

Issue # 220

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

COVID-19 Report

## Highlights

- Where we stand as of the Monday before the holiday improving but, not yet at a good level:
  - Testing has continued to ramp across the U.S. Test volume has now set new highs on eleven consecutive days; testing is up 45% since the beginning of November
  - The test-positive rate has now declined five consecutive days; it remains, however, above the CDC-target level for re-openings and the World Health organizationrecommended level
  - Our ability to keep-up with the infection spread via adequate testing also has improved: for the fifth consecutive day the number of tests required to detect each new case has increased
  - 7-day new cases per capita seem to be nearing a plateau, after increasing sharply since early-October
  - The week-over-week change in new cases has now declined on thirteen consecutive days
- Where we stand on healthcare resource use:
  - Inpatient Covid-19 census continues to rise: on the same-day, prior-week basis, this census has increased every day since September 23
  - Overall, Covid-19 patients occupy 27% of all inpatient beds in the U.S.
  - In seven states Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wisconsin - Covid-19 patients occupy more than 40% of inpatient beds; Of these, only Wisconsin experienced a decline in this occupancy rate in the past week
  - The average Covid-19 census per 100 new cases has increased on five consecutive days; This rate, nonetheless, remains only about 1/2 what it was in mid-September

- The likelihood of a Covid-19 patient would be in the ICU has been stable for about a week; This rate had dropped sharply since early-September
- The likelihood of a Covid-19 patient would be on ventilator has increased over the past week; This rate had dropped sharply since April
- The % of ER visits for Covid-19-like illnesses has declined lately; This rate had risen since early-October
- Where we stand relative to the rest of the world:
  - Among all countries with > 50 M population, the U.S. ranks:
    - 1st on total cases per capita, 7-day tests per capita and the increase in new infections per capita over the past two weeks
    - High in deaths per capita
    - Relatively low on deaths per detected case
  - Among the countries with the highest 7-day new infection rate, the U.S. ranks:
    - 16th in new infections per capita
    - Relatively high on tests/capita
    - Moderately high on tests, total cases and deaths per capita
  - Among all countries, U.S. ranks:
    - 10th in deaths per capita
    - 78th in deaths per detected case

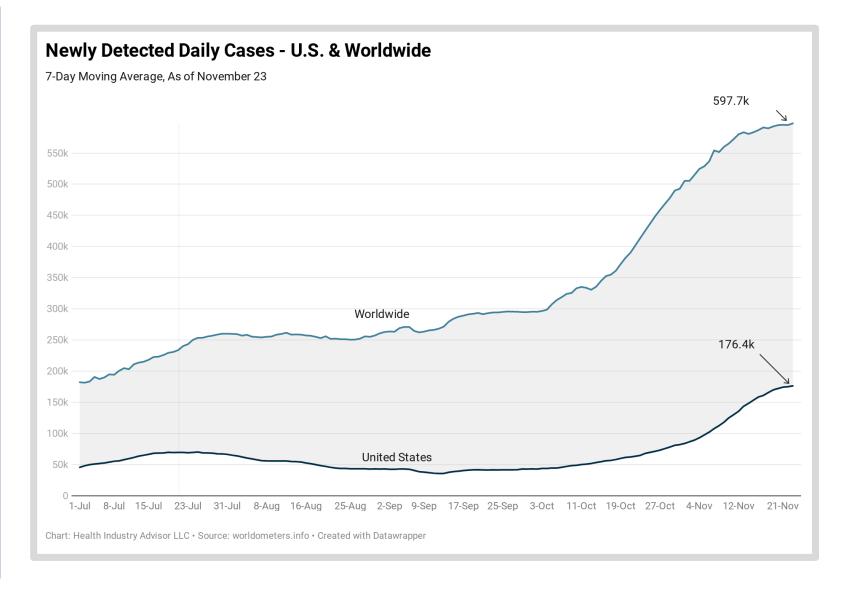


Worldwide, we are experiencing ~598k new cases each day — note that newly-detected cases appear to be plateauing worldwide

The United States is averaging ~176.4k new cases each day

In both instances, new case growth is slowing

\* - 7-day moving average basis

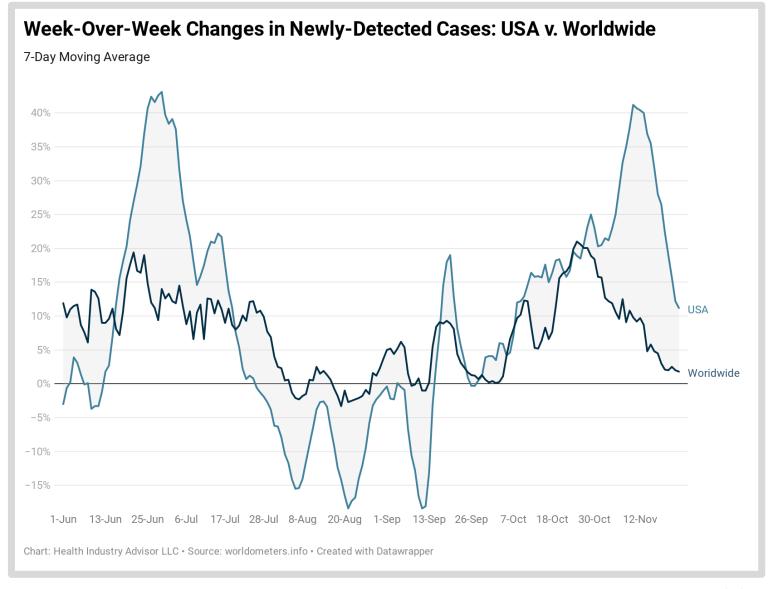




Although new cases continue to increase in the U.S. and worldwide, the rate of increase has been easing:

Worldwide, the rate of increase has been declining for more than three weeks, and approaching zero

In the U.S., the rate of increase has now declined on <u>thirteen</u> consecutive days





### Momentum Charts – New Cases in the U.S.:

The pattern we are experiencing now parallels what we experienced in June/July. Note that the week-over-week change in new cases peaked above 40% in both periods, before declining precipitously

If we continue this pattern, the June/July experience suggests that actual new cases could finally begin to decline in about two-three weeks (subject to the effect of holiday gatherings, state lockdowns, etc.)

New cases in the U.S. have followed definitive patterns throughout the pandemic – rising cases beget further rises (perhaps, reflective of the high transmissibility of the virus). This is evidenced by ever-increasing week-over-week changes in new cases. Yet, once this measure begins to decline, it tends to continue to decline for a period

### **Week-Over-Week Change in New Cases**

7-Day Moving Average, Current Period v. June/July

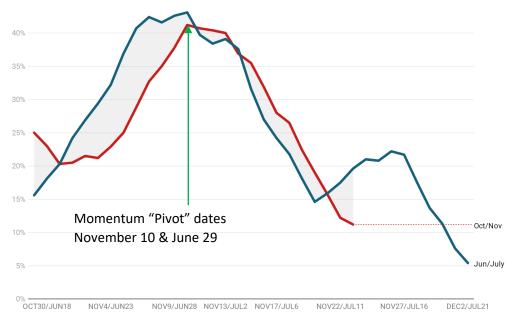


Chart: Health Industry Advisor LLC • Source: worldometers.info • Created with Datawrapper

Seeds of this change in momentum can be seen early, by observing the rate of change in week-over-week change in new cases: This rate-of change-measure turns downward several days ahead of the turn observed in the week-over-week change measure

#### Change in Rate of Week-Over-Week Change in New Cases

7-Day Moving Average, Current Period v. June/July

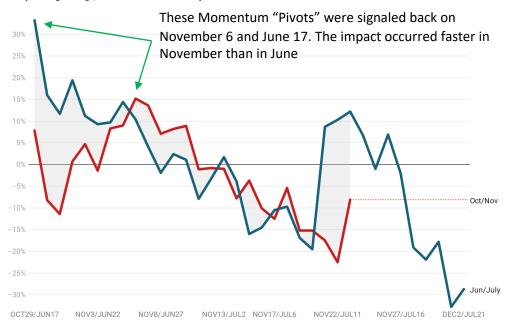


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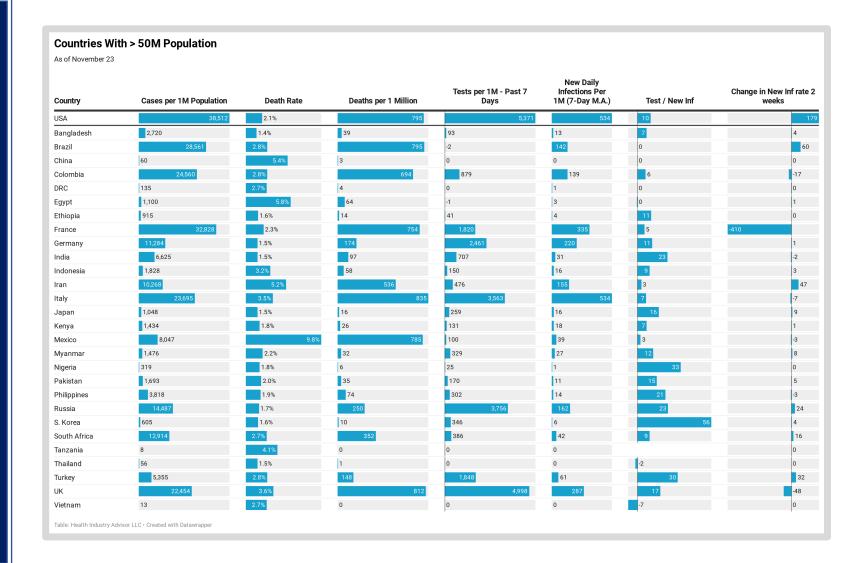
A view of the countries with > 50 million in population:

# United States has the highest:

- Cases per capita
- 7-day tests per capita
- Increase in new infections/capita

Also, ranks high in deaths per capita

The death rate per detected case, however, is relatively low





A view of the countries with the highest 7-day new infection rates:

### United States is:

- tied for 16<sup>th</sup> in this measure
- moderately high:
  - tests/capita
  - total cases/capitadeaths/capita

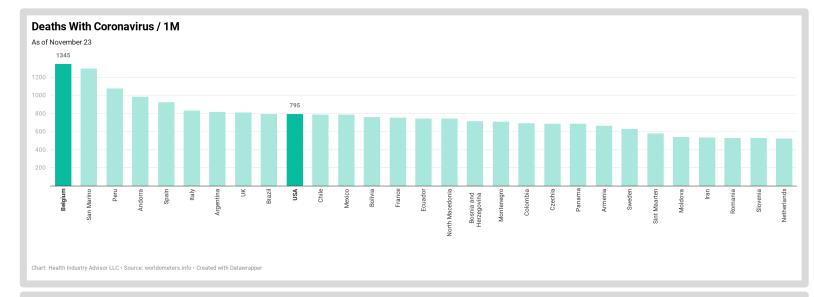
Country	Cases per 1M Population	Death Rate	Deaths per 1 Million Population	Tests per 1M Population - Past 7 Days	New Daily Infections Per 1M Population (7-Day M.A.)	Test / New Inf	Change in N. I. 2 weeks
USA	38,512	2.1%	795	5,371	534	10	179
Georgia	27,267	0.9%	254	3,389	927	4	278
Montenegro	50,339	1.4%	707	2,422	875	3	-126
uxembourg	49,383	0.9%	433	16,422	874	19	-61
Andorra	81,538	1.2%	983	12,332	721	17	-294
Croatia	25,809	1.3%	341	2,051	704	3	141
Slovenia	31,638	1.7%	528	2,499	703	4	56
Austria	27,732	1.0%	272	3,283	660	5	-48
Lithuania	17,815	0.8%	145	4,240	650	7	164
Serbia	14,466	1.0%	142	1,957	636	3	39
_iechtenstein	30,284	1.0%	314	-2	625	0	-135
Poland	23,762	1.5%	364	1,233	624	2	-28
rench Polynesia	47,188	0.5%	242	-2	591	0	-441
San Marino	42,051	3.1%	1,296	7,693	581	13	-202
Portugal	26,000	1.5%	390	4,005	549	7	36
Jordan	18,394	1.2%	225	2,408	542	4	78
Italy	23,695	3.5%	835	3,563	534	7	-7
North Macedonia	26,461	2.8%	742	1,347	514	3	15
Switzerland	34,604	1.4%	486	2,643	500	5	-373
Bulgaria	18,039	2.5%	443	1,187	478	2	15
Hungary	18,440	2.2%	403	2,330	451	5	-22
Sweden	20,574	3.1%	633	3,584	437	8	125
Romania	22,040	2.4%	530	1,540	429	4	10
Armenia	42,728	1.6%	666	1,100	425	3	-250
Czechia	46,341	1.5%	687	1,911	415	5	-469
Curação	10,787	0.2%	18	1,968	347	6	254
Bosnia and Herzegovina	24,614	2.9%	716	1,018	343	3	-143
rance	32,828	2.3%	754	1,820	335	5	-410
Netherlands	28,561	1.8%	522	1,516	309	5	-79
Moldova	24,420	2.2%	538	786	304	3	95
Jkraine	14,571	1.7%	254	1,202	295	4	76
JK	22,454	3.6%	812	4,998	287	17	-48
Belgium	48,130	2.8%	1,345	2,446	281	9	-454
//alta	20,370	1.3%	256	6,781	280	24	8

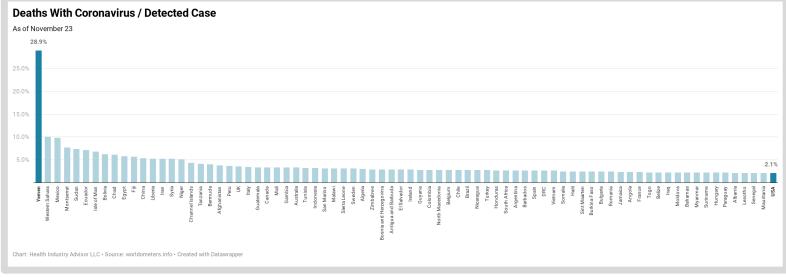


Among all countries:

U.S. ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in deaths per capita

78<sup>th</sup> in deaths per detected case



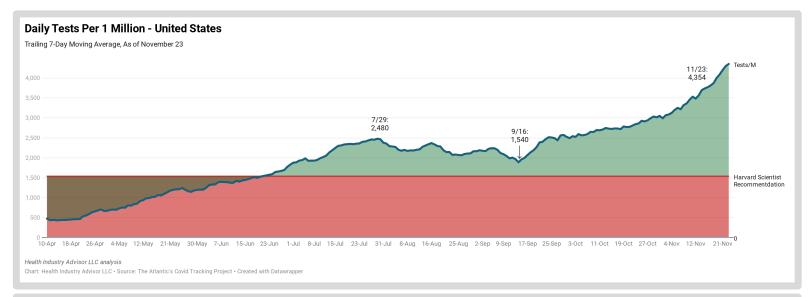


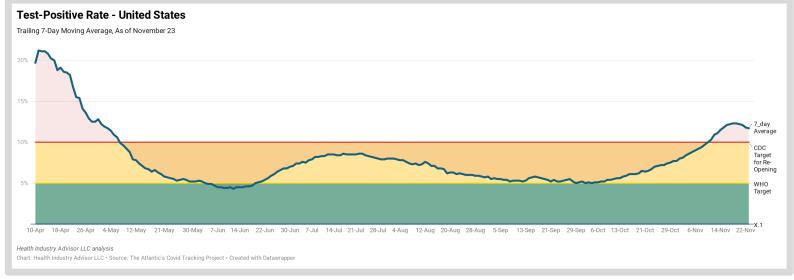


The 7-day test volume has increased eleven consecutive days

This rate exceeded 4,000 per million per day for the first-time last Thursday; it had surpassed 3,000 just three weeks ago; it was 2,000 as recently as September 12

The 7-day test-positive rate has now declined five consecutive days



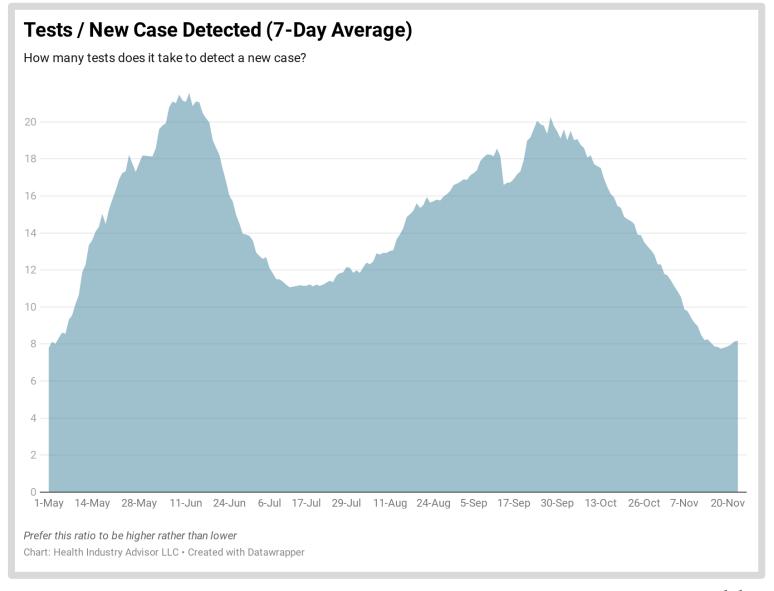




A measure of the effectiveness of testing is the ratio of tests performed to newly-detected cases

This rate had been in a freefall since mid-September, indicating that the increasing test volumes were insufficient to keep up with rising new infections

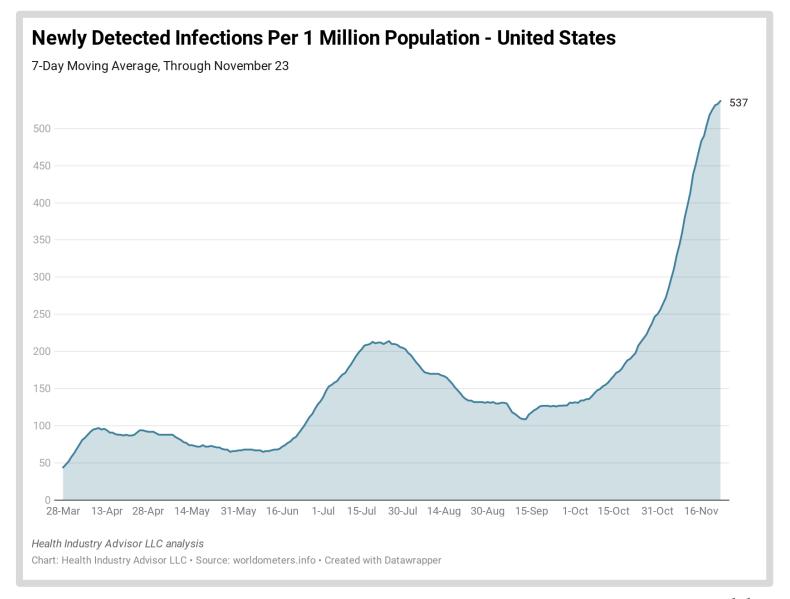
This rate has improved, however, on five consecutive days and six of the past seven days





The rate of new infections per capita\* in the U.S. may have begun to plateau

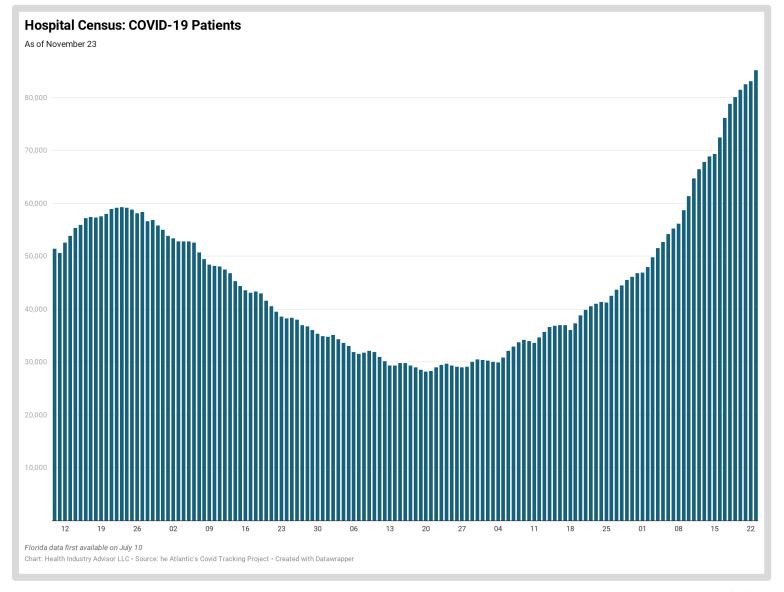
\* - 7-day moving average basis





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

Given new case trends, inpatient Covid-19 census could continue increasing, at least for the short term



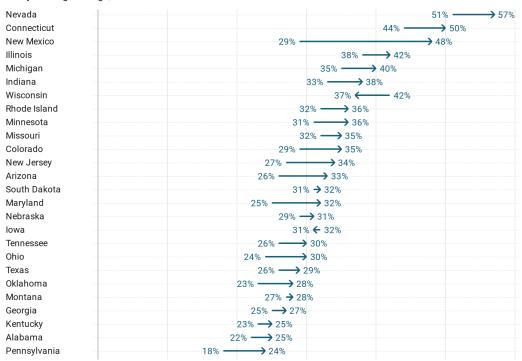


Covid-19 inpatients could strain healthcare resources, by stretching available staff and personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as force cancellation of elective cases

The six states with the highest occupancy of Covid-19 patients (Nevada, Connecticut, New Mexico, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana) each experienced increasing occupancy in the past week; Wisconsin, however, saw some relief in the past week

### **Covid-19 Patients / Total Inpatient Beds**

7-Day Moving Average, As of November 23 & November 16



### **Covid-19 Patients / Total Inpatient Beds**

7-Day Moving Average, As of November 23 & November 16

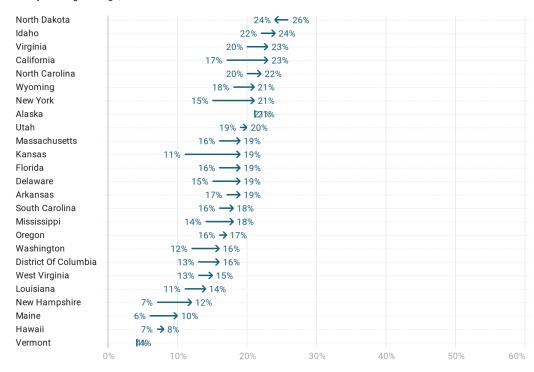
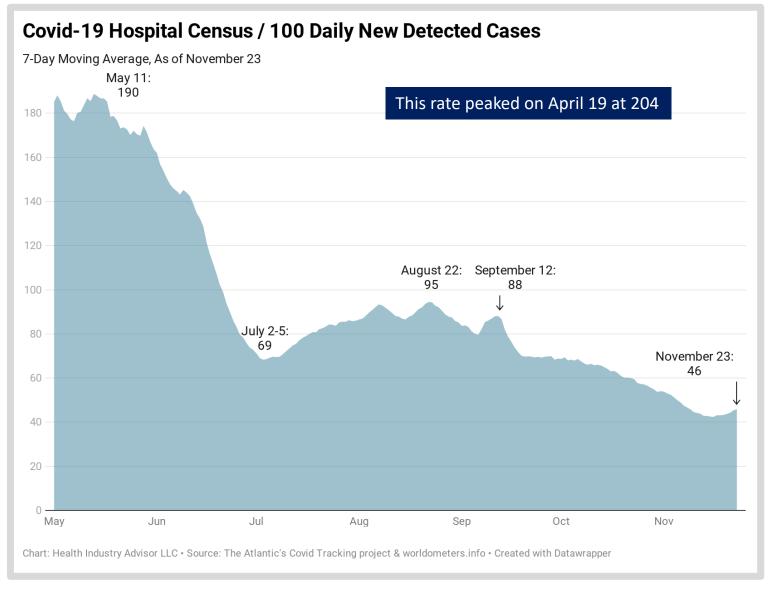


Chart: Health Industry Advisor LLC • Source: The Atlantic's Covid Tracking project & worldometers.info • Created with Datawrapper



The average Covid-19 census per 100 new cases increased slightly each of the past six days

Nevertheless, this rate has been reduced by nearly 1/2 since mid-September and by ¾ since mid-May



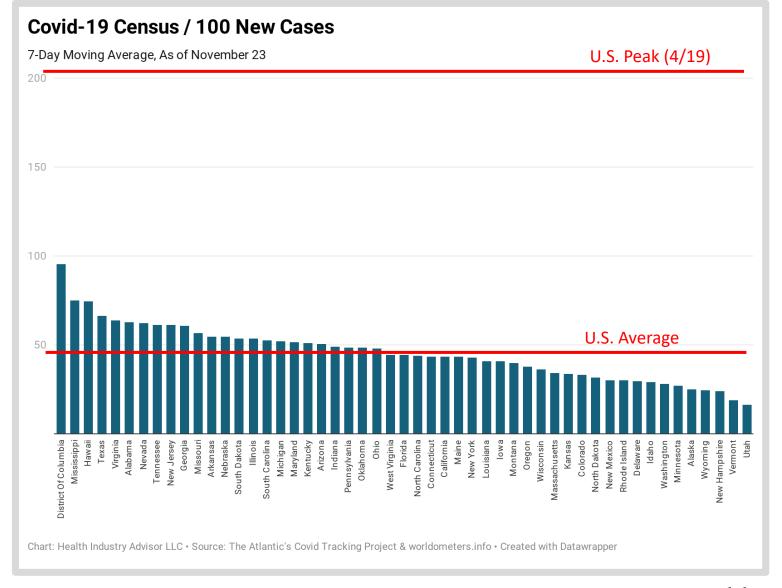


The highest average census per new case is currently experienced in the District of Columbia, Mississippi, Hawaii, Texas and Virginia

The lowest rates are found in Utah, Vermont, New Hampshire, Wyoming and Alaska

Contrast these rates to those experienced in selected hard-hit states during earlier surges:

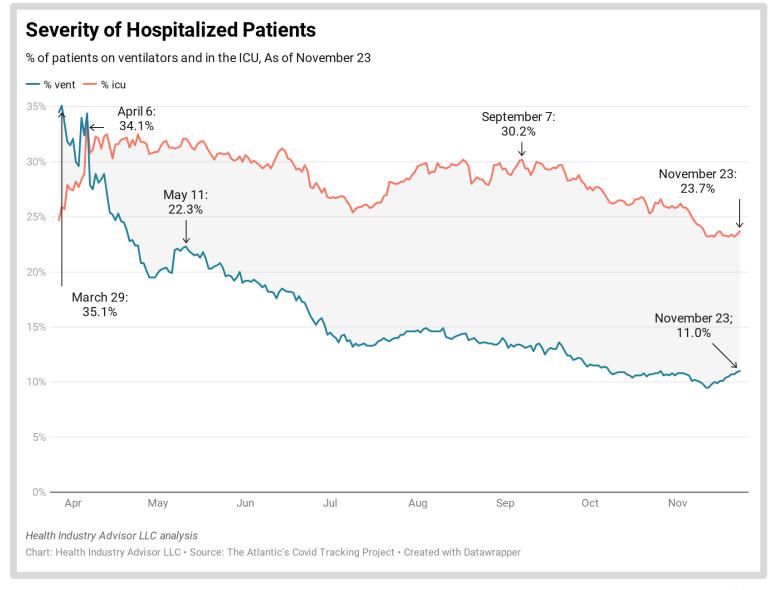
- Arizona: 305 (4/20) - California: 416 (4/17) - Connecticut: 293 (4/29) - Massachusetts: 475 (6/21) - Michigan: 422 (4/21) - New York: 330 (5/22)





The likelihood of a hospitalized Covid-19 patient would require ICU care has been relatively stable for the past week, after declining markedly during the past three months

The likelihood of a hospitalized Covid-19 patients would be on a ventilator had declined significantly since the early days of the pandemic — however, it has picked up in the past week

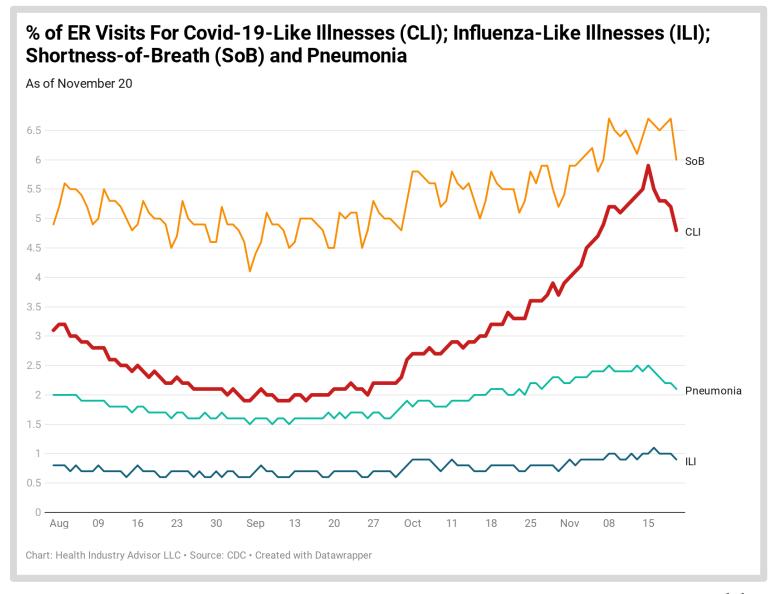




The % of ER visits for COVID-19-like illnesses (CLI) has generally been increasing since late-October, however, this rate has now eased in the past week

This rate remains than it was in in March/April

The rate of influenza visits remains low given where we are in the flu season

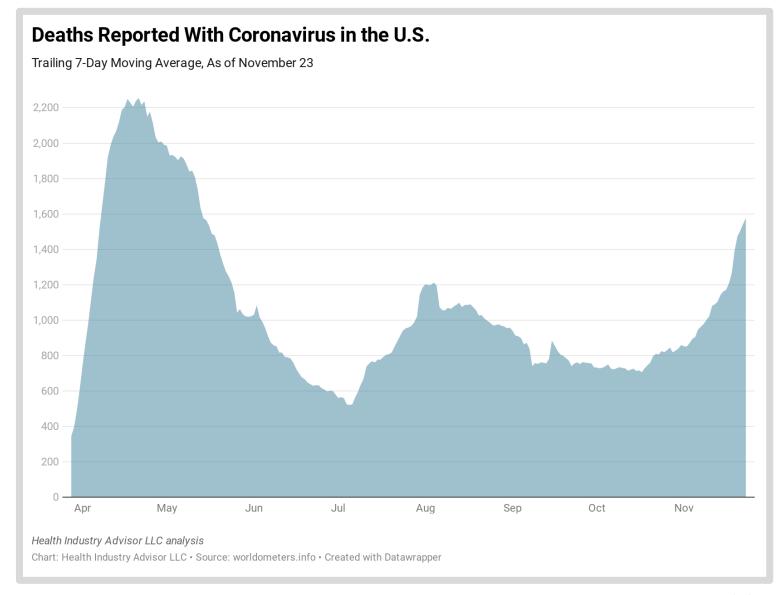




The recent uptick in newly-detected cases is is resulting in increased deaths:

The 7-day average deaths per day has increased twenty-one consecutive days

This rate is now higher than where it peaked in early-August

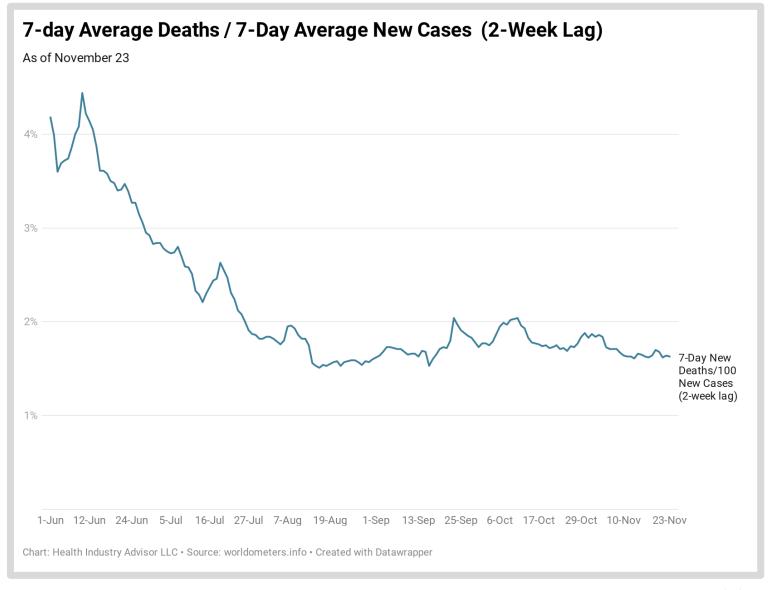




Deaths with coronavirus, relative to new cases (lagged 2 weeks) have moved within a narrow range for the past ten days

This rate declined rapidly in July and August

The current rate is lower than it was throughout October





## **Data Sources**

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

- The Atlantic's Covid Tracking Project: <a href="https://covidtracking.com">https://covidtracking.com</a>
- 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 <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#mobility">https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#mobility</a>
- Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, COVID-19 estimate downloads <a href="http://www.healthdata.org/covid/data-downloads">http://www.healthdata.org/covid/data-downloads</a>
- New York Times, Covid-19 data <a href="https://github.com/nytimes/covid-19-data">https://github.com/nytimes/covid-19-data</a>
- COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University <a href="https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19">https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19</a>
- COVID-19 Projections Using Machine Learning, <a href="https://covid19-projections.com">https://covid19-projections.com</a>
- Oliver Wyman Pandemic Navigator, <u>https://pandemicnavigator.oliverwyman.com/forecast?mode=country&region=United</u>
  ed%20States&panel=mortality

