



COVID-19

COVID DATA TRACKER WEEKLY REVIEW

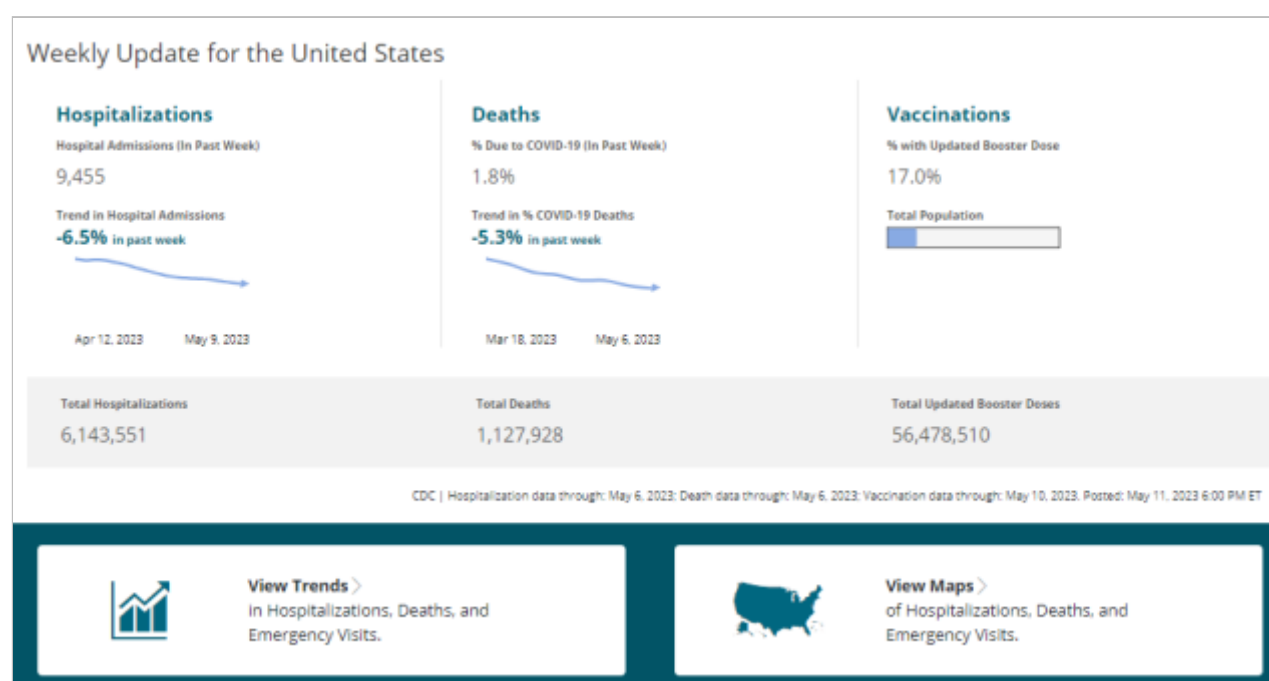
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Interpretive Summary for **May 12, 2023**

Weekly Review, Signing Off

This is the 97th and final issue of the COVID Data Tracker *Weekly Review*.

Yesterday, May 11, 2023, marked the end of the federal COVID-19 [public health emergency](#)   (PHE) declaration. This doesn't mean that COVID-19 is over, but the end of the PHE did initiate a cascade of updates to COVID-19 data collection, reporting, and surveillance. Some surveillance metrics will remain the same, but some will change in terms of reporting frequency, data sources, or availability.



The latest updates to CDC's COVID Data Tracker reflect these changes. The [homepage](#) has a new look, and there are also new landing pages for [hospitalizations](#), [emergency department \(ED\) visits](#), and [death](#) data, as well as visualizations of [trends](#) and [maps](#). Several pages have also been retired, but COVID Data Tracker has a page with [links to archived data and visualizations](#).

These are the most notable changes to COVID Data Tracker:

- Hospital admission rates and the percentage of COVID-19 deaths among all deaths are now the primary surveillance metrics.
- COVID-19 hospital admission levels replace COVID-19 Community Levels (CCLs) as the main indicator of county trends. COVID-19 hospital admission levels are comparable with CCLs.
- Provisional death certificate data from the [National Vital Statistics System \(NVSS\)](#) will become the primary source for mortality surveillance, replacing aggregate death counts.
- [Aggregate case and death count](#) reporting has been discontinued.
- ED visit data will serve as an early indicator of COVID-19 activity.
- County-level COVID-19 Electronic Laboratory Reporting data on test positivity will no longer be posted because national reporting of negative laboratory results is no longer required.
- The [National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System \(NREVSS\)](#), a voluntary reporting network of more than 450 laboratories, will be the new primary source for regional test positivity data and another early indicator.

Please see two new MMWR reports published May 5, 2023—[COVID-19 Surveillance After Expiration of the Public Health Emergency Declaration](#) and [Correlations and Timeliness of COVID-19 Surveillance Data Sources and Indicators](#)—for more details about the changes.

The United States has mobilized and sustained a historic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The past three years have been highly challenging in many ways, but together we have made significant progress to reduce the impact COVID-19 has on the health of people and our communities.

CDC will continue to report and monitor valuable data, like [genomic surveillance](#); [wastewater surveillance](#); [vaccination coverage](#), [safety](#), and [effectiveness](#); and hospital-related outcomes, from sentinel surveillance platforms like [COVID-NET](#). These data will help inform individual and community public health actions to protect those at highest risk of severe COVID-19, such as older adults and people with [underlying conditions](#). People with [weakened immune systems](#) should consider taking additional prevention measures, developing a [COVID-19 Personal Plan](#)  to protect themselves from severe COVID-19, and speaking to their healthcare providers about early antiviral treatment options to prevent severe disease, hospitalization, and death. And everyone, high-risk or not, should stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.

In the future, CDC will move toward integrating COVID-19 monitoring within a sustainable respiratory viruses surveillance strategy. CDC displays data for diagnosed or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, [flu](#), and [respiratory syncytial virus](#) (RSV) on the [National Syndromic Surveillance Program dashboard](#) (for ED visits) and the [RESP-NET dashboard](#) (hospitalizations).

For more information: [Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap](#) 

What's New:

- [MMWR: COVID-19 Surveillance After Expiration of the Public Health Emergency Declaration—United States, May 11, 2023](#)
- [MMWR: Correlations and Timeliness of COVID-19 Surveillance Data Sources and Indicators—United States, October 1, 2020–March 22, 2023](#)
- [MMWR: Provisional Mortality Data—United States, 2022](#)
- [MMWR: COVID-19 Mortality Update—United States, 2022](#)
- SARS-CoV-2 Variant sub-lineages XBB.1.9.2, FD.2, and XBB.1.16 were added to the visualizations on the [Variant Proportions](#) and [Traveler-Based Genomic Surveillance](#) pages.

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