

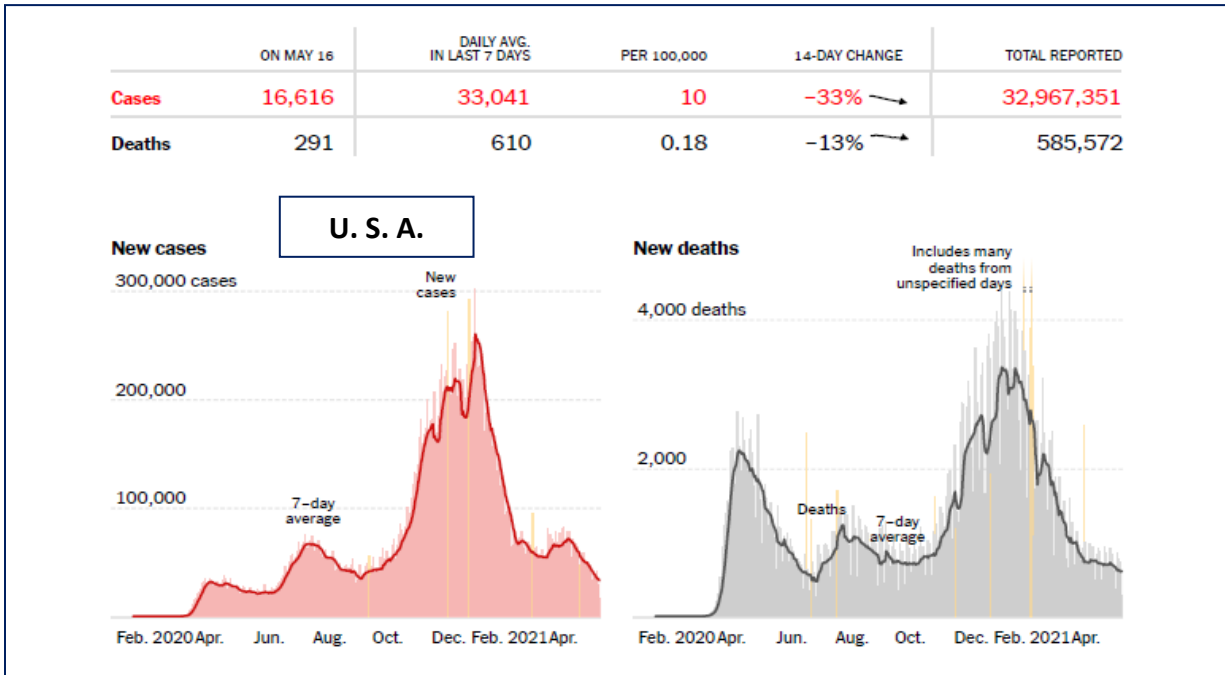
COVID-19 UPDATE – MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

Dear Members of the DoM Community,

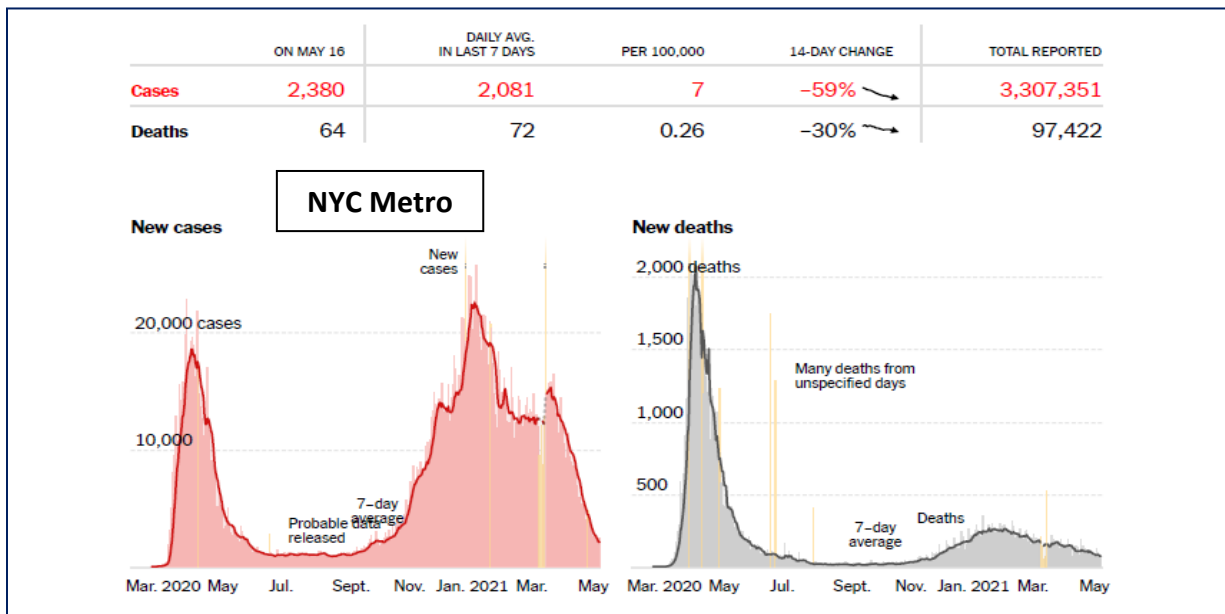
Good morning to you in this Commencement week. Congratulations to all the graduates. Here is what’s happening in the COVID-19 pandemic last week and all trends have continued to be encouraging. Please enjoy the reading.

1. Nationwide COVID-19 Data

Daily new case numbers in the U.S. continued to decline.

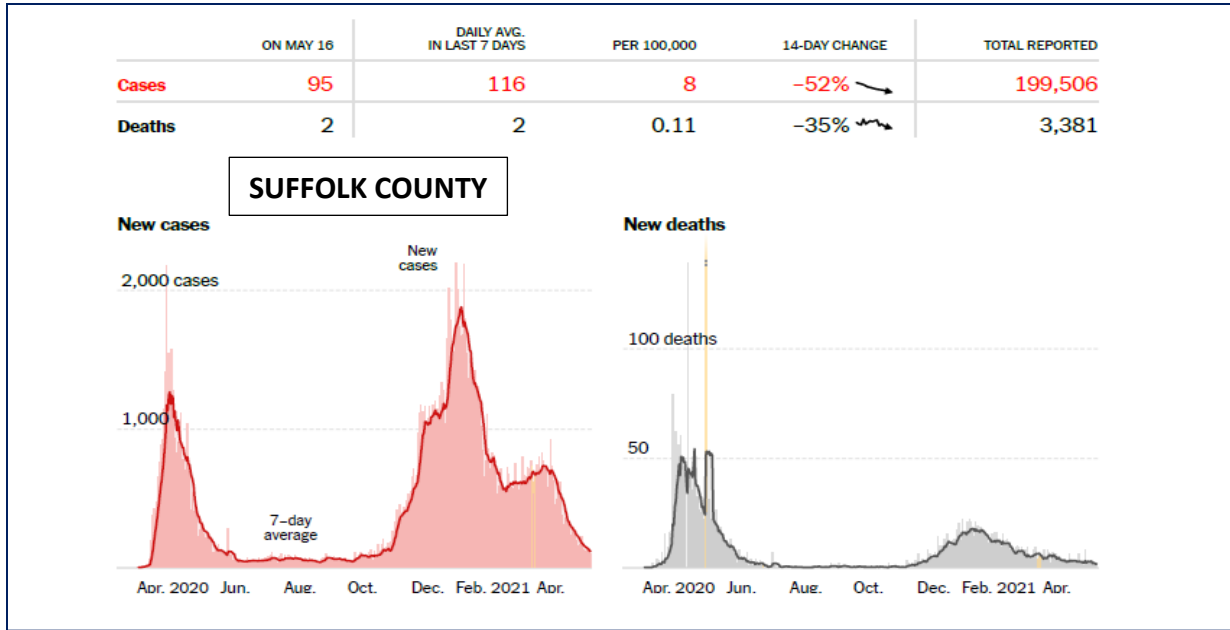


2. New case numbers in the New York City metro area also continued to rapidly decrease.



Metro area definition - The New York City area metro area has a population of 19.8 million people and contains Bergen County, Essex County, Hudson County, Hunterdon County, Middlesex County, Monmouth County, Morris County, Ocean County, Passaic County, Somerset County, Sussex County and Union County in New Jersey; Dutchess County, Nassau County, Orange County, Putnam County, Rockland County, Suffolk County, Westchester County and New York City in New York and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

3. Case numbers in Suffolk County have also significantly declined, now at a 7-day average of 8 per 100,000 population. This is a decrease of 3 per 100,000 from a week ago.



COVID-19 Testing Results in Suffolk County on May 16:

- 10,948 COVID-19 tests were administered.
- 95 new cases were reported.; 7-day average = **116**, a decrease of 48 from one week ago.
- 199,506 total cases have been reported since March of 2020.
- Seven-day average test positivity rate = **1.0%**, a decrease of 0.4% from a week ago.

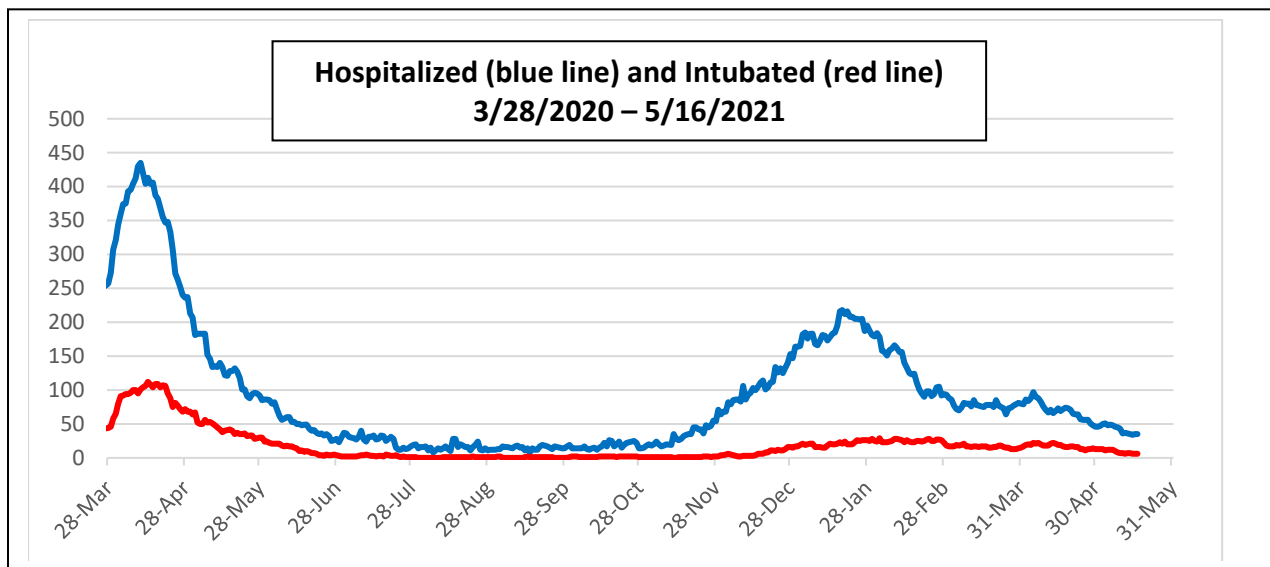
Fatalities:

- 3,381 total fatalities, an increase of 11 from one week before.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations:

- 127 individuals were hospitalized, a decrease of 17 from one week before.
- 28 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a decrease of 8 from a week ago.

4. Daily COVID-19 Hospitalization Data in SBUH

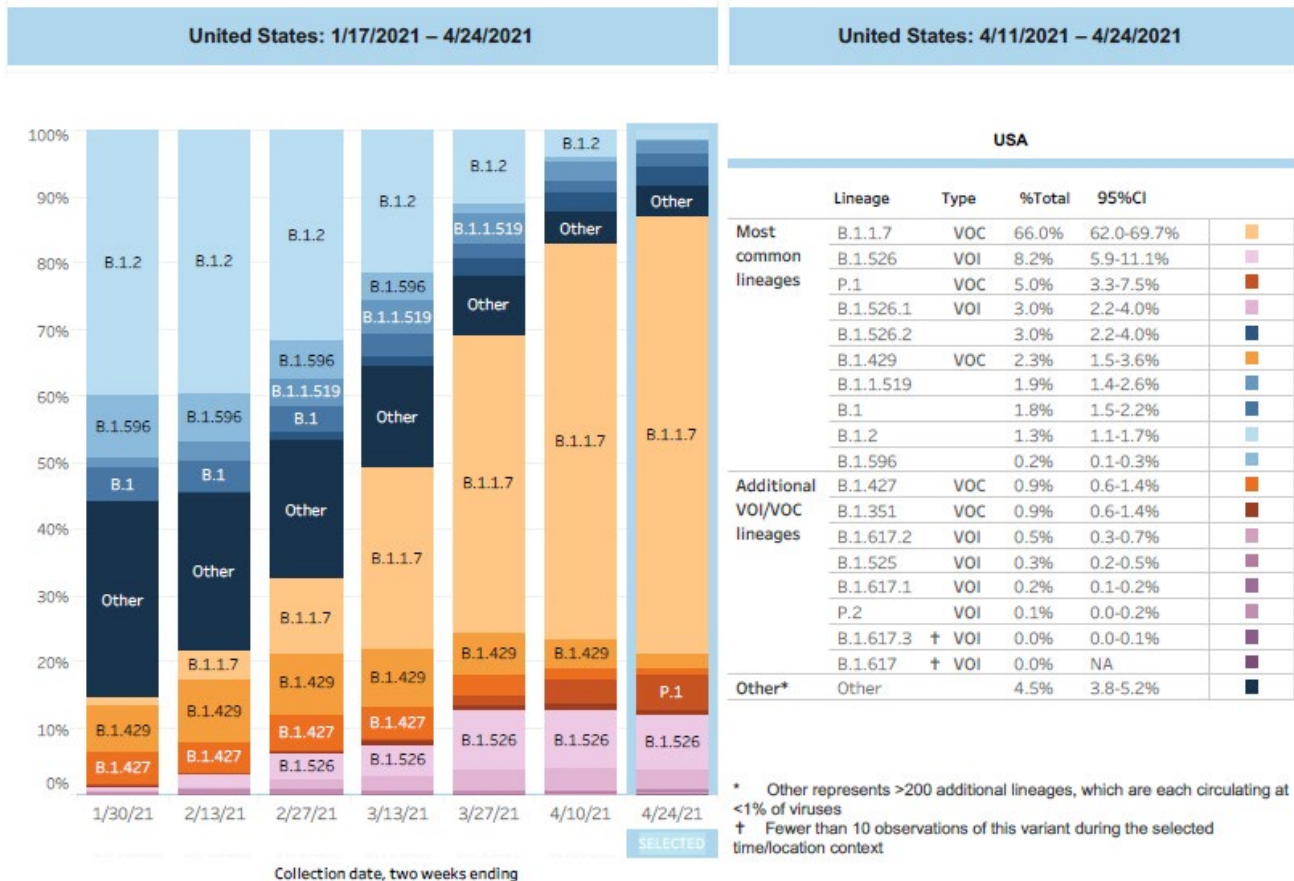


At midnight Sunday, May 17, SBUH census is as follows (see figure above for all-time trend of hospitalization).

- 36 COVID + inpatients; 7-day average = 35, a **decrease of 12** from one week before.
- 9 patients were in ICU level of care; 7 on ventilators; 6 in ICR.
- Total hospital census = 602; Med/Surg = 489 (109%).

5. SARS-CoV-2 Viral Variants Update (source = CDC; NYC Health Department)

- The Health Department in New York City has identified multiple variants of interest and variants of concern, notably the **B.1.1.7** and the **B.1.526** variants:
 - **B.1.1.7** (first identified in the UK) is classified by CDC as a **variant of concern**, which means that there is evidence that it increases transmissibility and the severity of disease. Specifically, B.1.1.7 has been found to be 50% more transmissible and cause more severe infections. The most recent surveillance data showed that it has surpassed all other variants in NYC. It is also the predominant variant strain in the U.S.
 - The other **variants of concern** include **B.1.351** (South Africa), **P.1** (Brazil), and **B.1.427/B1.429** (California).
 - The Pfizer-BNT162b2 vaccine has been shown to be effective in preventing infection by both B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 variants (see last week’s newsletter for detail).
 - **B.1.526** (first identified in NYC) is classified by CDC as a **variant of interest**. A recent study showed that it does not lead to more severe disease or increased risk of infection after vaccination (see last week’s newsletter also).
- The **B.1.617** ‘double mutation’ variant first identified in India is now classified by the WHO as a **variant of concern**. The transmissibility and resistance to vaccine of this variant is currently under investigation. In the U.S., this variant accounts for a very small proportion of all SARS-CoV-2 (0.5%) (see graph below from the CDC for recent trends of all variants in the U.S. and various regions).



Use the controls to focus on a specific region and/or 2-week interval

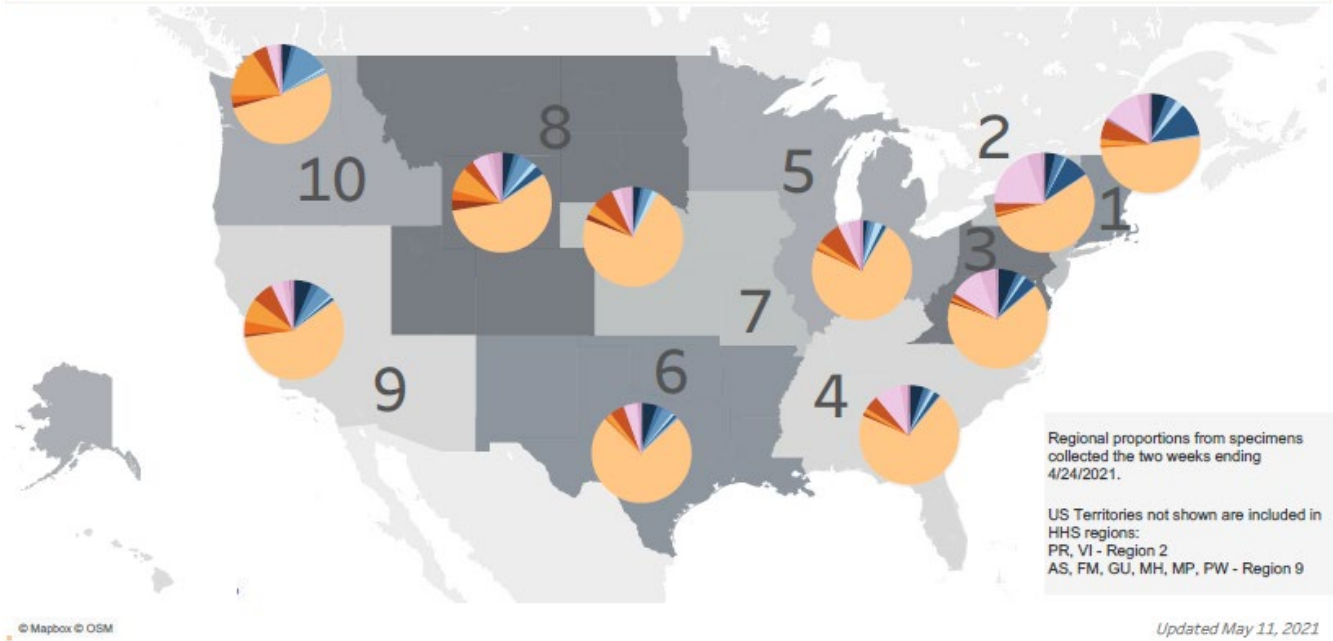
HHS Region
USA

○ Nowcast On
● Nowcast Off

Two weeks ending
4/24/2021

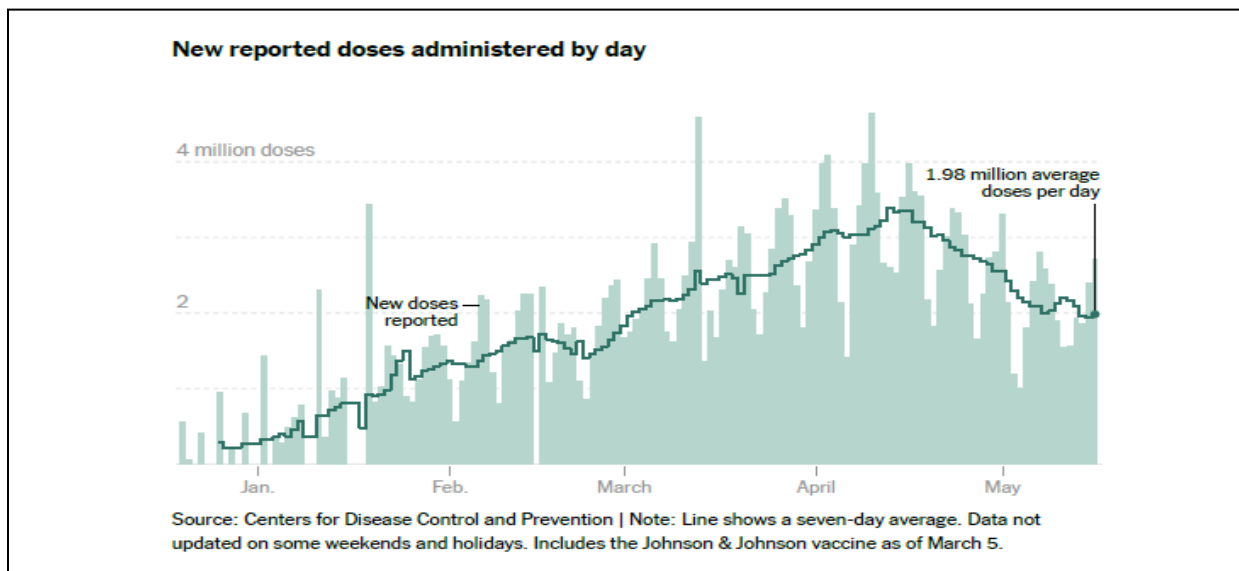


United States: 4/11/2021 – 4/24/2021

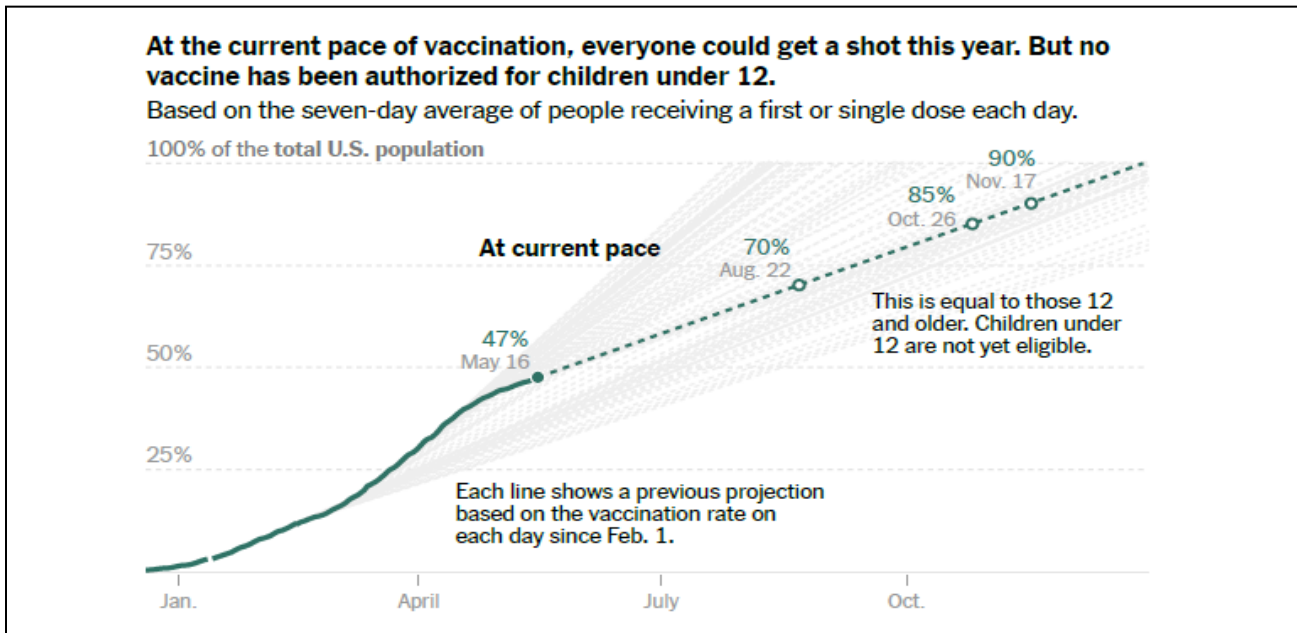


6. Vaccination Program Update (sources = CDC, NYS DOH, and NYT)

- On May 16, the 7-day average of COVID vaccine administered in the U.S. was 1.98 million. This was 70,000 fewer than that of a week ago. A total of 273 million+ doses have been administered since the beginning of the rollout.
- **47% of the U.S. population have received at least one dose (NY state and Suffolk County are both at 52%).**



- The projection below only shows the share of the total population with at least one shot based on the current rate of newly vaccinated people, but it provides a rough indication of when the virus's spread could begin to stall.



7. The CDC now recommends that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine to be used in children between the age of 12 and 15.

See CDC press release on May 12 for details (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0512-advisory-committee-signing.html>).

8. The CDC also updated guidelines for mask wearing in fully vaccinated people.

- Update that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
- Update that fully vaccinated people can refrain from testing following a known exposure unless they are residents or employees of a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter.
- See updates released on May 13 from the CDC for details (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>).
- On May 13, Governor Cuomo issued a statement on the new CDC guidelines: "In New York, we have always relied on the facts and the science to guide us throughout the worst of this pandemic and in our successful reopening. We have received the newly revised guidance from the CDC regarding mask wearing and social distancing for those with vaccinations and are reviewing them in consultation with Dr. Zucker and our partners and health experts in surrounding states." A revised guideline for NY state is pending at this time.

That's about it in the world of COVID-19 pandemic last week. Once again, I hope the information provided here is useful to you in keeping track of the progression of the pandemic. While the decreasing infection rates and increasing rollout of COVID vaccines are encouraging trends, we should remain vigilant. So please do keep safe and healthy.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent W. Yang'.

Vincent W. Yang, MD, PhD

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