

Russian, Belarussian Doctors Count Their Own Dead From Coronavirus

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“Why should doctors keep a list of their own? Very simple: they don’t trust statistics,” one doctor said.
Sergei Bobylev / TASS

Russian and Belarussian doctors mistrustful of official coronavirus data have [launched](#) an unofficial list of their colleagues who have died from the virus.

The news comes as a growing number of hospitals across Russia have reported Covid-19 outbreaks among doctors and patients in recent weeks.

At least 69 doctors in the two countries have died from coronavirus-related complications as of Monday afternoon, according to the unofficial [tally](#).

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“Some have been infected during work, others haven’t,” anesthesiologist and ICU physician

Vladimir Budyansky wrote Friday in a Facebook group he moderates called Medical Emergencies.

“Why should doctors keep a list of their own? Very simple: they don’t trust statistics,” the MBKh Media news website [quoted](#) neurosurgeon Alexei Kashcheyev as saying Sunday.

“They know what [Covid-19] looks like, so they won’t believe what the ministries tell them. They’ll maintain the list themselves,” Kashcheyev was quoted as saying.

The list names 22 Moscow doctors and 12 Moscow region medical professionals who have succumbed to the virus. The Russian capital and its surrounding region, with a combined population of more than 20 million, are the two Russian territories hit hardest by Covid-19, with 55,059 total cases as of Monday.

Eight doctors have died in St. Petersburg, Russia’s third most-affected territory with 3,238 cases. Five doctors have died in the republic of Dagestan, the country’s fifth most-affected region with 994 coronavirus cases.

Russia has officially confirmed 794 deaths from the virus nationwide. It has reported 87,147 coronavirus infections as of Monday, surpassing China to become the world's ninth most-affected country amid the pandemic.

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