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# Covid-19 stats of easy-going Sweden go down as post-lockdown Europe braces for virus comeback

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An Covid-19 sign at a bathing jetty in Malmo, Sweden. © TT News Agency via REUTERS / Johan Nilsson

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Sweden, which famously went against common wisdom in not imposing a Covid-19 lockdown, is hailing the low number of deaths and new cases in months, as other European nations grapple with the resurgence of the disease.

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seen such low numbers since late March. As of Tuesday, Sweden had 79,395 total confirmed Covid-19 cases and 5,700 confirmed deaths.

*"The curves are going down and the curves for the seriously ill are beginning to approach zero,"* the country's chief epidemiologist Anders Tegnell said on Tuesday, briefing journalists on the situation.

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Sweden took a controversial approach to Covid-19, going against the prevailing line of reasoning and not imposing a mandatory national lockdown, relying on its citizens to take precautions instead. Despite low recent numbers, the country still has one of the world's highest total number of deaths per capita, [surpassing](#) in that metric Covid-19 underachievers like the US and Brazil.

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Sweden's maverick handling of the coronavirus has been closely watched internationally and has its fans and critics. The latter jumped at the chance to say 'we told you so' after Tegnell seemed to make a U-turn in an interview, but the policymaker later clarified that he'd done no such thing.

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In his latest update, Tegnell may have fanned the flames of the Covid-19 debate in other nations with a remark about face masks. *"With numbers diminishing very quickly in Sweden, we see no point in wearing a face mask in Sweden, not even on public transport,"* he said.

With the numbers going down, Sweden is bucking the trend in many other European nations, including France, Spain, Italy, and Bulgaria, which have been reporting a resurgence of Covid-19 in the past several weeks.

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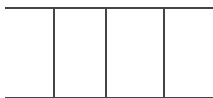
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