

PFT COVID Update 5-4-22: The Numbers - BA Variant Update - Summer Surge-Links

CORONA VIRUS Updates

The State of the Union in COVID Statistics.

More often than not when considering the Coronavirus, the numbers simply don't lie. And from where we sit, there's no better place for simple and clear analysis of the numbers than at the *New York Times*.

[The Times' statistical Covid dashboard](#) offers a comprehensive snapshot of the statistics that most matter in evaluating “where we are at” with the pandemic:

- Vaccination status of Americans by percentage
 - Number of cases (*doubled over the last month*)
 - Number and rate of hospitalizations (*17 percent increase since mid April*)
 - Number of deaths attributed to COVID-19 (*declining to under 350 per day — down 20% over the last two weeks*)
- ... and so much more.

This week, our nation will tragically surpass one million deaths attributed to COVID-19. This sobering milestone is cause in its own right to hold onto those masks; to use them around compromised people or in “hot spots;” remember to get boosted when recommended, vaccinated if you are eligible and above all ... *remember that this is not over yet.*

A New Variant Takes Hold — With a Story of Its Own.

What we predicted [in our last update](#) has come to pass, with the BA.2.12.1 emerging as the dominant COVID variant that now accounts for over a third of all new cases in the United States — and climbing.

And while it would appear the nation as a whole is demonstrating sound resistance to this (and earlier) variants, there are some unsettling clouds on the horizon for what the future may hold as this virus continues to mutate and evolve.

[This article from arstechinca.com looks deeper](#) at the changing face of the Coronavirus through the lens of the multiple variants that have developed as natural immunity and vaccination have increased throughout the country.

This story lets you know just how smart, and ultimately how dangerous, this virus continues to be.

A Revealing Interview with Dr. Deborah Birx.

While the headline for the CBS interview you can watch below speaks to a possible “summer surge” of Covid-19 throughout the southeastern United States, there’s more to the story with former White House Coronavirus Response Task Force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx.

[Click here and take a few minutes to learn](#) about the steps the administration needs to take to prepare the country for future iterations of this (and other) viruses, and how everyone must gauge their individual level of exposure to determine exactly how much (or how little) mitigation and testing is required on a daily basis.

Information Links That Bear Repeating:

Below please find additional links providing helpful information you can bookmark and count on as the COVID-19 situation changes and evolves.

[AFT/AFTPA Coronavirus Resources & Updates for Members](#)

[Find a Vaccine Provider Near You](#)

[AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)

-- A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members

[Click for EAP Information Flyer](#) (*includes login info*)

[Click for Life Skills Solutions Website](#) (*login upper right*)

[AFT Share My Lesson Stress Management Resources](#) (*searchable*)

[Download the PA COVID-Alert Tracking App](#)

[National Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Coronavirus Resources](#)

[CDC Data Tracking Page](#)

[CDC Vaccine Information Landing Page](#)

[PPS Coronavirus Resources and Links](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PA-Specific Resources from Senator Casey](#)

[Student Debt Relief Resources](#)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Rumor Control](#)

[Coronavirus Testing Locations \(view interactive map mid page\)](#)



Coronavirus Self-Checker

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care

**** PFT Coronavirus Updates Released Periodically As Needed ****

Missed an update or message? [View our archive of COVID-19 Updates here](#).

Please keep in touch—keep sharing your ideas, your questions and your concerns.

In solidarity—

Dan Evans

PFT Communications Director

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