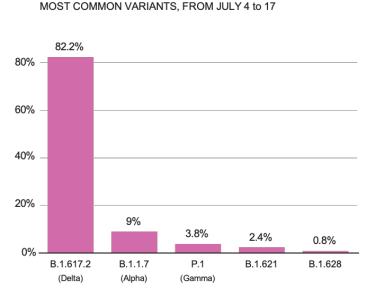


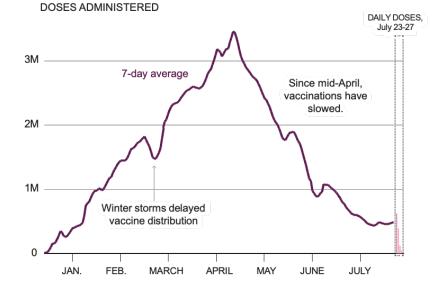
July 28, 2021

CDC: Delta variant now causing 82% of new Covid-19 cases

The Delta variant, or B.1.617.2, has quickly become the most dominant strain of Covid-19 circulating in the U.S. Although it was responsible for just 10.3% of new cases at the start of June, Delta now comprises 82.25, according to the CDC. With an uptick in Covid-19 cases, states have implemented stricter vaccine mandates. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom of California recently announced that state employees and health care workers will be required to provide proof of vaccination or get tested on a weekly basis. Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio required the same of municipal workers in New York City. The Department of Veterans Affairs also announced this week that frontline health care workers will be required to provide proof of vaccination within the next eight weeks. It is the first federal agency to make such a demand.



Delta variant accounts for majority of current cases



342.6M vaccine doses have been administered as of July 27



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, POLITICO staff reports

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Note: There may be data delays in the most recent days of reporting.



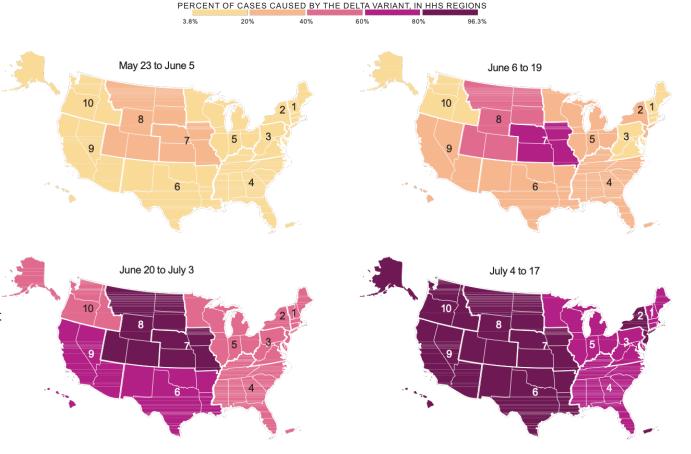
CDC: Delta variant now causing 82% of new Covid-19 cases

July 28, 2021

Western states slammed by rapidly spreading Delta variant

Experts say at least 70% of the total U.S. population must be vaccinated to reach herd immunity, which would provide indirect protection from Covid-19. Only 60% of U.S. adults and 50% of the total population are vaccinated so far. Unvaccinated Americans are at the highest risk of infection and account for the majority of severe cases and hospitalizations by the virus.

Spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant has not been uniform across the country. As of July 17, Region 7 — defined by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska — reported that the variant accounts for the most cases in any region: 96.3%. The share of cases caused by Delta was lowest in Region 1, which includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, where 68.3% of total cases were caused by the variant.



Note: Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are part of Region 2; Alaska is part of Region 10; Hawaii is part of region 9.



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, POLITICO staff reports

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