

COVID-19 Daily Update

July 28, 2020

Summary

The United States has 4,259,667 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 147,103 reported related deaths. The University of Notre Dame withdrew from hosting the first presidential debate on September 29, citing “constraints” brought on by the pandemic. Commission on Presidential Debates retained Cleveland Clinic as its Health Security Advisor for all fall debates. The American Federation of Teachers, the country’s second-largest teachers’ union, announced that it would support its 1.7 million members if they choose to strike in districts and states that move to re-open classrooms without adequate health and safety measures. Senate Republicans unveiled their proposal for a new \$1 trillion coronavirus relief bill. The legislation would temporarily reduce emergency unemployment benefits from \$600 to \$200 a week, and authorize a second round of \$1,200 stimulus checks. Two studies published in Journal of the American Medical Association found that cardiac issues are common in patients with COVID-19, even months after diagnosis.

In California, positivity rates in Central Valley counties range from 10.7% to 17.7%, compared to the state’s 14-day average of 7.5%. In response to the region’s high case load, the State will invest \$52 million to improve quarantine, testing and contact-tracing protocols, and to provide additional health care support. Britain Prime Minister Johnson expressed concern that Europe is “starting to see, in some places, the signs of a second wave of the pandemic.” Both Germany and the U.K. have identified Spain as a potential source of new cases, due to its spike in transmission rates and its popularity with summer holiday travelers. A group of unions and social organizations representing more than one million Brazilian medical professionals filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court in The Hague accusing Brazil President Bolsonaro of committing a crime against humanity by reacting to the COVID-19 outbreak with “contempt, neglect and denial.”

New York reported nine deaths, 648 hospitalizations, and 152 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Monday, July 27. Approximately 534, or 0.93%, of the 57,397 tests administered on July 27 were positive for COVID-19. New York added Illinois, Kentucky, and Minnesota to its COVID-19 travel advisory; New York now requires travelers from Puerto Rico, Washington D.C., and 34 states to quarantine for 14 days upon entry. State authorities inspected 644 bars and restaurants on Monday night, July 28, to determine compliance with social distancing guidelines; officials issued 26 summonses, observed 132 violations, and suspended the liquor licenses of 12 bars. New York City’s Test & Trace Corps now reaches 96% of COVID-19 cases citywide, and successfully supervises three-quarters of the City’s reported COVID-19 cases, meeting the Corps’ benchmark goals.

Presidential updates

- [*First Presidential Debate Affected by COVID-19*](#), July 27
 - The University of Notre Dame withdrew from hosting the first presidential debate on September 29, citing “constraints” brought on by the pandemic.
 - University President Jenkins announced that “the necessary health precautions would have greatly diminished the educational value of hosting the debate on our campus.”
 - The September debate will move to Cleveland and will be co-hosted by Case Western Reserve University.
 - Cleveland Clinic announced that it has been retained by the Commission on Presidential Debates as its Health Security Advisor for all of the fall’s debates.
 - Cleveland Clinic will decide whether a debate will feature an audience closer to the event and that it will “establish risk-mitigation procedures ... including audience size, distance among seats, and disinfectant measures.”
- [*President Trump Shares Video Containing Misinformation on COVID-19*](#), July 28
 - President Trump recently shared a viral video containing a series of false or misleading medical claims about COVID-19 on his Twitter account.
 - Facebook and YouTube removed versions of the video, and Twitter later removed the post shared by the President for “violating COVID-19 misinformation policies.”
 - The video featured what appeared to be a group of doctors in white coats, standing in front of the Supreme Court building and holding a news conference. The doctors made a series of misleading claims, including that hydroxychloroquine could be taken as a preventive measure against COVID-19.
 - In June, FDA revoked its emergency authorization for hydroxychloroquine after deeming it “unlikely to be effective” while carrying potential risks. National Institutes of Health halted clinical trials of the drug.
 - Donald Trump Jr., the president’s oldest son, also shared the widely circulated video on Tuesday, July 28, prompting Twitter to remove the post and limit Trump Jr.’s account’s functionality for 12 hours.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [*COVID-19 Situation Report – 189*](#), July 27
 - WHO published [guidance](#) for the implementation of mass treatment interventions, active case-finding campaigns, and population-based surveys to treat neglected tropical diseases during the pandemic.

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

- [*CDC COVID-19 Updates*](#), July 28
 - CDC updated its [listing](#) of COVID-19 cases and deaths by county.
 - CDC highlighted available testing [data](#) in the United States. Currently, 10% of tests in the United States are positive for COVID-19.
 - CDC posted [guidance](#) for funerals during the pandemic for individuals and families. CDC noted that “the more people interact, the closer in distance the interaction is (less than 6 feet), and the longer the interaction lasts, the higher the risk of spreading COVID-19.”

New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), July 28
 - New York reported nine deaths, 648 hospitalizations, and 152 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Monday, July 27.
 - Approximately 534, or 0.93%, of the 57,397 tests administered on July 27 were positive for COVID-19
 - New York will now require travelers from Puerto Rico, Washington D.C., and 34 states to quarantine for 14 days upon entry into the state. The new states added to the list are Illinois, Kentucky, and Minnesota. Cuomo described the country's infection rate as "very bad."
 - State authorities [inspected](#) 644 bars and restaurants on Monday night to determine compliance with social distancing guidelines. Officials issued 26 summonses, observed 132 violations, and suspended the liquor licenses of 12 bars.
 - A [concert](#) in the Hamptons over the weekend drew outrage and a state investigation after video footage showed thousands of attendees standing close and "generally not adhering to social-distancing guidance." New York Health Commissioner Zucker expressed that he was "greatly disturbed" by reports of the event and that he was "at a loss as to how the Town of Southampton could have... believed [the event] was legal and not an obvious public health threat."
 - Governor Cuomo [encouraged](#) Major League Baseball teams to play the rest of their seasons in New York if they are "having problems playing in other states." Teams must fly in on a private aircraft and stay at a quarantine hotel; players would be tested for COVID-19 at the hotel before they are allowed to play.

New York City

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), July 28
 - The City's Test & Trace Corps now [reaches](#) 96% of COVID-19 cases citywide, according to the program's latest metrics spanning the past two weeks.
 - 74% of positive cases completed intake forms and are confirmed to be isolating at home or a hotel with the assistance of the City. The Corps set benchmark goals of contacting 95% of patients and overseeing 75% of individuals quarantining.
 - The City [will give](#) community-based organizations \$7.8 million to promote public awareness around COVID-19 and the City's Test & Trace Corps. Messaging and outreach work will begin this month and continue through November.

Other Related Updates

- [Studies Detail Cardiac Involvement in COVID-19 Cases](#), July 27
 - Two studies published in Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) found that cardiac involvement is common in patients with COVID-19, even months after diagnosis.
 - In one [study](#), 100 randomly selected patients underwent cardiac magnetic resonance imaging a median of 71 days after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2. At the time of the MRI, roughly 20% reported atypical chest pain or palpitations, and over one third reported ongoing shortness of breath.

- Overall, 78% of patients had abnormal MRI findings, regardless of pre-existing conditions, COVID-19 severity, or cardiac symptoms. The MRIs found cardiac inflammation in around 60% of patients.
- In a second [study](#), researchers examined cardiac tissue taken during the autopsy of 39 patients who died from COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2 RNA was documented in the myocardium in 62% of patients. In five patients with the highest viral load, there was evidence of viral replication within the myocardial tissue.
- An [editorial](#) in JAMA Cardiology expressed concern that “the crisis of COVID-19 will not abate but will instead shift to a new ... incidence of heart failure and other chronic cardiovascular complications.”
- [Health Department COVID-19 Updates](#), July 28
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) the formation of the COVID-19 Insights Partnership, a joint Department of Energy and Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate and share COVID-19 health data and research. The initiative will focus on vaccine and therapeutic development and outcomes.
 - HHS [contracted](#) with the Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing (CIADM) at Texas A&M University to reserve available advanced manufacturing capability and capacities for potential COVID-19 vaccines through December 2021. The \$265 million order falls under Operation Warp Speed, the federal initiative to develop, manufacture, and distribute COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.
- [FDA COVID-19 Update: Daily Roundup](#), July 27
 - FDA continues to [warn](#) consumers not to use certain alcohol-based hand sanitizers due to the dangerous presence of methanol. FDA noted a rise in adverse event reports to poison control centers related to methanol, including blindness, cardiac effects, hospitalization, and death.
 - FDA approved a generic drug application for [heparin sodium](#), an anti-coagulant used in the prevention and treatment of blood clotting in COVID-19 patients.
 - FDA issued emergency use authorizations (EUAs) to two companies for COVID-19 antibody tests to identify individuals with an adaptive immune response to SARS-CoV-2, indicating recent or prior infection.

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

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