

Issue # 184

Monday, October 12, 2020

COVID-19 Report

Highlights

- Newly detected cases per day are growing at a rapid rate worldwide. These had leveled-off from mid-August to mid-September but, have increased by 13% in the past two weeks
- Several European countries are driving the worldwide increase: Belgium, France, Iceland and the Netherlands have experienced significant increases in infections per capita recently; The United Kingdom and Spain also have experienced rapid increases in this rate although in both countries, rates have receded in recent days
- Testing volume in the United States again set a new high over the weekend; Test-positive % increased slightly yet, remains just above the WHO suggested target and well below the CDC target for Phase 3 re-opening
- The United States also is experiencing a resurgence in new cases, although it is not as pronounced as in parts of Europe: New cases as of yesterday increased by 14.2% on a week-over-week basis. Further, new cases on the weekend were higher than on any weekend since August 8-9
- The 7-day rate of new daily infections per capita has now returned to the level it last reached on August 17; This rate remains 28% lower than its July 22 peak
- The highest 7-day rates of new infections per capita were experienced in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin; Montana, North and South Dakota also experienced the largest increases in this rate over the past two weeks

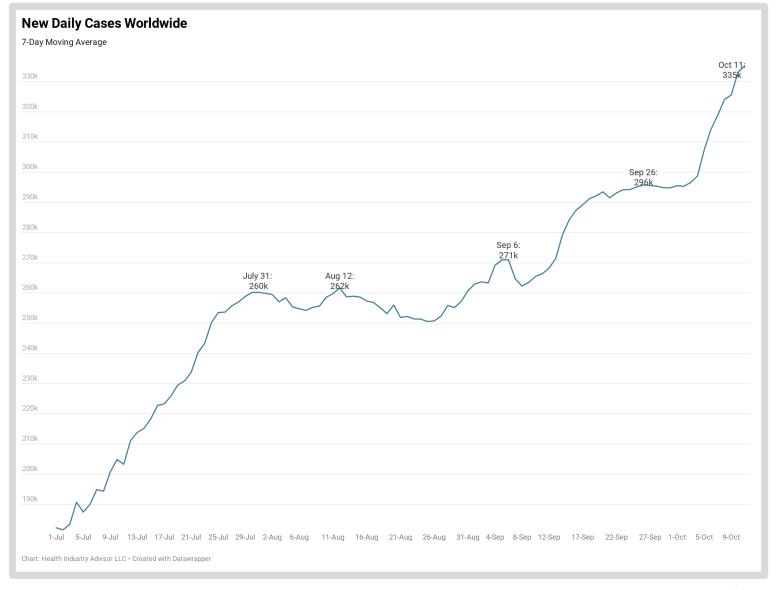
- The intensity of the virus spread is most prominent in less-densely populated states:
 - The four states with the largest increase in rates over the past two weeks are each in the bottom 25th percentile in population
 - Of the twelve states with the largest infection increase in the past two weeks, only Indiana and Tennessee are above the median in state population
 - The largest three states by population each experienced either a decline in infection rates or, an increase lower than the national average
- On a same-day, prior-week basis, inpatient census of Covid-19 patients increased for the last eighteen consecutive days; During this time, the average census increased by 226 patients per day.
 - Prior to this, on the same-day, prior-week basis, inpatient census of Covid-19 patients declined for fifty-eight consecutive days; During this time, the average census declined by an average 467 patients per day
 - Despite the recent increase in hospitalizations, the census has regained only 17% of the decline it experienced since early-July
- The 7-day average daily deaths declined slightly over the weekend; There were fewer deaths recorded over the past weekend than on eight of the past ten weekends
- ER visits for Covid-19-like illnesses declined on the five most recent days for which data are available. Although flu season has officially begun, ER visits for influenza-like illnesses are not yet in evidence



After leveling in late-August through early-September, new daily cases worldwide* have been increasing at a significant rate

New daily cases are now averaging more than 335k each day

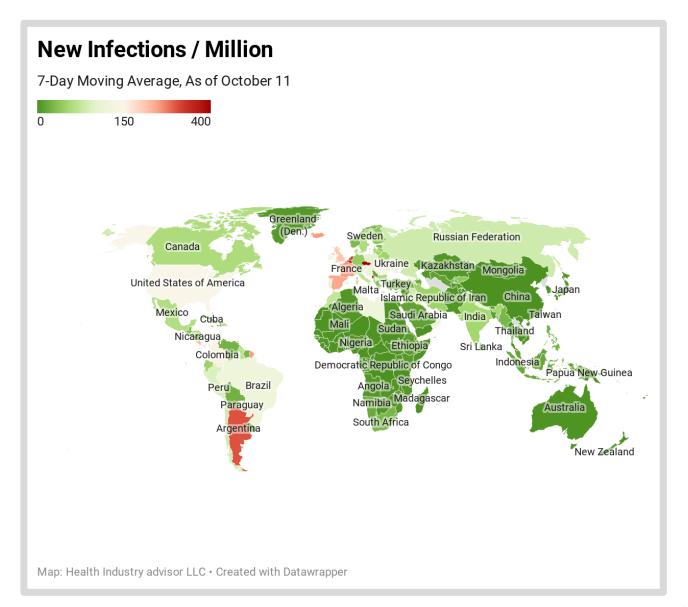
* - 7-day moving average basis





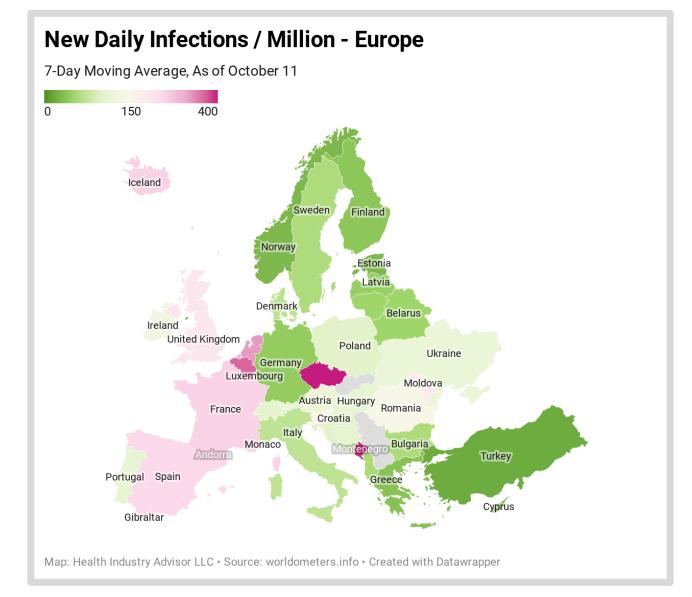
While many countries are experiencing relatively low infection rates*, Israel, Bahrain, Argentina, and many parts of Europe experienced high rates during the past week

* - 7-day moving average basis





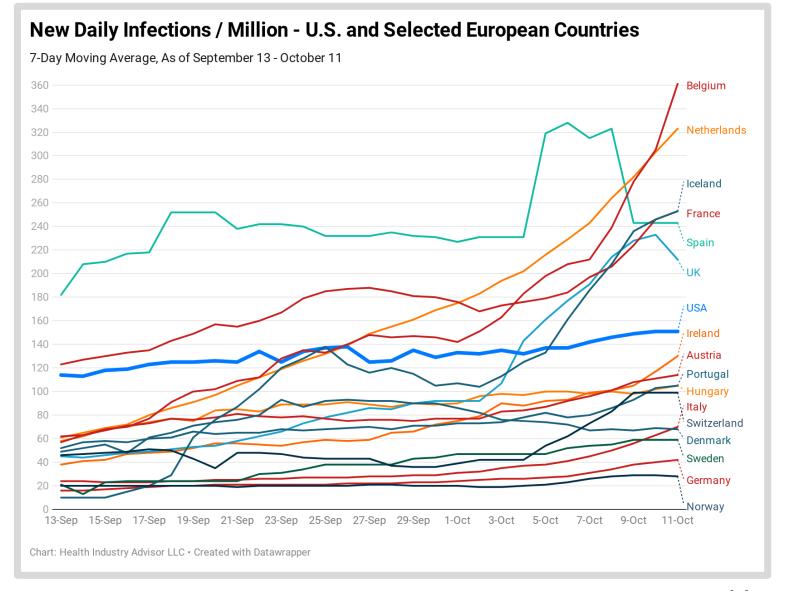
The Czech Republic,
Luxembourg and
Montenegro
experienced the highest
rates of new infections
per capita during the
past week, followed by
Andorra, Belgium,
Iceland, France and the
United Kingdom





Infections have spread rapidly across Europe over the past several weeks – most notably in Belgium, France, Iceland and the Netherlands.

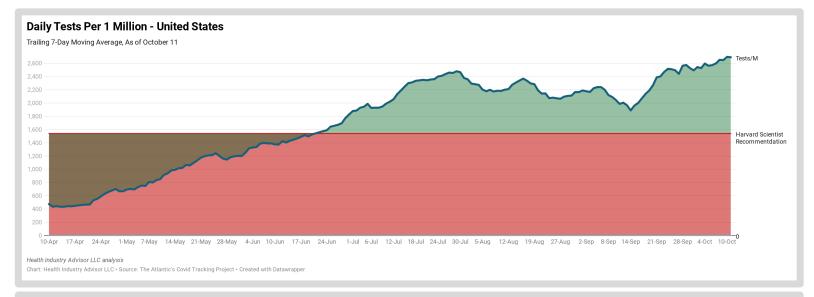
The United Kingdom and Spain also had experienced rapidly increasing infections, although these countries have seen it recede slightly in recent days

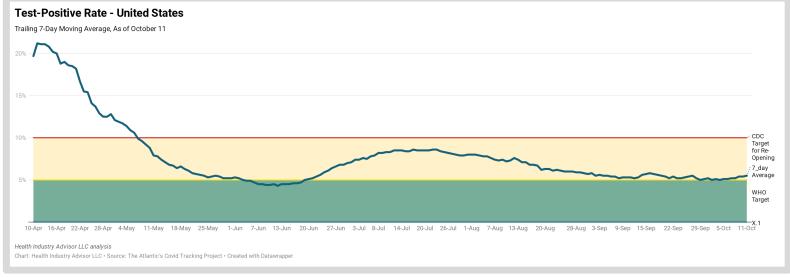




The 7-day average testing volume on both weekend days were higher than on any day during the pandemic

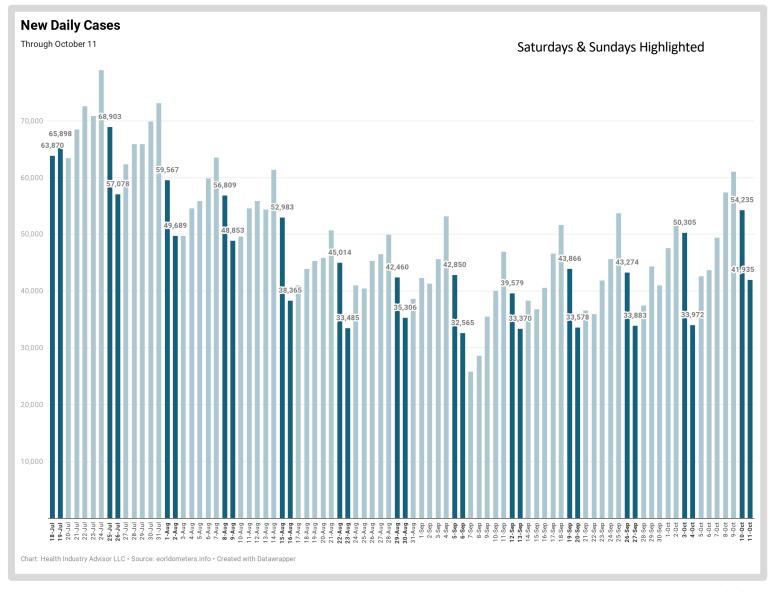
The 7-day test-positive rate increased over the weekend yet, remains just outside the "green" zone – above WHO target yet, well-below the CDC target for Phase 3 re-opening







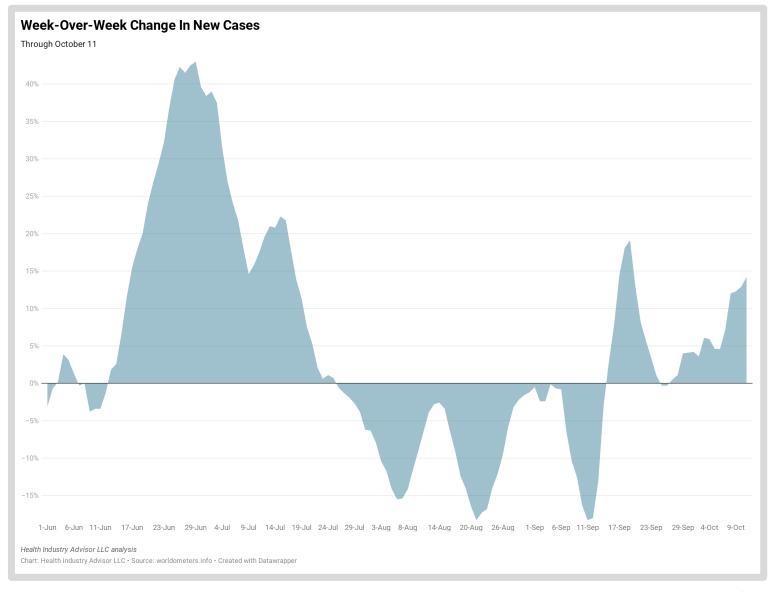
New cases on the weekend were the most since August 8-9





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

Yesterday, this rate was up 14.2% on a week-over-week basis

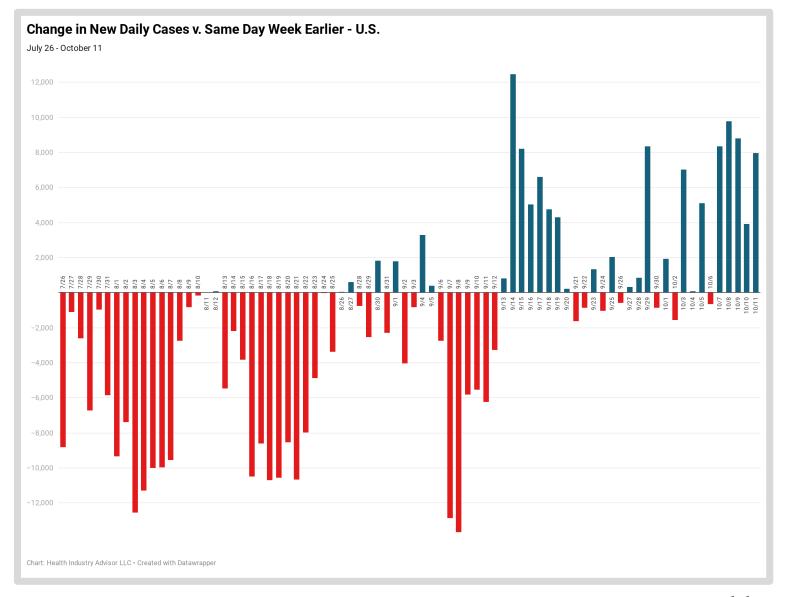




A clear shift from declining to increasing infections:

New cases have been higher than for the same-day, previous week on five consecutive days

This measure has increased on twenty-two of twenty-nine days since September 13; it had declined on thirty-five of forty days from July 26 – September 12

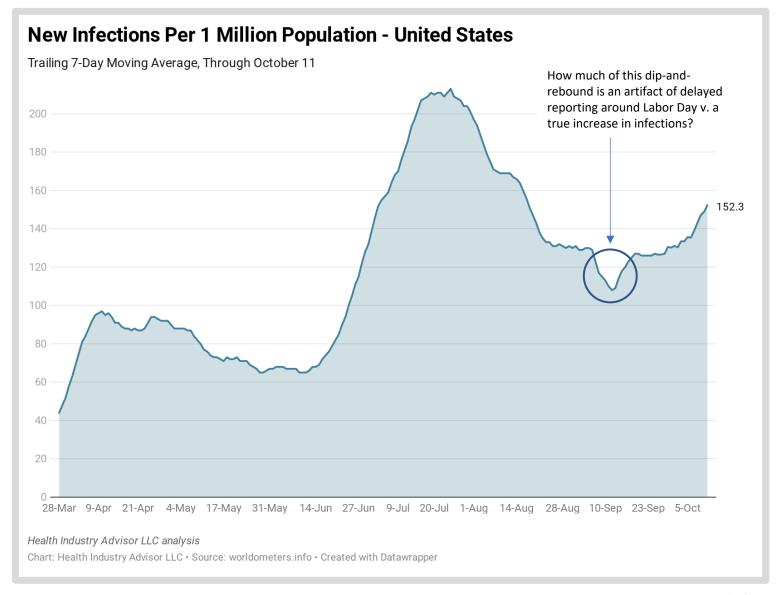




The rate of new infections per capita* in the U.S. Is now trending upward

This rate is now back to where it was on August 17

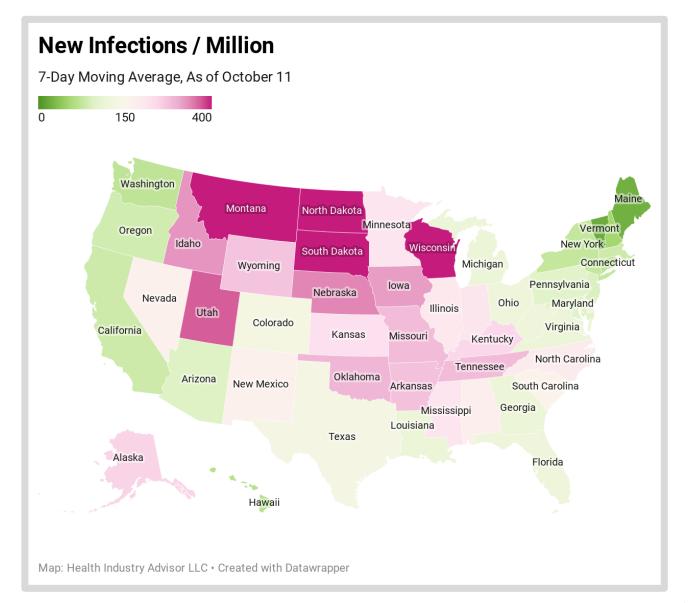
* - 7-day moving average basis





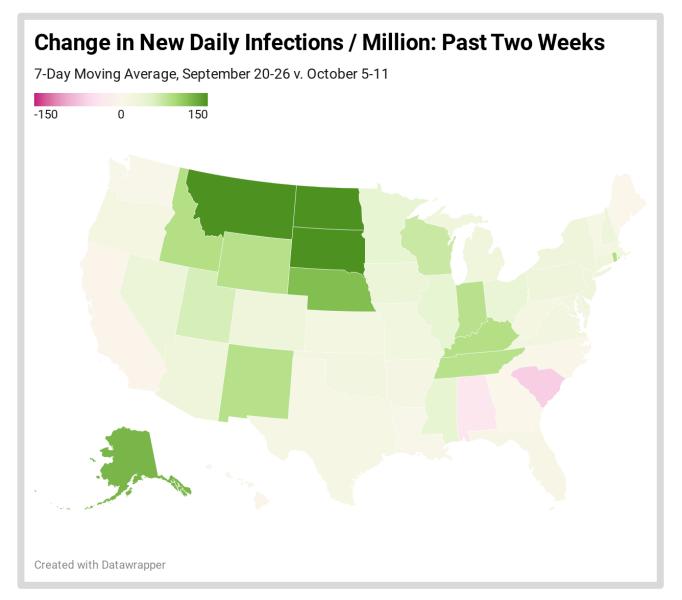
New daily infections rates are highest in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin

Other states with high rates are concentrated in the Upper Midwest and Mountain States





Montana, North and South Dakota also experienced the largest increases in new infection rates over the past two weeks

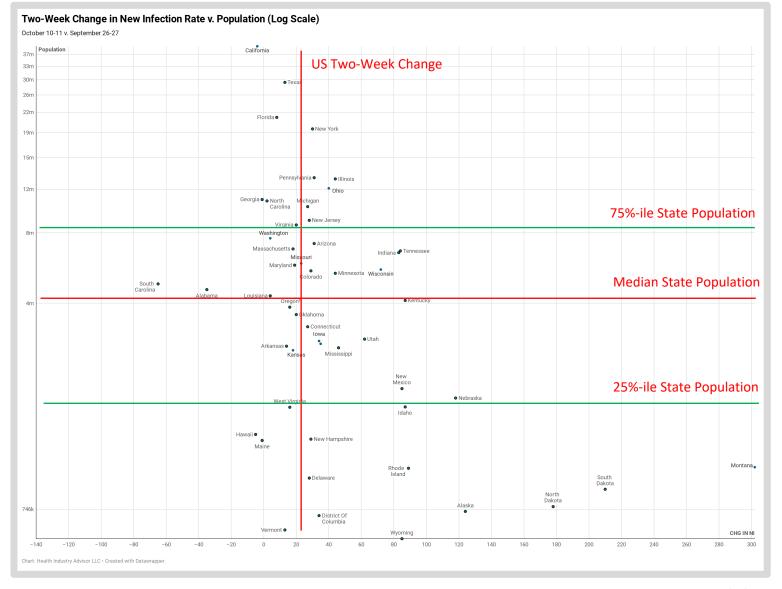




The four states with the highest rates of increase in new daily infections are each in the bottom 25th percentile in population in the country

Of the twelve states experiencing the largest increase in infection rates, only Indiana and Tennessee rank in the top ½ in statewide population

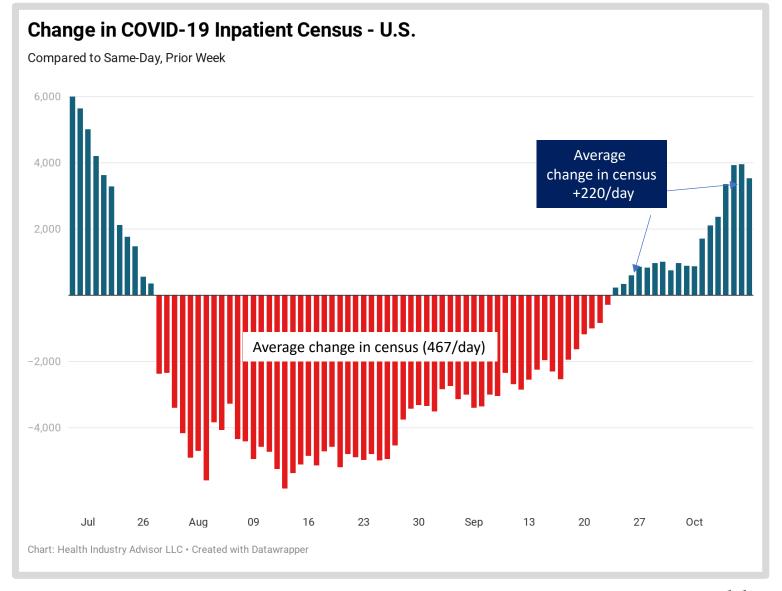
The three largest states by population experienced declining infection rates or increasing rates lower than the national average





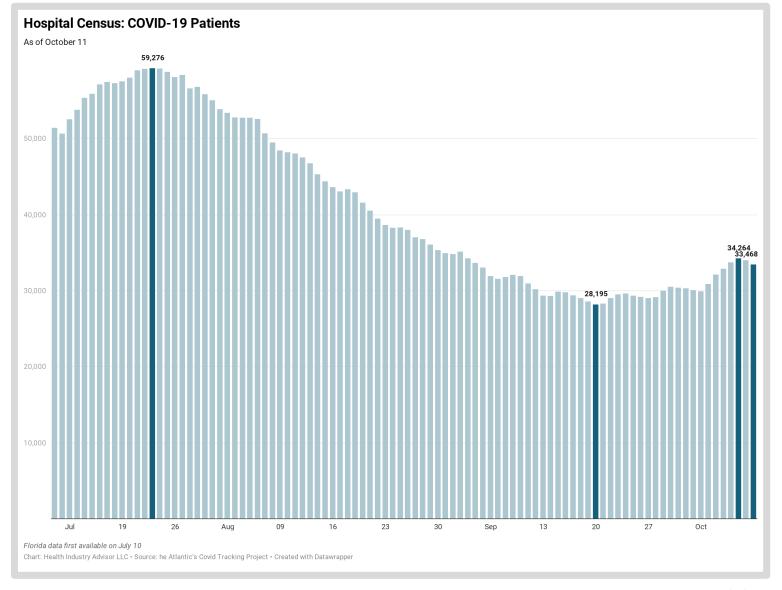
Inpatient COVID-19 census has increased on a same-day, prior week basis for eighteen consecutive days; it had previously declined on 58 consecutive days

Fortunately, the increases have averaged less than the increases: The average daily census increased over the past fourteen days by 220 patients/day; the average daily census declined during the preceding fifty-eight days by 467/day





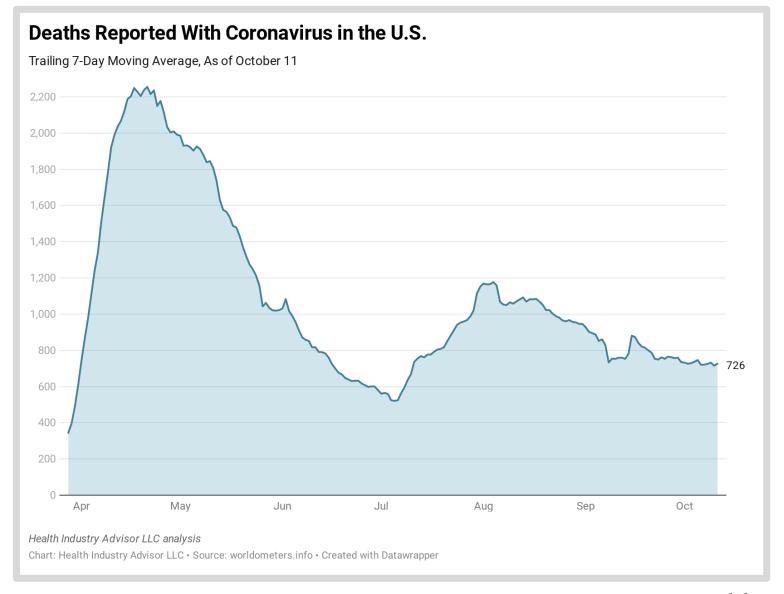
Despite the recent rise in Covid-19 hospitalizations, the census has only regained 17% of the reduction in inpatient days from late-July to September 20





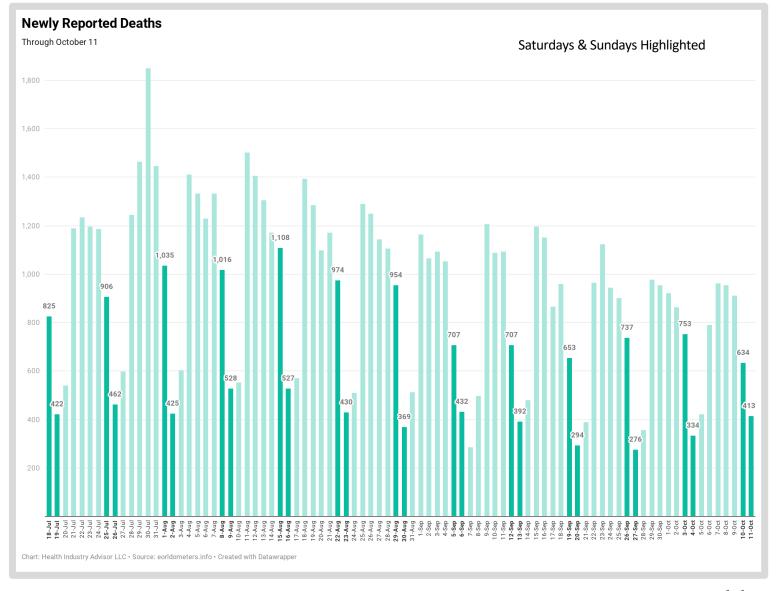
The 7-day average deaths per day declined slightly over the weekend

Despite this increase, average daily deaths remain lower than at any point since July 10





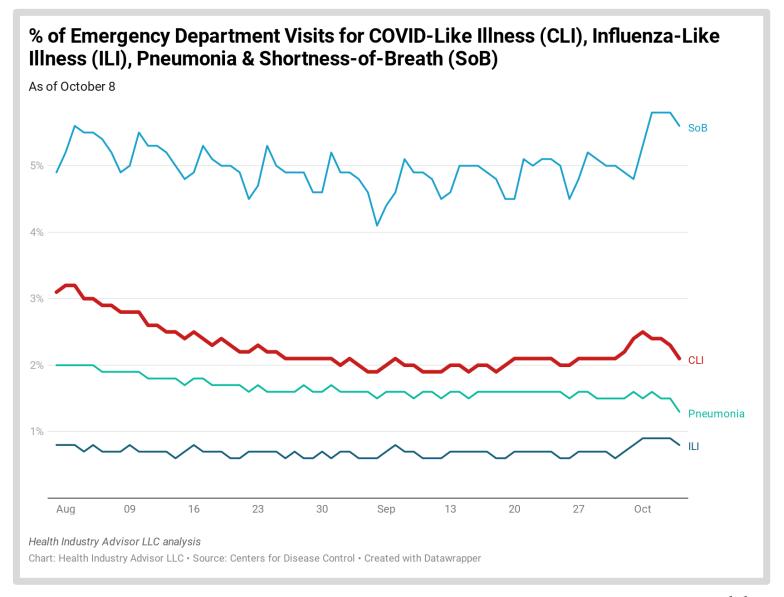
There were fewer deaths reported this past weekend last weekend; and fewer deaths than on eight of the past 10 weekends – dating back to the 4th of July





The % of ER visits for COVID-19-like illnesses (CLI) has eased over the past five days; this rate remains less than ½ of what it was in mid-July

Although the flu season has officially begun, we have yet to observe any impact on the rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) visits to the ER





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

