

COVID-19 Daily Update

June 29, 2020

Summary

The United States has 2,564,163 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 125,928 reported related deaths. Health and Human Services Secretary Azar described the surge of new COVID-19 cases across the country as “a very serious situation” and warned that “the window is closing for us to take action and get this under control.” Vice President Pence held a briefing on COVID-19 in Dallas, Texas. Pence encouraged residents to wear face coverings to stop the virus from accelerating. Pence made a point of wearing a mask during several public events over the weekend. The Vice President highlighted that “a significant number of younger Americans” have contracted COVID-19 and expressed concern that this group could “inadvertently infect a parent, a grandparent, an elderly neighbor, or an elderly friend.” American Academy of Pediatrics stated that it “strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”

Florida’s daily case count has increased fivefold in two weeks; the state reported a record 9,585 infections on Saturday, June 27. Jacksonville, Florida, which is hosting the Republican National Convention in August, announced new measures to require masks in public places where social distancing is not possible beginning on Monday, June 29. In California, Governor Newsom ordered bars in seven counties to close and recommended that other bars across the state do the same. In New York, The Broadway League announced that Broadway shows will remain shuttered through at least January 3, 2021. Amazon provided warehouse, delivery, and Whole Foods workers with a one-time “thank you” bonus for working during the pandemic, ranging from \$250 for part-time workers to \$1,000 for store managers. The Netherlands plans to give health care workers a \$1,120 bonus as a gesture of thanks for their work during the pandemic.

Approximately 391, or .84%, of the 46,428 tests conducted in New York on June 28 were positive for COVID-19. New York City is on track to enter phase three of re-opening on Monday, July 6, which includes re-opening indoor dining and personal care services. Governor Cuomo announced that the State may slow down New York City’s re-opening by delaying the resumption of indoor dining; the State will review data and consult with stakeholders, before making a final decision by Wednesday, July 1. Mayor de Blasio expressed concerns about indoor dining and noted that new outbreaks in other states have been tied to specific restaurants and bars in Michigan, Texas, and California. De Blasio expressed that the City would likely “go into phase three on all other fronts” but that “we need to examine [indoor dining] closely.” Governor Cuomo announced that malls, once cleared to re-open, would be required to install air systems that filter the virus rather than re-circulate it, such as High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters.

Presidential updates

- [*Remarks by Vice President Pence in a Briefing on COVID-19 in Texas*](#), June 28
 - Vice President Pence held a briefing on COVID-19 in Dallas, Texas.
 - Pence promised that the federal government would ensure that Texas has the resources, supplies, and personnel to deal with its increased COVID-19 case burden. The federal government pledged to extend federal funding for community testing sites in Texas for two weeks.
 - One of the central messages of the briefing was to encourage residents to wear face coverings to stop the virus from accelerating. Pence made a point of wearing a mask during several public events over the weekend, including the briefing.
 - Pence noted that Texas now has over 5,000 new cases per day; the state's positivity rate increased from 4% to 13% over the last several weeks.
 - The Vice President highlighted that "a significant number of younger Americans" have contracted COVID-19 and expressed concern that this group could "inadvertently infect a parent, a grandparent, an elderly neighbor, or an elderly friend."

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [*WHO Publishes Weekly Operational Update on COVID-19*](#), June 29
 - WHO published a weekly operational update on COVID-19.
 - WHO announced plans to expand access to online learning for COVID-19 through its learning platform, OpenWHO, which contains courses on COVID-19 clinical care, infection prevention and control, personal protective equipment, environmental cleaning, and waste management.

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

- [*CDC Publishes Commercial Laboratory Seroprevalence Survey Data*](#), June 27
 - CDC partnered with commercial labs to conduct a large-scale geographic seroprevalence survey.
 - The labs tested clinical blood specimens for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies from March 23 to May 3 from six regions, including Connecticut, South Florida, the New York City metropolitan area, Missouri, Utah, and Western Washington State
 - An analysis of the antibody test results from nearly 12,000 serum samples suggests that the COVID-19 burden across the United States may be more than 10 times greater than currently reported.
 - In New York City, for example, the estimated seroprevalence was 6.93%, nearly 12 times higher than the prevalence based on reported cases. In Missouri, the estimated seroprevalence was 2.65%, 24 times higher than the reported prevalence of COVID-19.
- [*CDC Updates Information on Cloth Face Coverings*](#), June 28
 - CDC continues to recommend that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
 - CDC notes that cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
 - CDC does not recommend using face shields for everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings.

- Individuals should not wear cloth face coverings while engaged in activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet. A wet cloth face covering may make it difficult to breathe. For activities such as swimming, it is particularly important to maintain physical distance from others when in the water.
- CDC provided [strategies](#) for health care officials on how to optimize the supply of facemasks.
- [CDC Issues COVID-19 Guidance](#), June 28
 - CDC published [tips](#) to protect children during the pandemic. CDC cautions against in-person play dates with children from other households. CDC urges parents to consider postponing visits or trips to see older family members and grandparents.
 - CDC issued [guidance](#) for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in community pharmacies during the COVID-19 response.
 - CDC issued COVID-19 guidance for banking institutions including employer [considerations](#) and employee [recommendations](#).

New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), June 29
 - New York reported 7 deaths, 853 total COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 216 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on Monday, June 29.
 - Approximately 391, or .84%, of the 46,428 tests conducted in New York on June 28 were positive for COVID-19.
 - Governor Cuomo announced that malls, once cleared to re-open, would be required to install air systems that filter the virus rather than re-circulate it, such as High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters.
 - Governor Cuomo called on President Trump to sign an executive order directing everyone in the country to wear a mask. Cuomo further asked the President to “lead by example” and wear a mask in public. Cuomo stressed that “we know it works, we’ve proven that it works in the state of New York.”
 - New York City is on track to enter phase three of re-opening on Monday, July 6. Phase three re-opens indoor dining and personal care services with limited capacity, and some outdoor recreation facilities.
 - Governor Cuomo indicated that he may change the phase three re-opening process for New York City. Cuomo expressed concern about re-opening indoor dining, and plans to issue a final decision on whether indoor dining would resume in the City during phase three by Wednesday, July 1.
 - Mayor de Blasio recently expressed similar concerns about indoor dining. De Blasio noted that new outbreaks in other states have been tied to specific restaurants and bars in Michigan, Texas, and California. De Blasio stated that “my view is, we can go into phase three on all the other fronts – we can do that effectively... but the indoor [dining], we really need to examine closely.”

New York City

- [City Health Department Issues COVID-19 Guidance](#), June 28
 - New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH) issued [guidance](#) on how to shop safely during the pandemic. NYCDOH recommends reducing the time spent inside any

retail store by looking for items online before visiting the store and ordering items for pick-up, when possible.

- NYCDOH published [frequently asked questions](#) for parents and caregivers of pre-school and school-age children. NYCDOH highlighted that parents in need of child care should search [here](#) for Group Family Day Cares, Family Day Cares, and School Age Child Care programs regulated by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, which are considered essential businesses and may remain open.
- NYCDOH updated cleaning and disinfection [guidance](#) for non-health care settings.

Other Related Updates

- [U.S. Pediatricians Call For In-Person School This Fall](#), June 29
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued guidance with recommended policies for school operations during the pandemic.
 - AAP “strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”
 - AAP noted that the importance of in-person learning is well-documented.
 - AAP highlighted the negative impact of school closures on children. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to address learning deficits, physical or sexual abuse, substance use, or depression. The pandemic has also substantially affected food security and physical activity for children and families.
 - AAP cites “mounting evidence” that COVID-19 transmission by young children is uncommon, partly because they are less likely to contract it in the first place.
 - AAP urged policy makers to “acknowledge that COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk” through physical distancing, cleaning and disinfection, and hand-washing, and using outdoor spaces whenever possible.
- [COVID-19 Patients in Intensive Care Report Hallucinations](#), June 29
 - Many patients with severe COVID-19 report experiencing hospital delirium.
 - Hospital delirium is typically seen in a subset of older patients, some of whom already had dementia, and in recent years, hospitals adopted measures to reduce it.
 - Reports from hospitals and researchers suggest that about [two-thirds](#) to [three-quarters](#) of coronavirus patients of all ages in intensive care units have experienced some form of delirium, including patients with no previous cognitive impairment.
 - Some patients report “hyperactive delirium,” paranoid hallucinations and agitation; some have “hypoactive delirium,” internalized visions and confusion that cause patients to become withdrawn and incommunicative; and some have both.
 - Delirium can have detrimental consequences long after it lifts, extending hospital stays, slowing recovery, and increasing people’s risk of developing depression or post-traumatic stress.
 - Researchers suggest that long stints on ventilators, heavy sedatives, and minimal social interaction contribute to delirium. Others note that the virus itself or the body’s response to it may also generate neurological effects, “flipping people into more of a delirium state.”

- [Department of Labor Summarizes Recent Actions on COVID-19](#), June 29
 - Department of Labor (DOL) summarized recent agency actions on COVID-19.
 - Labor Secretary Scalia [joined](#) the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce for a roundtable discussion with local business leaders on safely re-opening the economy.
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued [guidance](#) on COVID-19 for seafood processing operations in onshore facilities and offshore vessels.
 - DOL issued [guidance](#) on child labor laws during the pandemic, including an assessment of when schools that are physically closed for coronavirus-related reasons are considered “in session” for purposes of federal child labor requirements.
 - DOL launched an [online tool](#) to help workers determine if they qualify for paid sick leave or extended family and medical leave to cover time away from work for reasons related to the coronavirus.

- [Health Department Secures New Supplies of Remdesivir for the United States](#), June 29
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced an agreement with Gilead Sciences for large supplies of the drug remdesivir for the treatment of severe COVID-19.
 - HHS contracted for 500,000 treatment courses of the drug for American hospitals through September. This represents 100% of Gilead’s projected production for July (94,200 treatment courses), 90% of Gilead’s production in August (174,900 treatment courses), and 90% of Gilead’s production in September (232,800 treatment courses), in addition to an allocation for clinical trials.
 - HHS will allocate the product to state and territorial health departments based on COVID-19 hospital burden, and health departments allocate it to hospitals. Hospitals will pay no more than Gilead’s Wholesale Acquisition Price (WAC) for the drug, which amounts to approximately \$3,200 per treatment course. A treatment course of remdesivir is, on average, 6.25 vials of the drug.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Private Fund Sponsors: Return to Work Considerations](#), June 25
- [SEC Staff Supplements Its COVID-19 Disclosure Guidance](#), June 25
- [COVID-19 FAQs](#), June 23

Send questions to:

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