

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **BIDEN'S PANDEMIC PLAN**

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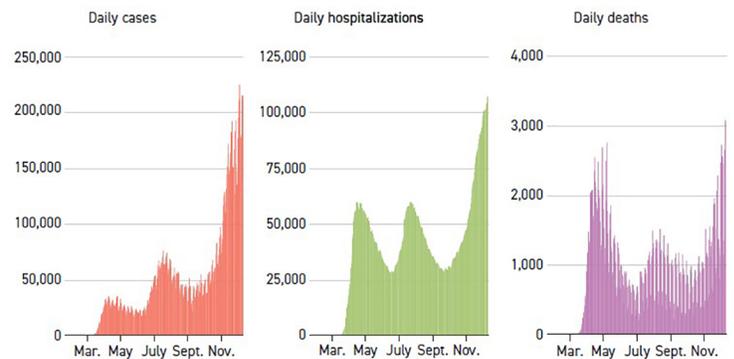
HOW WE GOT HERE

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The Thanksgiving surge that public health officials feared is now a reality. While millions of people are expected to receive their first Covid-19 vaccine in the coming weeks, the country isn't likely to reach herd immunity for several more months. Simple public health measures such as masks could reduce the number of deaths during that time, but the politics around the virus and its response make that unlikely. Instead, a pandemic-weary public will likely travel for Christmas, and those indoor gatherings across the country could spark a fresh wave of infections.

On Dec. 11, numbers topped nearly 235,000 new cases and 3,000 new deaths

Joe Biden will take the reins of government as coronavirus surges across the nation. While vaccinations have begun, it will take months to inoculate enough people to achieve herd immunity and contain the virus. Covid-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths show no signs of slowing down.



Source: The COVID-19 Tracking Project

WHAT'S NEXT

VACCINES

Biden will oversee the largest mass vaccination effort in U.S. history. Although the Trump administration has already set distribution in motion, the complex task of combating vaccine hesitancy, reaching underserved communities and immunizing rural areas will largely come under the Biden administration.

CONTACT TRACING

Biden has pledged to bolster contact tracing work by creating a federal public health corps of at least 100,000 workers to assist in tracking the spread of the disease. The plan also seeks to combat widespread mistrust of the practice by hiring members of minority and underserved populations to do "culturally competent" outreach in their own communities. Public health leaders are calling on the corps to be made permanent and deployed to work on other infectious diseases once the pandemic is over.

MASKS

Biden is asking Americans to wear masks for the first 100 days of his term, a move he is framing as a civic duty and an "easy start" to slowing the spread of the virus while vaccines are rolling out across the country. "It's the easiest thing you can do to reduce Covid cases, hospitalizations, and death," Biden said in December. "It's not a political statement. It's a patriotic act."

THE FIRST 100 DAYS AND BEYOND, COVERED.

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