

Outbreak Breakdown

August 7, 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. Our Motto of the Week is not – yet – [Sweatpants Forever](#).

AdvaMed Notes & Resources

VentConnect Expansion: AdvaMed announced this week that it is expanding its VentConnect platform to move beyond ventilators and include other complex medical technologies America's patients and caregivers need in the continuing fight against COVID-19. The newly expanded platform will be renamed [MedDeviceNetwork](#). Medical device manufacturers in need of parts and supplies and suppliers wishing to assist production can sign up on the MedDeviceNetwork website. AdvaMed's press release can be read [here](#).

COVID-19 Return to Work Webinar--Managing Safety, Data and Privacy for a Secure Workplace: Next Thursday, August 13, AdvaMed will host a webinar focused on employers' COVID-19 obligations and responsibilities and key considerations for employers in developing return to work plans that balance safety, health assessments, data collection, privacy and other critical factors. [Hilary Wandall](#), SVP, Privacy Intelligence and General Counsel, at TrustArc will join AdvaMed's Andy Fish to discuss privacy and security risks of remote work, digital contact tracing and other digital health technologies for COVID-19, conducting a pandemic impact assessment, and other topics. See more information and [register here](#).

AdvaMed Resources:

[COVID Testing Supply Registry](#)

[PPE Sourcing Program](#)

[MedTech Responds](#)

Something Completely Different

When the moon hits your eye [like a big pizza pie](#), that's . . . [tardigrades](#)? The water bear's enviable [super powers](#) of hyper dormancy and [extreme hardiness](#) make it the ideal [lunar tourist](#), with over [200 possible destinations](#) in our solar system.

Pandemic Snapshot

Global: Current Cases: [19,101,300](#) Deaths: [714,700](#)

- Globally, new daily cases (currently over 250,000/day, on average) may be reaching a peak or plateau
- India is on track to surpass the United States in the coming weeks to become the global #1 in new daily cases (if cases in the United States continue to decline)
- Some European countries are experiencing increasing incidence, sparking fears of a second wave. This week, Germany and France both reported their highest numbers of new daily cases in months.

United States: Current Cases: [4,907,100](#) Deaths: [159,900](#)

- New daily cases are decreasing, but so is the number of daily tests performed, making it difficult to interpret the drop in cases. This is the first time since early March that the number of tests performed in a week decreased.
- Some testing sites experienced disruptions as a result of Hurricane Isaias, however testing has also declined in states not affected by the storm (most notably in Texas, where testing has declined by 20% over the past ten days).
- Deaths continued to rise for the fifth straight week and will likely to continue to rise for another couple weeks.
- For more analysis of this week's data, see COVID Tracking Project's blog post [here](#).

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

Schools Outlook:

CDC's latest Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) includes a [description of an outbreak](#) of COVID-19 at an overnight camp in Georgia. Campers were required to submit a negative viral test result before arriving at camp and were separated into cohorts by cabin to limit mixing, however they were not required to wear masks and singing and chanting were allowed. Following the closure of the camp due to a symptomatic teenage staff member, 260 campers and staff members tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 out of 344 individuals for whom test results were obtained. Test results were not available for 253 campers and staff members; they were assumed to be negative. The attack rate (e.g. percentage of the population at risk that became infected) was 44%. When broken down by age, the attack rate was highest for the youngest campers (aged 6-10 years). Among those who tested positive, 74% had symptoms.

This outbreak is significant given the current lack of evidence in the role children play in transmitting SARS-CoV-2 and in the severity of illness they develop themselves. Much research is underway, including a [new large study of families](#) led by Vanderbilt University, but results will not be released in time to inform local school boards and decisionmakers as many students head back into the classroom.

At the K-12 level, [17 of the largest 20 school districts](#) currently plan to use only virtual instruction, but many students returned to school this week, with – so far – [chaotic results](#). The New York Times recently published an analysis of the [risk of positive cases appearing in schools](#) based on school size and community transmission.

Many college students are planning to travel back to school in the coming weeks, but [colleges continue to change course](#) even this close to the beginning of the fall semester. The [College Crisis Initiative](#) is tracking college reopening plans, while a [modeling study](#) published last week in JAMA estimated that colleges would need to test all students every two days, in conjunction with other preventative behavioral measures, to mitigate transmission risk.

News & Insights

7-State Testing Compact: News broke this week that governors of seven states have [formed a purchasing compact](#) to buy point-of-care antigen tests directly from diagnostic test manufacturers. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan organized the agreement, under which each state – Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, and Ohio – would receive 500,000 rapid tests that do not require traditional laboratory testing infrastructure, providing private labs with some much-needed relief. The group of states is working with the Rockefeller Foundation, which recently released an updated version of its [proposed national testing and contact tracing strategy](#).

Other organizations – including the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#) and [Johns Hopkins' Center for Health Security](#) – have released similar reports detailing recommendations for “resetting” the country’s approach to managing COVID-19.

WHO Brief on Estimating COVID-19 Mortality: On Tuesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) published a [scientific brief](#) highlighting the challenges of estimating COVID-19 mortality in real time. In many areas, cases of COVID-19 are likely under-detected, making it difficult to assess mortality. Mortality statistics are important for assessing the relative risk of death in different groups of people, which often then influence significant policy decisions. The WHO document provides guidance for calculating mortality statistics with limited data and suggests alternative calculations that may be useful in the absence of complete data.

[Why Antibodies May Not Be the Key to Beating Coronavirus](#) | National Geographic, August 7
[America’s Coronavirus Endurance Test](#) | The New Yorker, August 6
[Perhaps Months Too Late, the Apple-Google COVID-19 Contact Tracing Tool Comes to America](#) | Vox, August 6
[‘It’s Kitchen Sink Time’: Fast, Less-Accurate Coronavirus Tests May Be Good Enough](#) | New York Times, August 6
[Immunology Is Where Intuition Goes to Die](#) | The Atlantic, August 5
[FDA Commissioner: No Matter What, Only a Safe, Effective Vaccine Will Get Our Approval](#) | Washington Post, August 5
[Many COVID-19 Patients Lost Their Sense of Smell. Will They Get It Back?](#) | National Geographic, August 5
[Your Old Radiator Is a Pandemic-Fighting Weapon](#) | Bloomberg, August 5
[The Winter Will Be Worse](#) | The Atlantic, August 5
[How to Think Like an Epidemiologist](#) | New York Times, August 4
[‘It’s Like Having No Testing’: Coronavirus Test Results Are Still Delayed](#) | New York Times, August 4
[COVID-19 Apps and Wearables Are Everywhere. Can They Actually Benefit Patients?](#) | STAT News, August 4
[‘The Biggest Monster’ Is Spreading. And It’s Not the Coronavirus.](#) | New York Times, August 3
[Why the Teenage Brain Pushes Young People to Ignore Virus Restrictions](#) | Wall Street Journal, August 3
[The Mask Slackers of 1918](#) | New York Times, August 3

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](#)