

# COVID-19 Daily Update

July 27, 2020

## Summary

The United States has 4,259,667 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 147,103 reported related deaths. WHO Director-General Tedros stated that the coronavirus pandemic is “easily the most severe” global health emergency that WHO has ever declared and warned that the virus “continues to accelerate.” The White House announced that National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien tested positive for COVID-19. National Institutes of Health highlighted the start of a large-scale phase three clinical trial to test the effectiveness and safety of an experimental vaccine developed by biotechnology company Moderna in collaboration with the U.S. government. The trial will enroll 30,000 healthy participants at 89 sites around the country.

Dr. Birx suggested that states in the South and Midwest re-instate bar closures and restrictions on public gatherings “to really make it possible to control the pandemic before it gets worse.” Google extended its voluntary work from home option through July 2021 for “roles that don’t need to be in the office.” Major League Baseball postponed two Monday games, only three days into the pandemic-shortened season, after at least twelve players and two coaches from the Miami Marlins tested positive for COVID-19. Belgium re-instated strict social distancing rules on Monday, July 27, to avoid another lockdown; the country restricted gatherings to no more than five and limited any shopping visits to 30 minutes.

New York reported 11 deaths, 642 hospitalizations, and 149 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Sunday, July 26. Approximately 608, or 1.06%, of the 57,270 tests administered in New York on July 26 were positive for COVID-19. New York State announced plans to invest in 20 personal protective equipment (PPE) companies with the caveat that the companies will prioritize orders from New York if the state experiences a surge in COVID-19 cases. The New York Times highlighted that office spaces remain empty across Midtown Manhattan. Approximately 500 employees pass through the Time & Life Building in Midtown per day, a space which has the capacity to hold up to 8,000 workers. Subway ridership at Rockefeller Center station, a major stop for four train lines, was down 87% in June compared to June 2019.

## Presidential updates

- [National Security Adviser Tests Positive for COVID-19](#), July 27
  - The White House announced that National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien tested positive for COVID-19. The White House confirmed that "there is no risk of exposure to the President or the Vice President. The work of the National Security Council continues uninterrupted."
  - Earlier this month, O'Brien traveled to Europe to meet with officials from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 188](#), July 27
  - WHO [published](#) an outline of potential COVID-19 vaccine candidates; as of July 24, there are 25 vaccine candidates under clinical evaluation worldwide, with another 141 in pre-clinical evaluation.
  - WHO Director-General Tedros [warned](#) that "we still have a long, hard road ahead of us," and urged world leaders "to make hard choices to keep ourselves and each other safe." WHO praised Canada, China, and Germany for "bringing large outbreaks under control."

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

- [Symptom Duration and Risk Factors for Delayed Return to Usual Health Among Outpatients with COVID-19](#), July 27
  - A recent study, published by CDC as an early release, concluded that outpatients with mild COVID-19 can still have symptoms that last weeks.
  - Researchers conducted a multi-state telephone survey of roughly 275 symptomatic adults who had a positive outpatient test result for SARS-CoV-2 infection at one of 14 academic health care systems in 13 states.
  - During interviews two to three weeks later, 35% of cases reported persistent symptoms, most commonly cough and fatigue. Even among those aged 18 to 35 without chronic medical conditions, 19% had not returned to their normal state of health.
  - The authors highlighted that "public health messaging should target populations that might not perceive COVID-19 illness as being severe or prolonged, including young adults and those without chronic underlying medical conditions."

## New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), July 27
  - New York reported 11 deaths, 642 hospitalizations, and 149 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Sunday, July 26.
  - Approximately 608, or 1.06%, of the 57,270 tests administered in New York on July 26 were positive for COVID-19.
  - The New York State Liquor Authority issued 27 social distancing violations to restaurants and bars on Sunday night, July 26, mostly in the New York City area. The Authority suspended 10 liquor licenses over the weekend, bringing the total number of suspended licenses to 40.
  - Cuomo announced that Empire State Development will invest in 20 additional personal protective equipment (PPE) companies with the caveat that the companies prioritize

orders from New York if the state experiences a surge in COVID-19 cases. The State previously signed similar contracts with a number of other PPE manufacturers.

- Governor Cuomo encouraged other manufacturers to consider partnering with the State to produce PPE and highlighted a former clothing manufacturer who is “now making medical gowns.”

### **New York City**

- [\*COVID-19 Affects Real Estate Market in New York\*](#), July 26
  - A recent New York Times [article](#) detailed the impact of COVID-19 on office spaces Midtown Manhattan.
  - Approximately 500 employees pass through the Time & Life Building in Midtown per day, a space which has the capacity to hold up to 8,000 workers. Subway ridership at Rockefeller Center station, a major stop for four train lines, was down 87% in June compared to June 2019.
  - Many corporations have not renewed their leases at Executive Plaza, a complex with more than 400 temporary apartments for employees, executives, trainees, and foreign correspondents. The leasing agent for Executive Plaza noted that people do “not want to be on the subway, they want to walk to work.”
  - Real estate [estimates](#) from Zillow, the real-estate-data website, found that home values in Greater New York have risen by 1% as a whole from December to June, lagging behind a national increase of 2.3%.
  - Home prices in Manhattan from December to June are down 1.4%, and prices remain flat in Brooklyn and Queens. In Dutchess County in the Hudson Valley, prices are up 2%. Some neighborhoods in the City have seen drastic decreases. Price in the Upper West Side and northern Chelsea are down 9% and 12%, respectively.

### **Other Related Updates**

- [\*NIAID and Moderna’s Investigational COVID-19 Vaccine Begins Phase Three Clinical Trial\*](#), July 27
  - National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and Moderna began a phase three clinical trial for mRNA-1273, an investigational COVID-19 vaccine.
  - The trial, which will be conducted at U.S. clinical research sites, is expected to enroll approximately 30,000 healthy adult volunteers who do not have COVID-19.
  - Volunteers will receive two intramuscular injections approximately 28 days apart. Participants will be randomly assigned to receive either two 100-microgram (mcg) injections of mRNA-1273 or two shots of a saline placebo.
  - NIAID Director Fauci stressed that “we urgently need a safe and effective preventive vaccine to ultimately control this pandemic” and noted that “results from early-stage clinical testing indicate the investigational mRNA-1273 vaccine is safe and immunogenic.”
  - The vaccine uses a synthetic version of genetic material from part of the coronavirus, encased in tiny particles made of fat that help it get into human cells. The genetic material, called messenger RNA or mRNA, then prompts the cells to churn out a tiny piece of the virus, which the immune system sees as foreign, and learns to recognize. If the person is later exposed to the real virus, the immune system will attack.

- The phase three trial will determine whether the vaccine can prevent COVID-19 in adults and for how long such protection may last. The vaccine efficacy trial is the first to be implemented under Operation Warp Speed, a multi-agency collaboration led by HHS that aims to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of medical countermeasures for COVID-19.
- [Department of Labor Summarizes Recent Actions on COVID-19](#), July 27
  - Department of Labor (DOL) summarized recent actions on COVID-19.
  - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [cited](#) a health care company for violating respiratory protection standards following an inspection initiated after the company reported the COVID-19-related hospitalization of seven employees.
  - DOL enforced provisions of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA) under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and found that a Florida [manufacturer](#), wrongly denied an employee paid sick leave to provide child care due to a coronavirus-related school closing.
- [Health Department Awards Contract to Hologic to Expand Production of Sample Collection Consumables for COVID-19 Testing](#), July 26
  - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) awarded a \$7.6 million contract to Hologic Inc. to expand production of custom sample collection and processing consumables for COVID-19 testing using the Panther and Panther Fusion systems.
  - The Panther systems are each capable of performing more than 1,000 tests in a 24-hour period. This investment will increase Hologic’s production from 4.8 million COVID-19 tests per month to 6.8 million tests per month. Hologic is expected to deliver the increased volume of consumables to market by January 2021.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [The Effect of COVID-19 on Global Private Equity Markets](#), July 23
- [COVID-19: Rethinking the “S” in ESG in Light of the Pandemic](#), July 23
- [Encouraging Internal Reporting to Mitigate COVID-19-Related Risk](#), July 22
- [COVID and Race: A Conversation with Leaders in Health Care](#), July 21
- [Non-Binding Guidance: FDA Regulation of COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests and Return to Work](#), July 21

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