



#### **MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD**

**Chad Borin, DO, FACOEP, Chair**  
St. Anthony Hospital

**Russell Anderson, DO, Vice Chair**  
Hillcrest Hospital South

**David Smith, MD, Secretary**  
Baptist Medical Center

**Roxie Albrecht, MD, FACS**  
OU Medical Center – Trauma

**Barrett Bradt, MD**  
St. Francis Hospital

**Jeffrey Dixon, MD, FACEP**  
Hillcrest Medical Center

**David Gearhart, DO, FACOEP**  
OSU Medical Center

**Karyn Koller, MD**  
OU Medical Center

**John Nalagan, MD, FACEP**  
Mercy Health Center

**Keri Smith, DO**  
Integris Southwest Hospital

**Michael Smith, MD, FACEP**  
St. John Medical Center

#### **OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

**David Howerton, NRP**  
Division Chief – Medical Oversight - West

**Duffy McAnallen, NRP**  
Division Chief – Medical Oversight - East

**Matt Cox, NRP**  
Division Chief - Critical Care Analytics

**Curtis Knoles, MD, FAAP**  
Associate Chief Medical Officer

**Jeffrey M. Goodloe, MD, NRP, FACEP, FAEMS**  
Chief Medical Officer

Update 62 - COVID-19 – From Office of the Medical Director 01MAR2021 1100

To: All EMS Personnel in the EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City & Tulsa

#### **Key Content:**

- **California Coronavirus Contagion of Concern – The Los Angeles Times**
- **Three and Counting! – STAT News**
- **When Oh When Will This End? Well, It Depends – The Atlantic**
- **A Small Gagggle of Graphs – The New York Times & ABC News**

#### **California Coronavirus Contagion of Concern – The Los Angeles Times**

Uh oh. Maybe. An emerging Variant of Concern (VOC) from The Golden State. Read an early warning from the “hometown” news, but realize I’m sharing this at an awareness level and not a “sky is falling” level:

<https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2021-02-23/california-homegrown-coronavirus-strain-looks-increasingly-transmissible-and-dangerous>

This won’t be the last of the US first-identified variants, but it looks to be the first. This is more and more shaping up to be similar to influenza in that over time there appears to be a “cat and mouse” dynamic between SARS-CoV-2 and optimal vaccine compositions. Surely, more to come.

#### **Three and Counting! – STAT News**

Over the weekend, the FDA issued another Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a COVID vaccine, this one to Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen Pharmaceuticals – fortunately, known as J&J for short. We as a society have become so brand name focused – cue the celebratory music for the marketing magicians – that even when it comes to vaccines, people are namedropping the “brand” of vaccine they got or want to receive.

I’ve received a number of emails and texts from friends that say something to the effect of, “I got the Pfizer. What did you get?” or “They had Moderna today!” While harmless to some extent, we’re talking about vaccines that all have shown a truly remarkable ability to prevent COVID-19 death AND dramatically decrease severity of illness and related hospitalization. If you’re a Juicy Couture velour sweatpants aficionado, who am I to crimp your style? Such brand preference shouldn’t be applicable to these vaccines, though. By the way, our neighbours (that’s the correct Canadian spelling) to The North just approved the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine. Expect it in the US very soon as well. We expect other vaccines will follow it. Thus, the field of COVID-19 vaccines will happily get even more confusing in their details.

Here’s two resources to help you (if you haven’t yet received your vaccine or are still “thinking about” getting the vaccine) or your family/friends/valued others:

1. Get the vaccine and get the “brand” of vaccine that is offered at the first place you can secure a vaccination appointment. No hesitation and no doubt. That will be the most effective vaccine for you. Waiting for the “summer fashion line from brand X of vaccine” only does one thing: prolongs the time you are unprotected from this deadly and dreadful SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19!
2. Here’s a timely piece from *STAT News* in helping us understand the particulars – dose schedule, etc. of the now three vaccines approved in the US: <https://www.statnews.com/2021/02/02/comparing-the-covid-19-vaccines-developed-by-pfizer-moderna-and-johnson-johnson/>

### When Oh When Will This End? Well, It Depends – The Atlantic

As chaotic and at first even overwhelming as it can be getting into a “big is big and bad is bad” situation (think about being the first due apparatus for a 100+ vehicle collision on an icy, foggy interstate highway), declaring with accuracy that such a situation is “done” or “over” or “won” sometimes isn’t any less murky or easy.

When will we be officially “post pandemic” isn’t yet established and it may not have nearly as firm a definition that we’d like to think such does. Here’s a thoughtful piece on this very topic from *The Atlantic*:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/02/how-know-when-pandemic-over/618122/>

### A Small Gaggle of Graphs – The New York Times & ABC News

The last few Updates have been more intense in text and resources, so how about we end this Update with some graphs of mostly good news at that? Thanks to the great team at *The New York Times* for continuing its work over a year plus now and the outlook on vaccine availability continues to get better with the graphics courtesy of ABC News. Hopefully, we can see additional entry lines added to that graphic soon.

## Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count

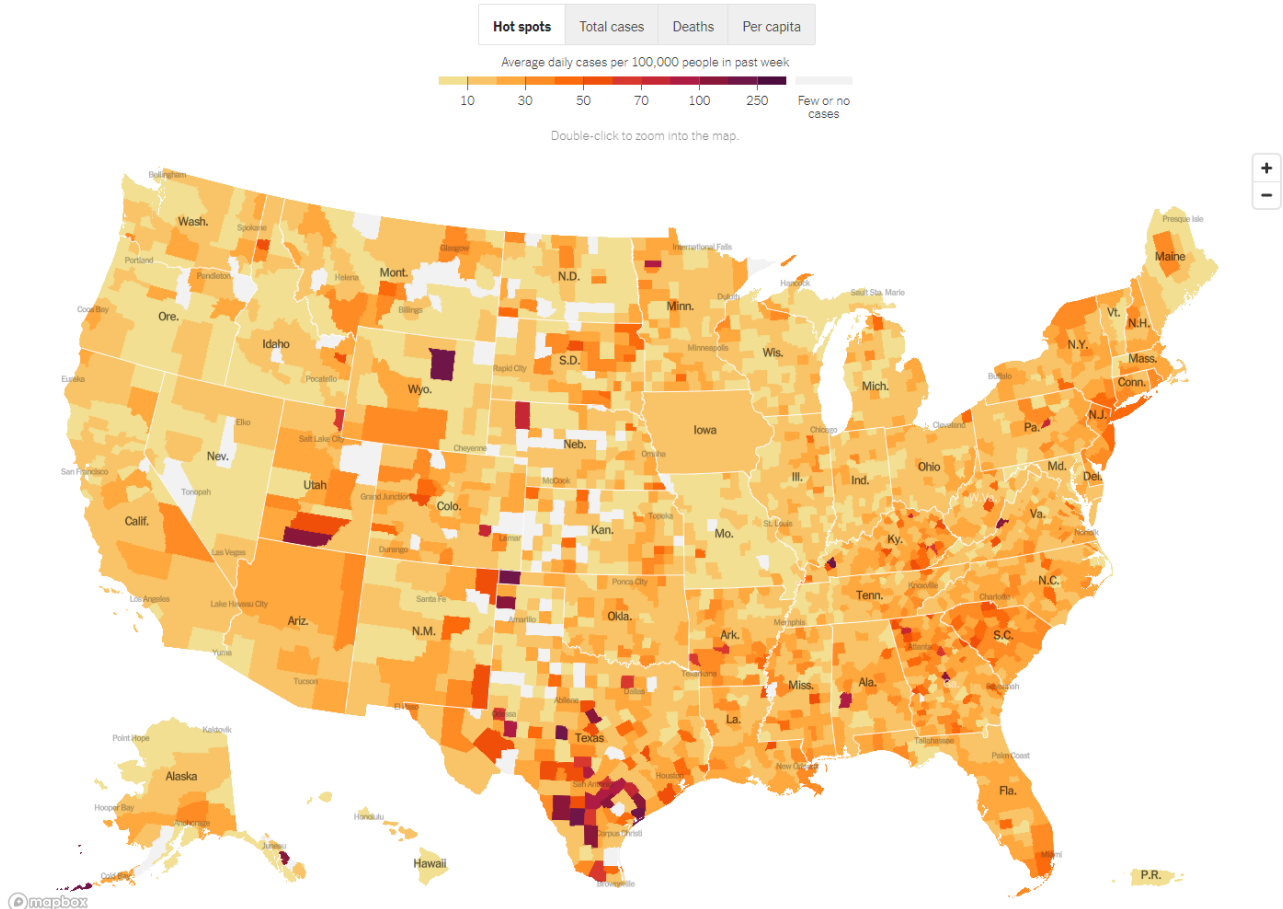
Updated March 1, 2021, 8:19 A.M. E.T.

[Leer en español](#)



	TOTAL REPORTED	ON FEB. 28	14-DAY CHANGE
<b>Cases</b>	28.6 million+	50,925	-26% ↘
<b>Deaths</b>	512,979	1,129	-21% ↘
<b>Hospitalized</b>		47,352	-30% ↘

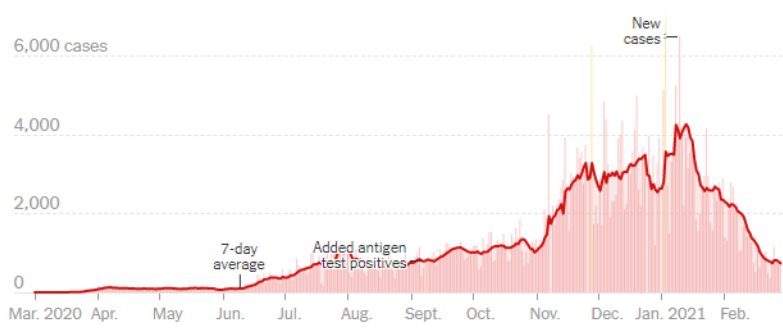
■ Day with reporting anomaly. Hospitalization data from the Covid Tracking Project; 14-day change trends use 7-day averages.



Sources: State and local health agencies. Population and demographic data from Census Bureau.

# Oklahoma Coronavirus Map and Case Count

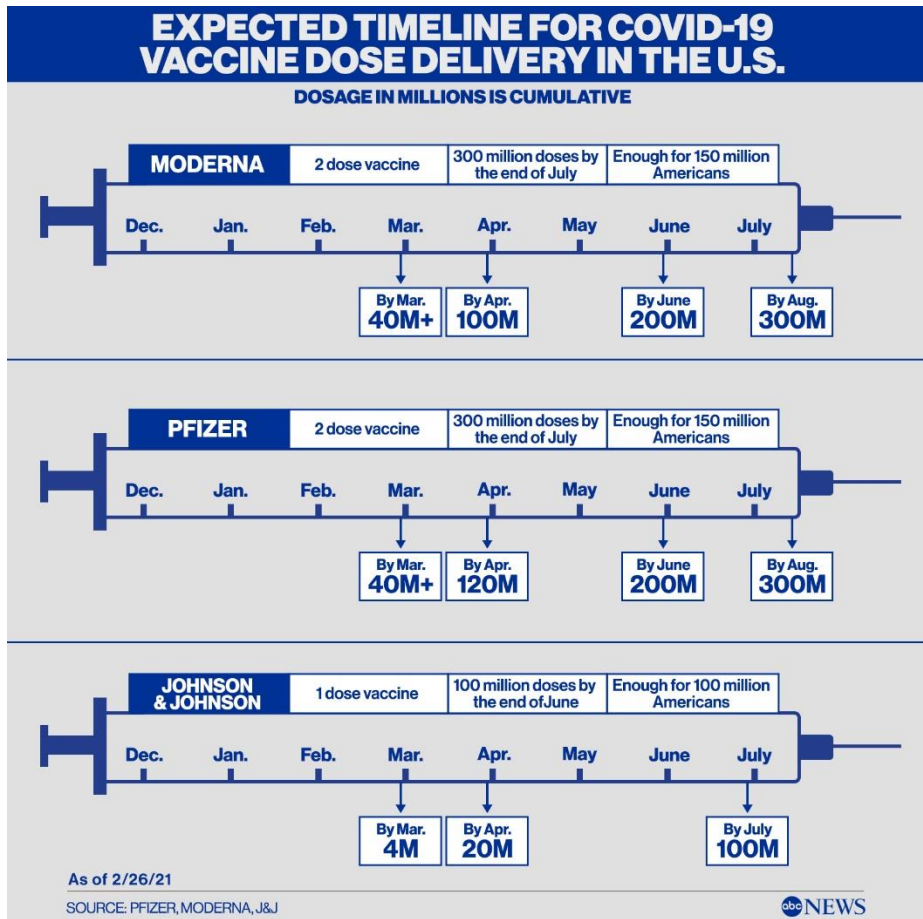
Updated March 1, 2021, 8:19 A.M. E.T.



	TOTAL REPORTED	ON FEB. 28	14-DAY CHANGE
<b>Cases</b>	424,508	706	-46% ↘
<b>Deaths</b>	4,428	49	+17% ↗
<b>Hospitalized</b>		484	-34% ↘

■ Day with reporting anomaly. Hospitalization data from the CovidTracking Project; 14-day change trends use 7-day averages.

1111 Classen Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73103-2616 • 1417 N. Lansing • Tulsa, OK 74106  
 (405) 297-7173 Telephone • (405) 297-7199 Fax • [www.okctulsaomd.com](http://www.okctulsaomd.com)



*Vigilance. Safety. Evidence-Based Service to Others.*

*Let's be careful out there.*

Dr. Goodloe