



[Dr. Fauci: U.S. is Still 'Knee-Deep' in the First Wave of COVID-19](#)

Dr. Anthony Fauci warned this week that the United States was still “knee-deep” in the first wave of coronavirus infections. Fauci, the nation’s leading infectious diseases expert and member of the White House coronavirus task force, made the statement as confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus increased rapidly in recent weeks. In an interview with National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, Fauci said that the United States never reached a satisfactory baseline of cases diminishing before the recent surge, which indicated that the current increase in cases isn’t a second wave of the virus, but still the first wave. Fauci’s comments come as the United States passed another grim milestone this week, with the nation now having over 3 million confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The current resurgence of COVID-19 in the United States has predominantly impacted southern and western states. Arizona, Texas, California, and Florida are a few of the states that have seen a large increase in cases. The total number of cases in the country as a whole surpassed 3 million, with deaths exceeding 134,000. Despite the resurgence, some states and the federal government have aggressively pushed to reopen society. The messaging from the Trump Administration is cases have increased as a result of widespread testing. President Trump has frequently extolled the success of his administration in ensuring the availability of tests for individuals who may need them. The Trump Administration has been reluctant to link the resurgence of cases to the reopening of states, despite evidence showing that the virus was more prevalent in states that reopened early.

Despite President Trump’s praise for himself and his administration, Dr. Fauci said that the United States’ grip on the pandemic was “really not good.” Fauci quoted an increase of 50,000 confirmed cases a day as evidence of a new surge of the virus. However, Fauci stopped short of calling the recent uptick a second wave, instead saying that it was a surge based on the fact that states were reopening before a suitable baseline was established. In his own words, Fauci attributed the surge to “a series of circumstances associated with various states and cities trying to open up in the sense of getting back to some form of normality.”

Despite being in the spotlight when the coronavirus first emerged, Dr. Fauci and the rest of the White House coronavirus task force has been sidelined in recent weeks as the Trump Administration seeks to alter the perception of the pandemic in the country. Daily press briefings addressing the virus have been curtailed, and medical officials on the task force have been relegated to giving press briefings alongside politically motivated officials of the administration. President Trump is keen to ensure that the pandemic doesn’t damage his re-election campaign, despite polls showing his approval ratings plummeting as a result of his handling of the crisis. Republican members of Congress have also begun to break from the administration, with many encouraging people to socially distance themselves from others, and use masks when in public.