PMC U.S. COVID-19 Report for August 17, 2026. pmc19.com

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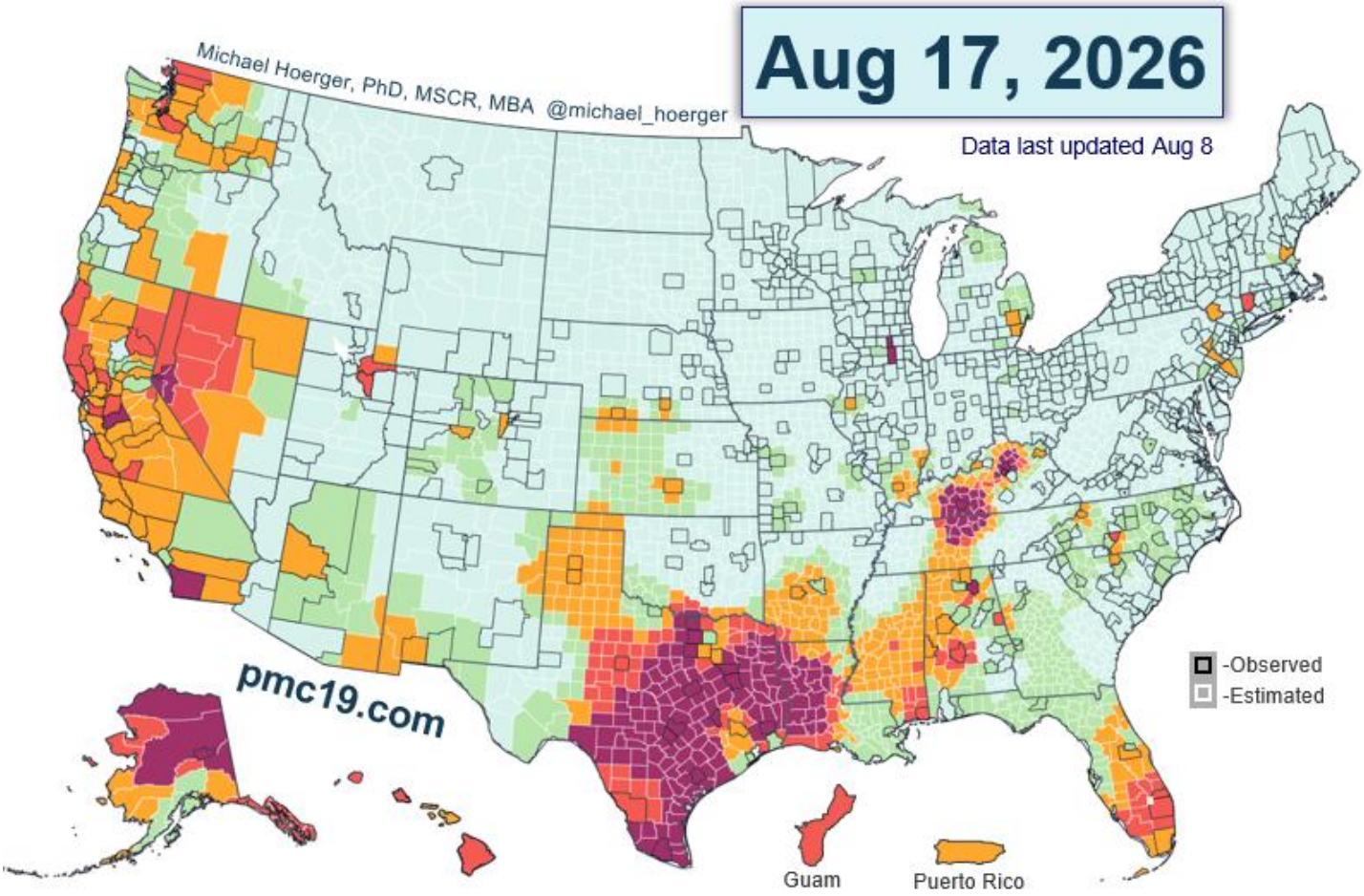
Note: This week's report was posted early; subsequent updates on Aug 17 are noted in red.



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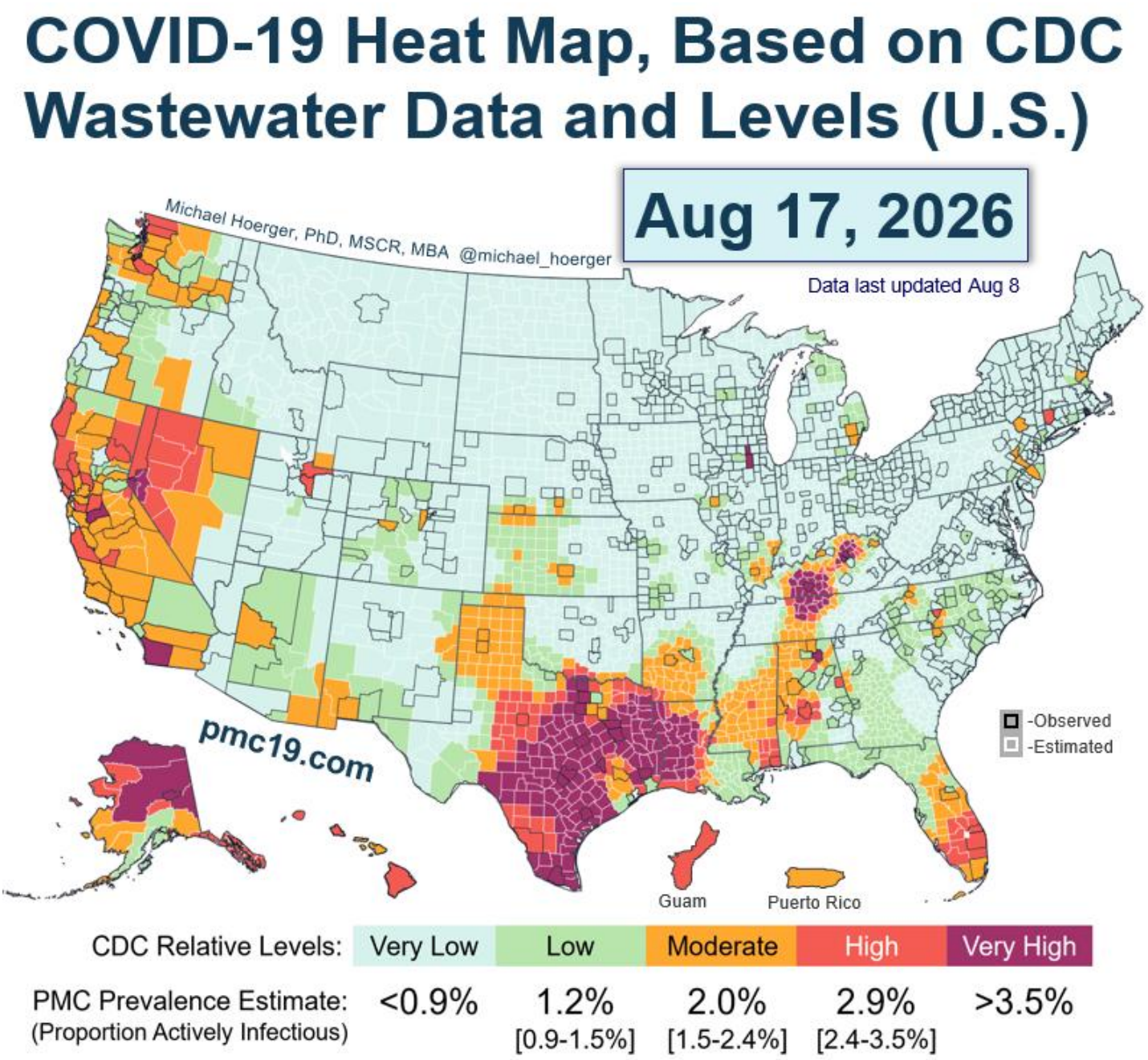
Announcements

Data Quality

- The CDC (80% model weight) reported this week. Biobot (20% model weight) also reported.
- There are major reporting irregularities in Texas. Of the 19 sites online this week, 3 (16%) reported with high/very high levels. **Of the 20 Texas sites offline this week that have reported data for last week, 18 (90%) report high/very high levels, with 16 (80%) reporting very high levels.** The reason why high and very high sites are disproportionately offline this week is unknown. This creates a major discrepancy between the PMC and CDC maps. If carrying forward last week's data for the offline sites, the CDC would place Texas in their "high" category, with 21 of 39 sites at high/very high levels (54%), and just below the threshhold for "very high" (17/39, 44%). Houston was previously a leader in wastewater monitoring with 8 sites but has not reported any data the past two updates.
- Note, the CDC abruptly changed how they link numeric levels to category labels, without flagging or explaining the change, generally downplaying transmission (pmc19.com/bluewashing.mp4). We continue to use their pre-Aug 14 methodology, unless otherwise noted.



The US has 15 states/territories with COVID outbreaks, characterized by one or multiple counties at high to very high levels. The largest waves are in California, Texas, Alaska, Hawai'i, and Guam. Washington, Nevada, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, and Florida are experiencing regional outbreaks. Finally, there are isolated hot spots in north central Utah (Summit/Wasatch), north central Illinois (Boone/DeKalb), central North Carolina (Cabarrus), and northwest Connecticut (Litchfield).

COVID-19 State Prevalence Estimates

pmc19.com

Aug 17, 2026

State	CDC Level	PMC Estimate, % Actively Infectious	Chances anyone is infectious in a room of 10 to 100 people			
			10	25	50	100
Alabama	Low	1 in 73 (1.4%)	13%	29%	50%	75%
Alaska	Low	1 in 61 (1.6%)	15%	34%	56%	81%
Arizona	Very Low	1 in 92 (1.1%)	10%	24%	42%	66%
Arkansas	Very Low*	1 in 90 (1.1%)	11%	24%	43%	67%
California	Low	1 in 49 (2.0%)	18%	40%	64%	87%
Colorado	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Connecticut	Very Low	1 in 200 (0.5%)	5%	12%	22%	39%
Delaware	Very Low	1 in 211 (0.5%)	5%	11%	21%	38%
District of Columbia	Very Low	1 in 258 (0.4%)	4%	9%	18%	32%
Florida	Low	1 in 65 (1.5%)	14%	32%	54%	79%
Georgia	Low	1 in 80 (1.3%)	12%	27%	47%	72%
Guam	Moderate	1 in 40 (2.5%)	22%	46%	71%	92%
Hawaii	Moderate	1 in 36 (2.8%)	25%	50%	75%	94%
Idaho	Very Low	1 in 142 (0.7%)	7%	16%	30%	51%
Illinois	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Indiana	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Iowa	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Kansas	Very Low	1 in 157 (0.6%)	6%	15%	27%	47%
Kentucky	Very Low	1 in 171 (0.6%)	6%	14%	25%	44%
Louisiana	Very Low	1 in 97 (1.0%)	10%	23%	40%	65%
Maine	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Maryland	Very Low	1 in 229 (0.4%)	4%	10%	20%	35%
Massachusetts	Very Low	1 in 444 (0.2%)	2%	5%	11%	20%
Michigan	Very Low	1 in 162 (0.6%)	6%	14%	27%	46%
Minnesota	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Mississippi	Moderate*	1 in 31 (3.2%)	28%	56%	80%	96%

* Limited data reporting

Data last updated Aug 8

Note. The levels in this table (e.g., low) auto-populated from the CDC database and use their new classifications, which are artificially low. All other statistics and labels use their pre-Aug 14 descriptors.

COVID-19 State Prevalence Estimates

pmc19.com

Aug 17, 2026

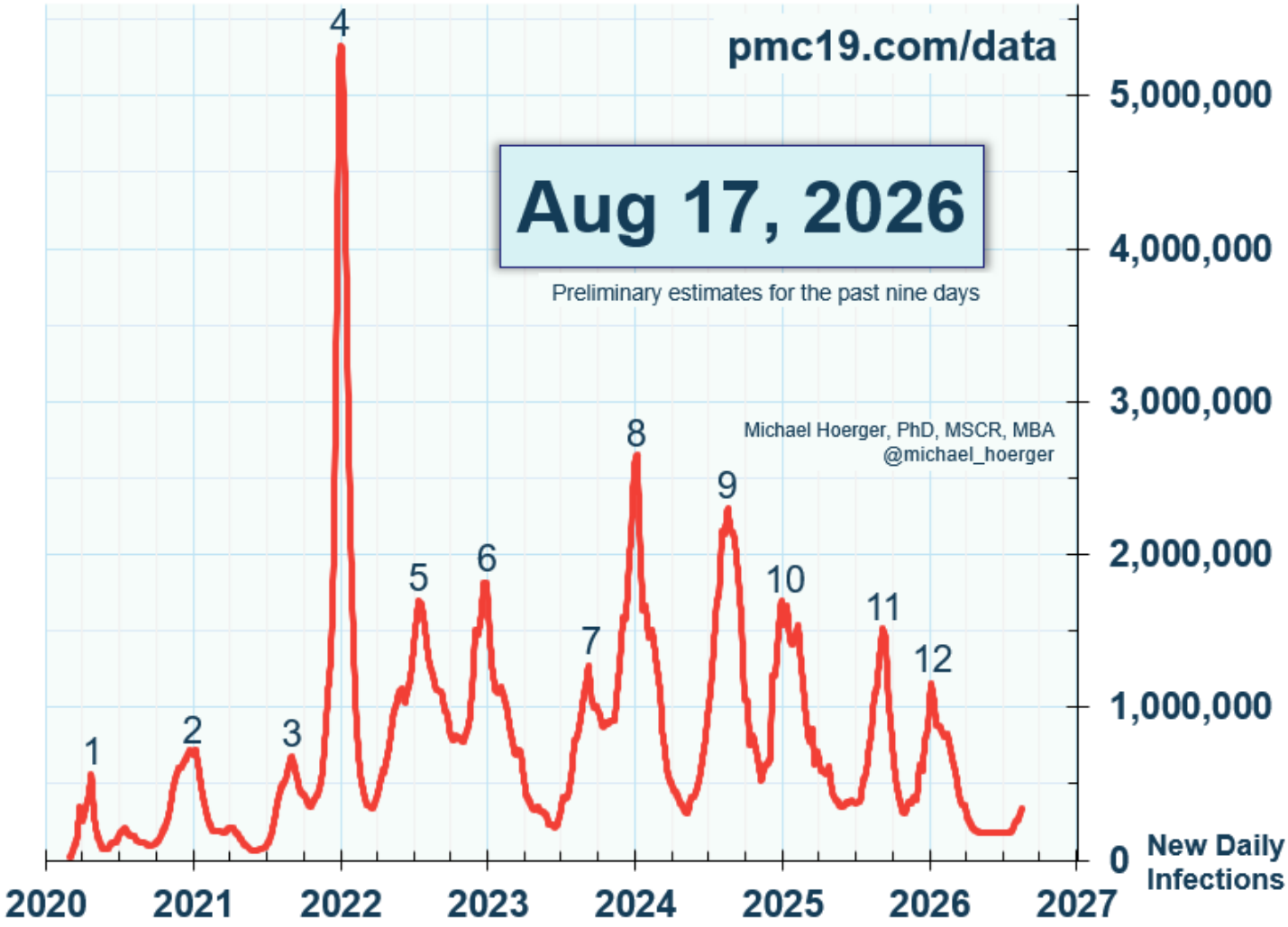
State	CDC Level	PMC Estimate, % Actively Infectious	Chances anyone is infectious in a room of 10 to 100 people			
			10	25	50	100
Missouri	Very Low	1 in 150 (0.7%)	6%	15%	28%	49%
Montana	Very Low*	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Nebraska	Very Low	1 in 292 (0.3%)	3%	8%	16%	29%
Nevada	Low	1 in 56 (1.8%)	16%	36%	59%	83%
New Hampshire	Very Low*	1 in 246 (0.4%)	4%	10%	18%	33%
New Jersey	Very Low	1 in 195 (0.5%)	5%	12%	23%	40%
New Mexico	Very Low	1 in 155 (0.6%)	6%	15%	28%	48%
New York	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
North Carolina	Very Low	1 in 94 (1.1%)	10%	23%	41%	66%
North Dakota	Very Low*	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Ohio	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Oklahoma	Very Low*	1 in 321 (0.3%)	3%	7%	14%	27%
Oregon	Low	1 in 75 (1.3%)	13%	28%	49%	74%
Pennsylvania	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Puerto Rico	Moderate*	1 in 58 (1.7%)	16%	35%	58%	82%
Rhode Island	Very Low	1 in 281 (0.4%)	4%	9%	16%	30%
South Carolina	Very Low*	1 in 120 (0.8%)	8%	19%	34%	57%
South Dakota	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Tennessee	Very Low	1 in 176 (0.6%)	6%	13%	25%	43%
Texas	Low	1 in 50 (2.0%)	18%	40%	64%	87%
Utah	Very Low	1 in 180 (0.6%)	5%	13%	24%	43%
Vermont	Very Low	1 in 267 (0.4%)	4%	9%	17%	31%
Virginia	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Washington	Low	1 in 55 (1.8%)	17%	37%	60%	84%
West Virginia	Very Low	1 in 139 (0.7%)	7%	17%	30%	52%
Wisconsin	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Wyoming	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%

* Limited reporting; ND averages MN, MT, SD; PR from PR dashboard

Data last updated Aug 8

Note. The levels in this table (e.g., low) auto-populated from the CDC database and use their new classifications, which are artificially low. All other statistics and labels use their pre-Aug 14 descriptors.

SARS-CoV-2 New Daily Infections, Wastewater-Derived Estimates (U.S.)



PMC identifies **12** SARS-CoV-2 waves and estimates averages of **5.4** infections per person and **14.4** months between infections.

National COVID-19 Estimates (U.S.)

Aug 17, 2026 pmc19.com

Infections

Proportion Actively Infectious	1 in 144 (0.7%)
New Daily Infections	340,000
Infections the Past Week	2,200,000
Infections in 2026	94,000,000
Cumulative Infections per Person	5.37

Long COVID

Long COVID Cases Resulting from New Daily Infections	17,000 to 68,000
Long COVID Cases Resulting from New Weekly Infections	110,000 to 440,000

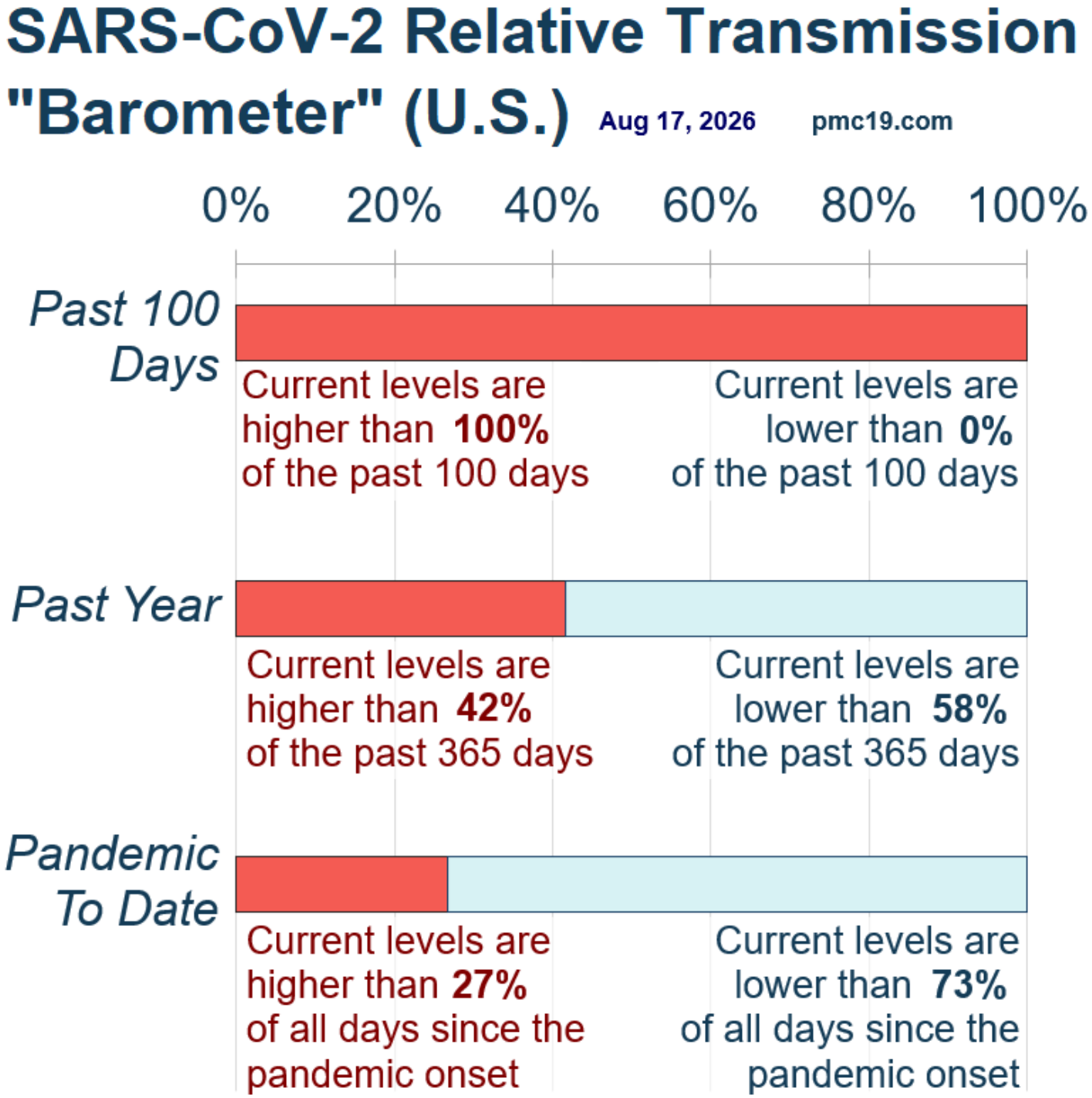
Excess Deaths

Excess Deaths Resulting from New Daily Infections	80 to 150
Excess Deaths Resulting from New Weekly Infections	500 to 1,000

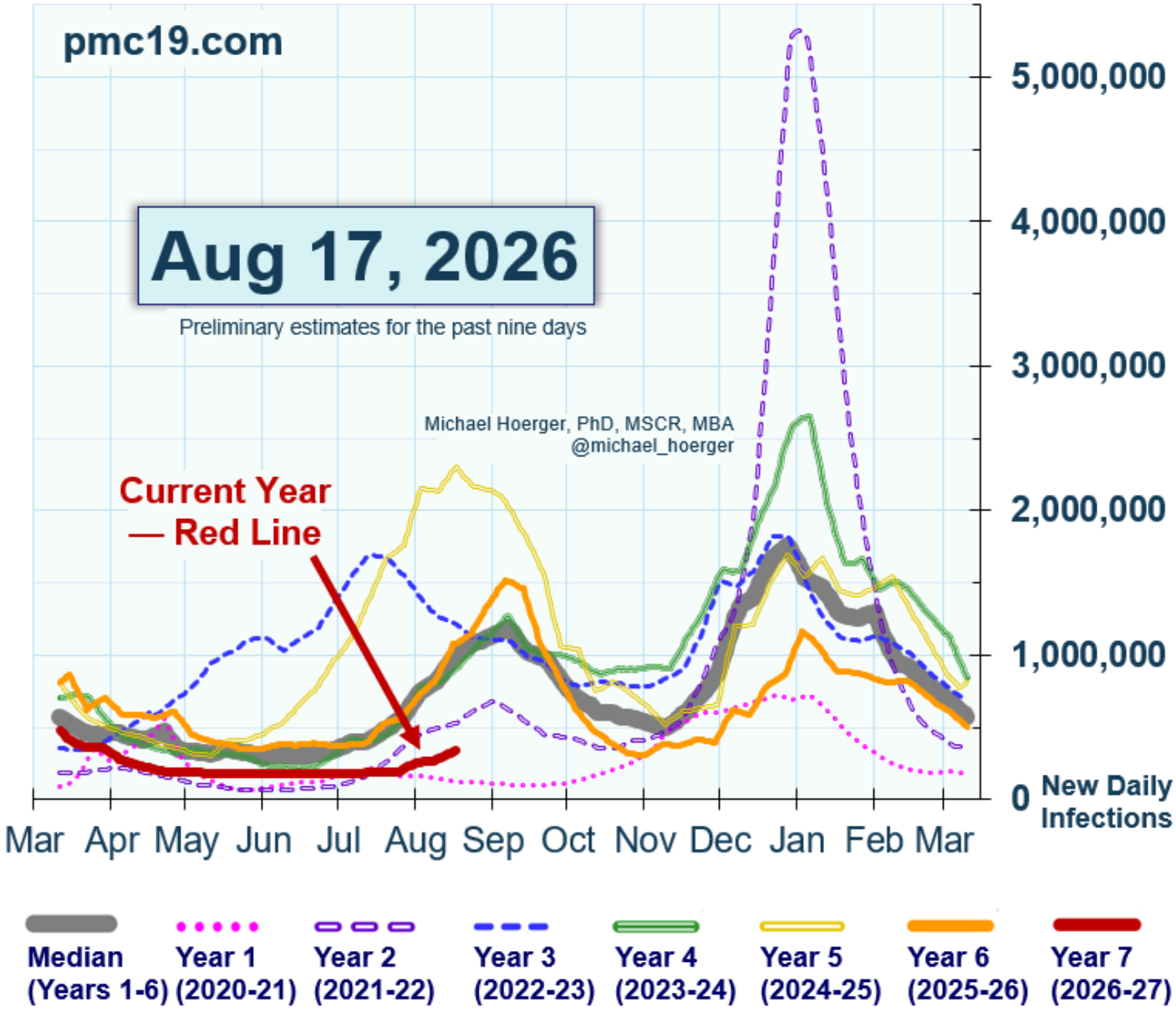
National COVID-19 Risk Table (U.S.)

Aug 17, 2026 **pmc19.com**

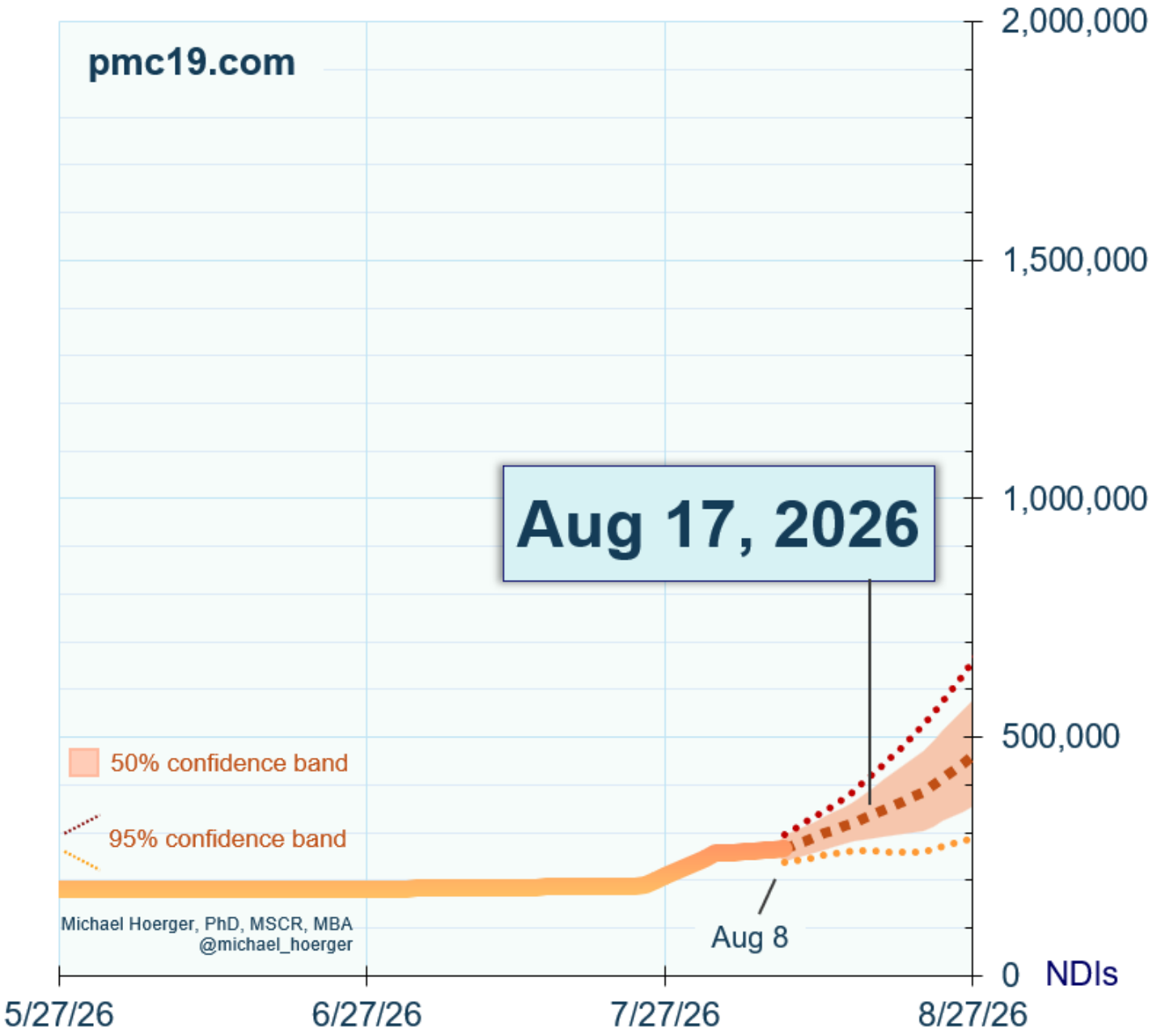
Number of People	Chances Anyone is Infectious
1	0.7%
2	1.4%
3	2.1%
4	2.7%
5	3.4%
10	6.7%
15	9.9%
20	13.0%
25	15.9%
30	18.8%
50	29.3%
75	40.6%
100	50.1%
200	75.1%
300	87.6%


SARS-CoV-2 Relative Transmission "Barometer" (U.S.)
Aug 17, 2026
pmc19.com
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
Past 100 Days
Current levels are higher than 100% of the past 100 days
Current levels are lower than 0% of the past 100 days
Past Year
Current levels are higher than 42% of the past 365 days
Current levels are lower than 58% of the past 365 days
Pandemic To Date
Current levels are higher than 27% of all days since the pandemic onset
Current levels are lower than 73% of all days since the pandemic onset

SARS-CoV-2 Year-Over-Year Estimates of Transmission (U.S.)



SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Forecast, Wastewater-Derived Estimates (U.S.)



A separate document called a Technical Appendix appears on the dashboard page and has more methodologic info. Search for key answers there first, and then send a public comment tagging Dr. H. on Twitter if further help is needed.