

Manitoba’s Current COVID-19 Environment: Economic Recovery Criteria

[Chris Ferris](#), Senior Economist
April 24, 2020

Bottom Line:

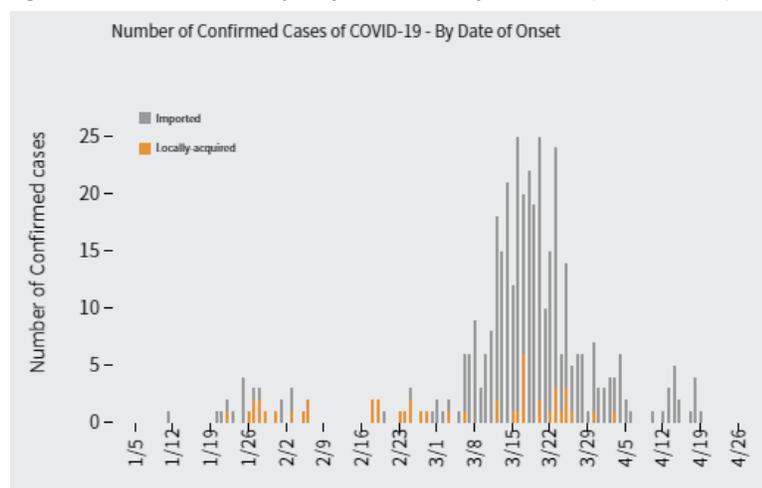
Four months into the pandemic much of the world is now affected by COVID-19, with various countries at different stages of the outbreak.

The World Health Organization (WHO) released a **COVID-19 Strategy Update** on April 14, 2020, **outlining six key criteria that need to be met to enable jurisdictions to end their lockdowns.**

Governments and public health departments will take the lead in ensuring we can meet the six key criteria. **Business and associations have a key role to play in bringing their workplaces into compliance with public health criteria.** In addition, each person will have a further role to play in complying with the social distancing and other public health measures. **Compliance with these policies and regulations will help us to avoid further general lockdowns. This in turn will enable us to get back to some semblance of normal until COVID-19 vaccinations are available.**

Analysis: About Four Months into the COVID-19 Outbreak

Figure 1: Taiwan - Number of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 (Source: TCDC)



The world is now about four months into the COVID-19 outbreak, which began in Wuhan China. The COVID-19 outbreak by now has affected virtually every country in the world, but to differing degrees. Some countries were able to avoid generalized lockdowns. Some had very successful lockdowns, in combination with other social distancing protocols, and are now considering implementation of various post-lockdown

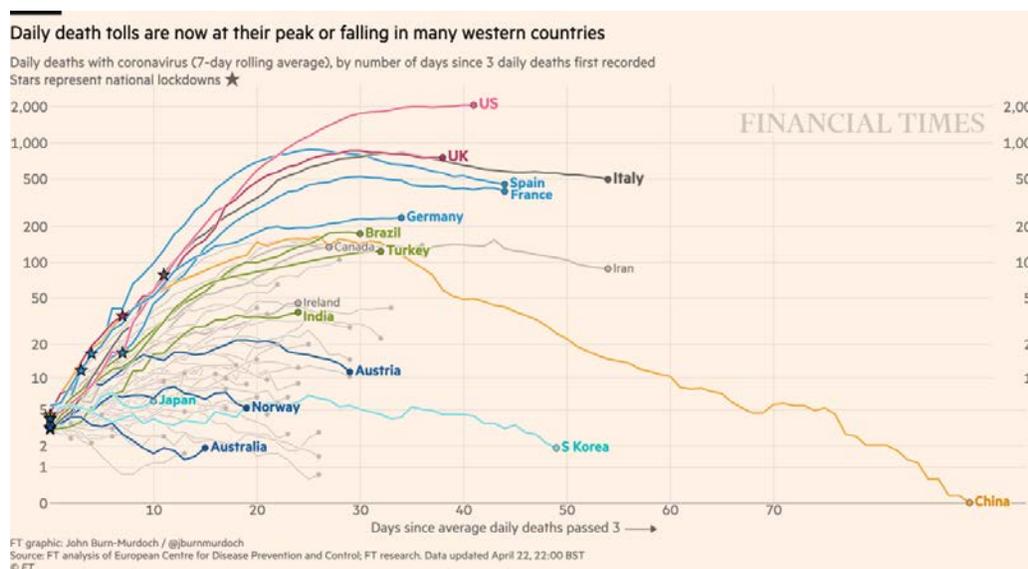
strategies. Some countries are developing strategy to reopen their economies while others are still in early stages of the outbreak, with the virus still not fully under control.

Two of the countries that avoided generalized lockdowns, and currently have the spread of COVID-19 under control are **Taiwan**, and **South Korea**. Both had implemented changes to their public health legislation and preparedness for this type of pandemic. This was due to lessons learned from the earlier SARS, and H1N1 outbreaks.

Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control ([TCDC](#)) latest [Dashboard](#) shows that virtually all their cases were imported, and very few were community transmissions (See **Figure 1**). The numbers in their dashboard show that Taiwan has: **Tested** 58,003, been **able to exclude** 55,145, **confirmed** 427 cases, had 6 **deaths**, and 253 have **recovered**.

A March 3, 2020 article by C. Jason Wang, et al in the JAMA details several factors about Taiwan's experience.¹ They published a [supplement \(opens a PDF\)](#) to the article detailing the various actions by Taiwan (over 100).

Figure 2: Daily Death Tolls (Source: FT)



[South Korea's](#) experience was not quite as fortunate, since they had to implement some regional closures. But they have so far avoided a general lockdown,

and are doing well at this time (**Figure 2**).

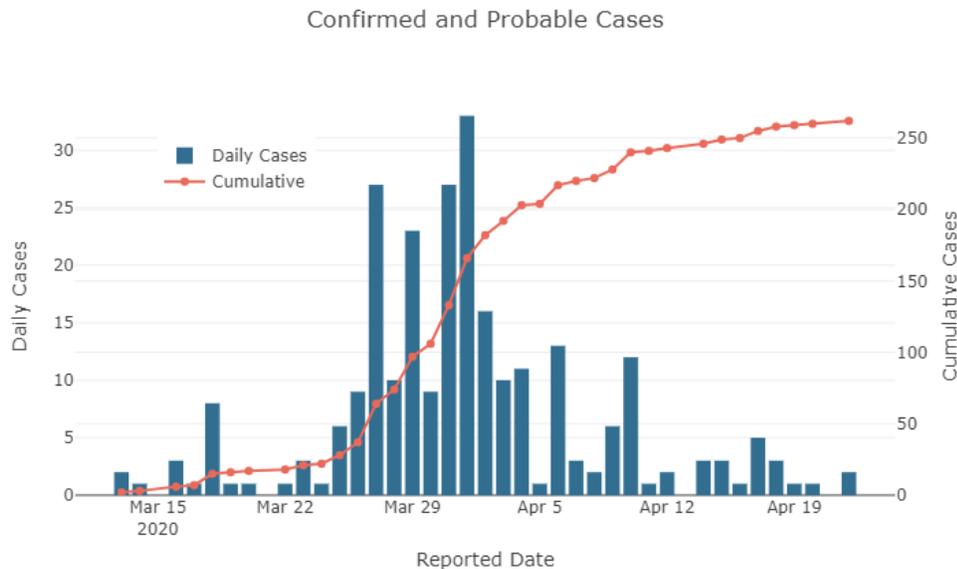
There are a few primary sources of global COVID-19 case information ([John Hopkins University](#), [WHO](#), [European CDC](#)). For data visualization, some of the better sources are [Our World in Data](#), and the [Financial Times](#).

Several countries are beginning to lift their lockdown in stages, so the outcome will be worth watching. [Denmark](#) has already begun lifting their lockdown. [Germany's](#) individual states are in the beginning phases. [New Zealand](#) had instituted a four-week level 4 lockdown, and unless something changes, they are expected to start coming out of their lockdown in approximately a week.

¹ C. Jason Wang, et al. Response to COVID-19 in Taiwan. JAMA. Published March 3, 2020. Accessed April 23, 2020. doi:[10.1001/jama.2020.3151](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.3151)

Manitoba's [daily cases](#) (blue bar) under our current lockdown have been reasonably low for at least a week (**Figure 3**).

Figure 3: Manitoba's confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Cases



As reported on Manitoba's COVID-19 [webpage](#), on April 23, 2020, the number **tested** to date are 21,387, **total cases** are 262, **active cases** are 82, **recovered** are 174, and there have been 6 **deaths**.

The questions for each country, and jurisdiction looking to come out of

their lockdowns, are: is how to tell they are ready? How would they know they need to move backwards? How long to wait between reopening stages? **The WHO put forward some guidance on this on April 13, 2020.**

WHO COVID-19 Strategy Update

The World Health Organization (WHO) released a [COVID-19 Strategy Update](#) on April 14, 2020. On page 10, **the WHO outlines six key criteria that need to be met to end lockdowns.**

These are:

1. **COVID-19 transmission is controlled.**
2. **Health system capacities are in place to detect, test, isolate and treat every case, and trace every contact.**
3. **outbreak risks are minimized in special settings like health facilities and nursing homes.**
4. **preventive measures are in place in workplaces, schools, and other places where it is essential for people to go.**
5. **Risks of imported cases can be managed; and**
6. **communities are fully educated, engaged, and empowered to adjust to the “new norm.”**

The WHO's six key criteria, if met on an ongoing basis should ensure that jurisdictions are well positioned for a reopening. See: [WHO, COVID-19: Strategies Plans and Operations](#). [California](#) release their reopening conditions around the same time.

Analysis: Reopening the Economy; Roles for Governments, Businesses, & Individuals

Public health authorities and government departments in each country/jurisdiction will be the lead on all these criteria, particularly # 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. They will support # 4, with industry having to do the hard work of figuring out how to bring their workplaces into compliance.

Some industry sectors may take longer, depending on how quickly that they can adapt their businesses to public health requirements including some form of social distancing. The **Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CM&E)** and Made Safe released their guide: "[COVID-19: Social Distancing in the Manufacturing Workplace, Protocols and Guidelines](#)" last week. Many firms have already been using a mixture of social distancing in their plants, and remote work.

All Canadians will need to ensure we act in-line with proper social distancing regulation to avoid cycling into and out of general lockdowns. A second or more lockdown wave(s) would sharply expand government deficits while also putting firms and individuals under excess financial stress.

A brief scenario analysis for the Winnipeg economy was released by the City of Winnipeg on Tuesday as a framework to plan their expenditures. See the City of Winnipeg - [Addressing the Financial Challenges of COVID-19](#), released to the public on Tuesday this week.

Even after Manitoba lifts the current lockdown restrictions, some form of social distancing (physical distancing) will be needed until a vaccine against COVID-19 is developed. While researchers worldwide have been working on a vaccine for months, the widely held assumption of time it takes to develop this type of vaccine is 12 – 18 months. This best-case estimate would fall between January 2021 and July 2021.

EDW Contacts for Assistance or Inquiries:

- **For Winnipeg businesses looking for help accessing government programs, please reach out to our Yes! Winnipeg Team** through our [Help us help you form](#) if you are not sure who to contact on the Y!W team.
- For general inquires please email wpginfo@edwinnipeg.com.
- For Marketing & Communications Inquiries, please email marketingandbranding@edwinnipeg.com.