

COVID-19 Daily Update

August 10, 2020

Summary

The United States has 5,063,770 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 163,156 reported related deaths. A recent study, published in *Science Advances*, suggests that the incubation period for SARS-CoV-2 may be longer than previously assumed. The estimated median incubation period in the study was 7.8 days, nearly three days longer than the generally accepted incubation period of five days. Researchers noted that, around 10% of COVID-19 patients may develop symptoms more than 14 days after infection. The study cautioned that “this may be a public health concern in regard to the current 14-day quarantine period.” Transportation Security Administration reported that 831,789 people passed through TSA airport security checkpoints on Sunday, August 9, the highest number of travelers since March 17. Despite the recent increase, the figure remains 70% below the recorded number of travelers at the same point in 2019.

More than 97,000 U.S. children tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks of July, according to new data from American Academy of Pediatrics and Children’s Hospital Association. The states with the highest percentage increase of child infections during that period include Missouri, Oklahoma, Alaska, Nevada, Idaho, and Montana. In Texas, officials reported a seven-day average positivity rate of 19.5% over the weekend, the State’s highest rate since the beginning of the pandemic. In California, the State director of public health, Dr. Sonia Angell, abruptly resigned on Sunday night, a week after the state announced that an error with its electronic lab reporting system caused an undercount in newly reported coronavirus cases. Dr. Angell’s letter of resignation did not state a specific reason for her departure.

New York reported two deaths, 535 hospitalizations, and 127 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Sunday, August 9. Approximately 476, or 0.88%, of the 54,002 tests administered in New York on August 9 were positive for COVID-19. Governor Cuomo announced that the deadline for school districts to submit plans for in-person learning will be Friday, August 14. Schools that fail to submit a re-opening plan by the deadline will not be allowed to resume in-person classes this year; 107 school districts have yet to submit their plans to the State. Mayor de Blasio announced that 74% of students opted into New York City’s blended learning plan, with the remaining 26% of students requesting classes exclusively online. According to New York City Schools Chancellor Carranza, “about 15%” of teachers have requested to work remotely. The City submitted a supplemental re-opening plan to the State on Friday night.

Presidential updates

- [Leaders Comment on President Trump's Recent Executive Orders](#), August 10
 - Several state leaders commented on President Trump's memorandum to revive weekly federal unemployment payments by repurposing other federal funds to create a \$400 per week payment.
 - The payment is contingent on states providing \$100 per week and establishing an entirely new program, a "lost wages assistance program," to distribute the aid.
 - Several governors, strongly [criticized](#) this provision, including New York Governor Cuomo and Michigan Governor Whitmer.
 - Many states face plunging revenues because of the pandemic and have already struggled to allocate the original \$600 payment because of overwhelmed and often antiquated unemployment systems.
 - President Trump [responded](#) to criticism of the \$100 requirement, noting that "we have a system where [the federal government can pay] 100% or 75%." Trump explained that states must "make an application" and "we will look at it and make a decision." Trump noted that a state may "pay nothing in some instances."

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 202](#), August 9
 - Executive Director of WHO's Health Emergencies Program [called](#) for a "new deal between government services and community action" to empower and educate individuals to engage in "physical distancing, wearing masks, hand hygiene, [and] avoiding crowded places."
 - WHO Director-General Tedros [warned](#) of a "vast global gap" between the resources needed to fight COVID-19 and the funds already pledged to fight the virus.
 - WHO is only "10% of the way to funding the billions required," and over \$100 billion is required to fund vaccines alone. Tedros noted that the vaccine figure is "small in comparison to the 10 trillion dollars that have already been invested by G-20 countries in fiscal stimulus to deal with the consequences of the pandemic so far."

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [Study on COVID-19–Associated Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children](#), August 7
 - A recent study, published by CDC as an early release, examined reported cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), a rare but severe condition that has been reported approximately two to four weeks after the onset of COVID-19 in children and adolescents.
 - As of late July, 570 cases of MIS-C had been reported to the CDC. Patients ranged in age from 2 weeks to 20 years, and nearly three fourths were Hispanic or Black. The most common underlying condition was obesity. Most were tested for SARS-CoV-2, all of whom had positive results on RT-PCR or serology.
 - Around 86% of patients had at least four organ systems involved — most often gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, and dermatologic.
 - Researchers identified three classes of MIS-C. Class one (median age, 9 years) was usually accompanied by shock, cardiac dysfunction, abdominal pain, and elevated inflammatory markers. Class two (median age, 10 years) was characterized by respiratory symptoms typically seen with COVID-19. Class three (median age, 6 years)

tended to be less severe and was often marked by dermatologic conditions. The mortality rate was .5% with class one, 5.3% with class two, and 0% with class three.

New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), August 10
 - New York reported two deaths, 535 hospitalizations, and 127 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Sunday, August 9.
 - Approximately 476, or .88%, of the 54,002 tests administered in New York on August 9 were positive for COVID-19. Governor Cuomo commented that “New Yorkers should feel very satisfied with the progress we’ve been making.”
 - State Liquor Authority officials visited 770 establishments in New York City and Long Island and issued social distancing violations to 19 bars and restaurants on August 9.
 - Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that the deadline for school districts to submit plans for in-person learning will be Friday, August 14. 107 school districts have yet to submit a plan. Cuomo noted that schools that fail to submit a re-opening plan will not be allowed to re-open.
 - New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) plans to inform districts whether their plans are non-compliant by Monday, August 10. Non-compliant districts will have until Friday to update their plans.

New York City

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), August 10
 - Mayor de Blasio [announced](#) that 74% of students opted into the City’s blended learning plan, with the remaining 26% requesting classes exclusively online.
 - According to Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza, “about 15%” of teachers have requested to work remotely.
 - The City submitted a [supplemental re-opening plan](#) on Friday night. The State’s Health and Education Departments will decide whether to approve the school districts’ plans in the coming weeks.
 - Mayor de Blasio [described](#) the lack of school nurses as “a real concern,” but expressed hope that the City will be able to adequately staff schools with nurses.
 - In response to concerns about proper ventilation in school buildings, Chancellor Carranza emphasized that “if there is any classroom that is not fit, we will not use that classroom.”
 - New York City launched an online [Tenant Resource Portal](#) to help residential renters access free City resources and “keep residents and families stably housed” during the pandemic. Mayor de Blasio [noted](#) that the portal is an attempt “to support vulnerable families as they deal with a public health and economic crisis.”

Other Related Updates

- [Department of Labor Summarizes Recent Actions on COVID-19](#), August 10
 - Department of Labor (DOL) summarized recent actions on COVID-19.
 - Labor Secretary Scalia [commented](#) on President Trump’s memorandum extending federal unemployment benefits. Scalia praised the President’s actions and expressed that DOL “will now work closely with the States and the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to assist in providing the relief made available by the Memorandum.”

- DOL’s Wage and Hour Division will host a [webinar](#) on August 13 to help employers understand immigration employment regulations during the pandemic, with a focus on the Immigration and Nationality Act, H-2A and H-2B visa program certifications.
- [Study Estimates COVID-19 Incubation Period](#), August 7
 - A recent study, published in Science Advances, suggests that the incubation period for SARS-CoV-2 may be longer than previously assumed.
 - Researchers studied 1,084 people who developed COVID-19 after a history of travel or residency in Wuhan, China. All individuals had a known departure date from Wuhan and a known date of symptom onset.
 - The estimated median incubation period was 7.8 days, nearly three days longer than the generally accepted incubation period of 5 days.
 - Researchers noted that, according to their estimates, around 10% of COVID-19 patients may develop symptoms more than 14 days after infection. The study cautions that “this may be a public health concern in regard to the current 14-day quarantine period.”

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Credit Funds: Valuation Risks and Other Compliance Considerations in a Pandemic Market Environment](#), August 10
- [Key Tax Considerations For Companies With Remote Employees](#), August 3
- [Public Disclosure: Data Analytics and DOJ Enforcement in Light of COVID-19](#), August 3
- [Senate Proposes the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools Act](#), August 3

Send questions to:

- COVID-19-Implications@ropesgray.com
- COVID-19RecoveryPolicies@ropesgray.com