

Outbreak Breakdown

October 23, 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. Newsletter Editors: [Andy Fish](#), Chief Strategy Officer and [Kristina Shultz](#), Manager, Strategy & Policy. Inquiries about AdvaMed's COVID-19 response can be directed to [Chris White](#), AdvaMed COVID Action Team Leader, COO & General Counsel.

AdvaMed Notes

COVID-19 Molecular Tests Milestone: AdvaMed announced yesterday that total U.S. shipments of COVID-19 molecular diagnostic tests have reached more than 200 million, based on the latest data from the association's COVID-19 testing supply [registry](#). See AdvaMed's press release [here](#).

AdvaMed Resources:

[COVID-19 Diagnostic Supply Registry](#)

[PPE Sourcing Program](#)

[MedTech Responds](#)

Something Completely Different

If 2020 is starting to [crush your spirit](#), be inspired by the resilience of [nature's jawbreaker](#) – the crush-proof diabolical [ironclad](#) beetle, a bioengineering [marvel](#) that can support 39,000 times its own body weight without being [squashed like a bug](#).

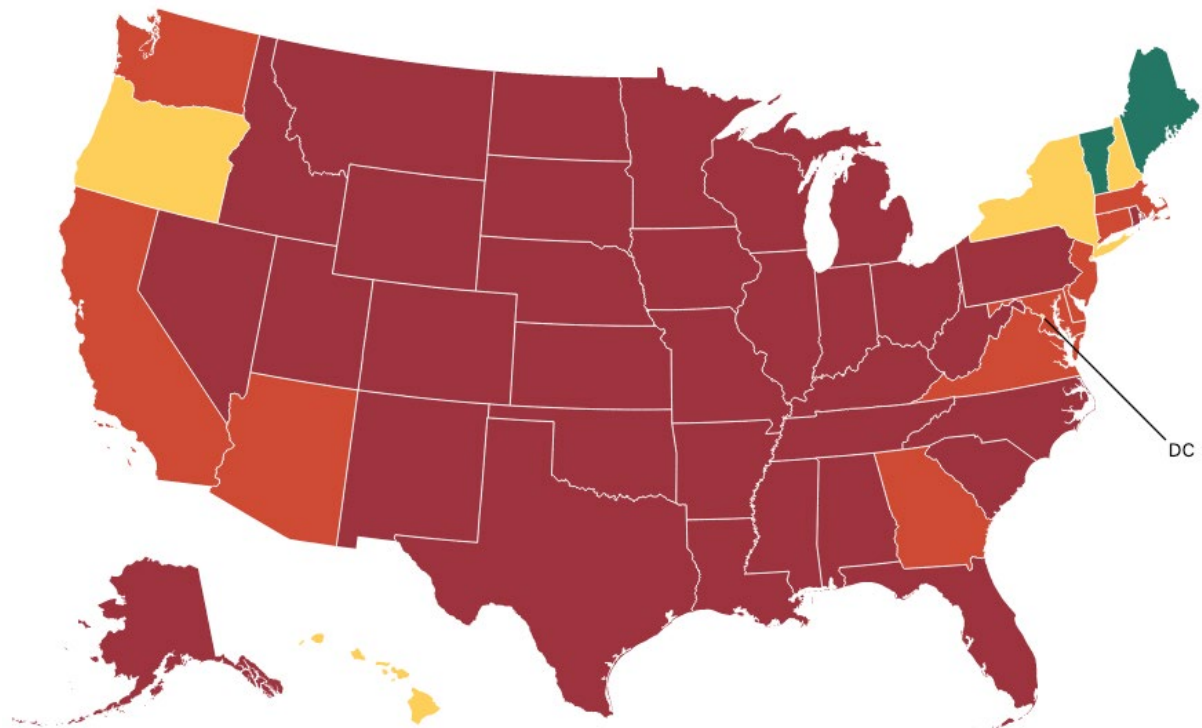
Pandemic Snapshot

Global: Current Cases: [41,828,400](#) Deaths: [1,139,200](#)

- India has reported a sustained decline in new cases per day for several weeks. Given the increase in cases in the U.S., it's likely the U.S. will surpass India and return to the world #1 in new daily cases in the near future.
- In response to a "second wave" of cases in Sweden, Swedish officials are implementing [new restrictions](#) to slow transmission. Sweden initially avoided a lockdown but now has one of the highest per-capita death rates in the world and does not seem to be substantially closer to "herd immunity" than other countries that implemented stricter social distancing and mask policies.
- Slovakia started a [mass testing campaign](#) this week by asking all its citizens to get tested twice by November 8. Mass testing has been successfully used in other countries to quickly reel in an outbreak, including in the Chinese city of [Qingdao earlier this month](#).

United States: Current Cases: [8,485,000](#) Deaths: [223,3445](#)

- The third surge is worsening. Cases [increased nationally by 13.5%](#) over last week. Yesterday, the U.S. reported over 75,000 new cases – the second worst day in terms of new cases since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Hospitalizations increased in 39 states. Although the Midwest and Mountain West are still the regions of greatest concern, Texas saw the greatest increase in hospitalizations this past week.
- Deaths [increased by more than 10%](#) over last week.



Source: [COVID Exit Strategy](#)

[Johns Hopkins Daily COVID-19 Situation Reports](#)
[AdvaMed COVID-19 Modeling & Data Visualization Resources](#)

News & Insights

CDC Definition of ‘Close Contact’: This week, CDC expanded its [definition of a ‘close contact’](#) of someone with COVID-19, indicating that even very brief contact with individuals with COVID-19 could result in transmission. CDC previously defined a close contact as someone who spent 15 minutes or more within six feet of someone with COVID-19. The agency has [now clarified](#) that a close contact is someone with 15 minutes of cumulative exposure during a 24-hour period. The 15 minutes do not have to be consecutive.

The change was made following a study published in CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) earlier this week that [described the case](#) of a correctional officer in Vermont who contracted COVID-19 after multiple brief encounters with several incarcerated people who had COVID-19. The incarcerated people were awaiting test results for SARS-CoV-2 when the interactions occurred, and security footage determined that the officer’s interactions with each person were under 15 minutes each – therefore the officer did not meet the definition of a close contact.

Excess Deaths: Researchers from the US CDC National Center for Health Statistics published a study in CDC's MMWR that found that [300,000 excess deaths](#) have occurred between January 26 and October 3 of this year (e.g. 300,000 more deaths than would've been expected during this time period, based on historical data). 200,000 of those deaths have been attributed to COVID-19, meaning there have been an additional 100,000 excess deaths that were not directly attributable to COVID-19. The largest percent increase (over the expected number of deaths) was observed in adults aged 25-44.

Mask Use: Analyses released today by the Washington Post and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) provide further evidence that masks are a critical tool in slowing the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

The [Washington Post](#) used Carnegie Mellon's COVIDCast tool to plot the percentage of state residents who say they wear a mask in public all or most of the time against the percentage who say they know someone with COVID-19 symptoms. The chart shows the correlation between those two variables and that states that report high levels of mask-wearing have the lowest percentage of people who know someone with symptoms.

[IHME](#) published update modeling scenarios in Nature and found that universal masking (95% mask use in public) may be enough to suppress the surge of cases occurring in most states across the U.S. and could save an additional 130,000 lives between now and February 2021.

Vaccine Trials: Moderna reported today that it has [completed enrollment](#) of the Phase III trial of its SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidate and that 37% of its 30,000 participants are minorities. Moderna had previously asked its clinical trial enrollment sites to [focus on enrolling](#) at-risk minorities, even if it slowed the pace of enrollment, to ensure diversity in the trial population.

Clinical trials of AstraZeneca and Oxford University's vaccine candidate [continued in Brazil](#) following the death of a volunteer. Local media reported that the volunteer [received a placebo](#), not the vaccine, and died of complications of COVID-19. This has not been confirmed by AstraZeneca or Oxford University.

[How COVID-19 Death-Rate Predictions Have Changed Since March](#) | Wall Street Journal, October 23
[Schoolchildren Seem Unlikely to Fuel Coronavirus Surges, Scientists Say](#) | New York Times, October 22
[Unprecedented Vaccine Trials on Track to Begin Delivering Results](#) | Washington Post, October 21
[COVID-19's Wintry Mix: As We Move Indoors, Dry Air Will Help the Coronavirus Spread](#) | STAT News, October 21
[As COVID-19 Cases Rise Across Europe, Hospitals Are Rushing to Prepare for Winter](#) | Wall Street Journal, October 21
[After a College Town's Coronavirus Outbreak, Deaths at Nursing Homes Mount](#) | Washington Post, October 21
[Trial to Deliberately Infect People with Coronavirus Draws Mixed Reaction](#) | ARS Technica, October 21
['At a Breaking Point': New Surge of COVID-19 Cases Has States, Hospitals Scrambling, Yet Again](#) | STAT News, October 20
[How Straight Talk Helped One State Control COVID](#) | Scientific American, October 16

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](#)