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## Summer Surge: US COVID Cases Peak

### Description

The United States is currently facing its most substantial surge in COVID-19 cases since January. To aid public health experts in preventing outbreaks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is utilizing wastewater testing as an early warning system. Recent wastewater sample data indicates a significant regional increase in COVID-19 cases. The KP.3.1.1 variant is now responsible for nearly 37% of cases, with its related strain KP.3 following at 17%, according to the latest CDC data. Last week, data from the CDC showed that 32 states reported "very high" levels of wastewater viral activity across the country.

Despite some communities not showing symptoms, testing wastewater can reveal the presence of infectious diseases. This data can help detect potential changes in illness levels regionally. The Western states have been the most heavily impacted, followed by the Southern states, as shown in the infographic.

The CDC projects that COVID-19 infections will either increase or decrease in certain states while remaining stable in others. According to Aron Hall, the CDC's deputy director for science, COVID-19 can now be considered endemic worldwide.

The continuously evolving nature of the COVID-19 virus has led to the emergence of new variants, with the latest dominant variant being FLiRT. This variant, including subvariants KP.3, KP.3.1.1., and KP.2, has been rapidly spreading across the U.S. since spring.

Symptoms of the FLiRT variant are generally milder compared to previous variants from the pandemic. These symptoms may include fever, coughing, exhaustion, and loss of smell or taste. The severity of symptoms can vary from mild to severe and typically appear within two to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

The current situation underscores the importance of vigilance and continued monitoring to combat the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **Substantial** /səb'stænʃəl/ (adjective): Of considerable importance size or worth.
2. **Emergence** /ɪ'mɜːrdʒəns/ (noun): The process of coming into view or becoming exposed.
3. **Variants** /'væriənt/ (noun): Forms or versions of something that differ in some respect.
4. **Activity** /æk'tɪvɪti/ (noun): The condition of being active or engaging in an action.
5. **Infections** /ɪn'fekʃənz/ (noun): The invasion of the body by pathogens that can cause disease.
6. **Vigilance** /'vɪdʒɪləns/ (noun): The action or state of keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.



## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What is the current situation of COVID-19 cases in the United States?  
Option: Decreasing  
Option: Stable  
Option: Increasing  
Option: Fluctuating
2. Which variant is currently responsible for nearly 37% of COVID-19 cases in the U.S.?  
Option: KP.3  
Option: KP.3.1.1  
Option: KP.2  
Option: FLirT
3. Why is the CDC utilizing wastewater testing?  
Option: For entertainment purposes  
Option: As an early warning system  
Option: To increase water quality  
Option: To test new equipment
4. Which region in the U.S. has been most heavily impacted by COVID-19?  
Option: Western states  
Option: Eastern states  
Option: Northern states  
Option: Southern states
5. What is the latest dominant variant of the COVID-19 virus?  
Option: FLirT  
Option: KP.5  
Option: Theta  
Option: Epsilon
6. What symptoms can be associated with the FLirT variant of COVID-19?  
Option: Headache sore throat muscle pain  
Option: Fever coughing exhaustion



Option: Vomiting dizziness joint pain

Option: None of the above

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Increasing 2. KP.3.1.1 3. As an early warning system 4. Western states 5. FLIRT 6. Fever coughing exhaustion

## Vocabulary quizzes

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. What are different forms of a virus called?

Option: A. Mutations

Option: B. Adaptations

Option: C. Variants

Option: D. Transformations

2. What can arise as a result of untreated medical conditions?

Option: A. Complications

Option: B. Symptoms

Option: C. Recoveries

Option: D. Diagnoses

3. What term describes something that is harmful or damaging?

Option: A. Detrimental

Option: B. Beneficial

Option: C. Neutral

Option: D. Supportive

4. What word best describes actions taken in advance to prevent issues?

Option: A. Proactive

Option: B. Reactive

Option: C. Passive

Option: D. Inactive

5. If something is widespread or commonly occurring it is described as being:

Option: A. Rare

Option: B. Uncommon

Option: C. Prevalent



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Option: D. Isolated

6. What term refers to the act of interfering with a situation to modify its outcome?

- Option: A. Noninterference
- Option: B. Intervention
- Option: C. Abstinence
- Option: D. Omission

7. What characteristic describes the ease with which a disease can be transmitted from one person to another?

- Option: A. Infectiousness
- Option: B. Contagiousness
- Option: C. Treatment
- Option: D. Prevention

8. What term refers to the brain's ability to change and adapt over time?

- Option: A. Solidity
- Option: B. Rigidity
- Option: C. Plasticity
- Option: D. Stability

9. Which word is used to describe individuals or entities that initiate new developments or ideas?

- Option: A. Following
- Option: B. Pioneering
- Option: C. Traditional
- Option: D. Conventional

10. What term describes the state of being active or in motion?

- Option: A. Passivity
- Option: B. Activity
- Option: C. Stagnation
- Option: D. Restfulness

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The doctor noted an \_\_\_\_\_ heart rate in the patient.

12. Airport security emphasized the need for constant \_\_\_\_\_ in detecting potential threats.



13. The successful \_\_\_\_\_ of the new software system greatly improved efficiency.
14. The company recorded a \_\_\_\_\_ increase in profits this quarter.
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ procedure required a longer recovery time for the patient.
16. The artist created a \_\_\_\_\_ painting with vibrant colors and abstract shapes.
17. The doctor explained the strong \_\_\_\_\_ between smoking and lung cancer.
18. The IT department upgraded the company's computer \_\_\_\_\_ to improve connectivity.
19. The sudden \_\_\_\_\_ of the new technology took the market by storm.
20. Only authorized personnel were granted \_\_\_\_\_ into the restricted area.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. Regular exercise is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
22. The doctor prescribed antibiotics to treat the bacterial .
23. The security guard remained throughout the night patrol.
24. The professor's research focused on the processes involved in decision-making.
25. The spa offered a range of treatments to help guests relax and rejuvenate.
26. The scientist's discovery was hailed as a advancement in the field of medicine.
27. People infected with the virus may remain and unknowingly spread the disease.
28. The new technology has the potential to traditional business models.
29. Health officials are monitoring the of the influenza virus in the community.
30. Skipping breakfast can have effects on one's metabolism.



## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. A. Mutations 2. A. Complications 3. A. Detrimental 4. A. Proactive 5. C. Prevalent  
6. B. Intervention 7. B. Contagiousness 8. C. Plasticity 9. B. Pioneering 10. B. Activity

**Gap-Fill:** 11. elevated 12. vigilance 13. implementation 14. substantial 15. invasive 16. psychedelic  
17. association 18. network 19. emergence 20. admittance

**Matching sentence:** 1. Activity 2. Infections 3. Vigilant 4. Cognitive 5. Therapeutic 6. Groundbreaking  
7. Asymptomatic 8. Disrupt 9. Prevalence 10. Detrimental

## CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

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