

Excerpts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and trusted national media sources from the week of June 22, 2020:

Cases across the US are up 15% in the past 2 weeks. California documented 4,515 new cases on Sunday—marking its highest daily increase in infections since March. **Missouri and Oklahoma** broke single day records. Overall, 12 states reported that Sunday saw new highs in their new case average over the previous week.

The worrying surge of cases in the US comes as the WHO warned of a record increase in global coronavirus cases on Sunday—the total rose by 183,000 in 24 hours. [WHO numbers](#) show North and South America were responsible for most of the spike with 116,000 new cases.

Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University School of Medicine professor of preventive medicine and an infectious disease doctor, said the recent surge in warm-weather states has rekindled fears the disease trajectory, flattened by aggressive social distancing in March and April, is beginning to rise again.

But unlike the initial deadly wave, concentrated in large cities such as New York and Chicago, **recent cases are moving from metro regions to smaller cities and rural communities.**

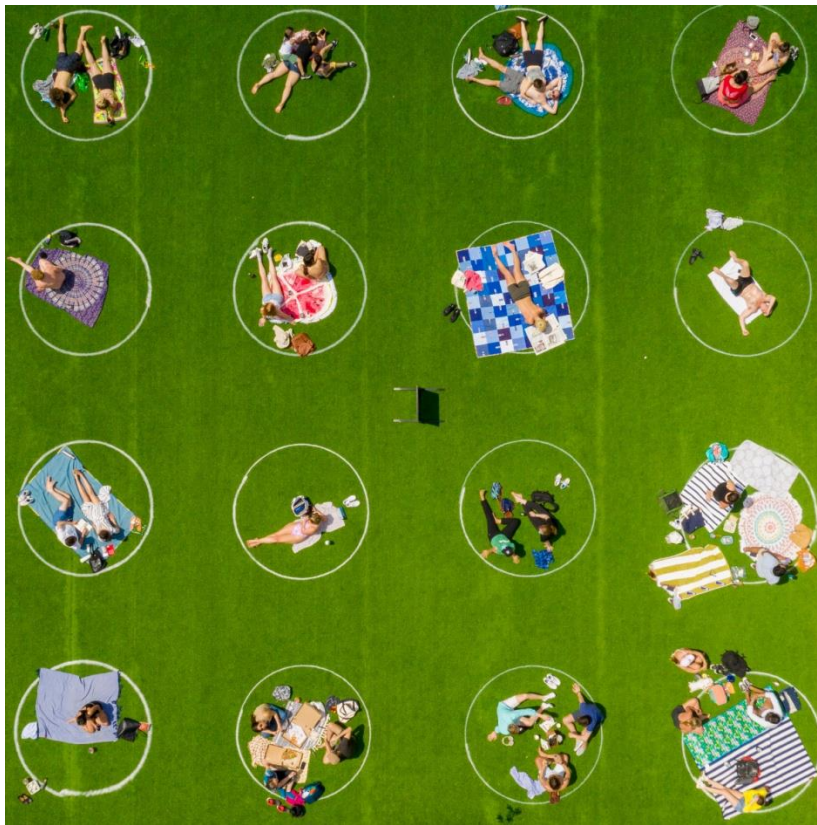
"There were many of us who were cautiously hopeful that COVID-19 would not be transmitted as readily during the warm, humid summer months, akin to influenza," Schaffner said. "It doesn't seem to be impeded at all. It's steaming ahead and we have literally grave concerns about a second wave, which could be very impactful."

He said the virus has reached smaller communities where social distancing and mask-wearing is less socially acceptable, "...it could be substantially greater than anything we have seen so far."

Given that information, it's critical that we in Kansas, Rice County, Lyons, etc. recommit to protecting our families and friends by following the incredibly simple guidelines of wearing masks when around others, enforcing social distancing (SD), and washing or hands to the level of health care professionals.

Here are some ideas to use—not *consider*, not *recommend*, but *use* all the time, and especially during public events like the 4th of July celebrations:

New York City has created SD circles in parks to allow folks to enjoy being out and still staying relatively safe—a fairly easy option, and with masks, a great way to enjoy the show.



Another consideration is what the military academies have done this year: create a sitting area with all chairs six feet apart in all directions. If you look closely, you'll see every Air Force graduate seated is wearing a mask 😊.



So, this summer, try not to kill anyone. “The life you save may be your own.”

