

COVID-19 Daily Update

May 11, 2020

Summary

The United States has 1,337,541 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 79,825 reported related deaths. There are now more than 4.1 million COVID-19 cases worldwide. WHO highlighted that “a low percentage of the population has antibodies to COVID-19” and concluded that “most of the population is still susceptible to the virus.” President Trump urged Pennsylvania to “be safe” and “move quickly” to lift social distancing restrictions. Pennsylvania Governor Wolf responded and stressed that the State is re-opening in a “measured, staged manner.” Countries that were initially successful in containing the virus are experiencing sudden spikes after easing social distancing measures. Germany, Singapore, and South Korea have all reported new clusters of COVID-19 cases.

States eased additional social distancing restrictions on Monday, May 11. Alabama, Arizona, and South Carolina permitted dine-in service at restaurants with occupancy restrictions. New Hampshire re-opened hair salons, retail stores, and drive-in movie theaters. A Colorado restaurant defied stay-at-home orders and opened on Mother’s Day to hundreds of customers with no social distancing precautions. The restaurant tweeted that “we are standing for America... and against the overreach of our governor.” Treasury Secretary Mnuchin sided with Elon Musk and urged California to help Tesla resume production at its Fremont plant. A member of Illinois Governor Pritzker’s staff tested positive for COVID-19, prompting the governor to order all employees in the office to temporarily work from home. The College Board discovered a ring of high school students developing plans to cheat on Advanced Placement tests. More than three million students are registered to take AP exams online this week.

Governor Cuomo announced that New York is starting a “new chapter today.” New York State reported 161 deaths on Monday, the lowest daily death toll since March 27. Three regions in upstate New York will be permitted to partially re-open this weekend, with limited construction, manufacturing, and curbside retail. Mayor de Blasio stated that the ban on large gatherings and the widespread closure of non-essential businesses in New York City will likely not end before June. New York City announced a plan to test all children with symptoms of Kawasaki disease for COVID-19 and its antibodies. Mayor de Blasio urged parents to take symptoms seriously and “act immediately.”

Presidential updates

- [*President Trump Clashes with Pennsylvania Governor*](#), May 11
 - The President [tweeted](#) that, “[t]he great people of Pennsylvania want their freedom now, and they are fully aware of what that entails. The Democrats are moving slowly, all over the USA, for political purposes. They would wait until November 3rd if it were up to them. Don’t play politics.”
 - The President concluded the tweet by saying “be safe, move quickly!” Pennsylvania Governor Wolf [replied](#) in a news conference and noted that “I don’t know how you stay safe and move quickly.” Wolf stressed that Pennsylvania is re-opening in a “measured, staged manner” that is “aimed at keeping people as safe as we possibly can.”
- [*Pence Denies Self Isolation Plans as COVID-19 Rattles White House Staff*](#), May 11
 - Vice President Pence denied media reports that he is self-isolating due to exposure to COVID-19. The White House issued a statement that “Vice President Pence... is not in quarantine. Vice President Pence has tested negative every single day and plans to be at the White House” on Monday.
 - Pence’s statement follows confirmation that several White House staff members tested positive for COVID-19. Kevin Hassett, one of President Trump’s top economic advisers, [commented](#) that working in the West Wing is “a little bit risky” because it is “a small, crowded place.” Hassett expressed that “it’s scary to go to work.”

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [*WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at media briefing on COVID-19*](#), May 11
 - WHO Director-General Tedros highlighted that “early serological studies reflect that a low percentage of the population has antibodies to COVID-19” meaning that “most of the population is still susceptible to the virus.”
 - Several countries report a resurgence of COVID-19 cases after easing social distancing restrictions, including China, Germany, and South Korea.
- [*COVID-19 Situation Report – III*](#), May 10
 - Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) published [guidance](#) on COVID-19 prevention measures for construction workers.
 - WHO and BBC world [launched](#) a joint campaign to raise awareness of the risks of misinformation on COVID-19.
 - WHO [expressed](#) concern over COVID-19 discrimination against migrants in Yemen. WHO highlighted that “there is absolutely no evidence that one group of people is more responsible for [COVID-19] transmission than another.”

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

- [*COVID-19 Tests for Current Infection*](#), May 10
 - CDC highlighted that “although supplies of tests are increasing, it may still be difficult to find a place to get tested.”
 - CDC cautioned that even if someone tests negative for COVID-19, it is still possible that they are infected with COVID-19 if the sample was collected very early in the infection.

- [Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Administration](#), May 9
 - A recent study, published by CDC as an early release, examined the impact of the pandemic on pediatric vaccinations in the United States.
 - Researchers found that orders for non-influenza and measles-containing vaccines were down compared with a similar period in 2019. The decline began the week after President Trump declared a national emergency over COVID-19 on March 13. The decline was not as steep among children aged 24 months and under.
 - The American Academy of Pediatrics issued a [statement](#) urging parents to schedule pediatrician appointments for catch-up vaccines.

New York State

- [New York to Begin Limited Reopening Upstate](#), May 11
 - New York State reported 161 deaths on Monday, the lowest daily death toll since March 27.
 - Governor Cuomo announced that three regions in upstate New York will be permitted to partially re-open this weekend to allow limited construction, manufacturing, and curb-side retail. The three regions include the Finger Lakes, which includes Rochester; the Southern Tier, which borders Pennsylvania; and Mohawk Valley, west of Albany.
 - The regions have met all seven [metrics](#) required for re-opening, including sufficient testing and contact tracing capabilities, adequate hospital capacity, and a sustained decline in the number of new COVID-19 cases and related deaths. Cuomo stressed that the re-opening will be gradual and is predicated on the infection rate remaining low.
- [Governor Cuomo Issues Executive Order Protecting Nursing Home Residents](#), May 10
 - Governor Cuomo signed an [executive order](#) with new measures to protect nursing home and assisted living facility residents.
 - Facilities must test all personnel for COVID-19 twice per week and report any positive results to the State Department of Health within 24 hours. Any personnel that refuse to be tested will be prohibited from working in the facility until testing is performed.
 - Administrators must submit a plan on how their facility will comply with the executive order by Friday, May 15. A facility that violates the executive order may have its operating certificate suspended or revoked, and may be subject to a \$2,000 penalty per day.
 - The order also requires that hospitals, before discharging any patient to a nursing home, perform a diagnostic test for COVID-19 and obtain a negative result.

New York City

- [New York City Shutdown Will Likely Continue Until June](#), May 11
 - Mayor de Blasio noted that the ban on large gatherings and the widespread closure of non-essential businesses in New York City will likely not end before June.
 - New York City announced a plan to test all children with symptoms of Kawasaki disease for COVID-19 and its antibodies. The City plans to send a health alert to all public school parents. Child enrichment centers have been urged to increase enforcement of face covering, mask, and hand sanitizer policies. Mayor de Blasio urged parents to take symptoms seriously and “act immediately.”

Other Related Updates

- [*Food Safety Investigations and Recalls Plummet During the Pandemic*](#), May 11
 - An investigation into the U.S. food safety system found a sharp decrease in the number of foodborne illness investigations and related recalls during the pandemic.
 - FDA announced in March that it would postpone in-person inspections of food factories, canneries, and poultry farms. The number of FDA inspections dropped from an average of more than 900 per month to just eight in April. FDA reported 173 food recalls in February, 105 in March, and 70 in April.
 - Experts say there is no evidence of resulting widespread health issues, but food safety advocates warn that Americans are more at risk for foodborne illnesses.
- [*FBI and Department of Homeland Security to Issue Warning on Chinese Hackers*](#), May 11
 - FBI and Department of Homeland Security are preparing to release a public statement on Chinese efforts to steal American research on COVID-19 vaccine and treatment development.
 - A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry denied the hacking allegations and noted that China has “resolutely opposed” all forms of hacking.
 - Private security firms report a surge in cyber-theft and attacks by nations seeking advantage in the pandemic. According to the New York Times, even American allies like South Korea and nations that do not typically stand out for their cyber-spying abilities, such as Vietnam, have redirected state-run hackers to focus on virus-related information.
- [*Health Experts to Testify Remotely before Senate Committee on COVID-19*](#), May 11
 - The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 12, to discuss the federal government’s response to COVID-19.
 - Three members of the White House coronavirus task force – FDA Commissioner Hahn, CDC Director Redfield, and NIAID Director Fauci – will testify via videoconference. All three doctors are self-quarantining after coming into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the Republican chair of the committee, will also participate remotely. Alexander announced on Sunday evening that he is quarantining for 14 days after a staff member in his office tested positive.
- [*Characteristics and Outcomes of Children With COVID-19 Admitted to the ICU*](#), May 11
 - A recent study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), examined data from 46 Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) to determine the disease burden of COVID-19 in children.
 - 48 children with COVID-19 were admitted to 14 PICUs in the United States from March 14 to April 3. A total of 40 children (83%) had preexisting underlying medical conditions, 35 (73%) presented with respiratory symptoms, and 18 (38%) required invasive ventilation. Two children died.
 - Researchers concluded that COVID-19 can cause severe illness in children but confirmed that severe illness is less frequent than in adults and often results in better

early hospital outcomes. Researchers note that pre-hospital comorbidities appear to be an important factor in children.

- [*NIH Promotes Coordinated Strategy to Accelerate COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates*](#), May 11
 - The National Institutes of Health (NIH) highlighted an [article](#) published in *Science* on COVID-19 vaccine development.
 - The article describes a strategic approach to vaccine research and development that would generate data for multiple vaccine candidates in parallel, through common clinical trial designs, clinical endpoints, standardized immune assays, and a common monitoring board.
- [*Leading Frontline COVID-19 Teams: Research-Informed Strategies*](#), May 11
 - An article published in the New England Journal of Medicine provides advice for frontline health care teams. The article draws on critical insights from management research on team effectiveness under urgent and uncertain conditions, and highlights practical strategies for structuring, launching, facilitating, and sustaining teamwork during the pandemic.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [*Portfolio Company Director Role & Duties in the COVID-19 Era*](#), May 11
- [*Five-Phase “Restore Illinois” Plan Announced to Re-Open State*](#), May 8
- [*COVID-19, Data Analytics & the FCA: Big Response, Big Data, Big Risk*](#), May 8

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