

U.S. COVID-19 cases hit six-month high at over 100,000

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Washington, August 6 (RHC)-- The United States hit a six-month high for new COVID cases with over 100,000 infections reported on Wednesday, according to a Reuters tally, as the Delta variant ravages areas where people did not get vaccinated.

The country is reporting over 94,819 cases on a seven-day average, a five-fold increase in less than a month, Reuters data through Wednesday showed. The seven-day average provides the most accurate picture of how fast cases are rising since some states only report infections once or twice a week.

In the coming weeks, cases could double to 200,000 per day due to the highly contagious Delta variant, said top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci on Wednesday. "If another one comes along that has an equally high capability of transmitting but also is much more severe, then we could really be in trouble," Dr. Fauci said in an interview with news organization McClatchy.

"People who are not getting vaccinated mistakenly think it's only about them. But it isn't. It's about everybody else, also." The Delta variant, first detected in India, accounts for 83 percent of all new cases reported in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Vaccination rates vary widely from a high of 76 percent of Vermont residents receiving the first dose to a low of 40 percent in Mississippi, with polls showing Republicans are far less likely than Democrats to get vaccinated.

Un-vaccinated people represent nearly 97 percent of severe cases, according to the White House COVID-19 Response Team. Deaths, a lagging indicator, jumped 33 percent over the past week, with about 377 deaths per day on average, according to the analysis.

Southern states, which have some of the nation's lowest vaccination rates, are reporting the most COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Florida, Texas and Louisiana were reporting the highest total number of new cases in the region over the past week, according to a Reuters analysis.

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