Mississippi's case and death totals since our statewide mask mandate ended have risen 86% and 43% respectively. For the same period, White cases and deaths have outpaced Black cases and deaths by 72% and 68% respectively. Total White cases and deaths lead Black cases and deaths for the same period for the second month.

Mississippi has added 85,110 cases, an 86% increase since its statewide mask mandate ended on September 30. White cases and deaths continue to outpace Black cases and deaths for this period due to reduced White use of masks and social distancing. Daily Beast. Since the mask mandate ended, usage rates have risen for hospitalizations (156%), intensive care units (120%), and ventilators (177%). Data is derived from Mississippi Department of Health data. For the past week, the state’s percent positive test rate stands at 22%, eighth highest in the nation. Washington Post.

Rural mostly white counties continue to have the highest rates of new infections. Clusters include higher education, prisons, and other facilities, but there is no data on meat packing facilities. Daily Beast.

Mississippi is 2nd in cases and deaths per capita in the Deep South. It now is 4th in tests in the Deep South behind all but Alabama. Washington Post.

Whites now lead Blacks in total cases and deaths and the disparities continue to narrow. For Black Mississippians, cases and deaths are 11% and 18% higher respectively than the Black share of the state’s population. For Whites, cases and deaths are 12% and 14% lower than the White share of the state’s population. For both groups the disparities have reduced since the mask mandate was ended.

Mississippi is 47th in the nation in daily testing for coronavirus, with 2,866 tests per million, below the national average of 5,700. Kaiser Family Foundation. The state’s cumulative percent positivity rate is 14%, double the national average of 7.3%. Mayo Clinic.

For MCJ’s legal response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit our COVID page.