

U.S. COVID hospitalizations rise for fourth straight week

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New hospitalizations for Americans with severe COVID are climbing

once again.

The number of patients being admitted to hospitals has grown for each of the past four weeks, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [data](#) shows. Southeastern states have been hit the hardest.

In the week ending Aug. 5, the United States had 10,320 newly hospitalized patients. That's a 14.3% increase, but it's still much lower than last summer's peak of more than 42,800 in a week.

The Southeastern region that includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee had nearly 4.6 new patients hospitalized with COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. Overall, the country saw just over 3 new patients per 100,000 residents.

Cases occurring at nursing homes were also high.

Severe COVID recently seems to have been striking seniors ages 75 and up most often. But according to nationwide [emergency room data](#), children up to the age of 11 have also been frequently seen in the ER and have now tied with seniors.

In the [region](#) that includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, children's visits to the ER are exceeding that of adults, at least for those ages 0 to 11, *CBS News* reported.

The variant EG.5 is now the dominant variant in the country, comprising [17.3% of U.S. infections](#).

Fall's expected booster shots will target the XBB variant, but will also likely provide some protection against EG.5, which is a descendant of the XBB variant.

Still, the World Health Organization has warned that EG.5 could soon outcompete other XBB variants.

"EG.5 may cause a rise in case incidence and become dominant in some countries or even globally," the WHO said in a [recent report](#) on the variant.

More information: The World Health Organization has more on [EG.5](#)

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