

## Outbreak Breakdown

August 14, 2020

*This weekly report is provided as an informal information resource for certain AdvaMed member work groups. Content is provided by staff and is not to be construed as conveying AdvaMed viewpoints or endorsement. AdvaMed's COVID-19 response is led by [Chris White](#), AdvaMed COVID Action Team Leader, COO & General Counsel. Newsletter contacts: [Andy Fish](#), Chief Strategy Officer and [Kristina Shultz](#), Manager, Strategy & Policy.*

### AdvaMed Resources:

[COVID Testing Supply Registry](#)

[PPE Sourcing Program](#)

[MedTech Responds](#)

### Something Completely Different

Faithful readers may note recurring [themes](#) of [animals](#) and [space](#) (last week it was [tiny animals in space](#)); we couldn't resist this week's [World Elephant Day](#) and as a [bonus](#) discovered that there are [elephant trunks in space](#).

### Pandemic Snapshot

**Global:** Current Cases: [20,928,200](#) Deaths: [759,800](#)

- India has surpassed the United States as the global leader in new daily cases.
- Central and South America remain major global COVID-19 hotspots. Five countries from the region are in the top 10 globally in terms of per capita daily incidence: Panama (#1), Peru (#3), Colombia (#4), Brazil (#5), and Argentina (#9).
- After over 100 days without a locally transmitted case, New Zealand is dealing with a new outbreak. [New restrictions and lockdowns](#) were announced shortly after the new cases were discovered and are expected to remain in place for several weeks.

**United States:** Current Cases: [5,262,700](#) Deaths: [167,165](#)

- Nationwide, cases continued to fall this week. Testing also continued to fall this week, especially in the South. The decline in tests makes it difficult to interpret the decline in cases, however, hospitalizations also dropped this week, indicating that cases most likely are declining to some extent. See the COVID Tracking Project's weekly data analysis [here](#).
- While cases in some of the most recently affected states (Florida, Arizona, etc.) are declining, rural areas across the Midwest are seeing [record numbers](#) of new cases.

[Johns Hopkins Daily COVID-19 Situation Reports](#)

[AdvaMed COVID-19 Modeling & Data Visualization Resources](#)

### News & Insights

**HHS Protect:** We've reported previously on the [HHS Protect](#) program and the shift of some [pandemic data collection](#) from CDC to HHS. There were reports this week on [challenges associated with that transition](#) and on a [statement](#), signed by current and former members of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, raising concerns about the integrity and utility of data collected under the new approach.

**COVID-19 in Kids:** A [review](#) of state level data conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Children’s Hospital Association found [97,000 kids tested positive](#) for SARS-CoV-2 during the last two weeks of July. Cases in children have increased by more than 90% in just four weeks (between July 9 – August 6), with many of the new cases occurring in states in the South and West. The increase may be partially the result of increased testing, but children are also starting to leave the home more than they have in the months since schools shut down. The data has some limitations – states use different age ranges to define “children” – but the sharp increase in cases over the past month, when most schools have not yet reopened, adds yet another piece of information for local school decisionmakers to consider while making last-minute decisions on the safest path forward.

**Aerosols:** Researchers at the University of Florida have reportedly [isolated intact, infectious SARS-CoV-2 from air samples](#) taken in a hospital. Their results were posted as a pre-print and have yet to undergo peer review, but if published, the research would confirm the suspicions of many by showing that SARS-CoV-2 viral particles detected in air samples are intact virus and not just fragments of genetic material. This would provide evidence that [SARS-CoV-2 can, in theory, be spread through aerosols](#), although it’s still unclear whether the amount of virus present in aerosol form would be sufficient to cause infection. Another important takeaway from this study is that the researchers were able to collect virus from the air at distances of seven and 16 feet from an infectious patient in a room specifically designed to reduce the risk of airborne pathogens. Both distances are greater than the six feet recommended for physical distancing, reinforcing the notion that close, indoor environments are risky even if people maintain the recommended distance from one another.

**Updated Mask Guidance:** CDC updated its [guidance on masks](#) late last week to warn against wearing masks with exhalation valves. Masks with valves, which are typically intended for construction work, do not filter air exhaled by the wearer and therefore do not prevent respiratory droplets from being expelled.

In other mask news, researchers at Duke University [evaluated the effectiveness](#) of 14 different types of face coverings and found that while simple cotton masks can be nearly as effective as standard surgical masks, bandanas and “neck gaiters” offer very little – if any – protection. Neck gaiters may actually disperse droplets more effectively [than no mask at all](#).

[England Has Started Testing a Contact Tracing App—Again](#) | MIT Technology Review, August 13  
[The True Coronavirus Toll in the U.S. Has Already Surpassed 200,000](#) | New York Times, August 13  
[Major Antibody Study Finds 3.4 Million in England Had Covid-19](#) | Bloomberg, August 13  
[On Native American Land, Contact Tracing Is Saving Lives](#) | New York Times, August 13  
[Redfield: This Fall Could Be ‘Worst’ We’ve Seen](#) | WebMD News, August 12  
[How Genomics Will Help Us Track COVID-19](#) | Newsroom, August 12  
[Coronavirus Cases Drop 46% In Parts Of S. Carolina With Mask Mandates Compared To Areas Without](#) | Forbes, August 12  
[Why Is It Hard to Get a Rapid Covid-19 Test? The Machines Are in Short Supply](#) | The Wall Street Journal, August 12  
[Meet the Most Important Federal Official You Probably Don’t Know — the Man Who Holds the Fate of the Coronavirus Vaccine in His Hands](#) | The Washington Post, August 11  
[Antibody Drugs Could Be One of the Best Weapons Against COVID-19. But Will They Matter?](#) | STAT News, August 11  
[A Negative COVID-19 Test Does Not Mean Recovery](#) | Nature, August 11

[America's Uniquely Bad COVID-19 Epidemic, Explained in 18 Maps and Charts](#) | Vox, August 11  
['AeroNabs' Promise Powerful, Inhalable Protection Against COVID-19](#) | UCSF, August 11  
[Scientists Uneasy As Russia Approves 1<sup>st</sup> Coronavirus Vaccine](#) | Associated Press, August 11  
[Children and the Virus: As Schools Reopen, Much Remains Unknown About the Risk to Kids and the Peril They Pose to Others](#) | Washington Post, August 10  
[Winter Is Coming: Why America's Window of Opportunity to Beat Back COVID-19 Is Closing](#) | STAT News August 10  
[At the Heart of It: Cardiac Inflammation the Next Virus Hurdle for College Leaders](#) | Sports Illustrated, August 9  
[Latest Research Points to Children Carrying, Transmitting Coronavirus](#) | Wall Street Journal, August 9  
[Forty Percent of People With Coronavirus Infections Have No Symptoms. Might They Be the Key to Ending the Pandemic?](#) | Washington Post, August 8

### **More News**

[MIT Technology Review Coronavirus Coverage](#)  
[Tulane Outbreak Daily](#)  
[Prevent Epidemics Weekly Science Review](#)  
[Helio COVID-19 Resource Center](#)  
[Johns Hopkins Novel Coronavirus Research Compendium](#)