



MONTANA

SUMMARY

- Montana is in the red zone for cases, indicating 101 or more new cases per 100,000 population last week, with the 3rd highest rate in the country. Montana is in the red zone for test positivity, indicating a rate at or above 10.1%, with the 2nd highest rate in the country.
- Montana has seen an increase in new cases and stability in test positivity over the last week in the context of an overall increase in testing volume. Test positivity in Gallatin (Montana State University) has stabilized at 13% but is now rising among the 25-64 year-olds and among 65+ year-olds; test positivity in Missoula has stabilized at 13%, but is rising among 65+ year-olds.
- The following three counties had the highest number of new cases over the last 3 weeks: 1. Yellowstone County, 2. Flathead County, and 3. Missoula County. These counties represent 41.1% of new cases in Montana.
- Increased case rates in big population centers are correlated with increased testing volumes; however, large increases in test positivity are seen in smaller counties, suggesting increasing rural spread.
- Inpatient bed utilization exceeds 90% in Yellowstone and Lewis and Clark counties.
- 64% of all counties in Montana have moderate or high levels of community transmission (yellow, orange, or red zones), with 43% having high levels of community transmission (red zone).
- During the week of Sep 28 - Oct 4, 14% of nursing homes had at least one new resident COVID-19 case, 34% had at least one new staff COVID-19 case, up substantially from the previous week; 3% had at least one new resident COVID-19 death. There were apparent outbreaks in facilities in Havre, Browning, Great Falls, and Crow Agency.
- Montana had 332 new cases per 100,000 population in the last week, compared to a national average of 100 per 100,000.
- Current staff deployed from the federal government as assets to support the state response are: 3 to support operations activities from FEMA; 5 to support epidemiology activities from CDC; and 7 to support operations activities from CDC.
- Between Oct 3 - Oct 9, on average, 46 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 35 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Montana. An average of 84% of hospitals reported either new confirmed or new suspected COVID patients each day during this period; therefore, this may be an underestimate of the actual total number of COVID-related hospitalizations. Underreporting may lead to a lower allocation of critical supplies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We have included cases, test positivity, and deaths by month in the back of your packet to show the time sequence in Montana and the country as a whole. These demonstrate the impact of comprehensive mitigation efforts when implemented effectively and that partial or incomplete mitigation leads to prolonged community spread and increased fatalities.
- Efforts to expand testing are highly commendable and should continue, especially as weather gets colder, activities move indoors, and the potential for increased transmission rises; increase testing and contact tracing in older age groups to interrupt transmission in those most vulnerable to severe disease.
- Recent data suggest that smaller, more intimate gatherings of family, friends, and neighbors are driving transmission; intensify education and messaging on the need to maintain social distancing and face covering during indoor gatherings and recommend use of cross-ventilated larger spaces where possible.
- Continue to closely monitor hospital utilization, resources, and capacity at the local level and implement expansion plans where needed (Yellowstone and Lewis and Clark). As hospital capacity is increasingly limited in some counties, mitigation efforts should increase to include mask wearing, physical distancing, hand hygiene, avoiding crowds in public and social gatherings in private, and ensuring flu immunizations. Encourage strong recommendations for local councils on state website and urge counties with limited hospital capacity to mandate face coverings and implement stronger restrictions immediately.
- Put county-level incidence, test positivity, and hospital data on state website and include as part of educational campaigns strongly urging social distancing and face coverings.
- Ensure all clinical staff throughout the state are aware of latest treatment protocols, including early use of antiviral and antibody therapy for hospitalized patients.
- Expand contact tracing capacity by focusing the interview and developing scripts and protocols to allow task-shifting; ensure contact interview is conducted within 48 hours of diagnosis and recommendations for isolation and quarantine are made clear.
- Ensure institutions of higher education (IHE), particularly Montana State University and Montana Tech, are conducting adequate surveillance of both symptomatic and asymptomatic students. Establish focused wastewater testing to expand efficiency and reach of surveillance and direct testing efforts. Post total testing volumes and results on the IHE's website.
- Use antigen or other rapid tests and implement regular surveillance by frequently testing select critical staff, such as teachers, clinic staff and staff working at long-term care facilities (LTCFs) and other congregate living settings, prisoners and prison staff, public transportation workers, and first responders. Ensure all results of antigen tests, including negative results, are reported.
- Tribal Nations: Continue to deliver culturally-specific public health education and easily accessible testing. Ensure prompt (within 48 hours of diagnosis) isolation and contact tracing and provide housing, food, and supplies to support immediate quarantine of contacts and isolation of cases.
- Any nursing homes with 3 or more cases of COVID among staff and/or residents per week over any of the past 3 weeks should have mandatory inspection surveys conducted and immediate support for corrective action to ensure COVID-19 safety guidance and considerations are being implemented. Preventing further spread in these areas is critical to protect this vulnerable population.
- Specific, detailed guidance on community mitigation measures can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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



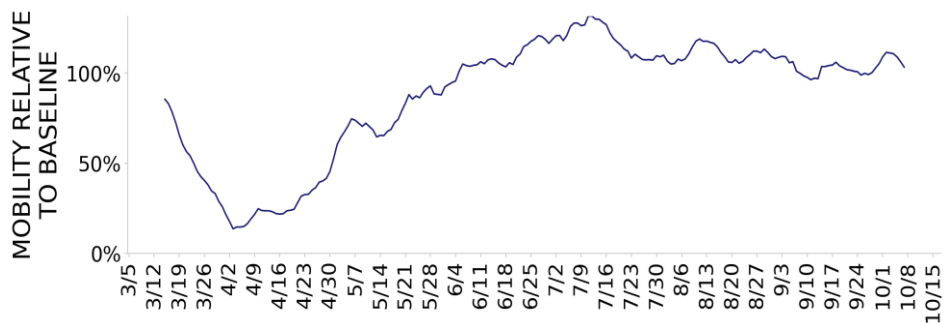


MONTANA

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	STATE, LAST WEEK	STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	FEMA/HHS REGION, LAST WEEK	UNITED STATES, LAST WEEK
NEW COVID-19 CASES (RATE PER 100,000)	3,545 (332)	+55%	24,547 (200)	327,190 (100)
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE	14.8%	+0.1%*	8.7%	5.8%
TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000)	29,870** (2,795)	+18%**	309,098** (2,521)	6,936,223** (2,113)
COVID-19 DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000)	20 (1.9)	+25%	197 (1.6)	4,908 (1.5)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE (≥1 NEW STAFF CASE)	14% (34%)	+10%* (+20%*)	11% (30%)	10% (21%)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATH	3%	+2%*	4%	4%

MOBILITY



* Indicates absolute change in percentage points.

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

DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

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

Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 10/9/2020; last week is 10/3 - 10/9, previous week is 9/26 - 10/2.

Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 10/7/2020. Last week is 10/1 - 10/7, previous week is 9/24 - 9/30.

Mobility: Descartes Labs. This data depicts the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a county. The 100% represents the baseline mobility level prior to the pandemic; lower percent mobility indicates less population movement. Data is anonymized and provided at the county level. Data through 10/7/2020.

SNFs: Skilled nursing facilities. National Healthcare Safety Network. Data are reported separately for cases among residents and staff. Last week is 9/28-10/4, previous week is 9/21-9/27.



MONTANA

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COVID-19 COUNTY AND METRO ALERTS*

Top 12 shown in table (full lists below)

METRO AREA (CBSA) LAST WEEK

COUNTY LAST WEEK

LOCALITIES IN RED ZONE	<p>4 ■ (+0)</p>	<p>Billings Kalispell Bozeman Great Falls</p>	<p>24 ▲ (+7)</p>	<p>Yellowstone Flathead Gallatin Cascade Glacier Roosevelt Big Horn Hill Rosebud Deer Lodge Beaverhead Toole</p>
LOCALITIES IN ORANGE ZONE	<p>2 ■ (+0)</p>	<p>Missoula Butte-Silver Bow</p>	<p>9 ▲ (+4)</p>	<p>Missoula Silver Bow Ravalli Pondera Jefferson Fergus Carbon Dawson Sanders</p>
LOCALITIES IN YELLOW ZONE	<p>1 ■ (+0)</p>	<p>Helena</p>	<p>3 ▼ (-2)</p>	<p>Lewis and Clark Lincoln Park</p>
Change from previous week's alerts:		<p>▲ Increase</p>	<p>■ Stable</p>	<p>▼ Decrease</p>

All Red Counties: Yellowstone, Flathead, Gallatin, Cascade, Glacier, Roosevelt, Big Horn, Hill, Rosebud, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Toole, Blaine, Valley, Lake, Richland, Stillwater, Chouteau, Teton, Wheatland, Prairie, Wibaux, Fallon, Meagher

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

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

DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 10/9/2020; last week is 10/3 - 10/9, three weeks is 9/19 - 10/9.

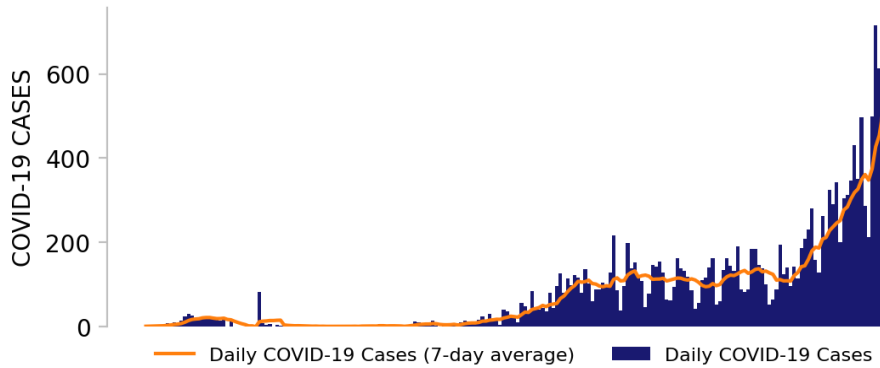
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 10/7/2020. Last week is 10/1 - 10/7.



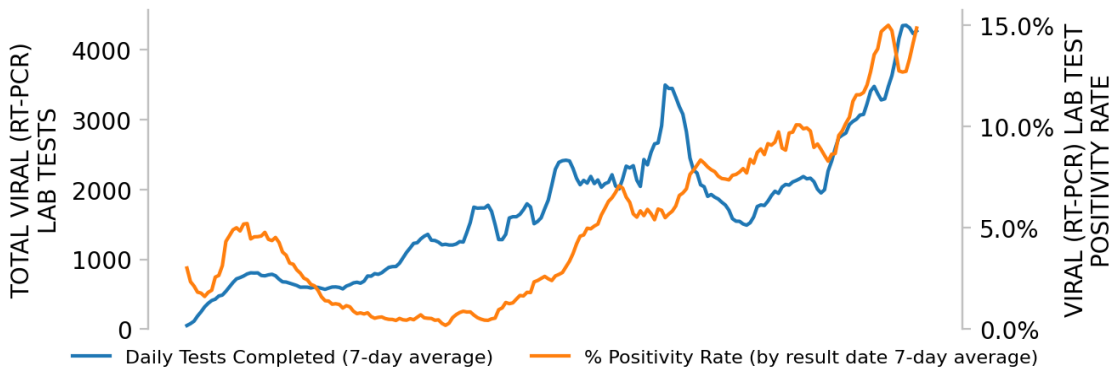
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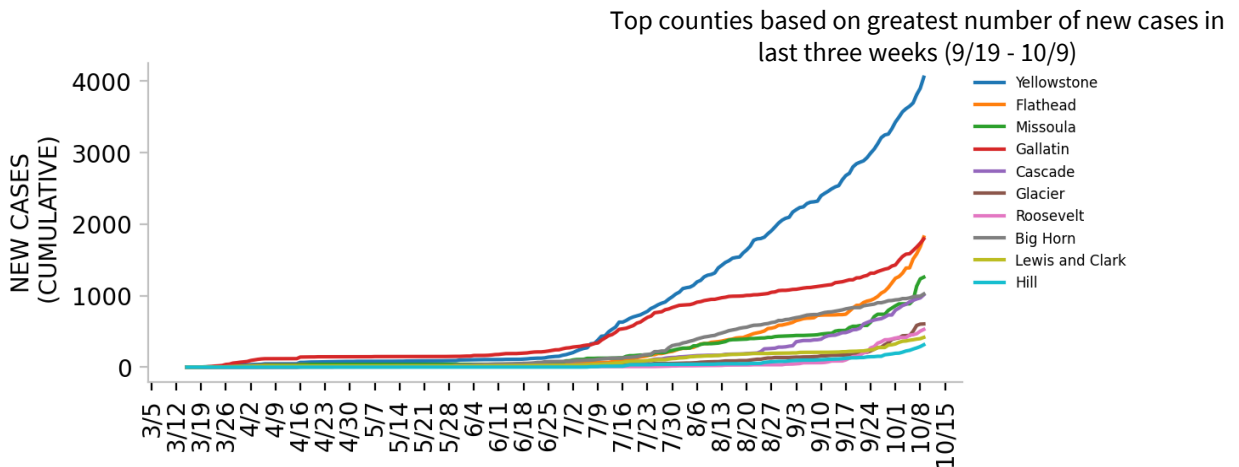
NEW CASES



TESTING



TOP COUNTIES



DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

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

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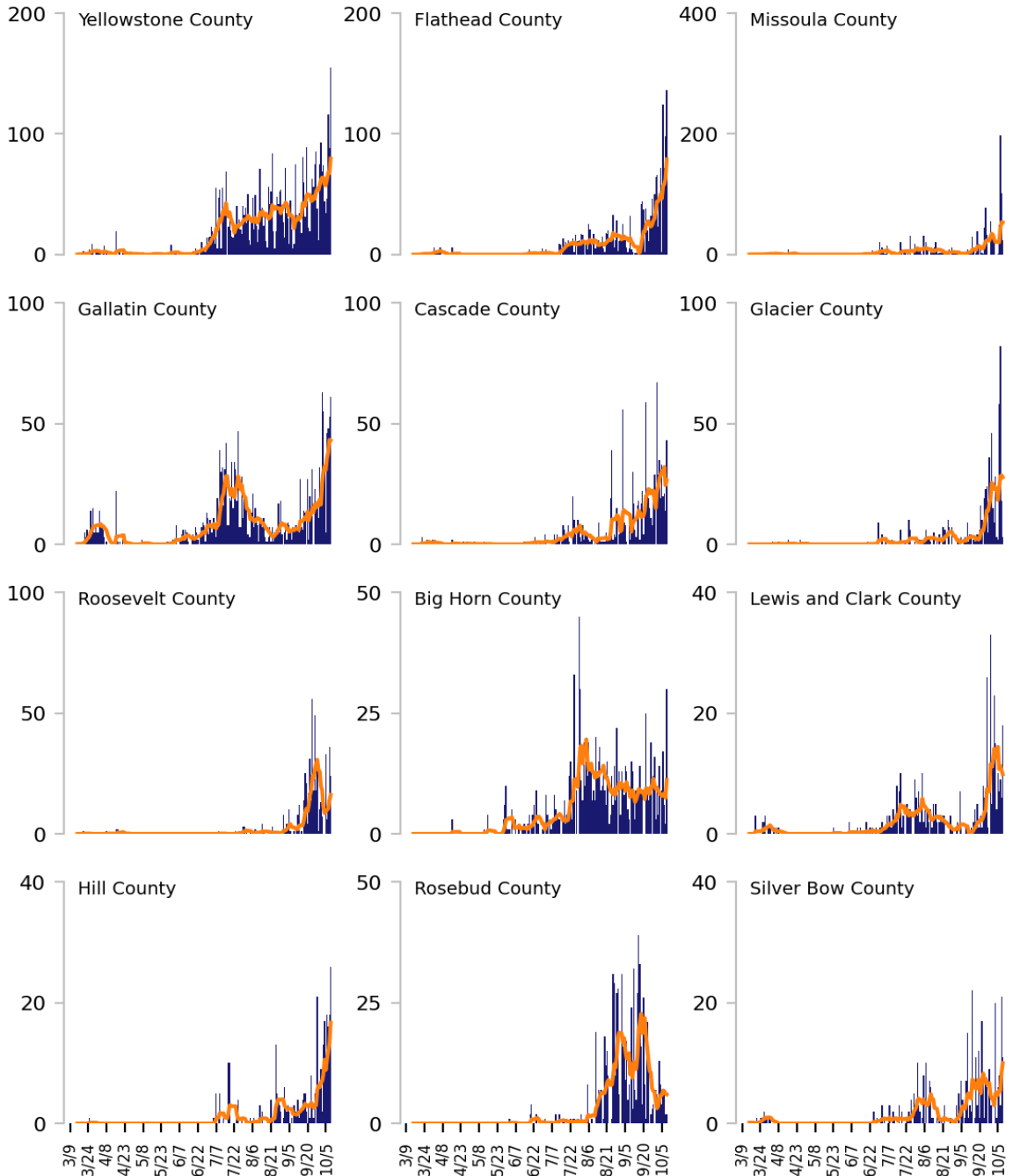
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 10/7/2020.



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

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

TOTAL DAILY CASES



DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

Cases: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 10/9/2020. Last 3 weeks is 9/19 - 10/9.

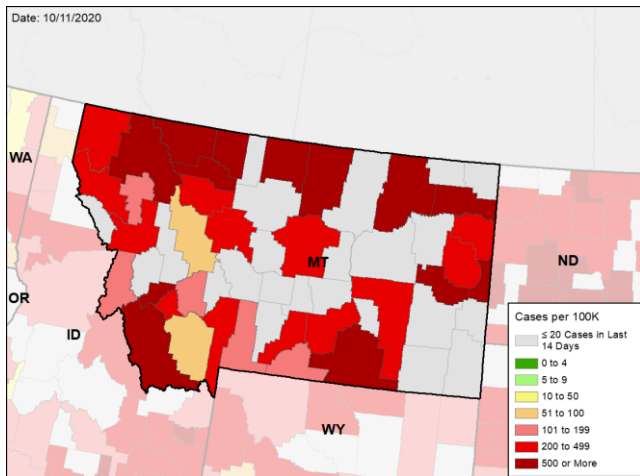


MONTANA

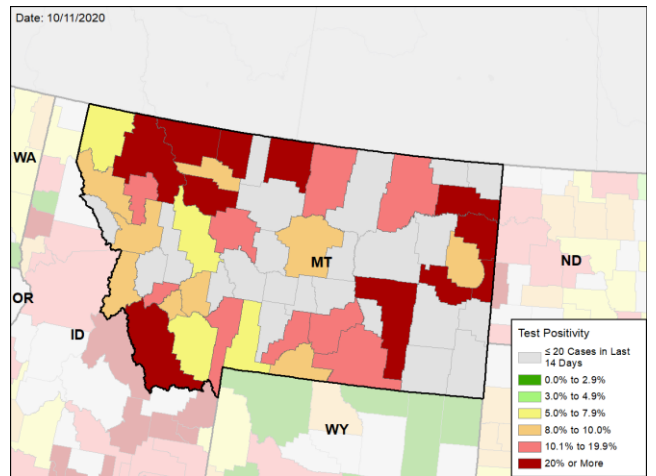
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CASE RATES AND VIRAL LAB TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK

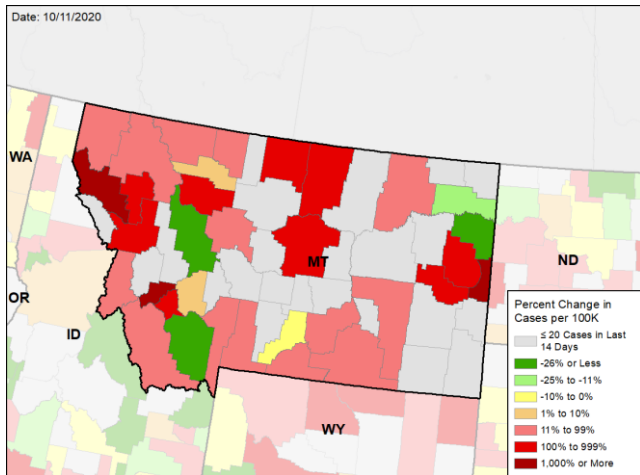
NEW CASES PER 100,000 DURING THE LAST WEEK



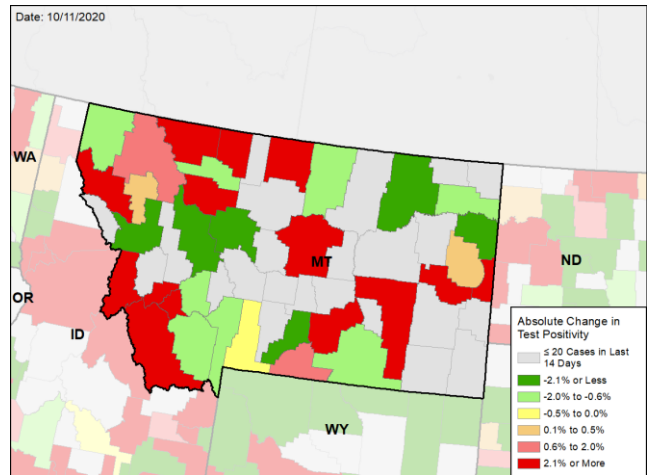
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK



WEEKLY CHANGE IN NEW CASES PER 100,000



WEEKLY CHANGE IN VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY



DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

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

Cases: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 10/9/2020. Last week is 10/3 - 10/9, previous week is 9/26 - 10/2.

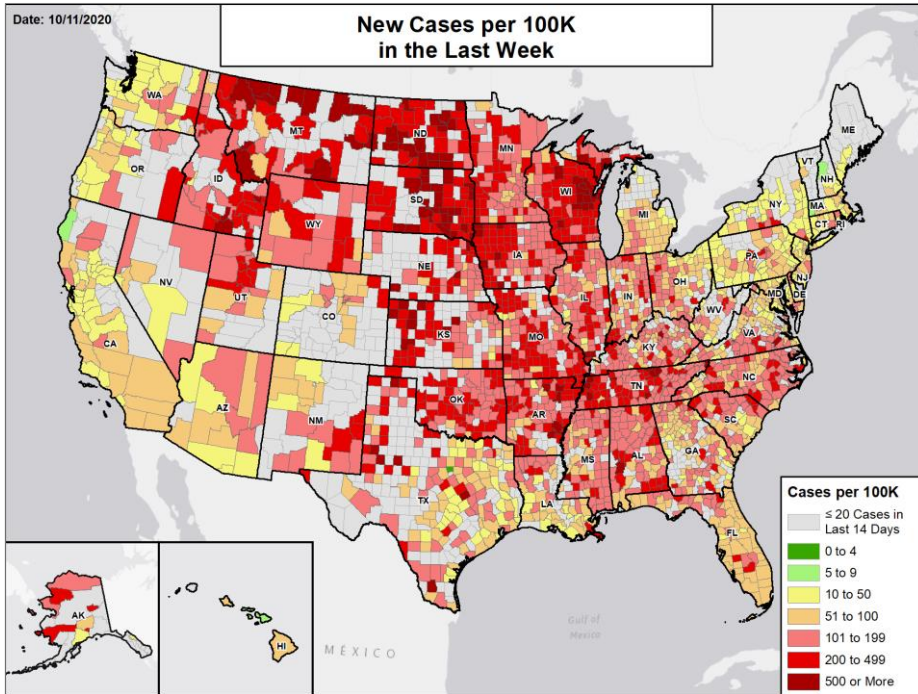
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 10/7/2020. Last week is 10/1 - 10/7, previous week is 9/24 - 9/30.



National Picture

NEW CASES PER 100,000 LAST WEEK

NATIONAL RANKING OF NEW CASES PER 100,000 LAST WEEK



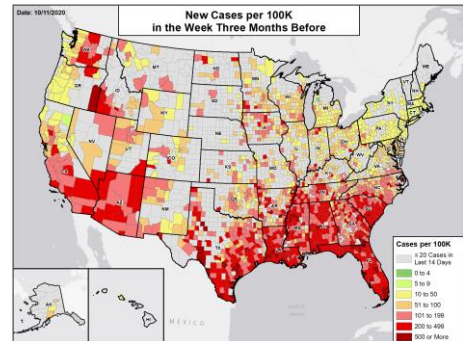
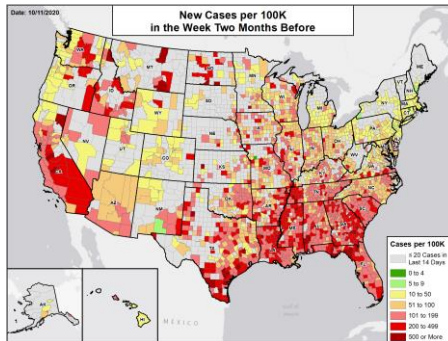
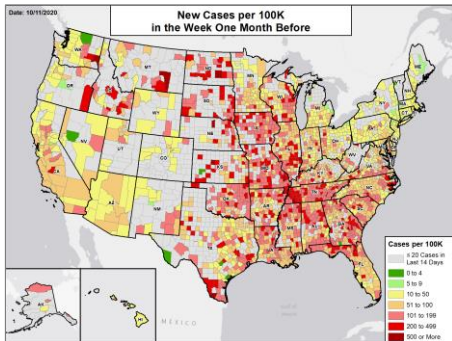
National Rank	State	National Rank	State
1	ND	27	TX
2	SD	28	DE
3	MT	29	CO
4	WI	30	VA
5	UT	31	FL
6	ID	32	OH
7	IA	33	GA
8	WY	34	MI
9	OK	35	WV
10	TN	36	LA
11	AR	37	MD
12	KY	38	PA
13	KS	39	NJ
14	NE	40	MA
15	MO	41	DC
16	AK	42	AZ
17	MN	43	CA
18	MS	44	OR
19	AL	45	NY
20	IN	46	WA
21	SC	47	HI
22	IL	48	CT
23	NC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

NEW CASES PER 100,000 IN THE WEEK:

ONE MONTH BEFORE

TWO MONTHS BEFORE

THREE MONTHS BEFORE



DATA SOURCES

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

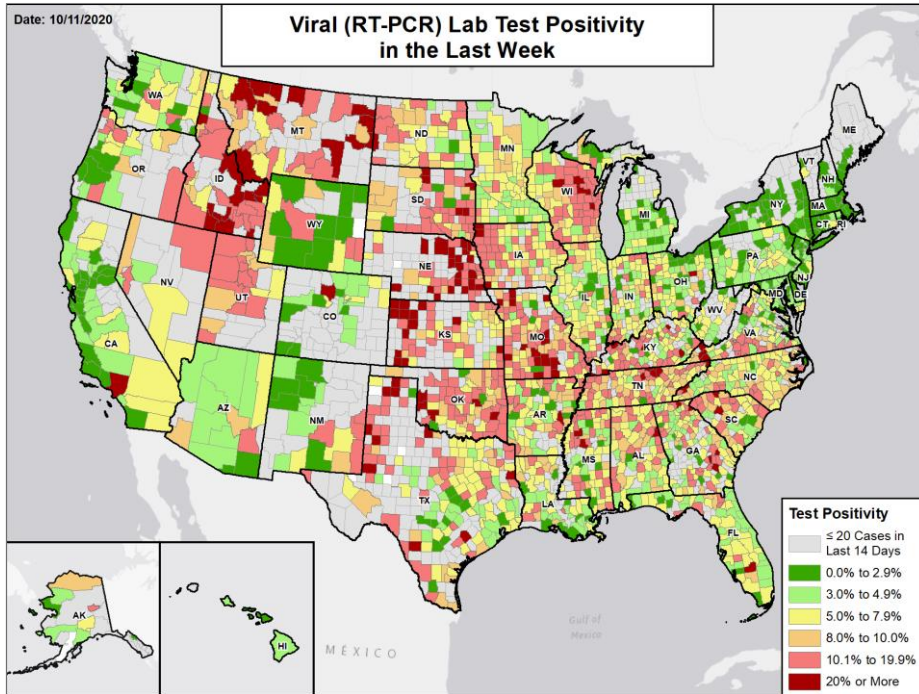
Cases: County-level data from USAFacts through 10/9/2020. Last week is 10/3 - 10/9; the week one month before is 9/5 - 9/11; the week two months before is 8/8 - 8/14; the week three months before is 7/11 - 7/17.



National Picture

VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY LAST WEEK

NATIONAL RANKING OF TEST POSITIVITY LAST WEEK



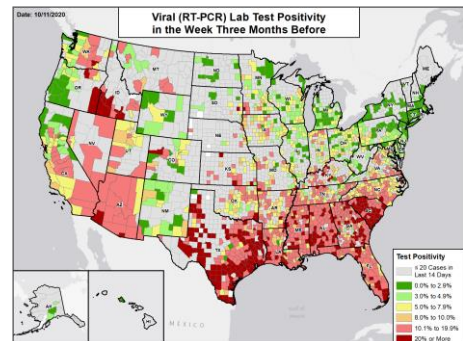
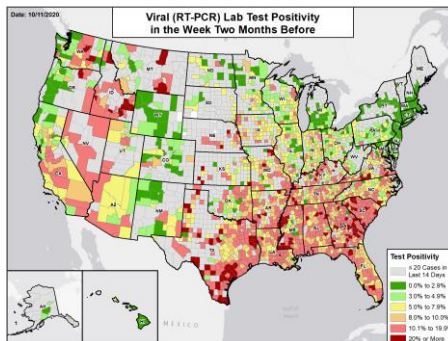
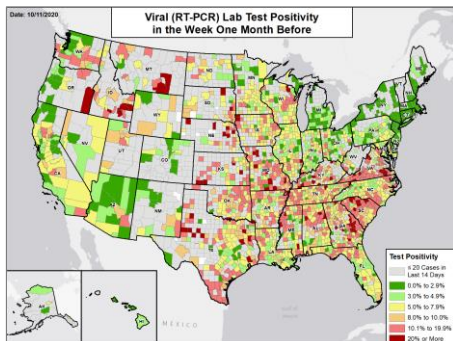
National Rank	State	National Rank	State
1	NE	27	MN
2	MT	28	FL
3	ID	29	IL
4	UT	30	NM
5	CA	31	LA
6	SD	32	AZ
7	WI	33	WY
8	OK	34	WV
9	OR	35	PA
10	MO	36	MD
11	IA	37	CO
12	KY	38	MI
13	KS	39	HI
14	SC	40	OH
15	NV	41	WA
16	ND	42	NJ
17	MS	43	DE
18	TN	44	CT
19	AL	45	NH
20	AR	46	RI
21	TX	47	NY
22	IN	48	DC
23	NC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

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

ONE MONTH BEFORE

TWO MONTHS BEFORE

THREE MONTHS BEFORE



DATA SOURCES

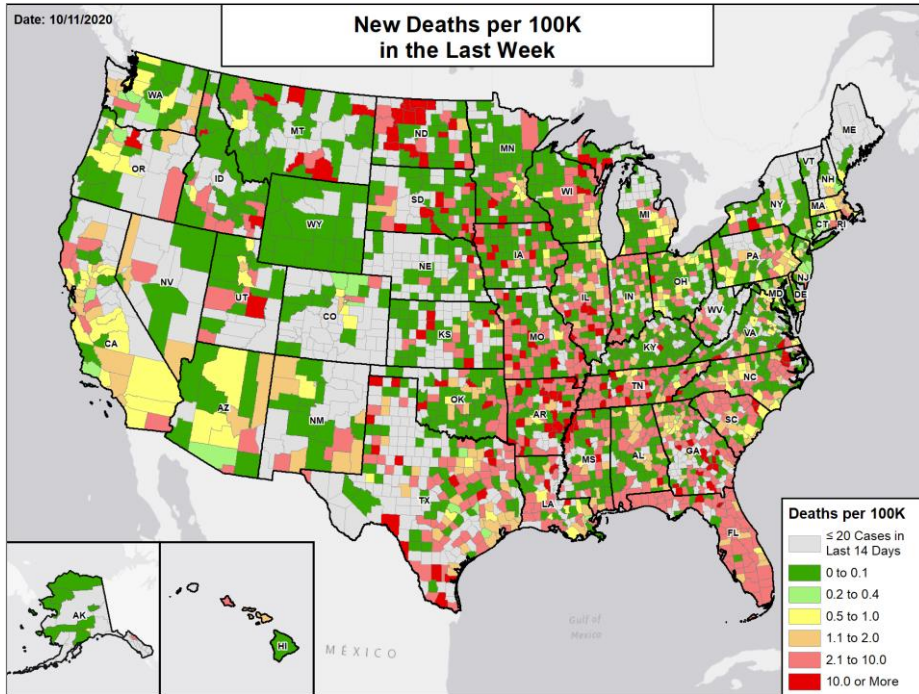
Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

Testing: Combination of CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data and HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) through 10/7/2020. Last week is 10/1 - 10/7; the week one month before is 9/3 - 9/9; the week two months before is 8/6 - 8/12; the week three months before is 7/9 - 7/15.



National Picture

NEW DEATHS PER 100,000 LAST WEEK

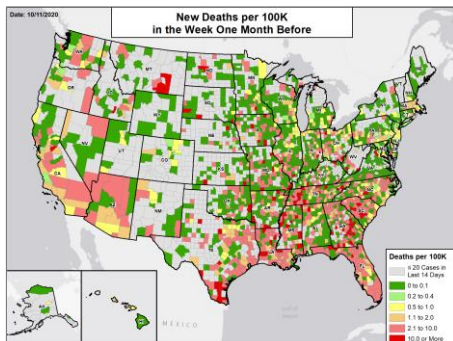


NATIONAL RANKING OF NEW DEATHS PER 100,000 LAST WEEK

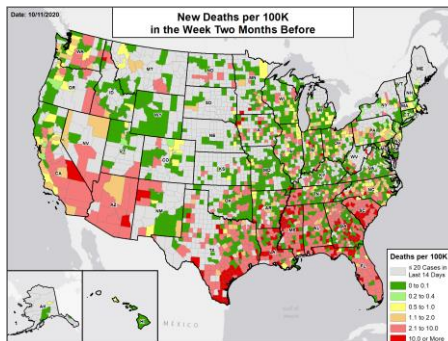
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9	GA	35	DE
10	KS	36	OR
11	AL	37	CO
12	IA	38	OH
13	TX	39	AZ
14	LA	40	NM
15	MT	41	DC
16	ID	42	NH
17	HI	43	WA
18	IL	44	MD
19	IN	45	CT
20	NV	46	NY
21	WI	47	AK
22	NC	48	NJ
23	MA	49	ME
24	OK	50	VT
25	WV	51	WY
26	VA		

NEW DEATHS PER 100,000 IN THE WEEK:

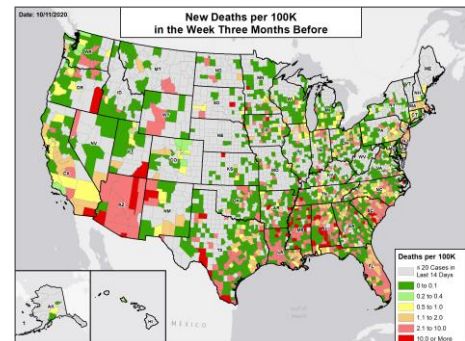
ONE MONTH BEFORE



TWO MONTHS BEFORE



THREE MONTHS BEFORE



DATA SOURCES

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

Deaths: County-level data from USAFacts through 10/9/2020. Last week is 10/3 - 10/9; the week one month before is 9/5 - 9/11; the week two months before is 8/8 - 8/14; the week three months before is 7/11 - 7/17.



METHODS

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COLOR THRESHOLDS: Results for each indicator should be taken in context of the findings for related indicators (e.g., changes in case incidence and testing volume). Values are rounded before color classification.

Metric	Dark Green	Light Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
New cases per 100,000 population per week	≤4	5 – 9	10 – 50	51 – 100	≥101
Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population	≤-26%	-25% – -11%	-10% – 0%	1% – 10%	≥11%
Diagnostic test result positivity rate	≤2.9%	3.0% – 4.9%	5.0% – 7.9%	8.0% – 10.0%	≥10.1%
Change in test positivity	≤-2.1%	-2.0% – -0.6%	-0.5% – 0.0%	0.1% – 0.5%	≥0.6%
Total diagnostic tests resulted per 100,000 population per week	≥2001	1001 – 2000	750 – 1000	500 – 749	≤499
Percent change in tests per 100,000 population	≥26%	11% – 25%	1% – 10%	-10% – 0%	≤-11%
COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population per week	≤0.1	0.2 – 0.4	0.5 – 1.0	1.1 – 2.0	≥2.1
Percent change in deaths per 100,000 population	≤-26%	-25% – -11%	-10% – 0%	1% – 10%	≥11%
Skilled Nursing Facilities with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death	0%		1% – 5%		≥6%
Change in SNFs with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death	≤-2%		-1% – 1%		≥2%

DATA NOTES

- Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date data as possible.
- **Cases and deaths:** County-level data from USAFacts as of 17:35 EDT on 10/11/2020. State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data are reviewed on a daily basis against internal and verified external sources and, if needed, adjusted. Last week data are from 10/3 to 10/9; previous week data are from 9/26 to 10/2; the week one month before data are from 9/5 to 9/11.
- **Testing:** The data presented represent viral COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic and screening test (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR) results—not individual people—and exclude antibody and antigen tests, unless stated otherwise. CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data are used to describe county-level viral COVID-19 laboratory test (RT-PCR) result totals when information is available on patients’ county of residence or healthcare providers’ practice location. HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) are used otherwise. Some states did not report on certain days, which may affect the total number of tests resulted and positivity rate values. Because the data are deidentified, total viral (RT-PCR) laboratory tests are the number of tests performed, not the number of individuals tested. Viral (RT-PCR) laboratory test positivity rate is the number of positive tests divided by the number of tests performed and resulted. Resulted tests are assigned to a timeframe based on this hierarchy of test-related dates: 1. test date; 2. result date; 3. specimen received date; 4. specimen collection date. Resulted tests are assigned to a county based on a hierarchy of test-related locations: 1. patient residency; 2. provider facility location; 3. ordering facility location; 4. performing organization location. States may calculate test positivity other using other methods. Last week data are from 10/1 to 10/7; previous week data are from 9/24 to 9/30; the week one month before data are from 9/3 to 9/9. HHS Protect data is recent as of 13:41 EDT on 10/11/2020. Testing data are inclusive of everything received and processed by the CELR system as of 19:00 EDT on 10/10/2020.
- **Mobility:** Descartes Labs. These data depict the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a locality. The 100% represents the baseline mobility level prior to the pandemic; lower percent mobility indicates less population movement. Data is anonymized and provided at the locality level. Data is recent as of 17:33 EDT on 10/11/2020 and is through 10/7/2020.
- **Hospitalizations:** Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. This figure may differ from state data due to differences in hospital lists and reporting between federal and state systems. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. In addition, hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure. The data presented represents raw data provided; we are working diligently with state liaisons to improve reporting consistency. Data is recent as of 18:19 EDT on 10/11/2020.
- **Skilled Nursing Facilities:** National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Data report resident and staff cases independently. Quality checks are performed on data submitted to the NHSN. Data that fail these quality checks or appear inconsistent with surveillance protocols may be excluded from analyses. Data presented in this report are more recent than data publicly posted by CMS. Last week is 9/28-10/4, previous week is 9/21-9/27.
- **County and Metro Area Color Categorizations**
 - **Red Zone:** Those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and counties that during the last week reported both new cases at or above 101 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result at or above 10.1%.
 - **Orange Zone:** Those CBSAs and counties that during the last week reported both new cases between 51–100 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result between 8.0–10.0%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the “Red Zone.”
 - **Yellow Zone:** Those CBSAs and counties that during the last week reported both new cases between 10–50 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result between 5.0–7.9%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the “Orange Zone” or “Red Zone.”