

June 1, 2021

### Summary

The United States has 33,264,595 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 594,568 reported related deaths. Last Friday, President Biden delivered remarks lauding Virginia's success in reducing coronavirus infection rates by 93% since the beginning of the year. He also noted that the state has given at least one dose to 66% of Virginian adults, placing it well on track to reach the 70% inoculation rate that the White House set as a goal for the nation to reach by July 4. The Washington Post announced Tuesday that it had obtained under the Freedom of Information Act emails of Anthony Fauci, the White House's leading expert on infectious diseases. Dating from March and April 2020, the emails open a window "to Fauci's world during some of the most frantic days of the crisis."

CDC has released updated guidance allowing fully vaccinated children and staff to go without face masks at summer camps. Moderna has applied for full FDA approval of its COVID-19 vaccine, making it the second vaccine maker in the U.S. to do so. A new CDC study shows that thousands more kidney-failure deaths occurred during the pandemic than would be expected, largely due to weakened immune responses in patients being treated for kidney disease. Another new study suggests that masking, social distancing, and other preventative practices would help to avoid additional deaths if they are utilized while vaccinations are still being rolled out.

Case numbers in the United States continue to fall. About 23,000 new infections are being identified daily, the lowest number in nearly a year. In the last two weeks, several states, such as West Virginia, Florida, and Minnesota, have seen declines in cases by more than fifty percent.

As of May 31, New York reported 8 deaths, 1,032 hospitalizations, and 255 COVID-19 patients in intensive care. Approximately 391, or 0.77%, of the 50,528 tests administered in New York were positive for COVID-19. New York has administered 10,715,113 doses of the vaccines to patients; 53.7% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 45.9% are fully vaccinated. Governor Cuomo announced that "Vax and Scratch," a program that provides free New York State lottery tickets to individuals receiving a vaccine that are 18 and older, will extend to ten new state mass vaccination sites. On May 31, Governor Cuomo lifted the midnight curfew for indoor bars and restaurants.

## **U.S. Government**

- [Remarks by President Biden Celebrating the Significant Progress Virginia Has Made in the Fight Against COVID-19](#), May 28
  - Last Friday, President Biden delivered remarks lauding Virginia’s success in reducing coronavirus infection rates by 93 percent since the beginning of the year.
  - He also noted that the state has given at least one dose to 66% of Virginian adults and is on track to reach the 70% inoculation rate that the White House set as a goal for the nation to reach by July 4.
- [Anthony Fauci’s Pandemic Emails: ‘All Is Well Despite Some Crazy People In This World’](#), June 1
  - The Washington Post announced Tuesday that it had obtained under the Freedom of Information Act emails of Anthony Fauci, the White House’s leading expert on infectious diseases.
  - Dating from March and April 2020, the emails open a window “to Fauci’s world during some of the most frantic days of the crisis.”

## **Vaccines and Therapeutics**

- [Moderna Applies For Full FDA Approval of Its COVID-19 Vaccine](#), June 1
  - Today, Moderna became the second vaccine maker in the U.S. to seek full approval for its COVID-19 vaccine from U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The vaccine is currently being administered under an emergency use authorization issued by FDA in December.
  - The approval process, formally called a Biologics License Application, is expected to take months. FDA scientists will now review Moderna’s clinical trial data for any discrepancies or safety concerns.
  - Pfizer and BioNTech were the first to [apply](#) for full FDA approval for their vaccine on May 7.
- [Masks, Distancing Still Important Even With Vaccination, Study Suggests](#), June 1
  - A new study [published](#) in the medical journal JAMA Network Open found that coronavirus infections, hospitalizations, and deaths would continue to rise if pandemic precautions such as quarantine, school closures, social distancing, and mask-wearing were lifted while vaccines are still being rolled out.
  - Using North Carolina as a sample, the study’s authors employed a mathematical model to simulate coronavirus spread among the approximately 10.5 million people living in the state. They found that approximately 1.8 million infections and 8,000 deaths could be prevented during 11 months with more efficacious COVID-19 vaccines, higher vaccination coverage, and maintaining non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as distancing and masking.

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

- [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#), May 28
  - CDC summarized key COVID-19 disease indicators for last week.
  - As of May 26, the seven-day average number of daily new cases reported was 21,627. This is a 22.3% decrease compared to the previous week's average, and an overall 91.4% decrease compared to the national peak on January 8, 2021.
  - As of May 27, 290.7 million vaccine doses have been administered in the United States. Overall, approximately 165.7 million people in the United States have received at least one dose of vaccine, which is 49.9% of the population. Approximately 132.8 million people are fully vaccinated, which is 40% of the population. The seven-day average number of reported vaccine dose administrations was 1.6 million, an 11.51% decrease compared to the previous week.
  - As of May 25, the average number of new daily hospital admissions was 3,122, a 10.1% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
  - As of May 26, the seven-day average of reported deaths was 438 per day, a 13.2% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
- [Vaccinated Children Can Go Mask-Free at Summer Camp](#), May 28
  - CDC [released](#) updated guidance for summer camps on Friday. CDC now says that staff and campers who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, except where required by federal, state, local, or tribal law or regulation. CDC emphasized that camps should be supportive of fully vaccinated people who chose to wear a mask anyway.
  - According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, over 3.94 million children have tested [positive](#) for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Although severe illness in children has been relatively rare, CDC says that children can still get sick and can spread the virus to others. In the guidance, CDC encouraged everyone 12 and older to get vaccinated.
- [First Months of Pandemic Saw Thousands of Excess U.S. Kidney Failure Deaths](#), June 1
  - CDC has [released](#) new research showing that 6,953 to 10,316 more end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients died than would have been expected between February and August of 2020. This amounts to 8.7 to 12.9 excess deaths per every 1,000 patients, out of a total population of 798,611 ESRD patients.
  - ESRD patients face a higher risk for COVID-19 due in part to weakened immune systems and the presence of multiple comorbidities, according to CDC.
  - CDC encouraged officials to consider this data when implementing vaccine initiatives.

## **New York State**

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), June 1
  - New York reported 8 deaths, 1,032 hospitalizations, and 255 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on May 31, 2021.
  - Approximately 391, or 0.77%, of the 50,528 tests administered in New York on May 31 were positive for COVID-19.
  - As of May 31, New York has administered 10,715,113 doses of the vaccines to patients; 53.7% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 45.9% are fully vaccinated.

- Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that “Vax and Scratch,” a program that provides free New York State lottery tickets to individuals receiving a vaccine that are 18 and older, will extend to ten new state mass vaccination sites. The lottery ticket contest has a grand prize of \$5 million and will be available at eligible sites through June 4.
- On May 31, Governor Cuomo [lifted](#) the midnight curfew for indoor bars and restaurants.

### **New York City**

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), June 1
  - Mayor Bill de Blasio [announced](#) that the City’s eight public beaches will be open for swimming beginning May 29 until September 12. These beaches span a total of 14 miles and include: Orchard Beach in the Bronx, Coney Island and Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn, Rockaway Beach in Queens, and Midland Beach, South Beach, Cedar Grove Beach, and Wolfe’s Pond Beach on Staten Island.

### **International**

- With new coronavirus cases dropping below 20 a day, [Israel](#) on Tuesday retired its Green Pass system and will now allow equal access to restaurants, sporting events, cultural activities, and the like to vaccinated and unvaccinated citizens.
- The coronavirus has now claimed the lives of 32 lawmakers in the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#), more than five percent of its Parliament. Congo – Africa’s second largest country, with a population of more than 86 million – has reported over 31,000 coronavirus cases and 786 deaths, although these numbers probably vastly underestimate the scale of the outbreak because testing levels remain low nationwide.
- In a report released Monday that combined deaths from multiple databases and reclassified fatalities, the government of [Peru](#) said that 180,764 people had died from COVID-19 through May 22, almost triple the official death toll of about 68,000.
- A digital COVID-19 certificate system that will facilitate travel within the [European Union](#) became operational in seven countries on Tuesday. The [document](#), known as a digital green certificate, records whether people have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, recovered from the virus or tested negative within 72 hours. Travelers can move freely if at least one of those three criteria is met. Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Croatia and Poland made the certificates available to their citizens as of Tuesday and are accepting them from visitors. The European Commission, the bloc’s administrative branch, said the system would be used in all 27 E.U. countries as of July 1.

Other recent events covered in detail elsewhere:

- [Annual Meetings, Compensation and COVID-19: Where Things Stand](#), April 13
- [Managing Volatility in a Pandemic? Document your Derivatives Transactions Appropriately](#), April 13
- [California Authorities Issue a Wide Range of Rules and Guidance on COVID-19](#), April 10

- [HHS Initiates Initial \\$30 Billion Distribution of the \\$100 Billion Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, April 10](#)

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