



COVID-19 UPDATE November 2, 2020

Global

Total cases – 46,818,512

Total deaths – 1,204,165

United States

Total cases – 9,254,287

Total deaths – 231,263

The seven-day average of new daily coronavirus infections in the United States hit 81,740 on Sunday, a new high. Record-shattering numbers of hospitalizations were also recorded in nine states. Thirty-three states spanning every region of the country saw their seven-day average of daily new infections rise by at least 10 percent in the week ending Sunday.

Trump Administration

- The **White House Coronavirus Task Force** warned states in the Midwest and West to prepare for an “unrelenting” spread of the coronavirus as colder weather moves more gatherings indoors. It urged states to promote mask-wearing, social distancing, and avoid crowds in public spaces to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- In a [report](#) released Friday, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** concluded that COVID-19 can rapidly spread through households. The report is based on a study of patients in Tennessee and Wisconsin, and highlights the need for strict measures, even at home. The CDC recommends that if a person believes they may be infected, they should isolate within their home, using a separate bedroom or bathroom if feasible, and everyone in the home should wear a mask.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** lifted its no-sail order for cruise ships on November 1. The ban, which was in place since March, will be replaced with a “conditional sailing order,” which outlines a phased return that includes new health protocols, such as mandatory testing and ship-capacity restrictions.
- In an interview published Saturday, **Dr. Anthony S. Fauci** told the Washington Post that as the weather grows colder and more people congregate indoors, the United States “could not possibly be positioned more poorly.” Judd Deere, a White House spokesman, told the Post that Dr. Fauci’s comments were “unacceptable and breaking all norms.” He accused Dr. Fauci of playing politics and praising the president’s opponent just days before the election.
- Even with an effective vaccine, it could take until the end of 2021 at least for social life in the U.S. to return to normal, **Fauci** said on a Facebook live event.

- The earliest a vaccine might be available is the end of December or early January, he said. “I can foresee that even with a really good vaccine mask wearing will continue well into the third or fourth quarter of 2021,” said **Fauci**.
- The **Trump administration** is expected to announce a 180-day ban on a range of asylum requests citing the threat posed by the coronavirus.
 - Under the new rule, anyone entering or trying to enter the U.S. by land from Canada or Mexico would be ineligible for asylum -- and subject to removal -- because of potential national security threats to the U.S. amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The **U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** said it is taking actions to ensure the participants in its programs have access to an FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine at no cost.
- The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** recommendations for isolation and quarantine do not preclude Americans from voting in the election, said a CDC spokesperson on Monday.
 - CDC’s recommendations for isolating someone who has Covid-19 or quarantining someone who was in close contact with a person with Covid-19 would not preclude them from exercising their right to vote,” a CDC spokesperson told CNN via email.
 - In-person voting can be carried out safely following CDC’s recommendations for polling location and voters, the spokesperson said.
 - When possible, alternative voting options – which minimize contact between voters and poll workers – should be made available for people with Covid-19, those who have symptoms of Covid-19, and those who have been exposed, the spokesperson added.

Congress

- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** said he expects Congress to pass coronavirus relief legislation at the beginning of 2021, with a bill “targeted particularly at small businesses that are struggling and hospitals that are now dealing with a second wave of the coronavirus.”
- **Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi** told MSNBC that she anticipates a relief package soon after “the start of the new presidency.”
- **House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis** issued an interim report that details the Trump administration’s “failed response” response to the pandemic.
- **Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Tina Smith** are asking several federal agencies to issue detailed plans for collecting and reporting information on Covid-19 cases linked to elementary and secondary schools.
 - The administration has not formulated a national method for reporting and tracking Covid-19 cases in these schools, resulting in “inconsistent, unreliable, and unavailable data,” say senators in [letter](#) to HHS, Education Dept, and CDC
 - Senators request response from federal agencies by November 10

Vaccines and Treatment

- On Friday, **Regeneron Pharmaceuticals** announced it has paused a clinical study of its antibody drug after an independent monitoring committee observed a potential safety concern. The study enrolled hospitalized COVID-19 patients receiving ventilation or oxygen. Regeneron’s other studies will continue and are under consideration for emergency-use authorization.
- **AstraZeneca** announced Sunday that Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, Britain’s health regulator, began an accelerated review of its coronavirus vaccine candidate.

Regulators will be able to see clinical data in real time and can communicate with drug manufacturers to accelerate the approval process.

- **CureVac's** potential coronavirus vaccine produced an immune response comparable to that found in recovered patients in early trials. Advanced clinical trials are projected to begin by the end of the year.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** has asked states to provide information by Tuesday, including lists of each jurisdiction's top five sites capable of receiving and administering vaccines, to prepare for the approval of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Other

- The mayor of **San Francisco** announced Friday that the city will temporarily pause its planned reopening efforts due to an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.
- **Europe** surpassed 10 million coronavirus cases and 268,000 deaths on Sunday. In response to the surge in cases, multiple countries have implemented new restrictions:
 - On Friday, **Belgium** announced a six-week lockdown to fight off a new surge in cases. Non-essential businesses will be closed, and authorities hope to limit social contact by mandating that Belgians can only have one visitor in their homes and can gather outside with no more than three other people.
 - **France** began a national lockdown Saturday.
 - **Germany** implemented new rules Monday restricting mixing between households and closing restaurants, bars, and gyms.
 - **Great Britain** is set to begin a second national lockdown on Thursday.
- **Washington, D.C.'s** public schools will delay the partial return of in-person classes, which was set to begin next week.
- **New York State** will require visitors to test negative for Covid-19 before arrival and then quarantine for three days before taking a second test.
 - The rule, replacing the current quarantine list that includes most of the country, will apply to all states except for those neighboring New York, such as Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.
 - Visitors who choose not to get tested on the fourth day must stay in isolation for 14 days. The proof of negative tests, required upon arrival, must be obtained within three days of entering New York. The rule will be enforced by airports and local health departments.

