

Issue # 203

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

COVID-19 Report

Highlights

- Georgia modified its definition of probable cases and retroactively increased year-to-date case totals by nearly 30,000. Our source has adjusted the daily case totals accordingly
- The United States continues to experience high rates of new Covid-19 cases:
 - For the second consecutive week, new cases exceeded the composite forecast of more than a dozen independent models
 - Accordingly, these models have again upped their forecasts for the upcoming four weeks
 - There were more new cases detected yesterday then on any other Tuesday since the pandemic began
 - The rate of new case growth is slowing, however, even though new cases continue to increase. Consider this analogy: for six weeks or more, the U.S had the (new case) accelerator pressed to the floor; in the past week, we have eased back on the gas pedal somewhat. We have yet to take our foot off the gas, let alone applied the brakes
- As confirmed by CDC studies, true Covid-19 infections are substantially higher than detected via testing. Oliver Wyman is one source of estimated true infections: this source pegs the true infection rate in the U.S. at 10.3% of the population, with a range of 5.9-18.1%. By comparison, the detected rate is 2.9%
- There have been three distinct surges in new cases in the U.S.: in March/April, the initial surge was concentrated in the Northeast; In June/July, Arizona, Florida, Georgia and Texas were among the hardest-hit states; and, currently, the Dakotas, Montana and Wisconsin are among those hardest-hit

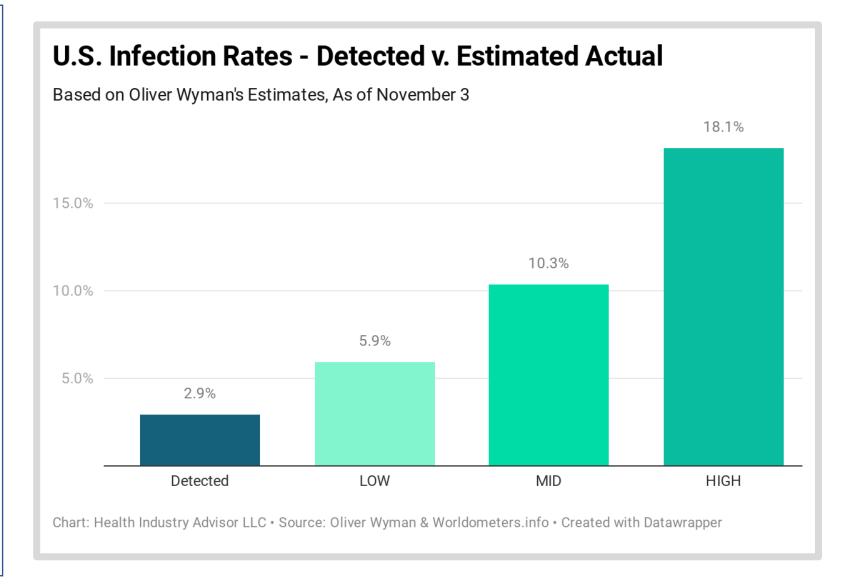
- Contrasting the experience of states hard-hit during these three surges indicates notable differences in experience: these suggests that detected infection rates are far higher now than in earlier surges; rates of hospitalization and mortality, however, seem to have declined with each surge
- The peak infection rates per capita for New York and New Jersey in March/April were comparable to those for Arizona and Texas in June/July; the peak infection rates (to-date, as they are still rising) in North Dakota and Wisconsin are more than 2x what was experienced in the earlier surges
- Hospitalization rates per case were sharply lower (~50%) for the states hard-hit in the second surge than the first and are even lower (another 50% or more) in the current surge
- Case fatality rates for states in the second surge were 1/2 those of states in the initial surge; trends suggest a further decline for states in the current surge
- Deaths with the coronavirus have been increasing throughout October and November, as should be anticipated following the surge in new cases. The case fatality rate, however, has been stable throughout this period
- Covid-19 inpatient census also has been increasing with the growth in new cases:
 - On a same-day, prior-week basis, Covid-19 census has increased every day since September 23
 - Nevertheless, the rate of hospitalizations per new case continues to decline: this rate as of yesterday was 40% lower than it was on September 12
- Testing per capita continued to increase a patten that began in mid-September. During this time, testing per capita has increased by 60%. Unfortunately, the test-positive% has been increasing since the beginning of October



Oliver Wyman provides estimates of actual infection rates

The latest estimates is that 10.3% of the U.S. population has been infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus (range of 5.9-18.1%)

By comparison, the currently reported detected cases represent 2.9% of the U.S. population



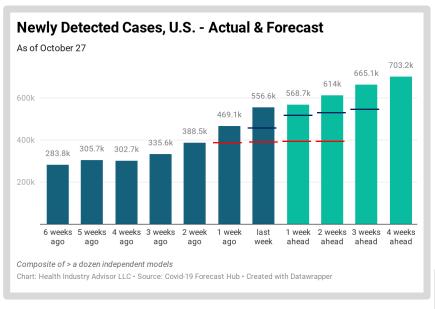


For the second straight week, cases last week were substantially greater than the composite projection

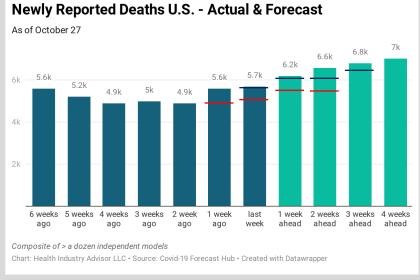
The latest composite projection now show continued increases through the 4-week projection window

Deaths, however, were closer to projected levels, although they are now projected to increase over the forecast period

* Composite of > a dozen projections, compiled each Tuesday by Covid-19 Forecast Hub and reported to the CDC



Composite projection, as of October 20Composite projection, as of October 27





Comparing states that were hardest hit in March/April (New York and New Jersey), in June/July (Arizona and Texas) and those currently hard-hit (North Dakota and Wisconsin):

Peak infection rates are significantly higher in states currently hard-hit

Hospitalization rates were sharply lower among states hard-hit in the June/July surge and even lower among states currently being hard-hit

Death rates were sharply lower among states hard-hit in June/July; rates could be as low or lower in states currently being hard-hit, assuming that rates are lowest for cases at peak (pattern set by other states)

Comparison of Hospitalizations & Death Rates

Two States From Each of 3 Surges in the U.S., All data are 7-day moving averages

	New York	New Jersey	Arizona	Texas	North Dakota	Wisconsin
Peak New Daily Infections / M	505.8	399.4	507.9	360.1	1510.4	779.2
Date of Peak	10-Apr	22-Apr	7-Jul	19-Jul	3-Nov	3-Nov
Covid-19 Census / 100 New Cases	176.6	214.4	83.8	101	25.6	33.6
Deaths / New Cases - 4 weeks later	3.7%	4.6%	1.7%	1.9%	2.7%	1.5%

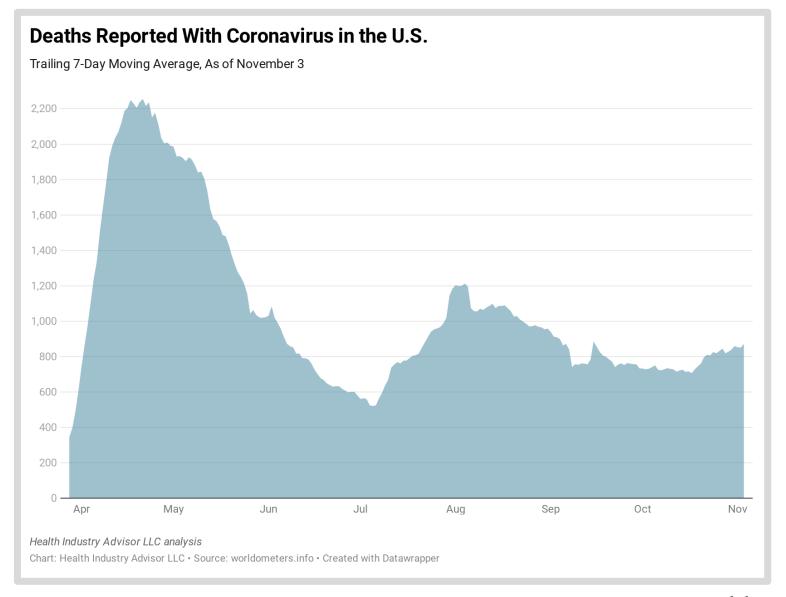
Note: Deaths / New Case for North Dakota and Wisconsin are bases on cases 4 weeks ago. Should these states follow the pattern established by other states, these rates should drop >1 percentage point for new cases at peak



Table: Health Industry Advisor LLC • Created with Datawrapper

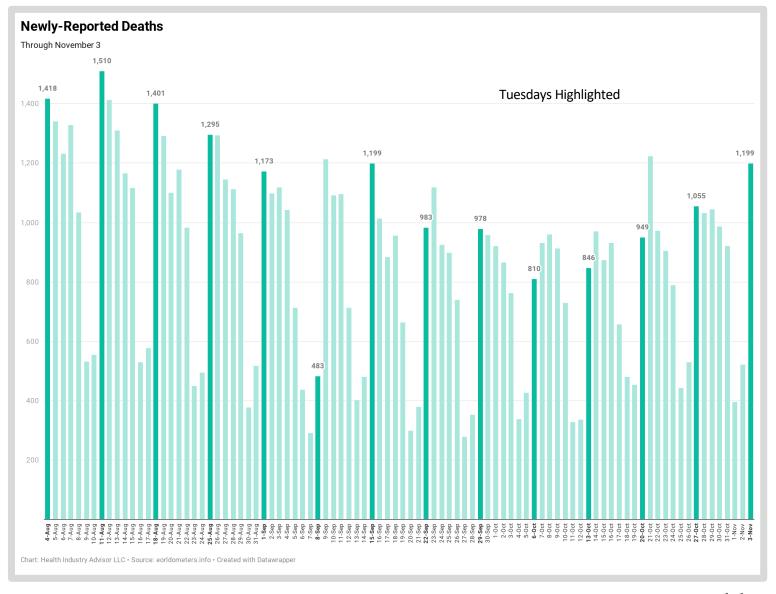
The recent uptick in newly-detected cases is is resulting in increased deaths:

The 7-day average deaths per day has generally been higher from mid-October to now than from early-September through early October





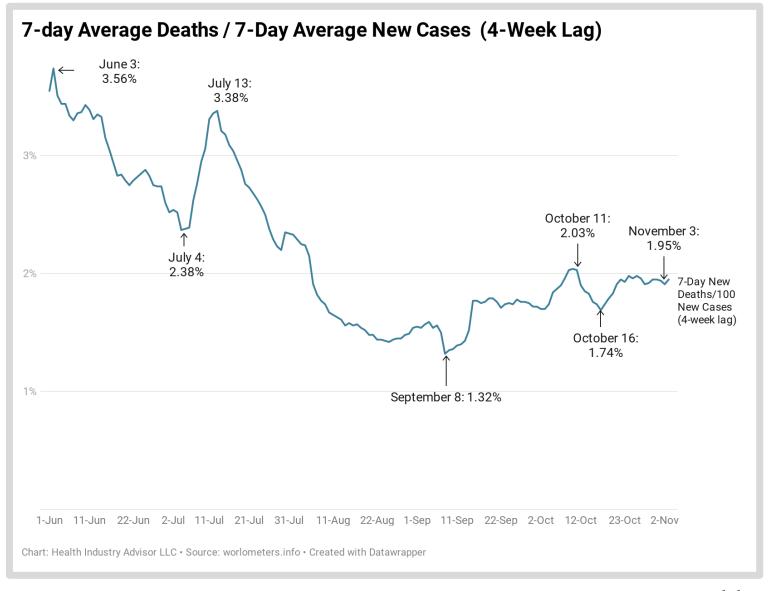
There were as many or more newly-reported deaths on Tuesday than on any other Tuesday since August 23





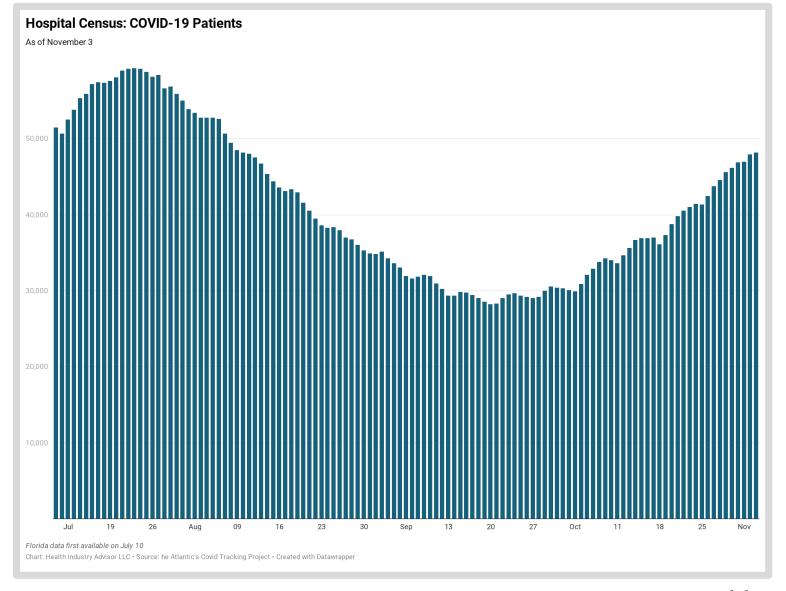
Deaths with coronavirus, relative to new cases (lagged 4 weeks) have moved within a narrow range for the past month

This rate declined rapidly in July and August





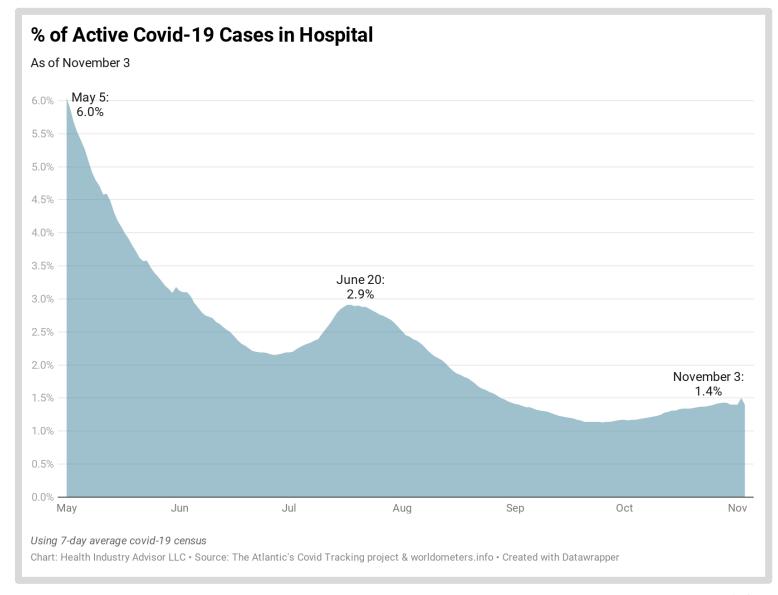
On a same-day, priorweek basis, inpatient Covid-19 census increased every day since September 23





The likelihood that a person with an active Covid-19 infection would be hospitalized has stabilized over the past two weeks

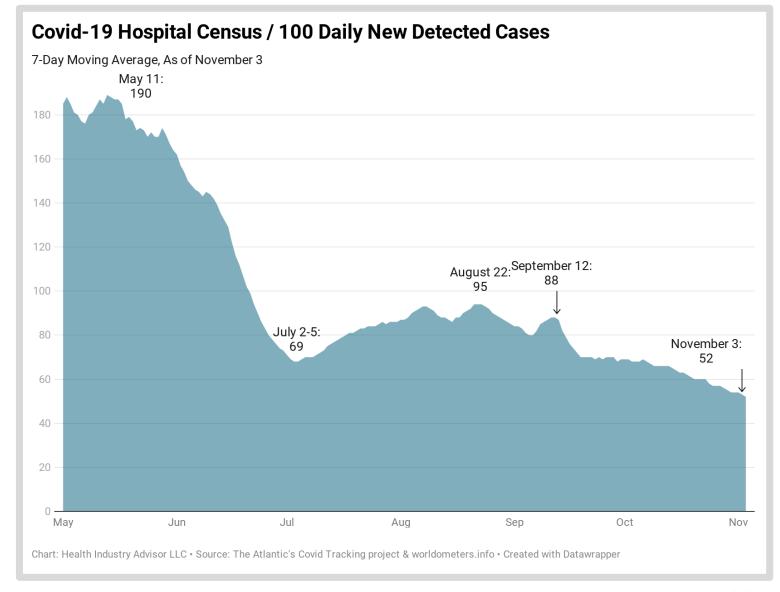
This likelihood is ½ what it was during the July surge and 1/4 of what it was in May





Covid-19 Hospitalizations, while increasing, have not kept pace with the increase in newly-detected cases

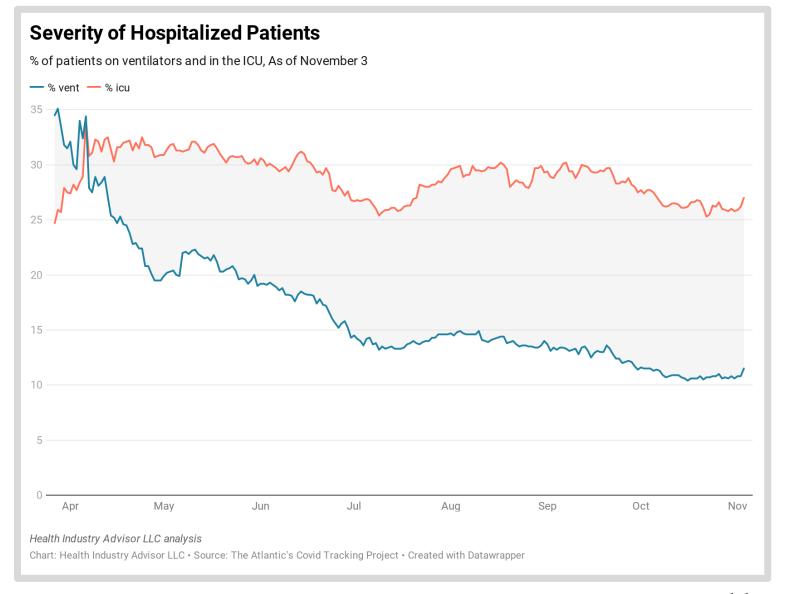
Indeed, the average Covid-19 census for the past week per 100 new cases is lower than it has been since at least April





During the recent rise in Covid-19 inpatient census, the % of those inpatients requiring intensive care has declined

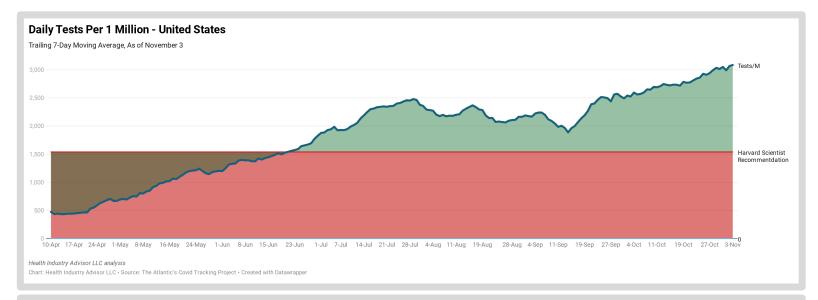
The % of Covid-19 inpatients requiring ventilator care has steadily declined since April

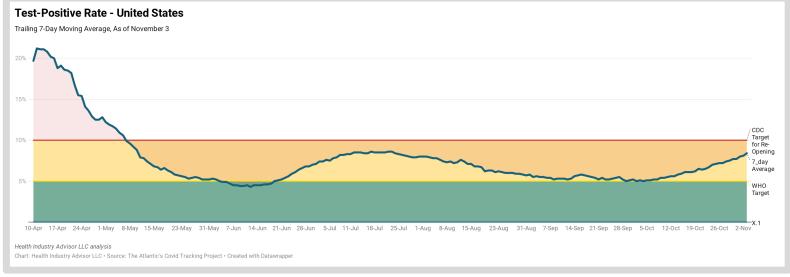




The 7-day average testing volume set another new high on Tuesday; this rate has increased by nearly 60% since mid-September

The 7-day test-positive rate, however, has been trending upward since the beginning of October



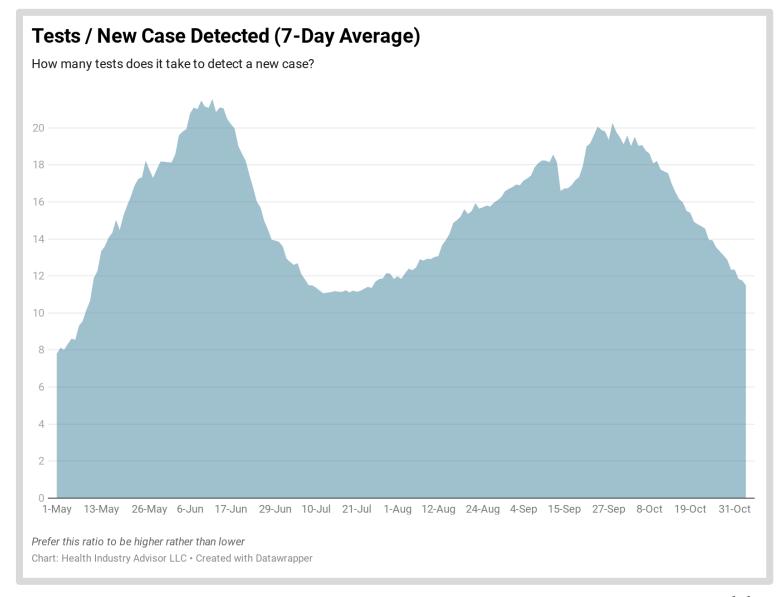




A measure of the effectiveness of testing is the ratio of tests performed to newly-detected cases

New cases are being detected every 11.5 tests performed; On September 28, it took > 20 tests to detect a new case

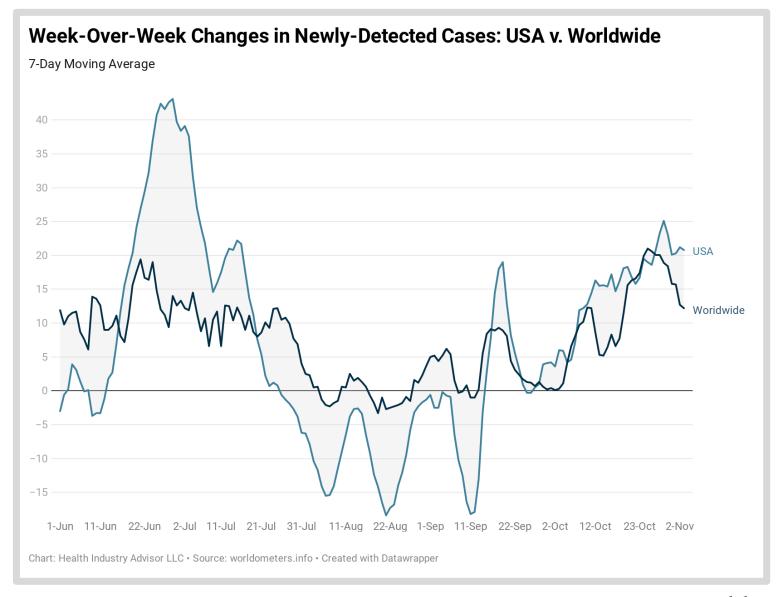
This rate is now lower than it has been at any time since August 2





Newly-detected cases in the U.S. follows a similar pattern as newlydetected cases worldwide - although the peaks and valleys are more pronounced in the U.S.

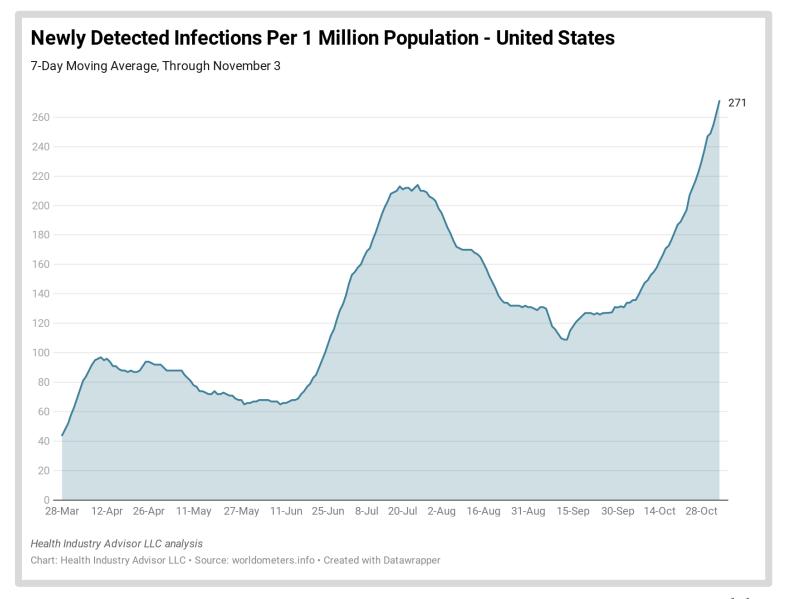
Worldwide, the rate of growth slowed over the nine days – will the U.S. follow?





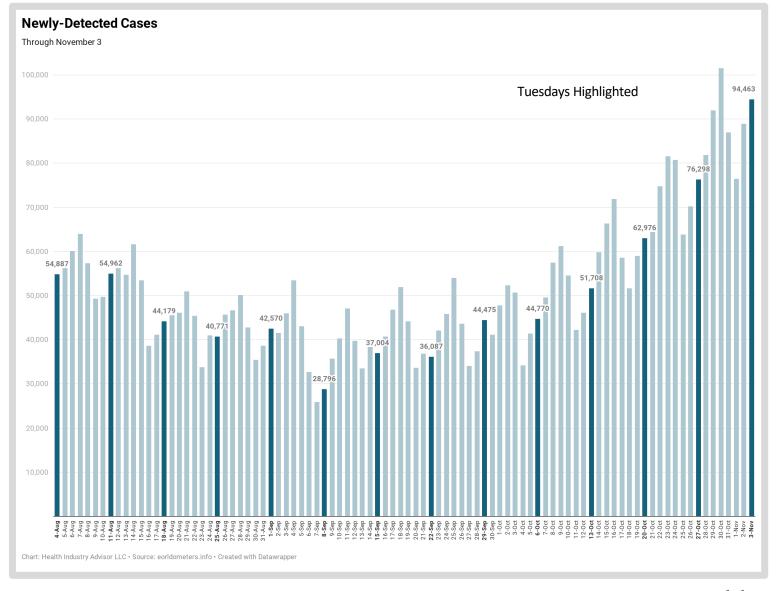
The rate of new infections per capita* in the U.S. has risen every day since October 2

* - 7-day moving average basis





There were fewer newly reported cases on Tuesday than on any other Tuesday since the pandemic began





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

