

COVID-19 Daily Update

June 9, 2020

Summary

The United States has 1,968,221 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 111,374 reported related deaths. There are more than 7 million reported cases worldwide. CDC Director Redfield recently expressed concern about the possibility of substantial COVID-19 activity during the flu season. CDC is seeking an emergency use authorization (EUA) from FDA for a new test that can simultaneously detect SARS-CoV-2 and influenza to better inform “clinical treatment, infection control, and community mitigation efforts.” Department of Health and Human Services announced additional distributions to health care facilities from the Provider Relief Fund. Internal Revenue Service warned against financial scams related to COVID-19, including schemes regarding economic impact payments, fake medical supplies, and investment scams for companies working on COVID-19 vaccines.

World Bank economists stated that COVID-19 has “triggered the deepest global recession in decades” and projected that the world’s economy will likely contract by 5.2% in 2020. UN General Assembly announced that its 193 world leaders will not convene in New York in September; an announcement on how the meeting will be conducted is forthcoming. The British government abandoned plans to bring back all primary school students before the summer holidays. The Pantheon re-opened to tourists in Rome with a capped entrance of 80 visitors at any one time. The Eiffel Tower will re-open to visitors on June 25; visitors over the age of 11 will be required to wear masks, and the number of visitors on certain floors will be limited. An International Air Transport Association (IATA) report projects that the global airline industry will lose \$84 billion in 2020 and \$15 billion in 2021. IATA forecasts that demand for air cargo and travel will rise in 2021, but that passenger travel will remain nearly 30% lower than in 2019.

New York plans shift away from reporting on hospitalizations and deaths, and move towards a focus on the daily number of new viral infections. Governor Cuomo asserted that this would allow the State to detect any resurgence early on and “to dial back the valve” of re-opening as needed in each county. Mid-Hudson Valley was approved to enter phase two of its re-opening on Tuesday, June 9. Long Island will enter phase two on Wednesday, June 10. Phase two allows for a wider range of business activities including office operations, in-store retail, hair salons, vehicle sales, and outdoor dining. Approximately two percent of the 18,789 diagnostic tests conducted in New York City on Monday, June 8 were positive for COVID-19. New York City is now eligible to resume elective surgeries and ambulatory care. New York City announced nine major bus lane projects to expand public transit options during the City’s phased re-opening which began on Monday, June 8. Mayor de Blasio described New York City’s re-opening as a “triumphant moment for New Yorkers.”

Presidential updates

- [*Readout from Governors Briefing on COVID-19 Response & Re-Opening Efforts*](#), June 8
 - Vice President Pence led a discussion on federal COVID-19 response efforts with all state governors.
 - Education Secretary DeVos provided an update on schools and school-related activities. The governors shared best practices on re-opening schools, camps, and universities.
 - Vice President Pence re-iterated his call for governors to prioritize the protection of residents in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [*WHO Clarifies Comments on Asymptomatic Transmission*](#), June 9
 - On Monday, June 8, Dr. Van Kerkhove, a WHO epidemiologist, stated that COVID-19 transmission by asymptomatic individuals in “very rare.”
 - On Tuesday, June 9, Van Kerkhove clarified her comments, noting that she was “not stating a policy of WHO” and asserting that she was “just trying to articulate what we know.”
 - Van Kerkhove stated that her comment referred to a small subset of studies and unpublished information from member states, and did not include other estimates based on modeling.
 - WHO clarified that models that attempt to estimate asymptomatic transmission vary greatly and that the extent of asymptomatic transmission “remains an open question.”
 - Scientists at the Harvard Global Health Institute issued a [statement](#) that “all of the best evidence suggests that people without symptoms can and do readily spread SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.” The statement warned that “communicating preliminary data about key aspects of the coronavirus without much context can have tremendous negative impact on how the public and policymakers respond to the pandemic.”
- [*COVID-19 Situation Report – 140*](#), June 8
 - WHO published [answers](#) to frequently asked questions on mask use. WHO recommends wearing masks with three layers: an inner layer of absorbent material such as cotton; a middle layer of non-woven material such as polypropylene; and an outer layer of non-absorbent material, such as polyester or polyester blend. Masks should be stored in clean, plastic resalable bags, and washed at least once per day.
 - WHO published [guidance](#) on parenting during the pandemic.

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

- [*CDC Seeks Authorization for Test to Detect and Differentiate Flu from COVID-19*](#), June 8
 - CDC Director Redfield recently expressed concern that “if there is substantial COVID-19 and seasonal influenza activity at the same time, this could place a tremendous burden on the healthcare system and result in many illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.”
 - CDC is seeking an emergency use authorization (EUA) from FDA for a new test that can simultaneously detect SARS-CoV-2 and influenza, because “determining if influenza or SARS-CoV-2 is causing the infection is also important to clinical treatment, infection control, and community mitigation efforts.”

- CDC is working with drug manufacturers to maximize availability of influenza vaccines. Ongoing COVID-19 activity may affect when, where, and how flu vaccines are given. CDC is developing contingency plans to ensure that people can be vaccinated in a safe environment.

New York State

- [*Governor Cuomo Holds Press Conference on COVID-19*](#), June 9
 - New York plans shift away from reporting on hospitalizations and deaths, and move towards a focus on the daily number of new viral infections. Governor Cuomo asserted that this would allow the State to detect any resurgence early on and “to dial back the valve” of re-opening as needed in each county.
 - Approximately two percent of the 18,789 diagnostic tests conducted in New York City on Monday, June 8 were positive for COVID-19. Governor Cuomo expressed his view that New York is in a better position than other states that re-opened earlier and have since experienced a spike in cases.
 - Long Island was approved to enter phase two of its re-opening on Wednesday June 10.
- [*New York State COVID-19 Updates*](#), June 8
 - New York City is now [eligible](#) to resume elective surgeries and ambulatory care; the State allows elective outpatient services to resume in counties and hospitals without significant risk of COVID-19 surge in the near term.
 - Mid-Hudson Valley was [cleared](#) to enter phase two of its re-opening on Tuesday, June 9; the region includes Westchester, Rockland, Orange, and Dutchess Counties.
 - Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) [plans](#) to accelerate construction on \$2 billion in capital projects during “this period of reduced ridership” caused by the pandemic. MTA will create 11 ADA-accessible stations, accelerate steel repairs on the 2/3 and 4/5 subway lines, and rehabilitate the 138th Street Grand Concourse Station.
 - Landmarks across the State were illuminated in blue and gold on June 8 to honor New York’s progress in fighting COVID-19, including Rockefeller Center, Niagara Falls, One World Trade Center, and Grand Central Terminal Bridge.

New York City

- [*Mayor de Blasio Holds Media Availability on COVID-19*](#), June 9
 - On Tuesday, June 9, New York City reported 52 new COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 337 COVID-19 patients in the ICU.
 - Mayor de Blasio announced plans to expand the “NYC Care Program” to Queens and Manhattan to fight health care disparities exposed by COVID-19.
 - The program currently provides access to low-cost and no-cost primary care for those who are ineligible or can’t afford insurance in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. The \$37.5 million expansion is expected to reach 54,000 residents.
- [*New York City Announces Projects to Speed Buses During Phased Re-Opening*](#), June 8
 - New York City announced nine major bus lane projects to expand public transit options during the City’s phased re-opening.
 - The City will make the 14th Street busway permanent, add bus and truck priority lanes along Flushing’s Main Street in Queens, and add new bus lanes to serve critical transit

connections along 149th Street in the Bronx. The nine projects combined will benefit nearly 750,000 daily riders.

- [*City Health Department Issues Updated COVID-19 Guidance*](#), June 8
 - New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH) updated its [listing](#) of COVID-19 resources for neighborhoods across all five boroughs on health services, food, community assistance organizations, and financial stability.
 - NYCDOH updated [answers](#) to frequently asked questions on COVID-19 face coverings. NYCDOH urges individuals to properly wash, store, and dispose of face coverings.
 - NYCDOH issued new [guidance](#) on safer sex and COVID-19, and [recommendations](#) for providers treating pregnant patients or patients with newborn babies.

Other Related Updates

- [*HHS Announces New Funding For Health Care Providers*](#), June 9
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced additional distributions from the Provider Relief Fund.
 - HHS also plans to launch an enhanced Provider Relief Fund Portal to allow eligible Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers to report their annual patient revenue, which will be used as a factor in determining Provider Relief Fund payments.
 - HHS will provide \$15 billion for eligible providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs.
 - HHS will give \$10 billion to hospitals that serve a disproportionate number of Medicaid patients or provide large amounts of uncompensated care. Recipients will each receive between \$5 million and \$50 million.
- [*IRS Warns Against COVID-19 Fraud and Other Financial Schemes*](#), June 8
 - Internal Revenue Service (IRS) warned against tax fraud and other financial scams related to COVID-19.
 - IRS reports an increase in fraud related to Economic Impact Payment (EIP), geared towards stealing personal information and money. Scammers have also set up fake charities to solicit donations for individuals, groups, and areas affected by COVID-19.
 - IRS reports fraudulent schemes related to the sale of at-home test kits, cures, vaccines, and pills. Scammers often create fake shops, websites, and social media accounts that purport to sell large quantities of medical supplies, and fail to deliver the promised supplies after receiving funds.
 - IRS reports an increase in investment scams related to companies that are working on a COVID-19 vaccine. The scams frequently promise investors that the “company” will dramatically increase in value; these promotions are often styled as “research reports,” make predictions of a specific “target price,” and relate to microcap stocks.
- [*FDA COVID-19 Update: Daily Roundup*](#), June 8
 - FDA issued [guidance](#) to address prescription drug sample distribution during the pandemic. FDA does not intend to object to the delivery of prescription drug samples to patients’ homes if requested by a licensed health care professional.

- FDA authorized the [use](#) of BioMedInnovations SuppleVent Ventilator to provide breathing continuous support for adult patients.
- FDA published two new [web pages](#) with information on FDA's approach to the pandemic.
- [*Department of Labor Holds Events for Employers on COVID-19 Work Provisions*](#), June 8
 - Department of Labor (DOL) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will offer two joint [webinars](#) on June 10, to educate employers in the Southeast on the paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave benefits available under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and whistleblower protections.
 - DOL, IRS, and Small Business Administration (SBA) will discuss employee retention tax credit and employer requirements under the FFCRA during a [webinar](#) on June 12.

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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