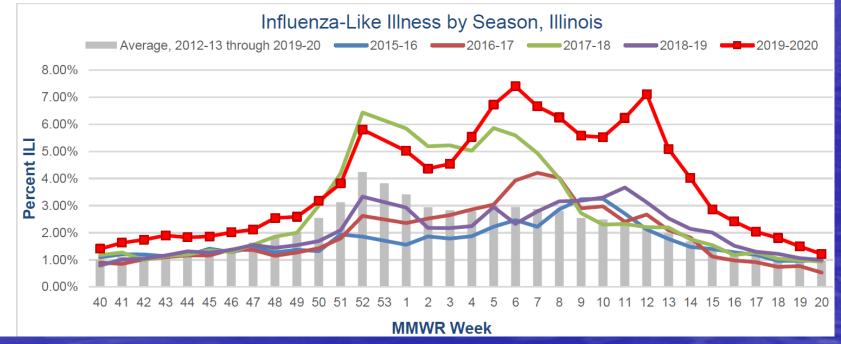
Tracking the Media Tracking the Coronavirus:

Brant Houston Knight Chair in Investigative Reporting University of Illinois brant.houston@gmail.com

Flu or Covid 19? Initial confusion

https://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-andconditions/influenza/influenza-surveillance

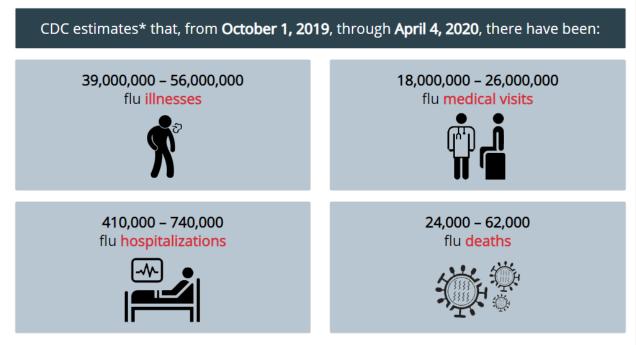
Illinois Sentinel Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance



Flu statistics

2019-2020 U.S. Flu Season: Preliminary Burden Estimates

<u>Español</u>



k

NOTE: The week of April 4 was the last week in-season influenza burden estimates will be provided for the 2019-2020 season.

Early warning – Article published March 14 about blog in January

The Washington Post Gift Subscriptions # Democracy Dies in Darkness How a blogger in Florida put out an early warning about the coronavirus crisis

Your

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A community volunteer in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak. Hazy reports out of China in the final hours of 2019 alerted Florida health blogger that a new epidemic had blossomed. (AEP/Getty Images

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/media/the-first-reporter-in-thewestern-world-to-spot-the-coronavirus-crisis-was-a-blogger-inflorida/2020/03/13/244f39e6-6476-11ea-acca-80c22bbee96f story.html

From Washington Post article

March 14, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. CDT The news seemed so intriguing — and so potentially alarming — that Sharon Sanders stayed up almost until dawn on Dec. 31 to keep track of it.

From her home in Winter Haven, Fla., Sanders began compiling reports of public comments by health officials in China's Hubei province. The officials, Sanders reported on her blog, FluTrackers, had announced an outbreak of an unusual cluster of pneumonia cases, caused by a mysterious virus.

Continuation of FluTrackers article

March 14, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. CDT

The disease apparently had spread among merchants in a seafood market in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people. "A number of people from hospitals in Wuhan said that the current cause is not clear," read one of FluTrackers' first, uncertain posts about the outbreak.

FluTrackers article

Only a few mainstream news outlets, mostly in Asia, had picked up the story, echoed in brief reports that first went out on wire services like the Associated Press and Reuters on Dec. 31. Major American news outlets, however, were slower to grasp what Sanders watched unfold in those early morning hours.

FluTrackers article

The slow-building reaction suggests the Western media underplayed what was unfolding, certainly in the first weeks after the Chinese disclosed it. Even after SARS, swine flu and other outbreaks of recent vintage, a small but novel infection halfway around the world might not have seemed like a very compelling story, especially when other stories — including the impeachment trial of the president — were at the top of the agenda.

FluTrackers Website

Ve thank all contributors from around the world cluding journals, news sources, and citizens.	Search
racking Infectious Diseases since 2006	
orums Blogs Articles Groups	
atest Activity Mark Channels Read Calendar	
🔓 > Forum > China > China: Covid-19	
As of July 13, 2020 we are no longer routinely updating country/state COVID-19 statistics. We are watching and will updating country/state COVID-19 dashboard here.	ate for re-emerging situations. Please see the Johns Hopki
How to safely wear and handle a mask under universal masking UCLA Health link Safety First Life Practice. The governments are opening. We are on own now. Take responsibility for safety in your daily	life We are with your link
DO NOT TAKE MEDICAL ADVICE FROM THE INTERNET. If you are sick, call a COVID-19 (coronavirus) hotline, your med	
FluTrackers.com Inc. does not provide medical advice. Information on this web site is collected from various internet re- warranty to the safety, efficacy, correctness or completeness of the information posted on this site by any author or pos discussion purposes only and is NOT intended to diagnose or treat any disease, illness, or other medical condition. Eve personal physician/healthcare practitioner before considering or using any interventions that are discussed on this web your personal physican before using any interventions posted on this website, and you agree to hold harmless FluTrack authors and posters for any effects from use of any medication, supplement, vitamin or other substance, device, interve venues referenced in posts on this website.	sources, and the FluTrackers board of directors makes no ster. The information collated here is for instructional and/or ery individual reader or poster should seek advice from the bsite. By continuing to access this website you agree to cor kers.com Inc., the board of directors, the members, and all
	be able to post. By viewing this site you are agreeing to our

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https://flutrackers.com/forum/forum/the-pandemic-discussionforum/822041-discussion-thread-i-2019-ncov-new-coronavirus

FluTrackers thread – How Media Changed – Breaking the news in January

	Search Q Page 1 of 27 () Filter V						
F Share							
y Tweet	Last Update: 01 04 00:20 / Settling Time (HKT): 0103 21:55						
	Unknown cause of pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan, but so far the local government has not announced the type of virus causing the disease. It is reported that the local virus that has caused the outbreak of unknown pneumonia is very likely to be a new species of coronavirus that jumps from animals to humans. Some experts in Hong Kong believe that the government is hould immediately upgrade the response level to the severe level in response to the great chance of a new species of coronavirus appearing in the Mainland. It is reported that the government has also formulated further measures to strengthen epidemic prevention, which will be announced today (4th).						
	 is reported that the Mainland has acquired the virus that caused Wuhan's unknown pneumonia this time. It is likely that a new type of coronavirus that jumps from animals to humans is not the same as SARS coronavirus. Some experts have analyzed that there have been severe animal-to-human virus outbreaks in South China, including bit of uand SARS coronavirus. This time, there is no outbreak of bird flu in Wuhan. The epidemic situation is related to markets that sell game. Animal-to- human coronavirus, but not exactly the same as SARS-CoV.						
	 https://hk.news.appledaily.com/local00104/60448286						
	Last edited by Laidback Al; January 3, 2020, 09:08 PM. Reason: changed thread title						
	"Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear." -Nelson Mandela						
	Tags: None						
	January 3, 2020, 04:25 PM #2 I copied the last post on our news thread to start this discussion. It is open to the public and no one has openly connected the African Swine Fever epidemic to this outbreak						
haron sanders	Our news thread:						
Editor-in-Chief & President	China - 44 viral pneumonia / suspected SARS? cases in Wuhan, Hubei province - December 30, 2019 - influenza ruled out						
in Date: Feb 2006 Posts: 39065							
f Share							
🎔 Tweet							
	January 3, 2020, 04:52 PM #3						
	Please also see:						
	SARS pathogen exposure? Wuhan market sells wild rabbit head viscera everywhere link						
	ouro hannofen exhoane : umuan marver sens and rannir near usoera everkanierg illik						

https://flutrackers.com/forum/forum/the-pandemic-discussionforum/822041-discussion-thread-i-2019-ncov-new-coronavirus

Early warnings – January 2020



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEkId Ght-S8

Hoax – Dates on the videos

REGAN

VIRUS

NOW

THIS

MENT ^MFox News Denies Calling COVID-19 a Hoax

Early warnings – February 3, 2020



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_z29 7eni8c

Washington Post

• To be sure, much of the early reporting about the virus was tentative and sometimes inaccurate, as is often the case with breaking news events. The authorities involved often don't have a full understanding yet of what's unfolding, leaving the journalists who are reporting on them equally in the dark.

Washington Post

• But the first reports and commentary about the outbreak were further complicated by questions about the credibility and candor of Chinese officials — the same questions that arose with the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in China in 2003. During that contagion, WHO accused Chinese officials of covering up the number of cases.

According to the Johns Hopkins COVID-<u>19 interactive map</u>, as of today, April 21, 2020 at 10:38 AM, globally there have been: 2, 501,156 confirmed cases 171,810 deaths 659,732 recoveries

April 21 – As re-openings are pushed

- The US continues to lead with the most confirmed cases of COVID-19 with:
- 788,920 total cases to date
- 42,458 deaths
- 73,533 recoveries.

Numbers are strong – April 21



And yesterday, we unveiled detailed guidelines for America's governors to initiate a phased, safe, and gradual reopening of America. That's what's happening. The guidelines provide governors with the fact-driven and science-based metrics they will need to make the decisions that are right for their own particular state.

To view the guidelines, you can go to the website at Whitehouse.gov/OpeningAmerica. So that's Whitehouse.gov/OpeningAmerica.

And when you look at the numbers, when you look at the possible number of death — deaths at 2.2 million people — and it could have very well been that. It could have been more. Frankly, I've been looking at numbers where it could have been higher than that — 2.2 million people dying. If you figure we lost 500,000, maybe 600,000 in the Civil War. 2.2 million people.

April 21, 2020

A minimum, if we did nothing, would have been 1.6 [million].

If you cut that in half, you're talking about 800,000, 900,000, a million people dying. But we did a lot of work, and the people of this country were incredible, I have to say.

And I think we're heading to the other category, and that would be if we did work and if it was successful, they had between 100,000 and 220,000 to 240,000 on the upside.

And I think we'll be substantially, hopefully, below the hundred number. And I think, right now, we're heading at probably around 60-, maybe 65,000.

April 21, 2020

But every day, we're getting closer to the future that we all have been waiting for. I talk about the light at the end of the tunnel; we are getting very, very close to seeing that light shine very brightly at the end of that tunnel.

And it's happening, and I want to thank everybody in the room. I want to thank — I actually want to thank some of the media. We've had some fair coverage — some really fair coverage — and I appreciate it.

Numbers are very strong



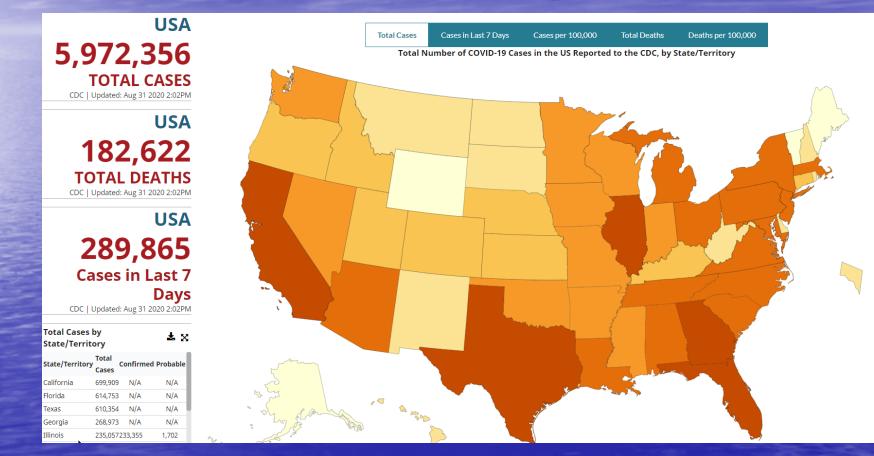
Not saying we won't get our hair mussed (Dr. Strangelove)



Measurements

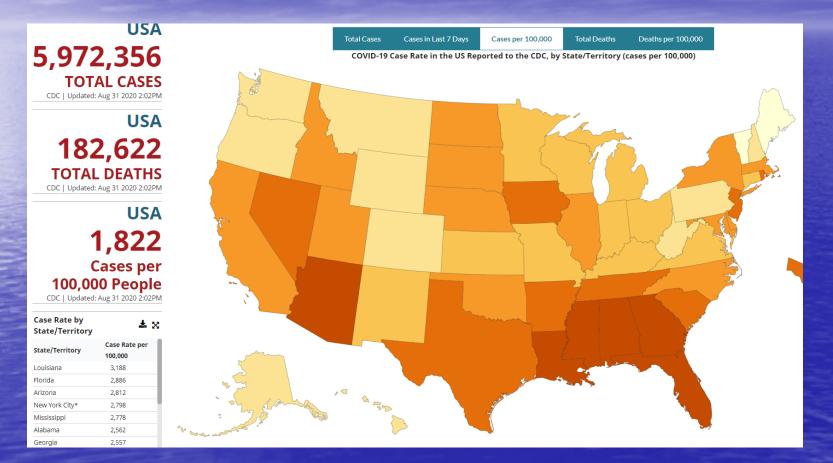
Deaths – hospital or home Deaths – how recorded Deaths - Probable Hospitalized Active and recovered Positivity Infection rates Hot spots or average

CDC Total Cases on August 31



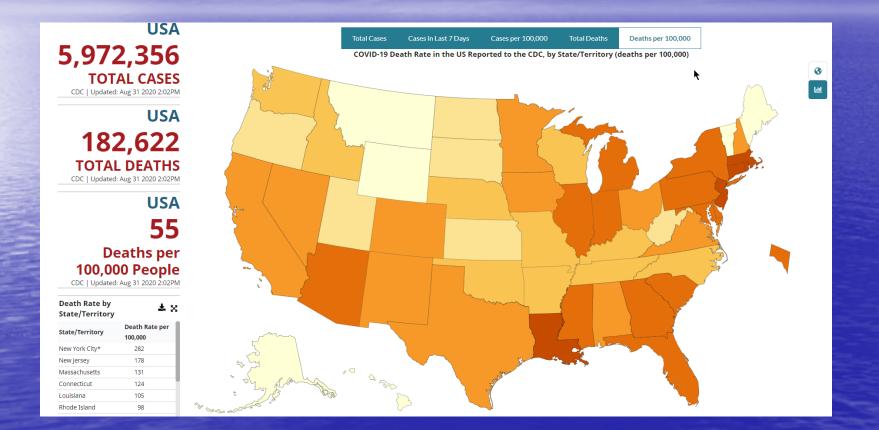
https://www.cdc.gov/covid-datatracker/#cases

CDC Cases per 100,000 - August 31



https://www.cdc.gov/covid-datatracker/#cases

CDC Deaths per 100,000 - Aug 31



https://www.cdc.gov/covid-datatracker/#cases

Data Source – New York Times

The New York Times

WORLD COUNTRIES V U.S.A. STATES TESTING

Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count



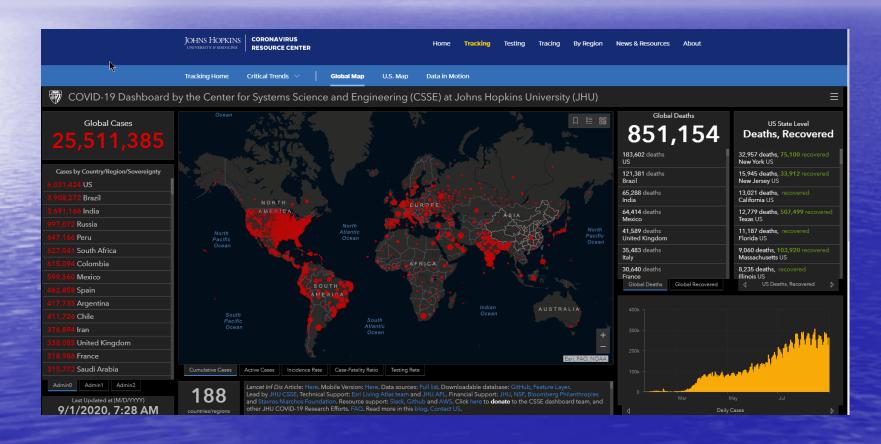
At least 488 new coronavirus deaths and 36,247 new cases were reported in the United States on Aug. 31. Over the past week, there have been an average of 41,492 cases per day, a decrease of 17 percent from the average two weeks earlier.

As of Tuesday morning, more than 6,044,600 people in the United States have been infected with the coronavirus and at least 183,400 have died, according to a New York Times database.

Hot spots	Total cases	Deaths	Per capita					
Average daily cases per 100,000 people in the past week								
8	24	40 56	Few or no					
	Double-click to z	oom into the map.	cases					

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

Data Source – Johns Hopkins



https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html

Data Source - Covid Tracking Project

The public deserves the most complete data available about COVID-19 in the US. No official source is providing it, so we are.

Every day, our volunteers compile the latest numbers on tests, cases, hospitalizations, and patient outcomes from every US state and territory.



https://covidtracking.com/

Data Source - Covid Tracking Project

covidtracking.com/data								Z	☆ 🕘 🖪
🧱 📙 Toshiba 📙 factchecking	g 📙 CAR book 🔇 📙 OLLI	CN Migration from Chi	Pricing	vcu Data Journalism &	🔏 Trip Calculator - Ge	GET STARTED NOW	Open Government:	Flight Review: Amer	🔞 Howdy, branth
	The COVID Tracking Project	Our Data 🗸	About ti	he Data ∨ Ra	ce and COVID-19	✓ About Us	∕ Blog	Q Get involved	
	Our Data Totals for the US Ra	cial Data Dashboard	Our Cha	nts Data API					
	We update all our data e use our <u>APIs</u> .	ach day between 5pm	and 6pm Eas	stern Time. You can	download CSV files for	r everything we track	;, see the dataset <u>as a</u>	<u>spreadsheet</u> , or	

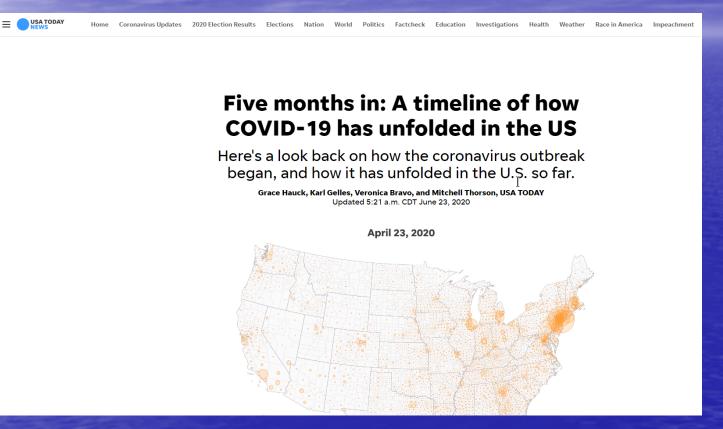
Sign up for our newsletter for the latest news, and to help us gather the best data possible.

Our most up-to-date data and annotations

Last updated from our data: Jul 27 at 5:57 pm ET						
Cases *	Tests		Hospitalized *	Outcomes		Total Test Results
	Negative	Pending	Currently	Recovered	Deaths	Positive + Negative
4,275,188	47,977,146	3,398	59,023	1,325,804	140,309	52,252,334

https://covidtracking.com/data

Timeline – Ends in June 2020



https://www.usatoday.com/indepth/news/nation/2020/04/21/coronavirus-updates-howcovid-19-unfolded-u-s-timeline/2990956001/

https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/nation/2020/04/21/coronavirusupdates-how-covid-19-unfolded-u-s-timeline/2990956001/

An Earlier Reopening Fiasco: The Liberty Parade - 1918



🕤 Smithsonian Magazine



Philadelphia Threw a WWI Parade That Gave Thousands of Onlookers the Flu | History | S... https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/philadelphia-threwwwi-parade-gave-thousands-onlookers-flu-180970372/

Reopening as of June 8 2020

NEWS NBC NEWS NOW NIGHTLY NEWS MEET THE PRESS DATELINE MSNBC TODAY

MEWS

CORONAVIRUS DECISION 2020 OPINION U.S. NEWS BUSINESS WORLD SPORTS PODCAST

Reopening America

All 50 states have begun to reopen. See what that means for your state.

I Reason of

https://www.nbcnews.com/news/usnews/reopening-america-see-what-statesacross-u-s-are-starting-n1195676

Reopening Meme: Business versus health (Jaws)



Zigging and Zagging in April

Trump reverses course, says it's 'too soon' for Georgia Gov. Kemp to reopen state

The president said he told Gov. Brian Kemp "I disagree strongly" with his decision to reopen nail salons and tattoo parlors – but he won't stop him.

...

Trump: 'I disagree strongly' with Georgia governor for opening businesses 'too soon'

https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donaldtrump/trump-reverses-course-says-toosoon-georgia-reopen-n1190061

Change the data

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Bloomberg

Georgia Massaged Virus Data to Reopen, Then Voided Mask Orders

By Margaret Newkirk

July 17, 2020, 5:00 AM CDT Updated on July 17, 2020, 8:58 AM CDT

- ▶ Even as surge becomes unignorable, Kemp stays the course
- A model case for an aggressive reopening tumbles into crisis



https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-07-17/georgiamassaged-virus-data-to-reopen-then-voided-mask-orders

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SIEMENS .

Let business make up their own rules

Health

States that raced to reopen let businesses write their own rules, documents show





https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/states-that-raced-toreopen-let-businesses-write-their-own-rules-documentsshow/2020/07/09/732064aa-bb06-11ea-bdafa129f921026f_story.html

A little premature reporting

Why Georgia's reopening hasn't led to a surge in coronavirus cases (so far)

Georgia's experience could teach us a lot about Covid-19 and its spread. By German Lopez | @germanrlopez | german.lopez@vox.com | Jun 4, 2020, 3:00pm EDT

f 🔰 📝 share

Georgia was the first state to start reopening its economy after shutting down due to the **coronavirus pandemic**. When the shelter-in-place order expired on April 30, a lot of experts and much of the public worried about the worst: a sustained spike in Covid-19 cases that would overwhelm emergency rooms and lead to a surge in deaths.

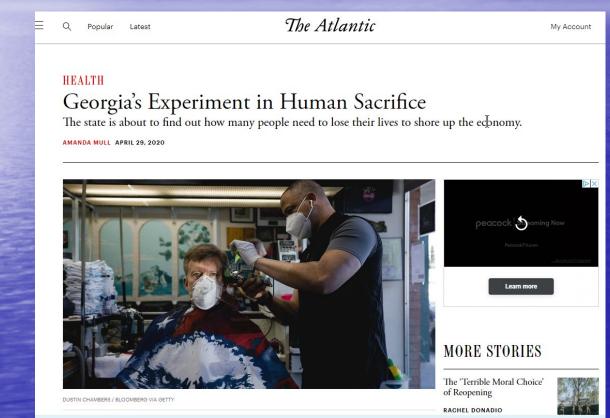
Yet more than a month later, the worst hasn't arrived.

Even as the state has increased its testing capacity, boosting its ability to pick up new coronavirus cases, the total of daily new cases has remained relatively flat, despite some ups and downs. The state isn't getting significantly better — dozens of Covid-19 deaths are still reported each day in Georgia — but it doesn't seem to be getting much worse either.

Georgia's daily new coronavirus cases are relatively flat

https://www.vox.com/2020/6/4/21267769/ georgia-coronavirus-pandemic-covid-casesdeaths-data

Result: The Georgia Experiment



https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archiv e/2020/04/why-georgia-reopeningcoronavirus-pandemic/610882/

Reopening State by State



https://www.nbcnews.com/news/usnews/reopening-america-see-what-statesacross-u-s-are-starting-n1195676

Reopening and surges

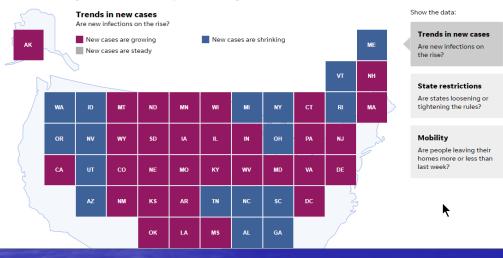
Coronavirus reopening

Map of COVID-19 case trends, reopening status and mobility

Last update: July 27, 2020

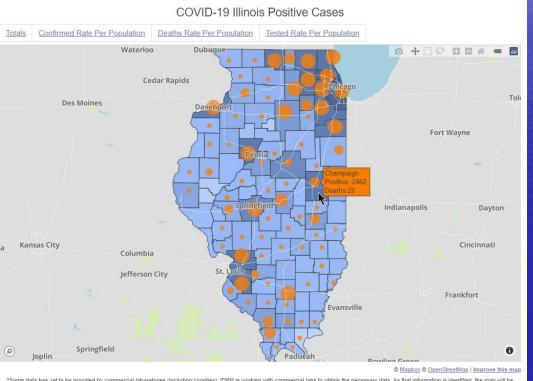


Across the United States, governors are rolling out a patchwork of constantly evolving plans to relax social distancing restrictions. At the height of restrictions in late March and early April, more than 310 million Americans were under directives ranging from "shelter in place" to "stay at home." The orders varied by state, county and even city. Health officials warn that easing restrictions too soon could bring new outbreaks, but many states have forged ahead.



https://www.usatoday.com/storytelling/cor onavirus-reopening-america-map/

Inconsistent data: State case numbers higher – 2462 – Aug. 31

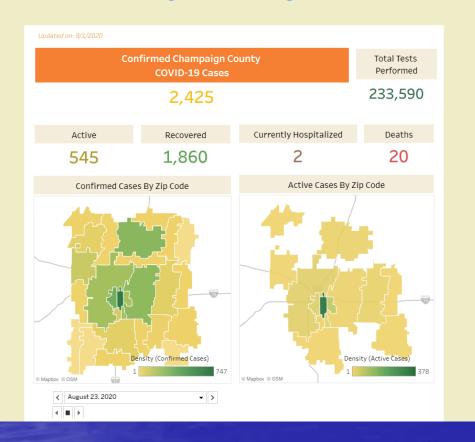


Some data has yet to be provided by commercial laboratories (including counties). IDPH is working with commercial labs to obtain the necessary data. As that information is identified, the map will be

https://www.c-uphd.org/champaign-urbana-illinois-coronavirusinformation.html

County lags in reporting numbers - 2425

NEW August 14 <u>COVID-19 Face Coverings and Gathering Restrictions Ordinance</u>



https://www.c-uphd.org/champaign-urbana-illinois-coronavirusinformation.html

Cumulative numbers charted

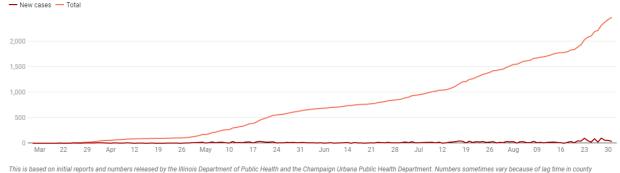


Public Health Housing Justice Education Public Funds Apps, Maps and Visualization Freedom of Information Guides

COVID-19 TIPS

Aug. 31 while county health department reports 2,369 on Aug. 31,93 fewer cases than the state because of lag time in reporting, county officials say. County and





reporting.

Chart: Brant Houston • Source: CU-CitizenAccess.org • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

University expands testing requirements as researchers predict hundreds more cases

ABOUT CU-CITIZENACCESS.ORG

CU-CitizenAccess is a community online news and information project devoted to investigative

https://www.cu-citizenaccess.org/

The meaningless number - recovered

Updated on: 7/29/2020

Confirmed Champaign County COVID-19 Cases			Total Tests Performed
1,413		69,694	
Active	Recovered	Currently Hospitalized	Deaths
212	1,183	14	18

https://www.c-uphd.org/champaign-urbana-illinois-coronavirusinformation.html

The meaningless number - recovered

CU-COVID19

Reports on "recovered" Covid-19 cases inconsistent and incomplete. Numbers elusive and may mislead on real medical impact of virus

By Dylan Tiger, Isaiah Baba, Daria Makhneva and Samantha Boyle / For Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting July 10, 2020



https://www.cu-citizenaccess.org/2020/07/10/definitions-ofrecovered-from-covid-19-vary-widely-across-the-u-s/

The meaningless number - recovered



ON POINT'S CORONAVIRUS HOURS

Lingering Symptoms, Long-Term Damage: For Some, It's A COVID-19 Recovery Reality



Health workers prepare to give people free COVID-19 tests. (OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP via Getty Images)

https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2020/06/25 /whats-it-like-to-recover-from-covid-19

Testing inaccuracy

NEWSLETTER

MEDICAL NEWS TODAY

Get the MNT newsletter Subscribe to receive our top news articles.

Tests may miss more than 1 in 5 COVID-19 cases

A team from Johns Hopkins Medicine has found that PCRbased tests for SARS-CoV-2 have a false negative rate of at least 20%, depending on the time of testing.



Testing delays

BuzzFeed News

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TRENDING

DACA Applications

George Floyd Protests

Climate Change

e Indian



CORONAVIRUS

What's The Point Of A Coronavirus Test That Takes 19 Days For Results?

Private laboratories and health agencies are swamped, leading to communication and technical breakdowns, as well as extensive delays for results

The Wild West

Investigating the coronavirus: The 'Wild West' of unproven treatments

ffective treatment for the coronavirus could save millions of lives, but the risks of moving too fast with too little science could be a bigger risk.



By **Sasha Chavkin** Image: Tawar Nazir via Getty Images May 4, 2020

ICIJ's mission is to reveal injustice and hold the powerful to account. Do you know of someone exploiting the coronavirus crisis, or have another story to share? We'd like to <u>hear it</u>. (<u>Ici en</u> <u>Francais, aquí en Español</u>)

It was easy to laugh off the United States President Donald Trump's musings that disinfectants and sunlight might cure COVID-19.

But the comments, at an April 23 briefing, prompted state health authorities across the United States, as well as the manufacturers of bleach and Lysol, to <u>warn the public</u> not to ingest cleaning products, which are full of toxic chemicals that can kill. For good reason, as it turns out: poison control centers in <u>New York</u>, <u>California</u> and <u>Maryland</u> reported a surge in calls after the comments. Two men in <u>Georgia</u> reportedly drank disinfectants in an attempt to stave off the coronavirus.

Doctor retweeted by Trump has warned of alien DNA, sex with demons

A Houston doctor who made false statements about the coronavirus in a video that was removed from Facebook, Twitter and YouTube this week has previously made other unfounded claims about medical conditions, sexual contact with spirits, the U.S. government, children's television shows and more.

https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefingroom/news/509421-doctor-retweeted-bytrump-has-warned-of-alien-dna-sex-with

Vaccines take time

Coronavirus vaccine: When will we have one?

By James Gallagher Health and science correspondent

🕓 21 July 2020 🛛 🗖 352



Coronavirus pandemic



Coronavirus still poses a significant threat, but there are no vaccines proven to protect the body against the disease it causes - Covid-19.

Top Stories

Trump sticks by unproven coronavirus treatment

The president said the drug had only been rejected as a Covid-19 treatment because he suggested it.

() 9 minutes ago

Young people driving Europe virus spike, WHO says

() 7 hours ago

A day of reckoning for US tech giants' CEOs

③ 9 hours ago



https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51665497

New Reality?

Coronavirus Won't Be Over For 'Years' In Chicago, City's Top Doctor Says

"I don't know we'll ever get to a point where COVID will be eradicated, to be perfectly honest," said Dr. Allison Arwady.



kelly@blockclubchi.org See more

Credibility Indicators

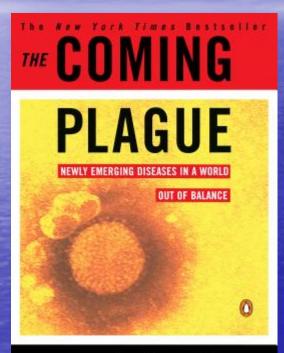
These are selected by the writer and confirmed by the editor CHICAGO — The coronavirus pandemic likely won't be over for years in Chicago — and the virus may never be gone entirely, the city's top doctor said Tuesday.



The city, state and nation are still in the grips of the pandemic, though cases are only slowly rising in Chicago while they surge elsewhere across the United States.

https://blockclubchicago.org/2020/07/28/coronavirus-wont-be-over-for-yearsin-chicago-citys-top-doctor-says/?mc_cid=3b0752088b&mc_eid=3f8b4c28af

The Coming Plague

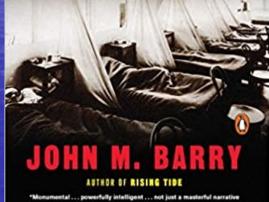


Laurie Garrett Pulitzer Prize wissing reporter and author of Betrapel of Trust

Book recommendation: The Great Influenza

THE GREAT

The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History



"Monumental...powerfully intelligent...not just a masterful narrative but also an authoritative and disturbing morality tale." -Chicago Tribute

Initial comparisons – March 25

NEW YORKER

Newsletter My Accourt

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS The Latest Treatment and Testing Economic Impact What to Do at Home F.A.Q.s

VIDEO DEPT.

A HISTORIAN'S VIEW OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE INFLUENZA OF 1918

By David Remnick March 25, 2020



https://www.newyorker.com/culture/video-dept/a-historians-view-of-thecoronavirus-pandemic-and-the-influenza-of-1918