Tracking the Media Tracking the Coronavirus: What has been learned, disinformation and nine months later

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## Science?

### Science?



#### Anti-science sentiment

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljgqLp DuGQc

#### Conspiracy theories



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JULY 24, 2020

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#### A look at the Americans who believe there is some truth to the conspiracy theory that COVID-19 was planned

**BY KATHERINE SCHAEFFER** 

Most Americans (71%) have heard of a <u>conspiracy theory</u> circulating widely online that alleges that powerful people intentionally planned the <u>coronavirus outbreak</u>. And a quarter of U.S. adults see at least some truth in it – including 5% who say it is definitely true and 20% who say it is probably true, according to a June Pew Research Center survey. The share of Americans who see at least some truth to the theory differs by demographics and partisanship.

Educational attainment is an especially important factor when it comes to perceptions of the conspiracy theory. Around half of Americans with a high school diploma or less education (48%) say the theory is probably or definitely true, according to the survey, which was conducted as part of the Center's <u>American News Pathways project</u>. That compares with 38% of those who have completed some college but have no degree, 24% of those with a bachelor's degree and 15% of those with a postgraduate degree.

https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/07/24/a-look-at-the-americans-whobelieve-there-is-some-truth-to-the-conspiracy-theory-that-covid-19-was-planned/

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#### Conspiracy theories

Partisan affiliation also plays a role in perceptions of the theory. About a third (34%) of Republicans and independents who lean to the GOP say the theory that powerful people intentionally planned the COVID-19 outbreak is probably or definitely true, compared with 18% of Democrats and Democratic leaners.

https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/07/24/a-look-at-the-americans-whobelieve-there-is-some-truth-to-the-conspiracy-theory-that-covid-19-was-planned/

#### **Top Covid Myths**

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

#### Nine COVID-19 Myths That Just Won't Go Away

From a human-made virus to vaccine conspiracy theories, we rounded up the most persistent false claims about the pandemic

أعرض هذا باللغة العربية By Tanya Lewis on August 18, 2020

### Top Covid Myths: Lab in China

Myth 1: The novel coronavirus was engineered in a lab in China. Because the pathogen first emerged and began infecting people in Wuhan, China, President Donald Trump has claimed—without evidence—that it started in a laboratory there. Some conspiracy theorists have even speculated it was engineered as a bioweapon, although U.S. intelligence agencies have categorically denied this possibility, stating that the intelligence community "concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified." No credible evidence has emerged to support an accidental lab release either.

### Top Covid Myths: Wealthy Elites

Myth 2: Wealthy elites intentionally spread the virus to win power and profit. In a video from a conspiracy theory film entitled Plandemic and a book she co-authored, a woman named Judy Mikovits, who once published a high-profile, now retracted study on chronic fatigue syndrome, makes unsubstantiated claims about National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, suggesting they have used their power to profit from disease. Science and the Web site PolitiFact have fact-checked some of the film's claims, many of which appear elsewhere in this article. The video was widely shared by anti-vaxxers and the conspiracy theory group QAnon.

### Top Covid Myths: No Worse Than the Flu

Myth 3: COVID-19 is no worse than the flu. Starting in the early days of the pandemic, Trump repeatedly claimed that the disease is not more dangerous than seasonal influenza. But on September 9 the Washington Post published recordings of Trump telling journalist and author Bob Woodward—in interviews in early February and late March—that the president knew COVID-19 was more deadly than the flu and that he wanted to play down its severity. Although COVID-19's exact mortality rate is hard to pin down, epidemiologists suspect it is far higher than that of the flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the latter causes roughly 12,000 to 61,000 deaths per year in the U.S. By contrast, COVID-19 has caused more than 191,000 deaths in the country as of this writing.\*

#### **Top Covid Myths: Masks**

Myth 4: You don't need to wear a mask. Although early guidance on masks from the CDC and the WHO was confusing and inconsistent, there is now a strong consensus among public health authorities—supported by numerous studies that wearing a face covering can limit the transmission of the coronavirus through small exhaled droplets. Masks have long been known as an effective means of source control (preventing a sick patient from spreading a disease to others), but the early guidance was based, in part, on the fact that there was a shortage of high-quality "N95" and surgical masks.

### Top Covid Myths: Hydroxychloroquine

Myth 5: Hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment. When a small, now widely criticized study in France suggested the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine might be effective at treating the disease, Trump and others seized on it and have continued to tout the medication despite growing evidence that it does not benefit COVID-19 patients. In a tweet, Trump called the hydroxychloroquine treatment "one of the biggest game changers in the history of medicine," and he has mentioned it repeatedly in his public coronavirus briefings. The Food and Drug Administration initially issued an emergency use authorization for the drug, but the agency later warned against its use because of the risk of heart problems and ultimately revoked its authorization.

### Top Covid Myths: Protests Spread It

Myth 6: The Black Lives Matter protests led to increased transmission. When thousands of people started taking to the streets in late May and June to protest the police killing of George Floyd and violence against Black Americans, some people questioned whether the mass gatherings would cause a spike in coronavirus cases. But despite the concerns of Republicans such as Representative Jim Jordan of Ohio that the demonstrations pose as blg a risk as going to church or the gym, such a marked increase from the protests has not been observed. A white paper analysis of protests in 315 of the largest U.S. cities by the National Bureau of Economic Research found no evidence that they led to more COVID-19 cases or deaths.

## Top Covid Myths: Too Much Testing

Myth 7: Spikes in cases are because of increased testing. As coronavirus cases began surging in many parts of the U.S. in recent months, Trump has frequently claimed that these spikes are merely to the result of more people being tested. He has tweeted that "without testing ... we would be showing almost no cases" and has said in interviews that the reason they appear to have gone up is because of increased testing. If that scenario were true, we would expect the percentage of positive tests to go down. But numerous analyses have shown the opposite. The rate has risen in many states with big outbreaks (such as Arizona, Texas and Florida), while it has decreased in those that have controlled their outbreaks (such as New York), indicating that the national increase in positive tests reflects a true increase in cases.

#### **Top Covid Myths: Herd Immunity**

Myth 8: We can achieve herd immunity by letting the virus spread through the population. Early on in the pandemic, some speculated that the polices chosen by the U.K. and Sweden gave the impression that they planned on letting the virus circulate through their population until they reached herd immunity—the point at which enough people are immune to the virus to prevent it from spreading to others. (Both nations' governments have denied that this idea was their official strategy, but the U.K. was late to issue a full lockdown, and Sweden had decided against widespread restrictions.) There is a fundamental flaw with this approach, however: Experts estimate that roughly 60 to 70 percent of people would need to get COVID-19 to achieve herd immunity.

### Top Covid Myths: Any Vaccine Unsafe

Myth 9: Any vaccine will be unsafe and a bigger risk than getting COVID-19. As scientists race to develop a vaccine against the disease, worrying reports have emerged that many people may refuse to get one once it is available. Conspiracy theories about potential vaccines have circulated among anti-vax groups and in viral videos. In Plandemic, Mikovits falsely claims that any COVID-19 vaccine will "kill millions" and that other vaccines have done so (in fact, vaccines save millions of lives each year). Another conspiracy theory asserts that Bill Gates has a secret plan to use vaccines to implant trackable microchips in people; Gates has denied the claim, which is not supported by evidence.

National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., on July 27, 2020 in Binghamton, New York. PHOTOGRAPH BY HANS PENNIK, AP PHOTO

SCIENCE | CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE

# Dozens of COVID-19 vaccines are in development. Here are the ones to follow.

Here are the COVID-19 vaccine prospects that have made it to phase three trials and beyond.

BY AMY MCKEEVER

9 MINUTE READ

#### PUBLISHED OCTOBER 13, 2020

More than 150 coronavirus vaccines are in development across the world—and hopes are high to bring one to market in record time to ease the global crisis. Several efforts are underway to help make that possible, including the U.S. government's <u>Operation Warp Speed</u> initiative, which has pledged \$10 billion and aims to develop and deliver 300 million doses of a safe, effective coronavirus vaccine by January 2021. The World Health Organization is also coordinating global efforts to develop a vaccine, with an eye toward <u>delivering</u> two billion doses by the end of 2021.

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/health-and-human-body/humandiseases/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker-how-they-work-latest-developments-cvd/

WORLD | EUROPE | RUSSIA

#### Russia Strikes Deals to Sell Its Coronavirus Vaccine Internationally

Moscow is in various stages of talks and has received requests to supply as many as 1.2 billion doses of its vaccine, which is still in phase



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https://www.wsj.com/articles/russia-strikes-deals-to-sell-itscoronavirus-vaccine-internationally-11600610554

WORLD

#### China Injects Hundreds of Thousands With Experimental Covid-19 Vaccines

Chinese pharmaceutical companies administer newly developed inoculations outside of clinical trials, despite dangers



*By <u>Chao Deng</u>* Updated Sept. 12, 2020 12:22 pm ET

> https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-injects-hundreds-ofthousands-with-experimental-covid-19-vaccines-11599834029

HOME > NEWS

#### AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine trial suspended in US for at least several more days amid concerns over serious complication

Charles Davis Sep 14, 2020, 11:22 PM



https://www.businessinsider.com/astrazeneca-covid-vaccinetrial-suspended-for-several-more-days-2020-9

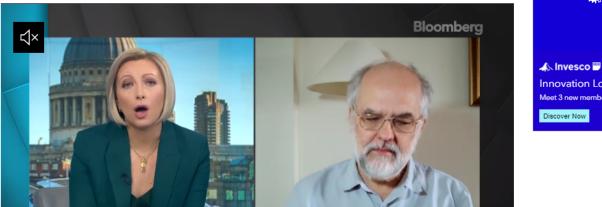
#### **Business** J&J Halts Covid-19 Vaccine Trial Due to **Unexplained Illness**

**Bloomberg News** 

October 12, 2020, 7:58 PM CDT Updated on October 13, 2020, 3:13 AM CDT

▶ Move follows temporary pause of AstraZeneca tests last month

J&J plans to share more details after further investigation



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https://www.businessinsider.com/astrazeneca-covid-vaccinetrial-suspended-for-several-more-days-2020-9

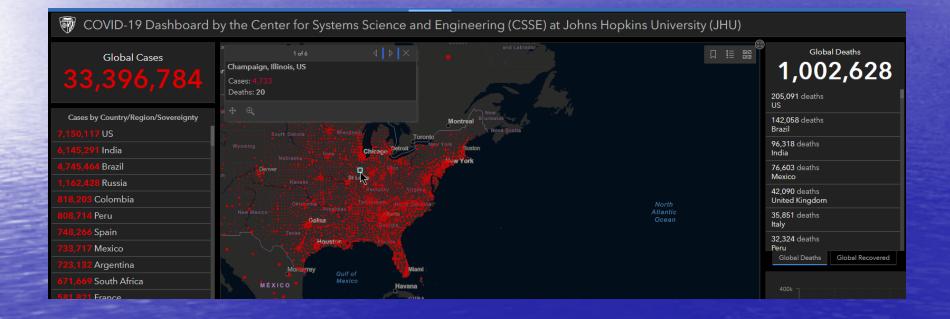


FILE PHOTO: A sign marks the headquarters of Moderna Therapeutics, which is developing a vaccine against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S., May 18, 2020. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

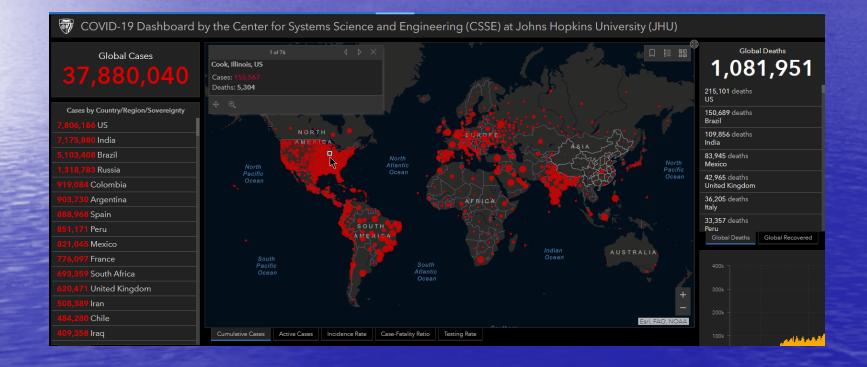
 $(\ensuremath{\mathsf{Reuters}})$  - Moderna Inc will not be ready to apply for emergency authorization for

https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-modernavaccine/moderna-says-covid-19-vaccine-unlikely-to-be-ready-before-u-selection-ft-idUSKBN26M48F

#### Johns Hopkins Covid Map Oct. 7



#### Johns Hopkins Covid Map Oct. 13



#### Johns Hopkins Covid Map Oct. 20



#### NY Times Covid-19 Sept. 22

WORLD COUNTRIES U.S.A. STATES COLLEGES

#### Covid in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count

By The New York Times Updated September 22, 2020, 8:01 A.M. E.T.

Leer en español



At least 428 new coronavirus deaths and 54,874 new cases were reported in the United States on Sept. 21. Over the past week, there have been an average of 41,812 cases per day, an increase of 7 percent from the average two weeks earlier.

#### https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirusus-cases.html

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#### NY Times Covid-19 – Sept 29

The New York Times

WORLD COUNTRIES VUS.A. STATES COLLEGES

#### Covid in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count

By The New York Times Updated September 29, 2020, 12:07 A.M. E.T.

Leer en español



At least 344 new coronavirus deaths and 37,234 new cases were reported in the United States on Sept. 28. Over the past week, there have been an average of 42,271 cases per day, an increase of 15 percent from the average two weeks earlier.

#### NY Times Covid-19 – Oct. 6

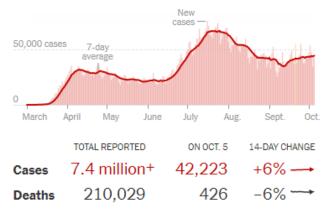
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WORLD COUNTRIES V U.S.A. STATES COLLEGES

#### Covid in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count

By The New York Times Updated October 6, 2020, 7:42 A.M. E.T.

Leer en español



Day with data reporting anomaly. Includes confirmed and probable cases where available. 14-day change trends use 7-day averages.

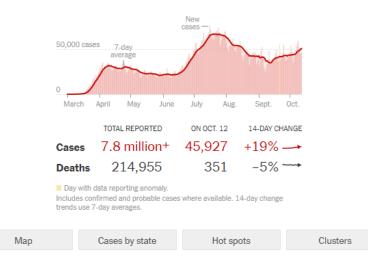
#### NY Times Covid-19 – Oct. 6

WORLD COUNTRIES V U.S.A. STATES COLLEGES

#### Covid in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count

By The New York Times Updated October 13, 2020, 8:21 A.M. E.T.

Leer en español



At least 351 new coronavirus deaths and 45,927 new cases were reported in the United States on Oct. 12. Over the past week, there have been an average of 50,492 cases per day, an increase of 19 percent from the average two weeks earlier.

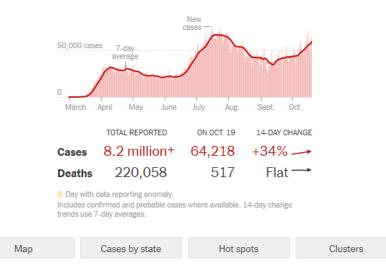
#### NY Times Covid-19 – Oct. 13

The New York Times

#### Covid in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count

By The New York Times Updated October 20, 2020, 8:14 A.M. E.T.

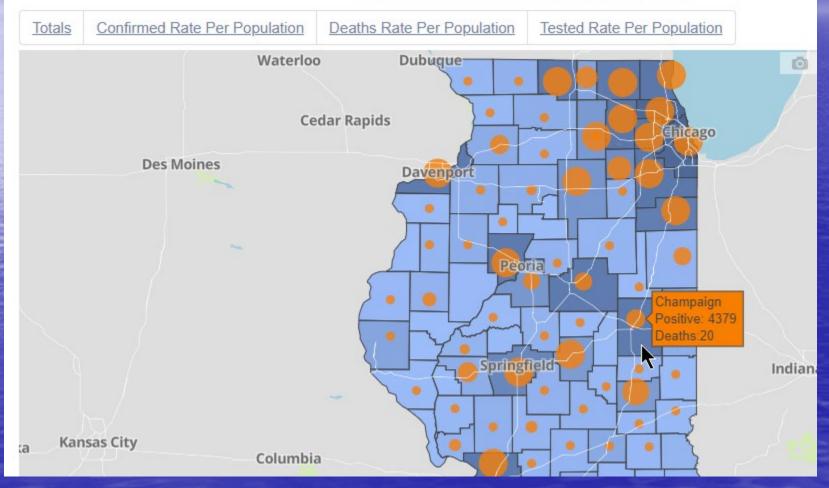
Leer en español



At least 517 new coronavirus deaths and 64,218 new cases were reported in the United States on Oct. 19. Over the past week, there have been an average of 59,269 cases per day, an increase of 34 percent from the average two weeks earlier.

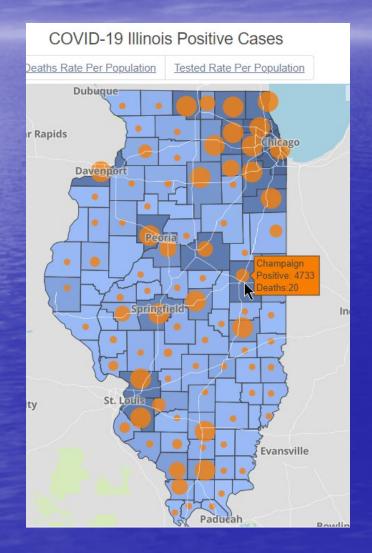
### Illinois Public Health 4,379 – 9/22

#### COVID-19 Illinois Positive Cases

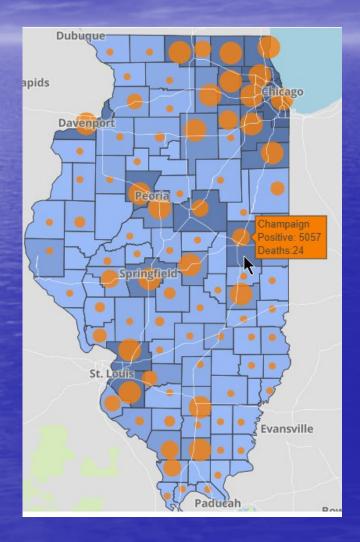


https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19

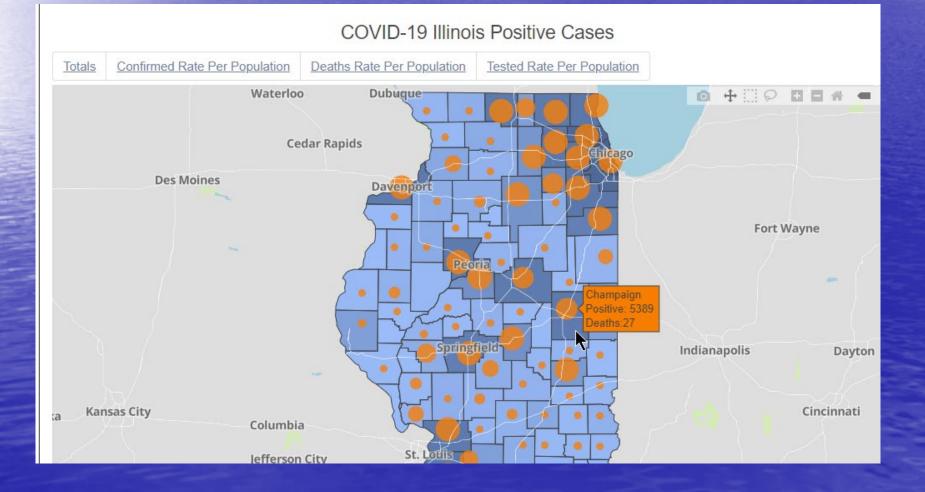
### Illinois Public Health 4,733 – 9/29



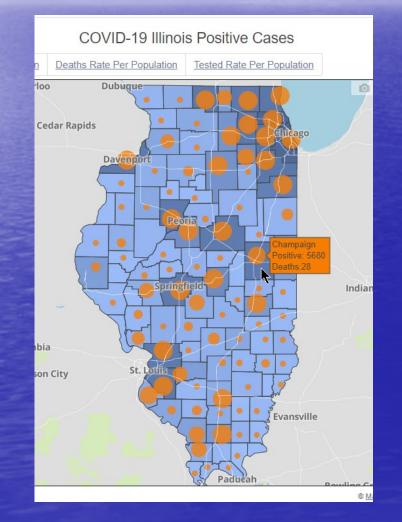
### Illinois Public Health 5,057 – 10/5



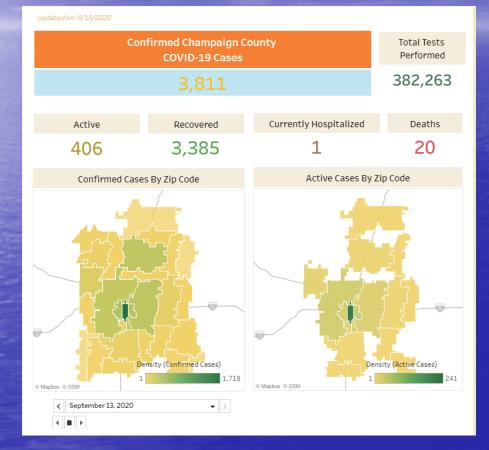
### Illinois Public Health 5,389 – 10/12



### Illinois Public Health 5,680 - 10/19From 4,379 = 1,301 = 325 a week

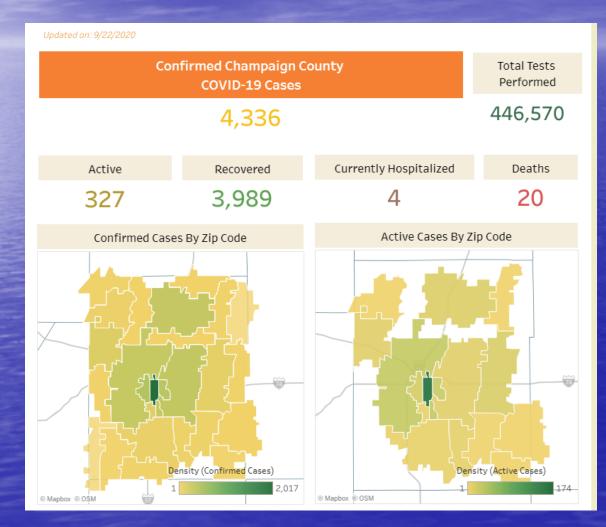


### County – Sept 14 – 3,811

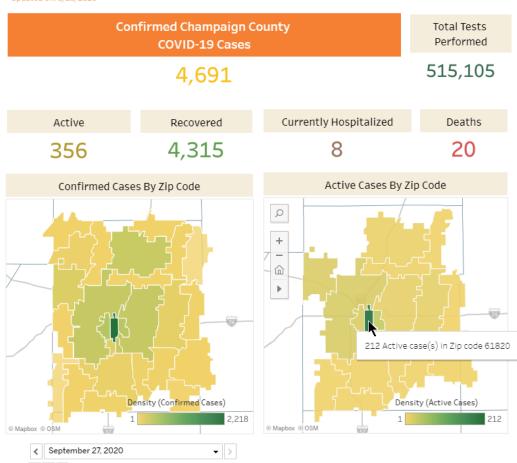


https://www.c-uphd.org/champaign-urbana-illinoiscoronavirus-information.html

# CUPHD – Sept. 22 – 4,336



# CUPHD – Sept. 29 – 4,691



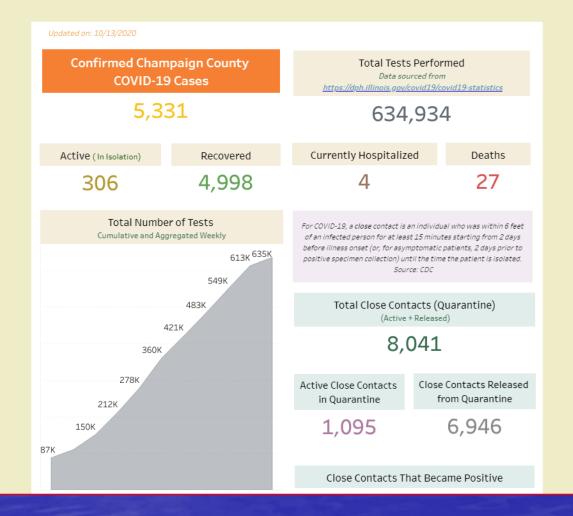
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# CUPHD – Oct. 6 – 5,038

**Confirmed Champaign County** Total Tests Performed COVID-19 Cases 572,869 5,038 Active Recovered Currently Hospitalized Deaths 23 2 364 4,651 Active Cases By Zip Code Confirmed Cases By Zip Code Density (Confirmed Cases) Density (Active Cases) 2.380 © Mapbox © O\$M © Mapbox © OSM-**-** > October 4, 2020 <

## CUPHD – Oct. 13 – 5,038

## **<u>COVID-19 Face Coverings and Gathering Restrictions Ordinance</u>**



## CUPHD – Oct. 20 – 5,661



## **University of Illinois**

## **Shield Testing Data**

Results for University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Direct linking to this site will not work. To share please use https://go.Illinois.edu/COVIDTestingData View this webpage for more explanation of the data displayed in the dashboard. https://covid19.illinois.edu/on-campus-covid-19-testing-data-dashboard/

**Total Test Results** 



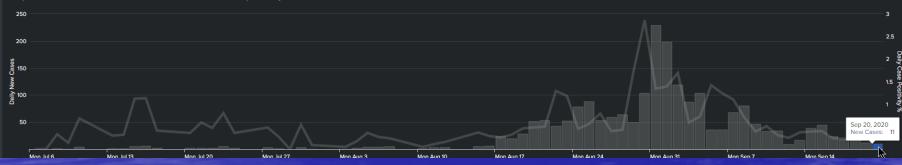
Past 7-Day Case Positivity Rate



Case positivity is unique new cases/total number of test results.

## Unique New Cases

## Unique New Cases are the first time an individual is detected COVID-19 positive by the SHIELD saliva test



# University of Illinois

## Shield Testing Data

Results for University of Illinois, Urbane-Champaign. Direct linking to this site will not work. To share please use https://go.illinois.edu/COVIDTestingData View this webpage for more explanation of the data displayed in the dashboard. https://covid19.illinois.edu/on-campus-covid-19-testing-data-dashboard/

Total Test Results



Past 7-Day Case Positivity Rate

0.41%

Unique New Cases

Unique New Cases are the first time an individual is detected COVID-19 positive by the SHIELD saliva test 250 25 200 Uases Oge Daily New ( 0 Case Positivity % Sep 26, 2020 0.44 50 Mon Jul 13 Mon Jul 20 Mon Jul 27 Mon Aug 3 Mon Aug 10 Mon Aug 17 Mon Aug 24 Mon Aug 31 Mon Sep 7 Mon Sep 14 Mon Sep 21 . Mon Jul 6 2020

# University of Illinois

## **Shield Testing Data**

Results for University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Direct linking to this site will not work. To share please use https://go.illinois.edu/COVIDTestingData View this webpage for more explanation of the data displayed in the dashboard, https://covid19.illinois.edu/on-campus-covid-19-testing-data-dashboard/

Total Test Results

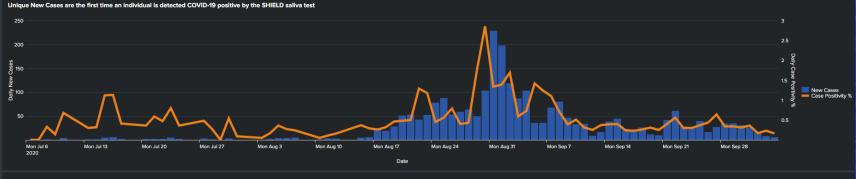


Past 7-Day Case Positivity Rate



Case positivity is unique new cases/total number of test results.

Unique New Cases



Total Number of Daily Tests

## University of Illinois – Oct 10

## Shield Testing Data

## **Shield Testing Data**

Results for University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Direct linking to this site will not work. To share please use https://go.illinois.edu/COVIDTestingData View this webpage for more explanation of the data displayed in the dashboard. https://covid19.Illinois.edu/on-campus-covid-19-testing-data-dashboard/

**Total Test Results** 

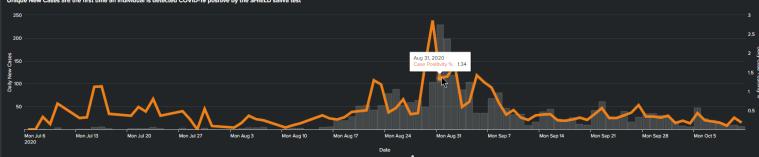


Past 7-Day Case Positivity Rate

0.24 %

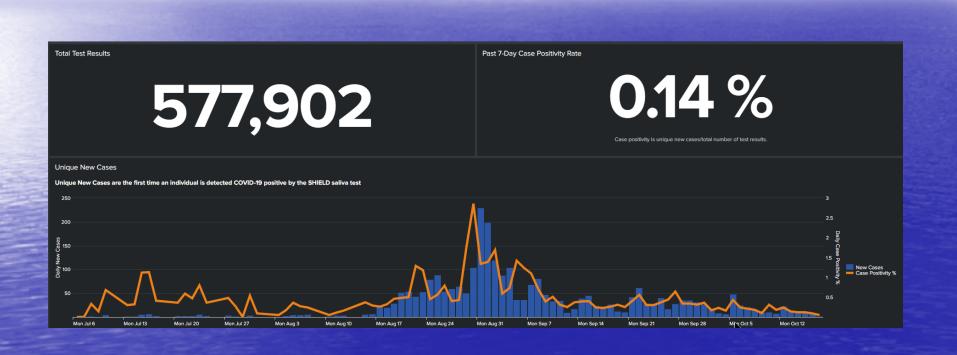
Case positivity is unique new cases/total number of test results.

Unique New Cases



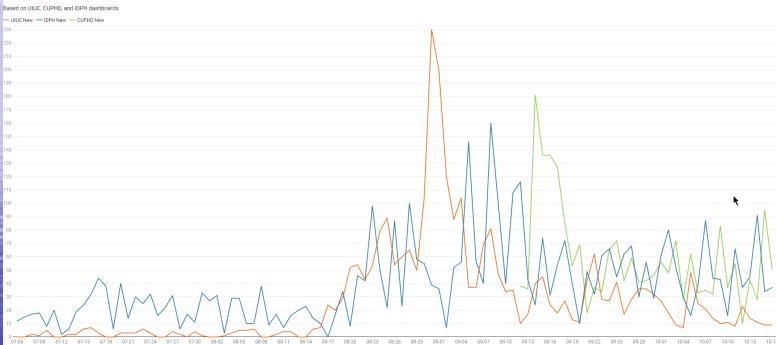
Unique New Cases are the first time an individual is detected COVID-19 positive by the SHIELD saliva test

# University of Illinois – Oct 17



# University of Illinois – Oct 17 – 2,728 cases

## UIUC, CUPHD, IDPH New Covid cases since start



This is based on data from IL dashboards listed below

Chart: Raleigh Butler, CU-Citizen Access + Source: CU-CitizenAccess.org + Get the data + Created with Datawrappe

https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/JCa1R/3/

## Nick Sabin and New Policy

## How a Texas A&M Soccer Player and a 9-Day-Old Policy Put Nick Saban Back on the Alabama Sideline

Last week, before Nick Saban ever tested positive, SEC leaders quietly voted to implement a key change in the conference's COVID-19 policy.

ROSS DELLENGER · OCT 17, 2020

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TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — About a month ago, some 600 miles west of here, a Texas A&M soccer player registered positive for COVID-19 during a routine PCR test conducted by the SEC.

Convinced she did nothing to put herself at risk, the player sought her own test from the student health center on the College Station campus. The result returned negative. Over the next few days, the school tested the player three more times, producing all negative results.

https://www.si.com/college/2020/10/17/nick-saban-covid-testalabama-georgia

## New Policy

"Considerations for Handling Asymptomatic PCR Positive Tests," would allow an asymptomatic person who tested positive to return to activity if they test negative in three consecutive tests administered at least 24 hours apart from one another. The policy was approved through the league's task force and was sent to the conference's executive board.

## WHO policy and CDC Policy

Updated recommendation from WHO

Criteria for discharging patients from isolation (i.e., discontinuing transmission-based precautions) without requiring retesting[1]:

For symptomatic patients: 10 days after symptom onset, plus at least 3 additional days without symptoms (including without fever [2] and without respiratory symptoms)[3]

For asymptomatic cases[4]: 10 days after positive test for SARS-CoV-2

## CDC

For persons who never develop symptoms, isolation and other precautions can be discontinued 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

## WHO policy and CDC Policy

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https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/national-international/animationshows-how-coronavirus-spreads-at-dinner-table/2445568/

Wuhan New Yorker article https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/10/12/nine-days-in-wuhan-theground-zero-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic

Article on Russian meddling and disinformation https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/09/14/is-russian-meddling-asdangerous-as-we-think

# Extras



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwEhn9hgHy4

# Extras



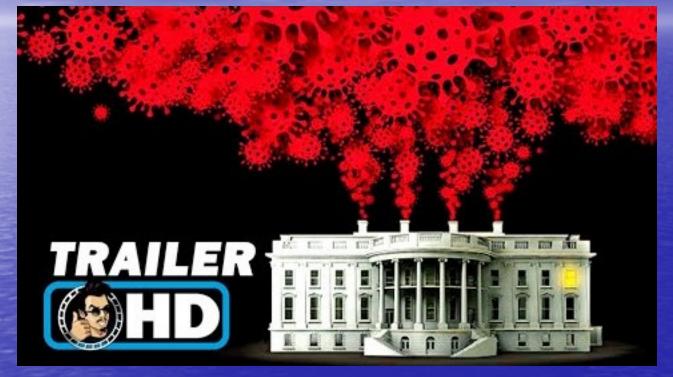
## The new surge



# The new surge



## Extras



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ut4QjbruS50