



# COVID-19 Compilation

February 23, 2021

## **Iowa**

The Iowa Department of Public Health on Monday was reporting 38 additional COVID-19 deaths and an additional 189 confirmed cases.

### **The latest coronavirus numbers in Iowa**

*The latest data as of 10 a.m. Monday, compared to 10 a.m. Sunday:*

- Confirmed cases: 332,762, an increase of 189
- Deaths: 5,374, an increase of 38
- Total tested: 1,539,605
- Total recovered: 309,569

### **How many Iowans have received COVID-19 vaccinations?**

With the expansion of priority groups in Iowa, more people are eligible to get COVID-19 vaccinations, including all Iowans age 65 or older —an age demographic most vulnerable to serious COVID-19 illness and death — and people in certain professions.

- Vaccine doses administered: 585,961
- Individuals receiving first dose: 293,861
- Individuals receiving second dose\*: 146,050

### **How many Iowans are hospitalized with COVID-19?**

Coronavirus hospitalizations in Iowa surged in mid-November, with more than 1,500 patients with COVID-19 in hospitals across the state. At that time, there were nearly 300 COVID-19 patients in intensive units. In the months since, hospitalizations have dropped and are at pre-surge levels.

- Hospitalizations: 222, down from 229
- Patients in ICU: 54, down from 58
- Patients on ventilators: 25, down from 27

*\* Individuals who have received their second dose are not included in the first dose numbers.*

## **Washington, D.C.**

- President Biden issued a [Proclamation on Remembering the 500,000 Americans Lost to COVID-19](#).

- Today, the FDA issued [guidance](#) for medical product developers, specifically covering vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics products, to address the emergence and potential future emergence of variants of the coronavirus.
- The [agenda](#) has been released for the FDA's Feb. 26 VRBPAC meeting to discuss EUA of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- The two most recent White House COVID-19 Response Team briefings are [here](#) (2/19) and [here](#) (2/22).
- The CDC has published and updated a number of COVID-19 and vaccine materials and resources on its [dashboard](#), and you can keep track of vaccinations [here](#). Please continue to check these for information on things like recommended quarantine periods and return-to-work guidance. To highlight a few of the recent updates:
  - [Resources for Teachers and Staff](#)
  - [COVID-19 Published Science and Research](#)
  - [Attending Sporting Events](#)
  - [Guidance for Beaches During COVID-19](#)
- The CDC's most recent Science Update is available [here](#).
- BARDA announced it will provide advanced development support to Luminex Corporation for a [single test to detect COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#).
- There are a couple of relevant hearings coming up in Congress:
  - Tuesday (2/23) 10:30 AM, House Energy and Commerce, "[Pathway to Protection: Expanding Availability of COVID-19 Vaccines.](#)"
  - Wednesday (2/24) 9:30 AM, House Homeland Security, "[Confronting the Coronavirus: Perspectives on the COVID-19 Pandemic One Year Later.](#)"
- The CDC's [National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine](#) kicked off this morning. There are over 11,000 participants from 6,000 organizations across all 50 states, nearly all territories, and 128 tribes and tribal organizations.
- The COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force will hold a virtual meeting on Feb. 26, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM ET. This meeting is open to the public. Pre-registration is encouraged for members of the public who wish to attend the meeting and who wish to participate in the public comment session. To register, please send an email with your name, affiliation, and email to: [COVID19HETF@hhs.gov](mailto:COVID19HETF@hhs.gov).
- CDC Director Rochelle Walensky answered some [questions about COVID-19](#), from the emerging variants to the vaccine.
- 331 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under EUA. These include 247 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 70 antibody tests, and 14 antigen tests. There are 37 molecular authorizations that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, one antigen prescription at-home test, and one over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen test.
- The House Budget Committee approved the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package today, setting up a vote in the full House later this week that could go into the weekend. Text of the bill can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#). For a more detailed description of the legislative landscape, please refer to Sierra Fuller's [COVID-19 Legislative Update](#).

## Updates from the States

- Out of the cases under investigation detected by U.S. surveillance, there are **27,938,085 total cases** and **497,415 deaths**. *The CDC data closes out the day before reporting, but **most major data sources have reported that the U.S. has reached the 500,000 mark for deaths.***
- Cases have fallen more than 40 percent over the last two weeks and more than 70 percent since the January peak. Fewer people are testing positive each day than at any point since late October.
- Weather last week impacted the delivery of 6 million doses of vaccines that were expected to be delivered to all 50 states. Many states have been able to cover some of this delay with existing inventory. 7 million doses were delivered today and it is anticipated that all backlog doses will be delivered by midweek.
- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) announced that movie theaters in New York City will be permitted to open for the first time in nearly a year on March 5. The theaters will only be permitted to operate at 25 percent of their maximum capacity, with no more than 50 people per screening, masks will be mandatory, and theaters must assign seating to patrons to guarantee proper social distancing.
- Gov. Cuomo announced additional efforts through a partnership with FEMA to expand access to community-based vaccination sites at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn and York College in Queens.
- Gov. Cuomo released updated guidance for infection rates and testing protocols on college campuses. Colleges and universities testing at least 25 percent of total students, faculty, and staff weekly will not be required to go on pause unless positivity rate exceeds 5 percent during a rolling 14-day period. Other colleges not testing at least 25 percent of population weekly must go on pause if they have 100 individuals test positive during a rolling 14-day period.
- New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy (D) announced that a limited number of fans are now allowed to attend sports and entertainment events at venues with 5,000 or more seats beginning next week. Indoor venues will be limited to 10 percent of their seating capacity, while outdoor venues will be limited to 15 percent capacity.
- Maine Gov. Janet Mills (D) extended the State of Civil Emergency through March 18, 2021, Gov. Murphy extended the Public Health Emergency that was first declared on March 9, 2020, for 30 days, and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf (D) signed the fourth renewal of his 90-day Proclamation of Disaster Emergency.
- Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont (D) announced that his administration is partnering with Health Equity Solutions on an outreach program to educate as many people as possible about the COVID-19 vaccine, particularly among communities that have historically had inequitable access to health care.
- Gov. Lamont, the Mohegan Tribe, and Yale New Haven Health System announced plans to open a large-scale community vaccination site at Mohegan Sun.
- Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (D) announced the launch of three additional state-supported mass vaccination sites in southern and central Illinois.
- Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly (D) announced new steps to address data reporting issues that, to date, have inaccurately identified the number of individuals vaccinated for COVID-19 in Kansas. To address this gap, the state will introduce a new daily reporting snapshot, improve existing reporting by requiring a flat file fix, and address underlying technical issues with a system-level solve.

- Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear (D) announced the state is opening 28 additional vaccination sites, for a total of 291 sites across the commonwealth.
- Gov. Beshear announced updated visitation protocols in some of the state's long-term care facilities. Indoor visitation will resume for non-Medicare-certified facilities that have been through the vaccination process: that includes assisted living facilities, personal care homes, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and independent living facilities. Group activities, communal dining, and visitation amongst vaccinated residents will resume. Visitors need to show proof of either a negative COVID-19 test or a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) announced that beginning Monday, Feb. 22, K-12 teachers, school support staff, daycare staff, those who are pregnant, and Louisianans aged 55 to 64 with certain health conditions are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D) announced that Minnesotans have received more than one million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. In all, 728,081 Minnesotans had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 286,543 had completed the two-dose series.
- Gov. Walz announced that beginning Feb. 22, all middle and high school students can return to the classroom for hybrid or in-person learning and said that he expects all schools to offer their students some form of in-person learning by March 8.
- Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Analytics announced additional metrics, data on trends and demographics, to be included on the state's COVID-19 vaccine dashboard.
- North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper (D) announced that the state has administered almost two million doses of vaccine with 23 percent of doses administered to Black North Carolinians vs. 13 percent five weeks ago.
- Virginia launched a new centralized system that allows individuals to easily pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine, confirm that they are on the waitlist, and learn more about Virginia's vaccination program.
- Delaware Gov. John Carney (D) signed a [modification](#) to the Omnibus Emergency Order that increases gathering limits for indoor events from 10 to 25 people or 50 percent of stated fire occupancy restrictions.
- Vermont Gov. Phil Scott (R) announced that effective Tuesday, anyone at least two weeks removed from their second vaccine shot will not be required to quarantine following out-of-state travel. Those visiting Vermont who are vaccinated will also be exempt if they can provide proof of their vaccinations.
- Gov. Scott announced that starting Friday, Feb. 26, those at long-term facilities who are vaccinated can gather and visitors will be allowed at facilities that do not currently have an outbreak.
- West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice (R) announced that restaurants and bars can increase seating capacity from 50 percent to 75 percent, retail shops and grocery stores can double the number of customers per square foot in their buildings, and all school children in kindergarten through eighth grade will go back to in-person learning full-time.
- Five additional vaccination centers (one in Pennsylvania and four in Florida) will be established to target vaccinations to those who are most vulnerable and to promote equity. The centers will be able to vaccinate multiple thousand people per day and should be up and running in the next two weeks.
- Useful state data:
  - Use Johns Hopkins University's [COVID-19 U.S. map](#) as a resource for media, policymakers, and communities to view a collection of critical public health data in one online destination and better

understand and track the COVID-19 pandemic in populations both large and small across the country. [NPR's map](#) can also be used to monitor you state's heat wave.

- NASHP has developed a [COVID-19 State Action Center](#) which serves as a state-level policy dashboard. [Governing](#) is also keeping a running tally of coronavirus news and impacts at the intersection of the health and economic crises in the states and localities.
- This [site](#) from the Kaiser Family Foundation provides state-level information on cases/deaths, social distancing measures, health policy actions, and more.
- This [series of maps](#) shows how states are responding to COVID-19.

## Science, Lifestyle, and Economy

- More than 75.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed across the U.S., and more than 44.1 million people have received their first dose, according to [CDC data](#).
- A laboratory [study](#) suggests that the South African variant of the COVID-19 may reduce antibody protection from the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine by two-thirds, and it is not clear if the vaccine will be effective against the mutation.
- Pfizer and BioNTech said on Friday they have submitted new data to the U.S. health regulator showing the stability of their COVID-19 vaccine at temperatures commonly found in pharmaceutical freezers and refrigerators.
- A three-month gap between doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine results in higher vaccine efficacy than a six-week gap, a [new study](#) suggests.
- The CDC released an MMWR on [clusters of SARS-CoV-2 infection among elementary school educators and students in one school district](#) in Georgia. The study found that the two main reasons for the spread in these schools were due to inadequate physical distancing and mask adherence.
- Based on 2019 data, only heart disease (655,381) and cancer (599,274) caused more deaths in a year than COVID-19.
- A study of more than 1,300 near-whole [genome sequences of SARS-CoV-2](#), published recently in the journal Nature Medicine, shows there were in fact at least 42 SARS-CoV-2 variants spreading in South Africa within the pandemic's first six months in that country. Among them were 16 variants that had never before been described.
- Novavax says enrollment of its Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine trial in U.S. and Mexico is complete. In January, Novavax announced that early results from a Phase 3 trial in the U.K. show its COVID-19 vaccine has an efficacy of 89.3 percent.
- Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) started Phase 2 trial of their vaccine, and Phase 3 could begin by April.
- Singapore has been testing out a "bubble" business hotel that will allow quarantined executives arriving in the country to do face-to-face meetings and exchange documents amid the pandemic.
- Since February 2020, the leisure-and-hospitality sector has shed nearly four million people, or roughly a quarter of its workforce. As of January 2021, 15.9 percent of the industry's workers remained unemployed; more than any other industry, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- The last male from Brazil's indigenous Juma tribe has died from COVID-19.

- The WHO keeps a running list of COVID-19 vaccine candidates, which you can view [here](#). STAT News also has a resource [tracking COVID-19 drugs and vaccines](#). The New York Times has a very helpful vaccine tracker as well, which you can view [here](#). This [AVAC pipeline tracker](#) is great, too.
- The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security has an extensive [list](#) of commercial and lab-developed tests.
- Continue to look at the NIH Office of Portfolio Analysis's (OPA) expert-curated [portfolio of COVID-19 publications and preprints](#). The portfolio includes peer-reviewed articles from PubMed and preprints from medRxiv, bioRxiv, ChemRxiv, and arXiv. It is updated daily with the latest available data and enables users to explore and analyze the rapidly growing set of advances in COVID-19 research.

## International Affairs

- [Here](#) is the most recent edition of the WHO's Weekly Epidemiological Update and [here](#) is the most recent edition of the WHO's Weekly Operational Update.
- The number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered worldwide has passed 200 million.
- Japan has confirmed a new variant of COVID-19, known as E484K, that emerged at a Tokyo immigration facility. The new variant appears to have originated overseas but is different from other types that have been found in Japan, according to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases.
- The French Riviera will be locked down over the next two weekends in an attempt to fight back a spike in COVID-19 cases.
- U.K. Prime Minister unveiled the government's four-step roadmap to take England out of lockdown today. Beginning March 8, all students in all years can return to school and people can meet with one friend outdoors. Starting April 12, non-essential businesses can reopen. On May 17, families can meet indoors. Finally, beginning June 21, the government will look at removing all legal limits on social contact.
- Israel will extend the closure of its airports and land borders for 14 more days until March 6. Several businesses have also been allowed to open from Sunday.
- The Vatican moved to clarify a decree that implied employees could lose their jobs if they refuse to get a COVID-19 vaccination without legitimate health reasons, following criticism.
- Beijing will gift Algeria 200,000 Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- The Czech government will keep all non-essential businesses closed for the foreseeable future.
- Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have received 20,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine from the U.A.E. Gaza will begin its COVID-19 vaccination rollout today.
- Quarantine-free travel from New Zealand to Australia has resumed ahead of a downgraded alert level expected in Auckland today.
- Portugal will refocus its COVID-19 vaccination campaign towards vulnerable age groups and away from key state workers such as the police and firefighters due to scarce vaccine supplies.
- Ghana is expecting a first delivery of 350,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine doses by the end of next week.
- Greece has extended lockdown restrictions to more areas of the country until March 1.
- Argentina's health minister resigned on Friday after claims surfaced of improper vaccine allocations.

- After demonstrations in Gabon's two major cities, the president has said two people have died as protests against the new COVID-19 restrictions resulted in a street standoff.
- Denmark announced the closure of some border crossings from Germany following a cluster outbreak in a German town close to the border. Thirteen crossings will be closed, and nine others will receive increased security. Dutch senators also approved legislation upholding the COVID-19 curfew, ensuring it will remain in force until at least early March.
- In Toronto, Canada, lockdown and stay at home orders have been extended until March 8, despite schools just opening and shops scheduled to reopen on Feb. 22.
- Italian police are investigating fake COVID-19 drugs and vaccines after a Veneto regional official reported to have received an offer to buy 27 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine outside of the E.U. system.
- Iran has closed several crossing points at its border with Iraq after the B.1.1.7 variant was found in the country.
- Ireland's hospitality sector will remain shut until mid-summer.
- India's western Maharashtra state, home to the country's financial hub Mumbai, is imposing new COVID-19 restrictions in four districts.
- Vanuatu and New Caledonia will open a safe travel corridor between the two countries starting in April.
- Today in Germany, hundreds of thousands of students returned to schools and kindergartens for the first time in two months.
- The Italian government extended a ban today on non-essential travel between the country's 20 regions until March 27.
- Tanzania's president finally acknowledged last week that his country has a COVID-19 problem, after claiming for months that the disease had been defeated by prayer. Today, the WHO called for Tanzania to start reporting COVID-19 data, which has not been updated since April 2020.
- Poland will no longer require visitors to quarantine if they present a negative COVID-19 test result starting March 1.
- Israel has reported a 95.8 percent drop in COVID-19 infection among those who have received two doses of Pfizer's vaccine.
- Hong Kong will start its public free vaccination program next week, after authorizing emergency use of the Chinese vaccine, Sinovac.
- **Global Cases:** 111,102,016 **Total Deaths:** 2,462,911

### Helpful Articles/Media

- [Can COVID vaccines stop transmission? Scientists race to find answers](#)
- [West Virginia's Vaccination Rate Ranks Among Highest In World](#)
- [To get ahead of variants, Covid-19 drug makers use evolutionary biology as a guide](#)
- [STAT: 'A massive gap in information': Most vaccine clinical trials fail to report data on participants' ethnicity or race](#)
- [As the pandemic ushered in isolation and financial hardship, overdose deaths reached new heights](#)
- [Unprotected African health workers die as rich countries buy up COVID-19 vaccines](#)

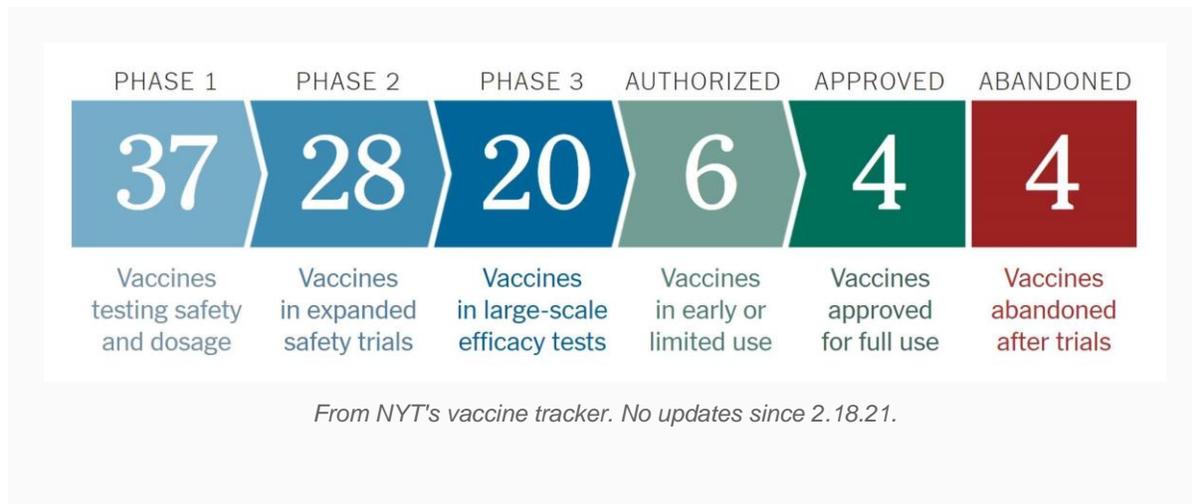
- [Long-Term COVID-19 Vaccine Studies Hampered As Placebo Recipients Get Real Shot](#)
- [Daily COVID-19 Vaccinations Could Nearly Double by the End of March if Supply Keeps Up](#)
- [Can vaccinated people still spread COVID-19? How long does immunity last? Here's what science knows now](#)
- [COVID vaccines and safety: what the research says](#)
- [Will We Be Ready for the Next Pandemic?](#)
- [The Coronavirus Will Become Endemic](#)
- [Q&A: How the U.S. can respond to coronavirus variants, and prepare for future evolution](#)
- [Here](#) is the most recent COVIDView from CDC, a weekly summary and interpretation of key indicators that have been adapted to track the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.
- [What pregnant people face during COVID-19](#)
- This week's MMWR [podcast summarizes recent reports](#) on the demographics of those who received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, COVID-19 risk factors among sexual minorities, and more.
- [The good and the \(potentially\) bad: What scientists know about variants and Covid-19 vaccines](#)
- [Comparative cost-effectiveness of SARS-CoV-2 testing strategies in the USA: a modelling study](#)
- [The Second COVID-19 Shot Is a Rude Reawakening for Immune Cells](#)
- From Science Magazine: How do the leading COVID-19 vaccines work? ([video](#))
- [Domestic Violence Is a Pandemic Within the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Comparing the Covid-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson](#)
- [Moderna Increases COVID-19 Vaccine Shipments While Pfizer Lags Behind](#)
- [Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Years of Potential Life Lost Attributable to COVID-19 in the United States: An Analysis of 45 States and the District of Columbia](#)
- [Early Data Shows Striking Racial Disparities In Who's Getting The COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [PBS Newshour](#): Fauci on the efficacy of new vaccines and preparing for coronavirus variants
- This [article](#) quantifies pandemic fatigue.
- [Federal Data Reveal Which Hospitals Are Dangerously Full This Week. Is Yours?](#)
- [How Many Vaccine Shots Go to Waste? Several States Aren't Counting.](#)
- Watch a JAMA interview and COVID-19 update with new CDC Director Rochelle Walensky [here](#).
- [What we now know — and don't know — about the coronavirus variants](#)
- [Covid-19 deaths are the highest they've ever been — and the more infectious variants could make things much worse](#)
- [FAQ about COVID-19 vaccines](#) from the New England Journal of Medicine
- [Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Treatment and Management of Patients with COVID-19](#)
- [The New Yorker: Deciding Who Should Be Vaccinated First](#)
- [People with type 1 diabetes have a higher risk of dying from Covid-19. Why are they lower on CDC's vaccine priority list?](#)
- The New England Journal of Medicine published their top COVID-19 stories of 2020:

- [2019 Novel Coronavirus: First Reports Published](#)
- [Clinical Characteristics of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Infection](#)
- [Genomic Characterization of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [Final ACTT-1: Remdesivir Results](#)
- [Dexamethasone: First Drug Found to Reduce Mortality in People with COVID-19](#)
- [Monoclonal Antibody Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- [mRNA: A New Vaccine Platform for a Novel Pathogen](#)
- [Racial Disparities in COVID-19: Present from Diagnosis to Death](#)
- [Risk Factors for Death from COVID-19 in a Cohort of 17 Million People](#)
- [Excess Deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19 and Other Causes](#)
- [Decades of basic research paved the way for today's 'warp speed' Covid-19 vaccines](#)
- [A guide to vaccinology: from basic principles to new developments](#)
- [Risk factors for severe illness and death in COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
- [Covid-19 Will Reduce US Life Expectancy at Birth by More Than One Year in 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic Underscores Importance of Investment in Public Health: 2012 National Academies Report Has Lasting Impact](#)
- ['There absolutely will be a black market': How the rich and privileged can skip the line for Covid-19 vaccines](#)
- [Divisions emerge among U.S. officials over when first Covid-19 vaccine doses will be available — and for whom](#)
- [Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine Across the U.S. - A Look at Key Issues](#)
- [Nature: The COVID vaccine challenges that lie ahead /As positive results emerge at last, researchers must help the world to address vaccine hesitancy, supply logistics and pricing.](#)
- [How U.S. Medical Schools Are Training a Post-Pandemic Generation of Doctors](#)
- [Video replay -- NIH COVID-19 Scientific Interest Group: Ethical Quandaries in the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Racial disparities in COVID-19 mortality are driven by unequal infection risks](#)
- [Coronavirus Testing Has Gotten Better, But The U.S. Still Does Not Have Enough Tests](#)
- [Data show hospitalized Covid-19 patients are surviving at higher rates, but surge in cases could roll back gains](#)
- [60 Minutes video: "Post-acute COVID-19 Syndrome": COVID "long-haulers" suffering symptoms months after initial diagnosis](#)
- Listen to KHN's "What the Health?" [podcast](#) with Dr. Tony Fauci. This episode is titled, "What Would Dr. Fauci Do?"
- [Covid-19, Ebola, and HIV — Leveraging Lessons to Maximize Impact](#)
- [Association between SARS-CoV-2 infection, exposure risk and mental health among a cohort of essential retail workers in the USA](#)
- [Will a small, long-shot U.S. company end up producing the best coronavirus vaccine?](#)
- [Effect of Timing of and Adherence to Social Distancing Measures on COVID-19 Burden in the United States](#)
- From the NIH Record: [What We've Learned About Coronavirus Pathophysiology](#)
- [Reimagining America's Infectious-Disease Defense](#)

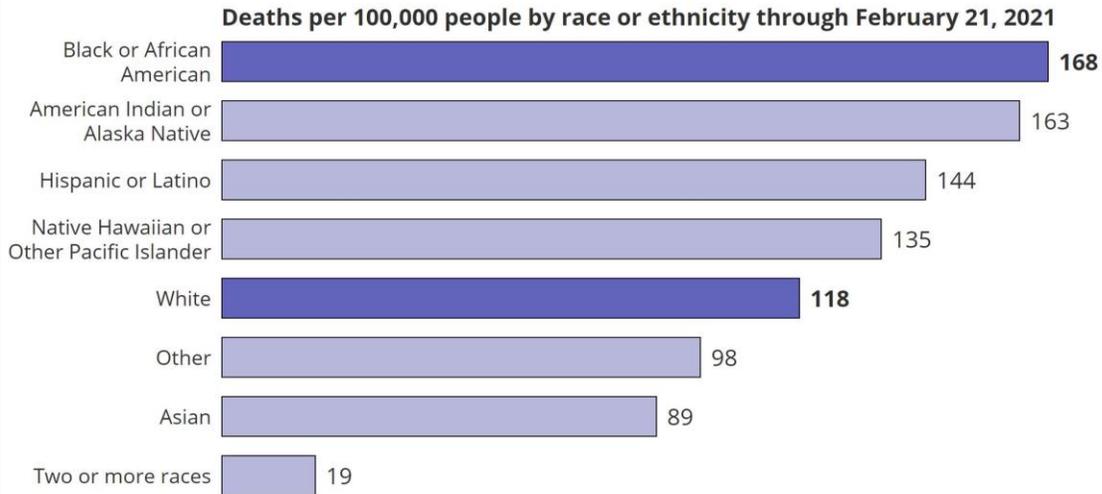
- [Researchers Find Doubts About COVID-19 Vaccine Among People Of Color](#)
- [Understanding COVID-19 vaccine efficacy](#)
- [Why Covid-19's Impact on Health Is a Long-Term Worry](#)
- [Long-term Health Consequences of COVID-19](#)
- [Why people with diabetes are being hit so hard by Covid-19](#)
- [Nearly Two-Thirds Of U.S. Households Struck By COVID-19 Face Financial Trouble](#)
- [Structural Racism, Social Risk Factors, and Covid-19 — A Dangerous Convergence for Black Americans](#)
- [Long-Haulers Are Redefining COVID-19](#)
- [Vaccine Access and Hesitancy: The Public Health Importance of Vaccines](#)
- Johns Hopkins [data capture](#).
- Other tracking data [here](#).

### Common Acronyms

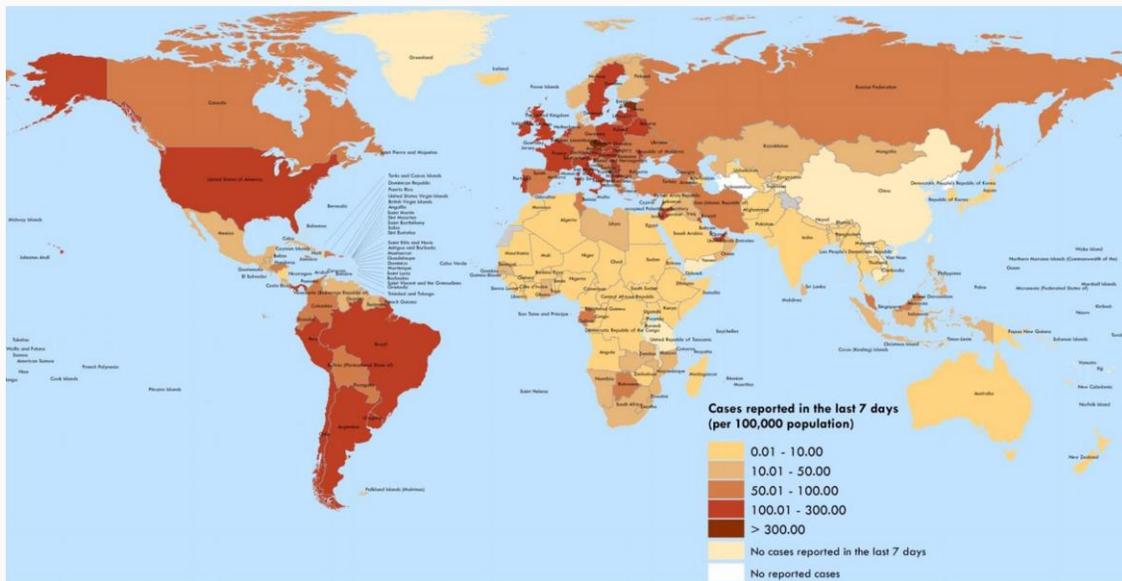
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Central Command (CENTCOM), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Childrens Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), Executive Order (EO), Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)



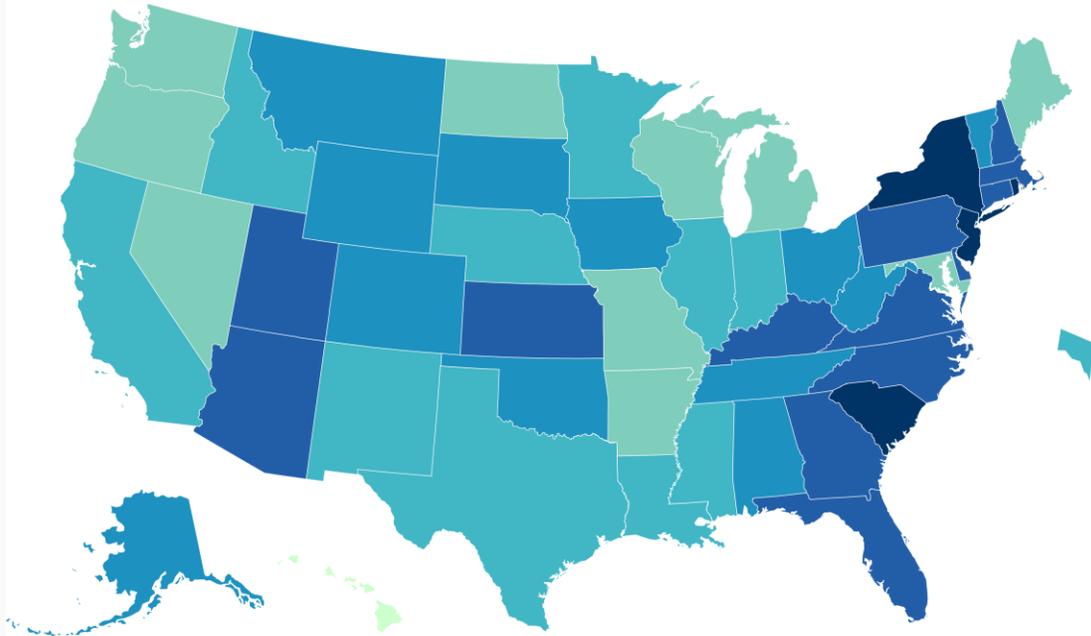
# Nationwide, Black people have died at 1.4 times the rate of white people.



Graph from the COVID Tracking Project's *Racial Data Tracker* 2.22.21



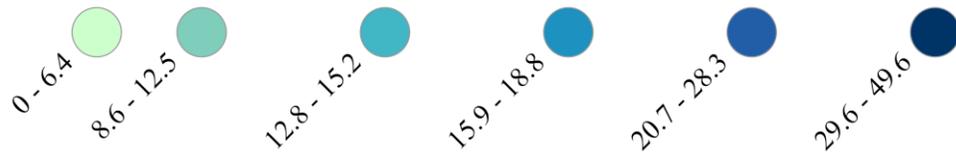
WHO, 2.16.21



**Territories**



**Average Daily Cases per 100,000 in Last 7 Days**



*(Updated 2.22.21 from CDC's [platform](#).)*

**For more information, visit [CDC's Novel Coronavirus 2019 website](#) or the [WHO's dashboard](#).**

# COVID-19 Legislative Update

*February 22, 2021*

## ***Supplemental V***

Timeline/Process: Today, the House Budget Committee approved the bill by a vote of 19-16 and will go through Rules Committee before going to the floor later this week. There is a possibility of votes bleeding into the weekend. The plan remains for the House to pass the package this week, it to move through the Senate next week, and then further House action the following week if there are changes in the Senate.

Politics: After some uncertainty about discretionary funding being passed through reconciliation process, the Senate Parliamentarian has tentatively indicated that discretionary funding should be able to be passed through reconciliation if converted into mandatory funding. However, where minimum wage stands remains unclear. In a [call](#) to governors last week, President Biden seemed to prepare for the reality that raising the minimum wage would not make it into the final bill.

Policy: The Budget Committee approved the bill earlier today. Text [here](#). Press release [here](#).

Last week, the Congressional Budget Office [released](#) scores for nine of the sections of the bill. CBO scores below:

- Ways and Means Committee: \$927.3 billion
- Oversight and Reform Committee: \$350.4 billion
- Education and Labor Committee: \$281.3 billion
- Energy and Commerce Committee: \$124.7 billion
- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee: \$90.5 billion
- Financial Services Committee: \$72.9 billion
- Small Business Committee: \$49.8 billion
- Veterans Affairs Committee: \$16.6 billion
- Agriculture Committee: \$16.1 billion

Bill highlights, as prepared for markups last week below:

**Ways and Means:** press release [here](#) (with links to text and section by section summaries), Joint Committee on Taxation summary [here](#)

- \$1,400 stimulus checks, with same income phase out as the most recent package (\$75 per year for single filers, \$150,000 per year for married couples) ([Subtitle G](#)).
- \$400/week federal unemployment insurance through August 29, 2021 ([Subtitle A](#));
- Extends FFCRA unemployment provisions ([Subtitle A](#)).
- Expands eligibility and increases credit for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC) to \$3,000 per child, and allows families to claim up to half their child care expenses in the Child and Dependent Tax Credit (CDCTC) ([Subtitle G](#)).
- Extension of the employee retention credit ([Subtitle G](#)).
- Exempts EIDL grants and Restaurant Revitalization Grants from tax ([Subtitle G](#)).
- Increases ACA subsidies and caps premiums at 8.5 percent of income, temporary subsidy of COBRA continuation coverage for those who have lost their job-based insurance ([Subtitle F](#)).

**Energy and Commerce:** more details specific to health response funding are [here](#), section by section in the committee memo [here](#), public health text [here](#), Medicaid section text [here](#), CHIP section text [here](#), other provisions text [here](#)

- \$7.5 billion for vaccine distribution, and \$5.2 billion for vaccine supply chain.
- \$50 billion for testing expansion, including tracing, mutation identifications, investments in data infrastructure, and global health.
- \$8 billion for investments in the public health workforce.
- \$9 billion for public health investments like CHCs, Nurse Corps Loan Repayment, and HHS to purchase testing and PPE.
- \$6 billion for the Indian Health Service and tribal health programs.
- \$4 billion for mental health and substance abuse, including \$3.5 billion for SAMHSA, public awareness campaigns, block grant and community-based grants, youth mental health services, and behavioral health workforce training.
- Requires Medicaid coverage and CHIP coverage of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, matched at 100 FMAP.
- Provides incentive for states to expand Medicaid by increasing FMAP by 5 percent for two years.
- Creates \$7.6 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund focused on distance learning.

**Oversight and Reform:** one pager [here](#), committee print [here](#)

- \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments, with nearly \$200 billion dedicated for states and DC, \$130 billion for local governments, \$20 billion for tribes, and \$4.5 billion for territories.
- Money can be used to offset lost revenue.

**Education and Labor:** press release [here](#), fact sheet [here](#), section by section [here](#), text [here](#)

- \$128.5 billion in grants for elementary and secondary school reopening and stabilization.
- \$39.6 billion for higher education emergency relief fund.
- Increases the federal minimum wage to \$15/hr by 2025, phases out the tipped minimum wage by 2027, phases out and eliminated sub-minimum wage.
- \$150 million for worker protection (\$75 million for OSHA).
- \$14.9 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDGB) program.
- Extends the 15 percent increase in monthly SNAP benefits.

**Small Business:** committee print [here](#), text [here](#)

- Expands eligibility for Paycheck Protection Program loans and second-draw loans.
- \$15 billion for EIDL grants.
- \$25 billion for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, with women- and minority-owned restaurants prioritized.

**Transportation and Infrastructure:** text [here](#)

- \$50 billion for FEMA.
- Assistance for funeral-related expenses to individuals and households affected.
- \$30 billion for targeted support of public transit agencies.
- \$8 billions for airport assistance.
- \$3 billion for airline payroll support, with certain requirements for airlines to receive funding.

**Financial Services:** committee print [here](#), section by section in the committee memo [here](#), text [here](#)

- \$10 billion for the Defense Production Act.
- At least \$19 billion for emergency rental assistance, \$5 billion for emergency assistance to those at risk or experiencing homelessness.

- Almost \$10 billion for Homeowner Assistance Fund, which includes emergency utility assistance.

**Agriculture:** text [here](#)

**Veterans Affairs:** text [here](#), section by section [here](#)

## Passed Legislation

Moving forward, this section will only include new information and guidance. For past information and guidance and passed legislation, please refer to the [archives](#). For a summary of all the supplementals that have been passed, please see [here](#).

## New Implementation Information and Guidance

- There has been no new information and guidance since the previous update.

### Members of Congress Affected by COVID-19

New additions in bold. As of January 15, the below list only includes members of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress and thus is not cumulative across Congresses.

Tested Positive Recently (0):

Died from COVID-19 (1): Rep. Ron Wright (R-TX)

Recovered from COVID-19 (68): Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL), Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC), Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA), Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico at large), Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT), Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC), Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL), Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA), Rep. Don Young (R-AK), Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Rep. Brian Steil (R-WI), Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT), Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-TX), Rep. Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV), Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA), Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC), Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL), Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA), Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL), Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS), Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL), Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA), Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)

Currently Self-Quarantined (0):

Completed Quarantine (52): Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC), Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA), Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Rep. Vincente Gonzalez (D-TX), Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ), Rep. Anthony Brindisi (D-NY), Rep. David Price (D-NC), Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY), Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ), Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT), Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA), Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Rep. Mikie Sherrill

(D-NJ), Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX), Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA), Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA), Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE), Sen. James Lankford (R-OK), Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

**David R. Adelman**

Principal & Director | Government Affairs