MINNESOTA

SUMMARY

- Minnesota has moved into the red zone for cases, indicating more than 100 new cases per 100,000 population last week, with the 21st highest rate in the country. Minnesota is in the yellow zone for test positivity, indicating a rate between 5% and 10%, with the 20th highest rate in the country.
- Minnesota has seen an increase in new cases and an increase in test positivity over the last week.
- Viral transmission continues in multiple areas of the state with worrying increases in incidence in multiple counties in southern and central Minnesota outside of the Minneapolis CBSA. The following three counties had the highest number of new cases over the last 3 weeks: 1. Hennepin County, 2. Dakota County, and 3. Ramsey County. These counties in the Minneapolis CBSA represent 45.6% of new cases in Minnesota.
- One third of new cases are coming from community spread of uncertain exposure. A wedding with 275 unmasked guests led to 56 cases in nine counties, including cases among educators, long-term care workers, and health care workers. To date, 50 cases among Minnesota residents, including one death, have been linked to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota.
- Winona State University has reported 97 students as COVID-positive in the first week of classes leading to Winona County reporting a weekly incidence >300 cases per 100,000 population.
- 49% of all counties in Minnesota have moderate or high levels of community transmission (yellow or red zone), with 17% having high levels of community transmission (red zone).
- During the week of Aug 24 – Aug 30, 9% of nursing homes had at least one new resident COVID-19 case, 16% of nursing homes had at least one new staff COVID-19 case, and 5% of nursing homes had at least one new resident COVID-19 death.
- Minnesota had 101 new cases per 100,000 population in the last week, compared to a national average of 88 per 100,000.
- Current staff deployed from the federal government as assets to support the state response are: 9 to support operations activities from FEMA and 1 to support operations activities from USCG.
- Between Aug 29 - Sep 04, on average, 37 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 89 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Minnesota. An average of 95% of hospitals reported either new confirmed or new suspected COVID patients each day during this period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Using the Abbott BinaxNOW, establish weekly surveillance in critical populations to monitor degree of community spread among K-12 teachers; staff working at nursing homes, assisted living, and other congregate living settings; and first responders.
- Recommendations specific to institutions of higher education (IHE) are highlighted below given the concerning trends nationally and the need to intensify efforts to control COVID-19 among university students and minimize spread to local communities.
- IHE should increase testing capacity by expanding public-private partnerships; increasing the budget and capacity of public health labs; pooling specimens where appropriate; and utilizing all university, veterinary and research platforms for surveillance and testing of students and, if needed, the surrounding communities.
- Require all universities and colleges to have a plan for both rapid testing and contact tracing of symptomatic students and periodic surveillance testing of students, with quick turnaround times for results, and rapid isolation of cases and quarantine of contacts; residential cases and contacts should not be sent home to isolate or quarantine.
- Recruit college and university students to expand public health messaging and contact tracing capacity and protect local communities by strict mask wearing and social distancing off campus.
- Universities and colleges must work with various student leaders and campus media to support compliance with recommendations.
- Explore use of focused wastewater surveillance to detect cases early and to direct diagnostic testing and public health interventions.
- University students with or exposed to COVID-19 must have isolation, quarantine and care sites on or near campus and not be returned home to multigenerational households where additional transmission could occur.
- Ensure all universities can fully test, isolate, and conduct contact tracing in collaboration with local public health authorities. Support university officials in messaging to students about the importance of full cooperation.
- Ensure all nursing homes, assisted living, and elderly care sites follow CMS staff testing requirements and, if cases within local universities rise, increase testing even further to prevent spread from students to residents through staff. Expanding nursing home cases must be controlled with aggressive testing of all staff and isolation of positive residents.
- Support local authorities in outreach to restaurant and bar business owners in college communities regarding enforcement of masking and limitations on occupancy as well as other limitations on student patronage; encourage local ordinances in these communities to allow enforcement of social distancing and mask mandates for off-campus events.
- Support a uniform case-reporting process for IHE and reporting of this data on university public-facing dashboards.
- Specific, detailed guidance on community mitigation measures can be found on the CDC website.

COVID-19

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	STATE, LAST WEEK	STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	FEMA/HHS REGION, LAST WEEK	UNITED STATES, LAST WEEK
NEW COVID-19 CASES (RATE PER 100,000)	5,724 (101)	+12.0%	47,030 (90)	290,363 (88)
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE	7.2%	+1.0%*	4.9%	5.2%
TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000)	112,129** (1,988)	-2.0%**	1,120,142** (2,132)	5,652,360** (1,722)
COVID-19 DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000)	40 (1)	-33.3%	526 (1)	5,963 (2)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE (≥1 NEW STAFF CASE)	9% (16%)	+2%* (-2%*)	8% (15%)	10% (17%)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATH	5%	+0%*	3%	5%

MOBILITY ▶
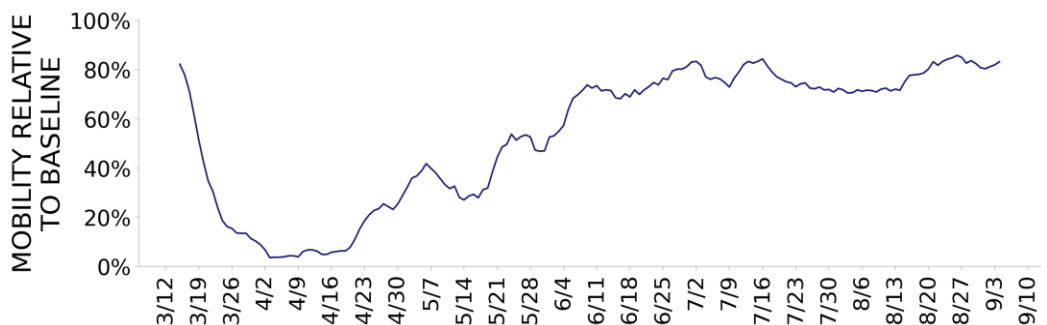
* Indicates absolute change in percentage points.
** Due to delayed reporting, this figure may underestimate total diagnostic tests and week-on-week changes in diagnostic tests.

DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/4/2020; last week is 8/29 - 9/4, previous week is 8/22 - 8/28.

Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/2/2020. Last week is 8/27 - 9/2, previous week is 8/20 - 8/26.

Mobility: Descartes Labs. This data depicts the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a county. The 100% represents the baseline mobility level prior to the pandemic; lower percent mobility indicates less population movement. Data is anonymized and provided at the county level. Data through 9/4/2020.

SNFs: Skilled nursing facilities. National Healthcare Safety Network. Data are reported separately for cases among residents and staff. Last week is 8/24-8/30, previous week is 8/17-8/23.

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COVID-19 COUNTY AND METRO ALERTS*
Top 12 shown in table (full lists below)

	LOCALITIES IN RED ZONE		LOCALITIES IN YELLOW ZONE	
METRO AREA (CBSA) LAST WEEK	**5**	Mankato Winona Marshall Worthington Fairmont	**13**	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington St. Cloud Rochester Fargo Hutchinson Owatonna Brainerd Red Wing Grand Forks New Ulm Alexandria La Crosse-Onalaska
COUNTY LAST WEEK	**15**	Blue Earth Wright Winona Clay Le Sueur Waseca Lyon Nobles Watonwan Yellow Medicine Stevens Martin	**28**	Hennepin Dakota Ramsey Anoka Washington Scott Stearns Olmsted Carver Sherburne McLeod Chisago

All Yellow CBSAs: Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, St. Cloud, Rochester, Fargo, Hutchinson, Owatonna, Brainerd, Red Wing, Grand Forks, New Ulm, Alexandria, La Crosse-Onalaska, Wahpeton
All Red Counties: Blue Earth, Wright, Winona, Clay, Le Sueur, Waseca, Lyon, Nobles, Watonwan, Yellow Medicine, Stevens, Martin, Chippewa, Pennington, Rock
All Yellow Counties: Hennepin, Dakota, Ramsey, Anoka, Washington, Scott, Stearns, Olmsted, Carver, Sherburne, McLeod, Chisago, Steele, Benton, Nicollet, Crow Wing, Goodhue, Sibley, Carlton, Brown, Redwood, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Houston, Pipestone, Wabasha, Meeker, Marshall

* Localities with fewer than 10 cases last week have been excluded from these alerts.

Red Zone: Those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and counties that during the last week reported both new cases above 100 per 100,000 population, and lab test positivity result above 10%.
Yellow Zone: Those CBSAs and counties that during the last week reported both new cases between 10-100 per 100,000 population, and a lab test positivity result between 5-10%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the "Red Zone."
Note: Lists of red and yellow localities are sorted by the number of new cases in the last 3 weeks, from highest to lowest. Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.
DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS
Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/4/2020; last week is 8/29 - 9/4, three weeks is 8/15 - 9/4.
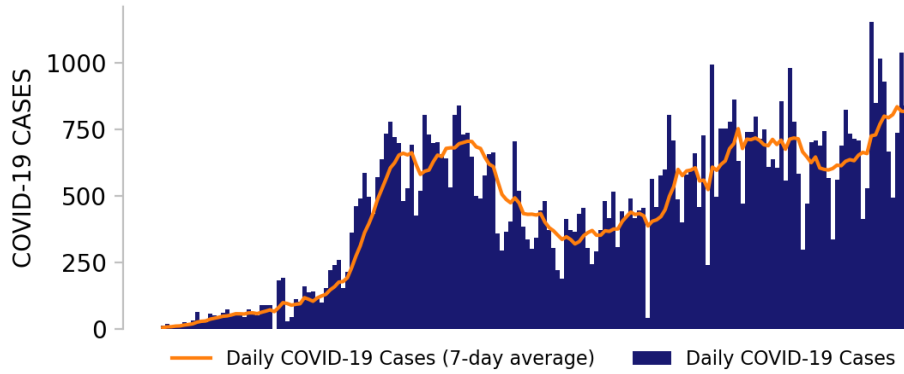**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/2/2020. Last week is 8/27 - 9/2.
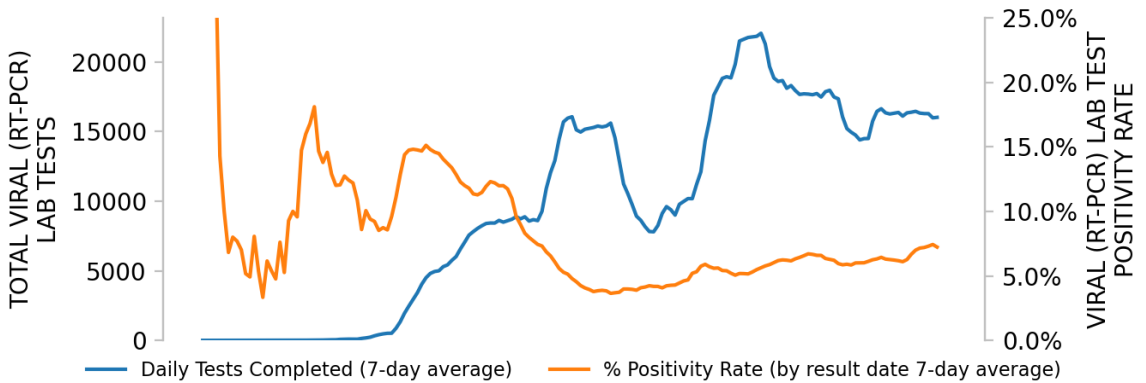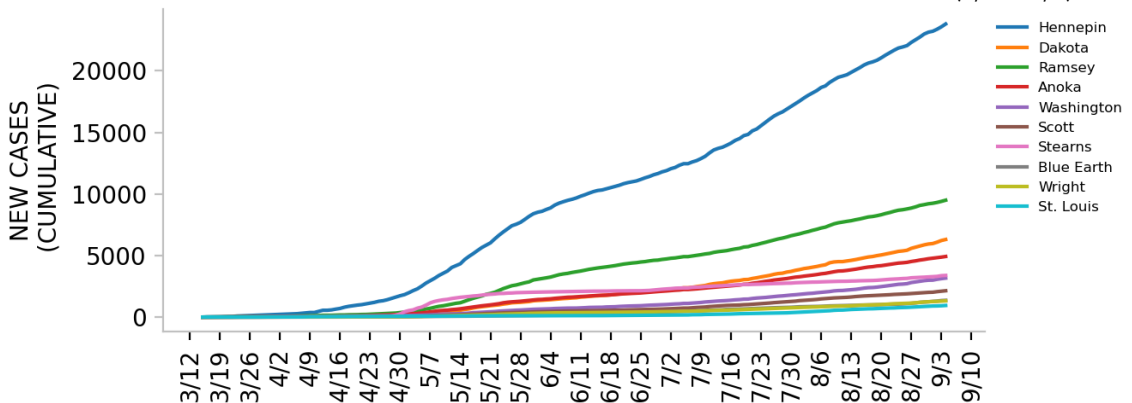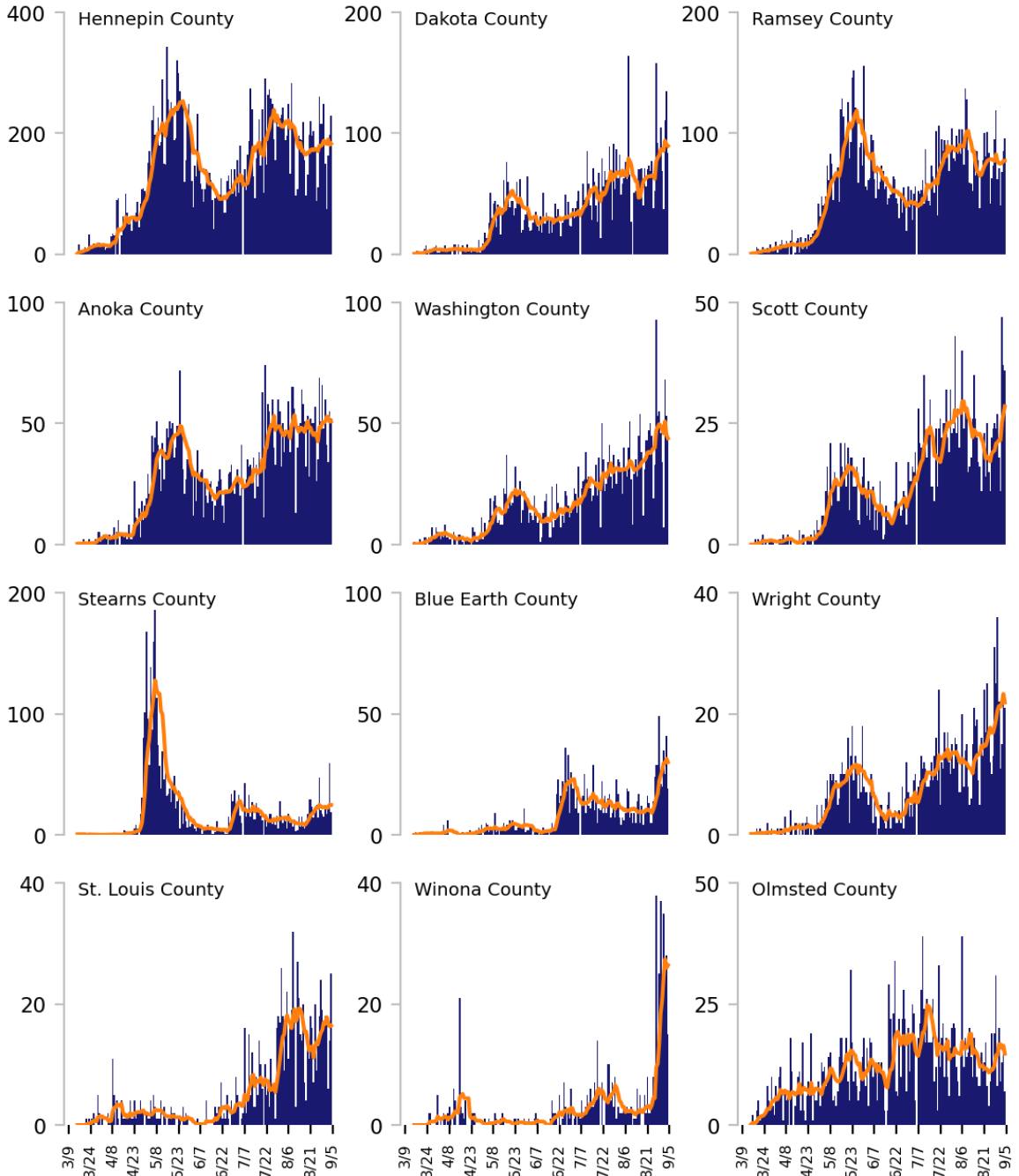
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NEW CASES ▶

COVID-19 CASES

1000
750
500
250
0

— Daily COVID-19 Cases (7-day average) ■ Daily COVID-19 Cases

TESTING ▶

TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS

20000
15000
10000
5000
0

VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE

25.0%
20.0%
15.0%
10.0%
5.0%
0.0%

— Daily Tests Completed (7-day average)   — % Positivity Rate (by result date 7-day average)

TOP COUNTIES ▶

Top counties based on greatest number of new cases in last three weeks (8/15 - 9/4)

NEW CASES (CUMULATIVE)

20000
15000
10000
5000
0

— Hennepin
— Dakota
— Ramsey
— Anoka
— Washington
— Scott
— Stearns
— Blue Earth
— Wright
— St. Louis

3/12 3/19 3/26 4/2 4/9 4/16 4/23 4/30 5/7 5/14 5/21 5/28 6/4 6/11 6/18 6/25 7/2 7/9 7/16 7/23 7/30 8/6 8/13 8/20 8/27 9/3 9/10

DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS
Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.
Cases: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/4/2020.
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/2/2020.

Top 12 counties based on number of new cases in the last 3 weeks

—— Daily COVID-19 Cases (7-day average) ▮ Daily COVID-19 Cases

TOTAL DAILY CASES

Hennepin County

Dakota County

Ramsey County

Anoka County

Washington County

Scott County

Stearns County

Blue Earth County

Wright County

St. Louis County

Winona County

Olmsted County

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CASE RATES AND VIRAL LAB TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK
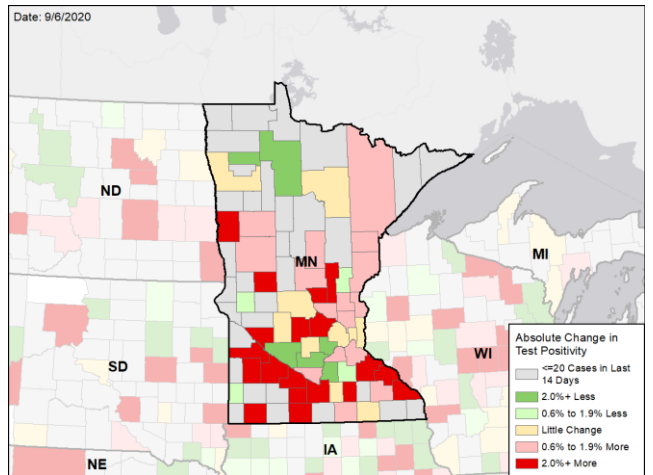
NEW CASES PER 100,000 DURING THE LAST WEEK
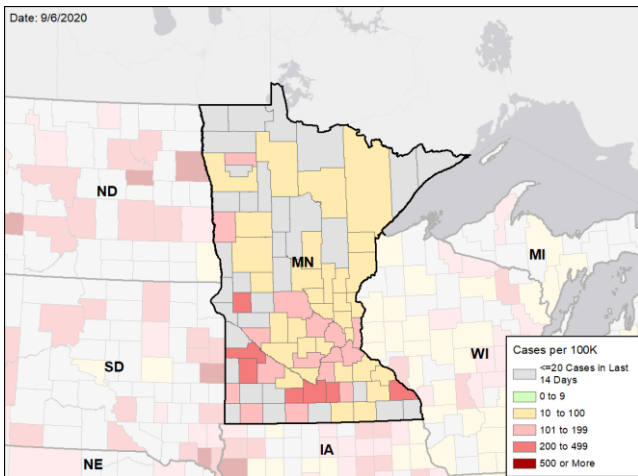
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK
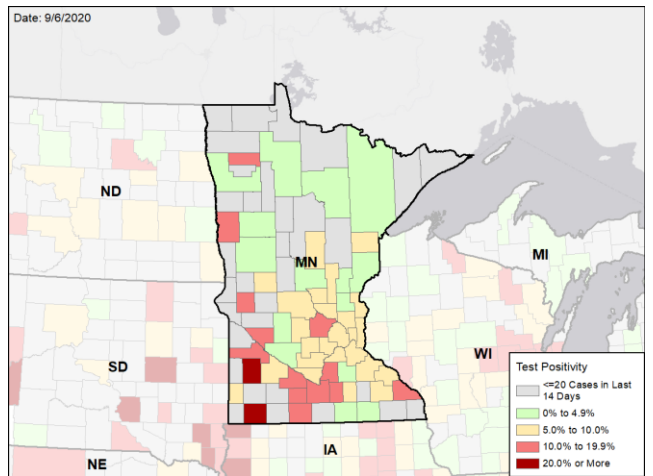
WEEKLY CHANGE IN NEW CASES PER 100K
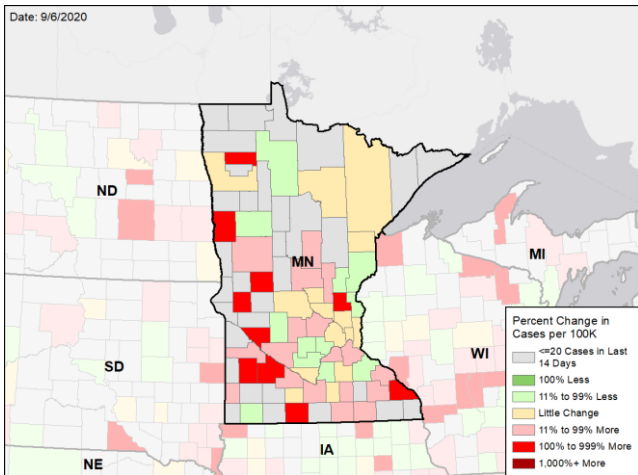
WEEKLY CHANGE IN VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY

DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS
Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.
**Cases:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/4/2020. Last week is 8/29 - 9/4, previous week is 8/22 - 8/28.
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/2/2020. Last week is 8/27 - 9/2, previous week is 8/20 - 8/26.
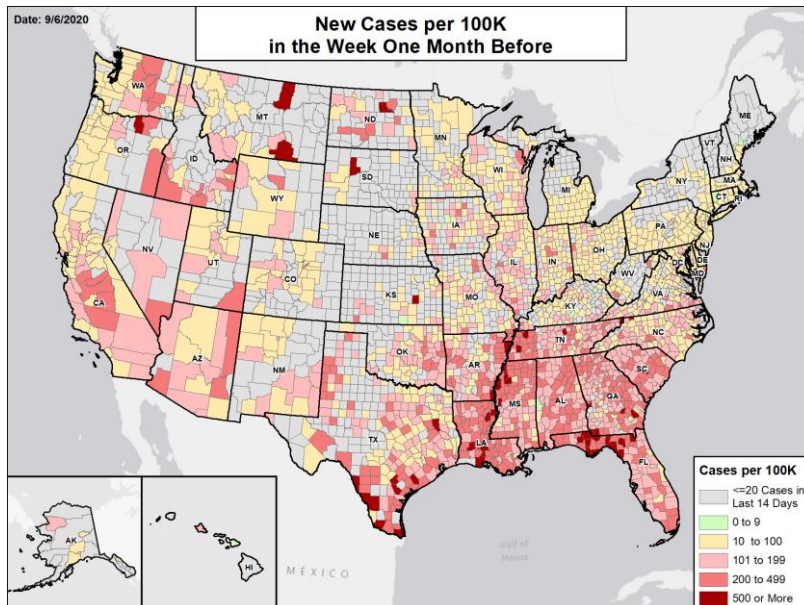
National Picture

NEW CASES PER 100,000 LAST WEEK
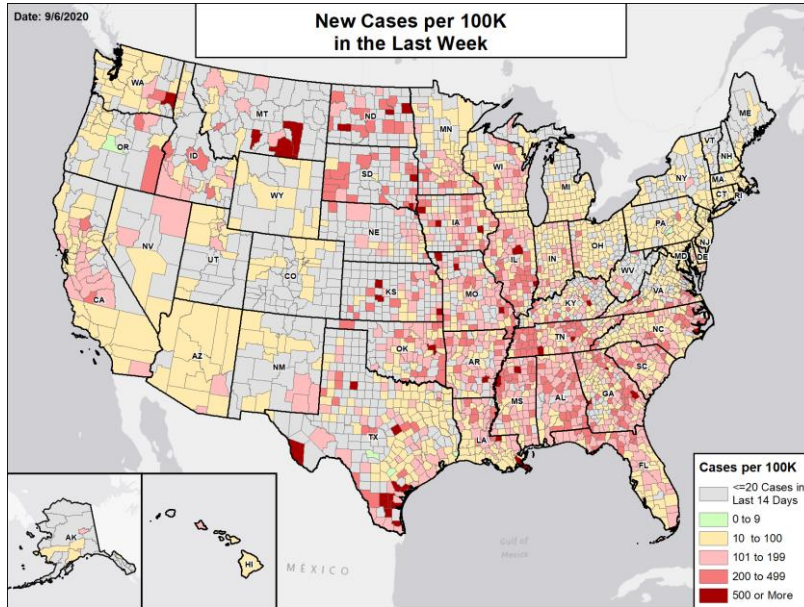
NEW CASES PER 100,000 IN THE WEEK ONE MONTH BEFORE
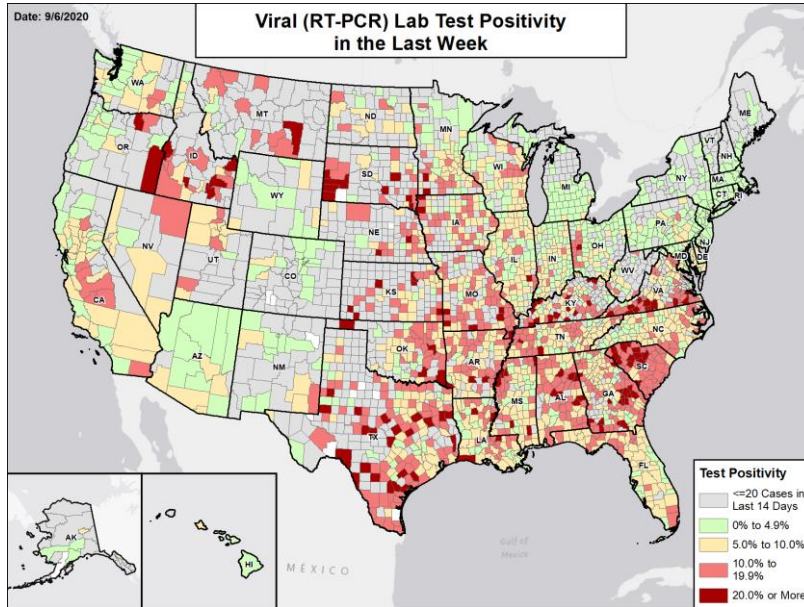

DATA SOURCES
Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.
Cases: County-level data from USAFacts through 9/4/2020. Last week is 8/29 - 9/4; the week one month before is 8/1 - 8/7.
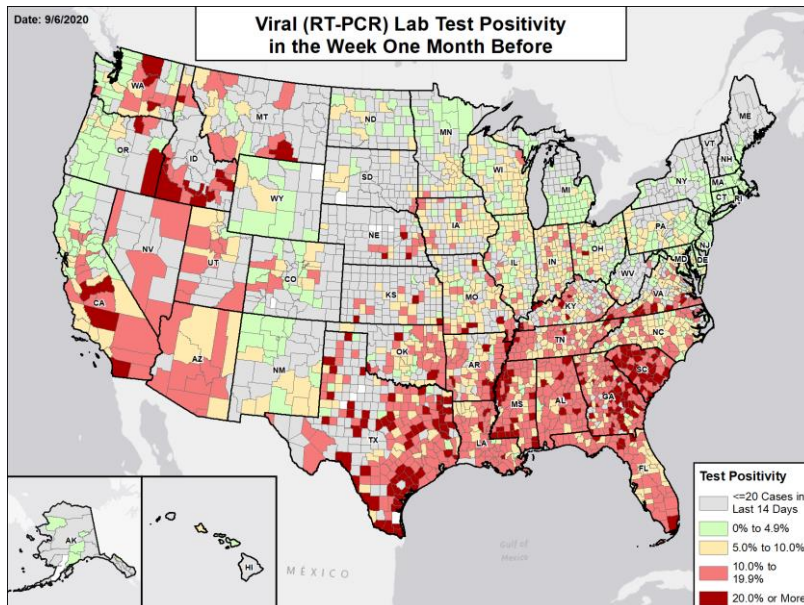
National Picture

VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY LAST WEEK

VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY IN THE WEEK ONE MONTH BEFORE

METHODS

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COLOR THRESHOLDS: Results for each indicator should be taken in context of the findings for related indicators (e.g., changes in case incidence and testing volume)

Metric	Green	Yellow	Red
New cases per 100,000 population per week	<10	10-100	>100
Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population	<-10%	-10% - 10%	>10%
Diagnostic test result positivity rate	<5%	5%-10%	>10%
Change in test positivity	<-0.5%	-0.5%-0.5%	>0.5%
Total diagnostic tests resulted per 100,000 population per week	>1000	500-1000	<500
Percent change in tests per 100,000 population	>10%	-10% - 10%	<-10%
COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population per week	<1	1-2	>2
Percent change in deaths per 100,000 population	<-10%	-10% - 10%	>10%
Skilled Nursing Facilities with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death	<1%	1%-5%	>5%
Change in SNFs with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death	<-1%	-1%-1%	>1%

DATA NOTES

- Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date data as possible.

- **Cases and deaths:** County-level data from USAFacts as of 22:00 EDT on 09/06/2020. State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data are reviewed on a daily basis against internal and verified external sources and, if needed, adjusted. Last week data are from 8/29 to 9/4; previous week data are from 8/22 to 8/28; the week one month before data are from 8/1 to 8/7.

- **Testing:** The data presented represent viral COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic and screening test (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR) results—not individual people—and exclude antibody and antigen tests. CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data are used to describe county-level viral COVID-19 laboratory test (RT-PCR) result totals when information is available on patients' county of residence or healthcare providers' practice location. HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) are used otherwise. Some states did not report on certain days, which may affect the total number of tests resulted and positivity rate values. Because the data are deidentified, total viral (RT-PCR) laboratory tests are the number of tests performed, not the number of individuals tested. Viral (RT-PCR) laboratory test positivity rate is the number of positive tests divided by the number of tests performed and resulted. Resulted tests are assigned to a timeframe based on this hierarchy of test-related dates: 1. test date; 2. result date; 3. specimen received date; 4. specimen collection date. Resulted tests are assigned to a county based on a hierarchy of test-related locations: 1. patient residency; 2. provider facility location; 3. ordering facility location; 4. performing organization location. States may calculate test positivity other using other methods. Last week data are from 8/27 to 9/2; previous week data are from 8/20 to 8/26; the week one month before data are from 7/30 to 8/5. HHS Protect data is recent as of 11:30 EDT on 09/06/2020. Testing data are inclusive of everything received and processed by the CELR system as of 19:00 EDT on 09/05/2020.

- **Mobility:** Descartes Labs. These data depict the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a locality. The 100% represents the baseline mobility level prior to the pandemic; lower percent mobility indicates less population movement. Data is anonymized and provided at the locality level. Data is recent as of 13:00 EDT on 09/06/2020 and is through 9/4/2020.

- **Hospitalizations:** Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. This figure may differ from state data due to differences in hospital lists and reporting between federal and state systems. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. In addition, hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure. The data presented represents raw data provided; we are working diligently with state liaisons to improve reporting consistency. Data is recent as of 15:00 EDT on 09/06/2020.

- **Skilled Nursing Facilities:** National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Data report resident and staff cases independently. Quality checks are performed on data submitted to the NHSN. Data that fail these quality checks or appear inconsistent with surveillance protocols may be excluded from analyses. Data presented in this report are more recent than data publicly posted by CMS. Last week is 8/17-8/23, previous week is 8/24-8/30.