

June 28, 2021

### Summary

The United States has 33,625,392 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 603,967 reported related deaths. Federal officials expressed alarm in recent days about low vaccination rates among Americans in their late teens and 20s, and have blamed them for the country's all-but-certain failure to reach President Biden's goal of giving 70 percent of adults at least an initial dose by July 4. In a federal report released last week, just over one-third of adults ages 18 to 39 reported being vaccinated.

Preliminary data from Israel shows that Pfizer's vaccine is around 90% effective against the Delta variant. At the same time, experts are concerned that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will offer inadequate protection against the Delta variant, set to become the dominant strain in many countries. Fearing a rising number of casualties from the Delta variant, some doctors have already begun administering booster shots of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, while others have urged health providers to wait for more data and guidance.

CDC has released data showing that over 4,100 people have died or been hospitalized due to COVID-19 following full vaccination. Experts are reassuring the public that vaccination is still critical to the pandemic response and that these numbers are relatively low. On June 24, CDC extended its eviction moratorium to the end of July. Prior to this extension, which is purportedly the final one, the moratorium was set to end on June 30.

In the United States, case numbers have fallen to their lowest point since testing became widely available. In the last two weeks, several states, such as North Dakota, Maine, and Pennsylvania have reported a fifty percent decline in COVID-19 cases. However, health officials are concerned about the increased spread of the delta variant of COVID-19 in pockets of the nation where vaccination rates remain low.

As of June 27, New York reported 3 deaths, 346 hospitalizations, and 89 COVID-19 patients in intensive care. Approximately 290, or .52%, of the 55,334 tests administered in New York were positive for COVID-19. New York has administered 21,046,333 doses of the vaccines to patients; 59.7% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 53.7% are fully vaccinated. While Governor Cuomo has formally lifted the state of emergency order in New York State, the State is still imposing numerous rules on large indoor event venues, public transit, homeless shelters, prisons, nursing homes, health care settings, and schools.

## U.S. Government

- [\*Young adults are among the biggest barriers to mass immunity\*](#), June 28
  - Federal officials expressed alarm in recent days about low vaccination rates among Americans in their late teens and 20s, and have blamed them for the country's all-but-certain failure to reach President Biden's goal of giving 70 percent of adults at least an initial dose by July 4.
  - In a federal [report](#) released last week, just over one-third of adults ages 18 to 39 reported being vaccinated, with especially low rates among Black people; among people 24 or younger; and among those who had lower incomes, less education and no health insurance.
- [\*Thousands of inmates sent home because of Covid may have to return to prison\*](#), June 28
  - Some 4,000 federal offenders who were part of a temporary mass release last year of nonviolent prisoners to help slow the spread of the coronavirus could soon return to prison as coronavirus infection rates subside.
  - In the final days of the Trump administration, the Justice Department issued a memo saying inmates whose sentences lasted beyond the "pandemic emergency period" would have to go back to prison.
  - Some lawmakers and activists are urging President Biden to revoke the rule and use his executive power to keep the prisoners on home confinement or commute their sentences entirely.
  - While the White House has yet to announce a decision about those on home confinement, the administration appears to be following the direction of the Trump-era memo.

## Vaccines and Therapeutics

- [\*Booster may be needed for J&J shot as Delta variant spreads, some experts already taking them\*](#), June 28
  - Doctors and public health experts are conflicted on whether, and how soon, to give recipients of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) a booster shot in the interest of preventing serious illness from the Delta variant, which is more dangerous than other strains.
  - Experts largely agree that the J&J vaccine will offer less protection against the Delta variant compared to other vaccines. J&J is currently studying the vaccine's Delta-specific efficacy in lab settings, but no data has been published.
  - Though many experts urge health providers to wait for more data and guidance, some doctors have already begun administering a second J&J shot, believing the risk-reward weighs strongly in favor of doing so.
- [\*Pfizer says COVID vaccine is highly effective against Delta variant\*](#), June 24
  - Pfizer's medical director in Israel announced that preliminary lab research and data confirms that Pfizer's vaccine is highly effective against the Delta variant, offering around 90% protection. More data is being collected as the number of infections grows in the country.
  - These findings bolster other studies concluding a high Delta-specific efficacy rate, including a joint study between Pfizer and the University of Texas completed in June and an analysis by Public Health England.

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

- [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#), June 25
  - CDC summarized key COVID-19 disease indicators for last week.
  - As of June 25, the seven-day average number of daily new cases reported was 11,343. This is a 4.4% decrease compared to the previous week's average, and an overall 95.5% decrease compared to the national peak on January 10, 2021.
  - As of June 24, 320.7 million vaccine doses have been administered in the United States. Overall, approximately 178.3 million people in the United States have received at least one dose of vaccine, which is 53.7% of the population. Approximately 151.3 million people are fully vaccinated, which is 45.6% of the population. The seven-day average number of reported vaccine dose administrations was around 370,000, a 55.3% decrease compared to the previous week.
  - As of June 22, the seven-day average of new daily hospital admissions was 1,843, a 7.9% decrease compared to the previous week's average.
  - As of June 23, the seven-day average of reported deaths was 287 per day, a 5.2% increase compared to the previous week's average.
- [CDC Extends Eviction Moratorium Through July](#), June 24
  - On June 24, the CDC extended its moratorium on evictions to July 31. The White House has suggested that this will be the final extension of the moratorium. The moratorium was first instituted in September, and was extended for the first time in March; that extension was set to end on June 30.
  - Landlords and realty associations have challenged the moratorium in court, claiming the CDC has exceeded its authority and alleging billions in lost rent. They have won numerous lawsuits, but courts have stayed relief pending appeal.
  - Experts argue the moratorium is necessary for public health because it allows at risk people to stay at home and avoid transmission. Tenants argue there is no alternative to the moratorium due to the slow rollout of emergency rental assistance.
- [CDC says roughly 4,100 people have been hospitalized or died with Covid breakthrough infections after vaccination](#), June 25
  - According to CDC [data](#), as of June 21, over 4,100 people have died or been hospitalized due to COVID-19 despite being fully vaccinated. There have been 750 confirmed deaths.
  - 76% of these serious "breakthrough" cases have afflicted adults over the age of 65.
  - Experts do not yet have data on the number of breakthrough cases caused by variants, though it is known that vaccine efficacy is slightly lower against variants, particularly the Delta strain.
  - Despite these numbers, experts have cautioned that, in view of the number of people vaccinated, breakthrough cases remain relatively rare and vaccination is still critical to the pandemic effort.

## **New York State**

- [New York State COVID-19 Updates](#), June 28
  - New York reported 3 deaths, 346 hospitalizations, and 89 COVID-19 patients in intensive care on June 27, 2021.
  - Approximately 290, or .52%, of the 55,334 tests administered in New York on June 27 were positive for COVID-19.

- As of June 27, New York has administered 21,046,333 doses of the vaccines to patients; 59.7% of New York residents have received at least one dose of the vaccines; and 53.7% are fully vaccinated.
- While Governor Cuomo has formally [lifted](#) the state of emergency order in New York State, the State is still imposing numerous rules on large indoor event venues, public transit, homeless shelters, prisons, nursing homes, health care settings, and schools.

### **International**

- [South Africa](#) on Sunday extended a nightly curfew and introduced a ban on gatherings, alcohol sales, indoor dining and some domestic travel for 14 days to halt a worrying surge in cases driven by the delta variant
- In [Bangladesh](#), the government pointed to a “dangerous and alarming” rise in delta-related infections and halted all public transportation starting Monday, prompting thousands of migrant workers to flee the capital, Dhaka, before the restrictions took hold.
- Officials in [Israel](#) decided Sunday night that a spike in positive cases did not warrant a return to lockdown or significant restrictions, other than reinstating an indoor mask mandate dropped just two weeks ago.
- Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez of [Spain](#) announced on Monday that British visitors would have to present a negative COVID-19 test or proof of full vaccination, bowing to concerns about a massive influx of summer tourists from Britain, which has been grappling with the Delta variant of the disease.

### **Other Updates**

- [\*WHO Urges Fully Vaccinated People To Continue Wearing Masks As Delta Variant Spreads – But No Word From CDC\*](#), June 25
  - World Health Organization (WHO) officials stressed Friday the need for fully vaccinated people to “continue to be appropriately cautious” and keep up with social distancing measures like mask-wearing as the highly infectious Delta variant becomes increasingly dominant in the U.S. and spurs new COVID-19 outbreaks around the world.

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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