

COVID-19 Daily Update

May 26, 2020

Summary

The United States has 1,669,040 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 98,493 reported related deaths. President Trump's proclamation barring foreign nationals who have been in Brazil within the last 14 days from entering the United States will go into effect at 11:59 PM ET on May 26. Citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States will still be allowed to enter the country from Brazil through one of 13 airports. WHO cautioned that the world is "right in the middle of the first wave" of the pandemic and warned against scaling back public health measures too quickly to prevent "an immediate second peak" of infections. Former FDA Commissioner Gottlieb noted "a trend in an uptick in [COVID-19] hospitalizations" in the United States which is "probably a result of re-opening." About a dozen states report an increase in COVID-19 cases, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, which moved to re-open several weeks ago, and Arkansas and North Dakota, which never issued formal stay-at-home orders, although an increase in reported cases can also be attributed to increases in testing.

Reports suggest a widespread drop in crime during the pandemic. Las Vegas reported a 22% decrease in crime during the initial two months of the shutdown. Most major crimes in New York City were down 21% from the same period last year. Although the number of murders in the City remained unchanged, burglaries were up, and car thefts jumped almost 68%. New Jersey will allow schools to hold outdoor graduation ceremonies in June. Six Flags will re-open its first park on June 5 in Oklahoma City, with social distancing restrictions. Park officials highlighted that outdoor attractions "pose a significantly lower risk of exposure than indoor venues." The Spanish government declared a 10-day mourning period to pay tribute to nearly 30,000 confirmed victims of COVID-19.

New York reported 73 deaths on Tuesday, May 26. The Mid-Hudson Valley region re-opened on Tuesday. Long Island will begin phase one of the State's re-opening process on Wednesday, May 27, if virus-related deaths continue to decline. Governor Cuomo will meet with President Trump on Wednesday, May 27, to discuss COVID-19 response efforts and plans to jumpstart the economy. The trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange re-opened on Tuesday, May 26. Floor brokers and trading floor officials are allowed to return, while designated market makers will continue to operate remotely. Those returning must avoid public transportation, submit to temperature checks upon entry, wear a face mask, and maintain social distance. New York City playgrounds and pools remain closed. Team sports and barbecuing are prohibited in public areas. City beaches remain closed for swimming. Some State beaches are open and operating at 50% capacity.

Presidential updates

- [*Amendment to Presidential Proclamation Suspending Travel from Brazil*](#), May 26
 - President Trump issued a proclamation barring foreign nationals who have been in Brazil within the last 14 days from entering the United States, due to the widespread transmission of COVID-19 in Brazil.
 - The President issued an amendment to this proclamation, stating that the travel ban will go into effect at 11:59 PM ET on May 26 and does not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the United States prior to the effective time.
 - CDC [highlighted](#) that citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States who have been in Brazil within the past 14 days, will be allowed to enter the country through one of [13 airports](#) with enhanced screening capabilities. Returning travelers must stay home and monitor their health for 14 days.
 - The same protocols apply to travelers arriving from the Schengen zone, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Iran, or China.
- [*President Trump Attends Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort McHenry in Baltimore*](#), May 25
 - President Trump traveled to Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore for a Memorial Day Ceremony. The President described current service members as being “on the front lines of our war against this terrible virus” by “caring for patients” and “delivering critical supplies.”
 - Baltimore Mayor Young recently [described](#) the President’s trip as “non-essential travel” and urged Trump to cancel his trip to “set [an] example for the rest of the country.”

World Health Organization (WHO)

- [*WHO Cautions Against Re-Opening Too Quickly*](#), May 26
 - Dr. Mike Ryan, head of WHO’s emergencies program, noted that the world is “right in the middle of the first wave” of the pandemic.
 - WHO stressed “that the disease can jump up at any time” and warned against scaling back coronavirus restrictions and public health measures too quickly.
 - WHO urged Europe and North America to continue with a “comprehensive strategy to ensure that we continue on a downward trajectory and we don’t have an immediate second peak.”
 - WHO’s warning came after Americans flooded newly re-opened beaches and other public spaces over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Officials in Europe recently increased calls to re-open the European Union’s internal borders in anticipation of its summer holiday season.
 - About a dozen states [report](#) an increase in COVID-19 cases, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, which moved to re-open several weeks ago, and Arkansas and North Dakota, which never issued formal stay-at-home orders, although an increase in reported cases can also be caused by an expansion in testing. Some of the hardest hit states, like New York and New Jersey, have reported steep downward trends.

- [COVID-19 Situation Report – 126](#), May 25
 - The United Kingdom plans to [contribute](#) \$3.8 million to support the COVID-19 response in the Caribbean.
 - WHO launched technical [guidance](#) to help national governments develop rapid mortality surveillance for COVID-19. The program generates daily or weekly counts of mortality data by age, sex, date of death, place of death, and place of usual residence.
 - Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) [held](#) media training sessions on the role of journalists in the pandemic. Journalists were trained on COVID-19’s epidemiology, preventive measures, treatment, symptoms, testing, vaccination, misinformation, and community engagement.

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

- [COVID-19 Surge Spreadsheet-Based Tool](#), May 24
 - CDC highlighted COVID-19Surge, a spreadsheet-based tool that hospital administrators and public health officials can use to estimate the surge in demand for hospital-based services during the pandemic.
 - COVID-19Surge can estimate the number of COVID-19 patients who will require hospitalization, ICU care, and ventilator support. Users can then compare those estimates to current hospital capacity.
- [Universal and Serial Laboratory Testing for SARS-CoV-2 at a Long-Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility](#), May 23
 - A recent study, published by CDC as an early release, examined the impact of testing and isolation protocols on a COVID-19 outbreak in a long-term care skilled nursing facility in Los Angeles.
 - In late March, two residents of a long-term care facility tested positive for COVID-19. For the next 24 days, all residents and staff were tested for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms. 19 of 99 (19.2%) residents tested positive; 14 were asymptomatic at the time of testing and 8 developed symptoms later.
 - Researchers found that universal testing and the swift isolation of residents with COVID-19 effectively minimized transmission in the congregate living setting.

New York State

- [Governor Cuomo Holds Press Conference on COVID-19](#), May 26
 - New York reported 73 deaths on Tuesday, May 26. Governor Cuomo commented that “in this absurd new reality, that is good news.”
 - The Mid-Hudson Valley region re-opened on Tuesday, May 26. The region encompasses seven counties, including Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. It also encompasses New Rochelle, the city that experienced a severe outbreak early in March.
 - Long Island will begin phase one of the State’s re-opening process on Wednesday, May 27, if virus-related deaths continue to decline.
 - Governor Cuomo plans to meet with President Trump on Wednesday, May 27 to discuss COVID-19 response efforts and plans to jumpstart the economy. Cuomo will

discuss several large-scale infrastructure projects, including a new AirTrain to LaGuardia Airport and a new rail tunnel under the Hudson River.

- The State plans to direct additional resources to low-income New York City neighborhoods, including Norwood, Far Rockaway, and Corona, each of which had more than 80 new COVID-19 hospitalizations over the past week.

New York City

- [*Health Department Guidance on Visiting Parks and Beaches in New York City*](#), May 23
 - New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH) issued guidance on how safely to visit City parks and beaches during the pandemic.
 - NYCDOH recommends visiting open areas that are close to home; traveling long distances increases the chances of coming into contact with an infected person.
 - Residents should avoid “gathering with others, except household members.” If residents spend time with people from different households, residents should maintain six feet of distance.
 - City playgrounds and pools remain closed. Team sports, gatherings, and barbecuing are prohibited. City beaches remain closed for swimming. Some State beaches are open and operating at 50% capacity.

Other Related Updates

- [*Current COVID-19 Trends Across the Education Sector*](#), May 26
 - A USA Today [survey](#) found that 1 in 5 teachers are unlikely to return to schools if their classrooms re-open in the fall. A similar poll of parents with at least one child in grades K-12 found that 60% are likely to pursue at-home learning options instead of sending their children back to school. 30% of parents stated that they are “very likely” to keep children at home.
 - School districts [report](#) facing a funding crisis. Schools receive nearly half of their funding from state budgets, many of which have experienced “shocking declines” in tax revenue during the pandemic.
 - Many governors and state lawmakers recently announced deep budget cuts for school funding. Ohio’s Governor unveiled \$300 million in K-12 budget cuts through the end of June. Georgia’s Governor asked state education leaders to prepare for a 14% cut in funding starting in July. A Michigan senator warned superintendents that school funding could be slashed by as much as 25%.
- [*Phase One Trial of COVID-19 Vaccine in China Shows Promising Results*](#), May 25
 - A phase one [trial](#) in China assessed the safety of CanSino’s non-replicating adenovirus type-5 (Ad5) vectored COVID-19 vaccine.
 - 108 healthy adults were randomized to receive one of three vaccine doses via intramuscular injection. Researchers found a positive antibody response in 97% of the low-dose group, 94% of the middle-dose group, and 100% of the high-dose group.
 - Some recipients in the high dose group reported experiencing severe fever, fatigue, muscle pain, and joint pain.
 - Researchers concluded that “the Ad5 vectored COVID-19 vaccine is tolerable and immunogenic in healthy adults.” The study will continue in an ongoing phase 2 trial.

- [Department of Labor Summarizes Recent Actions on COVID-19](#), May 25
 - Department of Labor (DOL) summarized recent agency actions on COVID-19.
 - Labor Secretary Scalia participated in a White House roundtable with restaurant owners, and travelled with Vice President Pence to Florida and Georgia to discuss re-opening the hospitality and restaurant industries.
 - DOL [reiterated](#) the obligation of employers and employees to protect the unemployment insurance system against fraud.
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [issued](#) two revised enforcement policies: (1) increasing in-person workplace inspections in areas with lower community spread; and (2) changing recordkeeping requirements for work-related COVID-19 employee illness.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Administrative Responses to a Global Pandemic: Emergency Rulemaking and Other Mechanisms Agencies Are Employing to Respond to COVID-19](#), May 26
- [European Regulatory Update for Asset Managers](#), May 26
- [COVID-19 and the Challenges of Remotely Running a College Athletics Department](#), May 22

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