

# COVID-19 Snapshot

Challenges Confronting America's Hospitals and Health Systems  
(October 7, 2021)

The COVID-19 Snapshot is the American Hospital Association's look at what America's hospitals and front-line workers are facing as they provide care during the public health emergency. America's hospitals and health systems continue to face historic challenges, including unprecedented financial pressures. It is vitally important that hospitals and health systems receive further support and resources to ensure that they can continue to deliver critical care for patients and communities.

## BY THE NUMBERS: COVID-19 IN THE U.S.

**3,088,944**

cumulative confirmed COVID-19 hospital admissions  
(August 1, 2020 – October 4, 2021)

Source: [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions)

**18.3%**

increase in hospital supply expenses per adjusted discharge compared to 2019

Source: Sept. 2021 Kaufman Hall National Hospital Flash Report

**132%**

increase in hospital use of staffing agency and temporary contract labor

Source: Premier Inc. AI Data

**44,061,036**

total COVID-19 cases in the U.S.  
(as of 10/7)



(709,078 increase over the last 7 days)

Source: [coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)

**707,799**

total COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.  
(as of 10/7)



(12,117 increase over the last 7 days)

Source: [coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)

**States with the highest number of COVID-19 hospital admissions over the last 7 days:**  
(as of 10/3)

1. TX – **5,949**
2. FL – **3,859**
3. OH – **3,292**
4. CA – **3,074**
5. GA – **2,311**

Source: COVID-19 Community Profile Report | [beta.HealthData.gov](https://beta.HealthData.gov)

## FROM THE FRONT LINES

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“I don't think anybody saw this level of surge coming in 2021 after what we saw in 2020. We're just not equipped to be able to simultaneously respond to the urgent needs of the community while one-third of our beds are occupied by highly infective COVID patients.”

**Matt Swafford** | vice president and chief financial officer of the St. Charles Health System, Bend, OR

## IN THE NEWS

**Hospitals in less-vaccinated areas are struggling financially as infections mount and stimulus runs out**

– The Washington Post –

**Anthem, UnitedHealthcare, other major insurers are running billions behind in payments to hospitals, doctors**

– USA Today –

**Some US governors say Covid hospitalizations are going down but warn of what could come next if more people don't get vaccinated**

– CNN Health –

**In Well-Vaccinated Maine, Covid-19 Still Fills Hospitals With the Unvaccinated**

– The Wall Street Journal –

**U.S. COVID cases falling, but hospitals brace for next wave**

– Associated Press –

**The summer coronavirus surge has started to ebb, but delta's danger remains**

– The Washington Post –