

COVID-19 Daily Update

June 5, 2020

Summary

The United States has 1,860,362 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 107,474 reported related deaths. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the U.S. unemployment rate fell from 14.7% to 13.3% in May, and the economy added 2.5 million jobs. President Trump issued an executive order to increase infrastructure investments and relieve regulatory delays to facilitate economic growth. CDC consolidated data from 20 models projecting the COVID-19 death rate; all models indicate that the death rate is declining but that United States will reach between 118,000 and 143,000 deaths by June 27. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reported over 95,000 confirmed cases and nearly 32,000 deaths in federally regulated nursing homes. CDC Director Redfield testified on COVID-19 before a House committee. Redfield warned that CDC lacks access to robust data on the pandemic and noted that CDC's response would be enhanced if it had "a real-time actual data system across this nation." Department of Health and Human Services announced new reporting requirements for public and private labs performing COVID-19 tests. Labs must share data on the race, ethnicity, age, and sex of individuals tested for COVID-19 with state and local health departments.

CDC urged protesters demonstrating against racial injustice to get tested for COVID-19. Former FDA Commissioner Gottlieb stated that there is "no question" that COVID-19 will spread among protesters, but noted that it will take at least two weeks to detect an uptick in cases. CDC Director Redfield warned that protests, especially in metropolitan areas, could become a seeding event for the virus. Redfield noted that the use of chemical agents, such as pepper spray, against protesters could cause people to cough and further spread the virus. New research suggests American students will begin the next school year having lost as much as a third of their expected progress from the previous year in reading and half of their expected progress in math, due to school disruptions during the pandemic.

New York State reported 42 deaths on Friday, June 6, the lowest daily death toll in eight weeks. Governor Cuomo attributed the State's significant progress to New Yorkers who "radically changed the way they behaved." Medical schools will be allowed to re-open statewide on June 22. Wednesday, June 3, marked the first day since March that New York City reported no confirmed COVID-19 deaths. The City is on track to re-open on Monday, June 3, but needs to increase its share of available hospital beds. New York City announced plans to expand outdoor seating at restaurants once the City enters phase two to allow businesses to maximize their customer base while maintaining social distance.

Presidential updates

- [Executive Order on Accelerating the Nation's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments](#), June 4
 - President Trump issued an executive order to increase infrastructure investments and relieve regulatory delays in order to facilitate economic growth.
 - The order directs the Secretary of Transportation to expedite the completion of highway and other infrastructure projects; directs the Secretary of the Army to expedite civil works projects; and directs the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite work on infrastructure, energy, environmental, and natural resources projects on Federal lands.
 - All secretaries must provide a summary report within 30 days of the order, summarizing all projects that have been expedited. Further status reports are required at least every 30 days for “the duration of the national emergency.”
 - The order directs the heads of all agencies to “identify planned or potential actions to facilitate the Nation’s economic recovery” that may be subject to emergency treatment under various regulations, on infrastructure, energy, environmental, or natural resources matters.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 136](#), June 4
 - WHO issued [guidance](#) on digital tools for COVID-19 contact tracing.
 - WHO [warned](#) of a “significant rise” in interpersonal violence, abuse, and neglect across Europe during the pandemic.

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

- [CDC Director Testifies Before House of Representatives](#), June 4
 - CDC Director Redfield testified at a hearing convened by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.
 - Redfield expressed concern about CDC’s lack of access to timely information on COVID-19. Redfield noted that some states “still [collect] data with pen and pencil” and asserted that the agency’s response would be enhanced “if we had a real-time actual data system across this nation.”
 - Redfield highlighted that wearing masks is “an important public health tool” and expressed concern that CDC’s “public health message isn’t resonating” with the public.
 - Redfield urged protesters demonstrating against racial injustice to get tested for COVID-19. Redfield warned that protests, especially in metropolitan areas, could become a seeding event for the virus. Redfield noted that the use of chemical agents, such as pepper spray, against protesters could cause people to cough and further spread the virus.
 - Redfield stated that it is crucial for the United States to have a robust contact tracing system in place by September, to track the virus ahead of an expected surge in the fall and winter.

- [Interpretation of COVID-19 Death Forecasts](#), June 4
 - CDC consolidated data from 20 models projecting the COVID-19 death rate. All 20 models indicate that the rate of increase continues to decline. Predicted rates of increase differ among the forecasts, depending on assumptions about the prevalence and rigor of social distancing behaviors.
 - National forecasts suggest that the number of cumulative COVID-19 deaths will be between 118,000 and 143,000 by June 27. State-level forecasts indicate that in some states, cumulative deaths will increase at roughly the same rate as they have in recent weeks, while other states are likely to experience only a small number of additional deaths from COVID-19.

New York State

- [Governor Cuomo Holds Press Conference on COVID-19](#), June 5
 - New York State reported 42 deaths on Friday, June 6, the lowest daily death toll in eight weeks. New York reported 2,728 hospitalizations, down from a record high of 18,825 during the peak of the pandemic.
 - Governor Cuomo attributed the State’s significant progress to New Yorkers who “radically changed the way they behaved.”
- [New York State Re-Opening Updates](#), June 4
 - Medical schools will be allowed to re-open statewide on June 22 “to safely prepare for and welcome new cohorts of medical students this summer and fall.”
 - New York will allow drive-in and drive-through graduation ceremonies. The State will re-examine socially-distanced outdoor commencements at a later time.

New York City

- [City Department of Health Highlights Phase One Re-Opening Resources](#), June 4
 - New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH) issued guidance on phase one of the City’s re-opening, covering the following businesses: [retail](#), [construction](#), [manufacturing](#), and [wholesale trade](#).
 - The City is projected to re-open on Monday, June 8.
- [Mayor de Blasio Announces Plan to Expand Restaurant Outdoor Seating Once City Enters Phase Two](#), June 4
 - New York City announced plans to expand outdoor seating at restaurants once the City enters phase two of its re-opening process.
 - The “Open Restaurants” plan will allow restaurants to use parking spaces along the curb for dine-in service and will create a streamlined process for sidewalk seating approvals.
 - Mayor de Blasio noted that the program will help “businesses maximize their customer base while maintaining the social distancing.” The City is expected to begin its second phase of re-opening “as early as the beginning of July.”

Other Related Updates

- [*Bureau of Labor Statistics Issues May Employment Report*](#), June 5
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics issued a monthly employment [report](#) for May 2020.
 - The unemployment rate fell from 14.7% to 13.3% in May.
 - The United States added 2.5 million jobs last month. Employment increased significantly in leisure and hospitality (1.2 million), construction (464,000), education and health services (424,000), retail trade (368,000), and manufacturing (225,000).
 - 15.3 million people were “temporarily” laid off in May. The number of people who “permanently” lost their jobs continued to rise, increasing by 295,000 in May to 2.3 million.
 - Labor Secretary Scalia issued a [statement](#), noting that the report “shows much higher job creation and lower unemployment than expected, reflecting that the re-opening of the economy in May was earlier, and more robust, than projected.”
 - The White House [noted](#) that there is “reason to expect the American economy [will] add even more jobs in June.”
- [*U.S. to Revise Chinese Passenger Airline Ban After Beijing Move*](#), June 5
 - Earlier this week, Department of Transportation (DOT) announced plans to bar Chinese airlines from flying to the United States due to China’s restrictions on flights by U.S. carriers.
 - DOT recently announced plans to issue a revised order that is likely to allow some Chinese passenger airline flights to continue.
 - DOT’s decision follows a new Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) policy to allow U.S. carriers to resume once-a-week flights into a city of their choice starting on June 8.
 - Under CAAC’s plan, if five or more passengers on one flight test positive for COVID-19 upon arrival, CAAC will bar the airline from flying to China for a week. Airlines would be suspended for four weeks if 10 passengers or more test positive.
- [*Nursing Home COVID-19 Data and Inspections Results Available*](#) , June 4
 - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released updated data on COVID-19 infections in federal regulated nursing homes. CMS also released the results of 5,700 targeted inspections of nursing home conducted by state-based inspectors.
 - Federally regulated nursing homes are required to report COVID-19 cases and deaths directly to CDC. As of May 31, 13,600 nursing homes – approximately 88% of the 15,400 Medicare and Medicaid nursing homes – reported the required data to CDC.
 - Nursing home facilities reported over 95,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and almost 32,000 deaths.
 - The next data set will be updated in two weeks; after two weeks, CMS will update the data on a weekly basis.
- [*Prevalence of Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection*](#), June 4
 - A recent study, published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, reviewed data from 16 cohorts and found that an estimated 40–45% of people who test positive for COVID-19 are asymptomatic at the time of testing.

- Five of the 16 cohorts included longitudinal data. In four cohorts with longitudinal data, few of the asymptomatic patients (0–10%) went on to develop symptoms. In the fifth cohort, a skilled nursing facility, 89% of initially asymptomatic patients went on to develop symptoms.
- The study found that asymptomatic individuals can transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others for an extended period, perhaps longer than 14 days. In some cases the viral load of asymptomatic persons is equal to that of symptomatic persons, suggesting similar potential for viral transmission.
- Researchers noted that COVID-19 testing programs should be “substantially broadened” to include asymptomatic individuals. The findings suggested that COVID-19 “might have greater potential than previously estimated to spread silently and deeply through human populations.”
- [Health Department Announces New Laboratory Data Reporting Guidance for COVID-19 Testing](#), June 4
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that all laboratories must report additional data on COVID-19 testing to state public health departments.
 - The required data includes information on the race, ethnicity, age and sex of individuals tested for COVID-19. States must share this data with HHS by August 1.
 - Assistant Health Secretary Giroir [noted](#) that data will be publicly available after it is stripped of identifying information for privacy reasons.
 - The initiative aims to ensure that public health officials have robust data to inform contact tracing, ascertain the availability of testing resources, and anticipate potential supply chain issues.
- [FDA COVID-19 Update: Daily Roundup](#), June 4
 - FDA publicly posted [test performance data](#) from four antibody test kits based on independent performance validation efforts by CDC, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).
 - FDA issued a new [video resource](#) explaining the difference between diagnostic tests and antibody tests.
 - FDA approved an [application](#) to manufacture generic dexmedetomidine hydrochloride to sedate intubated and mechanically ventilated patients.
 - FDA issued [warning letters](#) to operators of four websites that market unapproved and misbranded COVID-19 products.
 - FDA plans to host a [webinar series](#) on respirators for health care personnel on Tuesday, June 9.
 - FDA [approved](#) the antibiotic Recarbrio to treat ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Data Privacy Concerns for Latin American Businesses During COVID-19](#), June 4
- [Congress Passes Amendment to Paycheck Protection Program](#), June 4
- [Global Health Care Compliance Initiative: Managing Compliance Issues and Process Changes Related to COVID-19](#), June 4

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