CONNECTICUT

STATE REPORT | 08.30.2020

SUMMARY

- Connecticut is in the yellow zone for cases, indicating between 10 and 100 new cases per 100,000 population last week, with the 46th highest rate in the country. Connecticut is in the green zone for test positivity, indicating a rate below 5%, with the 46th highest rate in the country.
- Connecticut has seen an increase in new cases and stability in test positivity over the last week. A significant portion of increased reported cases may be linked to increased testing last week, including testing at universities.
- The following three counties had the highest number of new cases over the last 3 weeks: 1. Fairfield County, 2. Hartford County, and 3. New Haven County. These counties represent 88.6% of new cases in Connecticut. Fairfield County, especially Danbury, continues to report elevated cases and test positivity with many cases linked to travel, religious gatherings, and youth sports leagues.
- With return of students to campuses, some universities have reported outbreaks, including an ongoing one in a residential hall now under quarantine. One cluster of student cases at another institute of higher education has involved both commuter and resident students, linked to two off-campus gatherings.
- No counties in Connecticut have moderate or high levels of ongoing community transmission (yellow or red zone).
- No nursing homes are reporting 3 or more residents with new COVID-19 cases per week over the last 3 weeks.
- Connecticut had 27 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: 2 to support operations activities from FEMA; 7 to support operations activities from USCG; and 1 to support operations activities from VA.
- Between Aug 22 - Aug 28, on average, 9 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 75 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Connecticut. An average of greater than 95% of hospitals reported either new confirmed or new suspected COVID patients each day during this period.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enhance testing among individuals who used shelter facilities in response to Tropical Storm Isaias to monitor for increased transmission due inability to socially distance.
- Continue to communicate the state executive order regarding travel and demonstrate enforcement to encourage compliance. Continue the state masking requirement, intensify public messaging of its importance, and monitor compliance.
- Continue closures of bars and limitations on restaurants and gathering sizes as specified in phase 2 of Connecticut's Reopen Plan. Continue efforts to maintain high compliance.
- For institutes of higher education (IHE):
    - Ensure both diagnostic and surveillance testing are rapid and comprehensive at all institutions with students on campus.
    - Ensure all universities can fully test, isolate, and conduct contact tracing among students and staff in collaboration with local public health authorities.
    - Ensure university students with or exposed to COVID-19 have access to quarantine and care sites on or near campus and are not returned home to multigenerational households where additional transmission could occur.
- Require all universities with RNA detection platforms to use this equipment to expand surveillance testing for schools (K-12, community colleges) and universities, for their students and to support the community surrounding their universities.
- Ensure all nursing homes, assisted living, and elderly care sites have full testing capacity in all towns with university students so staff can be aggressively tested weekly to prevent spread from students.
- 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 public-facing dashboards. Publish IHE screening as well as outbreak data on the state dashboard.
- Continue the scale-up of testing and rollout of contact tracing currently underway. Continue to monitor success rates with contact elicitation and tracing.
- Protect those in nursing homes and long-term care facilities by continuing the testing program in place. Ensure social distancing and universal facemask use.
- Specific, detailed guidance on community mitigation measures can be found on the CDC website.

The purpose of this report is to develop a shared understanding of the current status of the pandemic at the national, regional, state and local levels. We recognize that data at the state level may differ from that available at the federal level. Our objective is to use consistent data sources and methods that allow for comparisons to be made across localities. We appreciate your continued support in identifying data discrepancies and improving data completeness and sharing across systems. We look forward to your feedback.

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)	976 (27)	+56.9%	4,348 (29)	288,743 (88)
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE	1.3%	+0.3%*	1.2%	5.4%
TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000)	52,667** (1,477)	+42.9%**	372,194** (2,507)	5,305,529** (1,616)
COVID-19 DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000)	7 (0)	+40.0%	166 (1)	6,615 (2)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE (≥1 NEW STAFF CASE)	3.3% (2.7%)	+1.1%* (-1.6%*)	2.6% (6.3%)	10.7% (18.6%)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATH	2.7%	+1.6%*	2.7%	5.0%

MOBILITY ▶
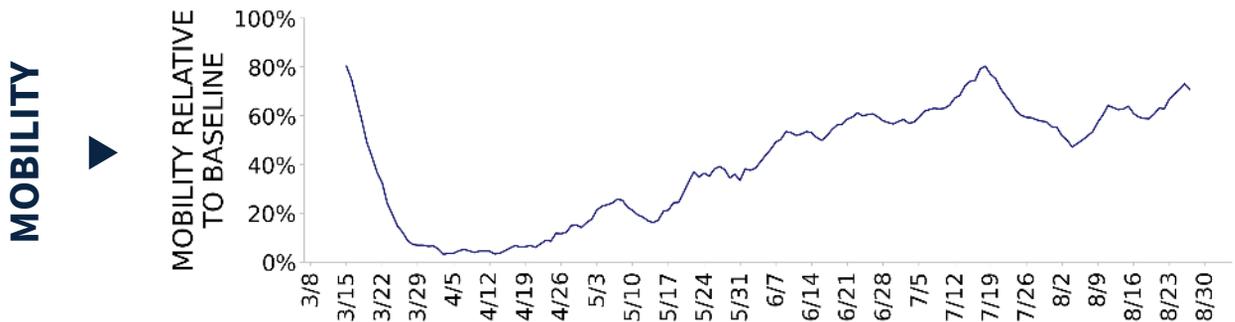
* Indicates absolute change in percentage points.
** Due to delayed reporting, this figure may underestimate total diagnostic tests and week-on-week changes in diagnostic tests.
DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS
Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. 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 8/28/2020; last week is 8/22 - 8/28, previous week is 8/15 - 8/21.
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 8/26/2020. Last week is 8/20 - 8/26, previous week is 8/13 - 8/19.
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 8/27/2020.
SNFs: Skilled nursing facilities. National Healthcare Safety Network. Data are reported separately for cases among residents and staff. Last week is 8/10-8/16, 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	**0**	N/A	**0**	N/A
COUNTY LAST WEEK	**0**	N/A	**0**	N/A

* 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 8/28/2020; last week is 8/22 - 8/28, three weeks is 8/8 - 8/28.

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

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTIES IN THE RED ZONE

Public Messaging
- Wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance
- Limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer
- Do not go to bars, nightclubs, or gyms
- Use take out or eat outdoors socially distanced
- Protect anyone with serious medical conditions at home by social distancing at home and using high levels of personal hygiene, including handwashing and cleaning surfaces
- Reduce your public interactions and activities to 25% of your normal activity

Public Officials
- Close bars and gyms, and create outdoor dining opportunities with pedestrian areas
- Limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer
- Institute routine weekly testing of all workers in assisted living and long-term care facilities. Require masks for all staff and prohibit visitors
- Ensure that all business retailers and personal services require masks and can safely social distance
- Increase messaging on the risk of serious disease for individuals in all age groups with preexisting obesity, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus, and recommend to shelter in place
- Work with local community groups to provide targeted, tailored messaging to communities with high case rates, and increase community level testing
- Recruit more contact tracers as community outreach workers to ensure all cases are contacted and all positive households are individually tested within 24 hours
- Provide isolation facilities outside of households if COVID-positive individuals can't quarantine successfully

Testing
- Move to community-led neighborhood testing and work with local community groups to increase access to testing
- Surge testing and contact tracing resources to neighborhoods and zip codes with highest case rates
- **Diagnostic pooling**: Laboratories should use pooling of samples to increase testing access and reduce turnaround times to under 12 hours. Consider pools of 2-3 individuals in high incidence settings and 5:1 pools in setting where test positivity is under 10%
- **Surveillance pooling**: For family and cohabitating households, screen entire households in a single test by pooling specimens of all members into single collection device

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTIES IN THE YELLOW ZONE IN ORDER TO PREEMPT EXPONENTIAL COMMUNITY SPREAD

Public Messaging
- Wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance
- Limit social gatherings to 25 people or fewer
- Do not go to bars or nightclubs
- Use take out, outdoor dining or indoor dining when strict social distancing can be maintained
- Protect anyone with serious medical conditions at home by social distancing at home and using high levels of personal hygiene
- Reduce your public interactions and activities to 50% of your normal activity

Public Officials
- Limit gyms to 25% occupancy and close bars until percent positive rates are under 3%; create outdoor dining opportunities with pedestrian areas
- Limit social gatherings to 25 people or fewer
- Institute routine weekly testing of all workers in assisted living and long-term care facilities. Require masks for all staff and prohibit visitors
- Ensure that all business retailers and personal services require masks and can safely social distance
- Increase messaging on the risk of serious disease for individuals in all age groups with preexisting obesity, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus, and recommend to shelter in place
- Work with local community groups to provide targeted, tailored messaging to communities with high case rates, and increase community level testing
- Recruit more contact tracers as community outreach workers to ensure all cases are contacted and all positive households are individually tested within 24 hours
- Provide isolation facilities outside of households if COVID-positive individuals can't quarantine successfully
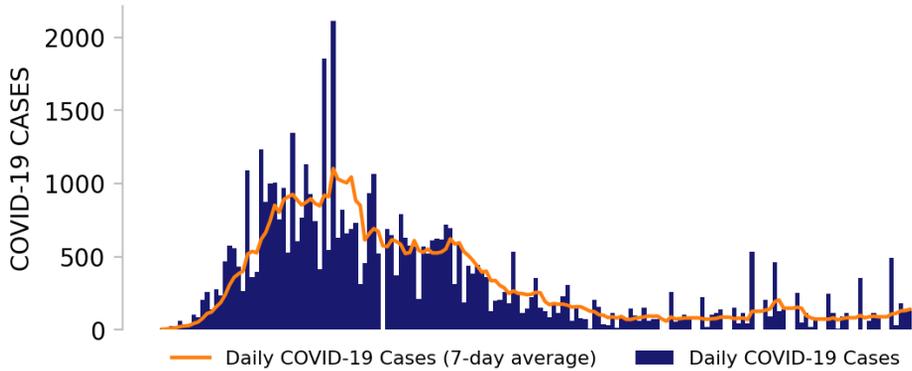
Testing
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- Surge testing and contact tracing resources to neighborhoods and zip codes with highest case rates
- **Diagnostic pooling**: Laboratories should use pooling of samples to increase testing access and reduce turnaround times to under 12 hours. Consider pools of 3-5 individuals
- **Surveillance pooling**: For family and cohabitating households, screen entire households in a single test by pooling specimens of all members into single collection device
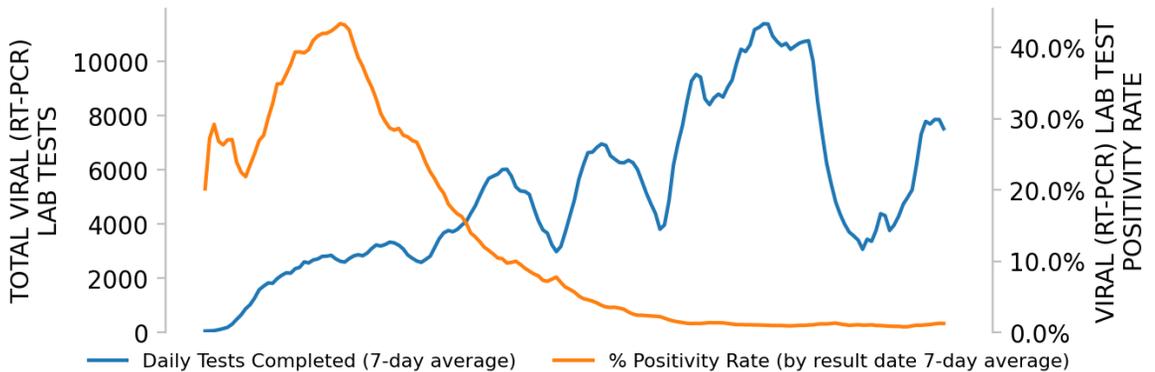
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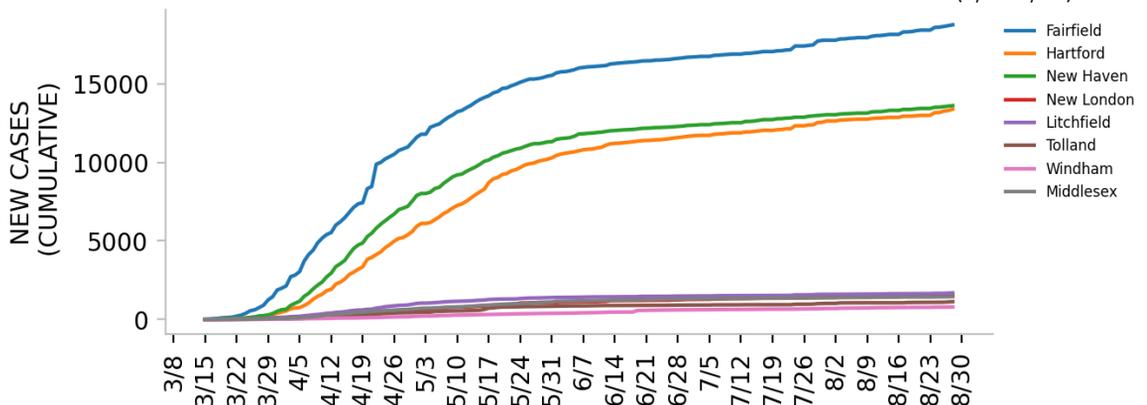## STATE REPORT | 08.30.2020

NEW CASES

▶

COVID-19 CASES

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

TESTING

▶

TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS

VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE

- 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 (8/8 - 8/28)

NEW CASES (CUMULATIVE)

- Fairfield
- Hartford
- New Haven
- New London
- Litchfield
- Tolland
- Windham
- Middlesex

3/8 3/15 3/22 3/29 4/5 4/12 4/19 4/26 5/3 5/10 5/17 5/24 5/31 6/7 6/14 6/21 6/28 7/5 7/12 7/19 7/26 8/2 8/9 8/16 8/23 8/30

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
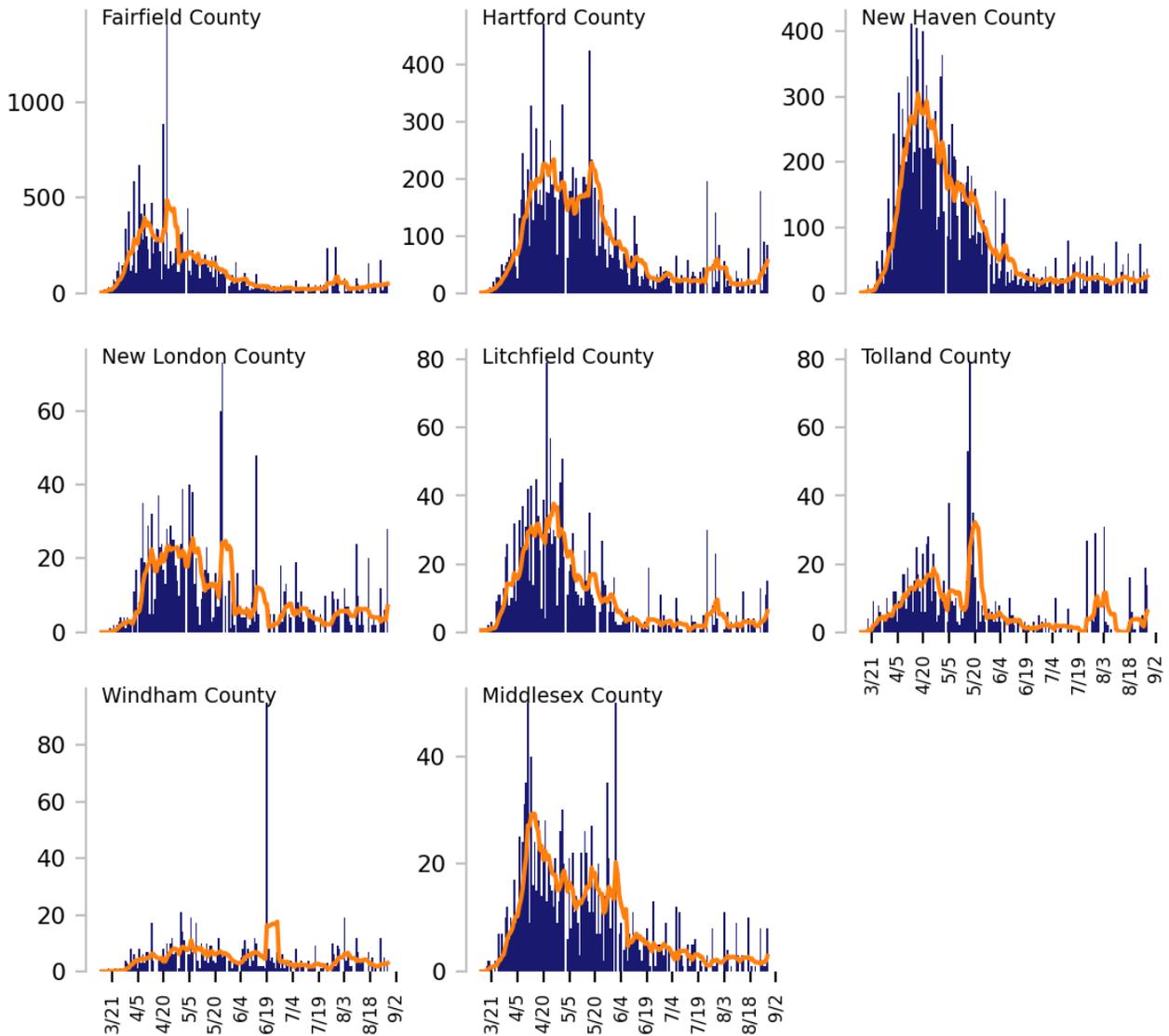
Fairfield County

Hartford County

New Haven County

New London County

Litchfield County

Tolland County
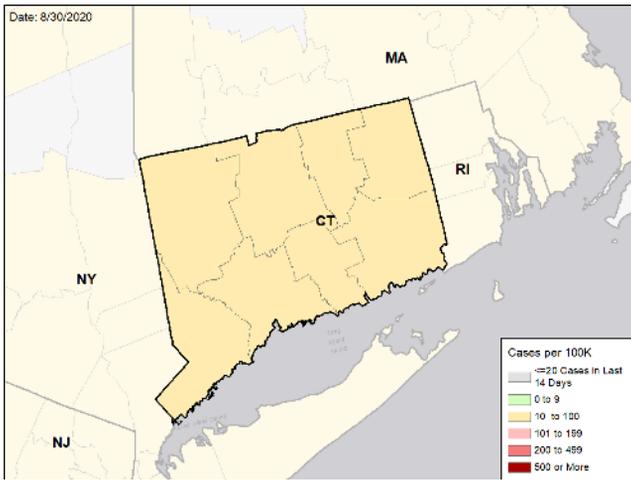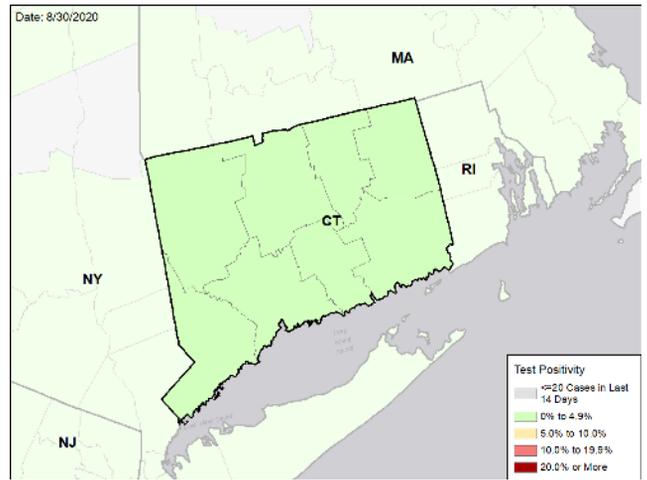
Windham County

Middlesex County

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CASE RATES AND DIAGNOSTIC VIRAL LAB TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK

NEW CASES PER 100,000 DURING LAST WEEK
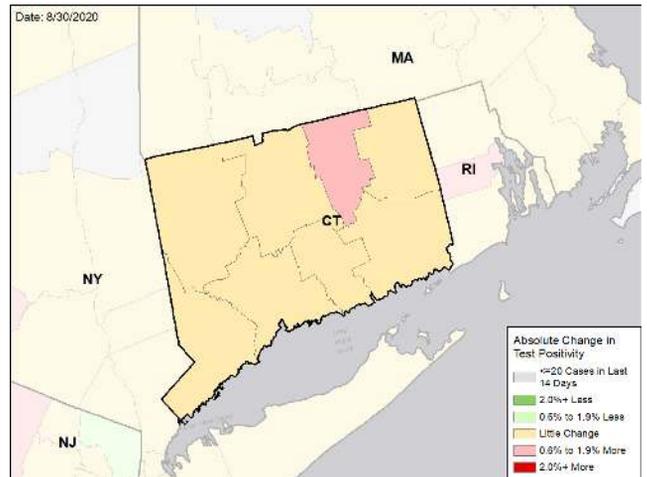

Date: 8/30/2020

Cases per 100K
- <=20 Cases in Last 14 Days
- 0 to 9
- 10 to 100
- 101 to 199
- 200 to 499
- 500 or More

VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK

Date: 8/30/2020

Test Positivity
- <=20 Cases in Last 14 Days
- 0% to 4.9%
- 5.0% to 10.0%
- 10.0% to 19.9%
- 20.0% or More

WEEKLY % CHANGE IN NEW CASES PER 100K

Date: 8/30/2020

Percent Change in Cases per 100K
- <=20 Cases in Last 14 Days
- 100% Less
- 11% to 99% Less
- Little Change
- 11% to 99% More
- 100% to 999% More
- 1,000%+ More
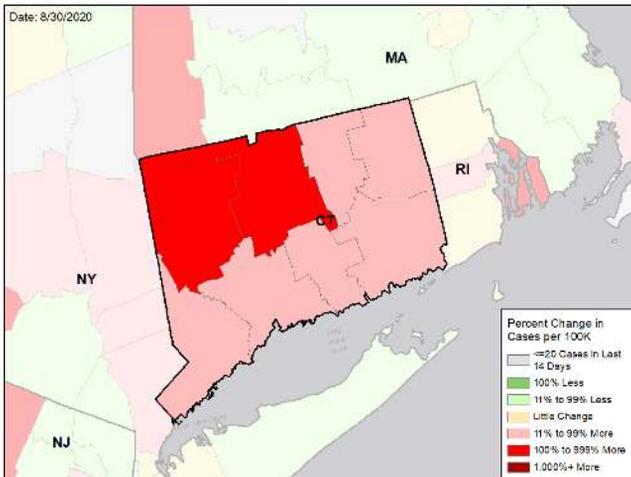
WEEKLY CHANGE IN VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY

Date: 8/30/2020

Absolute Change in Test Positivity
- <=20 Cases in Last 14 Days
- 2.0%+ Less
- 0.6% to 1.9% Less
- Little Change
- 0.6% to 1.9% More
- 2.0%+ More

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 8/28/2020. Previous week is 8/15 - 8/21.
Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 8/26/2020. Last week is 8/20 - 8/26, previous week is 8/13 - 8/19.
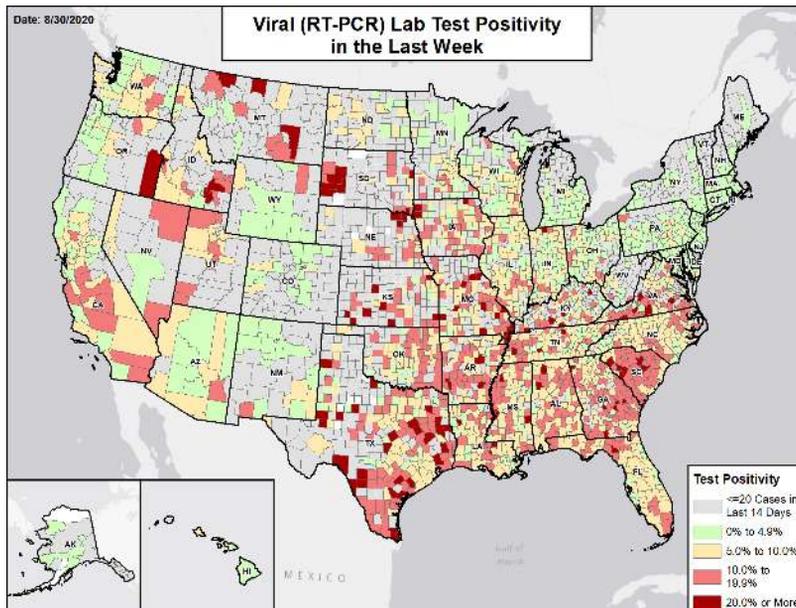
National Picture

NEW CASES PER 100,000 LAST WEEK
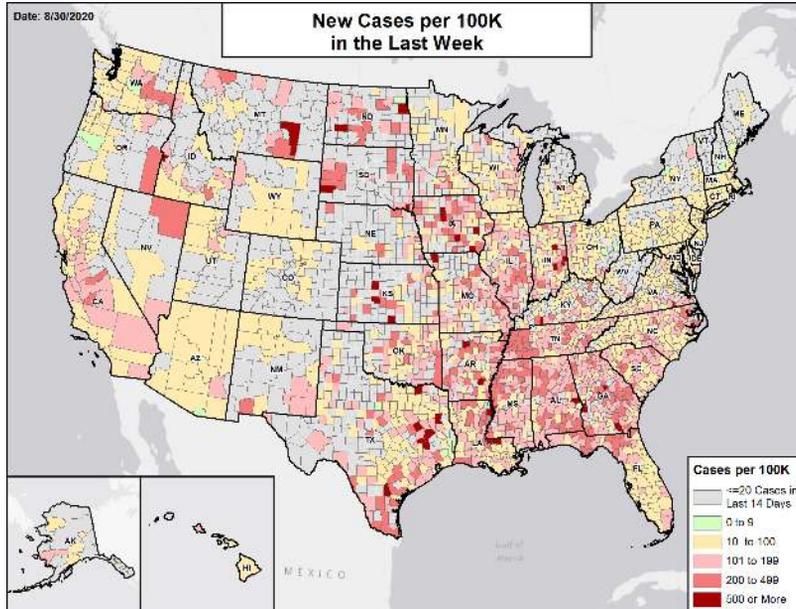
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY LAST WEEK

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	0%	0.1%-5%	>5%
Change in SNFs with at least one resident COVID-19 case, death	<-0.5%	-0.5%-0.5%	>0.5%

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 12:30 EDT on 08/30/2020. 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 8/22 to 8/28; previous week data are from 8/15 to 8/21.

- **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 8/20 to 8/26; previous week data are from 8/13 to 8/19. HHS Protect data is recent as of 12:00 EDT on 08/30/2020. Testing data are inclusive of everything received and processed by the CELR system as of 19:00 EDT on 08/29/2020.

- **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 08/30/2020 and is through 8/27/2020.

- **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 08/30/2020.

- **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 8/10-8/16, previous week is 8/17-8/23.