

June 10, 2021

Summary

The United States has 33,224,075 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 595,625 reported related deaths. On Thursday at the G-7 summit in Britain, President Biden announced that the United States will purchase and donate half a billion Pfizer vaccines to 92 low- and lower middle-income countries in the African Union, constituting the largest-ever purchase and donation of vaccines by a single country. The President also called on the world's democracies to contribute to the global supply of safe and effective vaccines as well.

Early studies suggest that mixing different COVID-19 vaccines can provide strong protection against the virus, a promising development for countries struggling to manage vaccine resources and logistics. Some countries are currently taking steps to allow a mixed AstraZeneca/Pfizer vaccination. Moreover, the CDC published a study demonstrating that both full vaccination and partial vaccination can significantly increase protection against the virus. Although experts have recently discovered an abnormal rate of heart inflammation among young adults who receive their second vaccine dose, new data also suggests that disparate rates of vaccination among elderly Americans is partially responsible for correspondingly disparate declines in COVID-related hospitalization and death for this age group in recent months.

On June 9, the CDC updated its travel guidance, reclassifying 33 countries, including many parts of the Caribbean, to the lowest risk level. On the other hand, Brazil, much of Europe, and other popular travel destinations are still designated as particularly high risk.

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

As of June 9, New York reported 9 deaths, 758 hospitalizations, and 190 COVID-19 patients in intensive care. Approximately 566, or .41%, of the 139,492 tests administered in New York were positive for COVID-19. New York has administered 19,820,785 doses of the vaccines to patients; 55.2% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 48.2% are fully vaccinated. Governor Cuomo announced that most remaining COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted in New York State after 70% of adult New Yorkers receive their first COVID-19 vaccine. In New York State, eleven new pop-up vaccination sites will open in areas where zip code data shows the vaccination rate is significantly lower than the statewide average.

Finally, federal and state authorities are finding ways to address the growing online market for fake vaccination cards.

U.S. Government

- [*FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Historic Vaccine Donation: Half a Billion Pfizer Vaccines to the World's Lowest-Income Nations*](#), June 10
 - On Thursday at the G-7 summit in Britain, President Biden announced that the United States will purchase and donate half a billion Pfizer vaccines to 92 low- and lower middle-income countries in the African Union, constituting the largest-ever purchase and donation of vaccines by a single country.
 - The President also called on the world's democracies to [contribute](#) to the global supply of safe and effective vaccines as well.

Vaccines and Therapeutics

- [*Mixing COVID-19 vaccines appears to boost immune responses*](#), June 9
 - Early studies suggest that following up a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine with a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine produces a strong immune response, and could even provide as much protection as two Pfizer shots. More studies are underway to test different combinations of both available (*e.g.*, Pfizer) and anticipated (*e.g.*, Novavax) vaccines. Despite initial promising results, some experts caution that more research is needed to understand the complete nature of the cross-vaccine immune response and potential side effects.
 - These initial studies were “born out of necessity,” as many countries suspended use of the AstraZeneca vaccine once experts identified abnormal rates of clotting problems in young adults, leaving those who had received only one AstraZeneca dose in need of new options.
 - Spain has since authorized the Pfizer-AstraZeneca combination. Other countries, such as Canada, Germany, France, Norway, and Denmark have recommended the same.
 - The option to mix different COVID-19 vaccines could aid the pandemic response in many countries, allowing for more flexibility in administering vaccinations.
- [*CDC says heart inflammation cases were higher than expected in 16- to 24-year-olds after second Covid vaccine shot*](#), June 10
 - At an FDA advisory panel on Thursday, June 10, the CDC presented data from its vaccine safety monitor system indicating that 275 young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 have developed myocarditis or pericarditis (conditions that cause inflammation of the heart) after receiving their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. In comparison, experts had predicted only 10 to 120 such cases in this age bracket.
 - Within this 16 to 24 age group, myocarditis and pericarditis disparately affect young men, and tend to develop two to three days after vaccination. Over 80% of resulting hospitalizations yield a full recovery.
 - The CDC is coordinating an investigation into these side effects with the FDA. In the meantime, experts are wary to make conclusions about the vaccines' causal role.
- [*CDC study finds coronavirus vaccines lead to milder disease in rare breakthrough infections*](#), June 8

- A recent CDC [study](#) of 3,900 frontline workers bolsters evidence that existing COVID-19 vaccines are highly efficacious. According to the study, 90% of fully vaccinated people were protected against COVID-19. Likewise, partially vaccinated individuals were 81% less likely to become infected than non-vaccinated individuals.
- Some experts are cautioning that unless higher rates of adolescents are vaccinated, a return to normalcy could take longer and COVID-19 could increasingly impact younger children who cannot yet get inoculated.

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

- [CDC Interpretation of Forecasts of New Deaths and Hospitalizations](#), June 9
 - CDC [consolidated](#) data from 34 models projecting the COVID-19 death rate. Predicted rates differ among the forecasts, depending on assumptions about the prevalence and rigor of social distancing behaviors. CDC’s national ensemble forecast predicts the number of newly reported COVID-19 deaths will decrease over the next four weeks. It forecasts between 700 and 4,000 new deaths in the week ending July 3, 2021, and between 603,000 and 612,000 cumulative deaths by July 3, 2021.
 - CDC [consolidated](#) data from 12 models projecting the number of daily COVID-19 hospitalizations. The forecast predicts daily hospitalizations will decrease over the next four weeks, with between 400 and 2,800 new hospitalizations per day by July 5. It predicts that hospital admissions will decrease in 30 jurisdictions, while remaining stable or uncertain in the other states and territories.
- [Elderly Covid Cases And Deaths Plunged In U.S. This Year — CDC Says It’s Due To Vaccines](#), June 8
 - Adults 65 and older have accounted for 80% of COVID-19 deaths throughout the pandemic. Yet, CDC research demonstrates that, as a share of the population, elderly individuals are now experiencing lower rates of serious illness.
 - In late April, elderly Americans accounted for 68% of COVID-19 deaths, down from 84.2% in December 2020. Over this time period, the rate of hospitalization for elderly Americans declined 78%, a 15% steeper drop than the decline for adults overall.
 - With 86.4% of the elderly population vaccinated, the CDC credits vaccination as an important factor in this disparate decline. However, it notes that other factors likely had an impact, such as the disparate effect of new strains on younger adults.
- [CDC issues new travel advice for more than 120 countries](#), June 9
 - On June 9, the CDC released new international travel guidance. The guidance classifies countries of destination into four categories based on COVID-19 risk.
 - The CDC recommends that all international travelers, regardless of their destination, be vaccinated before traveling.
 - The CDC reclassified 33 countries, such as Iceland, Israel, Singapore, and numerous Caribbean countries, into the lowest risk category. Many popular Europe destinations, including France, Spain, and Italy, are classified at Level 3, meaning unvaccinated travelers are advised against nonessential travel to those countries. The CDC advises against all travel to Level 4 countries, such as Brazil and Iraq.

New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), June 10

- New York reported 9 deaths, 758 hospitalizations, and 190 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on June 9, 2021.
- Approximately 566, or .41%, of the 139,492 tests administered in New York on June 9 were positive for COVID-19.
- As of June 9, New York has administered 19,820,785 doses of the vaccines to patients; 55.2% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 48.2% are fully vaccinated.
- Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that most remaining COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted in New York State after 70% of adult New Yorkers receive their first COVID-19 vaccine. Once that occurs, guidelines governing capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, and health screening will become optional for retail, food services, offices, gyms and fitness centers, among other commercial settings.
- In New York State, eleven new pop-up vaccination sites will [open](#) in areas where zip code data shows the vaccination rate is significantly lower than the statewide average. All of the sites will be open on a first come, first serve basis.

New York City

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), June 10
 - Mayor Bill de Blasio is [planning](#) a mega-concert in Central Park as part of “Homecoming Week” to show that New York City is recovering from the pandemic. The concert is tentatively scheduled for August 2.

International

- The government of [Singapore](#) said on Thursday that it would ease some social restrictions after nearly a month of tough measures to contain a coronavirus outbreak fueled in part by the Delta variant, first detected in India. The city-state also said that it would expand its vaccination campaign, allowing Singaporeans ages 12 and older to register for shots beginning on Friday and extending eligibility to the rest of the population in the coming months.
- [India](#)’s coronavirus death toll shot up on Thursday after an audit unearthed thousands of uncounted fatalities in the northern state of Bihar, one of the largest and poorest states in the country. The audit in Bihar showed that more than 9,000 people had died from coronavirus-related complications since March 2020, significantly higher than the 5,500 deaths originally reported.
- On Wednesday, the government of [Italy](#) communicated publicly that it is considering introducing stricter limitations on the use of AstraZeneca shots for younger people. Andrea Costa, an undersecretary at the Italian Health Ministry, [said](#) on Italian radio that the country was able to rely on “many other vaccines” and that any further limitation “will not hamper the vaccination campaign.”

Other Updates

- [Fake COVID Vaccine Cards Are Being Sold Online. Using One Is A Crime](#), June 8
 - States are ramping up enforcement efforts to combat a growing online market for fake vaccination cards, a problem experts have warned about for months.
 - Vendors have successfully sold many of these cards on large online platforms such as Amazon and Etsy. In response, states have also put pressure on the platforms on which

such cards are being sold. In April, for example, multiple Attorneys General sent the CEOs of Twitter, Shopify and eBay a letter requesting that they take immediate action against bad actors spreading COVID-19 misinformation and selling fake vaccination cards.

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

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