

COVID-19 Daily Update

June 8, 2020

Summary

The United States has 1,950,023 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 110,689 reported related deaths. FDA changed its policy on the decontamination of N95 masks used by health professionals, based on FDA's increased understanding of the performance and design of respirators. FDA previously authorized decontamination systems for non-cellulose compatible N95 respirators; decontamination systems may no longer be used on respirators manufactured in China because they "vary in their design and performance." CDC commented on the recent protests against police violence. CDC warned that "protests and large gatherings make it difficult to maintain our recommended social distancing guidelines and may put others at risk." CDC noted that it is "too early to know what, if any, effect these events will have on the federal COVID-19 response.

According to the New York Times, 39 of the 40 largest known COVID-19 clusters in the United States are in food processing or correctional facilities. In Kings County, California, at least 918 people have been infected at three state prisons, accounting for more than half the county's total cases. New Zealand reports that it has "eliminated transmission of the virus" in the country; the country reports no active COVID-19 cases and plans to lift nearly all internal restrictions. Britain announced a 14-day quarantine period for all travelers entering the country by air, ferry, or train. Travelers will have to provide an address at which they will isolate for 14 days, with a fine of up to \$1,200 for violations. Tropical Storm Cristobal made landfall in southeast Louisiana – forcing the closure of COVID-19 testing sites and evacuations that likely cannot be carried out while complying with social distancing recommendations.

New York reported that 1.2% of the 58,054 tests administered in the State on June 7 were positive for COVID-19, marking the lowest percent of positive test results since March 16. New York City entered phase one of its re-opening on Monday, exactly 100 days since the City had its first confirmed COVID-19 case. The virus infected more than 203,819 people in New York City and killed at least 21,844 people. Between 200,000 and 400,000 workers are expected to begin returning to construction jobs, manufacturing sites, and retail stores for curbside and in-store pickup. On Monday, June 8, subways will return to regular weekday service. Buses will return to regular weekday service in the outer boroughs and will resume 75% service in Manhattan. Masks are mandatory for all riders on public transit. MTA is launching a 30-day pilot program to test new air filters on several subway cars and buses "to examine if they effectively kill microbes." City Health Commissioner Barbot warned that the City is still in a "moderate transmission phase" meaning that there are still "hundreds of people that are newly diagnosed" on a daily basis. Mayor de Blasio urged residents to continue social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Presidential updates

- [Remarks by President Trump on Bureau of Labor Statistic's Job Report](#), June 5
 - President Trump held a press conference on the Bureau of Labor Statistic's job report, which found that the U.S. unemployment rate fell from 14.7% to 13.3% in May.
 - The President called on states to further end "lockdowns" to boost the economy and claimed that the country is "largely through the pandemic."

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 139](#), June 7
 - WHO established a [joint task force](#) with health officials across 17 European member states to strengthen the region's coordinated pandemic response.
 - Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) [urged](#) countries in the Americas to ensure food safety in the production chain during the pandemic.
 - WHO issued [guidance](#) on the international medical certification of deaths related to COVID-19. WHO updated its [log](#) of major changes in WHO daily aggregate case and death count data.

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

- [CDC Issues Statement on Protests and COVID-19](#), June 7
 - CDC spokesperson Kristen Nordlund issued a statement that CDC is "monitoring closely the demonstrations happening across America."
 - CDC warned that "protests and large gatherings make it difficult to maintain our recommended social distancing guidelines and may put others at risk."
 - CDC noted that it is "too early to know what, if any, effect these events will have on the federal COVID-19 response." Every local situation is different, and state officials will have to make public health decisions "based on circumstances on the ground."
- [Guidance on How to Investigate a COVID-19 Case](#), June 7
 - CDC posted guidance on how to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing efforts.
 - CDC issued a health department [checklist](#) on developing a COVID-19 case investigation plan.
 - CDC created a daily temperature and symptom [log](#) for close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case to use while self-isolating.
 - CDC published a self-quarantine [home assessment checklist](#) for contact tracers to assess an individual's ability to safely isolate at home. The checklist includes questions on whether the individual has access to a private bedroom, remote access to a primary care provider, and reliable access to groceries without leaving the home.

New York State

- [Governor Cuomo Holds Press Conference on COVID-19](#), June 7
 - 1.2% of the 58,054 tests administered in New York on June 7 were positive for COVID-19, marking the lowest percent of positive test results since March 16.
 - Governor Cuomo rode the City subway's 7 line on Monday morning, and noted that "if the subway isn't safe for me, then I wouldn't ask anyone else to go on the subway."

New York City

- [*New York City Enters Phase One of Re-Opening*](#), June 8
 - New York City entered phase one of its re-opening on Monday, exactly 100 days since the City had its first confirmed COVID-19 case.
 - To be eligible for phase one, the City must have less than 200 COVID-19 hospitalizations per day, under 375 virus patients in intensive care units (ICUs), and less than 15% of City residents testing positive. As of Sunday, there were 72 new COVID-19 hospitalizations, 324 COVID-19 patients in the ICU, and 4% of City residents testing positive for COVID-19.
 - City Health Commissioner Barbot warned that the City is still in a “moderate transmission phase” meaning that there are still “hundreds of people that are newly diagnosed” on a daily basis. Mayor de Blasio urged residents to continue social distancing and wearing face coverings.
 - Between 200,000 and 400,000 workers are expected to begin returning to construction jobs, manufacturing sites, and retail stores for curbside and in-store pickup.
 - New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH) issued [guidance](#) for building owners, managers, and engineers on returning building water systems to service after a prolonged shutdown.
- [*MTA Releases Action Plan on Re-Opening Public Transportation*](#), June 7
 - Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) released a 13-point [action plan](#) on re-opening public transportation across the New York City metropolitan area.
 - MTA urged the business community to continue remote work, stagger hours, and create alternative schedules. The start of peak hours has shifted from 8 AM to 7AM and from 5 PM to 3 PM. MTA asked individuals to travel outside of peak hours, if possible.
 - Prior to the pandemic, the system carried 8.3 million riders each day. Ridership plummeted during the pandemic by more than 90% system-wide. Ridership is expected to steadily increase during each phase of re-opening; transit officials predict that around 875,000 people, or 15% of the system’s usual capacity, will ride the subway during phase one of re-opening.
 - On Monday, June 8, subways will return to regular weekday service. Buses will return to regular weekday service in the outer boroughs and will return to 75% service in Manhattan. Subways will remain closed overnight to facilitate disinfection from 1 AM to 5 AM. Metro-North will resume 61% of normal weekday service on June 15. The Long Island Railroad will resume 90% of normal weekday service by June 8.
 - Masks are mandatory for all riders on public transit. MTA will distribute 2 million free masks at the beginning of phase one and will pilot personal protective equipment (PPE) vending machines. Hand sanitizer will be available at all stations.
 - MTA is launching a 30-day pilot program to test new air filters on several subway cars and buses “to examine if they effectively kill microbes.”
 - MTA urged the City to add 60 miles of bus lanes — a 42% increase from the existing 144 miles — to expand service and offer subway riders a viable alternative to the train.

Other Related Updates

- [Experts Provide Advice On Safer Office Elevator Use](#), June 8
 - NPR summarized advice from elevator industry experts on how to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 while riding office elevators.
 - Industry leaders recommend that riders wear masks, resist touching surfaces, and use disposable items like toothpicks to touch the buttons. The article further recommends that people face the elevator walls and not talk, to minimize spread of respiratory droplets that could carry the virus.
 - Experts suggest limiting the number of passengers in most elevator rides to four to accommodate social distancing, with one person in each corner.
 - Elevator companies are designing antiviral stickers for elevator buttons, lobby concierge-run elevators, ultraviolet-light HVAC purification systems, and elevator buttons that riders can activate with their feet, voice, or hand gestures.
- [Google Maps to Offer Warnings About Local COVID-19 Restrictions](#), June 8
 - Google announced plans to offer COVID-19 alerts on Google Maps.
 - COVID-19 testing locations in some states, still require appointments or referrals, and limit tests to certain patients. Google will remind those traveling to testing centers to “verify eligibility and facility guidelines to avoid being turned away or causing additional strain on the local healthcare system.”
 - The app will include limitations on public transit operations due to COVID-19 and will also warn riders of potential COVID-19 checkpoints, starting with the borders between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.
- [Department of Labor Summarizes Recent Actions on COVID-19](#), June 7
 - Department of Labor (DOL) summarized recent agency actions on COVID-19.
 - Labor Secretary Scalia [commented](#) that the Bureau of Labor Statistic’s May job report contained “much higher job creation and lower unemployment than expected.”
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued [guidance](#) to protect agriculture workers during the pandemic.
 - DOL issued an [alert](#) listing safety tips employers can follow to protect stockroom and loading dock workers in the retail industry from exposure to COVID-19.
- [FDA Re-Issues Emergency Use Authorizations Revising Which Types of Respirators Can Be Decontaminated for Reuse](#), June 7
 - FDA re-issued emergency use authorizations (EUAs) to specify which respirators are appropriate for decontamination, based on FDA’s increased understanding of the performance and design of respirators.
 - Decontamination systems are only authorized to decontaminate non-cellulose compatible N95 respirators; decontamination systems may no longer be used on respirators manufactured in China because they “vary in their design and performance.”
 - CDC recommends that decontaminated respirators should be used only when new FDA-cleared N95 respirators, NIOSH-approved N95 respirators, or other FDA authorized respirators are not available.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [European Regulatory Update for Asset Managers](#), June 8
- [CMS Announces Delays and Extensions for Pay for Performance Value-Based Programs](#), June 8

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