

COVID-19 Daily Update

July 10, 2020

Summary

The United States has 3,144,472 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 133,677 reported related deaths. CDC consolidated data from 23 models projecting the COVID-19 death rate. State-level forecasts indicate that the number of new deaths will increase in Arizona, Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. More than 800 people have died across the country in each of the last three days following a surge in infections and hospitalization; this total is 60% higher than the same three days last week. Epidemiologists warned that this week's higher death toll may be the start of a larger trend. California announced plans to sue Immigration Customs and Enforcement to challenge the agency's new policy limiting visas for international students engaging in online-only instruction. Gilead Sciences announced new findings that its antiviral drug remdesivir reduced the risk of death for patients with severe COVID-19 by 62% compared with standard care alone.

A Harvard Global Health Institute tracker recommends that stay-at-home orders should be mandated in Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Louisiana, and South Carolina, where severe outbreaks are unfolding, and notes that least another 15 states should be weighing the possibility. Multiple states announced measures to scale back their re-opening plans on Friday, July 10. Nevada closed bars in several counties and issued a state-wide order limiting restaurant dining to six people. In New Mexico, the governor closed state parks to out-of-state residents. Kentucky and Michigan joined a list of more than 20 states that have now issued orders requiring face masks in public. Disney World in Orlando will re-open this weekend with safety precautions; the company's theme park chairman expressed that the park "can open safely and responsibly" and said that visitors should expect a "sparse" atmosphere. Health-care workers in Florida report that the situation is dire and that hospitals are "overfilled and understaffed."

New York reported 8 deaths, 826 hospitalizations, and 178 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Friday, July 10. Approximately 1.06% of the 73,558 tests conducted in New York on July 9 were positive for COVID-19. Twenty-six Catholic schools in New York announced permanent closures due to the financial impact of the pandemic. New York City extended its prohibition on large public gatherings through September 30, adding the Dominican Day Parade and the Feast of San Gennaro to the list of popular events to be cancelled this year. Wildlife Conservation Society announced plans to re-open zoos and aquariums in the city on Friday, July 24. All visitors will be required to obtain date-specific tickets, wear masks, and observe social distancing while visiting the facilities.

Presidential updates

- [White House Holds Press Briefings on COVID-19](#), July 9
 - The director of the Tulsa Health Department recently [commented](#) that it is reasonable to link the County's spike in COVID-19 cases to "several large events a little over two weeks ago," including President Trump's rally on June 20.
 - Press Secretary McEnany [stated](#) that the White House "has not seen data to reflect that" and "does not regret holding the rally." McEnany [noted](#) that masks are encouraged but not required at campaign events, as "it's the individual choice of the person."
 - Press Secretary McEnany [asserted](#) that schools should "absolutely re-open" in the fall and noted that "the impacts of COVID-19 on children is minimal, or very low, compared to other age groups."

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 170](#), July 7
 - WHO [published](#) thirteen online courses on COVID-19 topics on its online learning platform, including a course on [how](#) to use personal protective equipment.
 - WHO [partnered](#) with Facebook to provide COVID-19 resources in a mobile-friendly format. WHO Director-General Tedros commented that the partnership allows WHO "to catch trending falsehoods early, respond to them quickly, and give people better access to life-saving information."

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

- [Interpretation of COVID-19 Death Forecasts](#), July 9
 - CDC consolidated data from 23 models projecting the COVID-19 death rate. Predicted rates of increase differ among the forecasts, depending on assumptions about the prevalence and rigor of social distancing behaviors.
 - National forecasts suggest that the number of cumulative COVID-19 deaths will be between 140,000 and 160,000 by August 1.
 - State-level forecasts indicate that the number of new deaths will increase in Arizona, Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. For other states, the number of new deaths is expected to be similar or decrease slightly compared to the previous four weeks.

New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), July 10
 - New York reported 8 deaths, 826 hospitalizations, and 178 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Friday, July 10.
 - Approximately 1.06% of the 73,558 tests conducted in New York on July 9 were positive for COVID-19.
 - New York State will [allow](#) shopping malls to re-open on July 10 in phase four regions across the state, so long as the facilities have updated air filtration systems.

- [*Catholic Schools Announce Closures Due to Pandemic*](#), July 10
 - The [Archdiocese of New York](#) and [Diocese of Brooklyn](#) announced that 26 Catholic schools will close permanently due to the financial impact of the pandemic. Officials noted that mass unemployment and continuing health concerns have resulted in families' inability to pay their current tuition and a very low rate of re-registration for the fall.

New York City

- [*Mayor de Blasio Announces Cancellation of Large Events Through September 30*](#), July 9
 - Mayor de Blasio extended New York City's prohibition on large public gatherings through September 30, including events larger than one block and stage events that require amplification.
 - Demonstrations, religious events, and press conferences are exempt from the Mayor's order.
 - Mayor de Blasio commented that "our focus now must be the prioritization of city space for public use and the continuation of social distancing."
 - All permit applicants must outline a plan to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and clean the event space during and after the event.
- [*Mayor de Blasio Announces Hyper-Local COVID-19 Response and Community Testing Partnerships*](#), July 10
 - New York City plans to provide \$10 million to community-based organizations in neighborhoods with low COVID-19 testing rates and high percentages of positive tests.
 - The grants will range from \$50,000 to \$750,000. Organizations in Tremont in the Bronx will receive the first grant; officials hope to test 2,500 people across Tremont over the next two weeks.

Other Related Updates

- [*Daily Virus Death Toll Rises in Some States*](#), July 10
 - Several states report an increasing number of deaths due to COVID-19. Arizona, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, South Dakota, Texas, and Tennessee set single-day death records this week.
 - The seven-day death average in the United States reached 608 on Thursday, up from 471 earlier in July. More than 800 people have died in the country in each of the last three days; this total is 60% higher than the same three days last week.
 - Prior to this spike, deaths had been declining since mid-April, even as the number of confirmed new cases held fairly steady in the late spring and surged over the past several weeks.
 - Epidemiologists warned that this week's higher death toll may be the start of a larger trend. In a typical fatal case, a patient dies three to five weeks after getting infected.
 - Dallas County's chief executive noted that "deaths are the most lagging indicator of the virus so we won't see any correlation with our current high case counts and record hospitalizations and then deaths for several more weeks."

- [*States Report Surge in COVID-19 Hospitalizations*](#), July 10
 - Several states across the South and West report increased COVID-19 hospitalizations.
 - Hospitals further report staff shortages as physicians and nurses fall ill with COVID-19.
 - In Florida, the State sent 100 nurses to Jackson Health System in Miami, which has already hired 80 extra nurses in the past two weeks to handle the surge in patients.
 - Tampa General Hospital’s chief epidemiologist noted that “when hospitals and health care assistants talk about surge capacity, they’re often talking about a single event; but what we’re having now is the equivalent of a bus accident a day, every day, and it just keeps adding.”
 - In Mississippi, five of the state’s largest hospitals have run out of intensive care unit beds for critical patients. The State’s health officer noted that “Mississippi hospitals cannot take care of Mississippi patients.” In some cases, patients are being sent to facilities out of state and as far away as New Orleans.
 - In Texas, Governor Abbott directed hospitals in 100 counties to “postpone surgeries and procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary.”

- [*Health Department Announces Additional COVID-19 Support for Health Centers*](#), July 9
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded more than \$21 million to support COVID-19 response efforts in health centers.
 - The funding will support the purchase of personal protective equipment; training for staff; outreach, procurement and administration of tests; laboratory services; and the expansion of walk-up or drive-up testing capabilities.
 - HRSA awarded over \$4.5 million to support the COVID-19 response of Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs), which improve patient safety in health centers by using health information technology to reduce costs and improve care coordination.

- [*FDA Prepares to Resume Domestic Inspections With New Risk Assessment System*](#), July 10
 - FDA plans to restart inspections of FDA-regulated facilities during the week of July 20.
 - FDA developed a rating system to determine how to safely conduct prioritized domestic inspections. FDA will adjust its number of inspections, depending on the impact of COVID-19 in a particular area.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [*COVID Public Nuisance Claims Are Coming: Opioid Litigation May Be A Model for the Next Wave of Public Health Litigation*](#), July 10
- [*Key Considerations for COVID-19 Emergency Triage Policies in Illinois*](#), July 6

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