

## COVID-19 UPDATE – MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021

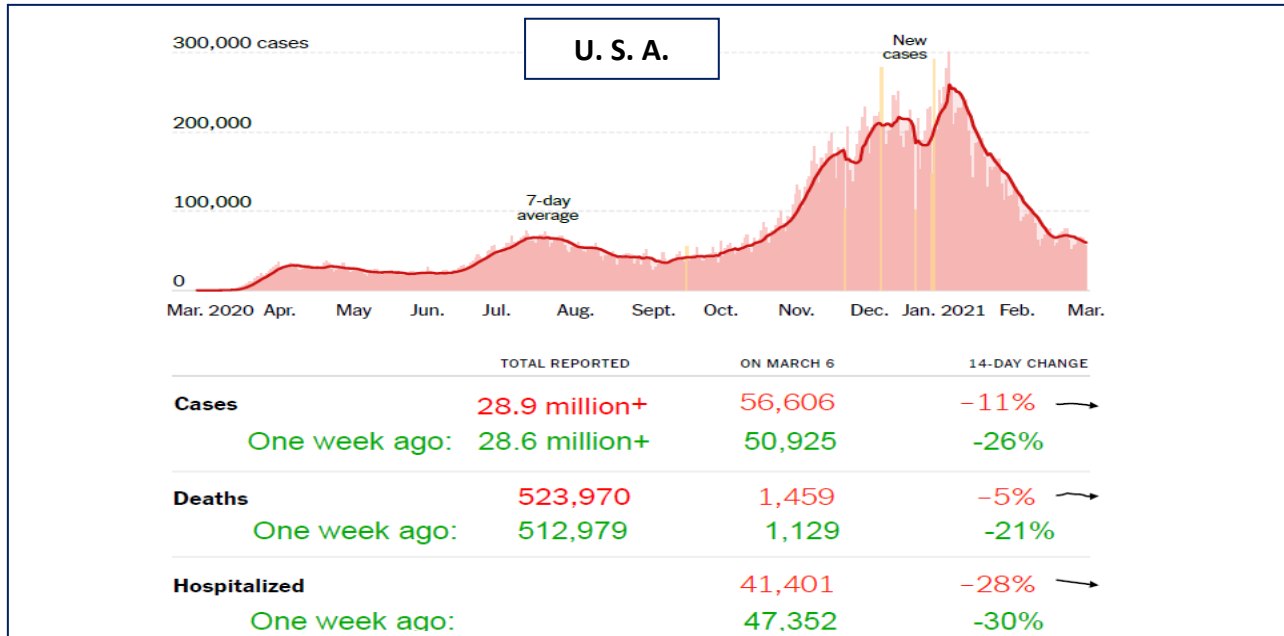
Dear Members of the DoM Community,

Good morning to you on this sunny Monday, also known as International Women’s Day. Today, we celebrate the achievements of women across the world – on their contributions to social, economic, cultural, educational, and political advancements. Thank you all.

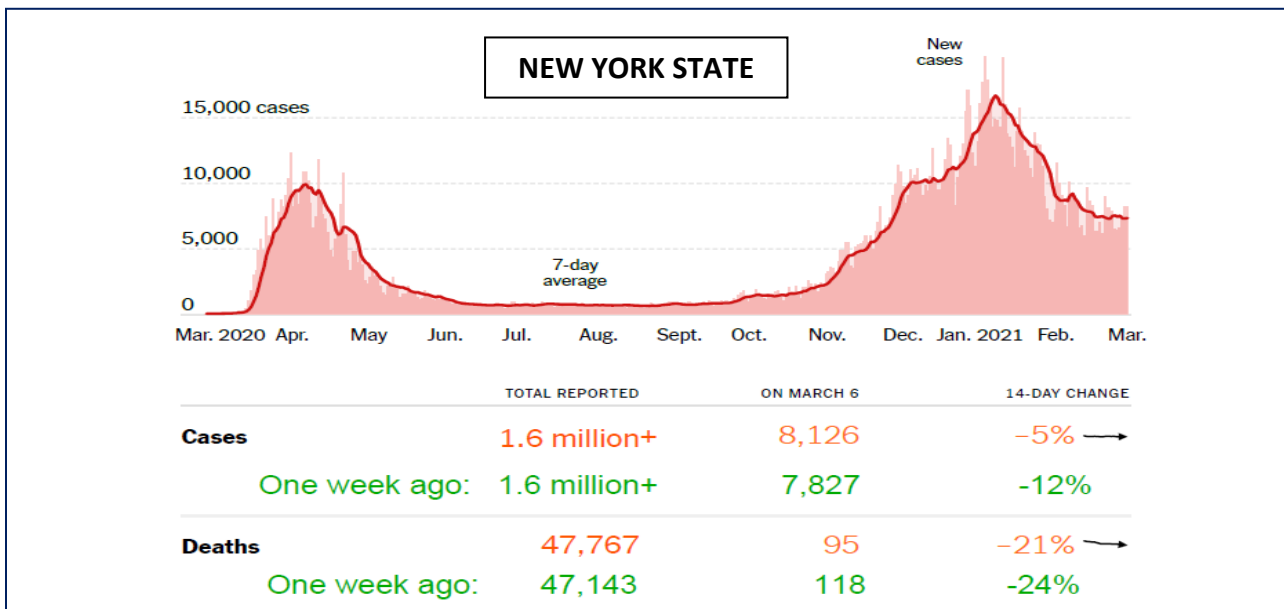
Here are the updates on last week’s COVID pandemic.

### 1. Nationwide COVID-19 Data

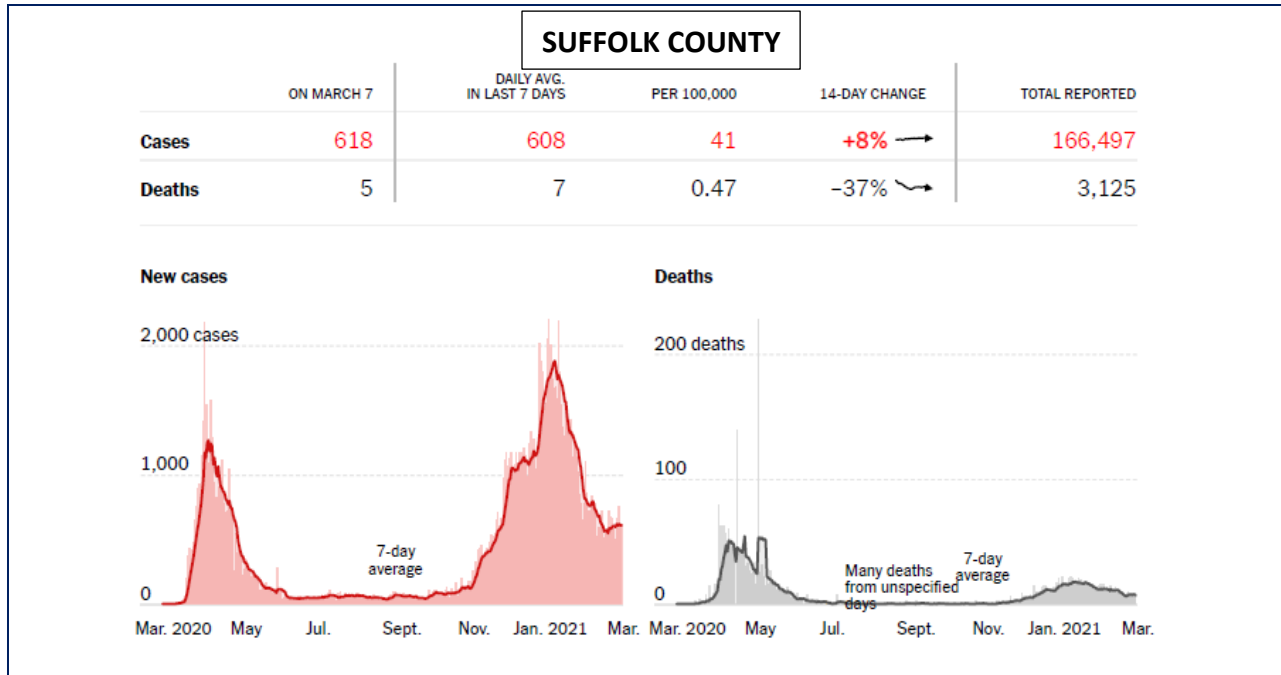
*The rate of decline in COVID cases remains relatively flat.*



### 2. New case numbers in New York State are still high and staying high (New York’s 7-day average of 37 per 100,000 population is the highest in the country).

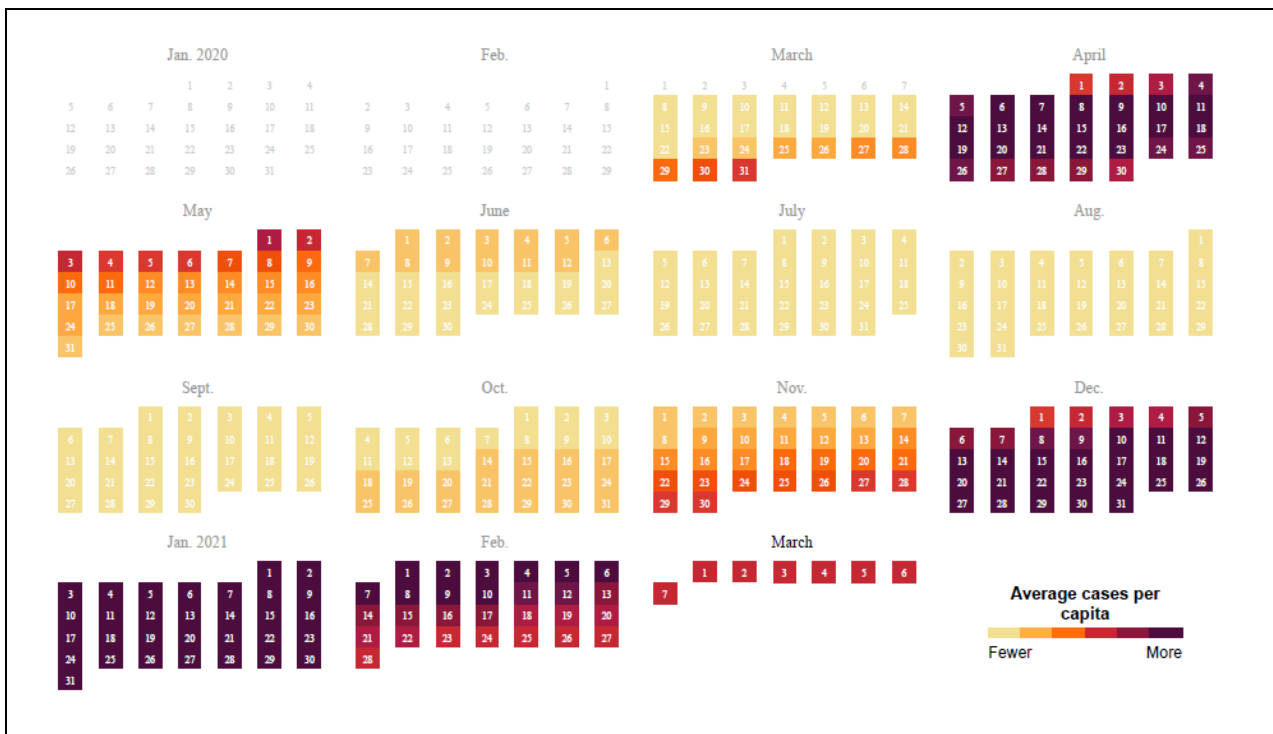


3. Suffolk County remains at a **very high-risk** level. Since January of last year, at least 1 in 9 people in Suffolk County have been infected, and at least 1 in 473 have died.



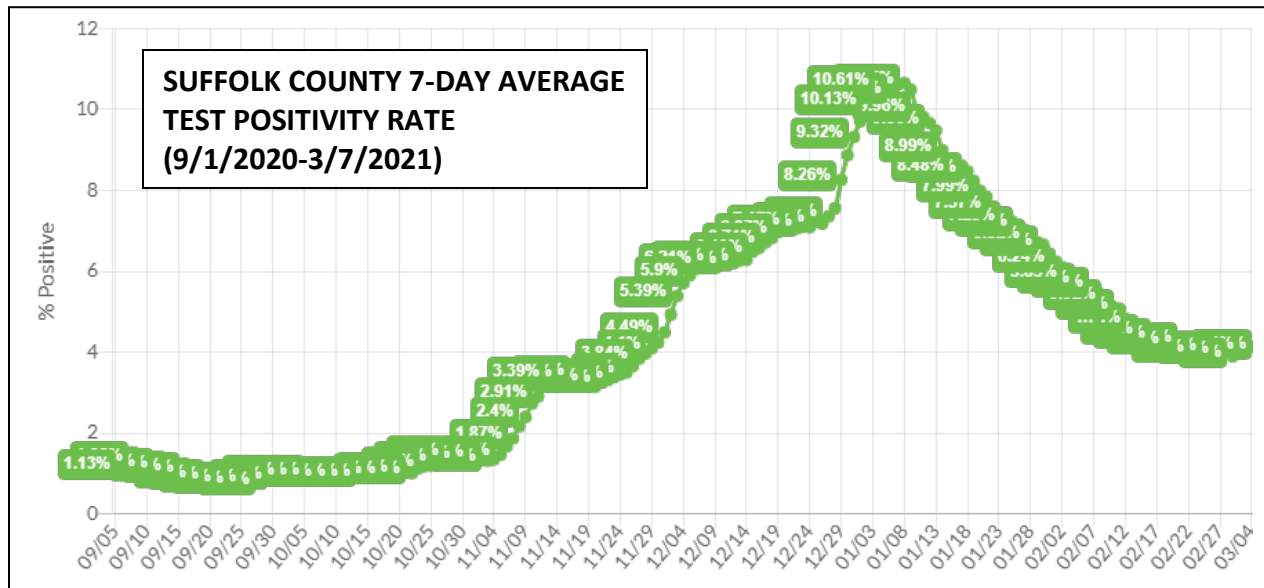
A county is at a **very high-risk** level if it reported between 160 and 640 cases per 100,000 people during the past two weeks. This is equivalent to a daily rate between 11 and 46 cases per 100,000 people. **Current Suffolk County 14-day average daily rate is 41 cases per 100,000 people.**

The number of days in which case numbers were highest (deep purple color in the graph below) in last April was **18 days** and that in the recent surge, **63 days**.



**COVID-19 Testing in Suffolk County on March 7:**

- 14,889 COVID-19 tests were administered.
- 618 new cases were reported.; 7-day average = 607, an **increase of 5** from one week ago.
- 1626,497 total cases have been reported since March.
- 4.2% tested positive; 7-day average = 4.2%, an **increase of 0.2%** from a week ago (see graph below for 6-month trend).



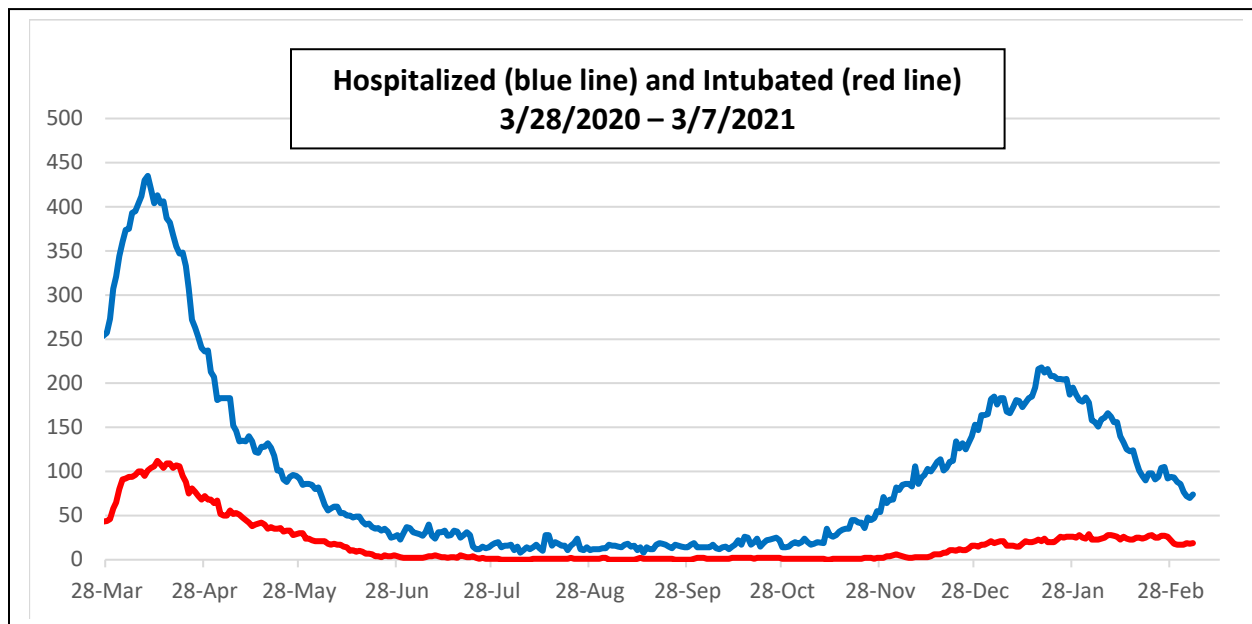
**Fatalities:**

- 3,125 total fatalities, an **increase of 49** from one week before.

**COVID-19 Hospitalizations:**

- 372 individuals were hospitalized, a **decrease of 82** from one week before.
- 89 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a **decrease of 22** from a week ago.

**4. Daily COVID-19 Hospitalization Data in SBUH**

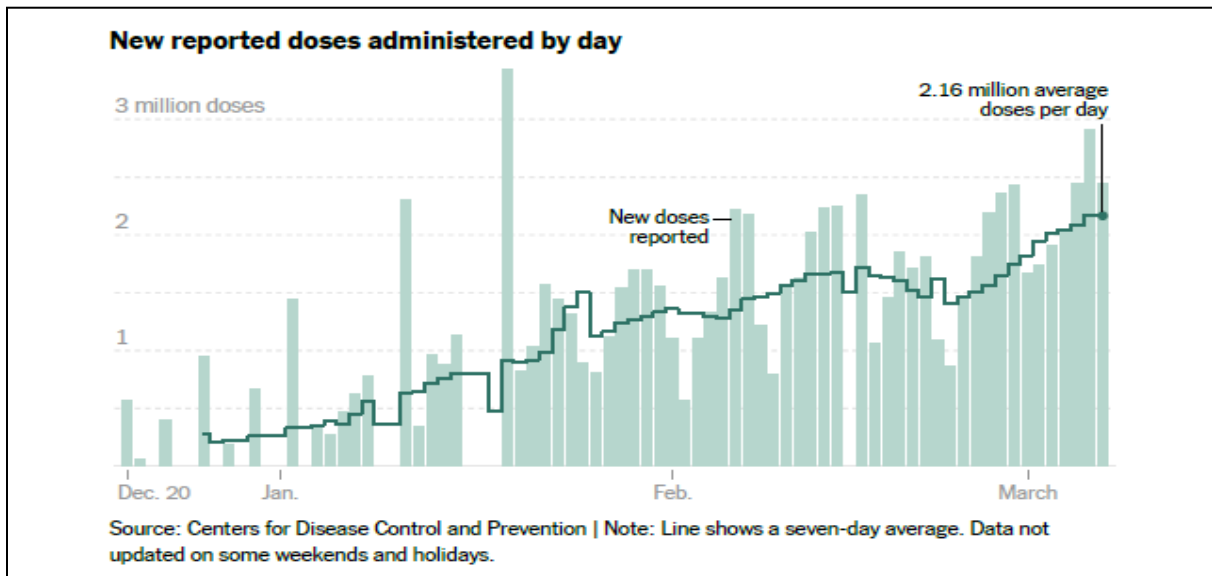


At midnight Sunday, March 7, SBUH census is as follows (see figure above for all-time trend of hospitalization).

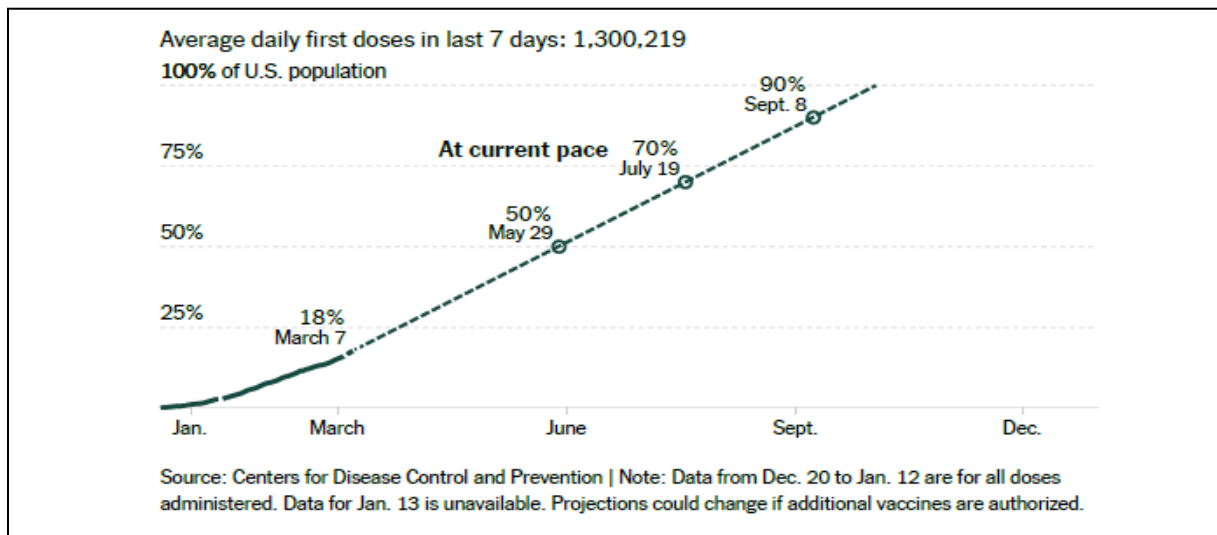
- 76 COVID + inpatients, a **decrease of 17** from one week before.
  - 27 patients were in ICU level of care; 20 on ventilators; 13 in ICR.
  - COVID admissions on Sunday = 5.
  - COVID live discharges = 5.
  - COVID-related deaths = 0.
- Total SBUH census = 611; 480 are Medicine/Surgery (109% capacity).
- Plan being finalized for discharge covid vaccination program. Rollout today.
- COVID ICU/ICR census remains unchanged for the past few days.
- Nursing finalizing plan tomorrow to increase return of deployed staff.

**5. Vaccination Program Update** (sources = CDC, NYS DOH, and NYT)

On March 7, the 7-day average of COVID vaccine administered in the U.S. was 2.16 million, for a total of 88 million doses administered since the beginning of the rollout.



18% of the U.S. population have received at least one dose (as was NY state). At the current rate of administration, about half of the population would be at least partially vaccinated around May, and nearly all around mid-September, assuming supply pledges are met and vaccines are eventually available to children.

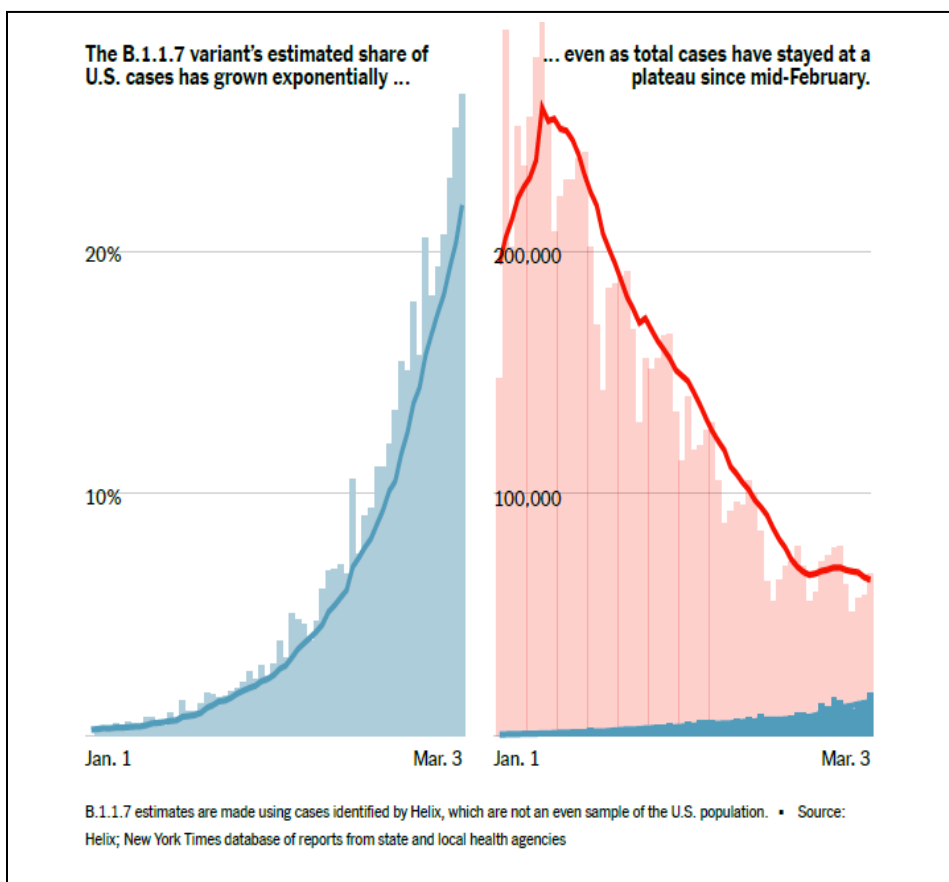


**6. A more contagious variant virus is spreading fast in the U.S., even as overall cases level off (source = NYT)**

As U.S. coronavirus cases remain at a low level not seen since October, a more contagious variant first reported in the United Kingdom has likely grown to account for more than 20 percent of new U.S. cases as of this week.

There is not yet enough genomic sequencing to be certain of how widely that variant, known as B.1.1.7, is spreading. But data suggest its share of total cases is growing at a trajectory similar to that seen in countries where it has fueled surges.

Still, the low total case counts in states with a high share of B.1.1.7 are an encouraging sign. It remains to be seen whether the variant will cause a significant resurgence here or whether widespread vaccinations and virus-control measures can keep case counts at bay.



Once again, I hope the information provided here is useful to you in keeping track of the progression of the pandemic. While the increasing rollout of COVID vaccines is an encouraging trend, we are still not out of the woods. It is important for everyone to remain vigilant until the storm passes. Please keep safe and healthy.

Sincerely Yours,

Vincent W. Yang, MD, PhD  
Simons Chair of Medicine  
Professor of Medicine, Biomedical Informatics, and Physiology and Biophysics  
Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University