

COVID-19 Daily Update

July 1, 2020

Summary

The United States has 2,658,324 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 127,681 reported related deaths. The country set a daily record for new cases for the fourth time in a week, with more than 48,000 new cases reported on Tuesday. The Senate passed an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program for small business to August 8. More than \$130 billion in funding has yet to be allocated through the program. The extension cleared the Senate by unanimous consent, and the House appears on track to approve the bill tonight. As July 4 weekend draws closer, federal and state government officials are asking people to celebrate at home as COVID-19 infections continue to increase in thirty-nine states.

Vice President Mike Pence traveled to Arizona to meet with Governor Doug Ducey. Arizona recorded a record one-day rise in cases, with 4,878 people testing positive for COVID-19, and a record 88 deaths. California reported more than 8,100 new COVID-19 cases, Georgia reported more than 2,400, and Texas reported more than 7,900, a record number of daily infections for each state. The top physician executive at the Houston Methodist hospital system wrote to staff members warning that its COVID-19 caseload was surging, stating that it is necessary to consider delaying more surgical services to create capacity for COVID-19 patients. Miami's largest public hospital announced that it would stop elective surgeries to cope with its COVID-19 caseload, which has doubled over the past two weeks. Apple has announced that it is re-closing thirty more stores, after re-closing 47 stores in recent weeks in several regions across the country. Economists at Goldman Sachs calculated the economic effect of wearing a mask to slow the spread of infections, positing that a national mask mandate could help avoid a second round of lockdowns and save the U.S. economy \$1 trillion, even if compliance is inconsistent.

New York reported 11 deaths on Tuesday, June 30. Approximately 625, or 1.1%, of the 56,710 tests conducted in New York on June 30 were positive for COVID-19. Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio announced that New York City would indefinitely suspend plans to allow indoor dining in restaurants across the city. The two leaders expressed concerns with patrons failing to follow existing outdoor dining protocols and the rise in COVID-19 cases in cities where restaurants have already opened for indoor dining. Governor Cuomo signed a new law extending New York State's eviction moratorium indefinitely. The Governor's original eviction moratorium was set to expire August 19.

Presidential updates

- [*Vice President Pence and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force Briefed the Press*](#), June 30
 - Vice President Pence wore a face mask to a [public briefing](#) on Tuesday in Maryland. He was joined by the surgeon general and others to encourage all Americans to wear face masks while in public to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - Surgeon General Jerome Adams stated that “[w]hen you do not wear your face covering, we end up in a situation where you see higher rates of disease spread, and you end up having to close places.” He further referred to a face covering as “an instrument of freedom for Americans if we all use it.”
 - Vice President Pence noted that fatalities are at the lowest level since March and that he believes “we’re in a much better place than four months ago, even two months ago.”

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [*COVID-19 Situation Report – 162*](#), June 30
 - WHO warned that Yemen, the location of the world’s worst humanitarian emergency, is now facing the added threat of COVID-19.
 - WHO has [joined forces](#) with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre to provide access to health care in remote areas of Yemen through the provision of a minimum service package.
 - UNICEF, WHO, IFRC (Red Cross), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched the Global Risk Communication and Community Engagement Collective Service, with support from the Global Outbreak and Response Network. The service will work to strengthen coordinated approaches to COVID relief in Africa while amplifying the views and perspectives of communities, enabling them to influence decision-making within the response.
 - WHO warned that without effective risk communication and community engagement, the response to COVID-19 in Africa would be increasingly difficult.
 - WHO is [working](#) to scale measures to protect the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh from the handful of COVID-19 cases already detected.
- [*Coronavirus and Pregnancy - WHO Outlines Efforts to Preserve Maternal Health Across Europe*](#), June 30
 - WHO reported that reductions in access to essential maternal and newborn health services during epidemics translate to increases in the number of women and newborns who suffer complications or die during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period.
 - Examples from Italy, Germany, and Israel show that swift recalibrations of health care have helped maintain the provision of essential services safely, and therefore the well-being of pregnant women and their babies during the pandemic.
 - WHO suggests that clear communication, adapting existing practice, and strengthening coordination have lessened the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal health across Europe.

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

- [*Community Spread Characteristics of Adult Outpatients and Inpatients with COVID-19*](#), July 1
 - A recent study, published by CDC as an early release, found that more than half of COVID-19 patients were potentially infected by a community source.
 - In a multistate telephone survey of 350 adult inpatients and outpatients who tested positive for COVID-19, only 46% reported recent close contact with a COVID-19 patient during the prior two weeks.
 - Of patients who reported known close contact with someone with COVID-19, the contact was most commonly the participants' family member (45%) or a work colleague (34%).
 - Two-thirds of the participants were employed; only 17% were able to telework.
 - CDC stressed that case investigation, contact tracing, and isolation of infected persons are needed to prevent ongoing community transmission, given this frequent lack of a known contact.
- [*CDC Director Criticizes American Airlines' Decision to Book Middle Seats*](#), July 1
 - American Airlines announced that it would end its middle seat booking ban beginning July 1, allowing its flights to be booked to 100% capacity after more than two months of booking to only 85% to encourage social distancing.
 - In testimony before a Senate committee, Dr. Anthony Fauci warned that the airline's decision was of concern.
 - CDC director Dr. Robert Redfield called the airline's decision a substantial disappointment and said it did not send the right message.
 - Other major carriers like Delta, Southwest, Alaska Airlines, and JetBlue have committed to continue blocking middle seats in an effort to comply with CDC-recommended COVID-19 protocols through at least July.
 - United Airlines has been [willing](#) to sell middle seat tickets throughout the pandemic.

New York State

- [*New York State Covid-19 Updates*](#), July 1
 - New York reported 11 deaths and 879 total COVID-19 hospitalizations on Tuesday, June 30. 625, or 1.1%, of the 56,710 tests conducted in New York on June 30 were positive for COVID-19.
 - New York has completed 4 million COVID-19 tests since March.
 - Governor Cuomo announced that New York is expanding its testing criteria across the state to all New Yorkers. The Governor is encouraging everyone to get tested.
 - Health officials announced that a COVID-19 cluster has been [linked](#) to a series of house parties in Rockland County. Some of the attendees are refusing to cooperate with contact tracers and are facing fines for failing to comply.
- [*New Law Strengthens and Extends Eviction Moratorium*](#), June 30
 - Governor Cuomo signed a law that will expand and extend protections for renters who face financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis.
 - The Tenant Safe Harbor Act builds upon the eviction moratorium Governor Cuomo enacted as New York became the epicenter of the COVID-19 epidemic.

- The new law prohibits courts from evicting residential tenants for nonpayment of rent if they experienced financial hardship during the outbreak.
- The measure applies to any unpaid rent accrued between March 7 and the yet-to-be-determined date when the state lifts all COVID-related restrictions on nonessential gatherings and businesses.

New York City

- [*New York City COVID-19 Updates*](#), July 1
 - 296, or 1.1%, of the 26,056 tests [conducted](#) in New York City on June 30 were positive for COVID-19
 - New York City is [postponing](#) indoor dining indefinitely as bar- and restaurant-linked COVID cases surge across the nation.
 - Governor Cuomo said the reasons for the delay are primarily New York City-specific issues; the rest of the State has already resumed indoor dining and will be permitted to continue it.
 - The City will still transition to phase three on July 6, resuming personal care services and more outdoor recreation, including tennis, basketball, and Bocce.
 - Mayor Bill de Blasio said he would work with the Governor's office to determine the best way to move forward with indoor dining when appropriate.
 - Governor Cuomo indicated that the State would create its own restaurant enforcement department to supplement local efforts to monitor protocol compliance in outdoor eating spaces.
- [*Some New Yorkers Had Coronavirus Antibodies in February, Study Shows*](#), July 1
 - Some New York City residents had antibodies for COVID-19 more than a week before the State's first official case was announced on March 1.
 - Researches at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai looked for antibodies of the virus in more than 500 random blood samples from patients at Manhattan's Mount Sinai Hospital, collected beginning the week of February 9.
 - Researchers said they found antibodies in some samples taken during the week ending February 23.
 - A New York State study previously [suggested](#) more than one in five New York City residents may have been infected already.

Other Related Updates

- [*Pfizer Reports Early but Promising Results on a Vaccine Candidate*](#), July 1
 - Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech are reporting encouraging signs from their very early testing of a possible COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Forty-five volunteers given either a low or medium dose had immune responses in the range expected to be protective when compared to some COVID-19 survivors, according to the preliminary results.
 - Side effects were typical for vaccines, mostly pain at the injection site and fever.
 - The report has been submitted for publication in a scientific journal; it has not yet been reviewed.

- Pfizer has three other COVID-19 vaccine candidates and aims to open a large-scale study this summer. Pfizer has not decided which of its four vaccine candidates it will select for the study.
- ['Celebrate at Home': Health Officials Make a Plea for the Holiday Amid Record Caseloads in the US.](#), July 1
 - Health officials are urging Americans to scale back Independence Day plans after COVID-19 case levels reached new highs on Tuesday, with eight states setting single-day reporting records.
 - In Los Angeles County, where 10,000 new cases have been announced since June 26, the public health department ordered beaches closed, and fireworks shows canceled.
 - The virus is surging again in states that had previously reported positive results, including Delaware. New clusters in beachfront cities led Governor John Carney to close some bars ahead of the holiday.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Top 7 Operational Challenges for Offices with Stage 3 Guidance from California](#), June 30

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