

# *Biden to rejoin WHO as global death toll soars past 2 million*

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Washington, January 20 (RHC)-- As the global COVID-19 death toll topped two million this week, Joe Biden is expected to order the U.S. to rejoin the World Health Organization as he takes office on Wednesday, reversing Trump's decision to withdraw from the U.N. body last year.

Health experts are warning new variants of the coronavirus and issues with vaccine supplies are threatening countries' recoveries from the current outbreaks. Officials in California and in Germany have said they may have identified two further variants.

In Britain, health workers say they are completely overwhelmed as they battle a variant that has now been detected in some 60 countries and is believed to be much more infectious. This is a nurse at the Royal Hospital in London.

Carleen Kelly: "It's scarier. It's bigger. I was so naive the first time. I wasn't convinced we were going to have a second wave at all. And the huge numbers that have just absolutely slammed us is just — I never

thought it would be possible to have this many intensive care patients.”

The WHO warns global deaths from the pandemic are expected to top 100,000 per week “very soon.” This comes as an international review panel released a damning report laying out a series of failures by governments and public health organizations, including the WHO, in preparing for and responding to the pandemic.

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