

# COVID-19 Daily Update

June 24, 2020

## Summary

The United States has 2,348,956 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 121,279 reported related deaths. The governors of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut jointly announced a new COVID-19 travel policy, effective June 25. All individuals traveling from states with “significant community spread” of COVID-19 must self-isolate for a 14-day period. The restrictions apply to travelers from states with high positive test rates over a 7-day period. The following states are currently included in the advisory: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington, Utah, and Texas. Individuals will largely be trusted to self-isolate, but there are steep penalties for non-compliance, including fines ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Texas Governor Abbott described the state’s COVID-19 spread as “rampant” and urged residents to stay home; the number of virus-related hospitalizations in Texas has doubled over the last month. Washington State announced a state-wide mask requirement, effective June 26, following reports of increasing COVID-19 cases in several counties. Washington Governor Inslee noted that “until a vaccine or cure is developed, [mask use] is going to be one of our best defenses.” California Governor Newsom and state legislative leaders plan to allocate \$750 million in funding for social safety net programs. The funding is contingent on counties following federal COVID-19 guidance and the State’s stay-at-home-order and mandatory mask policy. In Illinois, in-person classes will resume at K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities in the fall. In New Jersey, amusement parks, water parks, and playgrounds will re-open on July 2 at 50% capacity. Visitors must wear masks and remain six feet apart when waiting in line. Major League Baseball reached an agreement to play a shortened, 60-game season this year.

New York reported 27 deaths, 1,104 total hospitalizations, and 302 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Tuesday, June 23. Approximately 597, or 1.2%, of the 48,709 tests conducted in New York on June 22 were positive for COVID-19. Long Island entered phase three of re-opening on Wednesday, June 24. New York City beaches will officially re-open on July 1 and will permit swimming. City pools remain closed. The City announced new alternate side parking regulations in which residential streets will be cleaned no more than once per week, to “offer more convenient options for working New Yorkers” as the City re-opens. The City projected a \$9 billion loss in revenue due to decreased tourism and commerce. Mayor de Blasio stated that the City may have to layoff and furlough 22,000 public workers to meet the City’s budget. The New York City Marathon, originally scheduled for November 1, was cancelled due to the pandemic. Runners will be invited to take place in a virtual marathon event.

## Presidential updates

- [House Testimony Discusses President Trump's Decision to Withdraw from WHO](#), June 24
  - Dr. Fauci and CDC Director Redfield testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Tuesday, June 23.
  - Fauci and Redfield commented on President Trump's recent decision to terminate the United States' relationship with WHO based on its alleged failure to adequately respond to the pandemic.
  - Fauci and Redfield noted that they were not consulted on the withdrawal, but remain in close contact with WHO.
  - Fauci stated that "despite any policy issues that come from higher up in the White House, we at the operational level continue to interact with WHO in a very meaningful way, literally on a day by day basis."

## World Health Organization (WHO)

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 155](#), June 24
  - WHO [updated](#) interim guidance for countries to identify, manage, and care for new COVID-19 cases.
  - WHO [published](#) guidance on breastfeeding and COVID-19.
  - WHO [announced](#) plans to participate in Global Citizen's upcoming concert and summit in support of the COVID-19 response on June 27. WHO expressed that the event will provide governments, corporate leaders, and philanthropists a platform to commit to the fair distribution of tools and treatments for COVID-19.
  - WHO [updated](#) its Q&A page to include information on dexamethasone and COVID-19.

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

- [CDC Interpretation of Forecasts of New Hospitalizations](#), June 24
  - CDC consolidated data from five models projecting the number of daily COVID-19 hospitalizations.
  - National forecasts from two models suggest an increase in the number of daily hospitalizations over the next four weeks, while the other three models forecast stable numbers or slight declines. Predicted rates of increase differ among the forecasts, depending on assumptions about the prevalence and rigor of social distancing behaviors.
- [Youth Sports Program FAQs](#), June 24
  - CDC published frequently asked questions on youth sports programs during the pandemic.
  - CDC noted that sports that require close interaction, are played indoors, and share equipment may pose a greater risk of COVID-19 transmission. All participants should wear cloth face coverings as much as possible, including coaches, youth sports staff, officials, parents, and spectators.

## New York State

- [\*New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut Impose 14-Day Quarantine on Travelers from Coronavirus Hotspots\*](#), June 24
  - The governors of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut jointly announced a COVID-19 travel advisory.
  - All individuals traveling from states with “significant community spread” of COVID-19 must self-isolate for a 14-day period from the time of their last contact within the identified state. The restrictions go into effect at midnight on June 25.
  - The restrictions apply to: (1) states with a 10% or higher positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average; or (2) states with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a seven-day rolling average.
  - The three states will continually update and publish a list of states to which the new advisory applies. As of June 24, the states included in the advisory are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington, Utah, and Texas.
  - Individuals will largely be trusted to self-isolate on their own, but there are steep penalties for non-compliance, including a \$2,000 fine for the first violation, \$5,000 for the second violation, and up to \$10,000 if the individual causes harm.
  - Governor Cuomo commented that “we’ve worked very hard to get the viral transmission rate down and we don’t want to see it go up again because people are traveling into the state and bringing it with them.” New Jersey Governor Murphy called the travel policy “the common sense thing to do.”
  
- [\*New York State COVID-19 Metrics\*](#), June 23
  - New York reported 27 deaths, 1,104 total hospitalizations, and 302 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Tuesday, June 23.
  - Approximately 597, or 1.2%, of the 48,709 tests conducted in New York on June 22 were positive for COVID-19.
  - Long Island entered phase three of re-opening on Wednesday, June 24.
  
- [\*New York Expands Child Care Programs Using Federal Funding\*](#), June 23
  - New York allocated \$65 million in federal funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for child care providers through the New York Forward Child Care Expansion Incentive program.
  - The funding includes \$20 million to help child care programs re-open and create a more socially distant model and \$45 million in incentive funds to pay for 50% of the cost of a newly opened classroom.
  - To be eligible for re-opening funds, child care programs must have either been: (1) closed as of June 15 with a plan to re-open within two weeks of applying for funding; or (2) currently operating below their licensed capacity with a desire to expand operations.
  - Child care programs may apply to OCFS through July 15. The grants will be pro-rated as programs reach capacity. Programs must submit a detailed plan for use of funds and must remain open at least through the end of the year.
  - Day cares in New York State were designated as an essential service and have been allowed to operate subject to State [guidance](#) on mask use, occupancy restrictions, and

distance requirements. Throughout the pandemic, 65% of child care programs registered with the State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) remained open, many serving families of essential workers.

- New York City implemented a more stringent policy on daycare centers. On April 3, the New York City Board of Health [ordered](#) all large child care centers and school-based day care programs in the City to close. The [order](#) specifically exempts City-run child care centers for the children of essential workers. The order remains in effect, and the City Health Department has not [indicated](#) when these restrictions will be lifted.
- [Governor Cuomo Issues Statement on New York's COVID-19 Progress](#), June 23
  - Governor Cuomo issued a statement, noting that “New York State is one of only three states that are on track to contain the COVID-19” according to [COVID Act Now](#), an epidemiological model of COVID-19 metrics created by a multidisciplinary team of technologists, epidemiologists, health experts, and public policy leaders.
  - The other two states that are “on track” include New Jersey and Massachusetts.
  - Governor Cuomo stated that New York “went from one of the highest infection rates to one of the lowest... by making decisions based on the science, the data and the facts – not on politics.”

## **New York City**

- [New York City to Permit Swimming at Beaches Next Week](#), June 24
  - All 14-miles of New York City beaches will officially re-open on July 1 and will permit swimming. City lifeguards will also return on July 1, ahead of the Fourth of July holiday.
  - City beaches usually open for swimming on Memorial Day weekend but swimming has been off-limits due to the pandemic. The City previously expressed concern that swimming would draw large crowds at beaches and surge the number of riders using public transit. In the interim, visitors have been allowed to sunbathe and otherwise walk on the beach.
  - City pools remain closed. City officials have yet to decide whether to re-open public pools.
- [City Health Department Guidance on COVID-19 for People With HIV](#), June 23
  - New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH) issued guidance on COVID-19 for people with HIV.
  - NYCDOH stated that there is no evidence to suggest that having HIV puts individuals at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19. NYCDOH recommends that people with HIV maintain a supply of all medications, get vaccinated for flu and pneumonia, and keep in contact with HIV clinics.
- [Mayor de Blasio Announces Alternate Side Parking Reform](#), June 23
  - Mayor de Blasio announced new alternate side parking rules for New York City.
  - Beginning on Monday, June 29, the City will resume twice-weekly alternate side parking regulations for one week. Following this week, residential streets will be cleaned no more than once per week.

## **Other Related Updates**

- [\*National Institutes of Health Study Publishes Findings on Infectious Diseases Immunotherapy\*](#), June 23
  - A recent study, conducted by National Institutes of Health (NIH), found that when the immune system first responds to infectious agents such as viruses or bacteria, a natural brake on the response prevents over-activation.
  - The study describes this brake and the way pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, turn it on. When a cell senses an infectious agent with molecules called pathogen recognition receptors, part of its response is to increase cell surface expression of a molecule called CD47, otherwise known as the “don’t eat me” signal. Increased CD47 expression dampens the ability of cells called macrophages, the immune system’s first responders, to engulf infected cells and further stimulate the immune response.
  - NIH stated that the “finding provides a potential target for an immunotherapy that might be applied to a wide range of infectious diseases,” including COVID-19.
  
- [\*Health Department Announces Two COVID-19 Initiatives\*](#), June 23
  - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced two new COVID-19 initiatives.
  - HHS [awarded](#) \$40 million to the Morehouse School of Medicine to coordinate a national initiative to deliver COVID-19-related information to communities hardest hit by the pandemic. The three-year initiative focuses on fighting COVID-19 in racial and ethnic minority neighborhoods and in rural and socially vulnerable communities. The information network will link communities to COVID-19 testing, health care, and social services and implement effective response, recovery, and resilience strategies.
  - HHS [launched](#) the MENTAL Health Challenge to combat social isolation and loneliness in older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans. MENTAL will award \$750,000 for the development of an easy-to-use online system that offers recommendations for programs, activities, and resources that connects users to others in the community, based on their individual needs, interests, and abilities. HHS noted that “for many... increased social isolation and loneliness is one unfortunate consequence of physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.”
  
- [\*Department of Labor COVID-19 Updates\*](#), June 23
  - Department of Labor (DOL), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and Small Business Administration (SBA) will hold a joint [webinar](#) on June 30 for employers on the paid sick leave requirements and available tax relief under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).
  - Labor Secretary Scalia [joined](#) a roundtable discussion with local business leaders in Dallas, Texas to discuss safely re-opening the economy. Scalia stated that “our economy is on the rebound.” Scalia further noted that “workplace safety must be a top priority for a successful re-opening.”

- [\*FDA COVID-19 Update: Daily Roundup\*](#), June 23
  - FDA posted a [consumer update](#) on food safety during the pandemic. FDA plans to release a blueprint in the coming weeks on how to utilize technology to strengthen the food supply chain in times of crisis.
  - FDA published an [article](#) discussing the challenge of maintaining timely reviews of medical product applications during the pandemic.
  - FDA announced a [partnership](#) with Critical Path Institute (C-Path) and National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) on the CURE Drug Repurposing Collaboratory (CDRC). CDRC is a forum for the exchange of clinical practice data to inform potential new uses of existing drugs for areas of high unmet medical need, such as COVID-19.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [COVID-19 FAQs](#), June 23
- [Senate Introduces the “Safeguarding American Innovation Act,” Targeting Foreign Influence and Unreported Foreign Ties in Research](#), June 22
- [European Regulatory Update for Asset Managers](#), June 22
- [Challenges of “Return to Work” in an Ongoing Pandemic](#), June 18

Send questions to:

- [COVID-19-Implications@ropesgray.com](mailto:COVID-19-Implications@ropesgray.com)
- [COVID-19RecoveryPolicies@ropesgray.com](mailto:COVID-19RecoveryPolicies@ropesgray.com)