3 per cent of its 98 million people fully vaccinated, and 15.4 per cent with one shot.

What's happening around the world

As of Monday, more than 220 million cases of COVID-19 had been reported worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University. The reported global death toll stood at more than 4.5 million.

In Europe, Italy's Health Minister Roberto Speranza said on Monday

that no country should be left behind in the vaccination effort against COVID-19, speaking at the end of a two-day G20 health summit in Rome.

He said health ministers were working on what has been dubbed the Rome Pact. A key part of the agreement is the faster distribution of vaccines beyond wealthy nations.

Italian Health Minister Roberto Speranza talks to reporters following the G20 health ministers' meeting in Rome on Monday.

In the Middle East, many Israelis made last-minute preparations for the Jewish New Year holiday, which will be marked on Monday evening as COVID-19 restrictions remain in place. The central market place in Western Jerusalem was packed with shoppers buying groceries for the two-day holiday.

On Sunday, the country's tourism ministry said it will begin allowing organized foreign tour groups into Israel, beginning Sept. 19.

As the federal election campaign gets tighter, a new poll provides hints on where the parties could see their support grow or shrink — and appears to show a growing split in the progressive vote between the Liberals and the NDP.

The Ipsos poll conducted exclusively for Global News suggests that split could create an opening for the Conservative Party, which not only has the most locked-in support but is also seen as the campaign with the most momentum.

"Unless the progressives united behind one particular choice, they're creating a good opportunity for Erin O'Toole and the Conservative Party," said Darrel Bricker, CEO of Ipsos Public Affairs.

Nearly half of Conservative voters surveyed by Ipsos said they are absolutely certain of their vote choice. Although that's tied with the Liberals' support, the Tories have seen that number grow by three points since the start of the campaign, compared to just one point for Justin Trudeau's party.

A quarter of those surveyed also said they are now more likely to vote for the Conservatives than they were at the start of the campaign, up five points from three weeks ago and higher than any other party.

Add in the 34 per cent of voters surveyed who feel the Conservatives have the most momentum in the campaign — and 72 per cent of likely Conservative voters who feel the same — and Bricker says the spotlight is about to shine brighter on O'Toole.

"The question is, over the next couple of weeks, will he be able to stand up to it?" he said.

"What we saw in the last election

Voters getting split between Liberals and NDP, creating path for Tories: election poll



campaign was that his predecessor, Andrew Scheer, was not able to deal with it. Let's see if O'Toole is made of different stuff."

Canada election: Federal party leaders square off in 1st French-language debate

The Ipsos poll, which surveyed over 1,500 Canadians online at the end of August, suggests the Liberals are continuing to stumble as the campaign enters its second half.

Only 17 per cent of respondents said the Liberals were the party with the most momentum, down five points from the start of the campaign. Critically, only 39 per cent of Liberal voters think their own party's campaign is gaining the most

traction.

Thirty-eight per cent of voters also said they are now less likely to vote for the Liberals than they were when the election was called, surpassing all other parties. Just 17 per cent said they are more likely to vote Liberal.

The New Democrats, meanwhile, are seeing their fortunes surge, with one in four voters — and 67 per cent of NDP voters — saying the party has the most momentum, up seven points. It also boasted the lowest number of voters who are less likely to support them, at 26 per cent, while 24 per cent are more likely to cast a ballot for the party.

Liberal, NDP sharing voters
Where the progressive split appears

to be occurring is in voters' second choices. The NDP was the preferred second choice of a plurality of voters surveyed, with 22 per cent keeping the party in their back pocket, followed by the Liberals at 15 per cent and the Conservatives and Greens at 11 per cent each.

While Liberal and NDP voters chose the other as their second choice most often, Liberal voters far preferred the NDP, at 46 per cent, than NDP voters did the Liberals (39 per cent).

"The biggest challenge to the Liberal Party going forward is the potential that more progressive voters who are currently with the Liberal Party and are disappointed that they were put into this election, disappointed with the prime minister — more and more are taking a serious look at the NDP," Bricker said.

"If that happens, the potential that the Liberal Party will go down even further than it is right now certainly exists."

Bricker noted that Liberal and NDP voters who picked the other party as their second choice tended to be younger and more vulnerable, with lower household incomes and disproportionately LGBTQ2 and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or people of colour).

"They tend to be among the least reliable voters in the electorate, and only vote when they're really energized by a campaign," he said.

"And right now, they're confused ... and are looking for a champion."

If election were held tomorrow, Liberals would only get 31 per cent of popular vote: poll

Conservative voters, by contrast, appear to be evenly dividing their second choices among the other parties — but once again, the NDP were the preferred choice at 18 per cent, compared to 12 per cent for the Liberals.

The Tories were the preferred second choice for Bloc Quebecois voters at 23 per cent, slightly above the 20 per cent who would go for the Liberals — suggesting an opportunity for O'Toole to make inroads in Quebec.

Despite all this, the Liberals were still seen as the party most likely to win the election, with 38 per cent of voters surveyed saying so compared to 22 per cent who picked the Conservatives. Just seven per cent said the NDP will win.

The poll also suggests the Greens are in a freefall, with only 26 per cent of likely voters absolutely sure they will vote for the party. Less than half of Green voters — 44 per cent — said they are certain they will cast a ballot this election, compared to two thirds or more of Conservative, Liberal and NDP voters.

The party has also attracted few additional voters, with just eight per cent of those surveyed saying they are more likely to vote Green, while 36 per cent are now less likely.

Among Bloc Quebecois voters, 43 per cent said they are certain of their vote and 63 per cent are sure they will go to the polls. Eighteen per cent of voters in Quebec said they've been swayed by the Bloc, compared to 38 per cent who are less likely.

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Canadians have record-high mortgage debt. What happens when rates rise?

New numbers from Equifax this week confirmed what housing market watchers have known for a while now: Canadians are addicted to mortgage debt.

Canadians took out 410,000 home loans in the second quarter. That's the biggest quarterly jump on record, up 60 per cent compared with the same period a year earlier.

Despite fears in the early days of the pandemic that COVID-19 could be a bucket of ice on Canada's housing market, the opposite happened. Interest rates slashed to record lows, coupled with millions of Canadians cooped up at home suddenly needing more living space, acted more like gasoline on the housing market than water.

The average price of a Canadian resale home topped \$716,000 in March. While average prices have come down a little since then, they're still well ahead of where they were before the pandemic.

Prices that go up forever may make

homeowners sleep soundly in their heavily leveraged bedrooms, but many of those paper gains are built on a foundation of debt.

There aren't just more mortgages than ever out there - they're also bigger than ever, too. The average new home loan was for \$355,000 during the quarter, Equifax says. That's also the highest level on record, and an increase of 20 per cent compared with where we were a year ago.

All in all, Canadians now owe more than \$2.15 trillion in consumer debt, more than the value of Canada's entire economy.

Rebecca Oakes with Equifax told CBC News that this surge of new home loans could become a problem if and when rates rise.

"A small movement in interest rates can actually do quite a large increase in what a consumer needs to [come up with] in terms of those payments," she said. "That's kind of why we're a little bit concerned."

The rent vs. buy conundrum.

Adam Eljerbi owns a number of homes in London, Ont., half of which he bought in the past year alone. In an interview, he said he thinks buyers in some markets may be getting in over their heads because of a need to "keep up with the Joneses," as he put it.

"There's a lot of speculative behaviour," he said. "There's a lot of, hey, homes only go up in value."

Eljerbi has roughly \$2 million in mortgage debt to his name on his properties, but he isn't particularly worried about rising rates - or falling prices, for that matter - because he doesn't live in any of them, or depend on them going up in value.

He's a landlord, and makes his money fixing up homes in disrepair and renting them to reliable tenants; students.

He lives frugally, in his parents' home in Barrie, Ont., about 250 kilometres from his stable of income properties. Despite never having taken in a six-figure income from his job in

the tech sector, he's amassed a real estate empire worth about \$4.5 million.

Even before he lived with his parents, he rented a basement apartment in Toronto while working in finance on Bay Street.

"I was very frugal. I'd pack my lunches. I'm very, very cautious [with] the money that I spend," he said.

Even before the current run-up in prices, buying in Toronto never made sense to Eljerbi, but he's comfortable with debt on his properties in more affordable markets because he numbers the work: buy a fixer-upper, improve the housing stock, find reliable tenants, repeat.

"I'm a big proponent of renting where you live and owning what you can rent," he said.

Eljerbi knows his way of life isn't for everyone, but he wishes more people would break free of the cycle of borrowing more and more for something that will make them very little money if all they do is live in it.

"When you look at real estate in general and you look at mortgage debt, a lot of Canadians have taken a substantial amount of debt and aren't aware of the fact that most of it is variable," he said. "Once they start creeping up those interest rates, even if it's a fraction, it starts to weigh on your cash flow."

Everything you need to know about the new travel rules coming into effect Sept. 7

TORONTO -- The federal government is easing international travel restrictions this week, with fully vaccinated foreign nationals allowed to enter Canada for non-essential purposes, such as tourism, starting Tuesday.

International travellers who meet entry conditions will not have to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival, the latest in the government of Canada's phased border reopening plan.

Most international travellers have been barred from entering the country since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canada's largest and busiest airport, Toronto Pearson International, is reminding travellers to give themselves more time when travelling and to expect delays due to increased passenger volume and COVID-19 health measures.

The Greater Toronto Airport Authority said in a statement that international travellers arriving at Pearson should prepare for the process to take up to three hours or more due to COVID-19 screening measures.

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Sept. 7, 2021 fully vaccinated travellers will be eligible to enter Canada for non-essential reasons but they must:

- o Be fully vaccinated: travellers must have received and show proof of the full series of a vaccine (or combination of vaccines) approved by the government at least 14 days prior to entering Canada.



- o Submit their mandatory information via the ArriveCAN app or website, including proof of vaccination in English or French and a quarantine plan, within 72 hours before their arrival to Canada;
- o Take a test on arrival, if selected.

Any international traveller arriving before 12:01 a.m. EDT Sept. 7 will not be allowed to enter Canada, and must submit their information using ArriveCAN before they board their flight. Those who are unable to show their ArriveCAN receipt will not be able to board.

As of August 9, fully vaccinated travellers do not need to take a test upon arrival unless they are randomly selected to complete one. All travellers randomly selected for a test must complete it, but they do not need to quarantine while awaiting the result.

VACCINATED PARENTS TRAVELLING WITH UNVACCINATED CHILDREN

As of Aug. 9, unvaccinated children under 12 travelling with fully vaccinated parents or guardians are exempt from quarantine, but must follow enhanced public health measures, which includes not attending daycare or school for 14 days.

Unvaccinated children aged 12 to 17 and dependent children 18-years or older are allowed to enter Canada with a fully vaccinated parent or guardian but are subject to the 14-day quarantine measure.

All unvaccinated children (except those under five years of age) will have to take a COVID-19 test on day one and day eight of their arrival into Canada.

ELIGIBLE TRAVELLERS WHO ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED

There are no changes to the testing and quarantine requirements for travellers who are not fully vaccinated but are eligible to enter Canada - such as Canadian citizens, permanent residents or persons registered under the Indian Act. Those travellers are still subject to quarantine, all testing requirements (pre-arrival, day one and day eight) and the mandatory submission of travel, contact and quarantine plan via ArriveCAN.

FLIGHTS FROM MOROCCO AND INDIA REMAIN SUSPENDED

Canada has suspended direct commercial and private passenger flights from India until at least Sept. 21 and from Morocco until at least Sept. 29. While the suspensions are in place, passengers who travel to Canada from India and Morocco via an indirect route will need to obtain a valid pre-departure COVID-19 molecular test result from a third country - other than India and Morocco - before continuing on their journey to Canada.

COVID-19: Unvaccinated Ontario school staff will need to get tested 2 times per week

Unvaccinated school staff in Ontario will need to submit negative COVID-19 test results two times per week, according to a memo from the Ministry of Education.

The memo from Deputy Education Minister Nancy Taylor was sent to directors of education, as well as secretaries and treasurers of school authorities.

"As you know, in accordance with the instructions issued by the (chief medical officer of health), schools and child care programs must require that individuals who are not fully vaccinated submit to regular rapid antigen screening," the memo said.

"Individuals subject to testing requirements must provide verification of negative test results at least two times per week as an added measure to protect schools from the risk of COVID-19."

Taylor said rapid antigen testing kits are being deployed to school boards with the goal of having all supplies received by Sept. 20.

Prior to Sept. 20, the government is authorizing pharmacies to provide publicly funded rapid testing for those eligible, effective Tuesday.

August home sales down in Toronto, prices up as supply fell 43%

TORONTO -- The Toronto Regional Real Estate Board says August home sales slowed from the frenzied pace seen earlier in the year, but market conditions have tightened as supply plummeted by 43 per cent and prices rose yet again.

The Ontario board said Friday that 8,596 homes were sold in August, a 19.9 per cent drop from 10,738 at the same time last year and an eight per cent fall from 9,368 in July.

New listings in the region fell to 10,609. That was down 43 per cent from 18,599 last August and 15 per cent from 12,551 in July.

"Most of my sellers and most of my buyers just decided to go on holiday or said we will take a pause and we'll pick back up in the fall, which is a classic Toronto real estate vibe in August," said Jenny Simon, an agent with Re/Max Hallmark Richards Group Realty in Toronto.

The drop in supply was so dramatic in part because sales broke

looking at 10+ offers on them and that's in any price point," Simon said.

"There is still a huge demand for any type of house right now."

Prices have also continued to climb even in rural and suburban corners of the region - as remote work became more common and the closures of many businesses during COVID-19 helped people save money for homes.

The average price of a home in the region increased to \$1,070,911 in August from \$951,219 at the same time the year before and \$1,062,256 the month before.

While areas surrounding Toronto, known as the 905, were once known to have slightly lower prices than the city, TREB said the average cost of a home there hit \$1,108,981 in August, up from \$923,204 the year before.

The average price of a Toronto home was \$1,000,008 in August, down from \$1,012,817 the year before.

"Most houses right now that I am

looking at have 10+ offers on them and that's in any price point," Simon said.

"There is still a huge demand for any type of house right now."

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We feel very unsafe': Indian-Canadians in shock over Truro killing

Police in Truro, N.S., are now treating a suspicious weekend death as a homicide, the deputy chief said Monday.

Deputy Chief Robert Hearn said a 23-year-old man was found dead at a Robie Street apartment building early Sunday.

"The investigation is ongoing and there is no risk to the general public at this time," Hearn said.

Police did not release the victim's name, nor provide information on any suspects.

The Truro Police Service said they will give an update Tuesday morning.

Victim came to Canada in 2017

Police did not name the victim, but several people CBC News spoke to identified him as Prabhjot Singh Kauri, who came to Canada from India in 2017 to study.

Jatinder Kumardeep said Singh was returning to the home he shared with his sister and her husband.

"He's an innocent guy coming back



from his job. He drives a taxi," he said.

Friends said Singh was returning to this apartment, which he shared with his sister and her husband, when he was killed.

Kumardeep said he has not slept since his friend died. Kumardeep said

there are few international students in Truro, so most get to know each other. They both come from Punjab, India, and so bonded in Nova Scotia.

"We feel very unsafe," he said.

He said the small Indian community in the town tends to keep quiet and stay out of trouble.

"We are coming to this country for a good future," he said. "We are not safe. I can't sleep."

Agampal Singh said they trust police will bring justice to their friend.

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More than half of Canadians uncomfortable with private health care options: Nanos

TORONTO -- More than half of Canadians say that they are not comfortable or somewhat not comfortable with having more private health care options, according to new polling from Nanos Research.

The poll, conducted by Nanos Research and sponsored by CTV News and The Globe and Mail, found that 30 per cent of Canadians are not comfortable with having more private health care options and 23 per cent are somewhat not comfortable, totalling 53 per cent of those surveyed.

However, of those surveyed, 30 per cent said they were comfortable with greater privatized health care while 14 per cent reported being somewhat comfortable. According to the poll, three per cent of Canadians said they were unsure.

Nanos reported that residents of the Prairies are more likely to be comfortable with increased private health care options compared to other provinces (48 per cent). Those who said they would be uncomfortable with this were mostly found in Quebec (55 per cent) and Ontario (57 per cent).

The poll found that men are more likely to be comfortable with increased private health care services at 37 per cent compared to 24 per cent of women.

As well, 49 per cent of Canadians said that having more private health care options will make the country's health care system work better while 34 per cent said this would make the system stronger.

According to the polling, those who live in the Prairies (46 per cent) are more likely to say it will strengthen the system than residents of other provinces.

Only nine per cent reported that there would be no impact to the overall health care system, and eight per cent said they were unsure.

The poll found that men were more likely to say privatized health care options would make the system stronger (40 per cent) compared to women (28 per cent).

Canada has a universal health care system, which is paid for through

taxes, and provides coverage for necessary health services on the basis of need, rather than the ability to pay.

While all of the party leaders support universal health care, Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole has also advocated for privatized options that go much further than, or is contrary to, what other parties support.

On the party's election platform, the Conservatives say they will "partner with the private sector rather than over-rely on government. We know that there are some things best done by the private sector and will be faster to reach out for help."

However, O'Toole has been generally vague about what kind of medical care could be privatized.

STANCE ON CHILD CARE
The new polling from Nanos also found that Canadians are more likely to prefer subsidized child-care spaces (50 per cent), such as those proposed by the Liberal and NDP parties, than a tax deduction on child-care expenses (40 per cent), like that promised by the Conservative Party.

Of those surveyed, 10 per cent of Canadians said they were unsure of which child-care plan they would prefer.

According to the polling, those who reside in Atlantic Canada are more likely to prefer subsidized child-care spaces at 62 per cent, while those living in the Prairies prefer a tax deduction at 55 per cent.

Women are more likely to prefer the proposals for subsidized child-care spaces (52 per cent), while those between the ages of 18 and 34 (56 per cent) also favoured this promise over

a tax deduction on child-care expenses.

The Liberals have promised to reduce fees for child care by 50 per cent, on average, in the next year and introduce \$10 a day daycare within five years. Like the Liberals, the NDP are promising a \$10 a day child-care system across Canada, although the timeline for it has not been made clear.

Instead of a universal child-care program, the Conservatives are proposing a refundable tax credit of between \$4,500 and \$6,000 per child, with an aim to cover up to 75 per cent of the cost of child care for low-income families.

METHODOLOGY
Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land-and cell-line) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,029 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between August 28 and 30, 2021 as part of an omnibus survey. Participants were randomly recruited by telephone using live agents and administered a survey online. The sample included both land- and cell-lines across Canada. The results were statistically checked and weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Canada. Individuals were randomly called using random digit dialling with a maximum of five call-backs.

The margin of error for this survey is ±3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. This study was commissioned by CTV News and the Globe and Mail and the research was conducted by Nanos Research.

The collision happened about 13 kilometers west of Golden just before 8 a.m., according to police.

RCMP said witnesses watched an eastbound pickup truck veer into the westbound lane and collide with a motorhome. That resulted in collisions with an eastbound pickup truck that was hauling a camper and a westbound semi-truck.

The pickup driver, a 48-year-old man from Saskatchewan, was pronounced dead at the scene. His passengers, a woman and a child were taken to hospital with serious injuries, RCMP said.

The driver of the motorhome was airlifted to hospital while a child passenger was rushed to hospital by ambulance. Both are believed to have serious but non-life-threatening injuries. A third passenger and those in the pickup with the trailer and the semi-truck were not hurt.

The cause of the collision remains undetermined at this time, however, speed and alcohol have been ruled out as causal factors," Staff Sgt. Janelle Shoiber of the BC RCMP said in a news release.

The highway between Golden and Revelstoke was closed for several hours while officers investigated but has since reopened.

Election 2021: Polls say Conservatives are leading



dropping since the beginning of 2021 to 38 per cent in August, down from 50 per cent in January, according to Angus Reid Institute.

The early poll results show that 33 per cent of undecided and leaning voters would pick the Conservatives, while 30 per cent would pick the governing Liberals.

Canadian will vote on September 20. Historically, Canada's government has only ever been led by Liberals or Conservatives. Other parties running in this year's election

include the Bloc Québécois, the New Democratic Party, and the Green Party, among others.

Both the Conservatives and the Liberals want to see the immigration system modernized. The Liberals have already started on it, and the Conservatives want to continue. They differ in other ways such as the Parents and Grandparents Program (PGP). The Liberals have decided on a lottery system, while the Conservatives promise to scrap the lottery and replace it with a

first-come-first-served model.

The Liberals recently released their 2021 election platform. For immigrants, they re-affirmed their promise to remove citizenship fees, as well as reduce the backlog in immigration applications. They also want to expand pathways to permanent residency for temporary foreign workers and former international students through the Express Entry points system. And among other things, streamline the temporary foreign worker program.

The Conservatives had previously published their election platform. They want to give immigrants an option to pay a fee and have their applications expedited. Also, they want to have more surveillance on immigration officer interactions with clients, and increase cultural awareness within the immigration system. Credential recognition is another area O'Toole's Conservatives want to improve.

Whoever wins the election will shape the future of Canadian immigration. Although immigration is a shared jurisdiction between the provinces and the federal government, the Canadian Constitution gives the federal government a greater say on immigration policy.

Three weeks after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called an election, his party has fallen behind the official opposition.

Although the Liberals were in the lead when Trudeau initially called the election, the Conservatives, led by Erin O'Toole, have been in the lead since last week. Trudeau's national approval rates have been steadily

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