

Outbreak Breakdown

July 24, 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 Notes & Resources

AdvaMed Launches Diagnostic Testing Registry: This week, AdvaMed announced the creation of a comprehensive, national COVID-19 diagnostic supply registry to help state and federal governments in their pandemic responses. The national registry is being launched in partnership with 13 commercial diagnostics manufacturers: Abbott, BD, bioMérieux, Bio-Rad, Beckman Coulter, Cepheid, Hologic, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, QIAGEN, Roche Diagnostics, Sekisui Diagnostics, Siemens Healthineers, and Thermo Fisher Scientific. Read AdvaMed's press release [here](#); Forbes covered the registry launch [here](#).

National COVID-19 Testing Implementation Forum: This week, HHS announced the formation of a [National Testing Implementation Forum](#) to bring together federal officials and the private sector. Forum members will provide input to HHS on issues and solutions regarding end-to-end testing supply chain issues and optimal testing in various settings.

HHS Secretary Alex Azar Extends Public Health Emergency: On Thursday, Secretary Azar [renewed his determination](#) that a public health emergency exists with regard to SARS-Cov-2. The further 90-day renewal of this public health emergency determination allows the continuation of various regulatory waivers. AdvaMed President & CEO Scott Whitaker had [sent a letter](#) to Secretary Azar on July 1st urging that the public health emergency be extended.

Washington Outlook: After an extended hiatus, the White House resumed [daily coronavirus briefings](#), led by President Trump. Congress is [debating various measures](#) for inclusion in a planned next comprehensive legislative package to address the pandemic and its impact. Additional funds for testing, extension of expanded unemployment benefits, additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program, school funding, and liability protections for businesses are among the measures under consideration.

AdvaMed Resources:

[PPE Sourcing Program](#)

[MedTech Responds](#)

Something Completely Different

What's [old is new again](#), as [America rediscovers the drive-in](#). [Slowly fading](#) icons of a past era that kicked off in [1933](#) now make up [Top 50](#) lists and provide [new indie outlets](#). What could be better than [Jaws](#) (no, not that one) at a [Cape Cod drive-in](#) in the ultimate drive-in convertible, the [Cadillac Eldorado](#)? Side benefit from getting out of the house: [more deodorant and maybe less ice cream](#).

Pandemic Snapshot

Global: Current Cases: [15,571,100](#) Deaths: [634,766](#)

- Daily incidence in India, which is #2 globally, has more than doubled since the beginning of this month and is continuing to increase
- Cases in Brazil, which is currently #3 globally in terms of daily incidence, seem to have reached a plateau; however, several of its neighboring countries (including Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru) are reporting surging case numbers and/or very high test positivity
- South Africa is now #4 in global daily incidence, behind the U.S., India, and Brazil

United States: Current Cases: [4,086,900](#) Deaths: [144,283](#)

- Total cases reached 4 million on Thursday, July 23
- New COVID cases per million people in many southern states are approaching levels seen in the Northeast in the spring
- A recent [blog post](#) from the COVID Tracking Project highlights issues with this week's hospitalization data as states transition from reporting to CDC to the [HHS Protect program](#)

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

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

News & Insights

CDC Issues New Statement Supporting Schools Reopening: CDC updated its schools guidance with a [new statement on the importance of reopening schools](#), citing low risk to school-aged children and the benefits of returning to school.

Household Transmission & Children: A [study](#) from South Korea examined transmission in household settings compared to public settings and found that household contacts are much more likely to become infected than non-household contacts. This was especially true when the index case (e.g. the person who brings the infection into the household) was 10-19 years old, indicating that older children transmit the virus [as easily](#) as adults. See a recent review of the existing evidence on child transmission [here](#).

Updated CDC Guidelines on Tests to End Isolation: CDC updated its [recommendations](#) to remove the requirement that a COVID-19 patients test negative twice before being allowed to leave isolation. The decision was made in part to [reduce the burden](#) on testing supplies and resources. CDC now recommends a symptom-based strategy with the length of isolation determined by the severity of symptoms.

Resolve to Save Lives Report on US COVID-19 Data: [Resolve to Save Lives](#), an organization headed by Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of CDC, released a [report](#) examining publicly available data on COVID-19, revealing a lack of uniform, standardized reporting at the national, state, and local levels. The report proposes 15 indicators that should be tracked to manage the pandemic, including measures such as the percentage of people wearing masks, number of infections among healthcare workers that were likely contracted at work, and test turnaround time. When asked about the report, CDC [stated](#) that they were making plans with states to track 14 of the 15 proposed indicators.

Largest Seroprevalence Study to Date Shows Cases Undercounted: Results from a [study](#) that conducted antibody testing in 10 diverse geographic sites in the U.S. found that the estimated number of infections is likely 6 to 24 times greater than the number of reported cases. The authors cautioned that despite the undercounting, the vast majority of Americans still have not been exposed to SARS-CoV-2.

[A Vaccine Reality Check](#) | The Atlantic, July 24

[Medical Experts Urge Us to Shut Down and Start Over as Coronavirus Cases Surpass 4 Million](#) | CNN, July 24

[A New C.D.C. Statement on Schools Calls for Reopening and Downplays the Potential Health Risks](#) | New York Times, July 24

[Virus Can Travel 26 Feet at Cold Meat Plants With Stale Air](#) | Bloomberg, July 23

[‘It’s Like Groundhog Day’: Coronavirus Testing Labs Again Lack Key Supplies](#) | New York Times, July 23

[White House Privately Warns That 11 Cities Must Take “Aggressive” Action Against Coronavirus](#) | Center for Public Integrity, July 22

[What Scientists Are Learning About How Long COVID-19 Immunity Lasts](#) | Vox, July 22

[Covid-19 Measures Have All but Wiped Out the Flu in the Southern Hemisphere](#) | Wall Street Journal, July 22

[U.S. Northeast, Pummeled in the Spring, Now Stands Out in Virus Control](#) | New York Times, July 22

[Confusion Spreads Over System to Determine Priority Access to COVID-19 Vaccines](#) | STAT News, July 22

[Contact Tracing, a Key Way to Slow COVID-19, Is Badly Underused by the U.S.](#) | Scientific American, July 21

[Germany’s Coronavirus Response Is a Master Class in Science Communication](#) | CNBC, July 21

[Trump Said More COVID-19 Testing ‘Creates More Cases.’ We Did the Math](#) | STAT News, July 20

[How Long Does COVID-19 Immunity Last?](#) | The Atlantic, July 20

[Europe Said It Was Pandemic Ready. Pride Was Its Downfall.](#) | New York Times, July 20

[How To Make Indoor Air Safer](#) | FiveThirtyEight, July 20

[What Is It That Keeps Most Little Kids From Getting COVID-19?](#) | New York Times, July 20

[Kids Get Coronavirus, But Do They Spread It? We’ll Find Out When Schools Reopen](#) | NPR, July 20

[Asymptomatic Spread Could Make the Covid-19 Pandemic Longer and Worse](#) | Georgia Tech, July 20

[‘A Wake-Up Call’: States Battle New Surge In Coronavirus Cases](#) | NPR, July 20

[‘Superspreading’ Events, Triggered by People Who May Not Even Know They Are Infected, Propel Coronavirus Pandemic](#) | Washington Post, July 18

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](#)