



## COVID-19 Update September 14, 2020

### ***Global***

Total cases – 29,136,553

Total deaths – 925,820

### ***United States***

Total cases – 6,545,948

Total deaths – 194,367

Total # tests – 96,102,165

### **Trump Administration**

- **President Donald Trump** admitted he knew weeks before the first confirmed US coronavirus death that the virus was dangerous, airborne, highly contagious and "more deadly than even your strenuous flus," and that he repeatedly played it down publicly, according to journalist Bob Woodward in his new book "Rage."
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, disagreed on Friday with President Trump's claim that the United States is "rounding the corner" in halting the coronavirus pandemic. He called the current numbers of cases and deaths "disturbing" and warned that the country could see another surge in COVID-19 infections in the fall.
- **Trump-appointed health department aides** interfered with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's** weekly COVID-19 reports "in what officials characterized as an attempt to intimidate the reports' authors and water down their communications to health professionals," according to Politico.
- The U.S. is ending its **Covid-19 screening of international travelers** arriving at airports as airlines seek new ways to more aggressively test for the virus to boost traffic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it is ending its program that directed all flights from high-risk areas to 15 U.S. airports. The system was deemed ineffective because so many people who transmit the disease don't show symptoms, the CDC said. The government will now focus more on voluntary measures, such as educating passengers and requesting contact information electronically. The health screening will end on Sept. 14.
- **CDC** has worked on microplans with five pilot states and communities to prepare for the future distribution of a Covid-19 vaccine, according to a [readout](#) of a **White House Coronavirus Task Force meeting** with governors. Pilot states, communities are California, Florida, Minnesota, North Dakota and, Philadelphia, Pa.

**Congress**

- **Senate Democrats** blocked a narrowly tailored coronavirus relief plan proposed by Republicans in a 52 to 47 vote that was short of the 60 needed to advance the legislation for floor debate.
  - Negotiations on a broader COVID package remain at a standstill with neither side showing much interest in budging at the moment. The main sticking points continue to be the overall cost of the package, funding for state/local governments, and liability protection language, among other things. Congress is scheduled to depart Washington at the end of September for the elections so the next few weeks will determine if a COVID package will be resolved this fall or will be punted until after the elections or even into January.
- **House Democrats** are launching an investigation into alleged efforts by the Trump administration to interfere with the publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's scientific reports about the coronavirus pandemic. Democrats on the House Oversight and Reform Committee Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, led by Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC-6), announced in a [letter](#) that they will investigate whether administration officials attempted to manipulate the articles published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports to align with President Trump's optimistic message about the pandemic.
- **House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-Mass.)** is calling on the IRS to extend a deadline for filing taxes and immediately notify those that didn't pay taxes but are eligible for virus relief payments.
  - Non-filers have until Oct. 15 to file the necessary returns for 2019 or 2018 to receive the rebates for which they're eligible, but the IRS plans to begin sending notifications to 9 million individuals on Sept. 24.
  - Neal also asked the IRS to extend that deadline and blasted the agency for waiting until now to begin contacting eligible non-filers.

#### COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatment

- **Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla** said in an interview with "Face the Nation" that the company will likely know by the end of October whether its vaccine works.
  - On Saturday, Pfizer and BioNTech announced a [proposal](#) to expand their Phase 3 vaccine trials from the initial target of 30,000 participants to as many as 44,000.
- After halting vaccine trials for six days due to safety concerns, **AstraZeneca** resumed studies in the UK on Saturday. The company paused all global trials last Tuesday after a subject in the UK suffered from an unexplained illness, but has been cleared to restart testing after an investigation by an external regulatory committee determined it was safe.
- **Drugmakers** seeking an emergency authorization for a coronavirus vaccine will have to meet a higher standard of efficacy than normally would be required for such clearance, the director of the **Food and Drug Administration's** office handling vaccines said yesterday. Usually, an emergency use authorization would require a company to show the product may be effective. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's biologics office, said the FDA will require more robust data about how well a Covid-19 vaccine works before granting an emergency waiver, which he called "EUA+."

#### Other

- According to data collected by **Johns Hopkins University**, coronavirus cases were growing by 5% or more in 11 states as of Sunday. Wisconsin reported 1,353 new infections, up 32% from the previous week, hitting a record high number of daily new cases. Kansas and Montana also reported record numbers of new deaths.

- The **World Health Organization** [reported a record increase](#) in the number of new coronavirus infections worldwide on Sunday, with more than 308,000 over the previous 24 hours.
  - The largest number of new cases was found in India, where there were 94,372 infections, followed by the United States with 45,523 cases and Brazil with 43,718. India has repeatedly set records for the largest number of new cases in a single country in recent weeks, with [97,570 recorded](#) one day last week. Experts say that limited testing in the country may be masking the full extent of the outbreak.
- As college students begin their fall semester, all 50 states have now reported positive cases of Covid-19 at **colleges and universities**. This represents more than 45,000 cases of Covid-19 among students and staff at colleges and universities across the country.
- **Los Angeles public schools** began an initiative to test and screen all 700,000 students and 75,000 employees in the district. Since the ambitious program launched, just 5 cases were reported after more than 5,400 children and adults were tested. Students in the district, which is the second-largest in the country behind New York City, are currently taking classes remotely.

