

Russia's virus cases exceed 1 million, globally 4th highest

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Pupils wearing face masks to protect against coronavirus sit in a classroom during a ceremony marking the start of classes at a school as part of the traditional opening of the school year known as "Day of Knowledge" in Grozny, Russia, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020. Across the country, schools start their usually festive opening day on Sept. 1. (AP Photo/Musa Sadulayev)

Russia's tally of confirmed coronavirus cases surpassed 1 million on Tuesday as authorities reported 4,729 new cases.

With a total of 1,000,048 reported cases, Russia has the fourth largest caseload in the world after the U.S., Brazil and India. Over 815,000 people have so far recovered, authorities said, and more than 17,000 have died.

Experts say the true toll of the pandemic is much higher than all reported figures, due to limited testing, missed mild cases and concealment of cases by some governments, among other factors.

As of Tuesday, Russia has lifted most lockdown restrictions in the majority of the country's regions.

Last month, Russian authorities announced

approval of the first ever COVID-19 vaccine—a move that Western experts met with skepticism and unease as the shots were only tested on a few dozen people. Last week, officials announced starting advanced trials of the vaccine among 40,000 people.

It remains unclear whether vaccination of risk groups—such as doctors and teachers—announced earlier this year will be part of the trials or carried out in parallel.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said last month one of his daughters had already been vaccinated.



A boy wearing a face mask to protect against coronavirus sits in a classroom during a ceremony marking the start of classes at a school as part of the traditional opening of the school year known as "Day of Knowledge" in Grozny, Russia, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020. Across the country, schools start their usually festive opening day on Sept. 1. (AP Photo/Musa Sadulayev)



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