

July 6, 2021

Summary

The United States has 33,723,823 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 605,567 reported related deaths. The White House announced on Thursday that more than 180 million Americans have now received at least one COVID-19 vaccine shot, as the Delta variant of the coronavirus is predicted to become the most prevalent in the nation. The White House also announced the U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework to address the global coronavirus crisis. Additionally, coronavirus cases are surging in immigrant detention centers, as the number of detainees has nearly doubled in recent months. More than 7,500 new coronavirus cases have been reported in the centers since April, accounting for more than 40 percent of all cases reported in ICE facilities.

Data from the Israeli health ministry shows that, amid a surge in the Delta variant, the efficacy rate of the Pfizer vaccine has declined from 94.3% to 64% since June 6 in that country. On the other hand, health officials at Johnson & Johnson have announced that its vaccine—thought to be significantly less efficacious than Pfizer’s—confers immunity for as long as eight months after vaccination and is effective against the Delta variant.

As the Delta variant surges in parts of the US and is set to become the country’s dominant COVID-19 strain, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky has gravely warned that areas with low levels of vaccination will experience significant and disparate hardship.

On a heat map of the United States indicating which states have the most new daily cases, most states are yellow, indicating potential community spread with only 1-9 daily new cases per 100,000 people. A few states are orange, such as Wyoming, Florida, Nevada, and Utah, indicating escalating community spread with 10-24 daily news cases per 100,000 people.

As of July 5, New York reported 7 deaths, 347 hospitalizations, and 78 COVID-19 patients in intensive care. Approximately 255, or .72%, of the 35,339 tests administered in New York were positive for COVID-19. New York has administered 21,359,637 doses of the vaccines to patients; 60.5% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 54.6% are fully vaccinated. New York COVID-19 infection rates are up 17% from last week, a contrast from weeks of declining rates of new positive tests.

U.S. Government Updates

- [*Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials*](#), July 1
 - The White House announced on Thursday that more than 180 million Americans, including 67 percent of adults, have now received at least one COVID-19 vaccine shot.
 - Additionally, COVID-19 related deaths are down more than 90 percent since January 20, 2021.
 - The Delta variant is predicted to become the most prevalent variant in the United States in the coming weeks. Already, an estimated 25 percent of all COVID-19 cases nationwide are the Delta variant, and in some regions of the country those rates are even higher.
- [*U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework*](#), July 1
 - In support of the White House's [*National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness*](#), the Biden Administration has announced the U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework, which provides a focused set of objectives for addressing the global COVID-19 crisis under which federal government agencies are executing a whole-of-government response.
 - The framework objectives are aimed at shortening the lifespan of the COVID-19 pandemic globally, mitigating its wider harms to people and economies and supporting the global recovery, and strengthening international readiness for future biological threats.
- [*Virus cases are surging at crowded immigration detention centers in the U.S.*](#), July 6
 - As the number of migrants being held in immigration detention centers has nearly [*doubled*](#) in recent months, the centers are reporting major surges in coronavirus infections among detainees.
 - More than 7,500 new coronavirus cases have been reported in the centers since April, accounting for more than 40 percent of all cases reported in ICE facilities since the pandemic began.
 - One factor that has helped drive the surge in cases is low vaccination rates — as of [*May*](#), only about 20 percent of detainees passing through the centers had received at least one dose of vaccine while in custody.

Vaccines and Therapeutics

- [*Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is less effective at preventing Delta infections than other variants, but still protects against severe illness, preliminary Israeli study says*](#), July 6
 - Yesterday, Israel's health ministry reported that the efficacy rate of the Pfizer vaccine had dropped to 64% since June 6, amid a surge of the Delta variant in Israel. In contrast, the Pfizer vaccine was reported to be 94.3% effective in the month prior to June 6, before the Delta variant began to surge.
 - However, the Pfizer vaccine continues to protect well against hospitalization: since June 6, post-infection hospitalization rates have only dropped from 98.2% to 93%.
 - Given Israel's high levels of vaccination and advanced rollout, these numbers have prompted some fear about the effectiveness of current vaccines against the new, more contagious variants. Still, Israeli scientists warn that more data is needed before conclusions are drawn.

- [*J&J Covid-19 vaccine lasts at least 8 months, protects against Delta variant, studies find*](#), July 1
 - On Thursday, Dr. Mathai Mammen, a top scientist at Johnson & Johnson (J&J), announced that, according to eight months of data, one shot of the J&J vaccine provides at least eight months of immunity against COVID-19 and offers adequate protection against the Delta variant.
 - Specifically, the data showed that a person's T-cells continued to seek out and destroy COVID-infected cells for eight months following vaccination.
 - Still, scientists caution that these results were generated in a laboratory setting; real-life infection rates have not yet been measured.

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

- [*COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review*](#), July 2
 - CDC summarized key COVID-19 disease indicators for last week.
 - As of July 2, the seven-day average number of daily new cases reported was 12,514. This is a 9.1% increase compared to the previous week's average, and an overall 95.0% decrease compared to the national peak on January 10, 2021.
 - As of July 1, 328.2 million vaccine doses have been administered in the United States. Overall, approximately 181.3 million people in the United States have received at least one dose of vaccine, which is 54.6% of the population. Approximately 155.9 million people are fully vaccinated, which is 47.0% of the population. The seven-day average number of reported vaccine dose administrations was 334,816, a 45.3% decrease compared to the previous week.
 - As of June 29, the seven-day average of new daily hospital admissions was 1,871, a 1.1% increase compared to the previous week's average.
 - As of June 30, the seven-day average of reported deaths was 206 per day, an 11.5% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
- [*CDC director: Delta variant is growing threat to unvaccinated people*](#), July 1
 - In a press briefing on Thursday, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky gravely warned about the dangers of the surging Delta variant to communities and regions with large unvaccinated populations.
 - Various parts of the country, including southwestern Missouri, parts of Arkansas, and Nevada, have already seen drastic increases in Delta infections and hospitalizations.
 - Dr. Walensky predicted that in the coming weeks the Delta variant would surpass the Alpha variant in terms of new infections.

New York State

- [*New York State COVID-19 Updates*](#), July 6
 - New York reported 7 deaths, 347 hospitalizations, and 78 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on July 5, 2021.
 - Approximately 255, or .72%, of the 35,339 tests administered in New York on July 5 were positive for COVID-19.
 - As of July 5, New York has administered 21,359,637 doses of the vaccines to patients; 60.5% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 54.6% are fully vaccinated.

- New York COVID-19 infection rates are [up](#) 17% from last week, a contrast from weeks of declining rates of new positive tests.

New York City

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), July 6
 - The highly transmissible delta variant is the second-most [dominant](#) strain of COVID-19 in New York City.

International

- Xavier Bettel, the Prime Minister of [Luxembourg](#), is in the hospital with COVID-19 symptoms including low blood oxygen levels. On Monday, he was reported to be in “serious but stable” condition.
- [United Kingdom](#) Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced Monday that the government [plans](#) to lift most remaining COVID-19 restriction in England on July 19, including mask mandates.
- Also in [Britain](#), coronavirus cases could reach 100,000 this summer. Currently case numbers are hovering around 25,000 each day, but are expected to double ahead of the July 19 deadline to lift restrictions.
- In [Malaysia](#), people are flying white flags outside of their houses to indicate that they need food or other assistance as a result of the financial impact of the country’s fourth coronavirus lockdown.
- On Monday, the government of [Indonesia](#) asked oxygen producers to send all of their supplies to hospitals and clinics after 33 people died in a hospital over the weekend when its supply ran out. Indonesia is facing one of Asia’s worst coronavirus outbreaks as new cases more than quadrupled in a month.
- [Bangladesh](#) has imposed a national lockdown after daily tallies of new coronavirus infections nearly quintupled over the past month. Only essential industries – including textile factories, a key component of Bangladesh’s economy – are allowed to stay open, with social-distancing and temperature checks for workers.
- [Israel and South Korea](#) have agreed to swap hundreds of thousands of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in the coming months to meet their countries’ needs. Israel will send about 700,000 expiring doses of the vaccine this month to South Korea, which is facing rising cases, while South Korea will send the same amount to Israel in September and October.
- On Monday, [Germany](#) announced that it would lift a travel ban on Portugal that had recently been introduced to help stop the spread of the Delta variant. Britain, Russia, India and Nepal will also be removed from a list of countries rated as being at the highest risk for travel.

Other Updates

- [*Business Should Be Booming – If Only There Were Enough Workers For the Job*](#), July 2
 - Some businesses are struggling to find labor at a time when more and more Americans are eating out and engaging in other things that had been off-limits during the height of the pandemic.
 - On Friday, the Labor Department announced that U.S. employers added 850,000 jobs in June, including 194,000 in bars and restaurants. However, overall payroll employment is still 6.8 million below its pre-pandemic level.
 - Some states, such as [Missouri](#), have halted the supplemental unemployment benefits that Congress authorized during the pandemic in order to try to combat the labor shortage.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Regulatory Trends in Pharma Deal-making: Transitioning from the “Year of the Pandemic” to “Another Year of the Pandemic.”](#) June 3
- [Non-binding Guidance: The Defense Production Act and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), May 27
- [CMS Publishes 2022 Hospital IPPS/LTCH PPS Proposed Rule](#), May 5
- [Annual Meetings, Compensation and COVID-19: Where Things Stand](#), April 13
- [Managing Volatility in a Pandemic? Document your Derivatives Transactions Appropriately](#), April 13

Send questions to:

- COVID-19-Implications@ropesgray.com