



ALABAMA

STATE REPORT

11.29.2020

Issue 24

SUMMARY

- Alabama is in the red zone for cases, indicating 101 or more new cases per 100,000 population, with the 42nd highest rate in the country. Alabama is in the red zone for test positivity, indicating a rate at or above 10.1%, with the 19th highest rate in the country.
- Alabama has seen a decrease in new cases but continued high test positivity rates.
- The following three counties had the highest number of new cases over the last 3 weeks: 1. Jefferson County, 2. Madison County, and 3. Shelby County. These counties represent 29.4% of new cases in Alabama.
- 90% of all counties in Alabama have moderate or high levels of community transmission (yellow, orange, or red zones), with 64% having high levels of community transmission (red zone).
- During the week of Nov 16 - Nov 22, 24% of nursing homes had at least one new resident COVID-19 case, 46% had at least one new staff COVID-19 case, and 6% had at least one new resident COVID-19 death.
- Alabama had 213 new cases per 100,000 population, compared to a national average of 349 per 100,000.
- Current staff deployed from the federal government as assets to support the state response are: 42 to support operations activities from FEMA and 1 to support operations activities from USCG.
- The federal government has supported surge testing in Birmingham, AL and Jefferson County.
- Between Nov 21 - Nov 27, on average, 201 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 114 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Alabama. This is a minimal change in total COVID-19 hospital admissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The COVID risk to all Americans is at a historic high. The national daily COVID incidence after Memorial Day, but before the summer surge, was fewer than 25,000 new cases/day and is now more than 180,000 new cases/day; COVID inpatients then were fewer than 30,000 but are now more than 90,000; fatalities have more than doubled. We are in a very dangerous place due to the current, extremely high COVID baseline and limited hospital capacity; a further post-Thanksgiving surge will compromise COVID patient care, as well as medical care overall.
- If state and local policies do not reflect the seriousness of the current situation, all public health officials must alert the state population directly. It must be made clear that if you are over 65 or have significant health conditions, you should not enter any indoor public spaces where anyone is unmasked due to the immediate risk to your health; you should have groceries and medications delivered. If you are under 40, you need to assume you became infected during the Thanksgiving period if you gathered beyond your immediate household. Most likely, you will not have symptoms; however, you are dangerous to others and you must isolate away from anyone at increased risk for severe disease and get tested immediately. If you are over 65 or have significant medical conditions and you gathered outside of your immediate household, you are at a significant risk for serious COVID infection; if you develop any symptoms, you must be tested immediately as the majority of therapeutics work best early in infection.
- We are also seeing clear improvement in many European countries that implemented strong public and private mitigation but preserved schooling. We are also seeing states and cities that aggressively mitigated achieving a high plateau and early stability in less than 4 weeks. However, in many areas of the USA, state mitigation efforts remain inadequate, resulting in sustained transmission or a very prolonged time to peak – over 7 weeks. All states and all counties must flatten the curve now in order to sustain the health system for both COVID and non-COVID emergencies.
- The silent community spread that precedes and continues to drive these surges can only be identified and interrupted through proactive, focused testing for both the identification of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic individuals. This must be combined with significant behavior change of all Americans. Ensure masks at all times in public; increase physical distancing through significant reduction in capacity in public and private indoor spaces, including restaurants and bars; and ensure every American understands the clear risks of ANY family or friend interactions outside of their immediate household indoors without masks.
- Proactive weekly testing of groups representative of the community (teachers, community college students, county workers, staff in crowded or congregate settings, all hospital personnel, large private sector employers) will help identify the depth and breadth of community infection. These cases should be triangulated with cases among long-term care facility (LTCF) staff to identify geographic areas with high numbers of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases, which should then trigger widespread testing, identification, and isolation of positive cases among community members, stopping ongoing spread. These efforts to identify and reduce asymptomatic transmission should run concurrently with testing of symptomatic persons and contact tracing of cases.
- Expand strategic use of point-of-care antigen tests for all individuals that gather across households. Antigen tests perform well in the highly infectious window and will be effective in identification of the asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic infectious cases. Antigen tests do not perform well after 8-10 days post infection, when nucleic acid cycle times are >30.
- New hospital admissions in Alabama remain elevated at an increased level. Conduct aggressive impact testing of adults under 40 to rapidly identify those who became infected over Thanksgiving before they spread the virus to more vulnerable individuals, driving another round of increased hospitalizations and fatalities.
- Contact all hospitals reporting <1 week's supply to confirm data; contact the regional FEMA office for support if supplies are an issue.
- Ensure all universities returning in the winter move to mandatory weekly testing of all on and off campus students. Planning for this must begin now.
- There continue to be high levels of positive staff at LTCFs, indicative of continued and unmitigated community spread in these geographic areas.
- Specific, detailed guidance on community mitigation measures can be found on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

The purpose of this report is to develop a shared understanding of the current status of the pandemic at the national, regional, state and local levels. We recognize that data at the state level may differ from that available at the federal level. Our objective is to use consistent data sources and methods that allow for comparisons to be made across localities. We appreciate your continued support in identifying data discrepancies and improving data completeness and sharing across systems. We look forward to your feedback.



COVID-19



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	STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK		FEMA/HHS REGION	UNITED STATES
	STATE			
NEW COVID-19 CASES (RATE PER 100,000)	10,465 (213)	-29%	171,312 (256)	1,146,921 (349)
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE	12.9%	+0.4%*	9.0%	9.7%
TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000)	94,470** (1,927**)	-3%**	1,527,595** (2,283**)	10,846,839** (3,305**)
COVID-19 DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000)	125 (2.5)	-43%	1,680 (2.5)	10,169 (3.1)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE	24%	+7%*	22%	25%
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW STAFF COVID-19 CASE	46%	+6%*	41%	46%
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATH	6%	-1%*	7%	9%
TOTAL NEW COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS (RATE PER 100 BEDS)	2,205 (16)	+3% (+4%)	24,045 (16)	135,904 (19)

* Indicates absolute change in percentage points.

** Due to delayed reporting, this figure may underestimate total diagnostic tests and week-on-week changes in diagnostic tests.

DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 11/27/2020; previous week is 11/14 - 11/20.

Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 11/25/2020. Previous week is 11/12 - 11/18.

SNFs: Skilled nursing facilities. National Healthcare Safety Network. Data are reported separately for cases among residents and staff. Data is through 11/22/2020, previous week is 11/9-11/15. Facilities that are undergoing reporting quality review are not included in the table, but may be included in other NHSN analyses.

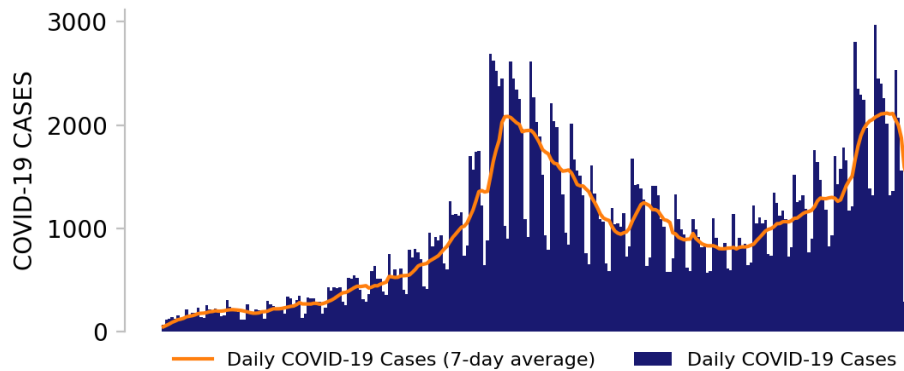
Admissions: Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. Hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the totals. Totals include confirmed and suspected COVID-19 admissions.



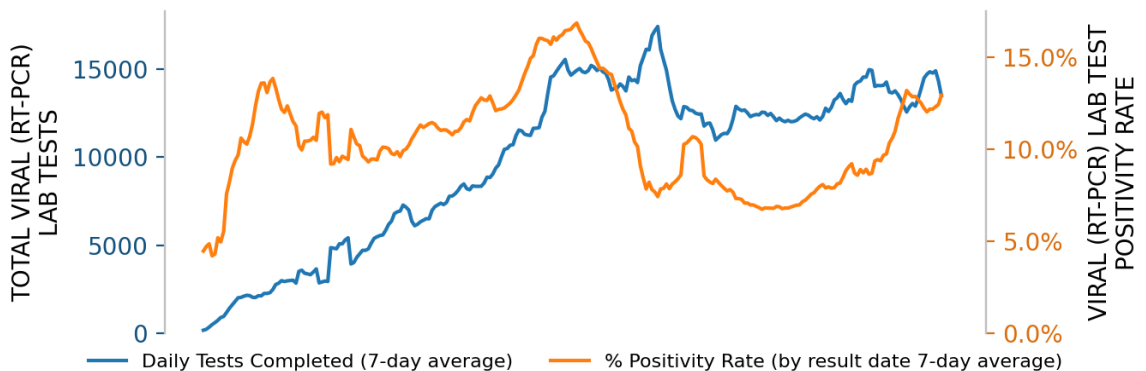
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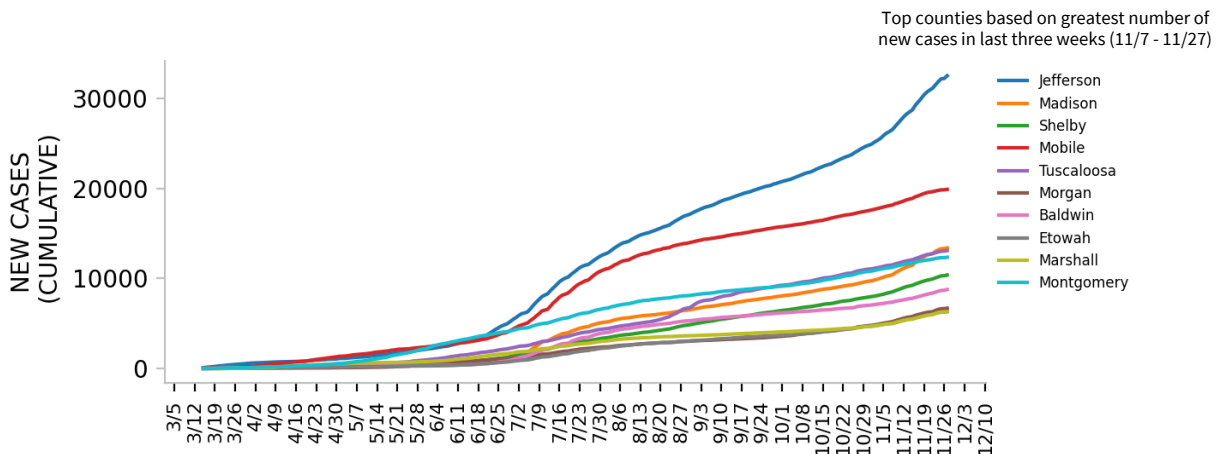
NEW CASES



TESTING



TOP COUNTIES

**DATA SOURCES** – Additional data details available under METHODS**Note:** Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.**Cases:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 11/27/2020.**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 11/25/2020.

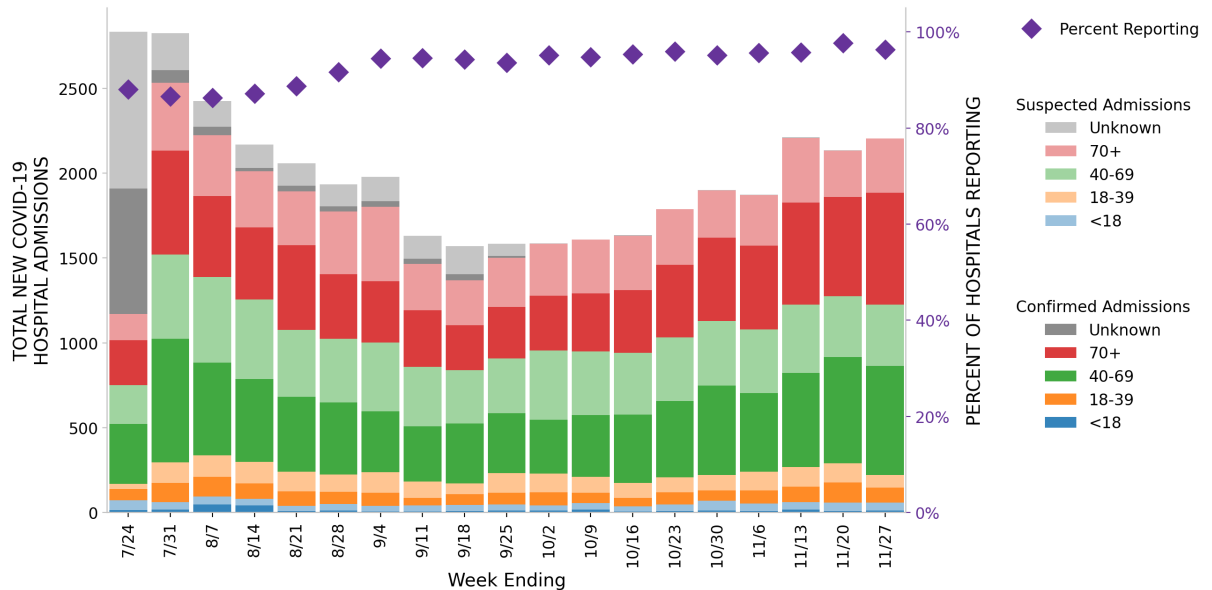


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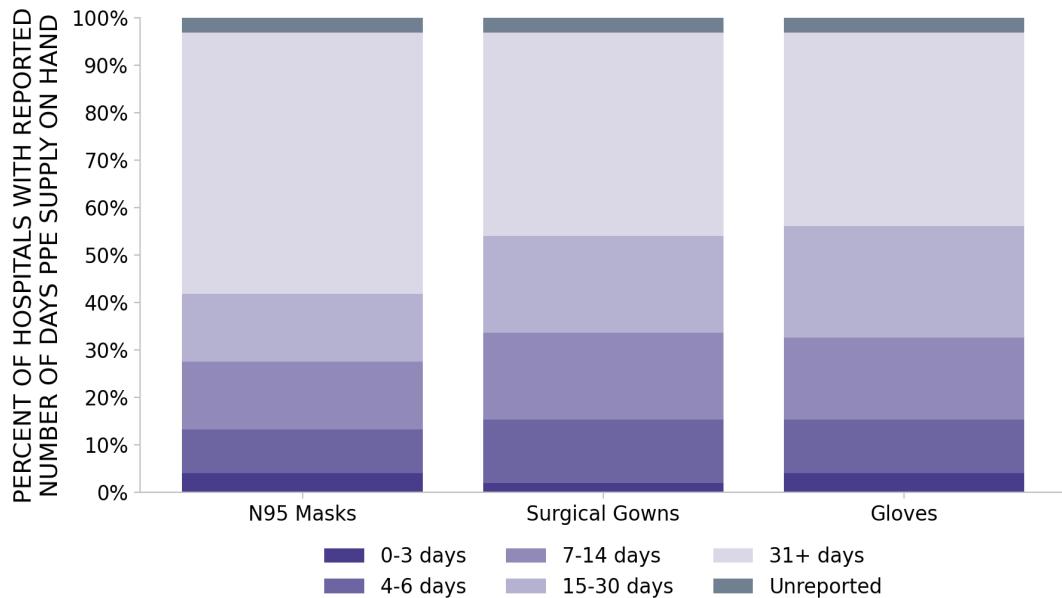
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98 hospitals are expected to report in Alabama

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS



HOSPITAL PPE SUPPLIES

**DATA SOURCES** – Additional data details available under METHODS**Hospitalizations:** Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. Hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure.**PPE:** Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. Hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure. Values presented show the latest reports from hospitals in the week ending 11/25/2020.



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COVID-19 COUNTY AND METRO ALERTS*

Top 12 shown in table (full lists below)

METRO AREA (CBSA)

COUNTIES

LOCALITIES IN RED ZONE	17 ▲ (+2)	Birmingham-Hoover Huntsville Montgomery Tuscaloosa Decatur Florence-Muscle Shoals Daphne-Fairhope-Foley Gadsden Albertville Cullman Anniston-Oxford Fort Payne	43 ▲ (+5)	Jefferson Madison Shelby Tuscaloosa Morgan Baldwin Etowah Marshall Montgomery Cullman Lauderdale Calhoun
	2 ▼ (-5)	Dothan Ozark	4 ▼ (-8)	Houston Dale Geneva Washington
	7 ▲ (+4)	Mobile Auburn-Opelika Jasper Alexander City Atmore Columbus Eufaula	13 ▼ (-1)	Mobile Lee Walker Tallapoosa Covington Cherokee Escambia Clarke Butler Clay Monroe Barbour
Change from previous week's alerts: ▲ Increase ■ Stable ▼ Decrease				

All Red CBSAs: Birmingham-Hoover, Huntsville, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Decatur, Florence-Muscle Shoals, Daphne-Fairhope-Foley, Gadsden, Albertville, Cullman, Anniston-Oxford, Fort Payne, Scottsboro, Talladega-Sylacauga, Enterprise, Selma, LaGrange

All Red Counties: Jefferson, Madison, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, Morgan, Baldwin, Etowah, Marshall, Montgomery, Cullman, Lauderdale, Calhoun, DeKalb, Limestone, Jackson, St. Clair, Colbert, Elmore, Blount, Talladega, Coffee, Autauga, Winston, Franklin, Dallas, Chambers, Bibb, Lawrence, Fayette, Chilton, Pickens, Marion, Marengo, Lamar, Macon, Hale, Randolph, Cleburne, Henry, Coosa, Sumter, Greene, Lowndes

All Yellow Counties: Mobile, Lee, Walker, Tallapoosa, Covington, Cherokee, Escambia, Clarke, Butler, Clay, Monroe, Barbour, Wilcox

* Localities with fewer than 10 cases last week have been excluded from these alerts.

Note: Lists of red, orange, and yellow localities are sorted by the number of new cases in the last 3 weeks, from highest to lowest. Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 11/27/2020.

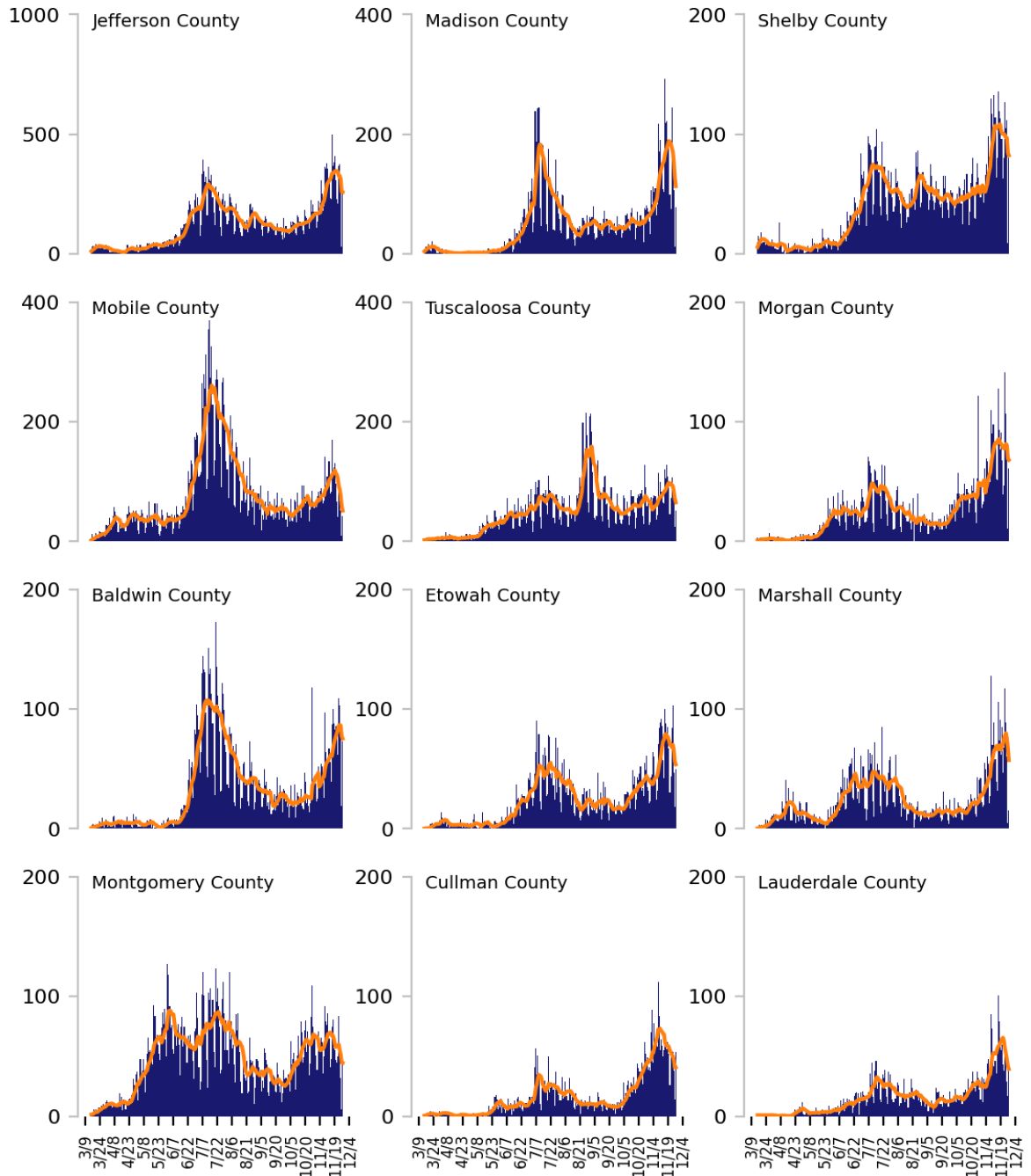
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 11/25/2020.



Top 12 counties based on number of new cases in the last 3 weeks

— Daily COVID-19 Cases (7-day average) ■ Daily COVID-19 Cases

TOTAL DAILY CASES



DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

Cases: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 11/27/2020. Last 3 weeks is 11/7 - 11/27.

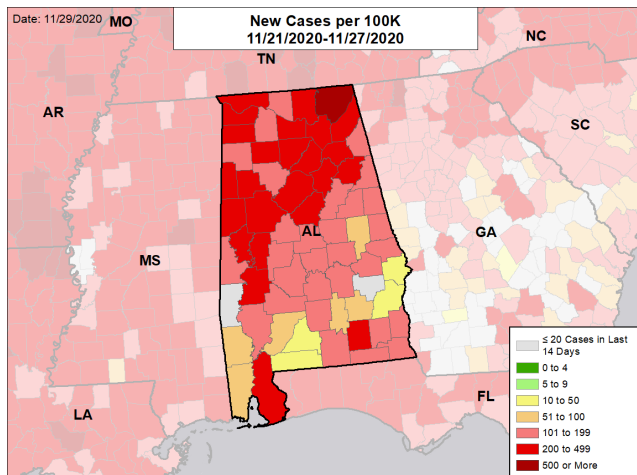


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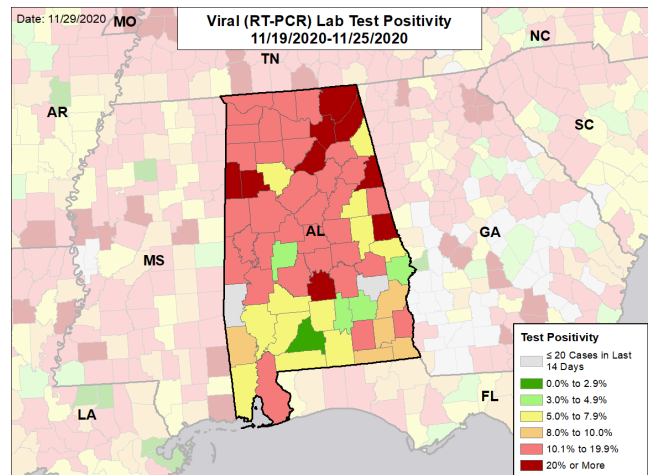
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CASE RATES AND VIRAL LAB TEST POSITIVITY

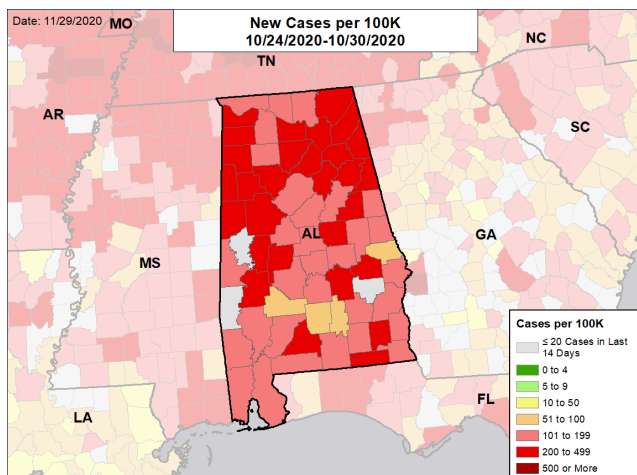
NEW CASES PER 100,000



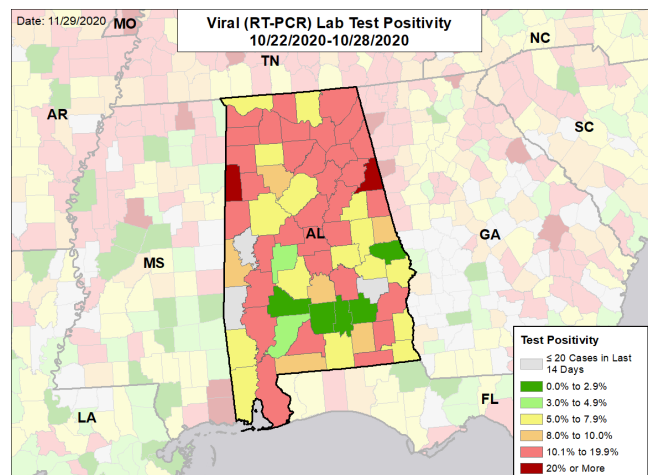
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY



NEW CASES PER 100,000 ONE MONTH BEFORE



VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY ONE MONTH BEFORE



DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

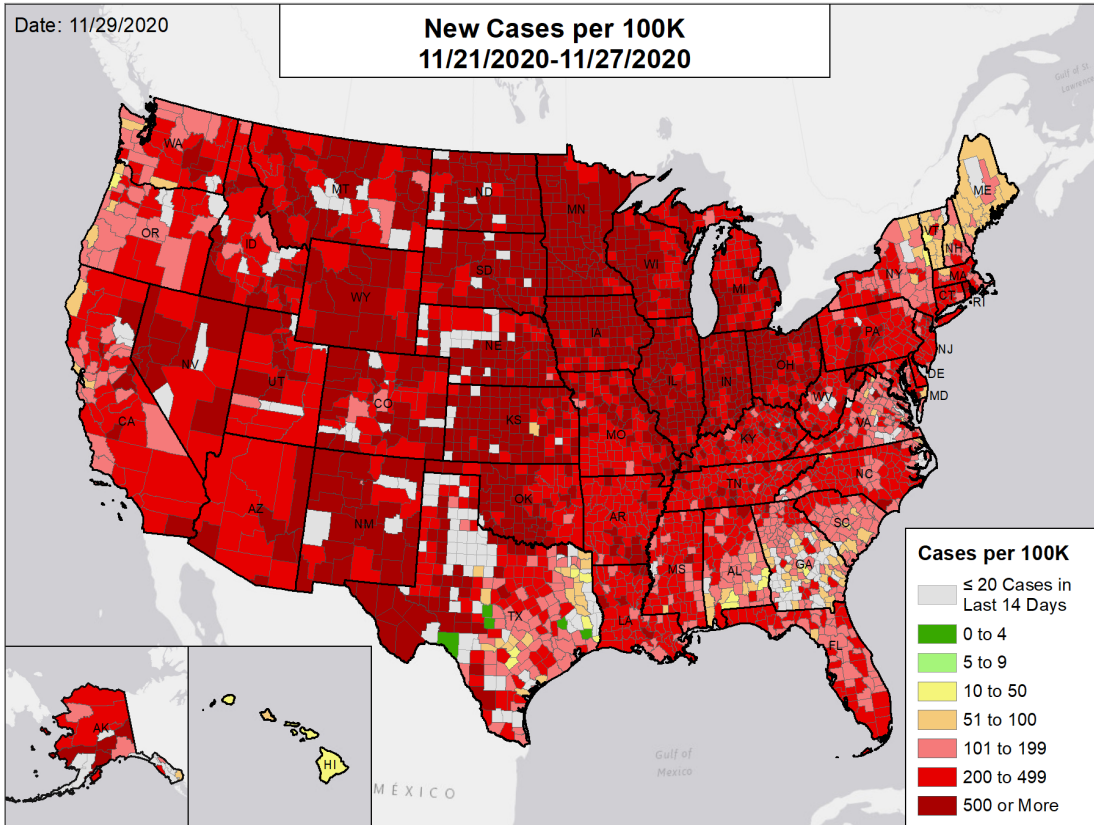
Cases: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 11/27/2020. The week one month before is 10/24 - 10/30.

Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 11/25/2020. The week one month before is 10/22 - 10/28.



National Picture

NEW CASES PER 100,000



NATIONAL RANKING OF NEW CASES PER 100,000

National Rank	State
1	ND
2	SD
3	WY
4	NM
5	MN
6	IA
7	NE
8	IN
9	KS
10	MT
11	UT
12	WI
13	AK
14	CO
15	RI
16	IL
17	OH
18	NV
19	OK
20	MI
21	ID
22	MO
23	KY
24	AR
25	PA
26	AZ
27	TN
28	WV
29	DE
30	NJ
31	CT
32	LA
33	MS
34	MA
35	MD
36	FL
37	WA
38	TX
39	CA
40	NC
41	NY
42	AL
43	OR
44	VA
45	SC
46	NH
47	DC
48	GA
49	ME
50	VT
51	HI

Europe is experiencing a fall surge similar to the USA and is showing early signs of improvement through country-specific mitigation efforts.

- 80% (48/60 countries) require wearing masks in all public settings
 - Most countries have imposed fines for non-compliance
- 93% (56/60) have significant restrictions on gathering size
- 63% (38/60) have some form of nonessential business closures, initially focused on bars and reducing restaurant capacity
- 60% (37/60) have some form of entertainment or public space restriction
- 65% (39/60) have deployed a contact tracing app

DATA SOURCES

Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

Cases: County-level data from USAFacts through 11/27/2020.

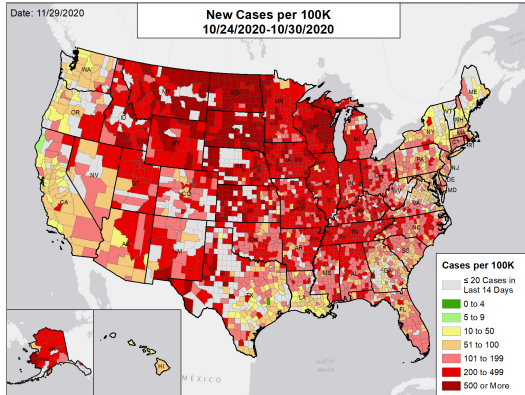
European community mitigation information sourced from European CDC — Situation Update Worldwide.



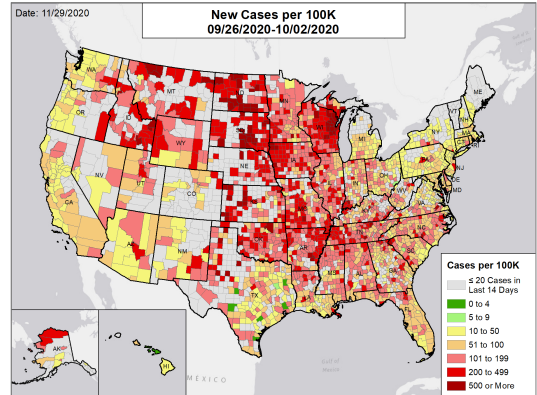
National Picture

NEW CASES PER 100,000 IN THE WEEK:

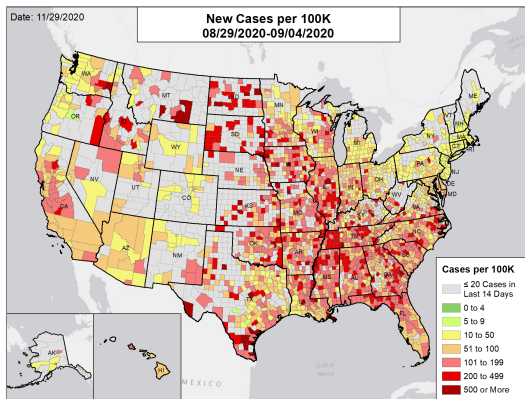
ONE MONTH BEFORE



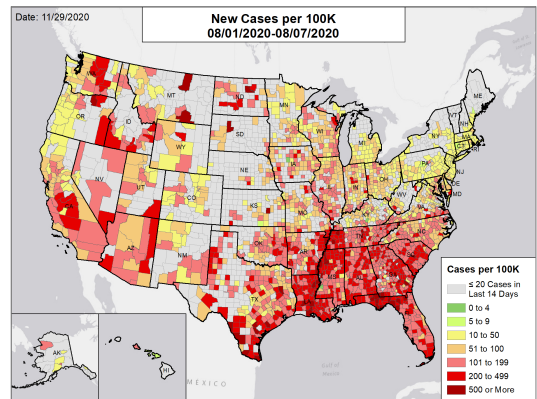
TWO MONTHS BEFORE



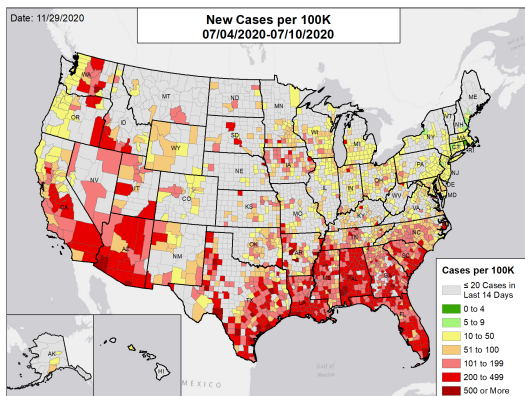
THREE MONTHS BEFORE



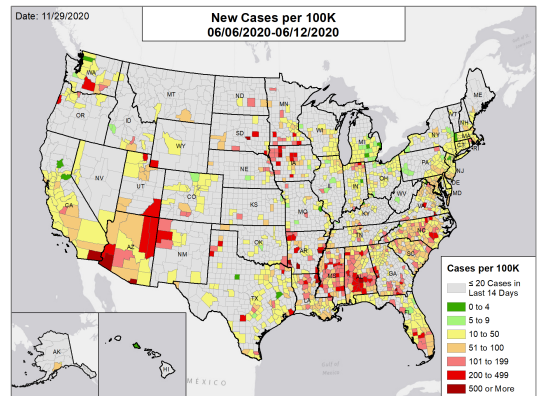
FOUR MONTHS BEFORE



FIVE MONTHS BEFORE



SIX MONTHS BEFORE



DATA SOURCES

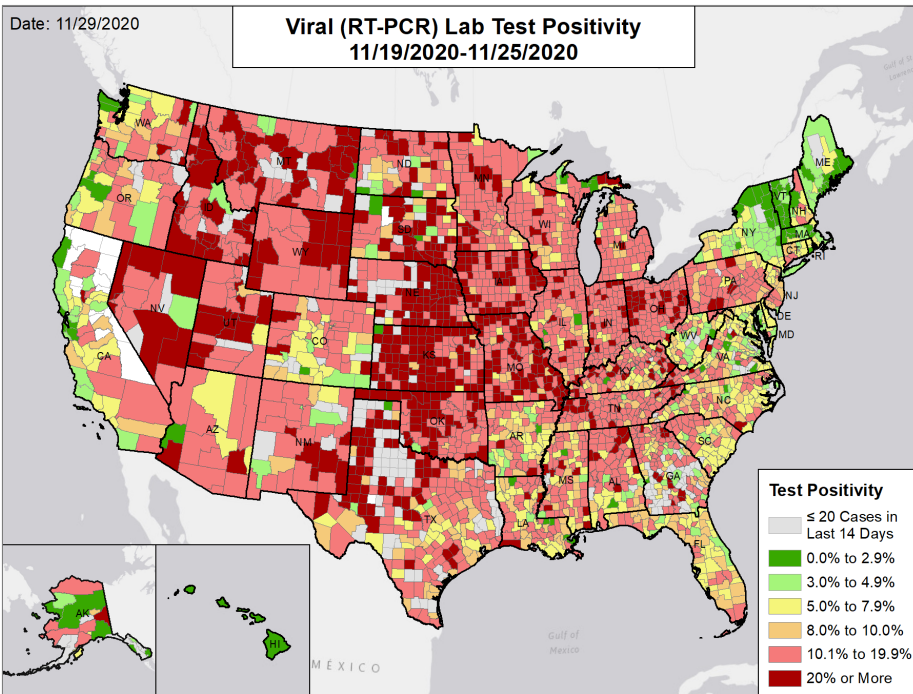
Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

Cases: County-level data from USAFacts through 11/27/2020. The week one month before is 10/24 - 10/30; the week two months before is 9/26 - 10/2; the week three months before is 8/29 - 9/4; the week four months before is 8/1 - 8/7; the week five months before is 7/4 - 7/10; the week six months before is 6/6 - 6/12.



National Picture

VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY

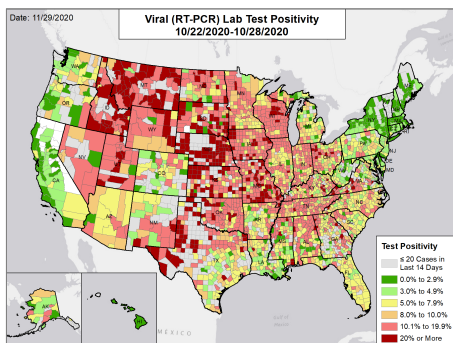


NATIONAL RANKING OF TEST POSITIVITY

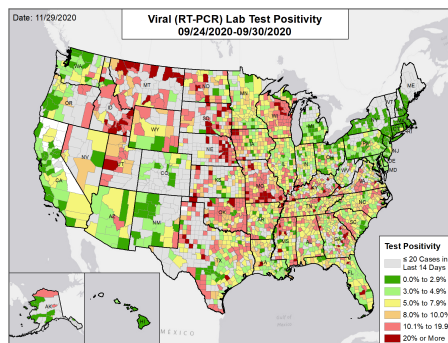
National Rank	State	National Rank	State
1	ID	27	TX
2	MT	28	OR
3	KS	29	NJ
4	OK	30	AR
5	MO	31	SC
6	UT	32	CT
7	IA	33	FL
8	NE	34	AK
9	NV	35	NH
10	IN	36	WA
11	NM	37	GA
12	SD	38	LA
13	OH	39	NC
14	WY	40	WV
15	MI	41	VA
16	KY	42	MD
17	TN	43	CA
18	ND	44	RI
19	AL	45	DE
20	MS	46	NY
21	IL	47	ME
22	MN	48	MA
23	WI	49	DC
24	PA	50	HI
25	AZ	51	VT
26	CO		

VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY IN THE WEEK:

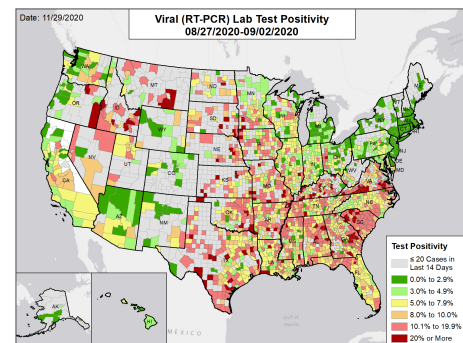
ONE MONTH BEFORE



TWO MONTHS BEFORE



THREE MONTHS BEFORE



DATA SOURCES

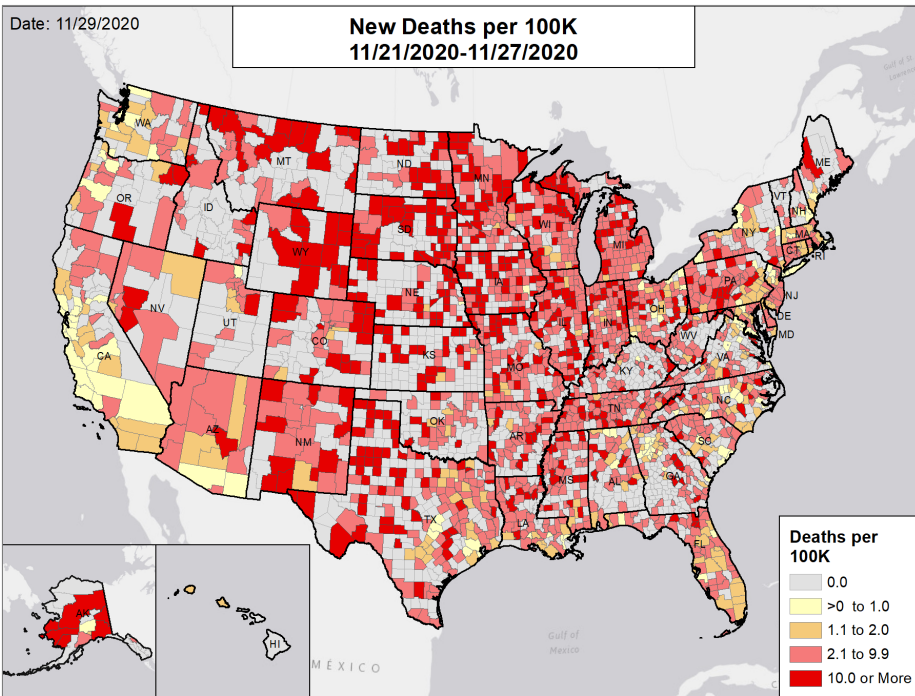
Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

Testing: Combination of CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data and HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) through 11/25/2020. The week one month before is 10/22 - 10/28; the week two months before is 9/24 - 9/30; the week three months before is 8/27 - 9/2.



National Picture

NEW DEATHS PER 100,000

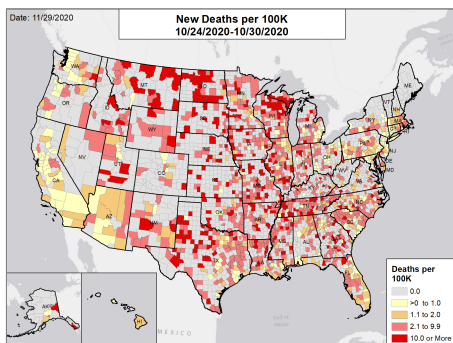


NATIONAL RANKING OF NEW DEATHS PER 100,000

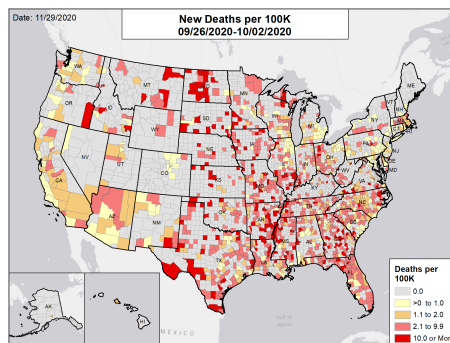
National Rank	State	National Rank	State
1	SD	27	TX
2	ND	28	MD
3	NM	29	NJ
4	MT	30	OK
5	WY	31	AL
6	IA	32	AK
7	MI	33	KY
8	MN	34	MA
9	IN	35	UT
10	IL	36	FL
11	WI	37	SC
12	NE	38	AZ
13	RI	39	NC
14	TN	40	NY
15	MO	41	OR
16	MS	42	DE
17	PA	43	VA
18	KS	44	GA
19	CO	45	ME
20	WV	46	CA
21	AR	47	WA
22	CT	48	DC
23	ID	49	HI
24	NV	50	VT
25	LA	51	NH
26	OH		

NEW DEATHS PER 100,000 IN THE WEEK:

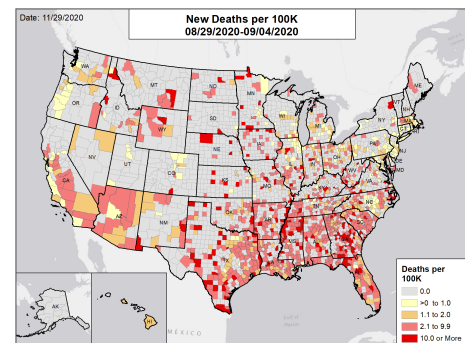
ONE MONTH BEFORE



TWO MONTHS BEFORE



THREE MONTHS BEFORE



DATA SOURCES

Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

Deaths: County-level data from USAFacts through 11/27/2020. The week one month before is 10/24 - 10/30; the week two months before is 9/26 - 10/2; the week three months before is 8/29 - 9/4.



METHODS

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Metric	Dark Green	Light Green	Yellow	Orange	Light Red	Red	Dark Red
New cases per 100,000 population per week	≤4	5 – 9	10 – 50	51 – 100	101 – 199	200 – 499	≥500
Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population	≤-26%	-25% – -11%	-10% – 0%	1% – 10%	11% – 99%	100% – 999%	≥1000%
Diagnostic test result positivity rate	≤2.9%	3.0% – 4.9%	5.0% – 7.9%	8.0% – 10.0%	10.1% – 19.9%		≥20.0%
Change in test positivity	≤-2.1%	-2.0% – -0.6%	-0.5% – 0.0%	0.1% – 0.5%	0.6% – 2.0%		≥2.1%
Total diagnostic tests resulted per 100,000 population per week	≥2001	1001 – 2000	750 – 1000	500 – 749	250 – 499		≤249
Percent change in tests per 100,000 population	≥26%	11% – 25%	1% – 10%	-10% – 0%	-25% – -11%		≤-26%
COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population per week	0.0		0.1 – 1.0	1.1 – 2.0	2.1 – 3.0		≥3.1
Percent change in deaths per 100,000 population	≤-26%	-25% – -11%	-10% – 0%	1% – 10%	11% – 25%		≥26%
Skilled Nursing Facilities with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death	0%		1% – 5%		≥6%		
Change in SNFs with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death	≤-2%		-1% – 1%		≥2%		
Total new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100 beds	≤2	3 – 5	6 – 10	11 – 20	21 – 30		≥31
Change in total new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100 beds	≤-26%	-25% – -11%	-10% – 0%	1% – 10%	11% – 25%		≥26%

- Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays and/or differences in state reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date data as possible. Figures and values may also differ from state reports due to differing methodologies.
- Color threshold values are rounded before color classification.
- Cases and deaths:** County-level data from USAFacts as of 17:59 EST on 11/29/2020. State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts. Data are reviewed on a daily basis against internal and verified external sources and, if needed, adjusted.
- Testing:** The data presented represent viral COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic and screening test (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR) results—not individual people—and exclude antibody and antigen tests, unless stated otherwise. CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data are used to describe county-level viral COVID-19 RT-PCR result totals when information is available on patients' county of residence or healthcare providers' practice location. HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) are used otherwise. Because the data are deidentified, total RT-PCR tests are the number of tests performed, not the number of individuals tested. RT-PCR test positivity rate is the number of positive tests divided by the number of tests performed and resulted. Last week data are from 11/19 to 11/25; previous week data are from 11/12 to 11/18; the week one month before data are from 10/22 to 10/28. HHS Protect data is recent as of 14:31 EST on 11/29/2020. Testing data are inclusive of everything received and processed by the CELR system as of 19:00 EST on 11/28/2020.
- Hospitalizations:** Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. In addition, hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure. The data presented represents raw data provided; we are working diligently with state liaisons to improve reporting consistency. Data is recent as of 18:53 EST on 11/29/2020.
- Hospital PPE:** Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. This figure may differ from state data due to differences in hospital lists and reporting between federal and state systems. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. Hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure. Data is recent as of 18:00 EST on 11/28/2020.
- Skilled Nursing Facilities:** National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Data report resident and staff cases independently. Quality checks are performed on data submitted to the NHSN. Data that fail these quality checks or appear inconsistent with surveillance protocols may be excluded from analyses. Data presented in this report are more recent than data publicly posted by CMS. Last week is 11/16-11/22, previous week is 11/9-11/15. Facilities that are undergoing reporting quality review are not included in the table, but may be included in other NHSN analyses.
- County and Metro Area Color Categorizations**
 - Red Zone:** Those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and counties that during the last week reported both new cases at or above 101 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result at or above 10.1%.
 - Orange Zone:** Those CBSAs and counties that during the last week reported both new cases between 51–100 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result between 8.0–10.0%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the “Red Zone.”
 - Yellow Zone:** Those CBSAs and counties that during the last week reported both new cases between 10–50 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result between 5.0–7.9%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the “Orange Zone” or “Red Zone.”