

## Outbreak Breakdown

September 25, 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.*

*Please note – there will be no Outbreak Breakdown next week (October 2).*

## AdvaMed Notes

**Partnership with USAID:** On Tuesday, AdvaMed announced a multi-year partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under which the association will provide private sector resources and expertise to help increase adoption of medical technology-specific international regulatory standards and good regulatory practices by governments across Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. The partnership is conducted with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under the USAID Standards Alliance Initiative to address COVID-19 response and recovery, and advance good regulatory practices for medtech, as part of the groups' broader efforts to increase adoption of international standards for regulatory purposes. See AdvaMed's press release [here](#).

**MedTech Conference:** AdvaMed's MedTech Conference is going on now, with on-demand programming and partnering opportunities available now through the end of October. Live keynote addresses, panel sessions, and networking events will be held October 5-9, 2020. Check out the conference agenda [here](#). For additional information and to register, please visit the conference [website](#).

## AdvaMed Resources:

[COVID Testing Supply Registry](#)

[PPE Sourcing Program](#)

[MedTech Respon](#)

## Something Completely Different

Tuscany may prefer "[wine windows](#)" to "[plague-inspired booze holes](#)" but by any name these 400-year-old [architectural oddities](#) are finding renewed purpose, first documented in [Florentine](#) scholar Francesco Rondinelli's 1634 [Contagion Report](#) in which he describes arm's length transactions, vinegar disinfection of coins, and other [pandemic protocols](#) that facilitated the safe [drowning of sorrows](#).

## Pandemic Snapshot

**Global:** Current Cases: [32,225,300](#) Deaths: [982,500](#)

- South America continues to be deeply affected by the pandemic. Several of its countries (Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, among others) have experienced continuously increasing cases since this past spring. Of the top ten countries with the highest deaths per capita in the world, [five](#) are in South America (Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Ecuador).
- Europe is experiencing its second wave, with most of its resurgence occurring in France, Spain, and the U.K. While [hospitalizations are lagging](#), it could only be a matter of time before hospitals

in some areas are overwhelmed (in Madrid, hospitals are already close to capacity). Many countries are putting new restrictions in place but [hoping to avoid](#) full lockdowns.

**United States:** Current Cases: [7,015,300](#) Deaths: [202,945](#)

- This week, the U.S. surpassed 200,000 deaths from COVID-19 (though it is likely the country actually passed that number [some time ago](#)) and recorded its 7 millionth case.
- The Midwest surge continued this week, with a sustained increase in cases across many states in the region. Eight states in the Midwest and Great Plains recorded their [highest single day incidence](#) (new cases) since the beginning of the pandemic during this past week.
- Weekly tests reached 6 million for the first time, although it remains unclear if more tests were performed or if the increase is due to more antigen tests being included in testing data. We explained in last week's newsletter that many states are not reporting results from antigen testing, meaning that a portion of tests go uncounted in the state's daily and weekly totals.

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

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

## News & Insights

**Updates to CDC Website:** Last Friday, CDC updated its [testing guidance](#) to [once again recommend](#) testing for individuals with known exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Also last Friday, CDC updated its guidance regarding aerosol transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to emphasize the prominent role of airborne/aerosol transmission, which was a significant shift from its previous stance that transmission was primarily driven by large droplets. That update was [rescinded](#), and the website returned to its [previous iteration](#), on Monday. The archived version of Friday's update, before it was removed, can be viewed [here](#).

**From Young to Old:** CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published a study Wednesday that [provides evidence that younger adults contributed to community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to older adults](#). Over the summer, the incidence of COVID-19 was highest in adults aged 20-29. CDC's analysis shows that those young adults then spread the virus to middle-aged and older adults, who are at higher risk of severe illness and death. The study provides evidence that outbreaks among young adults – in colleges and elsewhere – are a [hazard to people of all ages](#).

**Cases in K-12 Schools:** The New York Times has initiated an effort to [track positive cases of COVID-19 in K-12 schools](#) across the U.S. Only a small portion of states currently publicly report all cases in schools, making it very difficult (if not impossible) to tally the total number of cases in K-12 schools and to assess the impact of school reopenings on community transmission rates. The majority of states disclose incomplete data or are reportedly planning to begin reporting cases (but not doing so yet). Eleven states do not publish cases at all. The New York Times is attempting to fill in some of the data gaps through surveys of schools in states that do not publish data or share only some data.

**Vaccine Trials & EUA Requirements:** This week, FDA proposed [stricter standards](#) for issuing an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidate in an effort to boost public confidence. The changes would bring the EUA requirements closer to those required for formal approval. FDA's proposed standards are [under review](#) by the White House.

Earlier this week, Johnson & Johnson announced that its vaccine candidate has entered Phase 3 clinical trials, bringing the total number of vaccine candidates in Phase 3 trials in the U.S. to four. The other

three companies with vaccine candidates in Phase 3 – Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech, and AstraZeneca/Oxford University – have publicly shared their trial protocols. Johnson & Johnson indicated that it would do the same.

**Human - Pet Transmission:** A [study published](#) in CDC’s Emerging Infectious Diseases journal further described the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 between humans and their pets. Researchers tested 50 cats and found 6 positive cases of SARS-CoV-2. They were unable to determine if the cases were instances of human-to-animal or animal-to-human transmission. The study was conducted in Hong Kong, where household mammalian pets belonging to people who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 must be quarantined. CDC maintains information on COVID-19 and animals on [its website](#), and USDA is [tracking confirmed cases](#) in animals in the U.S. And unrelated to COVID-19 in animals – but still related to COVID-19 *and* animals, Helsinki is [piloting the use of coronavirus-sniffing dogs](#) in its airport to detect the virus in travelers.

[Why Is It So Hard to Study Covid-Related Smell Loss?](#) | Wired, September 25

[The Code: How Genetic Science Helped Expose a Secret Coronavirus Outbreak](#) | Washington Post, September 24

[A Texas Tycoon Throws Millions At the COVID-19 Testing Puzzle](#) | Wall Street Journal, September 23

[The Road Ahead: Charting the Coronavirus Pandemic Over the Next 12 Months](#) | STAT News, September 22

[COVID-19 Testing Is Hampered by Shortages of Critical Ingredient](#) | Wall Street Journal, September 22

[What Can We Expect from First-Generation COVID-19 Vaccines?](#) | The Lancet, September 21

[The N95 Shortage American Can’t Seem to Fix](#) | Washington Post, September 21

[The Core Lesson of the COVID-19 Heart Debate](#) | The Atlantic, September 21

[A COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Might Not Arrive Before Fall 2021](#) | New York Times, September 21

[How We Survive the Winter](#) | The Atlantic, September 18

[Scientists Want to Predict COVID-19’s Long-Term Trajectory. Here’s Why They Can’t.](#) | Washington Post, September 15

[Could Breathalyzers Make COVID Testing Quicker and Easier?](#) | Wired, September 15

## 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](#)