

COVID-19 Daily Update

July 2, 2020

Summary

The United States has 2,699,658 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 128,385 reported related deaths. The United States reported nearly 50,000 new coronavirus cases on July 1, the fifth single-day case record in eight days, as the nation prepares for July 4 weekend. Case numbers continued upward in 38 states. The Department of Labor reported that the nation added 4.8 million jobs in June. The unemployment rate fell to 11.1%, down from its peak of 14.7% in April. President Trump called the report “spectacular” and evidence that the economy is roaring back. There are still 15 million fewer jobs in June than there were in February. The House passed an extension of the \$660 billion Paycheck Protection Program, one day after the extension passed the Senate. President Trump is expected to approve the extension.

Florida reported 325 new hospitalizations, a new record high, and a 33% increase from yesterday. In Texas, the number of hospitalized patients hit a record high for the third day in a row. Florida, North Carolina, and Tennessee all set single-day records for new reported cases. In Kansas, the State health secretary predicted that increased case counts were likely to continue without additional social distancing. Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a nearly-statewide mask mandate, saying that the latest COVID-19 numbers in the state “reveal a very stark reality.” In Pennsylvania, Governor Tom Wolf also signed an expanded order to wear masks. In Michigan, Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered bars to cease indoor service in much of the State. McDonald’s announced it is pausing for three weeks its plans to resume dine-in service at thousands of locations across the United States. The Treasury Department announced loan agreements with several airlines, including American Airlines, as the industry continues to struggle with the fallout from the pandemic. Congress had previously earmarked \$25 billion in loans for airlines under the Cares Act. A number of cities and counties around the country are buying technology such as infrared cameras to help track and contain the spread of the outbreak.

875, or approximately 1.25%, of the 69,945 tests conducted in New York on July 1 were positive for COVID-19. Governor Cuomo urged New Yorkers to remain vigilant and continue to social distance over the upcoming holiday weekend. New York City reported 427, or approximately 1.3%, of the 31,777 COVID-19 tests administered there were positive. Mayor de Blasio announced that New York City schools would re-open in the fall. He cautioned that space constraints would require staggering schedules at schools where students are unable to social distance. Students will be required to wear masks upon returning.

Presidential updates

- [*The White House: June Jobs Numbers Shatter Expectations*](#), July 2
 - President Trump, during a press briefing at the White House, discussed the June jobs report.
 - President Trump asserted that the economy is “roaring back,” saying the response to the coronavirus pandemic, coordinated with governors, is “working out very well.”
 - Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin spoke to the press, saying it is fortunate the country never reached 30 million unemployed, which was projected by some.
 - President Trump stated that the increases in COVID-19 cases in some regions would be temporary, adding that without the measures taken by governors and his administration, millions of lives would have been lost to the virus.
 - The President indicated that state officials will decide on reopening their economies, but the federal government might step in if it sees something “egregious.”

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [*COVID-19 Situation Report - 163*](#), July 2
 - WHO [published](#) an update to its previously released scientific brief on smoking and COVID-19. The original brief assessed the available evidence on the risk of smokers being infected by the virus and the severity of the disease and deaths among hospitalized COVID-19 patients who smoke. The conclusion remains that smoking appears associated with increased severity and death in hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
 - WHO provided a [progress update](#) on the COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) consortium. WHO has secured 140.8 million pieces of equipment, which are being shipped to 135 countries in all WHO regions. WHO is also delivering an additional 100 million medical masks and 1 million N95 respirators donated by the Jack Ma Foundation.

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

- [*Symptom-Based Screening Is Inadequate to Detect COVID-19 Transmission*](#), July 2
 - A recent study, published by CDC as an early release, found that symptom-based screening in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) is inadequate to detect COVID-19 transmission.
 - Facility-wide testing conducted among residents living in 26 SNFs in an urban Detroit jurisdiction with high COVID-19 prevalence identified an overall infection rate of 44%, a 37% COVID-19 hospitalization rate, and a 24% fatality rate.
 - Among participating facilities, the percentage of positive tests declined from 35% to 18% when all residents were tested.
 - CDC suggests that facility-wide testing and on-site infection prevention and control (IPC) support may be essential to reductions in COVID-19 transmission.
 - With the increased availability of COVID-19 testing, repeated point prevalence surveys, and enhanced and expanded IPC support should be standard tools for interrupting and preventing COVID-19 outbreaks in SNFs.
- [*CDC Releases Hospitalization and Deaths Forecasts*](#), July 1
 - CDC received 24 individual national death forecasts.

- The forecast suggests that there will likely be between 140,000 and 160,000 total reported COVID-19 deaths by July 25.
- Four national forecasts suggest an increase in the number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per day over the next four weeks, while three other forecasts predict stable numbers or slight declines. By July 25, the forecasts estimate 1,000 to 15,000 new hospitalizations per day.
- The forecasts make different assumptions about hospitalization rates and levels of social distancing and other interventions and use different methods to estimate the number of new hospitalizations.
- The variation in forecasts is largely due to assumptions about potential changes to social distancing protocols and practices.

New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), July 2
 - New York reported ten deaths and 878 total COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 209 patients in intensive care on Wednesday, July 1.
 - 875, or 1.25%, of the 69,945 tests conducted in New York on July 1 were positive for COVID-19.
 - Governor Cuomo encouraged New Yorkers to remain vigilant and follow state guidance. He warned that local governments must enforce the precautionary measures the State has put in place to keep the virus under control.
 - A spokesperson for the New York State Thruway Authority [responded](#) to rumors that the cameras used for cashless tolling (EZPass) are being used to track out-of-state license plates, stating that the rumors are completely false.

New York City

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), July 2
 - New York City reported 427, or 1.3%, of the 31,777 COVID-19 tests administered were positive.
 - Mayor Bill de Blasio stated that New York City intends to [open schools](#) in September. Each school will have a maximum number of students and personnel that can be in the building to maintain social distancing. The plan is to use every conceivable space in the schools and to convert everything that can be converted into a classroom to accommodate social distancing.
 - Schools that cannot house all students in the building at once while adhering to social distancing requirements will have to implement some form of staggered schedule.
 - Precautions being taken include conducting deep cleaning of schools daily, requiring face-covering and social distancing, and setting up additional handwashing stations.
 - Mayor Blasio shared plans to dedicate 22 open streets to restaurant dining starting this weekend. These streets have already been designated as open to walkers and bikers, with limited traffic allowed during designated hours.
 - Mayor de Blasio announced that the Staten Island Ferry will return to pre-COVID rush hour service July 6.
 - The High Line will re-open to the public with limited capacity on July 16. The park issued [visitation protocols](#) to ensure that visitors can maintain social distancing in full accordance with city guidelines.

- [Real Estate Prices Fall Sharply in New York](#), July 2
 - Since COVID-19 shut down much of the City, the number of residential sales in Manhattan dropped 54%, and the median price fell to \$1 million.
 - The 54% decrease in closed sales in the second quarter of the year represents the largest decline in at least 30 years.
 - The number of contracts signed for apartments in June, the latest indicator of buyer appetite, was down 76%, compared to the same time last year.
 - More than 90% of the sales recorded in the second quarter were signed before the virus gripped New York in March.
 - Several real estate agents have said that units in larger buildings have been a particularly hard sell due to concerns of overcrowded elevators and shared lobbies.

Other Related Updates

- [The United States Added 4.8 Million Jobs in June, but Virus Surge Looms](#), July 2
 - Employers added 4.8 million jobs in June, and the unemployment rate fell to 11.1%. The report marked the second month of gains after a loss of more than 20 million jobs in April, when the unemployment rate peaked at 14.7%.
 - Economists warned that the survey was compiled in mid-June, before coronavirus cases began to spike in several states.
 - Economists fear that layoffs could accelerate now that California, Texas, and other states have begun ordering some businesses to close anew.
 - Separate data released by the Labor Department on Thursday morning showed that 1.4 million Americans filed new claims for state unemployment benefits during the week of June 21. During that same period, more than 800,000 people filed for benefits under the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. The program provides benefits to people who do not qualify for traditional unemployment benefits.
 - Less than half of adults with only a high school diploma are employed: the group's employment rate was 48.6% in June, down from 56.2% before state lockdowns began.
 - President Trump called the overall jobs report "spectacular" at a news conference after the numbers were released.
- [Some Economic Signals Point to Slowing Recovery](#), July 1
 - Fed Chair Jerome Powell [told](#) a House committee on Tuesday that the path forward for the economy is extraordinarily uncertain and will largely depend on the nation's success in containing the virus. He added that a full recovery is unlikely until people are confident that it is safe to re-engage in a broad range of activities.
 - Credit and debit card data [tracked](#) by JPMorgan Chase show that consumers reduced their spending last week after having increased it steadily in late April and May. The reversal has occurred both in states that have reported surges in COVID-19 and in less affected states.
 - "Whatever picture the jobs report gives us, things have become worse since then," [said](#) Julia Pollak, a labor economist at ZipRecruiter.

- Data on small business openings and employment showed that small business employment and openings worsened over the past week, after plateauing for much of June.
- [*House Passes Small Business Loan Paycheck Protection Program Extension by Unanimous Consent*](#), July 1
 - The US House unanimously passed an extension of the \$660 billion Paycheck Protection Program through August 8. While the cornerstone small business coronavirus relief effort officially expired on July 1, it is now one step closer to reopening.
 - The measure will now go to President Trump's desk for his signature.
 - Some Democratic lawmakers expressed frustration with the Treasury Department's lack of data in the hours before passing the extension.
 - House Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez told reporters that Democrats still need to assess whether the program has been successful and that they need more data to measure its success.
- [*GOP Senators Resist Extending the \\$600 Federal Unemployment Benefit*](#), July 1
 - Federal coronavirus unemployment insurance is scheduled to expire at the end of this month. An estimated 25 million Americans are currently collecting benefits from this program.
 - The Democratic-led House has passed legislation to extend the \$600-per-week payment through January.
 - Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that the unemployment benefit passed in the CARES Act in March would not be in the next phase of COVID-19 relief, which he said he expects to pass by the end of July.
 - McConnell argued that the added unemployment benefits have encouraged many Americans to remain jobless.
 - Senator Pat Roberts said many in the Republican caucus see the jobless benefits as a disincentive to work. Senate Democrats argue that it has been a crucial lifeline for millions of out-of-work Americans.

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