

U.S. COVID hospitalizations reach record low

May 30 2023, by Cara Murez



COVID-19 hospitalizations in the United States fell below 9,000 in the

past week, the first time that milestone has been reached since tracking began in the summer of 2020.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reported](#) that hospitalizations were at 8,256 as of May 25.

Hospitalizations are among the few COVID metrics still being monitored by public health officials, which will continue until April 2024. Still, some infections may no longer be counted because of changes to how hospitals are testing, *CBS News* reported.

The CDC is still expected to recommend wearing masks when an area's hospitalizations are high. New boosters could be recommended later this year. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will meet this summer to consider booster recommendations.

World Health Organization (WHO) advisers have recommended updated COVID boosters targeted to spreading XBB strains. Current boosters target an earlier virus and Omicron variants.

Late spring has been a time of record low hospitalizations for each of the past few years. Case numbers previously reached low levels in May and June 2021, for example, but then surged in August of that year because of the Delta variant. At that point, hospitalizations were at more than 85,000 in the highest week, *CBS News* reported.

In 2022, something similar happened with record lows in April, following a wintertime Omicron surge with 150,000 weekly new hospital admissions, *CBS News* reported.

What will happen this year isn't known, but there are again new and shifting variants, from XBB.1.5 strains that are descending in numbers of cases to XBB.1.16 variants that now comprise 19% of infections,

according to the latest [CDC data](#).

More information: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more on [COVID-19](#).

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