

Russian Hospitals Near Capacity With Coronavirus Patients

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Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said Wednesday that Russia currently has 176,000 hospital beds for coronavirus patients. **Vladimir Gerdo / TASS**

Russian hospitals are near capacity with coronavirus patients as new infections break records and authorities attempt to slow the second wave of the virus, a top health official [said](#) Tuesday.

“To date, hospital bed occupancy is almost 90%,” Deputy Health Minister Oleg Gridnev was quoted as saying at a conference by Interfax.

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Gridnev said one-fifth of those hospitalized have a mild case of Covid-19.

Health Minister Mikhail Murashko [said](#) Wednesday that Russia currently has 176,000 hospital

beds for coronavirus patients, with 9,000 reserve beds. He said two-thirds of those infected receive outpatient care.

Russia has seen its daily caseload nearly triple in the past month and set a new record Tuesday for both deaths (244) and infections (13,868), according to official statistics. Overall, Russia has confirmed almost 23,000 deaths and more than 1.3 million cases, the fourth-highest caseload in the world.

The latest surge in Covid-19 infections has prompted a number of hospitals across the country to stop admitting patients with other illnesses.

Around half of Russia's regions have [reinstated](#) various restrictions in an attempt to slow the spread of the infection.

Moscow, the epicenter of Russia's Covid-19 outbreak with almost 340,000 total infections, has ordered businesses to switch 30% of their employees to remote work and extended the fall school break.

Mayor Sergei Sobyanin has urged residents to continue to take precautions before the rollout of a coronavirus vaccine. He said this week would prove crucial in determining whether the city's current "light" restrictions would effectively limit a rise in new Covid-19 cases.

Sobyanin claimed Wednesday that the restrictions proved effective, with new infections among children going down from 19% to 11% in recent days. Next week, he said first-to-fifth graders will be able to return to school while the rest will continue distance learning for at least two more weeks.

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