

October 11, 2021

Summary

The United States has 44,340,408 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 713,354 reported related deaths. Last Thursday, President Biden spoke in Elk Grove Village, Illinois where he stressed the importance of coronavirus vaccination requirements. More than 185 million Americans are now fully vaccinated, and more than 75 percent of eligible Americans have gotten at least one shot.

Finland's health authority announced last week that it will pause use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for men under 30, citing the vaccine's higher likelihood of causing a heart inflammation condition in this group. Sweden recently implemented a similar policy. The U.K. is allowing trials of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for thousands of volunteers. The CDC has scheduled two meetings of its outside advisory panel to discuss, in the coming weeks, booster COVID-19 shots and vaccinations for children 5 to 11.

Minnesota has seen a 36% increase in new cases in the last two weeks. Florida is now recording fewer than 4,000 new cases per day on average, a significant decline from the over 20,000 daily cases at the end of August. North Dakota's governor pled with his citizens to refrain from risky activities and to ensure that they continue to attend primary care appointments in order to lessen the burden on hospitals overwhelmed by a COVID-19 surge.

As of October 10, New York reported 30 deaths, 2,098 hospitalizations, and 466 COVID-19 patients in intensive care. Approximately 5,128, or 2.48%, of the 207,153 tests administered in New York were positive for COVID-19. New York has administered 25,928,411 doses of the vaccines to patients; 72.2% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 64.5% are fully vaccinated. On October 8, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that 85% of adult New Yorkers had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. As of October 9, 86% of home health workers in New York State had received a vaccination in advance of the State's mandate going into effect on October 7. Several New York State hospitals have been the subject of at least 14 lawsuits seeking to require the hospitals to administer the anti-parasitic drug Ivermectin to treat COVID-19 patients, despite it lacking federal approval for treating the virus.

U.S. Government Updates

- [*Remarks by President Biden on the Importance of COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements*](#), Oct. 7
 - On Thursday, President Biden spoke in Elk Grove Village, Illinois where he stressed the importance of COVID-19 vaccine requirements.

- The president described getting vaccinated as a part of protecting the dignity of others and stressed that the nation will defeat the coronavirus by working together.
- More than 185 million Americans are now fully vaccinated, and more than 75 of eligible Americans have gotten at least one shot.

Vaccines and Therapeutics

- [*Nordic countries are restricting the use of Moderna's Covid vaccine. Here's why*](#), Oct. 11
 - On Thursday, Finland's public health authority announced it was pausing shots of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine in young men under 30. Finland's experts are concerned about the higher rate of Moderna-caused myocarditis—a rare, but sometimes serious heart inflammation condition—in this demographic.
 - Sweden has also limited use of the Moderna vaccine in young men born in or after 1991. Both countries have cited a new, undisclosed Nordic study on the issue. This study is under review by the European Medicines Agency.
- [*UK to offer new vaccine shots to Novavax trial volunteers*](#), Oct. 8
 - Britain announced on Friday that it will offer new vaccinations to thousands of people who volunteered for trials of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Novavax, an American company, concluded in June that its vaccine was 90% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infections. Compared to the other COVID-19 vaccines in use, the Novavax vaccine is easier to store and transport. Yet, the company has delayed seeking authorization in the U.S. and Europe.

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

- [*COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review*](#), Oct. 8
 - CDC summarized key COVID-19 disease indicators for last week.
 - As of October 6, the seven-day average number of daily new cases reported was 95,448. This is an 11.6% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
 - As of October 7, 399.6 million vaccine doses have been administered in the United States. Overall, approximately 216.3 million people in the United States have received at least one dose of vaccine, which is 65.1% of the population. Approximately 186.6 million people are fully vaccinated, which is 56.2% of the population. Around 6.4 million people have reported receiving a booster dose of vaccine. The seven-day average number of reported vaccine dose administrations was 948,921, a 30.5% increase compared to the previous week.
 - As of October 5, the seven-day average of new daily hospital admissions was 7,440, a 13.2% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
 - As of October 6, the seven-day average of reported deaths was 1,431 per day, an 8.4% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
- [*CDC vaccine advisers schedule meetings to discuss booster shots, vaccines for kids*](#), Oct. 8
 - The CDC has scheduled two meetings of its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a group of independent advisors, to again discuss COVID-19 booster shots, as well as vaccinations for children 5 to 11. The latter session will be held in early November, making it unlikely that children will be authorized to get vaccinated before Halloween.

New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), Oct. 10
 - New York reported 30 deaths, 2,098 hospitalizations, and 466 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on October 10, 2021.
 - Approximately 5,128, or 2.48%, of the 207,153 tests administered in New York on October 10 were positive for COVID-19.
 - As of October 10, New York has administered 25,928,411 doses of the vaccines to patients; 72.2% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 64.5% are fully vaccinated.
 - On October 8, Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) that 85% of adult New Yorkers had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, a milestone for the State. Governor Hochul continued to urge individuals in under-vaccinated communities to get a shot.
 - As of October 9, 86% of home health workers in New York State had [received](#) a vaccination in advance of the State's mandate going into effect on October 7. This figure exceeded the predictions of some union and industry leaders, who anticipated only 70% compliance.
 - Several New York State hospitals have been the [subject](#) of at least 14 lawsuits seeking to require the hospitals to administer the anti-parasitic drug Ivermectin to treat COVID-19 patients, despite it lacking federal approval for treating the virus. The drug has been a darling of anti-vaccine activists and right-wing pundits.

New York City

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), Oct. 11
 - Pastors of predominantly Black congregations in New York City are [continuing](#) to use the power of the pulpit to convince their flock to get vaccinated. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have partnered with these houses of worship to increase vaccination rates in under-vaccinated areas and address racial disparities in inoculations.
 - Event venues in the City are making a post-COVID [comeback](#). Javits Center in Manhattan hosted New York Comic Con 2021 last weekend, admitting only those with proof of vaccination. The Center had previously served as a makeshift hospital and COVID-19 vaccination center.

International

- On Monday, [Sydney](#) ended its lockdown after more than 100 days, although there are still some limitations on gatherings and masks are still required in some circumstances.
- The chief executive of [Hong Kong](#) said that it will not consider loosening travel restrictions until vaccination rates have risen, taking a different approach than other Asian countries that have started opening their borders after nearly two years.
- According to a study released by the National Health Service on Monday, nearly 20 percent of the most critically ill COVID-19 patients in [England](#) are unvaccinated pregnant women.

Other Updates

- [August's jobs numbers were bad. September was even worse, but there's room for hope,](#) Oct. 8
 - Forecasters had thought that September would be a month of substantial hiring, but employers added only 194,000 jobs in the month. That's a marked decrease from the approximately 1 million jobs a month that were being added earlier in the summer.
 - However, low hiring rates in September may not be as bad as they appear as a result of seasonal adjustments made by the Department of Labor that could be impact reported rates of hiring.
 - The rate of unemployment dropped to 4.8% in September from 5.2% in August, although some of that decline may be the result of individuals dropping out of the workforce.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Podcast: Non-binding Guidance: COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Litigation,](#) July 29
- [Three new General Licenses expand scope of COVID-19-related activity with Iran, Syria, and Venezuela under U.S. Sanctions,](#) July 6
- [Regulatory Trends in Pharma Deal-making: Transitioning from the "Year of the Pandemic" to "Another Year of the Pandemic,"](#) June 3
- [Non-binding Guidance: The Defense Production Act and the COVID-19 Pandemic,](#) May 27
- [Doug Brayley Discusses Employer Vaccination Policies on CNN,](#) May 24

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