

COVID-19 Data Update - August 31, 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 31, 2021 ... *99% of which are delta variants of SARS-CoV-2 ... decreased 10.9% across the USA.* This 10.9% decrease compares to **6.9% increase of the preceding week.** The CDC data suggests a peaking of cases across the USA on or around August 26 with subsequent trend of decreasing cases thereafter.

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 **2,094** in the week of August 17 through August 23 to **1,584** in the week of August 24 through August 30, confirming a **24.4% weekly decrease in WY.** These data suggest that the current Delta strain pandemic in WY likely has peaked with decreasing cases.

The highest Wyoming Case rates per 100,000 population by county are Teton (18,867), Fremont (15,776), ... followed by counties along the I-80 corridor [Uinta (14,689), Carbon (13,959), Albany (13,434), Sweetwater (13,265), and Laramie (13,168)]. Natrona (12,425) is near the state median.

- **DEATHS:** A [Star-Tribune story](#) of 8/31 indicated 23 more deaths announced by the WYDOH. **HOWEVER**, the data are not reflective of trended data. Whereas while all deaths occurred in August, **only 2 of the 23 cases from August occurred in the past week.** 1 of these 23 deaths occurred in Natrona County. WYDOH data 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 7, 16, 26, and 2. **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 112 to 195 ... a 74% increase. Meanwhile, Natrona County hospitalizations at WMC increased from 33 to 40, a 21% increase. There has been no increase in intensive / critical care patients at WMC, and the WMC ICUs are half-filled. Most new WY COVID-19 hospitalizations are in the I-80 corridor, particularly in Sweetwater, Carbon, Laramie, and Albany counties.

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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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