

Friday February 12, 2021

Regional Status as of this morning

	Deaths Cum.	COVID 19	ICU	Vent
AMC	207	93	18	9
SPHP	269	90	11	6
Ellis	133	49	9	6
Saratoga	63	22	3	2
CMH	53	24	2	2
GF	48	16	1	1
NL	33	10	3	0
SMA	38	22	4	3
AdMC	1	2	0	0
VA	21	8	0	0
Total	866	336	51	29

News

- South Africa halts deployment of AstraZeneca vaccine due to lower efficacy against the predominant strain in circulation there
- South Korea is experiencing a jump in cases going into a holiday week for them
- Germany extends lockdown to March 14 and closes its border with Austria and the Czech Republic over concerns of increasing variant strains
- Public health data reveal deaths from alcohol abuse spiked in the UK during lockdowns
- The scientist heading the COVID-19 Genomics UK consortium said Weds that the UK variant is mutating in ways that will make it less susceptible to vaccine, and that it was likely “to sweep the world, in all probability”
- Scientists believe B.1.1.7, the fast-spreading coronavirus variant first seen in the UK, may have gradually mutated in a single person suffering from a chronic SARS-CoV-2 infection
- It’s yet to be confirmed, but the health minister in Brazil says a new variant there is 3 times as contagious as the original
- J&J’s vaccine is teed up for FDA review on February 26
- GSK and CureVac are both working on next generation coronavirus vaccines that would work against multiple strains
- Review is underway to determine if as many as 36 cases of ITP temporally-linked to SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccination are possibly a rare side effect of vaccination
- Biden administration says the US has contracts to secure 600 million vaccine doses by July
- Add FQHCs to the list of vaccine distribution sites as the feds announce plans to ship them vaccine next week
- The Lancet Commission published a study estimating 40% of US deaths could have been averted if public health measures were more timely and less fragmented
- A large study confirms previous observations that those with dementia are twice as likely to contract COVID-19
- Study finds 1/3 who survive mechanical ventilation have PTSD symptom

- Neither zinc nor vitamin C have any effect in mild COVID-19 according to a new study
- A study of more than 500 patients with COVID-19 found that those with gum disease were 3.5 times more likely to be admitted to intensive care, 4.5 times more likely to need a ventilator, and almost nine times more likely to die compared to those without gum disease
- Add diabetes to the list of COVID-19 sequelae, though the mechanism is not yet fully explained
- Yet another study found that subtle changes in heart rate variability measured by a wearable were able to signal onset of COVID-19 up to 7 days prior to diagnosis via nasal swab
- MSK researchers found that COVID brain, a state of “brain fog” characterized by confusion and short-term memory loss, is linked to inflammatory molecules present in cerebrospinal fluid
- A concerning new study reveals the capacity of SARS-CoV-2 to evolve not solely through point mutations but via recombination as well, greatly enhancing the likelihood that the virus will remain endemic in the human population
- WHO group investigating origins of the virus say all evidence points to a natural reservoir as initiator of the pandemic as opposed to a lab accident at the Wuhan Virology Institute
- 67 year old Ron Wright of Texas becomes the first US Congressman to die of COVID 19
- CDC issues guidance that those who are fully vaccinated need not quarantine
- The CDC's National Syndromic Surveillance Program revealed that ED visits for suicide attempts and overdoses between March 15 and Oct. 10, 2020, were significantly higher compared to the same period in 2019 while at the same time, ED visits related to intimate partner violence, and suspected child abuse and neglect were lower, raising fears of a hidden epidemic
- A new CDC study from 10 states confirms that masks do indeed lower COVID 19 hospitalizations
- After performing experiments using dummies, CDC concludes that double masking or knotting and tucking a single mask to tighten fit prevents air leakage and improves performance
- NY will begin allowing people with some chronic health conditions that put them at greater risk of severe illness from the coronavirus to receive a vaccine beginning Feb. 15
- FDA issued an EUA for the combined use of Eli Lilly's antibody drugs bamlanivimab and etesevimab in adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 and children at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19
- Walgreen's has announced a partnership with Uber to improve access to their sites for vaccine
- Albany County recorded record number of opioid overdose deaths in 2020, in part catalyzed by the stresses of the pandemic
- Governor Cuomo is allowing large venues to reopen beginning 2/23 subject to approval from DOH, testing of attendees and capacity limits initially at 10%
- Albany County Exec Dan McCoy announced Monday that high risk sports can resume
- A mathematician has calculated that all SARS-CoV-2 in the world would fit inside a soda can
- Bad news for those of you who'd been planning to attend: The Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival down in Louisiana has been cancelled for the second consecutive year

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Europe's oldest person, and the second oldest in the world, Sister Andre of France, who turns 117 this week, has just survived infection with SARS-CoV-2

Economic news (a confusing mix, as always):

- The monthly deficit widened to an estimated \$165 billion in January, compared with \$33 billion in January 2020 and \$144 billion in December, the nonpartisan CBO estimated on Monday
- The Labor Department revealed that job growth returned to the U.S. in January, with nonfarm payrolls increasing by 49,000 while the unemployment rate fell to 6.3%
- Dr. Fauci targets late fall as the earliest he projects we'll be able to ditch the masks and physical distancing
- Job openings unexpectedly spike 74,000 in Dec as the labor market nosedives
- The Fed says US unemployment is actually about 10% - nearly double the official rate and matching the worst of the Great Recession
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell 19,000 to 793,000 last week, the 4th straight week of decline
- The UK economy took the biggest hit of all G7 nations in 2020, shrinking a record 9.9%

Spread increasing ($R_t > 1$) in X states, though no longer NY 😊 (compared with 1 state last week):

- The more contagious UK variant is now doubling in the US every 10 days
- CA has surpassed NY on Feb 9 with the highest number of deaths, though they rank 31st when adjusted for population. NJ and NY hold the top spots on a per capita basis, by a wide margin
- On a positive note, deaths are now declining in all CDC regions nationally
- US hospitalizations are at the lowest level in 3 months

From the Animal Kingdom



A cougar and a tiger at a wild animal exhibition facility in TX have tested positive

Numbers (World/US/NY numbers are cumulative; Region/SPHP/Trinity numbers are current counts)

	Cases	Cases as of Last Fri	Avg Daily Change	Deaths	Deaths as of last Fri	Avg Daily Change
World	108,676,711	105,625,476	+0.4%	2,391,541	2,300,002	+0.6%
US	28,087,277	27,283,993	+0.4%	491,917	467,518	+0.7%
NY	1,558,844	1,486,870	+0.7%	45,756	44,430	+0.4%
Region	336	414	-2.7%			
SPHP	90	143	-5.3%			
Trinity	872	1123	-3.2%			

Red = % change worse than last week Green = % change better than last week Black = % change same as last week

System Office Update – Posted This Wk (Link* to all SO COVID 19 Guidance)

- [Registration, Consent & Acknowledgment Form V1 - SPANISH](#) (New)
- [Registration, Consent & Acknowledgment Form V8](#) (Updated)
- [Quick Mask Tip Social Posts](#) (New)
- [CDC Offers Safer Ways to Enjoy a Meal from Your Favorite Restaurant](#) (New)
- [FDA Issues Updated Emergency Use Authorization for Convalescent Plasma](#) (Updated)
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- [Care of the Behavioral Health Patient](#) (Updated)
- [Delay in Mammograms and Lung Cancer Screening after COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (New)
- [Script for Vaccine Clinic Screeners and Greeters](#) (Updated)
- [Teams Shifts App for Vaccine Clinic Staffing Scheduling](#) (New)
- [Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) (Updated)
- CDC: [Improve How Your Mask Protects You](#) (New)
- CDC Video: [Mask Up America](#) (New)
- [Getting Vaccinated and What to Do After Vaccination](#) (New)
- [Indoor Dining Social Media Posts](#) (New)

- [Valentine's Social Media Post](#) (New)

*All links accessible only while on the network or logged in thru the VPN