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Moscow Reports 300% Spike in Coronavirus Deaths

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Moscow has registered more than a quarter of Russia's nearly 2.2 million coronavirus cases. **Yevgeny Sofiychuk / TASS**

Moscow reported a 300% month-on-month increase in coronavirus deaths for October, the Russian capital's health department said late Thursday.

In September, the city's health department said Covid-19 was the direct cause of death among 543 Muscovites.

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As the second wave of the virus escalated in October, Moscow's health department said coronavirus was the main cause in 2,235 deaths that month. That's 311%, or four times, more than the number in September.

Another 1,338 Muscovites tested positive for Covid-19 but died from other causes in October,

the health department said, bringing Moscow's overall number of coronavirus-related deaths for the month to 3,573.

A total of 13,718 Muscovites died in October — 2,541 more than in September, 3,262 more than in October 2019 and 3,173 more than the past three-year average. The Moscow health department said the Covid-19 deaths "explain all excess mortality for October."

Moscow's overall Covid-19 fatality rate totaled 2.13% when it was the sole cause of death and 4.3% when the disease was not the main cause of death.

Russia's coronavirus information center places Moscow's overall Covid-19 death toll at 8,603 and the national death toll at 38,062, a number widely thought to be undercounted.

The epicenter of Russia's outbreak, Moscow has registered more than a quarter of the country's nearly 2.2 million coronavirus cases. Moscow has reported record numbers of Covid-19 infections and hospitalizations in recent days.

Mayor Sergei Sobyanin, who extended some of the remote work and self-isolation restrictions into the new year, said earlier Thursday that the city does not plan to go into full lockdown.

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