

March 29, 2021

DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS DATA CENTER NOTICE NO. 20-169

FROM: Job Corps Data Center

SUBJECT: Concerning Trends in COVID-19 Cases

Likely you are following the news across the country closely and this is something already on your radar. We are seeing instability in the weighted CTL and this aligns with concerning trends and concerning increases in COVID-19 cases in the U.S.

Overall, COVID-19 cases have decreased since January 2021. However, over the past week there has been a change in this and cases are starting to rise again. Some states are reporting pretty significant increases over the past 7 days- including Florida, Michigan, and New York. You can look at the CDC case data at: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailytrendscases.

On the good news side- deaths and hospitalizations are continuing to decrease across the country.

We have multiple factors potentially contributing to these trends. In general:

- Vaccines- increasing vaccination rates and the efficacy of the vaccines likely is contributing to reductions in hospitalizations and deaths.
- Spring, spring break, religious holidays, and COVID-19 fatigue – At the 1 year anniversary mark, these factors are likely contributing to individuals not following masks and distancing and starting to increase travel and gatherings.
- Community/state policy changes- loosening of mask requirements, reopening of business; increasing transmission.
- Variant strains of COVID-19 - Multiple variant strains are increasingly present across the U.S. Several strains spread more easily and some may cause more severe illness. Vaccines may be less effective against some strains.

Please continue to do what you can to support staff and students wearing masks, maintaining physical distancing, and hand-washing. Be aware, we may see some CTL changes over the next few weeks which will impact student returns. Remember our two COVID-19 related Job Corps mottos:

- VACCINATION SATURATION – Increase your efforts working to state governments to vaccinate the Job Corps community.
- AIM FOR ZERO (Close contacts outside of immediate family) – Encourage staff to engage in responsible off-campus conduct. The biggest COVID-19 risk to students are center staff.