



US MARKETS OPEN IN: 0H 25M 37S

▲ DOW -0.48%

▲ S&P 500 -0.08%

▲ NASDAQ 100 -0.28%

HOME > SCIENCE

The World Health Organization urges people to stop playing fast and loose with the pandemic as coronavirus cases and deaths soar

Sarah Al-Arshani Apr 12, 2021, 8:55 PM



Revellers drink in Soho as non essential retail reopens on April 12, 2021 in London, United Kingdom. Chris J Ratcliffe/Getty Images

The WHO warned people not to get complacent about the pandemic as COVID-19 cases surge worldwide.

While vaccines offer hope, only 1 in 500 people in poor countries have received a shot.

Officials warned cases have been rising for weeks, with 4.4 million new cases recorded last week.

[See more stories on Insider's business page.](#)

The World Health Organization urged people to stop playing fast and loose with the pandemic as COVID-19 cases rise across the globe.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead for COVID-19, [said](#) cases have been rising for seven weeks with 4.4 million new cases recorded last week. A year ago, only 500,000 cases were being recorded in a week.

"This is not the situation we want to be in 16 months into a pandemic where we have proven control measures," Van Kerkhove [said](#). "It is time right now where everyone has to take stock and have a reality

check about what we need to be doing."

Worldwide there have been over 136.4 million COVID-19 cases recorded so far, with more than 2.9 million deaths, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Officials said that while vaccinations were speeding up in parts of the world, many countries, specifically poorer ones have vaccinated very few people.

The Los Angeles Times reported that as many as 60 countries are seeing their vaccination efforts stalled as shipments from [Covax](#), the global initiative to provide vaccines to countries who can't get them on their own, were halted.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on [Friday](#) slammed the imbalance of COVID-19 distribution saying while rich countries like the US and UK have seen one in four people get a dose, in poorer countries only one in 500 people had gotten a dose.

"Vaccines and vaccinations are coming online, but they're not here yet in every part of the world where they need to be," Van Kerkhove said.

Ghebreyesus urged people to continue maintaining safety measures like social distancing, wearing masks, and testing, all of which help curb the pandemic and save lives.

"But confusion, complacency, and inconsistency in public health measures and their application are driving transmission and costing lives," he said.

The coronavirus pandemic

The [CDC's new mask guidance explained in 2 handy charts](#) — one for outdoors, one for indoors.

The [aunt of India's prime minister has reportedly died of COVID-19](#), as the country struggles with an unprecedented

surge.

Airlines who [boarded planes back-to-front](#) in response to COVID-19 actually doubled passengers' risk of exposure, a new study says.

Continuing to use [Johnson & Johnson's vaccine](#) could save [1,400 lives in the next 6 months](#), the CDC says.

The COVID-19 [vaccine side effects to expect](#) if you're in your 20s or 30s.



Sign up for notifications from Insider! Stay up to date with what you want to know.

[Subscribe to push notifications](#)

NEWSLETTER

Get the latest healthcare news and analysis.

Email address
Email address

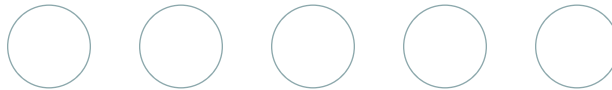
SIGN UP

By clicking 'Sign up', you agree to receive marketing emails from Insider as well as other partner offers and accept our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

NOW WATCH: GameStop stocks are soaring after its CEO

announced his departure. See how the company went from retail giant to gaming dinosaur.

More: [coronavirus](#) [WHO](#)



* Copyright © 2021 Insider Inc. All rights reserved. Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our Terms of Service, Privacy Policy and Cookies Policy.

[Sitemap](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Commerce Policy](#) | [CA Privacy Rights](#) | [Coupons](#) | [Made in NYC](#) | [Jobs](#)

[Stock quotes by finanzen.net](#) | [Reprints & Permissions](#)

International Editions: [INTL](#) | [AT](#) | [AUS](#) | [DE](#) | [ES](#) | [FR](#) | [IN](#) | [IT](#) | [JP](#) | [MX](#) | [NL](#) | [SE](#) | [PL](#) | [ZA](#)