

## Outbreak Breakdown

September 4, 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

**MedTech Conference:** AdvaMed's MedTech Conference will kick off next week with on-demand programming and partnering opportunities available starting September 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 Responds](#)

## Something Completely Different

In one of the most interesting things associated with [biomedical imaging](#) since the [hidden gorilla](#), it turns out that [suspended liquids](#) in an [exotic and counter-intuitive stable configuration](#) mimic an [anti-gravity](#) effect, demonstrating that a levitating tide suspends all boats.

## Pandemic Snapshot

**Global:** Current Cases: [26,317,900](#) Deaths: [868,800](#)

- India remains at the top of the list of countries with the highest total daily incidence. Yesterday there were over 83,000 new cases reported across the country.

**United States:** Current Cases: [6,167,400](#) Deaths: [186,718](#)

- After five weeks of sharp declines, new cases seem to have leveled off at ~40,000 new cases/day
- Hospitalizations and deaths continue to drop.
- New cases remain low in the Northeast and continue to decline in the West; both regions continue to report increased testing.
- Cases in the South seem to have plateaued after several weeks of declines.
- The Midwest may be the new hotspot, with many states reporting increasing numbers of new cases. Testing in the Midwest seems to be falling in some areas, indicating that the rising cases are the result of a real increase in infections. Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota reported more new cases per million people this week than California or Texas did during their worst weeks this summer.

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

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

## News & Insights

**COVID-19 on Campus:** The New York Times recently began [tracking positive COVID-19 cases on college campuses](#) around the country. On [August 26](#), their tracker reported 26,000 positive cases on over 760 college campuses. In the past nine days, the number of cases has doubled, with 1020+ campuses now reporting over 51,000 cases. Some colleges have decided to reverse course on opening, sending students home – a move that [many experts worry](#) will result in students spreading the virus to their families and communities. From [test result apps](#) to [campus-wide lockdowns](#), colleges continue to wrestle with the [challenges of in-person return to school](#).

**Reinfection:** Recently there have been several reports of COVID-19 reinfections, where researchers were able to genetically sequence samples taken from these patients to determine that their second infections were genetically dissimilar to their first (indicating it was truly a second infection, and not remnants of the first infection being detected at a later point in time). Reinfections are not surprising – most experts expected people to become susceptible again after some period of time, and that in most cases, reinfections will be more mild than initial infections. This [STAT News article](#) breaks down the reported cases of reinfection, explaining what we know (and don't know) about COVID-19 immunity and what this means for the future of the pandemic.

**Convalescent Plasma:** An expert panel assembled by the National Institutes of Health announced Tuesday that there is [“insufficient evidence”](#) to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of convalescent plasma when used to treat people with COVID-19. This announcement comes after the FDA granted an emergency use authorization on August 23, which [many worried](#) was premature.

**Steroids:** A [meta-analysis](#) that pooled data from seven randomized clinical trials found that corticosteroids were associated with [lower mortality in severely ill COVID-19 patients](#), confirming [preliminary findings](#) from earlier this summer that found lower mortality in patients treated with dexamethasone (one of several inexpensive and widely-available steroids assessed in this meta-analysis). In response to these new findings, the World Health Organization [issued new treatment guidance](#) encouraging the use of corticosteroids in patients with severe or critical COVID-19. The studies included in the meta-analysis only examined the use of steroids in the sickest patients, so it's still unknown if there are any benefits (or potential harms) to people with more mild cases of COVID-19.

**Vaccine Allocation Framework:** The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a [discussion draft of a preliminary framework](#) for the equitable allocation of vaccine(s) for COVID-19. The framework outlines considerations for prioritizing populations to receive the first doses of a vaccine when it becomes available.

[We Can Solve the Coronavirus-Test Mess Now—If We Want To](#) | The New Yorker, September 4  
[Labor Day Weekend Will Set the Course for the Coronavirus This Fall: 'We May Have Some Hard Days Ahead'](#) | CNBC, September 4

[Lessons From a Virus Tracing Dud](#) | New York Times, September 3

[The Pandemic Is Ruining Our Sleep. Experts Say 'Coronasomnia' Could Imperil Public Health.](#) | Washington Post, September 3

[Proposed COVID-19 Testing Strategy Faces Pitfalls](#) | The Verge, September 4

[Experts See a Chance for a COVID-19 Vaccine Approval This Fall — If It's Done Right](#) | STAT News, September 2

[How a Bus Ride Turned Into a Coronavirus Superspreader Event](#) | New York Times, September 1  
[Key to Preventing COVID-19 Indoors: Ventilation](#) | Wall Street Journal, September 1  
[COVID-19 Is Threatening the In-Person Semester. Can Wastewater Testing Help Save It?](#) | Chronicle of Higher Education, September 1  
[Apple and Google Announce New Automatic App System to Track COVID Exposures](#) | The Verge, September 1  
[The Most American COVID-19 Failure Yet](#) | The Atlantic, August 31  
[Four Scenarios on How We Might Develop Immunity to COVID-19](#) | STAT News, August 25

### **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](#)