

# COVID-19 Daily Update

June 11, 2020

## Summary

The United States has 2,009,238 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 113,209 reported related deaths. Department of Labor reports that another 1.5 million workers filed initial claims for unemployment benefits last week. National Institutes of Health researchers identified genomic features of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, which could differentiate the virus from other coronaviruses that cause less severe disease. Department of Justice announced its “first criminal securities fraud prosecution related to the COVID-19 pandemic” in a suit related to \$69 million in fraudulent claims for COVID-19 testing. Education leaders testified before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, highlighting school district budget concerns given the high cost of complying with federal public health guidelines. Former FDA Commissioner Gottlieb expressed concern over COVID-19 outbreaks in Arizona, Texas, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Gottlieb stated that several states are struggling to identify and trace particular people or events that have increased the spread of the virus.

Regeneron announced that a clinical trial of REGN-COV2, an antibody cocktail developed to prevent and treat COVID-19. Several other companies, such as Eli Lilly and Vir Biotechnology, are working on antibody treatments. If effective, antibody treatments could provide a bridge to a vaccine, and temporary protection for people, such as health care workers, who are at high risk of becoming infected. Two popular music festivals, Coachella and Stagecoach, were canceled for 2020; officials noted that the festivals “attract hundreds of thousands of attendees from many countries” and that if an outbreak occurred at either event it would be “impossible to track those who may be at risk.” The European Union recommended that all member countries open their borders to one another by Monday, June 15.

New York reported 36 COVID-19 deaths on June 11. Five regions in New York can move into phase three of their re-opening on Friday, June 12, including North Country, Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, and Central New York. Phase three allows indoor restaurant dining to resume and nail salons and massage parlors to operate at 50% capacity. New York will allow local municipalities to open public pools and playgrounds if health officials judge it is safe to do so and continue to follow best practices. On June 10, New York City reported 67 new hospitalizations and 341 COVID-19 patients in Health + Hospitals intensive care units. Approximately 1.7% of the diagnostic tests conducted in the City were positive for COVID-19. Mayor de Blasio described the data as “another very good day for New York City.” The Mayor announced new testing initiatives to make testing “fast, easy, and free,” including the launch of two mobile testing trucks and six new community testing partners. The City plans to increase the number of COVID-19 tests per day from 33,000 to 50,000.

## Presidential updates

- [White House Briefing by Press Secretary McEnany](#), June 10
  - Press Secretary McEnany highlighted two [studies](#), published in Nature, which estimated the benefits of non-pharmaceutical interventions to control COVID-19.
  - Based on information in the studies, Dr. Brix suggested that the United States prevented over 3 million COVID-19 cases through its mitigation efforts.
  - Following several closures due to COVID-19 outbreaks, meatpacking facilities are now operating at 95% capacity, compared to 2019.
  - The White House coronavirus task force met on Tuesday June 9.
  - New York Senator Schumer recently [commented](#) that President Trump was “too quick to sideline” the coronavirus task force and asked the White House to allow Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx to brief Senate Democrats on the state of the pandemic. Schumer cited concerns over spiking COVID-19 hospitalizations around the country, in places like Arizona and Texas.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 142](#), June 10
  - Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) [warned](#) that the upcoming hurricane season will complicate COVID-19 efforts in North and Central America. PAHO urged countries to plan for potential disruptions in the care of critically ill patients, and to secure critical facilities like laboratories and isolation centers, so that COVID-19 treatment can continue “even under difficult circumstances.”
  - WHO Director-General Tedros [reiterated](#) the need to find, isolate, and test people with COVID-19 symptoms and to trace and quarantine the contacts of positive cases.

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

- [Guidance on Using Telehealth to Expand Access to Essential Health Services during the Pandemic](#), June 10
  - CDC updated guidance on using telehealth to expand access to essential health services during the pandemic, including telehealth modalities, the benefits and potential uses of telehealth, safeguards for telehealth services, and the potential limitations of telehealth.

## New York State

- [Governor Cuomo Holds Daily COVID-19 Press Conference](#), June 11
  - New York reported 36 COVID-19 deaths on June 11. Approximately 1.7% of the diagnostic tests conducted in New York City on Wednesday, June 10, were positive for COVID-19.
  - Five regions in New York can move into phase three of their re-opening on Friday, June 12, including North Country, Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, and Central New York. Phase three allows indoor restaurant dining to resume and nail salons and massage parlors to operate at 50% capacity.
  - New York will allow local municipalities to open public pools and playgrounds if health officials judge it is safe to do so and continue to follow best practices.
  - Roughly 851,000 people rode the subway in New York City on Wednesday, June 10, up slightly from Monday and Tuesday. Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) estimated that 92% of riders are wearing masks.

- [\*New York State Nursing Home Testing Program\*](#), June 10
  - Governor Cuomo signed an executive order on May 10 requiring twice weekly COVID-19 testing for all nursing home staff.
  - More than 425,000 tests were performed on nursing home staff since May 10, resulting in 6,500 positive results to date.
  - The weekly positive testing rate has declined from 3% to less than 1%. For facilities in regions that have entered phase two of re-opening, the positive testing rate was .76% last week.
  - State Health Commissioner Zucker recommended that phase one regions continue twice weekly testing, while phase two regions downgrade to once weekly testing.

### **New York City**

- [\*Office of the Mayor COVID-19 Updates\*](#), June 10
  - On June 10, New York City reported 67 new COVID-19 hospitalizations and 341 patients in Health + Hospitals intensive care units. Mayor de Blasio described the data as “another very good day for New York City.”
  - Mayor de Blasio stated that he wants the City to conduct 50,000 COVID-19 tests every day; the City currently conducts around 33,000 tests per day.
  - The Mayor announced several new testing initiatives to make testing “fast, easy, and free.” The City launched two mobile testing trucks on Tuesday, June 9, and plans to have 10 trucks available by July. The City announced six new community testing partners which will open 15-20 new testing sites. The City plans to provide full test kits to all hospitals and health systems in the area, and recently sent 3,000 test kits to Staten Island.
  - The City will provide a comprehensive update on the Test and Trace Corps on June 15.

### **Other Related Updates**

- [\*Senate Education Committee Holds Hearing on Pandemic Challenges\*](#), June 11
  - Education leaders testified before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee on June 10.
  - Schools planning to welcome back more than 50 million students across the country are procuring masks for all students; flooding schools with nurses, aides, and counselors; and planning staggered schedules to minimize class size.
  - Educators highlighted budget challenges as their chief concern, especially as expensive demands to meet public health guidelines disproportionately affect low-income students, students of color, and those with disabilities.
  - AASA, the School Superintendents Association, [estimated](#) that districts would incur nearly \$1.8 million in costs to meet federal health guidelines, from \$640 for no-touch thermometers to \$448,000 for additional custodial staff, for an average school district of about 3,700 students.
  - The American Federation of Teachers released [a cost analysis](#) estimating that schools would need \$116.5 billion for instructional staff, distance learning, before- and after-school care, and transportation.

- [Regeneron Begins Clinical Trial of Antiviral Antibody Cocktail for COVID-19 Treatment and Prevention](#), June 11
  - Regeneron announced that it is beginning a clinical trial of REGN-COV2, an antibody cocktail developed to prevent and treat COVID-19.
  - The REGN-COV2 clinical program will consist of four separate study populations: hospitalized COVID-19 patients; non-hospitalized symptomatic COVID-19 patients; uninfected people in groups that are at high-risk of exposure (such as healthcare workers or first responders); and uninfected people with close exposure to a COVID-19 patient (such as the patient’s housemate).
  - Several other companies, such as Eli Lilly and Vir Biotechnology, are working on antibody treatments. If effective, antibody treatments could provide a bridge to a vaccine, and temporary protection for people, such as health care workers, who are at high risk of becoming infected.
  
- [Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report](#), June 11
  - Department of Labor (DOL) reports that another 1,542,000 workers filed initial claims for unemployment benefits last week.
  - More than 44 million workers have filed for unemployment benefits over the last twelve weeks. Initial applications for unemployment insurance have steadily declined for eleven weeks, from a record 6.9 million claims in late March.
  - 705,676 new claims were filed for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, the federal program intended to help freelancers, gig workers, the self-employed, and others not normally eligible for state jobless benefits.
  - Federal Reserve Chair Powell recently [described](#) the pandemic as “the biggest economic shock, in the U.S. and the world... in living memory.” Powell commented that “there will be a significant chunk [of workers], well into the millions, who don’t get to go back to their old job, and, in fact, there may not be a job in that industry for them for some time.”
  
- [National Institutes of Health Research Updates](#), June 10
  - National Institutes of Health (NIH) researchers [identified](#) genomic features of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, which could differentiate the virus from other coronaviruses that cause less severe disease. The identified protein features are unique to SARS-CoV-2 and two other coronavirus strains with high fatality rates, SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV; the features correspond with the high fatality rate of these coronaviruses, as well as their ability to move from animal to human hosts.
  - An NIH-funded [study](#) will investigate several drugs currently given to children with COVID-19 to refine dosing and improve safety. The study will not evaluate which drug is the best treatment for COVID-19. Researchers will analyze blood samples collected from routine medical procedures to understand how drugs move through the bodies of children, and will collect information on potential side effects and patient outcomes.
  
- [State and Federal Authorities Announce Fraud Prosecutions Related to Pandemic](#), June 10
  - New York Attorney General James [filed suit](#) against IMPACT Medical & Surgical Solutions. IMPACT allegedly obtained purchase orders and substantial up-front

payments from health care systems around the country for personal protective equipment. IMPACT promised quick delivery and access to large quantities of N95 respirators, which IMPACT never possessed or delivered. The suit seeks restitution for affected customers and disgorgement of IMPACT'S profits "from their fraudulent practices."

- DOJ [charged](#) the president of a California-based medical technology company in connection with his alleged participation in the submission of over \$69 million in fraudulent claims for COVID-19 testing. The company allegedly made false claims concerning its ability to provide accurate, fast, reliable, and cheap COVID-19 tests. The case is "the first criminal securities fraud prosecution related to the COVID-19 pandemic" brought by DOJ.
- [FDA COVID-19 Update: Daily Roundup](#), June 10
  - FDA and NIH updated [CURE ID](#), a crowd-sourcing app for health care providers to share experiences with novel uses of existing drugs in treating difficult-to-treat infectious diseases.
  - The app was updated to make it easier for health care providers to share their experiences treating COVID-19 patients who are unable to enroll in clinical trials.

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

Send questions to:

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