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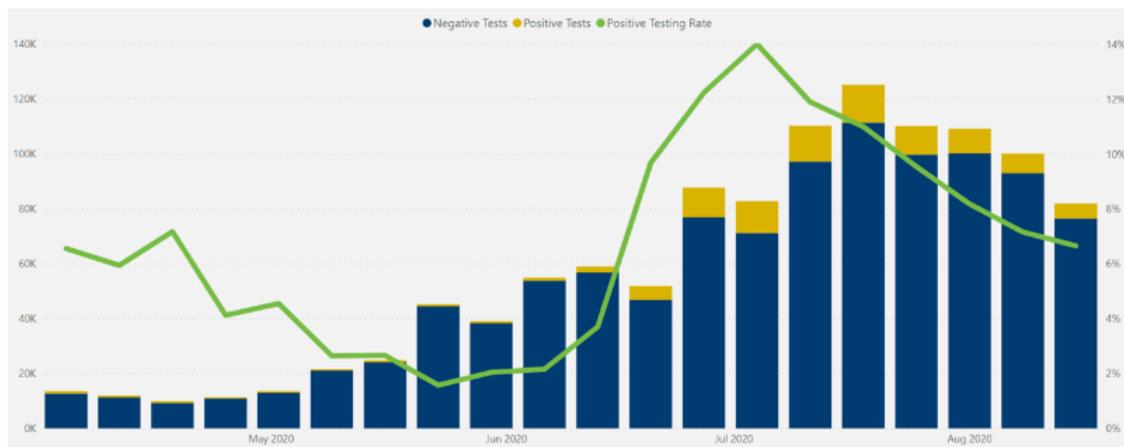
The [COVID-19 Regional Re-Opening Dashboard](#) tracks the critical and official public health metrics that guide Tampa Bay residents and policymakers to safely re-open our economy.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Tampa Bay continued to decline this week, and the percentage of residents testing positive fell for the sixth week in a row.

At 6.66%, Tampa Bay's positive testing rate over the past week is once again below the 10% threshold outlined in state and federal re-opening guidelines. Statewide, new case growth is similarly muted, and positive testing rates are below the threshold for a second consecutive week, declining to 9.09%.

Below you'll find our weekly update on the regional dashboard, highlighting key trends and changes that our community leaders should heed.

Positive Testing Rate

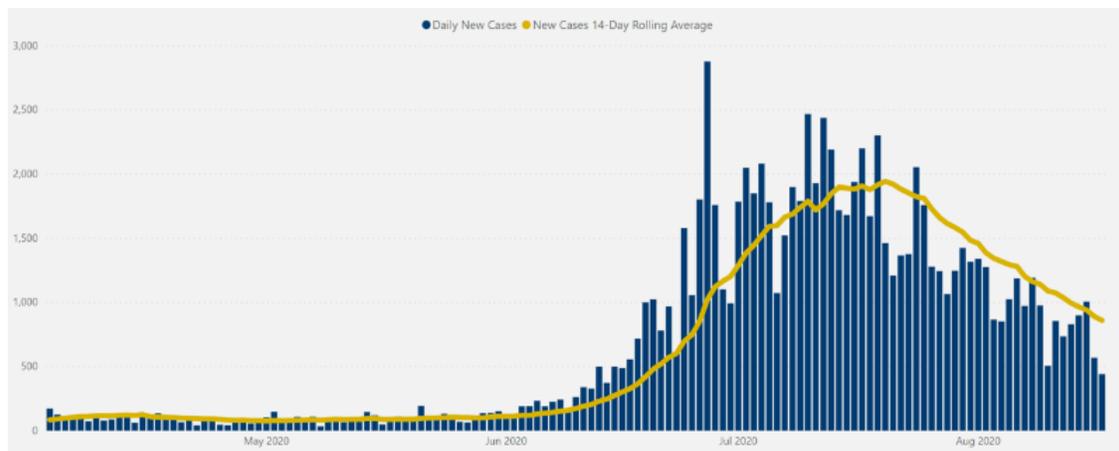


**Tampa Bay Weekly Tests and Positive Testing Rate by Week Ending Date
(as of August 15)**

The total number of tests conducted decreased by 18.2% in the past week, from **100,139** to **81,959**, and the percentage of those tests that returned a positive result (known as the positive testing rate) declined, extending a now six-week trend. This week, the positive testing rate is **6.66%**, which is down from last week's rate of **7.17%**, and marks the fourth straight week the positive testing rate fell below the 10% threshold outlined in state and federal re-opening guidelines. For the first time since the week ending June 13, all

County (**9.92%**) reported the highest positive testing rate, and Pinellas County (**4.79%**) the lowest. For reference, the lowest positive testing rate recorded in Tampa Bay was **1.58%** for the week ending May 23 and the highest positive testing rate was **14.02%** for the week ending July 4. The rapid decline in the number of tests administered may be worth continued observation, as reopening guidelines call for a low positive testing rate in conjunction with stable or increased testing.

New Cases



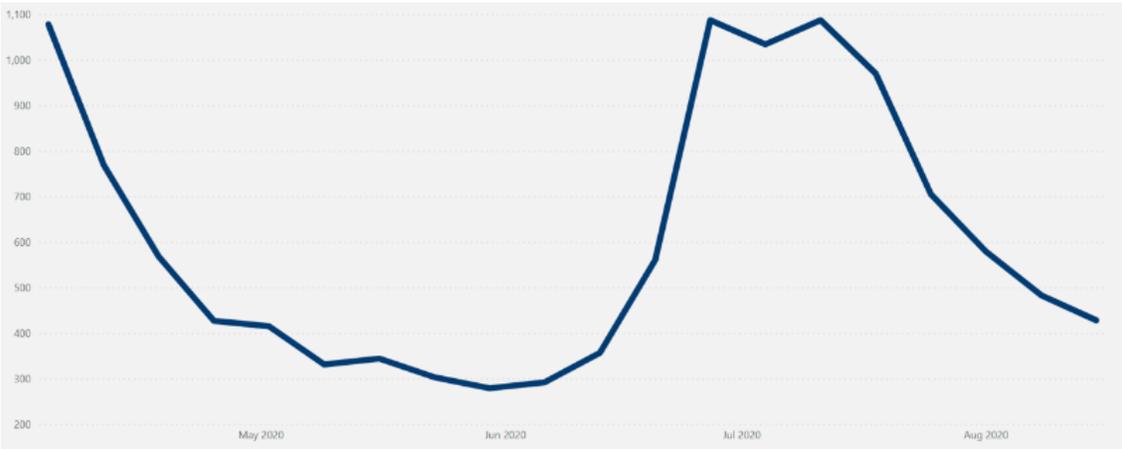
Tampa Bay New COVID-19 Cases Per Day and 14-Day Rolling Average

(as of August 17)

The 14-day rolling average of new cases per day is now **859**, substantially lower than last week's reported value of **1,088** and the lowest 14-day rolling average since June 26. Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, the largest in the region, have seen their daily case growth slow by **26%** in the past week. The

June 14, and the 2,678 cases statewide are the lowest since June 18.

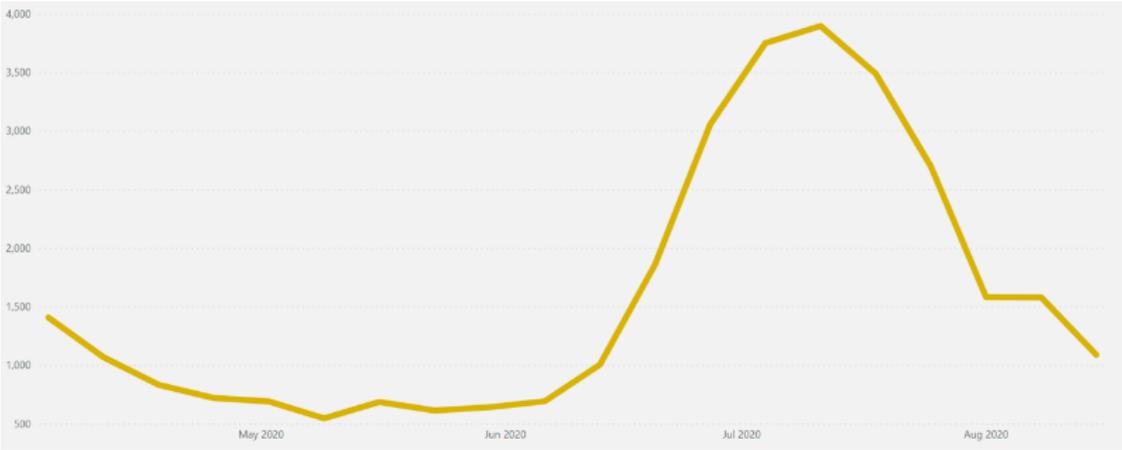
Emergency Department Visits



Tampa Bay Weekly ED Visits with Influenza-Like Illness by Week Ending

Date

(as of August 15)



Tampa Bay Weekly ED Visits with COVID-Like Illness by Week Ending

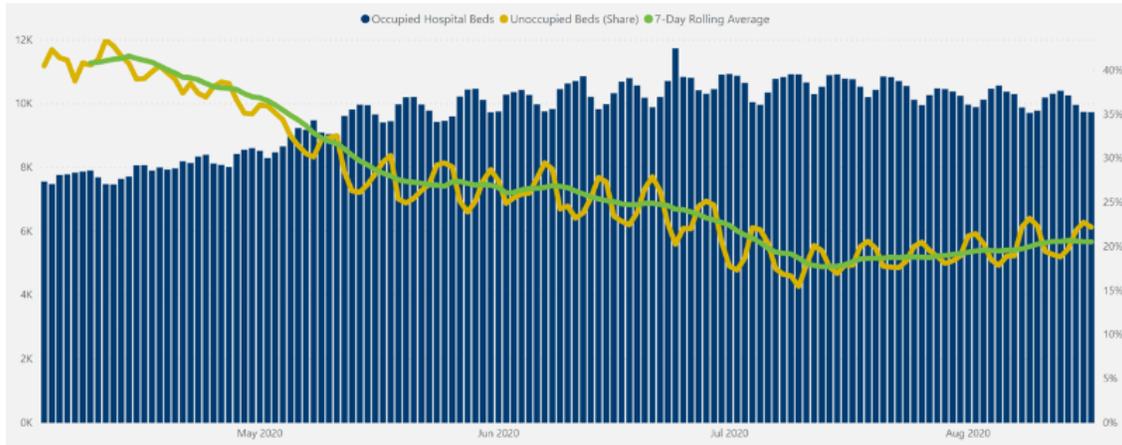
Date

(as of August 15)

This week's report reflects a decline in the number of emergency room visits for both flu-like and COVID-like illnesses. The latest preliminary numbers show that hospital emergency rooms in Tampa Bay treated **429** for flu-like illnesses last week (compared to a revised **484** the week before) and **1,091** for COVID-like illnesses (compared to a revised **1,512** the week before). Weekly flu-like emergency room visits were at their lowest point on May 30, at **280**, and weekly COVID-like symptom visits were at their lowest point on May 9, at **549**. Emergency room visits for flu-like (**1,088**) and COVID-like (**3,873**) symptoms both peaked the week ending July 11.

NOTE: The data presented in these charts is subject to revision by the Florida Department of Health due to reporting delays and case reviews. For example, the number of COVID-related ED visits for the week ending August 8 have been revised since our last update, from 1,233 to 1,512. We encourage users of this dashboard to scrutinize the data over a multi-week period.

Hospital Capacity

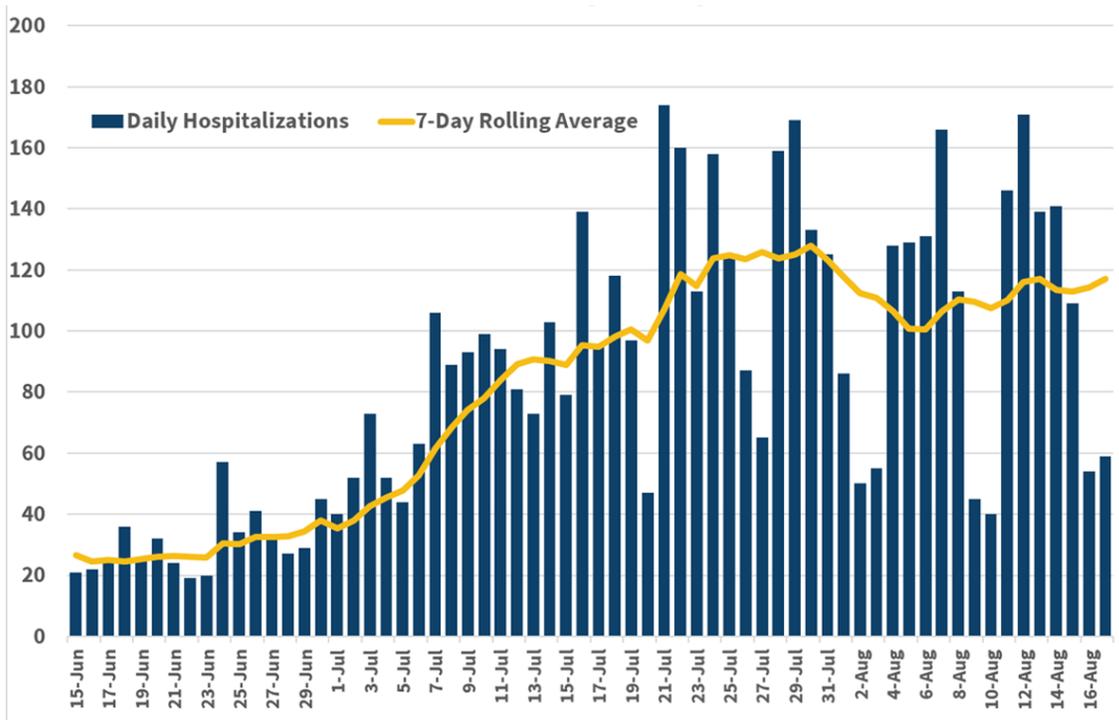


Tampa Bay Hospital Bed Availability

(as of August 17)

As of today, the region's hospital systems have **22.2%** remaining capacity, virtually unchanged from one week prior, when hospitals in the region had nearly **22.3%** capacity. Over the past seven days, capacity has averaged **20.5%**, compared to **20.3%** last Monday. Today's lowest hospital capacity in the region is in Manatee County, at **19.0%**. The highest capacity in the region is in Hernando County, with **33.3%** capacity. Hospital capacity has declined from a high of **43%** on April 11. The lowest daily capacity registered was **15.5%** on July 10.

Hospitalizations



**Tampa Bay Daily COVID-19 Hospitalizations and 7-Day Rolling Average
(as of August 17)**

As of today, the 7-day rolling average of daily COVID-19 hospitalizations in the eight-county region is **117.0**, up from **107.4** last Monday. This general increase runs counter to the six-week decline in positive testing rates and new cases and warrants continued vigilance and investigation.

NOTE: While this metric is not included within the official state gating criteria, it is important to watch because it reflects the severity of recently diagnosed COVID-19 cases, and the amount of pressure being applied to the region's hospital systems. For this reason, we track the daily COVID-19 hospitalizations and the 7-day rolling average.

[VIEW THE COVID-19 REGIONAL RE-OPENING DASHBOARD](#)

The COVID-19 Regional Re-Opening Dashboard uses state gating criteria as the framework to monitor specific data points related to COVID-19 symptoms, testing, new cases and hospital capacity.

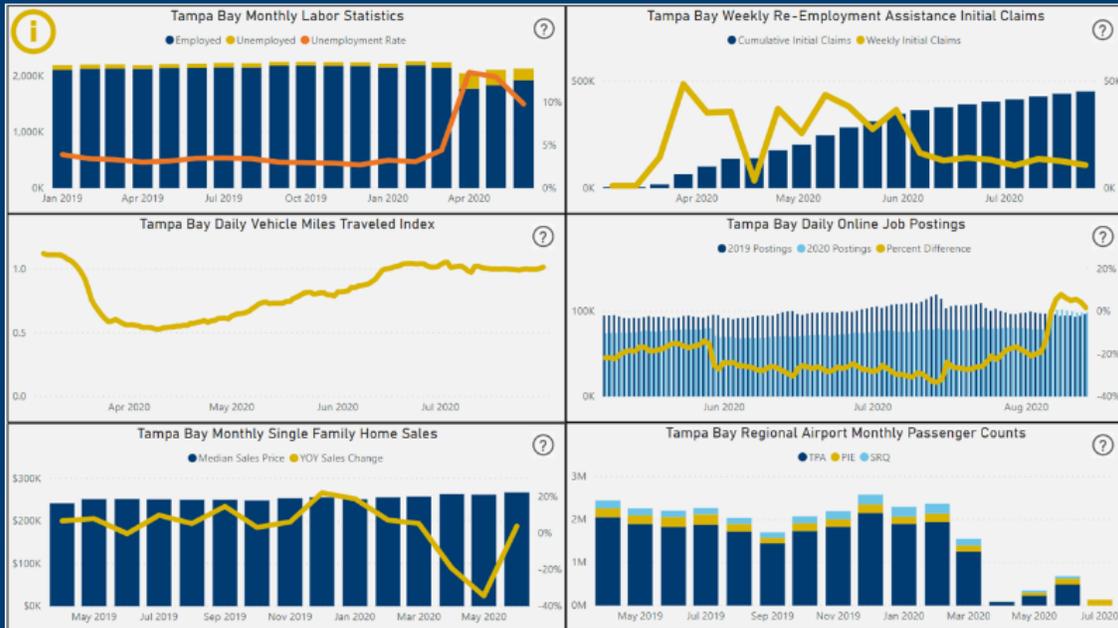
Because the dashboard provides trend lines that are updated as soon as new data is available, area policy-makers can quickly see whether the threat of the virus is decreasing or rebounding, and use that

information to make informed decisions regarding the safe re-opening of our economy.

The dashboard aggregates the data for all eight counties in the greater Tampa Bay region, to reflect the natural patterns in which we work, live and play. The data may also be sorted by the gating criteria and viewed by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or county.

COVID-19: Regional Recovery Dashboard

You can also view the latest data in the [COVID-19 Regional Recovery Dashboard](#), tracking key economic measures to navigate the region's return to



[VIEW THE COVID-19 REGIONAL RECOVERY DASHBOARD](#)

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