Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

COVID-19 Forecasting: Background Information

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Why COVID-19 Forecasting Is Important

CDC is responding to a pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by a new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, that is spreading from person to person. The federal government is working closely with state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments, and other public health partners, to respond to this situation. Forecasts of deaths and hospitalizations will help inform public health decision making by projecting the likely impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in coming weeks.

Bringing Together Forecasts for COVID-19 Deaths and Hospitalizations in the United States

CDC works with partners to bring together weekly forecasts based on statistical or mathematical models that aim to predict:

- National and state numbers of total COVID-19 deaths for the next 4 weeks.
- National and state numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations per day for the next 4 weeks.

Forecasting teams predict numbers of deaths and hospitalizations using different types of data (e.g., COVID-19 data, demographic data, mobility data), methods, and estimates of the impacts of interventions (e.g., social distancing, use of face coverings). These forecasts are developed independently and shared publicly. It is important to bring these forecasts together to help understand how they compare with each other and how much uncertainty there is about what may happen in the near future.

Forecasts submitted to CDC are posted on the Forecasts of Total Deaths and Hospitalization Forecasts web pages, which are updated weekly. Previous forecasts are also available at Previous Forecasts of Total Deaths and Previous Hospitalization Forecasts.

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