



**RiskIQ i3:**

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

06/12/2020



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## Methodology

*The information provided in this report is limited to open source and publicly available data discovered through standard, commonly known browsing techniques and keyword searches. To provide efficient results, RiskIQ may use websites that require payment in exchange for aggregation of data that is otherwise publicly available without payment and could be obtained by anyone accessing the correct sites or engaging the correct third parties to obtain the information. Information presented in this report is cross-checked against multiple sources for full verification; however, some assessments and conclusions are based on incomplete information and represent the RiskIQ analyst's judgment based on patterns and data available.*

## Disclaimer

*The information provided in this report is "as-is" and Customer acknowledges and agrees that RiskIQ makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information. Customer agrees that RiskIQ shall not have any liability resulting from Customer's use of this information.*

## Notice

*In absence of a major development, RiskIQ will be suspending regular updates of the COVID-19 Weekly Update after Friday, 06/19/2020. Thank you for your continued readership.*

## Notable Events in the Past Week

New York City recorded [zero COVID-19-related deaths](#) on Wednesday, 06/03/2020, marking a significant milestone as the city moves towards recovery. That was the first time the city recorded no coronavirus-related fatalities since 03/10/2020. Mayor Bill de Blasio reported on Thursday, 06/04/2020, that only 3% of people tested positive for the virus.

The state of California gave approval for [film and television production to resume](#) on 06/12/2020, subject to approval from county public health officials. Film and television production has been halted since early March. The California Department of Public Health also issued extensive guidelines for schools, day care facilities, and casinos to reopen.

[Texas health authorities](#) said there are currently 2,153 patients sickened with COVID-19 across its hospitals, making Wednesday the third-straight day of record-breaking coronavirus hospitalizations in the state. The new total is up from 2,056 patients on Tuesday and 1,935 patients Monday, according to updated data from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

A young woman whose lungs were destroyed by the coronavirus received a double lung [transplant](#) last week at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, the first known lung transplant in the United States for COVID-19. The 10-hour surgery was more complicated and took several hours longer than most lung transplants because inflammation from the disease had left the woman's lungs completely plastered to tissue around them, the heart, the chest wall and diaphragm.

As tens of thousands of Americans take to the streets in protest of the killing of George Floyd, [new cases of COVID-19 continue to rise](#). Case numbers have been on the rise in at least fourteen states following the relaxation of stay-at-home orders. It could possibly be July before there is a clear picture of new cases relating to the protests due to the lengthy incubation period, and the time it takes to receive results from a test.

A new study conducted by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley found that stay-at-home orders and social distancing guidelines have [prevented sixty million coronavirus infections](#) in America. The study also evaluated the effects of such policies around the world, reporting that the measures prevented 530 million infections across the U.S., China, South Korea, Italy, Iran, and France.

NHL teams have begun [limited workouts](#) with small groups at their team facilities, the start of Phase 2 of the Return to Play Plan. NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said last week that teams are allowed to decide when they want to open.

[Talladega Motor Speedway](#) will allow a few thousand people to watch its June 21 Cup Series race in person. The track said Tuesday that 5,000 people could attend its rescheduled race. Talladega is hosting a race in 12 days to make up for its postponed May race because of the coronavirus pandemic. The track's decision to allow a limited number of fans comes a week after Homestead-Miami Speedway will allow "up to" 1,000 military members to attend the race in the grandstands.

The World Health Organization has walked back a top official's claim that [asymptomatic](#) spread of coronavirus is "very rare" after it sparked controversy and confusion worldwide. The remarks Monday by epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on the pandemic, contradicted advice given by health experts and policymakers in most countries, who have based calls for social distancing and mask wearing on the idea that people without symptoms can unwittingly spread infection.

The [World Health Organization](#) said on Monday that most people across the globe are still at risk of coronavirus infection and that the biggest threat to further spread is complacency, as mass gatherings resume in countries worldwide. The coronavirus pandemic is worsening across the globe as the number of new COVID-19 cases on Sunday reached an all-time high, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a press conference at the agency's Geneva headquarters.

The outgoing president of [Burundi](#) has died of a sudden illness, suspected by many to be COVID-19. The cause of Pierre Nkurunziza's death was described as a heart attack in a government statement. The 55-year-old was due to stand down in August following elections last month. It was unclear exactly when he died. A government statement said the president, a keen sports enthusiast, had attended a game of volleyball on Saturday but fell ill that night and was taken to hospital.

European Union [countries should](#) remove borders within the bloc on 15 June, and allow citizens from selected countries outside the bloc to return 1 July, the European Commission said Thursday. The recommendations come as Europe, a center of the coronavirus epidemic in March and April, starts to emerge from the crisis and gears up for an economically vital summer season, where it hopes to see tourists return.

New Zealand appears to have [eradicated COVID-19](#), at least momentarily, after health officials reported the last known person with the virus had recovered on Monday, 06/08/2020. It has

been seventeen days since someone has tested positive for the virus; 40,000 tests have been conducted in that span.

Latin America continues to be ravaged by the pandemic, as COVID-19 cases and deaths in the region rise faster than anywhere in the world. The region has recorded nearly [1.2 million cases](#) and more than 60,000 deaths. The WHO does not believe Central and South America have reached peak transmissions, meaning the number of people affected could continue to rise. As the region grapples with the current wave of infections, Brazil's government has [stopped publishing](#) a running total of coronavirus deaths and infections.

## Digital Exploitation

IBM X-Force Incident Response and Intelligence Services uncovered a COVID-19 related [phishing](#) campaign targeting a German task force established to procure personal protective equipment. According to Security Intelligence reporting on 6/8/2020, the threat actors targeted more than 100 high ranking executives within this organization. Given the extensive targeting observed it's likely that additional members of the task force could be targeted.

A senior US Secret Service official estimates \$30 billion in stimulus funds will be stolen through [COVID-19 scams](#). The official informed The Hill on 6/9/2020 that much of this theft is occurring online, such as through cyber criminals targeting Americans with malicious coronavirus-related phishing emails, or through targeting cyberattacks at the insecure networks of those working from home. The Secret Service has taken steps to counter these scams and has prevented around \$1 billion from being lost to malicious actors.

The FBI on 6/10/2020 warned that malicious cyber actors were targeting [mobile banking apps](#) in an attempt to steal money as more Americans have moved to online banking during the coronavirus pandemic, according to The Hill reporting. In a public service announcement, the FBI noted it expects to see hackers "exploit" mobile banking platforms, which have seen a 50 percent surge in use since the beginning of the pandemic.

Similarly in the UK, business owners with Microsoft Office 365 accounts are being targeted in a [phishing campaign](#) that uses bait emails designed to look like legitimate Small Business Grants Fund (SGF) relief payment messages from the government. According to BleepingComputer reporting, these highly targeted phishing attacks have so far delivered emails that have landed in the mailboxes of up to 5,000 potential victims.

Threat actors are distributing [fake Android applications](#) themed around official government COVID-19 contact tracing apps. Anomali Threat Research reported on 6/10/2020 that they identified multiple applications that contain malware, primarily Anubis and SpyNote, and other generic malware families. These apps, once installed on a device, are designed to download and install malware to monitor infected devices, and to steal banking information.

FortiGuard Labs has seen a substantial increase in [viruses](#) over the last quarter, with March seeing a 131 percent increase. According to ThreatPost reporting, many of these viruses are included in a related spike in malicious phishing attachments. While the attacks begin with phishing, the goal is to steal the end user's personal information, or target businesses through their new teleworkers. Remote Desktop Protocol attacks are also on the rise which means that hackers are likely looking for hastily erected IT infrastructures intended to enable remote work.



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## End Report