

Issue # 174

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

COVID-19 Report

Highlights

- New daily infections per capita increased yesterday, following an eleven-day period during which the rate was flat
- This increased rate resulted from a significant increase in new cases yesterday, compared to Tuesday last week; This now makes three consecutive days that new cases were higher than the same day the prior week
 - A three-day run like this begins to suggest a trend - however, new cases week-to-week have been up four times and down three in the past week
- Among Large Central and Large Fringe Metro Areas in the U.S., Sussex, VA experienced the highest new infection rate per capita over the past week - more than 2.5x the next highest, Mathews, VA
 - Monroe, NY had the lowest rate among Large Central areas
 - Six of the eight lowest rates among Large Central Metro Areas were in New Jersey or New York, including New York City
 - Sussex's rate was 51x that of Monroe, NY, and 12x the U.S. average
- Over the past two weeks, infection rates have intensified in the Upper Midwest, while they eased in the South and West

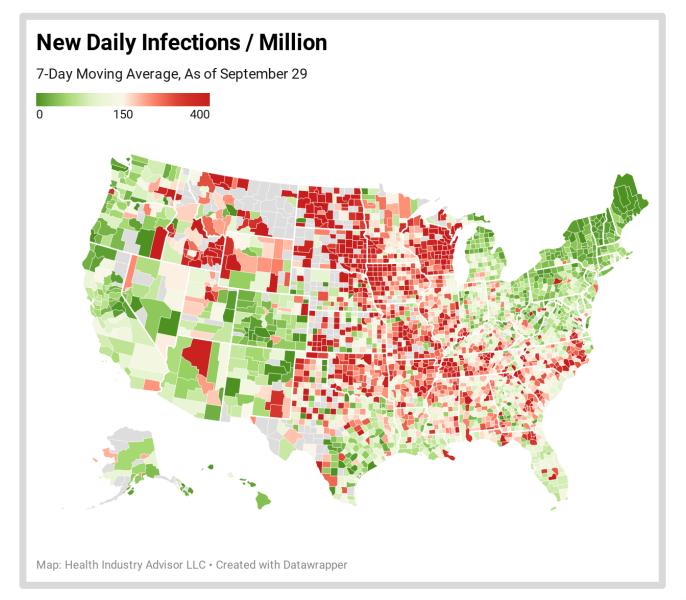
- Worldwide, Israel, Bahrain, Argentina and Spain experienced the highest rate of new infections per capita among countries > 1 million population over the past week
 - Israel's rate is 5x that of the U.S.
 - Israel has experienced the sharpest increase in this rate compared to two weeks ago, by far
 - The Netherlands, Belgium, Czechia and Lebanon also experienced significant increases in this rate over the past two weeks.
 - Bahrain has experienced a significant decline
- Test volume in the U.S, on a 7-day average basis, set a record high for the second consecutive day
- The test-positive rate, both for the day yesterday and on a 7-day average basis, met the 5% WHO target. This was the first time the 7-day average has been this low since June 19
- Hospital census of COVID-19 patients has fluctuated in a narrow range over the past 16 days; This census had significantly declined from late-July to mid-September
- The percentage of COVID-19 inpatients on ventilators continued to decline; this rate is ~ 1/3 what it was in April
- The % of ER visits for COVID-19-like illnesses fell sharply, continuing a trend that began in July
- The 7-day average deaths reported per day has been stable for the past eight days



Highest rates of new daily infections* are concentrated in metro areas in the center of the country

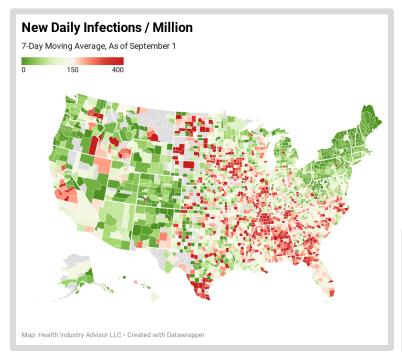
There are other concentrations in parts of the Southeast and Mountain States

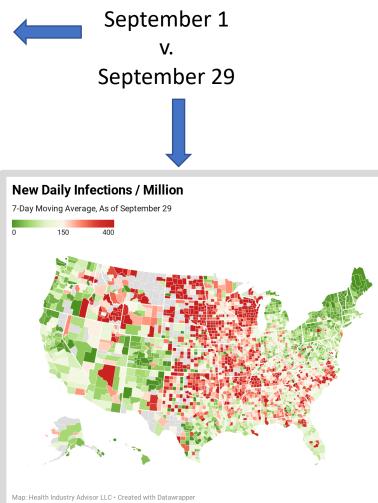
* 7-day average





Comparing infection rates on September 1 to September 29 illustrates how the infection spread has intensified in the Upper Midwest







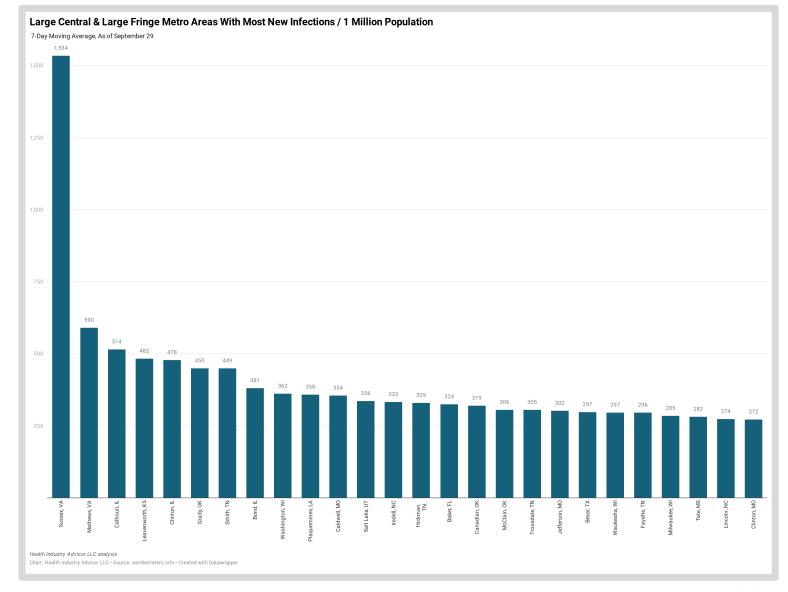
Large Central & Large Fringe Metro Areas in U.S.

Two metro areas in Virginia experienced the highest rates of new infections* over the past week: Sussex and Mathews

Others with very high rates: Calhoun (IL), Leavenworth (KS), Clinton (IL), Grady (OK) and Smith (TN)

Twenty-six of these metro areas experienced rates > 270 per million per day

* 7-day average



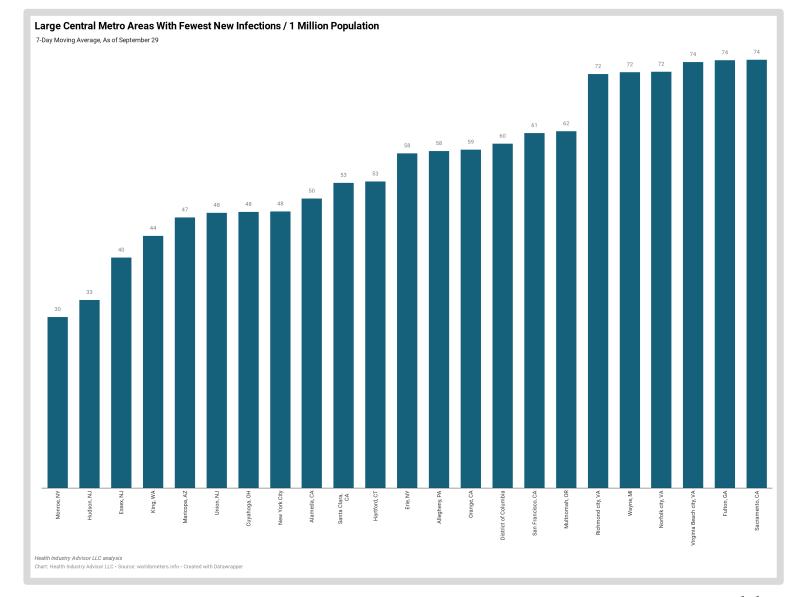


Large Central & Large Fringe Metro Areas in U.S.

By comparison, twentythree large central metro areas experienced infection rates* < 75 during the past week

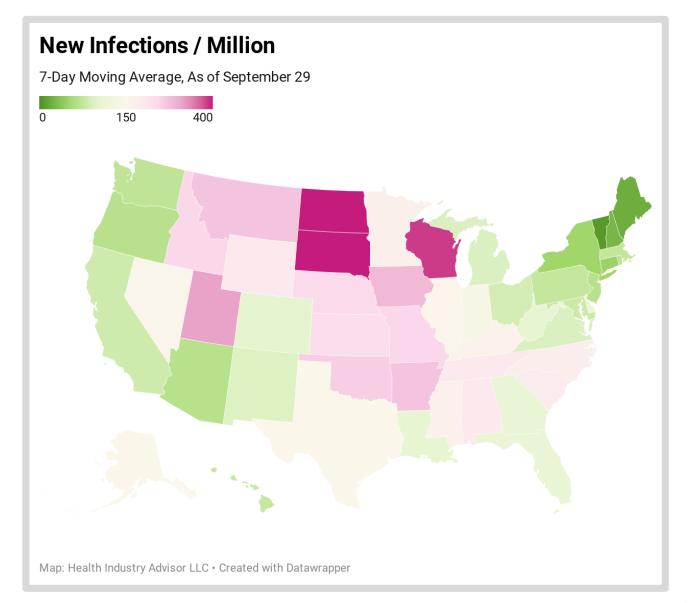
Six of the eight areas with the lowest rates are in New York or New Jersey, including New York City

* 7-day average





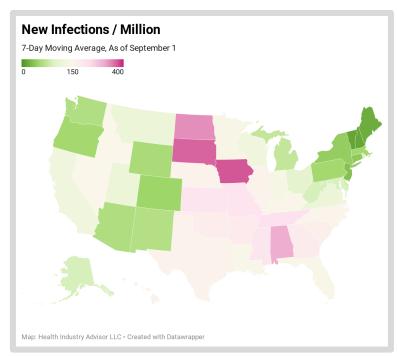
North and South Dakota and Wisconsin continue to experience the highest rate of new infections per capita

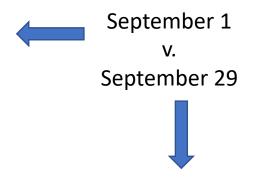


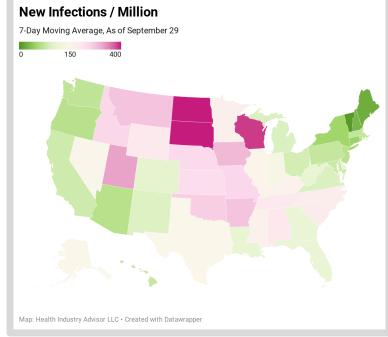


Comparing infection rates on September 1 to September 29 illustrates how the infection spread has intensified throughout the middle of the country

At the same time, these rates have eased in the Southeast and West



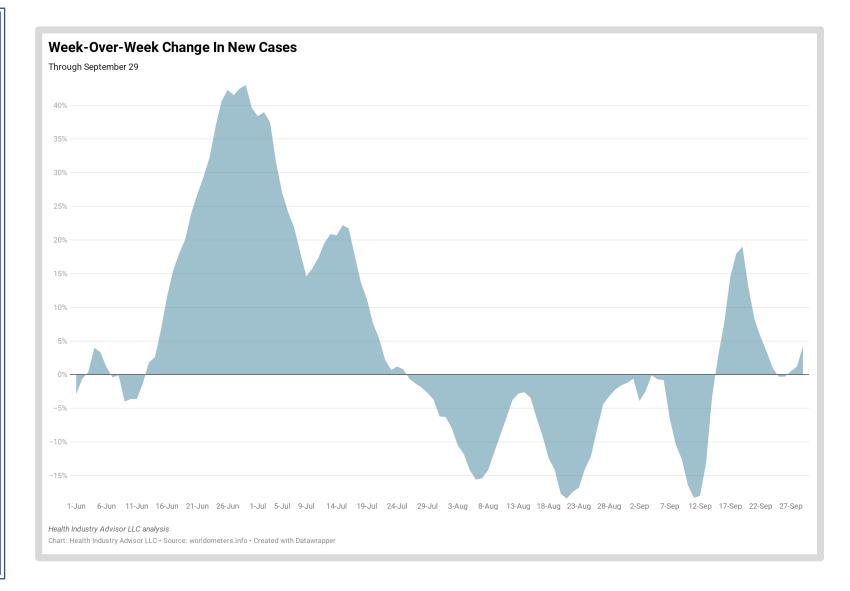






Following a sevenweek period of decline, new cases began increasing on a week-over-week basis on September 15

Yesterday, this rate was up 4.2% on a week-over-week basis

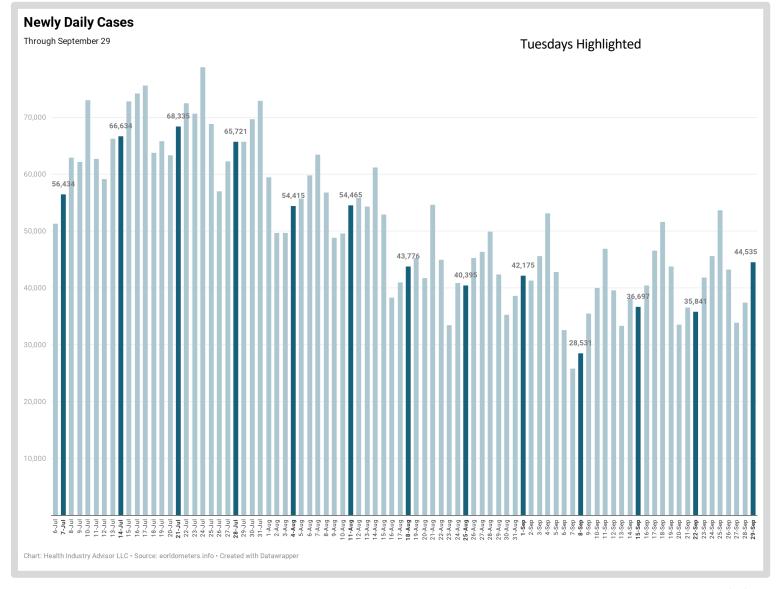




New cases reported on Tuesday were sharply higher than the same day last week

These were the most new cases on a Tuesday in seven weeks

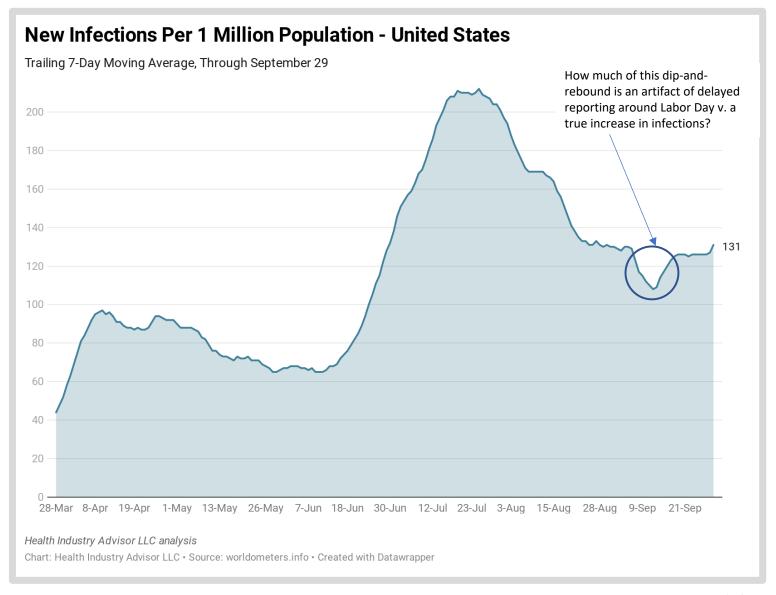
Tuesday also represented the third consecutive day for which new cases were higher than the same day the prior week, and the fifth time this has occurred in the past week





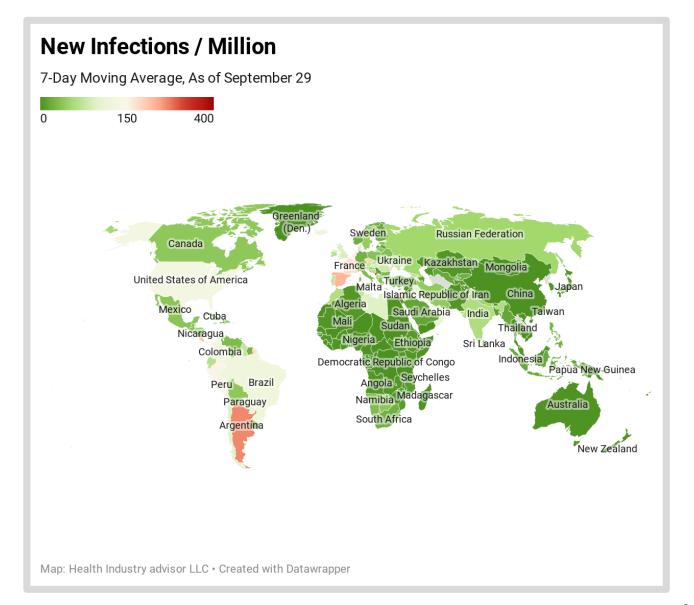
New infections per capita in the U.S.* bottomed-out on September 12 – this is likely due to the impact of Labor Day reporting issues

Also, the rate had relatively stable for eleven days . . . Until increasing yesterday





While many countries are experiencing relatively low infection rates*, Israel, Bahrain, Argentina, and Spain experienced the highest rates among large countries during the past week



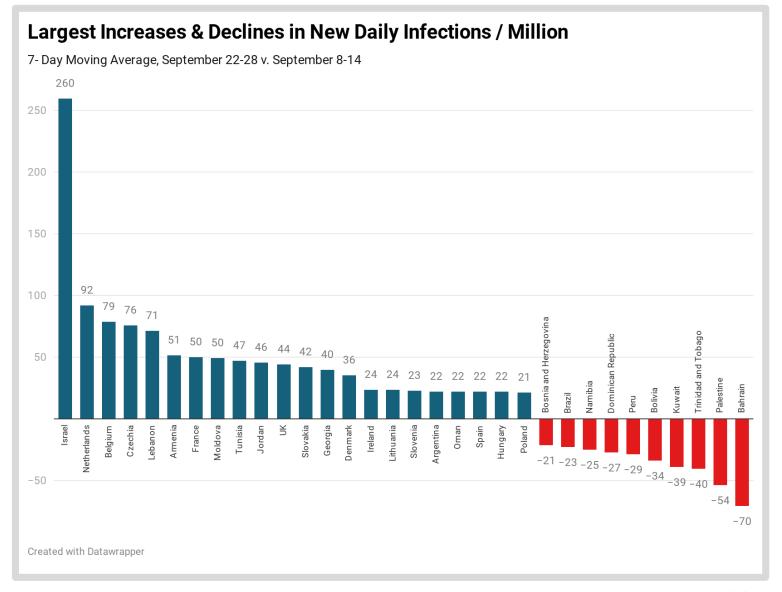


Countries > 1 million population:

Over the past two weeks, Israel's new daily infection rate has soared

Netherlands, Belgium, Czechia and Lebanon also have experienced large increases in this rate

Bahrain and Palestine experienced the largest declines in rates

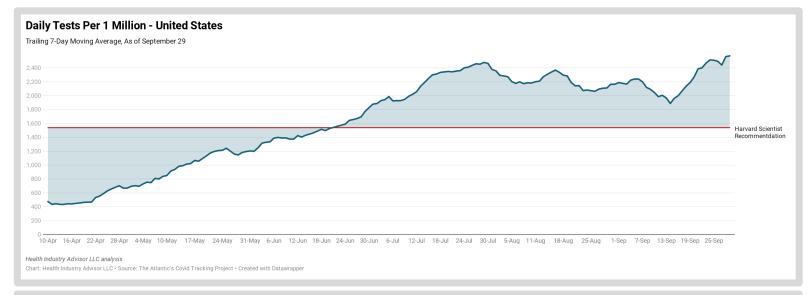


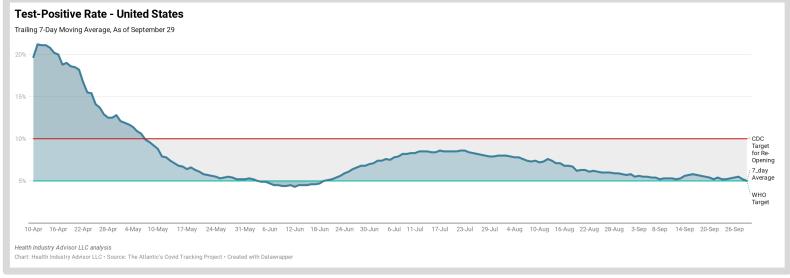


The 7-day average testing volume set a new record high for the second consecutive day

Yesterday's test-positive rate, as well as the 7-day average rate met the WHO guideline of 5%

The —day rate had not reached this low level since June 19





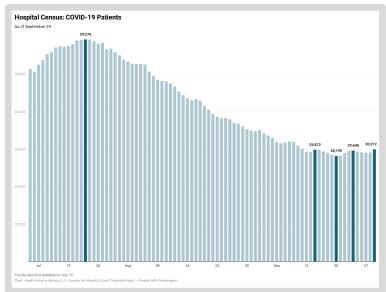


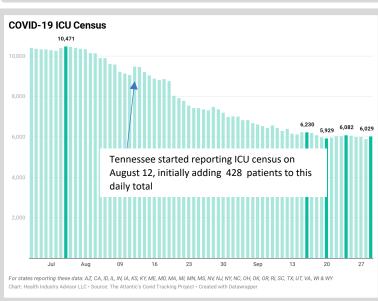
Inpatient COVID-19 census has fluctuated in a narrow range over the past sixteen days – after dropping significantly from late-July to mid-September

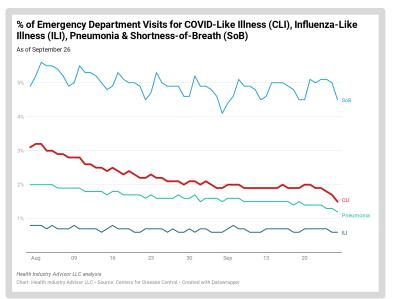
ICU days and ventilator use declined as a % of patients; ventilator use is ~1/3 the rate it was in April

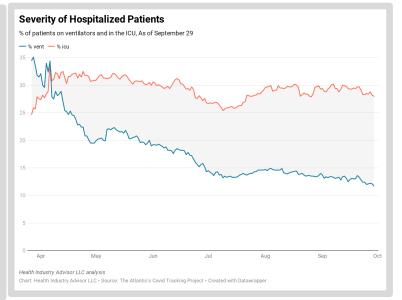
ER visits for COVID-19-like illness as a % of all ER visits continued to drop sharply; this rate has declined significantly since early July

No discernable start yet to the impact of flu season









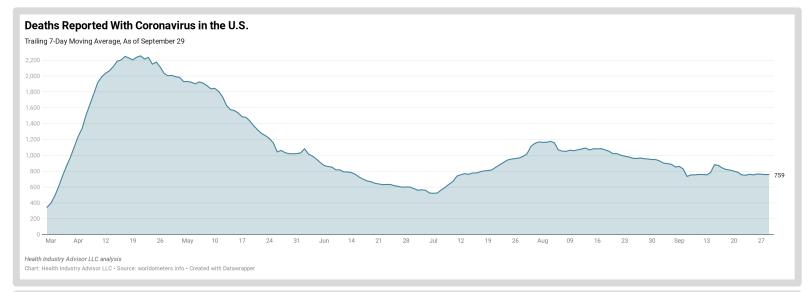


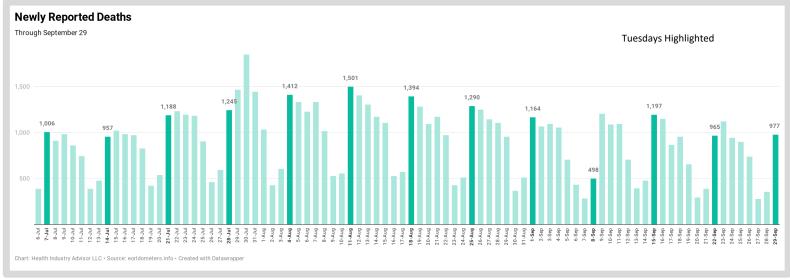
7-day average daily deaths has been stable over the past eight days

The were slightly more deaths reported yesterday than last Tuesday

Except for Labor Day, however, there were fewer deaths reported yesterday than the prior eight Tuesdays

Yesterday marked only the third time in the past two weeks in which reported deaths were higher than the same day the prior week







Data Sources

The following data sources are accessed on a daily or weekly basis:

- The Atlantic's Covid Tracking Project: https://covidtracking.com
- Worldometers.info: https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/
- Centers for Disease Control, National, Regional, and State Level Outpatient Illness and Viral Surveillance https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html
- Centers for Disease Control, COVID-19 Laboratory-Confirmed Hospitalizations https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19 5.html
- Centers for Disease Control, COVID Data Tracker https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#mobility
- Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, COVID-19 estimate downloads http://www.healthdata.org/covid/data-downloads
- New York Times, Covid-19 data https://github.com/nytimes/covid-19-data
- COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19
- COVID-19 Projections Using Machine Learning, https://covid19-projections.com

