

Outbreak Breakdown

October 30, 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

Medtech Industry Principles to Address Racial Health Disparities: Yesterday, AdvaMed, under the leadership of the association's Board of Directors, issued a set of principles to guide the industry in addressing racial health disparities. Broadly, the principles call on industry to promote inclusion and equity in health care; partner in education with stakeholders (such as clinicians and other health care providers); advocate for and facilitate patient access to innovative technology; and promote research equity in the medtech industry. The principles can be downloaded [here](#). AdvaMed's press release can be read [here](#).

AdvaMed Resources:

[COVID-19 Diagnostic Supply Registry](#)

[PPE Sourcing Program](#)

[MedTech Responds](#)

Something Completely Different

Confirmation this week from [SOFIA](#) (no, [this one](#)) that [water is present on the sunlit side of the moon](#) raised hopes that it could be a resource for the [Artemis astronauts](#) and further set the stage for deployment of the [Polar Resources Ice Mining Experiment](#).

Pandemic Snapshot

Global: Current Cases: [45,162,700](#) Deaths: [1,182,100](#)

- In response to the [second wave of cases](#) affecting the majority of Europe, [France](#) and [Germany](#) announced new countrywide lockdowns this week that are scheduled to remain in place for at least the next month.
- Taiwan reached a significant milestone this week: [200 days](#) without recording a case of locally transmitted SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Melbourne, Australia ended its lockdown this week, which lasted [111 days](#) and was the longest of any city in the world. Melbourne still has many restrictions in place, including strict limits on gatherings and travel.
- Russia implemented a [nationwide mask mandate](#) this week that requires people to wear masks in all public spaces where more than 50 people may gather.

United States: Current Cases: [9,024,100](#) Deaths: [228,701](#)

- The U.S. recorded its worst week yet for virus cases, exceeding 500,000 new cases in the past seven days. The surge in cases is continuing to grow and not showing any signs that new cases are approaching a peak.

- 25 states set a new record for new cases in the past two weeks.
- COVID-19 deaths are increasing significantly in some of the hardest-hit states, including Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Nationally, deaths are increasing slowly. It's likely they will continue to increase in the weeks ahead given the lag time between when cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are recorded.

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

News & Insights

Hospitalizations: Hospitalizations of people with COVID-19 have increased by almost 50% in the past month and are rising in all parts of the country. The current surge of cases is putting tremendous strain on small cities and rural areas that were largely unaffected by the first two surges in the spring and summer. Local healthcare systems are [struggling to manage](#) the rapid influx of patients. Hospitals across the country have reported sending patients to other hospitals (sometimes hours away or in neighboring states), setting up field hospitals, and discussing triage systems to [prioritize care](#) if necessary. Some hospitals are [reducing elective surgeries](#) to provide more beds for COVID-19 patients, but so far it seems that most are avoiding the complete halt of elective procedures that occurred last spring.

Social Vulnerability and COVID-19: CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published a study exploring the [association between social vulnerability and a U.S. county's risk of being a COVID-19 hotspot](#). The study authors found that counties with greater community attributes associated with social vulnerability (particularly those with a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minority residents and located in less urban areas) were more likely to be COVID-19 hotspots. The findings underscore the need for federal, state, and local officials to prioritize socially vulnerable communities and work with community leaders to provide culturally sensitive messaging, along with other tailored public health interventions, to lessen the burden of COVID-19 in those counties.

Vaccine Allocation Recommendations: The U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an independent federal advisory board, published a [JAMA Viewpoint](#) outlining scientific and ethical principles that should be followed when deciding how to distribute a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine to the U.S. population. ACIP will make more detailed recommendations once Phase 3 safety and efficacy data is available for review.

Air Travel and COVID-19: There is a growing body of literature examining the potential for spread of SARS-CoV-2 on airplanes. This week, the United States Transportation Command released results of its [Commercial Aircraft Cabin Aerosol Dispersion Test](#), in which researchers simulated potential aerosol transmission from an infected passenger on a Boeing 767. The researchers concluded that the risk of exposure to an aerosolized pathogen like SARS-CoV-2 is relatively low, overall. Southwest Airlines cited the U.S. Transportation Command study in its decision this week to [begin filling middle seats](#) on its planes.

Meanwhile, another study published this week documented an [outbreak of 59 cases](#) of COVID-19 linked to a 7-hour flight into Ireland this past summer. 13 cases were directly linked to the flight, which operated at 17% occupancy. 46 additional cases in Ireland were linked to travelers from that flight. This event demonstrates that transmission can occur even if a flight is relatively empty and can lead to subsequent community outbreaks.

[Internal Documents Reveal COVID-19 Hospitalization Data the Government Keeps Hidden](#) | NPR, October 30

[Areas with Mask Mandates Have Lower COVID-19 Hospitalization Rate, Study Finds](#) | Forbes, October 28

[The Pandemic's "Perfect and Terrible Storm"](#) | Harvard Magazine, October 27

[Some COVID Survivors Have Antibodies That Attack the Body, Not Virus](#) | New York Times, October 27

[Why You Shouldn't Worry About Studies Showing Waning Coronavirus Antibodies](#) | New York Times, October 27

[The Hidden COVID-19 Health Crisis: Elderly People Are Dying from Isolation](#) | NBC News, October 27

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](#)