

Coronavirus pandemic

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## US braces for 'fifth wave' of Covid on eve of Thanksgiving

Health officials warn of surge in infections as millions of Americans travel for the holiday



Twenty months into a pandemic that has claimed almost 770,000 American lives and nearly a year after Covid-19 vaccinations became available, US health experts warn that a fifth wave of infections risks overwhelming health systems in the worst-affected states.

Fears of another [surge](#) in infections come on the cusp of the Thanksgiving holiday, when tens of millions of Americans will travel to reconnect with their families, some of them for the first time since the start of the [pandemic](#).

But what was expected to be a celebration has become fraught with danger in some Midwestern states, where vaccination rates are low and Covid-19 cases are rising rapidly after a summer lull.



Nationally, cases have increased by nearly 30 per cent since the beginning of the month to a high of 28 cases per 100,000 people, below the January 2021 peak of about 75 cases per 100,000 people.