



COVID-19 Update

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Medical Director NEBGH

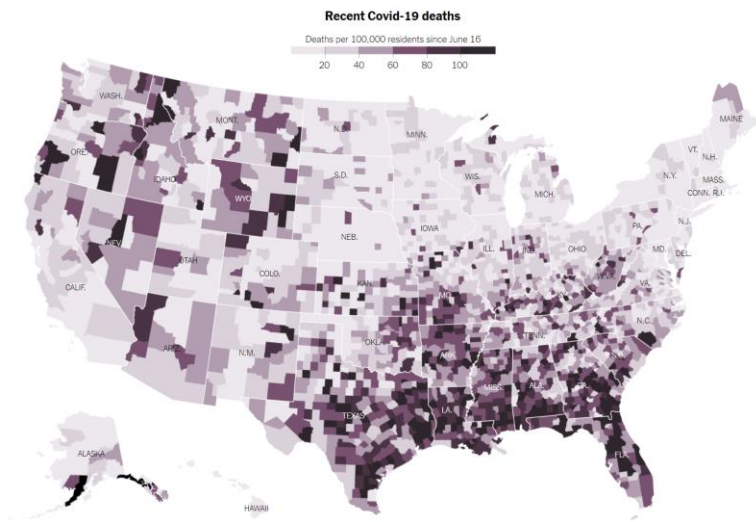
Monday October 4th, 2021





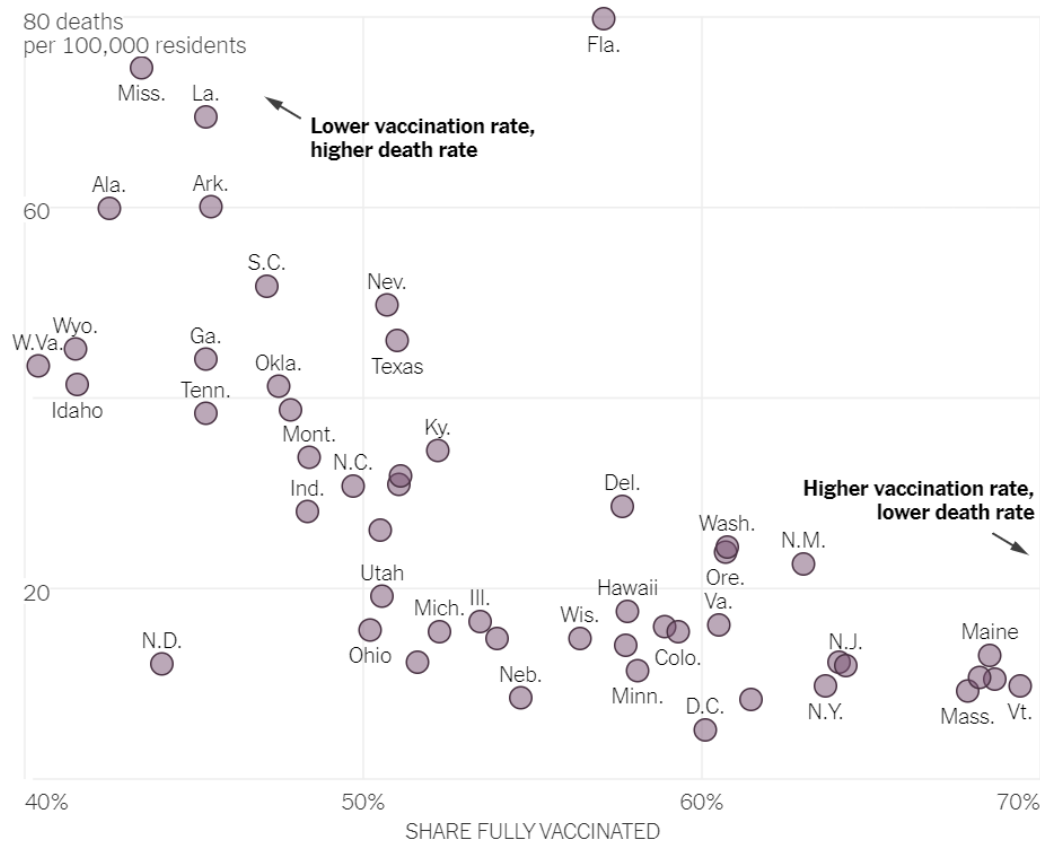
US Deaths

- 701,000
- 200,000 since vaccines available



Note: The map shows deaths from Covid-19 since June 16, 2021, the day the United States reached 600,000 deaths according to a New York Times database. Data is as of Sept. 29. Source: New York Times database of reports from state and local health agencies

Recent Covid-19 deaths compared with state vaccination rates



Note: The graphic shows deaths from Covid-19 since June 16, 2021, the day the United States reached 600,000 deaths according to a New York Times database. Data is as of Sept. 29. Sources: New York Times database of reports from state and local health agencies, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Census Bureau

Molnupiravir

- Oral antiviral against SARS-CoV-2
- The drug inserts errors into the genetic code and eventually stops the virus side-effects
- Reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by approximately 50%
 - 7.3% (28/385) of patients who received molnupiravir were hospitalized
 - 14.1% (53/377) of placebo-treated patients were hospitalized, 8 of whom died
- Treatment for people with COVID and not hospitalized, initially possibly for high-risk patients
- Less efficacious than Monoclonal antibody treatments (85%) but easier to administer and cheaper \$700 versus \$2,300
- EUA application coming soon and could be available towards end of 2021



Mjölñir

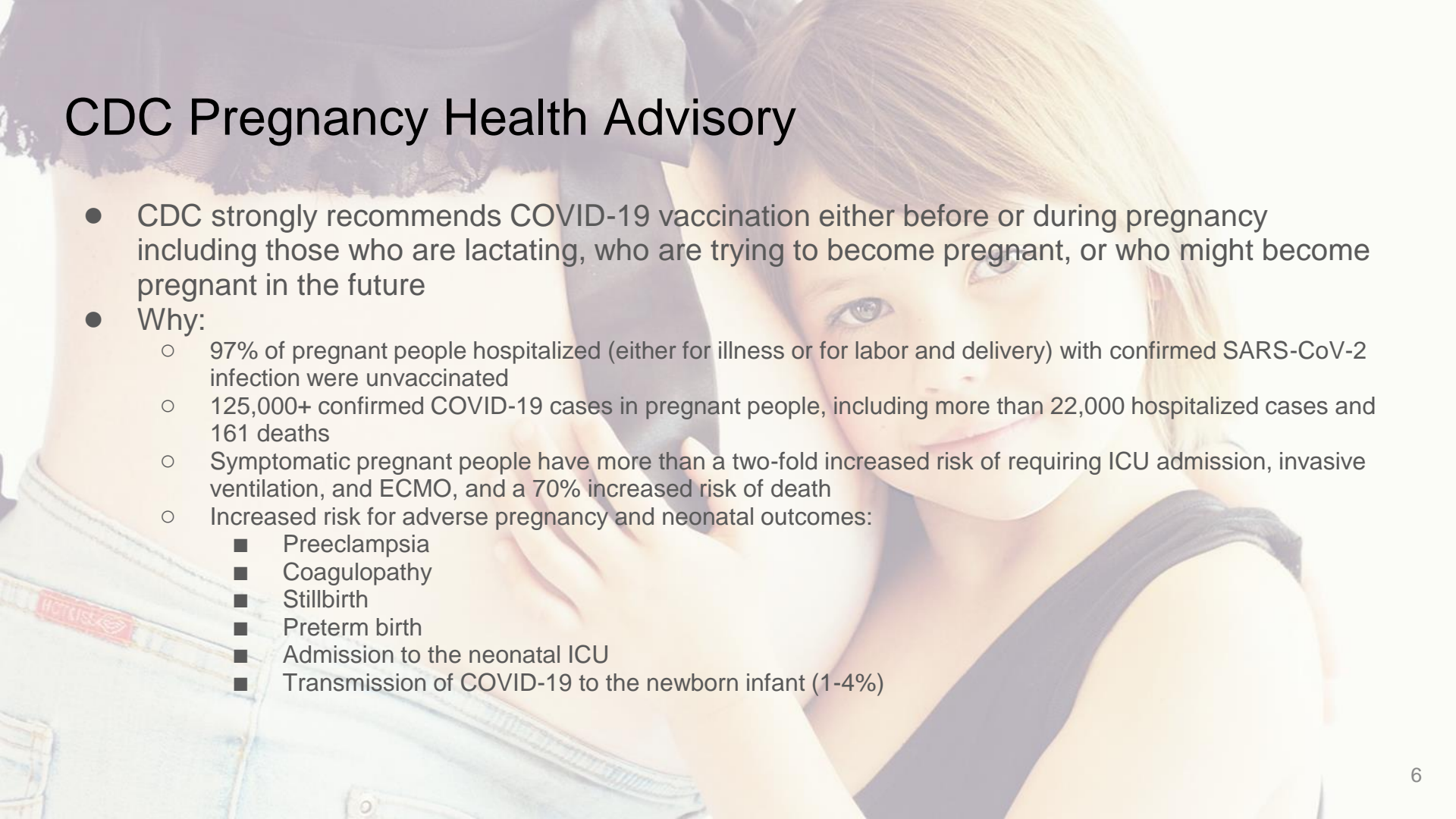
Daily COVID-19 vaccine doses administered

Number of daily doses administered (rolling 7-day average).



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data. For vaccines that require multiple doses, each individual dose is counted.

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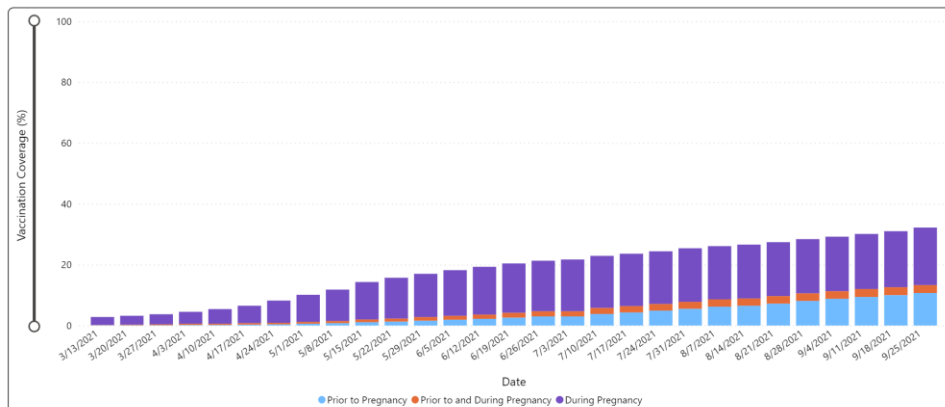
A photograph of a pregnant woman with long brown hair, wearing a black tank top and light blue jeans. She is holding a young child with blonde hair and a headband. The image is semi-transparent, serving as a background for the text.

CDC Pregnancy Health Advisory

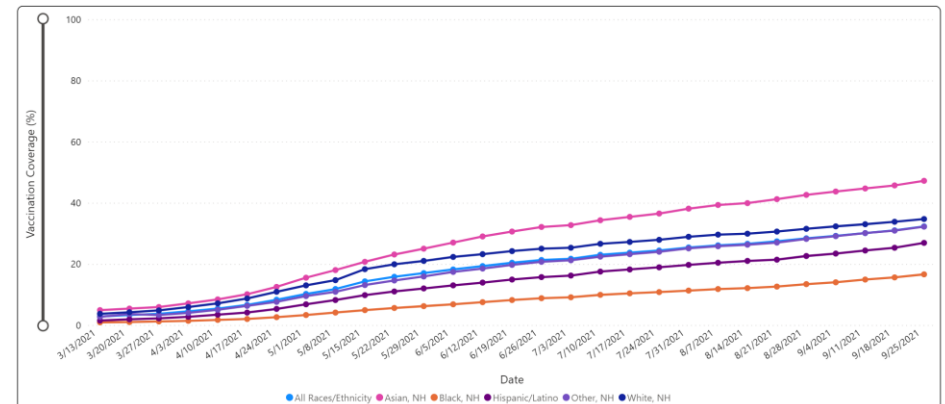
- CDC strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination either before or during pregnancy including those who are lactating, who are trying to become pregnant, or who might become pregnant in the future
- Why:
 - 97% of pregnant people hospitalized (either for illness or for labor and delivery) with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection were unvaccinated
 - 125,000+ confirmed COVID-19 cases in pregnant people, including more than 22,000 hospitalized cases and 161 deaths
 - Symptomatic pregnant people have more than a two-fold increased risk of requiring ICU admission, invasive ventilation, and ECMO, and a 70% increased risk of death
 - Increased risk for adverse pregnancy and neonatal outcomes:
 - Preeclampsia
 - Coagulopathy
 - Stillbirth
 - Preterm birth
 - Admission to the neonatal ICU
 - Transmission of COVID-19 to the newborn infant (1-4%)

Vaccination & Pregnancy

- Only ~30% of pregnancies protected by vaccination
- Significant disparities exist in vaccination coverage by race and ethnicity –
 - vaccination coverage being lowest for non-Hispanic Black pregnant people (15.6%) as of September 18, 2021



"vaccination coverage" represents the total number of pregnant people (denominator as of September 25, 2021 = 192,495) who were fully vaccinated, including both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. "prior to pregnancy" represents total number of pregnant people who were fully vaccinated prior to pregnancy, including both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. "prior to and during pregnancy" represents total number of pregnant people who received one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines prior to pregnancy and one during pregnancy; "during pregnancy" represents total number of people who received both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine during pregnancy.



NH = Non-Hispanic; "Other, NH" race includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Multiple or Other races; "vaccination coverage" represents the total number of pregnant people (denominator as of September 25, 2021 = 192,495) who were fully vaccinated, including both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

Vaccine Safety & Pregnancy

- No safety concerns were found in animal studies
- No adverse pregnancy-related outcomes occurred in previous clinical trials that used the same vaccine platform as the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine
- Early data on the safety of receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) during pregnancy are reassuring
 - Data did not find any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated or their babies
 - Those vaccinated before 20 weeks - did not find an increased risk for miscarriage
 - Data suggest receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy reduces the risk for infection
 - Data suggest receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy reduces the risk for infection

Medical **Contraindications** to be Vaccinated With a COVID Vaccine

- Severe (e.g., anaphylaxis) or immediate allergic reaction after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine
 - Polyethylene glycol (PEG) is an ingredient in both mRNA COVID-19 vaccines
 - Polysorbate 80 is an ingredient in Janssen COVID-19 vaccine
 - Cross-reactive hypersensitivity between these compounds may occurHowever – not an absolute contraindication but precautions should be taken
- Following are reasons to defer vaccination:
 - People with a history of MIS-C or MIS-A should consider delaying vaccination until they have recovered from their illness and for 90 days after the date of diagnosis
 - People who have been treated with monoclonal antibodies – defer 90 days
 - People with COVID-19 with or without symptoms should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness and have met the criteria for discontinuing isolation (10-14 days)
 - People who have a history of myocarditis or pericarditis unrelated to mRNA COVID-19 that has not recovered or residual significant cardiac damage (cardiologist should review)

Medical Conditions that are **Not** a Contraindication

- People who have a history of myocarditis or pericarditis unrelated to mRNA COVID-19 – once illness resolved
- People with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome (mRNA vs J&J)
- People with a history of Bell's palsy
- People with a history of dermal filler use
- Immunosuppressive therapies – timing considerations and may need additional dose but not a contraindication
- Immunocompromised people – should get vaccinated but may need to take additional precautions
- Pregnancy
- Lactation

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#Contraindications>

Managing the Medical Exemption Requests

- Level of detail of the underlying medical condition
 - “In my expert opinion Mr. Jones has a medical condition which precludes him from getting vaccinated”
 - “ Mr. Jones suffered a severe anaphylactic allergic reaction to his first dose of mRNA vaccine and in my opinion should not have a second dose at this time”
- Who is an acceptable medical provider –
 - MD/DO, PA, NP, podiatrist, midwife, dentist, clinical psychologist, optometrist, chiropractor, clinical social worker.....
 - Specialist relevant to the condition in question
- Who decides that exemption is valid or not?
 - Company physician
 - HR/Legal
 - Third party provider
 - Panel of experts who review cases ‘blinded’ so no bias based on job/level etc.
- Handling emotionally charged cases e.g., pregnancy when despite expert advice a women is adamant about not getting vaccinated
- Where are records stored
- What is the process for vaccine deferrals
- What is the process for boosters!
- What to do with those with an exemption – work remotely or come into the workplace with additional precautions e.g., masking, distancing and testing

2-Month Cycle

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

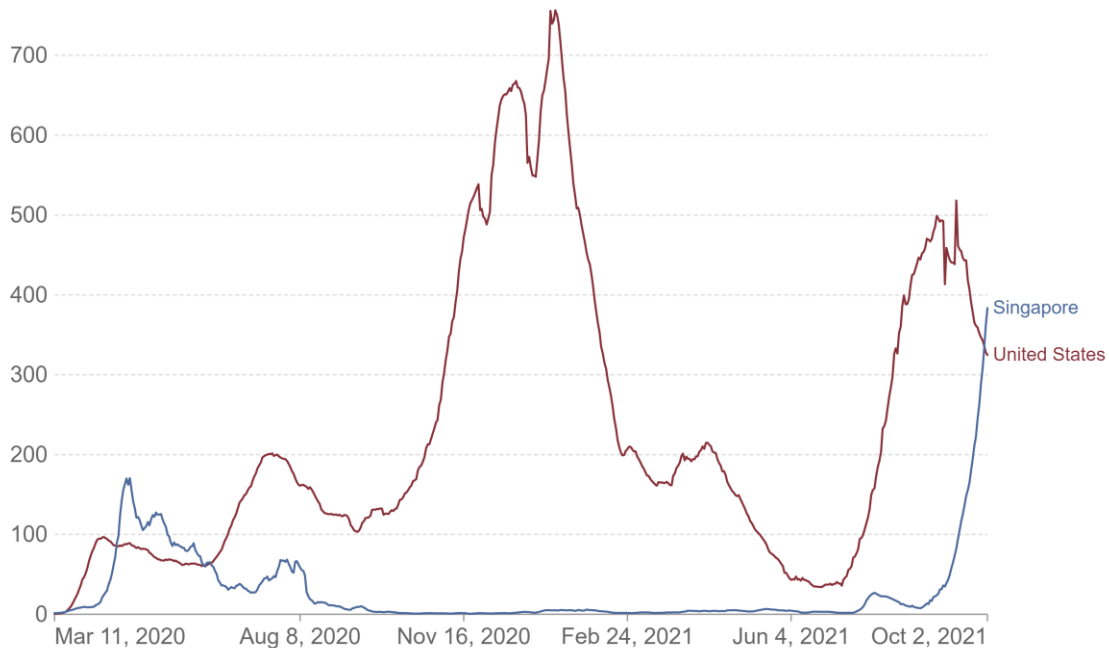
Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.



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Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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Questions

Upcoming NEBGH virtual events:

- **Oct. 11** – Indigenous People's Day – *No Monday COVID-19 Update w/ Dr. Mark*
- **Oct. 5** – The Federal No Surprises Act: What Employers Need to Know Now
- **Oct. 21** – Improving Equity in Mind-Body Healthcare – There's an App for That!
- **Nov. 2** – Navigating New Gateways to Mental Health Care
- **Nov. 18** – Annual Membership Meeting
- **Dec. 9** - Pharmacy Benefits Strategies for Now - and Later