



## COVID-19 UPDATE November 9, 2020

### *Global*

Total cases – 50,766,938

Total deaths – 1,261,510

### *United States*

Total cases – 10,060,710

Total deaths – 237,584

COVID-19 cases in the United States surpassed 10 million on Monday, just 10 days after the country recorded 9 million. All but one state recorded more cases last week than the previous week, and in the past week, one in 441 Americans tested positive for the virus. Global infections now exceed 50 million and more than 1.2 million people have died of the virus since the pandemic began.

### **Trump Administration**

- Last week, **Dr. Deborah Birx**, the White House coronavirus task force coordinator, warned top officials that the United States is entering “the most deadly phase” of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On Thursday, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** published [forecasts](#) projecting that there will be 250,000 to 266,000 coronavirus deaths in the United States by November 28.
- **Dr. José Romero**, chair of the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, told NPR Thursday that health care workers will receive the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine when one is approved.
- **Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson** tested positive for COVID-19 Monday morning. White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and at least four other members of the Trump Administration were diagnosed last week. Carson and Meadows both attended the administration’s Election Night watch party in the White House.
- The **Small Business Administration** must release detailed information about the businesses that received loans from the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, including the names of those recipients and the precise amount of each loan, a federal judge in Washington said.

### **Biden Presidential Transition**

- On Monday, **President-elect Joe Biden** announced a 13-member coronavirus task force. The three co-chairs are **Dr. Vivek Murthy**, the surgeon general under the Obama administration; **David Kessler**, the former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner for Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton; and **Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith**, a professor of public health at Yale University. The advisory board’s priorities include making tests and PPE more widely available, expanding contact tracing, developing guidance for school and businesses, and addressing disparities in the populations hurt most by the pandemic.

- **President-elect Biden** named **Dr. Rick Bright**, a former top vaccine official in the Trump administration, to his new task force. Dr. Bright submitted a whistle-blower complaint to Congress claiming that officials within the administration ignored his warnings to stock up on masks and other supplies to fight the coronavirus, and that Americans died as a result. Dr. Bright was removed as the director of the Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority in April.
- After **President-elect Biden** received a briefing from his COVID-19 task force on Monday, he delivered remarks imploring all Americans to wear masks.
- **President-elect Biden's** health-care advisers have held talks with pharmaceutical industry executives in which they discussed Operation Warp Speed, the U.S. development program for coronavirus vaccines and treatments.

### Congress

- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** again called for a targeted coronavirus relief package, arguing that "something smaller –rather than throwing another \$3 trillion at the issue –is more appropriate" following a better-than-expected October jobs report.
- **Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi**, however, stated that she is not interested in a narrow bill. Pelosi stressed the importance of passing legislation to "crush the virus" as cases surge in the United States.
- **Trump administration officials** have indicated that they are unlikely to participate in future stimulus negotiations. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will reportedly take the lead in relief talks with Speaker Pelosi.
- **House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#)** is rolling out new measures for U.S. lawmakers, including increased Covid-19 testing.
  - The goal is to bring the House into compliance with Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser's travel restrictions that require visitors to the capital to test negative 72 hours before arrival. House lawmakers and staff will receive 2,000 RT-PCR tests at no cost from the U.S. Air Force.

### Vaccines and Treatment

- **Pfizer [announced](#)** Monday morning that its coronavirus vaccine candidate may be 90% effective at preventing COVID-19. The company is on track to apply for emergency-use approval from the Food and Drug Administration by the end of the month.
- **Former FDA commissioner** and Pfizer board member Dr. Scott Gottlieb said the vaccine, which requires two doses, could be available for limited use as early as late December and may be widely available by the third quarter of 2021. Pfizer and BioNTech are projected to produce up to 50 million doses of the vaccine in 2020, and up to 1.3 billion doses in 2021.
- **Novavax** Covid-19 vaccine received a fast-track designation from U.S. regulators as the drugmaker prepares to launch a large, late-stage study before the end of the month, the company said on Monday. The expedited review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could help push the candidate forward into a short-list of frontrunners in the race to bring a vaccine to market.

### Other

- Several **European countries** are imposing new restrictions to cope with rising COVID-19 cases.
  - On Thursday, **England** entered a second national lockdown, which will remain in place until December 2.
  - **Greece** began a three-week nationwide lockdown on Saturday, the country's second this year.
  - **Hungary** and **Portugal** also adopted new measures, including curfews and bans on public events.

- **France** aims to carry out antigen tests for departing and arriving passengers at Roissy airport beginning Wednesday, Transport Minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari said in an interview on Radio Classique. Currently, Roissy authorities are carrying out around 1,000 tests a day. Authorities have targeted countries where virus circulation is most intense and where testing isn't carried out for departing travelers.
- **Slovakia** may need to screen all citizens for Covid-19 again in December to allow the government to relax pandemic restrictions, Premier Igor Matovic said.
  - The country of 5.5 million people is doing a second round of nationwide testing using \$5 antibody tests. Two-thirds of citizens participated in the first round a week ago, uncovering a 1.1% infection rate.
- Sunday night, **Utah's governor** announced a state of emergency in response to a surge in coronavirus infections in the state. The state will now enforce a mask mandate and limits on social gatherings outside the household for the next two weeks.
- **New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy** ordered restaurants to stop serving indoors at 10 p.m. daily and banned seating at bars, among new restrictions as the state reported more than 7,000 new Covid-19 cases in just 72 hours.
  - The rules will take effect Thursday, Murphy said at a Trenton news conference. New Jersey over the weekend surpassed 250,000 positive tests since March, and in the past 24 hours topped 1,500 hospitalized for the first time in five months. The testing positivity rate reached 7.52%, from 6.99% on Nov. 4.
- **Oregon** tightened health restrictions on five counties, limiting the capacity of restaurants, gyms and other recreational facilities, and banning visits at long-term care homes. The two-week "pause" came amid surging cases that reached a daily record of 805 on Thursday. "It's extremely concerning," Governor Kate Brown told reporters. "We have to go on the offense to stop the spread."
- **Denver, Colorado**, imposed a 30-day overnight "Home By 10" public health order to curb coronavirus cases effective Sunday, officials said.
  - Restaurants and most other businesses will be required to close by 10 p.m. The public health order is intended to "save lives," Denver Mayor Michael Hancock said at a news briefing, and will be enforced by the city's health department. Pueblo, Colorado, imposed a similar curfew last week.
- Anyone who visits **D.C.** from a state that city officials consider high-risk must get a COVID-19 test before traveling and again if they will be here for more than three days, officials say.
  - Mayor Muriel Bowser announced the new restrictions Thursday and said they will go into effect Monday with a new mayor's order.

