

COVID-19 Daily Update

June 10, 2020

Summary

The United States has 1,994,834 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 112,647 reported related deaths. FDA issued an emergency use authorization for a new COVID-19 test created by Illumina, Inc. The test can generate information about the genomic sequence of the virus in a sample, which can be used for research purposes. Comparing sequencing results over time can help scientists understand if and how viruses mutate. Federal Reserve leaders predicted that the U.S. unemployment rate will fall to 9.3% by the end of this year and 6.5% by the end of 2021. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told the Senate's small business committee that the next round of economic stimulus legislation must be targeted to help industries that have been hit hardest by the pandemic and that the focus should be on creating incentives to re-hire unemployed workers.

Several states report an increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations, including California, Texas, and Arizona. Arizona's health director urged hospitals to "fully activate" emergency plans as the State experiences a "steep incline of COVID-19 patients on ventilators." Nine California counties report an increase in hospitalizations, which officials have attributed to Memorial Day gatherings and spikes in prisons and nursing homes. United Airlines will require passengers to answer a health assessment questionnaire before flight check-in, to confirm that they have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 21 days and that they have not experienced virus symptoms over the last two weeks. Customers that cannot confirm these requirements will be able to reschedule their flights. Facebook announced that it will now allow advertisers to promote non-medical masks, after banning ads for masks on its platform in March, in an effort to protect against scams, misleading medical claims, medical supply shortages, hoarding, and inflated prices. The New York Philharmonic cancelled its fall season and announced that it will not perform until January 2021. Major League Soccer will re-start its season on July 8 at Walt Disney World with "extensive medical protocols."

Approximately 1.5% of the diagnostic tests conducted in New York City on Tuesday, June 9, were positive for COVID-19. Governor Cuomo stated that New York will have "the most informed re-opening of any state in the country." Governor Cuomo unveiled a new concourse in La Guardia airport during his press conference. The passenger volume at New York City's airports declined by 95% during the pandemic; at one point, air traffic at LaGuardia fell by 97%. New York delivered 500,000 cloth masks and 10,000 gallons of hand sanitizer to Metro-North Railroad. Long Island entered phase two of its re-opening on Wednesday, June 10. New York City Department of Health issued a "health alert" on preventing heat-related illness and death during the pandemic, when residents are encouraged to remain at home.

Presidential updates

- [White House Scales Back COVID-19 Press Conferences](#), June 10
 - More than one month has passed since the White House halted its daily coronavirus task force briefings. President Trump is preparing to resume his campaign rallies in the next two weeks.
 - White House officials with knowledge of the administration's strategy insist that the pandemic remains an internal priority but that "this doesn't need to be the public 'coronavirus show' every day anymore."
 - Politico [reports](#) that there is a wider trend across the federal government of departments returning to pre-COVID-19 priorities.
 - CDC has restructured its daily conference calls with states, moving away from the practice of giving top-down briefings to encouraging state officials to offer updates on what they're seeing in their parts of the country. FDA officials are returning to hot-button issues like tobacco and CBD regulations. Some staff in the Health Department's emergency response arm are pivoting away from COVID-19 to cover natural disasters as hurricane season begins.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 141](#), June 10
 - There are more than 7 million confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide. WHO reported more than 136,000 new cases on June 7, the highest one-day case count.
 - General-Director Tedros [warned](#) that "the biggest threat now is complacency." WHO continues to encourage active virus surveillance, especially as mass gatherings resume in some countries.
 - Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) published [recommendations](#) to reduce COVID-19 transmission among indigenous populations and other ethnic groups.
 - WHO [expressed](#) support for "the global movement against racism" and encouraged individuals to socially distance and wear a mask when attending protests.
- [Dr. Fauci Issues Statement on Asymptomatic COVID-19 Transmission](#), June 10
 - Dr. Fauci commented that WHO was "not correct" to state that asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 is "rare." Dr. Fauci confirmed that WHO walked back this statement because "there is no evidence to indicate that's the case." Fauci cited evidence that asymptomatic spread accounts for 25% to 45% of infections.

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

- [CDC Issues Updated Guidance on COVID-19](#), June 9
 - CDC updated [information](#) on COVID-19 for pregnant people. CDC noted that some babies have tested positive for COVID-19 shortly after birth; it is unknown if the newborns contracted the virus before, during, or after birth. Most newborns who have tested positive for COVID-19 had mild or no symptoms and have recovered fully.
 - CDC provided [suggestions](#) for youth and summer camps in the United States. CDC described guiding principles based on the level of risk associated with camp operation.
 - CDC added additional [resources](#) on contact tracing, including case investigator guides on how to notify patients of exposure to COVID-19.

New York State

- [*Governor Cuomo Holds Press Conference on COVID-19*](#), June 10
 - Governor Cuomo unveiled a new concourse in La Guardia airport during his press conference. The passenger volume at New York City’s airports declined by 95% during the pandemic; at one point, air traffic at LaGuardia fell by 97%.
 - Approximately 1.5% of the diagnostic tests conducted in New York City on Tuesday, June 9, were positive for COVID-19.
 - Governor Cuomo stated that New York will have “the most informed re-opening of any state in the country.” Long Island entered phase two of its re-opening on Wednesday, June 10.
 - New York announced that it will issue guidance for municipalities about how and whether to re-open public schools.
- [*New York Announces New COVID-19 Initiatives*](#), June 9
 - New York, in partnership with Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), established 11 testing sites in New York City hotspot neighborhoods.
 - New York delivered 500,000 cloth masks and 10,000 gallons of hand sanitizer to Metro-North Railroad, to facilitate safe operations.

New York City

- [*City Health Department Issues Alert on Preventing Heat-Related Illness During the Pandemic*](#), June 10
 - New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH) released a “health alert” on preventing heat-related illness and death during the pandemic, when residents are encouraged to remain at home.
 - NYCDOH noted that heat waves kill more New Yorkers, on average, than any other extreme weather. Most hyperthermia victims are overcome by heat in their homes and do not have or use air conditioners.
 - New York City will provide air conditioners to 74,000 low-income households that have a resident who is 60 years old or older. NYCDOH recommends engaging caregivers to frequently call or otherwise remotely check on heat-vulnerable people to help them stay cool and well-hydrated before and during hot weather.
- [*Expansion of NYC Care and Mental Health Services to Address the Disparate Impact of COVID-19 on People of Color*](#), June 9
 - The City provided additional information on its efforts to expand the “NYC Care Program” to Queens and Manhattan. The program currently provides access to low-cost and no-cost primary care for those who are ineligible or can’t afford insurance in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island.
 - The City plans to hire 26 providers to ensure that residents have access to primary care appointments, public education materials, financial counseling services, and expanded pharmacy hours. New York City Health + Hospitals will release a request for proposals to engage community-based providers.
 - Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) staff will deliver mental health disaster response and coping sessions from July through December in the communities that were hardest hit by COVID-19.

Other Related Updates

- [As U.S. Jury Trials Resume, Courts Confront Virus Logistics](#), June 10
 - A New York Times article highlighted the difficulties faced by court administrators as jury trials resume. Oregon was one of the first states to reinstate in-person jury trials following pandemic lockdowns; [several states](#) are expected to follow suit in the coming weeks.
 - Court administrators are considering how many people a jury box can safely hold, whether jurors should wear masks during jury selection, and how long it will take to transport a socially distanced jury pool by elevator. Courts have installed plexiglass barriers for witness stands.
 - The Arizona Supreme Court, anticipating that many calls to jury duty would be ignored, reduced the number of potential jurors that can be struck by each side to two, from the usual six.
 - Other questions involve more fundamental principles of jurisprudence, such as whether a jury pool fairly reflects the community if people in groups hit harder by COVID-19, such as older residents, African-Americans and Latinos, are more reluctant to show up.
- [COVID-19 Update: Daily Roundup](#), June 9
 - FDA [approved](#) the manufacture of generic succinylcholine chloride injections to facilitate tracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation during the pandemic.
 - FDA issued [a warning letter](#) to a company for fraudulently claiming that an essential oil product can mitigate, prevent, diagnose, or cure COVID-19.
 - FDA issued an emergency use authorization ([EUA](#)) for a new COVID-19 test created by Illumina, Inc. The test is the first COVID-19 test to utilize “next generation sequence technology.” The test can generate information about the genomic sequence of the virus present in a sample, which can also be used for research purposes. Comparing sequencing results over time can help scientists understand if and how viruses mutate.
- [Estimating the Effects of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions on COVID-19](#), June 9
 - Two studies, published in *Nature*, estimated the benefits of non-pharmaceutical interventions to control COVID-19.
 - In the first [study](#), researchers examined the effects of over 1,700 policies across China, France, Iran, Italy, South Korea, and the United States, including travel restrictions, school closures, and the quarantine of positive cases.
 - Using statistical modeling, the study found that anti-contagion policies have “significantly and substantially slowed” the COVID-19 growth rate; the policies likely prevented 62 million confirmed cases, which corresponds to roughly 530 million total infections, across the six countries.
 - In the second [study](#), researchers estimated that 3.2–4.0% of the populations of 11 European countries have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 as of May 4. The study concludes that non-pharmaceutical interventions — especially lockdowns — markedly reduced the case count and suggests that “continued intervention should be considered to keep transmission of SARS-CoV-2 under control.”

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [CDC Guidance for Dental Settings Re-Opening During the COVID-19 Response](#), June 10
- [European Regulatory Update for Asset Managers](#), June 8
- [CMS Announces Delays and Extensions for Pay for Performance Value-Based Programs](#), June 8

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