A. Mark Fendrick, MD
Director
University of Michigan Center for Value-Based Insurance Design

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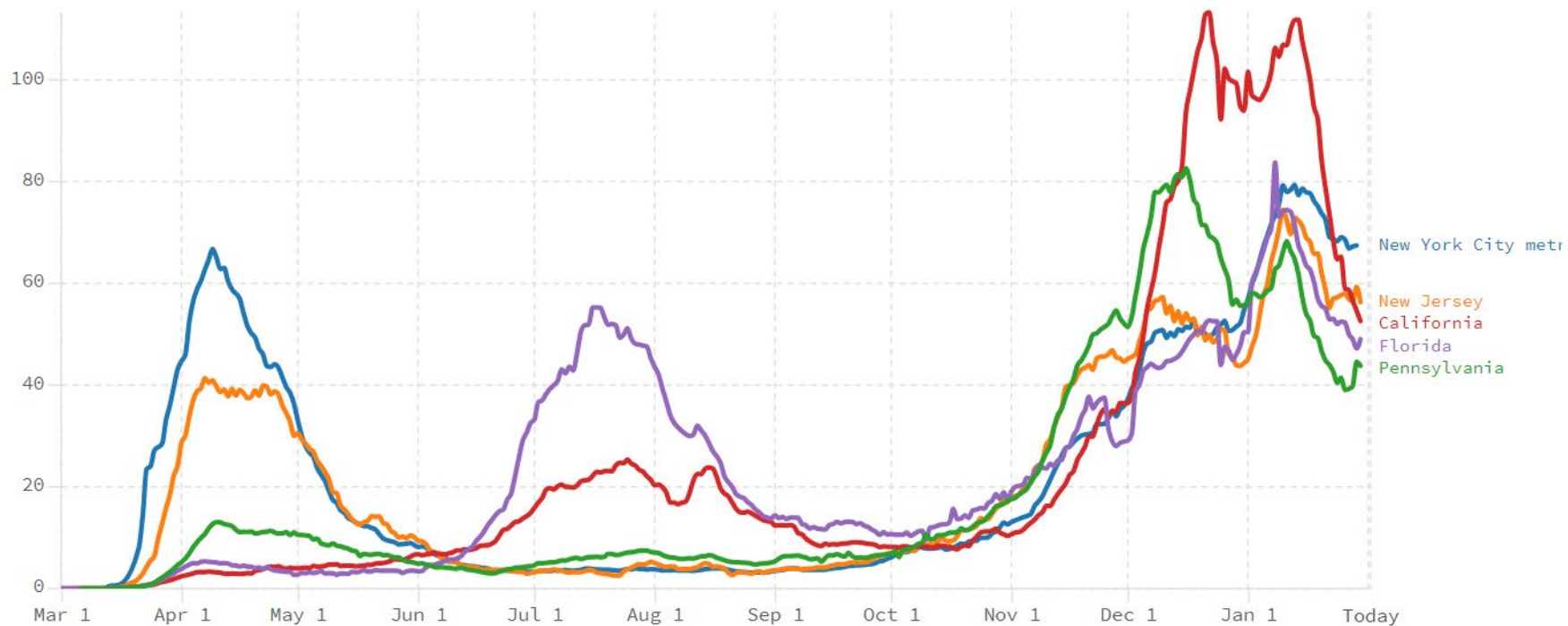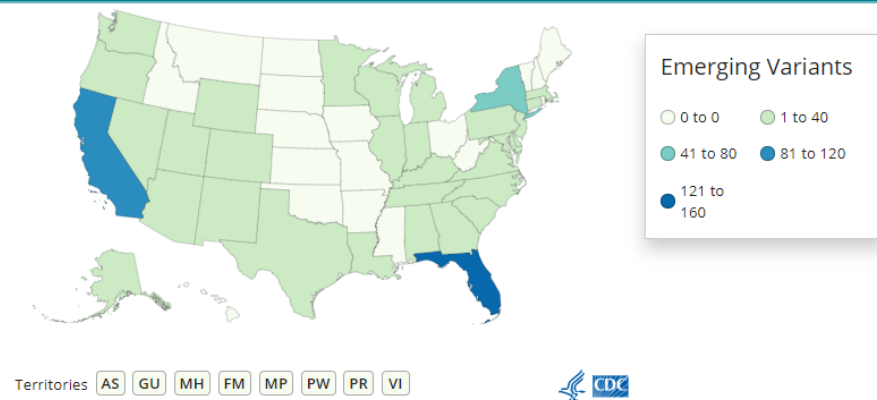
Variants

- 3 variants of concern:
  - B.1.1.3 (UK)
  - B.1.351 (S. Africa)
  - P.1 (Brazil)
- Concerns:
  - Ability to spread more quickly in people.
  - Ability to cause more severe disease
  - Ability to evade detection
  - Decreased susceptibility to treatments
  - Ability to evade natural or vaccine-induced immunity

Variant	Reported Cases in US	Number of States Reporting
B.1.1.7	467	32
B.1.351	3	2
P.1	1	1

Emerging Variant Cases in the United States*†

Emerging Variants
- 0 to 0
- 1 to 40
- 41 to 80
- 81 to 120
- 121 to 160

Territories AS GU MH FM MP PW PR VI

Data Table +

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2. Is the US ready for 4th (B.1.1.7) COVID-19 wave?

Eric Topol** has drawn this graph of the expected increase in new cases in the US as the B.1.1.7 becomes the dominant strain during March 2021. He asked the question, "Are we going to be ready for the 4th wave?"

New confirmed cases of Covid-19 in United States
Seven-day rolling average of new cases
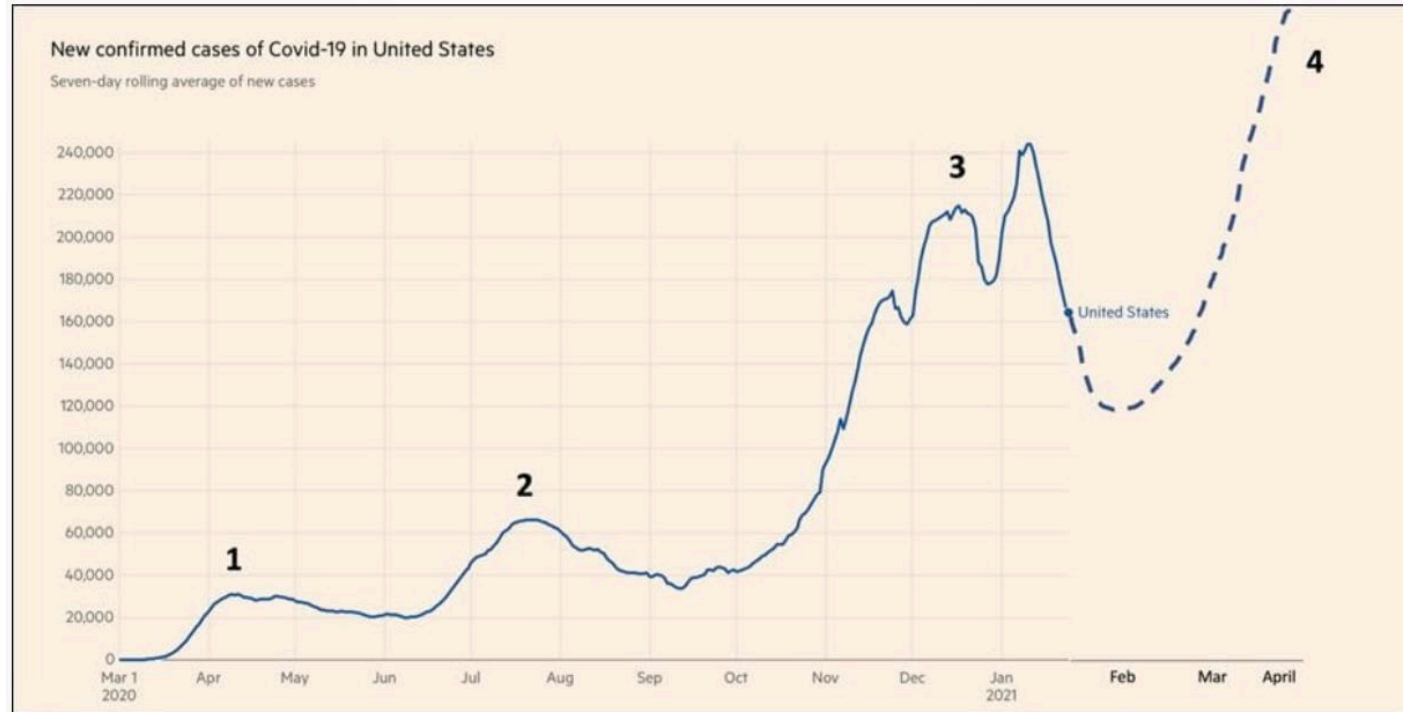
** Eric Topol is a Professor of Molecular Medicine at The Scripps Research Institute, and a senior consultant at the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California. He is Editor-in-Chief of Medscape and theheart.org.

Vaccines

Vaccine Effectiveness

Moderna	94%
Pfizer-BioNTech	95%
AZ/Oxford	70%
J&J	66%
Novavax	89%

- All protected against death
- Protected against severe illnesses
- Significant reduction hospitalizations
- Variants may impact but still reduced severe outcomes

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Double Masking

- 3 Layers best

- 'Surgical' mask + Cloth mask best combo

- N95 or KN95 no need to double mask

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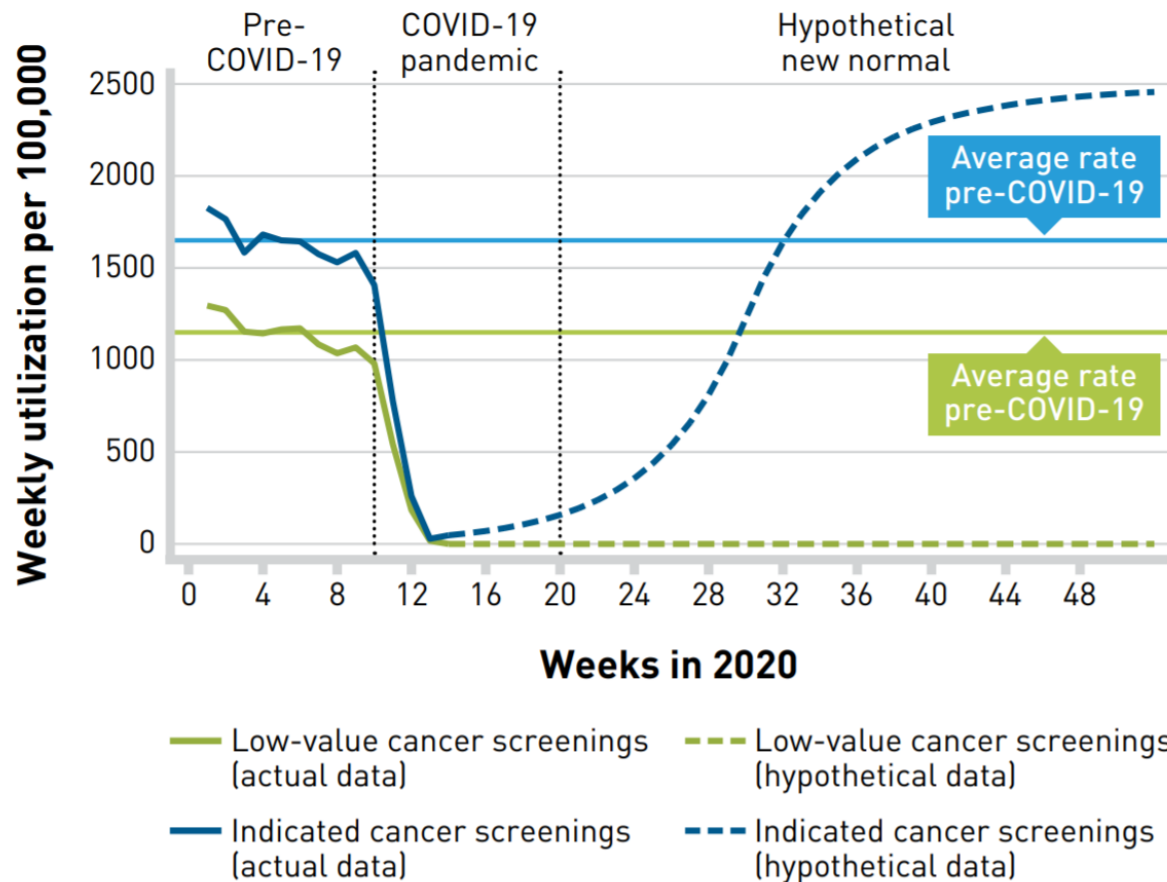BUSINESS GROUP ON HEALTH

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9

FIGURE. Preventing the Resurgence of Low-Value Care in the Post–COVID-19 Era[a]

Pre-COVID-19 · COVID-19 pandemic · Hypothetical new normal

Weekly utilization per 100,000

Average rate pre-COVID-19

Average rate pre-COVID-19

Weeks in 2020

— Low-value cancer screenings (actual data)
- - - Low-value cancer screenings (hypothetical data)
— Indicated cancer screenings (actual data)
- - - Indicated cancer screenings (hypothetical data)

10

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Questions

Upcoming NEBGH virtual events:
- **Feb. 4:** Employee Benefits and the Biden Administration
- **Feb. 8:** NEBGH Medical Director's Weekly Monday COVID-19 Update
- **Feb. 11:** "Safe Space" Employer Roundtable: Racial Health Disparities