

COVID-19 Daily Update

June 12, 2020

Summary

The United States has 2,031,173 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 114,065 reported related deaths. CDC issued guidance on how to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in daily life, including when visiting the bank, dining at a restaurant, hosting gatherings, using gyms and fitness centers, going to nail salons, visiting libraries, and traveling overnight. Department of Transportation plans to distribute nearly 100 million masks for passenger use, including 86.8 million cloth facial coverings for airports and 9.6 million coverings for 458 transit agencies. International Labour Organization and UNICEF issued a report warning that millions of children are at risk of being pushed into child labor due to the pandemic, as poverty rises and the availability of social services decreases. A study published in the British Medical Journal highlighted the efficacy of personal protective equipment in limiting the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to health care workers.

Eight states have experienced increased COVID-19 hospitalizations over the last week, including Arkansas, Arizona, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and North Carolina. North Carolina's Health Secretary expressed concern about the rising hospitalizations and warned of a potential return to stay-at-home orders. Oregon Governor Brown announced a one-week "pause" of re-opening efforts, citing a rise in cases in the state. In Orange County, California, health officials revised a policy making mask use in public "strongly" recommended, rather than required, after residents pushed back against the mandatory policy. British Airways announced plans to auction off artwork to offset financial damage from the pandemic. Protesters in Brazil dug 100 graves with black crosses on Rio's Copacabana Beach to criticize President Bolsonaro's handling of COVID-19; Brazil has become a major epicenter of COVID-19, with a number of infections second only to the United States.

New York now has the lowest rate of coronavirus transmission out of any state in America, according to Governor Cuomo. New York reported 42 deaths on Friday, June 12. Five regions entered phase three of re-opening on June 12, including Central New York, Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country, and Southern Tier. Phase three allows indoor food services and personal care services to resume at 50% capacity. Approximately 1.5% of the diagnostic tests conducted in New York City on June 11 were positive for COVID-19. Mayor de Blasio and the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity announced new community programs for neighborhoods that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, including the Restaurant Revitalization Program. The program will subsidize employee pay for six weeks in eligible restaurants that commit to pay certain wages, increase race and gender equity, and make meals accessible to vulnerable community members.

Presidential updates

- [*Remarks by President Trump During a Roundtable Discussion*](#), June 11
 - President Trump attended a roundtable discussion in Dallas, Texas.
 - Surgeon General Adams noted that the United States has conducted more than 20 million COVID-19 tests to date; approximately six percent of COVID-19 tests conducted nationally are positive. Adams commented that “if we’re under 10% positive, we’re doing a good job.”
 - The Surgeon General highlighted the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 on communities of color; COVID-19 hospitalization rates are 4.5 times higher for blacks and 3.5 times higher for Hispanics than whites.
- [*President Trump to Resume Indoor Campaign Rallies*](#), June 11
 - President Trump [announced](#) plans to resume indoor campaign rallies this month, beginning in Tulsa on June 19. Rally attendees are required to acknowledge “that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present” and to agree to “voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree not to hold Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. ... liable for any illness or injury.”
 - The Republican National Convention announced that President Trump’s re-nomination speech and other convention festivities would be [moved](#) to Jacksonville, Florida, from Charlotte, North Carolina, after the original site refused to host a crowded large-scale event during the pandemic. President Trump previously [remarked](#) that “we can’t do social distancing” and that he does not “want to be sitting in a place that’s 50% empty.” Some lower-profile events will remain in Charlotte because of prior contractual obligations.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [*COVID-19 Situation Report – 143*](#), June 12
 - WHO issued [guidance](#) for the private sector on how to protect stakeholders, maintain essential supplies, and financially support international relief efforts.
 - WHO published [recommendations](#) on the use of chest imaging in COVID-19 patients through radiography, computed tomography, and ultrasound.

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

- [*CDC Issued Tips for Minimizing Everyday COVID-19 Risk*](#), June 12
 - CDC issued [guidance](#) on how to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in daily life.
 - **Banks:** CDC recommends using drive-thru banking services, banking apps, or ATM machines, as much as possible to avoid face-to-face assistance.
 - **Restaurants:** CDC recommends calling restaurants to ensure that all staff wear cloth face coverings. CDC recommends wearing a face covering when not eating and maintaining social distance when dining with people from other households. CDC recommends taking advantage of self-park options instead of using valet service. When possible, choose drink and food options that are not self-serve.
 - **Hosting Gatherings:** CDC recommends hosting gatherings outdoors or, if not feasible, in well-ventilated indoor spaces. Guests should be encouraged to bring their own food and drinks. CDC recommends identifying one person to serve shareable items, such as

condiments, to avoid multiple people handling the items. Remind invited guests to stay home if they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.

- The document also provides specific advice on using gyms and fitness centers, going to nail salons, visiting libraries, and traveling overnight.
- [*COVIDView Weekly Surveillance Summary of U.S. COVID-19 Activity*](#), June 12
 - CDC summarized key COVID-19 disease indicators for the week ending June 6.
 - The national percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for COVID-19 increased slightly from the previous week from 6% to 6.3%. The national increase was driven by increases in four surveillance regions: the northeast, southeast, south central, and pacific northwest.
 - The overall cumulative hospitalization rate is 89.3 per 100,000, with the highest rates in people 65 years and older (273.8 per 100,000) and 50-64 years (136.1 per 100,000).
 - Based on death certificate data, the percentage of total deaths attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 decreased from 12.4% to 7.3% from the prior week, but remained above baseline.
- [*Updated COVID-19 Guidance*](#), June 12
 - CDC issued [guidance](#) on SARS-CoV-2 in North American wildlife for veterinarians, biologists, and wildlife health specialists.
 - CDC created a [checklist](#) for communities of faith to protect staff and congregants from COVID-19.

New York State

- [*Governor Cuomo Holds Press Conference on COVID-19*](#), June 12
 - New York reported 42 deaths on Friday, June 12, up from 36 a day earlier.
 - Governor Cuomo warned that 23 states have seen a recent rise in COVID-19 cases and that 15 states report record high numbers. Cuomo stated that New York is “the exact opposite” and noted that since the State re-opened, the number of COVID-19 infections has continued to drop.
 - Five regions entered phase three of re-opening on June 12, including Central New York, Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country, and Southern Tier. [Phase three](#) allows indoor food services and personal care services to resume.
- [*COVID-19 Domestic Violence Task Force Issues Recommendations*](#), June 11
 - New York’s COVID-19 Domestic Violence Task Force outlined recommendations, which Governor Cuomo has accepted in full, to improve domestic violence services during the pandemic.

New York City

- [*City Health Department Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment and Medical Supply Companies*](#), June 11
 - New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH) published a list of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supply companies to assist health care providers to locate and purchase PPE.

- [City Announces New COVID Programs](#), June 11
 - Mayor de Blasio and the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity announced new community programs for neighborhoods that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.
 - The Community Crisis Response Initiative will provide \$10,000 to 22 local youth-focused community organizations to support and expand existing relief efforts.
 - NeON (Neighborhood Opportunity Network) Summer will offer a remote learning summer immersion program for teens and young adults in hard-hit communities, including Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, East New York, Harlem, Jamaica, North Staten Island, and the South Bronx.
 - The Restaurant Revitalization (RR) Program will support unemployed and underemployed restaurant workers affected by COVID-19. The City will partner with restaurants committed to paying a full minimum wage with tips on top, increasing race and gender equity, and making their meals accessible to vulnerable community members. Participating restaurants will be eligible for up to \$30,000 in funding to pay wages of \$20/ hour to subsidized employees for at least six weeks.

Other Related Updates

- [Study on the Efficacy of Personal Protective Equipment to Prevent COVID-19](#), June 11
 - A study, published in the British Medical Journal, highlighted the efficacy of personal protective equipment (PPE) in limiting the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to health care workers.
 - The study included 420 doctors and nurses who went to Wuhan, China, to treat COVID-19 patients for 6-8 weeks. All received protective suits, masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, and gowns and were trained in their proper use. Participants worked, on average, 16 hours per week in intensive care units and were exposed to at least one aerosol-generating procedure.
 - None became symptomatic during their time in Wuhan. Upon returning home, all were tested three times for SARS-CoV-2 and also underwent antibody tests. All test results were negative. The researchers stated that “health care systems must give priority to the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment, and provide adequate training to health care professionals in its use.”
- [Health Department Announces Funding for COVID-19 Training and Technical Assistance](#), June 11
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded \$8 million to 73 organizations that provide training and technical assistance to HRSA-funded health centers nationwide to prevent, prepare, and respond to the pandemic.
- [FDA COVID-19 Update: Daily Roundup](#), June 11
 - FDA has [authorized](#) 135 COVID-19 tests under emergency use authorizations (EUAs) to date, including 114 molecular tests, 20 antibody tests, and 1 antigen test.
 - FDA published an [article](#) on the Agency’s work to advance treatments and ensure care continuity for patients with rare diseases during the pandemic.

- FDA issued a [warning letter](#) to one company for selling fraudulent COVID-19 products.
- FDA posted an [FAQ](#) to address questions related to the design, evaluation, labeling, and marketing of hospital beds, stretchers, and mattresses during the pandemic.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [HHS Highlights Federal Telehealth Initiatives in Response to COVID-19](#), June 10
- [There's No Place Like ... the Office? A Return to Work Guide for Private Equity Sponsors in NY, CA and IL](#), June 10
- [CDC Guidance for Dental Settings Re-Opening During the COVID-19 Response](#), June 10
- [HHS Announces Enhanced Relief Fund Payments for Dental and Other Medicaid & CHIP Providers](#), June 10

Send questions to:

- COVID-19-Implications@ropesgray.com
- COVID-19RecoveryPolicies@ropesgray.com