Pandemic Update

The President of the United States has contracted Covid twice, and there are reports of monkeypox outbreaks around the country. Are we entering a new phase of multiple pandemics?

You can check out your own community’s Covid case rate and number of deaths on the CDC website (*<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker>*), which will give you a localized version of the chart shown here for the entire U.S. The chart shows that there appears to be a mild spike of Covid cases around the country, currently, but the death rate from these cases is much lower than it was early in the pandemic. The disease seems to be getting milder with each new strain.

What about Monkeypox? The CDC also tracks these cases around the country (*<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/us-map.html>*), but here the numbers are far lower than the breathless reports in the press would indicate. Total cases amounts, currently, to 5,189, and more than 2,000 of these have taken place in New York and California. The fatality rate is low—3% to 6%—and the more common experience is fever, rash on the hands, feet and face, headaches and swollen lymph nodes that can last for up to two weeks. There are vaccines, but they are in limited supply at the moment; if the disease spreads more rapidly, then we will be advised to go to the local pharmacy to get yet another jab.