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# COVID outbreak in world's most vaccinated country 'mostly among people who haven't had jab'



Rebecca Speare-Cole

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Sylvestre Radeconde



Pedestrians wear masks as they walk on a street in the capital Victoria, Mahe Island, Seychelles. (AP)

A COVID outbreak in the world's most vaccinated country has mostly spread among the people who haven't had a jab, a government minister has said.

The Seychelles has been suffering from a surge in cases, despite 70% of its population having received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine.

But the country's minister for foreign affairs and tourism Sylvestre Radeconde has said the virus is

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infected have not been vaccinated.

The minister also said the situation is manageable and that the health system is not under pressure because people are not seriously ill with the disease.



Moyenne Island, Seychelles. (Sipa USA)

Out of approximately 40 people who have recently been hospitalised in the county, only two are in critical conditions in intensive care, Radegonde said.

Other patients, who are mostly Seychellois, are stable with mild symptoms because they've been vaccinated, he added.

"This shows that the vaccination has had its effect," Radegonde said.

It comes after the archipelago saw its seven-day case rate per million people skyrocket to 1,480 on Monday, 3 May – the highest in the world at the time.

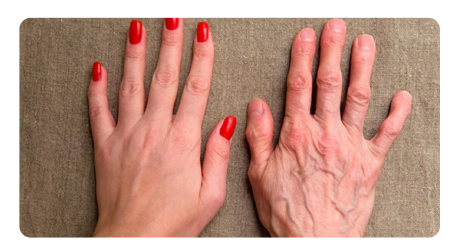
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By Sunday, the rolling average halved to 726.34, placing the Seychelles fourth in the world for highest rate – behind Uruguay, the Maldives and Bahrain.

Radegonde said the increase in tests and contact tracing has prompted the figures to fluctuate but also accounted for the recent surge in cases.

However, he said the situation is still concerning, with the figures also suggesting that people are taking less care to stay safe due to the successful vaccination programme.

"Seychellois because they are vaccinated now are relaxing and think that all is OK," he said.

"We are letting our guard down, we are not as careful as before."

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