

# News From Russia: What You Missed Over the Weekend

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Maxim Shipenkov / EPA / TASS

## Record week

Russia counted its highest number of new coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic in the first week of November, [281,305](#), as the country reached the end of a nationwide paid holiday introduced to curb the spread of infections.

Saturday's official tally registered 41,335 new cases — the highest number of new infections since the outbreak — and 1,188 coronavirus deaths in the past 24 hours. Russia on Sunday confirmed 39,165 Covid-19 infections and 1,179 deaths.

## National question

Four Azeri-born Russian nationals have been charged with attempted murder over a high-profile assault on a father and his 4-year-old son in the Moscow suburb of Vatutinki, authorities [said](#) late Friday after the incident caught on camera gained widespread media

attention.

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov [railed](#) against media outlets, singling out the chief editor of the state-run RT broadcaster, for only reporting on people from the Caucasus in a negative light — and what he described as “headline-grabbing divisions into two categories of citizens: those from the [North] Caucasus and those without a nationality” — when covering crime stories in the country.

### **Shaman detained**

A self-described shaman from Siberia who documented his treks “[against pedophiles and satanists](#)” on YouTube has been detained in Russia’s fourth-largest city of Yekaterinburg, media [reported](#) Sunday.

Nikolai Dylykov, 51, was said to have introduced himself to police as Alexander Gabyshev, another Siberian shaman who was [placed](#) in a psychiatric ward this year following several failed attempts to trek to Moscow and “exorcise” President Vladimir Putin.

Dylykov was reportedly on a police watchlist in his native Chita region as a mentally ill person, while Yekaterinburg police found a note from a psychiatric hospital when they detained him.

### **Change of heart**

An “overwhelming majority” of the two dozen ambulance workers opposing vaccine mandates in Far East Russia’s Jewish autonomous region have rescinded their resignation letters, a regional government spokesperson [told](#) Interfax.

Their change of heart follows reports that federal health watchdog Roszdravnadzor planned to pursue anti-vaccine medical professionals for criminal prosecution, punishing the spread of false information about Covid-19 with up to five years in prison.

*AFP contributed reporting.*

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