

# COVID-19 Daily Update

June 1, 2020

## Summary

The United States has 1,797,457 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 104,584 reported related deaths. The United States delivered two million doses of hydroxychloroquine to Brazil to be used for the purpose of preventing COVID-19 in health care professionals and treating infected patients. WHO issued a statement on President Trump's plan to terminate the United States' relationship with WHO. WHO expressed a desire to continue its relationship with the United States and praised the country's "contribution and generosity over many decades." A phase three clinical trial conducted by Gilead Sciences found that remdesivir provided a "modest benefit" in patients with moderate COVID-19. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) placed a \$628 million order with Emergent BioSolutions to advance the Agency's manufacturing capabilities for a potential COVID-19 vaccine.

Dr. Fauci expressed concern about a potential resurgence in COVID-19 cases following reports of unmasked patrons crowding bars and beaches. Hong Kong police banned an annual Tiananmen Square vigil for the first time since 1990, citing the need to enforce social-distancing rules. The Colosseum in Rome re-opened on Monday, June 1. Italy will allow unrestricted travel from members of the Schengen area beginning on Wednesday, June 3. Students were allowed to return to some elementary schools in England on June 1, but many parents kept their children at home, citing risks associated with COVID-19. Frontier Airlines announced that it will conduct regular temperature checks before passengers may board the plane. If passengers have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, passengers will be allowed to rest before getting a second check; if a second test reveals similar results, the passenger may not fly that day "for the health and safety of others."

New York reported 54 deaths on Monday, June 1. The State conducted approximately 50,000 COVID-19 tests on Sunday, May 31; fewer than 1,000 tests came back positive. Western New York is expected to move into phase two of its re-opening on Tuesday, June 2, while the Capital Region is on track to enter phase two on Wednesday, June 3. After a fourth night of crowded protests against police violence across New York City, top officials expressed concern that the demonstrations could set off a second wave of COVID-19 infections. Governor Cuomo noted that the mass gatherings "could potentially be infecting hundreds and hundreds of people after everything we have done." Governor Cuomo is considering a curfew for New York City. Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) plans to release more detailed re-opening strategies for the City, such as increasing service to reduce congestion, deploying police to enforce mandatory mask policies, and stationing workers across the subway to report overcrowding.

## Presidential updates

- [White House Statement on United States Relationship with Brazil](#), May 31
  - The White House issued a joint statement on its cooperation with Brazil related to the pandemic.
  - The United States plans to send 1,000 ventilators to Brazil. The United States delivered two million doses of hydroxychloroquine to Brazil to be used “as a prophylactic” for health care professionals and “as a therapeutic” to treat infected patients. The two countries are planning joint clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of hydroxychloroquine.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

- [WHO Expresses Desire to Continue Partnership With The United States](#), June 1
  - WHO Director-General Tedros expressed a desire to continue the agency’s relationship with the United States. WHO noted that the world has “long benefited” from “strong collaborative engagement” with the United States and praised the country’s immense “contribution and generosity over many decades.”
  - On Friday, May 29, President Trump announced that the United States will terminate its relationship with WHO and stated that the funds will be directed to other “deserving urgent global public health needs.”
- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 132](#), May 31
  - WHO created a [case report form](#) for suspected cases of multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children related to COVID-19.
  - WHO [highlighted](#) that people living with non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and cardiovascular disease, are more vulnerable to severe COVID-19.
  - A WHO [assessment](#) determined that the pandemic caused service disruptions in NCD treatments, such as rehabilitation, cancer treatment, diabetic complications management, and urgent dental care.

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

- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#), June 1
  - CDC recently highlighted travel recommendations based on geographic risk assessments for COVID-19 transmission.
  - CDC continues to recommend that older adults and people of any age with serious chronic medical conditions consider postponing non-essential travel to most global destinations.

## New York State

- [Governor Cuomo Holds Press Conference on COVID-19](#), June 1
  - New York reported 54 deaths on Monday, June 1.
  - The State conducted approximately 50,000 COVID-19 tests on Sunday, May 31; fewer than 1,000 tests came back positive. Governor Cuomo commented that “the progress is just phenomenal.”
  - Western New York is expected to move into phase two of its re-opening on Tuesday, June 2, while the Capital Region is on track to enter phase two on Wednesday, June 3.

- Governor Cuomo expressed concern over crowded protests against police violence and stated that the mass gatherings “could potentially be infecting hundreds and hundreds of people after everything we have done.”
- Cuomo highlighted that many young people may return home and potentially infect family members. Governor Cuomo is considering a curfew for New York City and has the National Guard on standby.
- Mayor de Blasio stated that “for those who have made their presence felt, made their voices heard, the safest thing from this point is to stay home.” Public health officials urged anyone who does protest to wear face coverings, use hand sanitizer, and maintain social distance.
- [Interim Guidance for Dentistry During the Pandemic](#), June 1
  - Dentist offices can re-open across New York on June 1.
  - The State issued [guidance](#) on best practices for safety and social distancing during dental care. Patients and accompanying visitors must wear face coverings at all times, except when undergoing dental procedures.
  - Offices must implement mandatory COVID-19 health screenings for all staff and patients. Examination rooms should be cleaned between patients.
  - If someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, affected areas should be closed off. The State recommends waiting at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting the area.

## **New York City**

- [Concerns Over Mass Transit in New York City](#), May 31
  - CDC recently released [guidelines](#) urging employees to use forms of transportation that minimizes close contact with others, such as biking, walking, or driving alone.
  - Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Chairman Foye [described](#) the recommendation as “misguided” and noted that it would “encourage a gridlock traffic situation in urban areas,” such as New York City. Before the pandemic, eight million people used public transportation in the New York City metropolitan area each day.
  - MTA stated that “transit is, and has long been, the safest way to move around any city. Our transit and bus system is cleaner and safer than it has been in history, as we clean and disinfect around the clock.”
  - MTA issued an [open letter](#) urging the business community to allow flexible start times, extend telecommuting plans, and expand opportunities for employees to work from home.
  - MTA announced plans to release more specific re-opening guidance, such as increasing service to reduce congestion, deploying police to enforce mandatory mask policies, and stationing workers across the subway to report overcrowding.
  - Mayor de Blasio recently [commented](#) that “some people are going to be comfortable on mass transit, some are not... you may see people use their cars more in the short term.”

## **Other Related Updates**

- [\*Gilead's Remdesivir Shows Modest Improvement in Moderate COVID-19 Patients\*](#), June 1
  - A phase three clinical trial conducted by Gilead Sciences found that remdesivir provided a “modest benefit” in patients with moderate COVID-19.
  - The study evaluated the safety and efficacy of five and ten day courses of remdesivir in nearly 600 patients, compared with standard care alone.
  - At day 11, around 76% of the patients in the five-day treatment group showed improvement in clinical status versus 66% for standard care alone. Around 70% of the patients who received remdesivir for ten days showed improvement, “trending toward but not reaching statistical significance.”
  - More information is needed to draw a conclusion on why the patients on the shorter course outperformed those on the longer course.
- [\*Plan For Drive-Up COVID-19 Tests At Stores Yields Few Results\*](#), June 1
  - President Trump previously introduced leaders from major retailers at two press conferences, to suggest that there would be cooperation between the federal government and private sector companies to roll out drive-through COVID-19 testing sites.
  - National Public Radio (NPR) reviewed the number of available testing sites across six companies, including CVS, Target, Walgreens, Walmart, Rite Aid, and Kroger. The companies collectively have almost 32,000 locations nationwide but only about 1,300 of those stores, or four percent, have COVID-19 testing sites.
  - The most rapid and expansive mobilization has been from CVS and Walmart, which met their pledged number of drive-through testing sites, while others, such as Walgreens and Kroger, made vague promises or no promises at all. None of those pledges were particularly ambitious relative to the scale of the retail chains.
  - Department of Health and Human Services commented that the drive-through testing program “continues to provide Americans with faster, less invasive and more convenient testing.”
- [\*Department of Labor Summarizes Recent Actions on COVID-19\*](#), June 1
  - Department of Labor (DOL) summarized recent agency actions on COVID-19.
  - DOL awarded \$24 million in dislocated worker [grants](#) to Pennsylvania, Michigan, Maine, and Washington through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The grants temporarily expand the service capacity of dislocated worker training and employment programs at the state and local levels.
  - Labor Secretary Scalia participated in a [roundtable discussion](#) with President Trump to discuss safely re-opening workplaces.
  - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued guidance on: (1) construction worker [safety](#) during the pandemic; and (2) social distancing in the [workplace](#).
- [\*Health Department Expands Contract Under Operation Warp Speed\*](#), June 1
  - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) placed a \$628 million task order with Emergent BioSolutions to advance the Agency’s manufacturing capabilities for a potential COVID-19 vaccine.

- The order falls under an existing contract between Emergent and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).
- Emergent is collaborating with Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, and Vaxart on their COVID-19 vaccine candidates.
- [\*Creating Wellness in a Pandemic: A Practical Framework for Health Systems Responding to COVID-19\*](#), June 1
  - A case study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, highlighted the pandemic’s “undesirable effect” on the psychological well-being of health care workers, including an increased risk of depression, anxiety, substance misuse, and sleep disturbances.
  - The article provides a framework, developed at a hospital in Chicago, to prioritize staff wellness. The initiative addressed the following issues: moral distress around patient deaths; resource allocation and scarcity; personal safety; economic insecurity; social and family life disruption; and the stigmatization of health care workers.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Latest CMS Rule Impacts Wide Range of Health Care Stakeholders with Changes for COVID-19 Emergency and Beyond](#), June 1
- [Federal Reserve Releases Updated Main Street Lending FAQs and Form Agreements](#), May 29

Send questions to:

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