

June 24, 2021

Summary

The United States has 33,578,819 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 602,838 reported related deaths. In its COVID-19 press briefing Tuesday, the White House reported that the United States is not expected to reach President Biden’s aspirational goal of having 70 percent of the adult population at least partially vaccinated by July 4. Additionally, the country also will not reach the second aspirational goal of having 160 million Americans fully vaccinated by that date. However, the White House estimates that both goals will be reached by mid-July. Also on Tuesday, first lady Jill Biden headed to two Southern states—Mississippi and Tennessee—to encourage vaccination, as the White House scrambles to raise inoculation levels in a region where relatively few people have received their shots.

Various private companies, such as Krispy Kreme, CVS, and most recently, Walgreens, are offering giveaways and store credit to help the U.S. achieve its July vaccination targets.

The CDC has concluded there is a “likely association” between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and two rare heart inflammation conditions, myocarditis and pericarditis. While data shows that these conditions are relatively rare and typically mild, they have affected over one thousand individuals post-vaccine, typically young men under 30. In response, the FDA has decided to place an advisory on both vaccines. However, CDC, US Department of Health and Human Services, and others still recommend that young adults and adolescents get vaccinated.

Relatively few cases are being detected in urban regions in the United States, although, rural hotspots have emerged in parts of Missouri and Arkansas. Throughout the United States, new cases are emerging at their lowest levels since testing became widely available.

As of June 23, New York reported 5 deaths, 442 hospitalizations, and 103 COVID-19 patients in intensive care. Approximately 343, or .30%, of the 113,108 tests administered in New York were positive for COVID-19. New York has administered 20,759,365 doses of the vaccines to patients; 59.2% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 52.5% are fully vaccinated.

U.S. Government Updates

- [*Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials*](#), June 22
 - In its COVID-19 press briefing Tuesday, the White House reported that the United States is not expected to reach President Biden's initial goal of having 70 percent of the adult population at least partially vaccinated by July 4.
 - Additionally, the country will also not reach the second aspirational goal of having 160 million Americans fully vaccinated by that date.
 - However, the White House estimates that both goals will be reached by mid-July.
- [*Jill Biden tours Southern states to encourage vaccination as youth cases grow*](#), June 23
 - First lady Jill Biden headed to two Southern states on Tuesday to encourage vaccination, as the White House scrambles to raise inoculation levels in a region where relatively few people have received their shots.
 - Biden's visits to Mississippi and Tennessee, both states where under 35 percent of the population has been fully vaccinated, come as health experts warn that young people in the South are increasingly being hospitalized because of the coronavirus. There are fears that the more virulent delta variant could become the dominant strain this summer.

Vaccines and Therapeutics

- [*FDA to add warning about rare heart inflammation to Pfizer and Moderna vaccines*](#), June 24
 - On June 23, FDA announced it would add a warning to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines about rare cases of myocarditis and pericarditis—conditions that cause heart inflammation—in adolescents and young adults (see CDC section for more info).
 - The US Department of Health and Human Services issued a statement reassuring the public that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks, and urging young adults and adolescents to get vaccinated.
 - Doctors, hospitals, and regulators continue to monitor these conditions and their relationship to the vaccines.
- [*Walgreens announces \\$25 giveaway for new COVID-19 vaccine recipients*](#), June 22
 - Walgreens is now offering \$25 in store credit to anyone who gets a COVID-19 vaccination at one of its stores over the next few days.
 - CVS has already offered a similar deal. Additionally, various restaurants such as Krispy Kreme are offering free food and drinks to vaccinated individuals. This reflects efforts by the private sector to help the US reach vaccination targets.

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

- [*CDC Interpretation of Forecasts of New Deaths and Hospitalizations*](#), June 17
 - CDC [consolidated](#) data from 33 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 remain stable or have an uncertain trend over the next four weeks. It forecasts between 500 and 2,900 new deaths in the week ending July 17, 2021, and between 606,000 and 612,000 cumulative deaths by July 17, 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 1,000 and 3,800 new hospitalizations per day by July 19. It predicts that hospital admissions will decrease in 22 jurisdictions, while remaining stable or uncertain in the other states and territories.
- [CDC safety group says there's a likely link between rare heart inflammation in young people after Covid shot](#), June 23
 - A CDC safety group concluded there is a “likely association” between mRNA vaccinations and myocarditis and pericarditis, rare conditions that cause inflammation of the heart’s muscle and outer membrane, respectively.
 - Through June 11, there had been 267 reported cases following a patient’s first dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, 827 reported cases following a second dose of these vaccines, and 132 reported cases where the number of previous doses is unknown. Men under 30 made up the majority of these cases.
 - CDC has reassured the public that these conditions remain rare: 12.6 cases per million doses, with a slightly higher rate for Moderna versus Pfizer. Most cases have been mild, and of those cases that led to hospitalization and discharge, 79% of the patients have fully recovered. Accordingly, even for young adults, CDC still views the benefits of the vaccine as outweighing risks of heart conditions.

New York State

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), June 24
 - New York reported 5 deaths, 442 hospitalizations, and 103 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on June 23, 2021.
 - Approximately 343, or .30%, of the 113,108 tests administered in New York on June 23 were positive for COVID-19.
 - As of June 23, New York has administered 20,759,365 doses of the vaccines to patients; 59.2% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 52.5% are fully vaccinated.
 - New York’s state of emergency will [end](#) on Thursday, June 24, as well as the ability to get alcohol to-go at bars and restaurants.

New York City

- [New York City COVID-19 Updates](#), June 24
 - The delta variant has been [found](#) in 5.6% of New York City COVID-19 positive samples studied, which is up from 4.9% since the health department’s last report. The strain has been reclassified as a “variant of concern.”
 - In an effort to continue to [vaccinate](#) individuals, as of Wednesday, June 23, all New York City residents can make an appointment for an at-home COVID-19 shot.

International

- More than 2 million people living in [England](#) could have caught “long covid,” in which symptoms of the coronavirus’s disease persist for months, with women and lower-income people particularly susceptible, a study supported by the British government has found.

- [Brazil](#) recently surpassed 500,000 official COVID-19 deaths, the world's second-highest total, behind the United States. About 1 in every 400 Brazilians has died from the virus, but many experts believe the true death toll may be [higher](#).
- [Japan's](#) annual economic policy guidelines, released this month, unveiled plans to push employers to adopt four-day workweeks, marking official acceptance of a once-fringe approach that has gained increasing purchase internationally amid workplace changes wrought by the coronavirus pandemic. The recommendation that companies adopt an optional shorter workweek is meant to support employees who want to further their education, take care of family members or simply to go out, spend money and even meet others, as Japan's population ages and shrinks.
- Rizieq Shihab, a cleric in [Indonesia](#) who attracted huge crowds last year on his return from self-imposed exile, was sentenced to four years in prison on Thursday for hiding that he had contracted the coronavirus. A three-judge panel found that he had spread false information by posting a video claiming to be healthy.
- [Russia](#) on Thursday reported more than 20,000 new coronavirus cases and more than 550 deaths the previous day, reaching numbers unseen since January. Over the past two weeks, the country has had a surge in cases, driven in part by the Delta variant. The situation has been worsened by a sluggish vaccination process, with the government trying to speed it up.
- Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization's regional director for [Africa](#), said in a news briefing that rising coronavirus cases on the continent were outpacing vaccinations, driven in part by a surge in the Delta variant. Eighteen African nations have used over 80 percent of their vaccine stocks, highlighting the need for international solidarity to increase vaccine supplies there. Africa had relied on India as a vaccine producer before it was overwhelmed by its own second wave, she said.

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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