

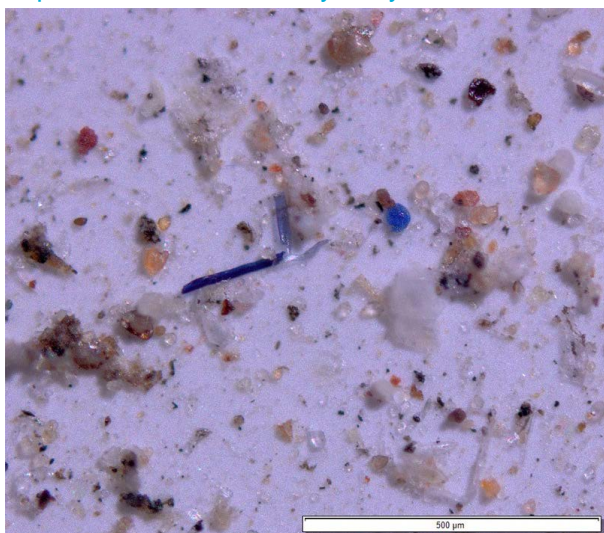
News Highlights:

- ViiV Healthcare's **Tivicay (dolutegravir)** was approved to treat **HIV-1 infection** in **pediatric patients** age 4 weeks and older. The approval was based on a trial of 75 HIV–infected infants, children and adolescents, with an average patient age of 27 months. The incidence of pediatric HIV continues to decline in the U.S.; the CDC reports that at the end of 2016, there were [2,238 children younger than 13 years old](#) living with HIV in the U.S. and dependent areas, with **99** new HIV-1 infections in children under 13 diagnosed in 2017. Tivicay was approved in 2016 for use in adults. ViiV also makes HIV drug Descovy.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-drug-treat-infants-and-children-hiv>

- Utah State University researchers collected **rain and air samples** from **11 national parks and public lands** and found accumulated **plastic pollution** in about 98% of samples. Lead researcher Janice Brahney said "We were shocked at the estimated deposition rates and kept trying to figure out where our calculations went wrong." The microplastic pollution mainly consisted of microfibers originating from clothing and industrial materials.

<https://www.usu.edu/today/story/more-than-1000-tons-of-plastic-rains-into-western-us-protected-lands-annually>



Microscope image of microplastics in atmospheric particulate samples. 500 μm. (Photo credit: Janice Brahney, Utah State University)

COVID-19 News

- *The Lancet* **retracted a hydroxychloroquine study** after finding the authors at Brigham and Women's Hospital were unable to conduct an independent and private peer review of the data that supported their analysis. The study had claimed that coronavirus patients on hydroxychloroquine experienced a higher mortality rate and increased heart problems. Likewise, *The New England Journal of Medicine* pulled results from a study of the effect of **blood pressure medications** on COVID-19 over the same concerns about the source data. In both studies, a company called **Surgisphere** collected and compiled the data. The retractions came at the request of the authors of the studies.

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/06/04/lancet-retracts-major-covid-19-paper-that-raised-safety-concerns-about-malaria-drugs/>

- One in five hospital patients in Britain with **coronavirus** caught it **while in the hospital**, papers by Government scientists have revealed. The full article is paywalled in *Daily Telegraph*.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-hospitals/one-fifth-of-britains-coronavirus-patients->

[were-infected-in-hospitals-telegraph-idUKKBN23J382](#)

- Health minister Matt Hancock announced that England has launched a study to find out the prevalence and spread of **coronavirus in schools**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/study-launched-to-monitor-prevalence-of-covid-19-in-schools>

- Heightened **post-lockdown anxiety** has become a matter of **Chinese government concern** as a spate of suicides by young people have been reported. It has also led to unprecedented measures by schools and local governments to focus on student mental health - a topic that like suicide has often been taboo in Chinese society.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-mental-health-idUSKBN23H3J3>

COVID-19 Vaccines:

- **Moderna** plans to start **phase 3 trial** of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate in July, conducted primarily at U.S. sites but with some international sites. **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) announced that the 30,000 volunteers enrolled in the trial will primarily be between the ages of 18 and 55 but there also be elderly Americans including those who are at risk for serious illness if they become infected with Covid. The trial is being funded by NIAID.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucejapsen/2020/06/02/fauci-modernas-phase-3-covid-19-vaccine-trial-will-include-30000-young-and-old-individuals/>

- **Useful Resource: Vaccine Tracker**

The Regulatory Affairs Professional Society has a **Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker**. It includes vaccines under development around the world, along with what phase they are in, sponsor, and source of funding. Click the green plus symbol on the right column to view study design and more detail about each of the **32 vaccines**.

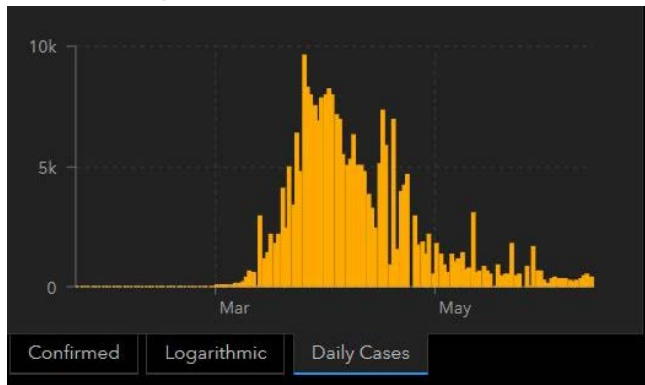
<https://www.raps.org/news-and-articles/news-articles/2020/3/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>

Updated stats for Sunday, June 14, 2020: Worldwide: 7.83 million cases and over 431,000 deaths. United States: 2.08 million cases and more than 115,575 deaths. Brazil has the second-highest number of cases globally with over 850,000 cases.

Source: Johns Hopkins Coronavirus

Dashboard: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

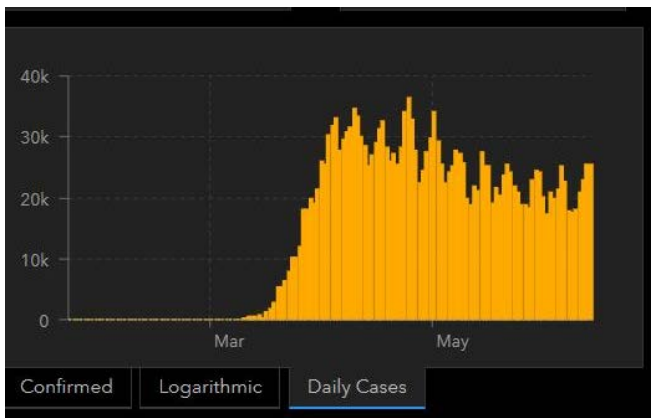
The number of cases is declining in countries first hit by the virus. Here is a graph showing daily cases declining



in **Spain** since May.

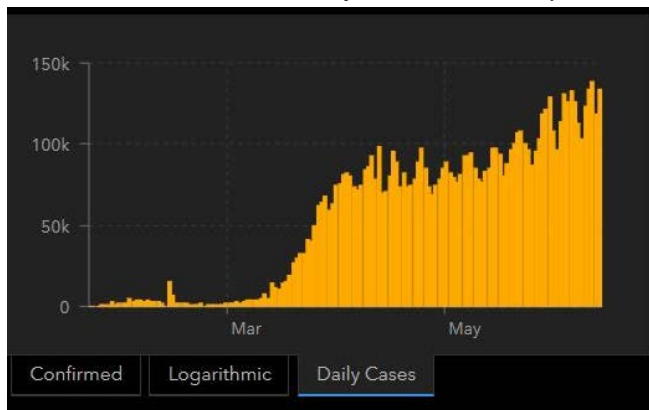
Spain: Daily cases of COVID-19. Source: Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Dashboard, June 14, 2020

In the U.S., the curve is gradually flattening, although daily number of cases is still high.



United States: Daily cases of COVID-19. Source: Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Dashboard, June 14, 2020

Brazil, one of the later countries to be hit by the virus, is experiencing a dramatic increase in the numbers of



cases each day.

Brazil: Daily cases of COVID-19. Source: Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Dashboard, June 14, 2020

Next week: Three categories of **generic drugs** and how they differ in **manufacturing process, availability, and price**

Ask a Patient Weekly Healthcare Newsletter: June 14, 2020

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