

## **Outbreak Breakdown**

May 22, 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 Update**

**AdvaMed, AHA, and AORN Joint Guidance on Re-Entry:** Earlier this week, AdvaMed, along with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), released a document: [Re-Entry Guidance for Health Care Facilities and Medical Device Representatives](#). This guidance supports the resumption of elective care through the safe return of medical device representatives into health care facilities, one of AdvaMed's highest priorities. AdvaMed's press release can be read [here](#).

**MedTech Responds:** Comprehensive information on AdvaMed's COVID-19 response and resources is available [here](#). A list of upcoming meetings and webinars that may be of interest to AdvaMed members is available [here](#).

## **Something Completely Different**

It's worth remembering that [Mother Nature still has plenty of surprises](#) for us that are much more pleasant than killer viruses.

## **Headlines**

[Tulane Outbreak Daily](#)

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

[Prepare to Be Tracked and Tested As You Return to Work](#) | MIT Tech Review, May 22

[What a Big New Study on Malaria Drugs as COVID-19 Treatments Tells Us — and What It Doesn't](#) | STAT News, May 22

[Chronicle of a Pandemic Foretold](#) | Foreign Affairs, May 21

[Young Adults are Also Affected by Kawasaki-like Disease Linked to Coronavirus, Doctors Say](#) | Washington Post, May 21

[‘It’s Something I Have Never Seen’: How the COVID-19 Virus Hijacks Cells](#) | STAT News, May 21

[Scientists Warn CDC Testing Data Could Create Misleading Picture of Pandemic](#) | NPR, May 21

[The Risk of Severe COVID-19 is Not Uniform](#) | The Economist, May 21

[Lockdown Delays Cost at Least 36,000 Lives, Data Show](#) | New York Times, May 20

[Magic Six Feet Not Enough to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in a Light Breeze](#) | Technology Networks, May 20

[A New Entry in the Race for a Coronavirus Vaccine: Hope](#) | New York Times, May 20

[FDA, Partnering with New York Health Tech Firm, Seeks to Collect ‘Real-World’ Data on COVID-19](#) | STAT News, May 19

[CDC Plans Sweeping COVID-19 Antibody Study in 25 Metropolitan Areas](#) | NBC News, May 19  
[Vaccine Experts Say Moderna Didn't Produce Data Critical to Assessing COVID-19 Vaccine](#) | STAT News, May 19

[Testing Positive Again for COVID-19 Could be a Fluke, Not Relapse](#) | Wall Street Journal, May 19

[Scientists Propose a 50 Days On, 30 Days Off Coronavirus Lockdown Strategy](#) | CNBC, May 19

[Early Data Show Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine Generates Immune Response](#) | STAT News, May 18

[Where Coronavirus Isn't: What's Kept Cases Officially at Zero in These 200 Counties?](#) | USA Today, May 18

[How Entrepreneurs and Innovators Can Respond to the Crisis](#) | Forbes, May 18

[From Headaches to 'COVID Toes,' Coronavirus Symptoms are a Bizarre Mix](#) | Scientific American, May 18

[As Coronavirus Testing Expands, a New Problem Arises: Not Enough People to Test](#) | Washington Post, May 17

### **Augmenting the Pandemic Arsenal**

As Memorial Day approaches, we continue to reach for wartime metaphors – [apt or not](#) – to characterize our ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We have rushed personnel and supplies to the “front lines”, ramped up production and reinforced supply chains, and deployed time-tested tactics of masks, distancing and disinfection. Perceiving that the enemy is in retreat, we are emerging from our bunkers (See *Nation Cleared for Takeoff*, below). But aware that we have not yet prevailed – [recovery may be challenging](#) – we continue to deploy scouts in the form of diagnostic tests and contact tracers to ferret out enemy holdouts. In each war, we reach for the latest technologies—in this case, [digital contact tracing](#). The [Google Apple contact tracing API](#) went public this week and [several states](#) rolled out tracing apps based on that technology, with at least one state taking a [belt and suspenders](#) approach. The Google Apple API has been rolled out in [numerous countries](#), and an [Apple iOS update](#) incorporates a new exposure notification setting to support authorized apps. At the same time, there was an early warning of a [potential privacy flaw](#) in one tracing app. Look for a growing number of digital and [wearable technologies](#) to be [deployed in the workplace](#) to monitor and possibly track symptoms and/or proximity.

### **Nation Cleared for Takeoff, Weather Forecasts Vary**

As of Wednesday, [all 50 U.S. states](#) have begun to relax stay-at-home orders and allow certain businesses to reopen, although increases in new cases and deaths in many states and a [lack of consensus](#) on “safe to reopen” metrics are creating a muddled picture. The [New York Times](#) and [National Geographic](#) are tracking state-by-state restrictions and changes in cases and deaths over time. Every state imposed different initial restrictions – therefore, what constitutes a ‘reopening’ varies from state to state.

It will likely take at least a few weeks to detect any resurgences (or “second waves”) in areas that are reopening given the lag between infection and detection. States that relaxed social distancing measures on May 1 are just beginning to enter the period in which an increase in cases may become evident. However, in some of those states, cases have been consistently rising over the past few weeks, indicating that their outbreaks were still growing even as they moved to reopen.

Complicating matters are reports that [some states'](#) data reporting may obscure a detailed understanding of how successfully their outbreaks have been contained. In Virginia, Texas, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Vermont, official reports have combined results of molecular tests (that detect active

infection) with serology tests (that detect past infection), significantly limiting the utility of those reports for case assessment and outbreak tracking.

CDC official counts also are [mixing test results](#) and it has been reported that, for many states, there are [significant discrepancies](#) between state-reported testing numbers and the numbers reported on CDC's [new site](#) for state-specific testing data.

### **Model(s) of the Week**

We have compiled [this informal guide](#) to prominent COVID-19 pandemic modeling and data visualization initiatives and are updating it from time to time. Model of the Week coverage is based on apparent media and policy relevance, as well as what we deem of interest, not on an independent assessment of the accuracy or credibility of the models discussed.

**Columbia University:** Researchers at Columbia University released a [new model](#) this week that assessed the effects of early non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g. social distancing and other control measures). The researchers' simulations indicated that 62% of reported cases (~704,000 cases) and 55% of deaths (~36,000 deaths) could have been avoided if social distancing and other control measures had been implemented one week earlier. If measures had been put in place two weeks earlier, the model estimates that 84% of reported cases (~961,000 cases) and 82% of deaths (~54,000) could have been avoided. The research team also simulated what may happen as restrictions are relaxed across the country. The model predicts a resurgence of cases and deaths peaking in early- and mid-June, even if control measures are re-implemented within a few weeks of being relaxed.

**PolicyMap:** PolicyMap has developed numerous COVID-19 "[quick maps](#)" that allow the user to view the geographic distribution of COVID 19 cases, deaths, and testing; high risk populations; area conditions; and healthcare capacity. Users can layer different indicators to create custom maps and identify places with specific needs. A New York Times [analysis](#) published this week used PolicyMap's health risk index to map the country in terms of underlying chronic health conditions to identify the states and counties where residents are at highest risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

### **ICYMI**

**CDC Releases Full Reopening Guidance Document:** Last weekend, CDC quietly unveiled the [final version](#) of the 60+ page guidance for reopening that was leaked (in draft form) several weeks ago. Last week, CDC released six one-page documents outlining steps for reopening for select venues (schools, restaurants, etc.) with no reference to diagnostic testing. This week's longer document does provide some guidance for use of diagnostic testing in asymptomatic populations including guidance on [serologic surveillance](#) and [serologic testing of individuals](#) for proof-of-prior infection.

**Not So Super Spreading:** This week's CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) includes a deep dive into a COVID-19 [superspreading event](#) that occurred during a choir practice in Washington State in mid-March. Commentaries published in the [Wall Street Journal](#) and [Science Magazine](#) investigate other superspreading events around the world, highlighting COVID-19's penchant for spreading through groups of tightly connected individuals and the importance of restricting large gatherings that create the ideal conditions for viral spread.

**Infectious SARS-CoV-2 Found in Feces:** Researchers in China successfully isolated infectious SARS-CoV-2 from fecal samples of COVID-19 patients, indicating that fecal-oral or fecal-respiratory transmission of SARS-CoV-2 could be possible. The early-release [study findings](#) suggest that additional precautions should be taken to prevent transmission from feces while additional studies are conducted to investigate fecal-oral and/or fecal-respiratory transmission in humans.

### **Research Roundup**

[Prevent Epidemics Weekly Science Review](#)

[Helio COVID-19 Resource Center](#)