

COVID-19 Data Update - August 26, 2021

Like all viruses, the SARS-CoV-2 virus reliably mutates with replication and some relatively reproducible variants of the original template are quite common and to be expected over time. Relative to the earlier detected variants of SARS-CoV-2, the delta variant is at least twice as transmissible as the original alpha variant, but it has less morbidity and significantly lower mortality.

- **CASES:** According to the CDC, there is an ongoing trend of increasing COVID-19 cases across the USA. [CDC data](#) indicates that the 7-day moving average of daily new cases through August 24, 2021 ... *99% of which are delta variants of SARS-CoV-2* ... **increased 3.5% across the USA**. This 3.5% increase compares to 18.4% increase of the preceding week ... thereby suggesting a temporal plateau and/or peaking of cases across the USA.

Comparable 7-day data based upon lab-confirmed cases from the State of Wyoming Department of Health ([WYDOH](#)) reveals a drop in lab-confirmed cases from **1,626** in the week of August 11 through August 16 to **1,491** in the week of August 18 through August 24, confirming a **9.1% weekly decrease in WY**. These data suggest that the current Delta strain pandemic in WY may have peaked with decreasing cases.

The highest Wyoming Case rates per 100,000 population by county are Teton (18,326), Fremont (15,163), Uinta (14,046), Carbon (13,541), Albany (13,202), Laramie (12,886). Natrona (11,951) is near the state median.

- **DEATHS:** The [Star-Tribune story](#) of 8/24 indicated 26 more deaths announced by the WYDOH. **HOWEVER**, the data are not reflective of trended data since 3 of the deaths occurred in July and **only 2 of the 23 cases from August occurred in the past week**. 4 of these 26 deaths occurred in Natrona County. Data from WYDOH sources suggest the weekly number of WY deaths are decreasing.

According to Kaiser Family Foundation ([KFF](#)) ongoing COVID statistics from all states, the number of reported weekly COVID-19 deaths for WY over the past month were 10, 7, 16, and 26. **These weekly reported data do not, however, represent trended data** since these data are not consistent with WYDOH reported daily data.

- **HOSPITALIZATIONS:** Over the past 2 weeks WY hospitalizations have increased from 100 to 178 ... a 78% increase. Meanwhile, Natrona County hospitalizations at WMC have increased from 23 to 40, a 42% increase. There has no increase in intensive / critical care patients, and the WMC ICUs are half-filled.

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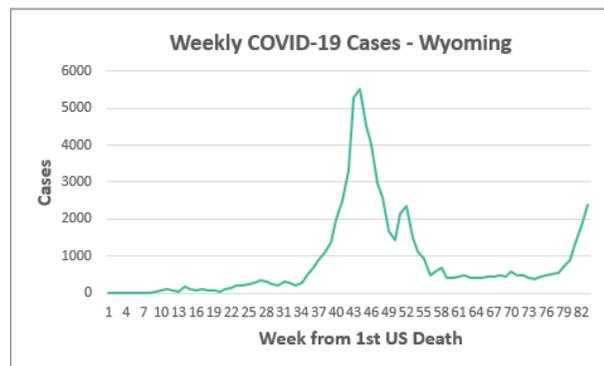
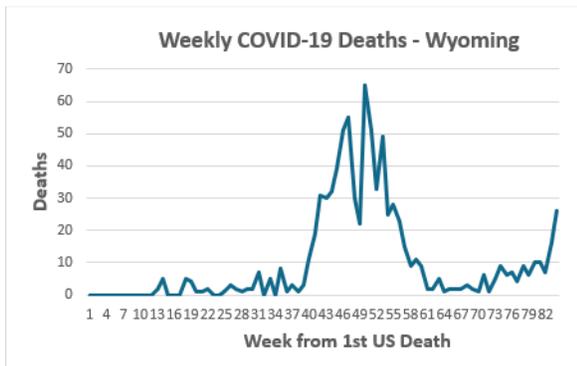
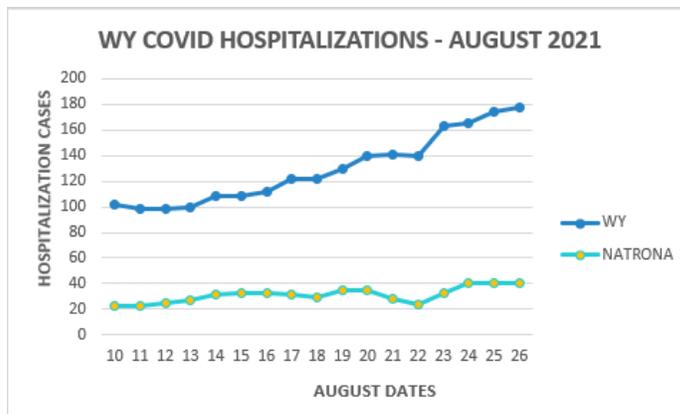
NB: Reported numbers above should NOT be accepted with absolute credibility. Trended data are available from multiple sources, including independent organizations reporting data from multiple national sources, and some of these sources do not agree with one another. WYDOH data is the source for many of those reports and this source is most reliable.

Reported numbers for a given State have credible value relative to numbers from other dates for comparative purposes only since the RT-PCR test used for detecting SARS-CoV-2 has high very numbers of false positives and will be abandoned by the CDC at the end of this year. The threshold cycle threshold [C(t)] value of the RT-PCR test that is used to diagnose a COVID-19 case varies significantly across states.

If you have questions, please contact me at rcpmd1@gmail.com or (425) 275-1045

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The latter two graphs from Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) may not reflect accurate temporal data. Current weekly data reflects reported data from preceding weeks.