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Covid Spiking In Over A Dozen States—Most With High Vaccination Rates



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TOPLINE Coronavirus cases are again spiking in 13 U.S. states, according to an analysis of trends over the past week, including some states among the highest in vaccination rates as health experts warn that more contagious variants of Covid-19 will soon dominate the United States.



According to an Axios analysis, coronavirus cases are rising in 13 states, most of which have high ...

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KEY FACTS

- An [Axios](#) analysis found Michigan by far leading the way in new cases, with the seven-day rolling average spiking by more than 53%.

- Michigan is above the U.S. average in terms of vaccination rate, according to [Johns Hopkins University](#), but cases, positivity rate and hospitalizations are all on the rise.
- State health [officials](#) have placed the blame on highly contagious new variants now spreading in the state, as health experts caution national vaccination efforts are in a race against the contagious strains.
- Other states among the highest in vaccination rates—including West Virginia, Maine and Montana—are also dealing with case spikes.
- Only two of the states with rising cases—Mississippi and New Hampshire—are below the U.S. average in terms of vaccination rate, according to Johns Hopkins.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Top health officials, including Dr. Anthony Fauci and CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, have said a variant that originated in the U.K. could become the dominant strain in the U.S. by the end of the month. That strain is believed to be some [56% more contagious](#) and perhaps [twice as deadly](#) than the existing dominant strain in the United States.

KEY BACKGROUND

Health experts say the country is continuing to move in the right direction as a whole, with the vaccine effort hopefully ending the pandemic this year. But what had been a rapid national case decline starting in January has slowed significantly over the past few weeks, with the U.S. continuing to average over 50,000 new cases a day, a plateau level [Fauci](#) said “concerns me.” Top health officials and President Joe Biden are also advising against expansive reopening measures that states are putting into effect, including some that have decided to [lift mask mandates](#).

CRUCIAL QUOTE

“It's going to be a close call,” said Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, to [CNN](#) on Tuesday. “We are

vaccinating really well; that's the good news. These variants are spreading pretty quickly across the country; that's the bad news.”

FURTHER READING

[Michigan's COVID-19 rates, hospitalizations trending in wrong direction](#)
(Detroit Free Press)

[New Coronavirus Strain Is 56% More Infectious, Scientists Estimate](#)
(Forbes)

[Researchers Say Rapidly-Spreading U.K. Covid-19 Variant Is Up To Twice As Deadly As Others](#) (Forbes)

[Biden Slams Texas And Mississippi's 'Neanderthal Thinking' In Dropping Covid-19 Restrictions And Mask Mandate](#) (Forbes)

[The race between variants and vaccines in US will be a close call, expert warns, and eased restrictions aren't helping](#) (CNN)

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