

COVID-19 Statistical Review

Today's Analysis: Data from March 17, 2021

Deaths were down nicely, while cases were up for the first time in twenty days. The increase was from a combination of high testing and a reporting anomaly in New York State.

As the numbers continue to fall, it is time to remind ourselves of the difference between a 'pandemic' and a disease that is 'endemic' A pandemic is a disease that is a threat to the fabric of society, killing and maiming enough people, overwhelming medical treatment, social structures, and economic structures. It spreads widely, quickly and causes suffering with no apparent remedy. An endemic disease is one that regularly occurs in a population. Importantly its regularity connotes a low degree of lethality because a high degree would exhaust the population of targets, ending the threat.

We thought a year ago that the SARS-COV-2 virus had started a pandemic of catastrophic immune reactions we call COVID-19. The virus spread quickly across the globe and appeared to have catastrophic lethality. We couldn't stop its spread nor save its victims. Thus alarmed, we shut down many forms of human activity, the pandemic's threat apparently justifying the grievous damage from the shutdowns. People felt like urban Europeans during the black death of the late Middle Ages.

Since then, we have discovered several things. First, the virus has continued to spread, to the point that most Americans have been exposed, with perhaps a third infected. Second, despite the frenzied advice of the CDC and the severe responses of state governors, there is no evidence that any human intervention can practically retard the spread. Yes, complete isolation might work. It is also a laughable impossibility. Meanwhile, the partial solutions have proven next to useless and burdensome on the population. This fact is, in itself, enough to end restrictions. Why do something that has demonstrated negative results if it doesn't work as advertised? However, the other big learning is that the virus has proven to be only modestly more lethal than the flu cases that are an endemic part of our viral environment. We are learning that our immune systems work for SARS-COV-2 just as evolution designed them to. My prime garden plant suppliers' entire family was infected, just as it might be from the normal flu. None suffered more than 'normal' discomfort. Moreover, the vaccines apparently lower the risk even more. Finally, a year's history suggests that we will be dealing with this particular flu strain for several years until it inevitably mutates itself into history. We justified the original lockdowns as a temporary sacrifice - until the problem went away. After a year, we see that the problem remains, just that it is much less severe than we thought and that the sacrifices have had little value.

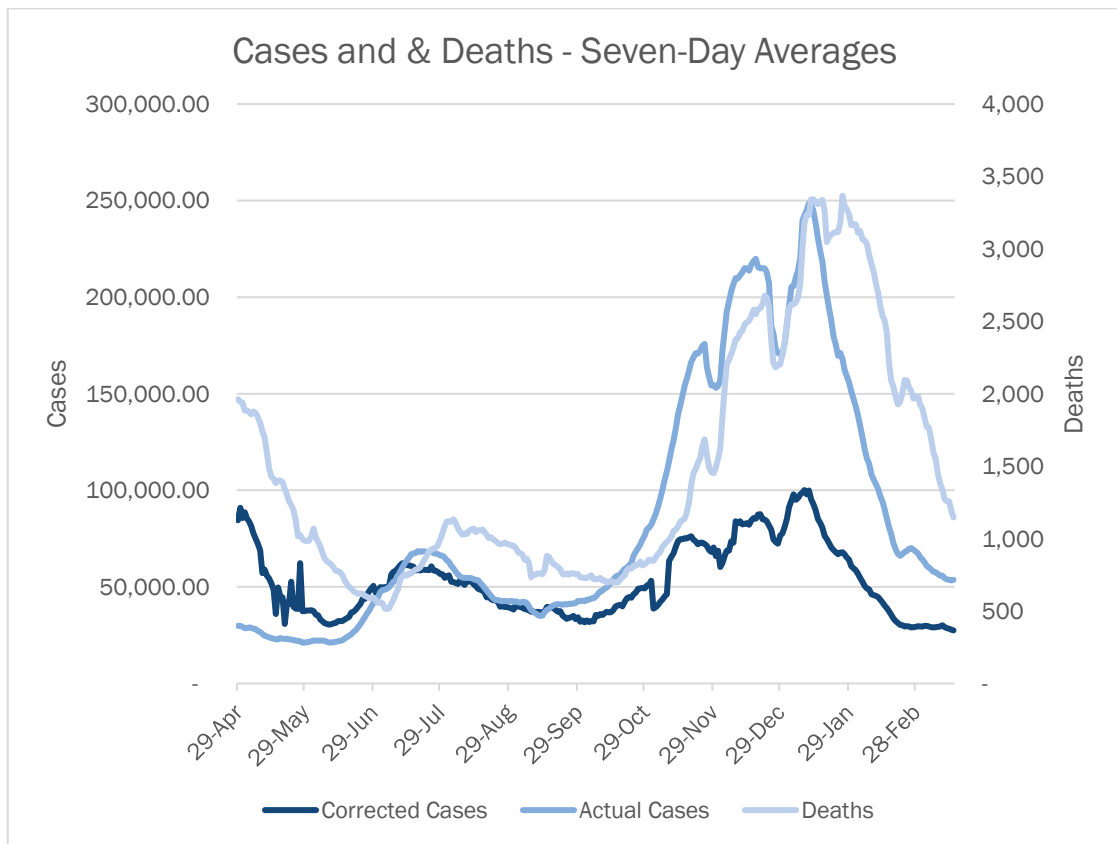
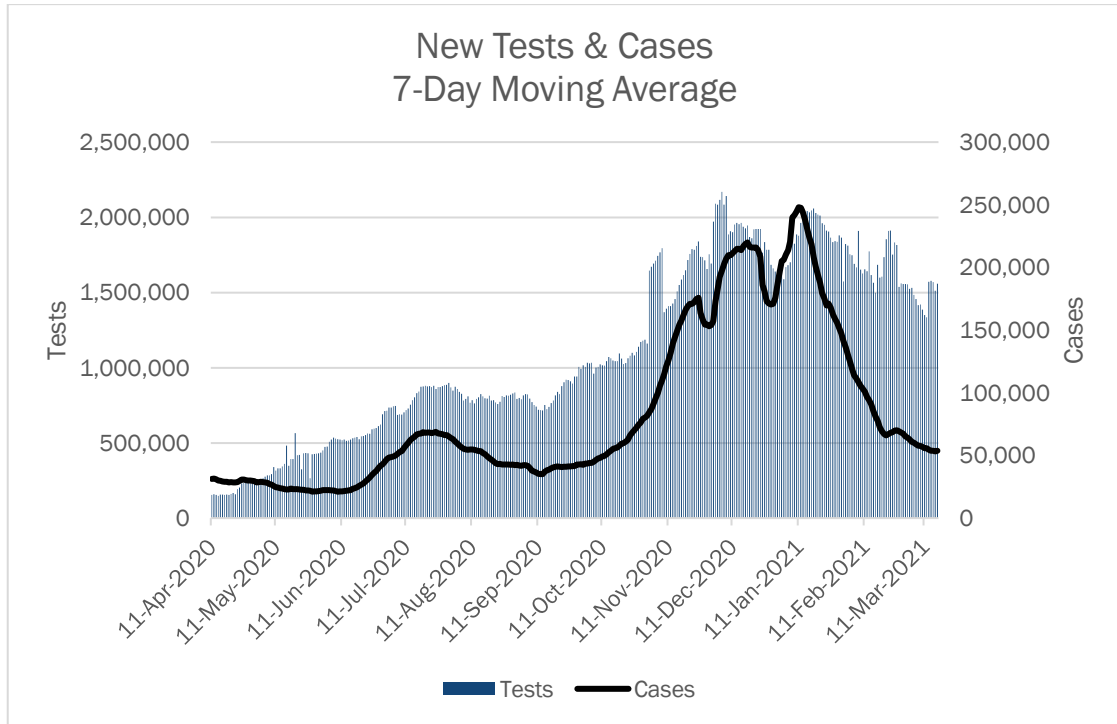
My conclusion? We have a new virus that has become a 'regular' part of our environment, regular enough to produce widespread fatalities among the especially vulnerable, but being apparently tolerated by the majority of the population. COVID-19 is endemic, part of regular life. It is not a pandemic. Put another way: It is improbable that SARS-COV-2 will disappear in 2021 or even 2022. There will be no absolute victory over this thing. Does this mean we will wear masks, avoid groups, and give up travel for the foreseeable future – no Broadway shows, rock

concerts, Orchestra seats, sunsets on the beach, or hugging Grandma until 2023 or beyond? Logic says “no”, as does the behavior of a growing majority of Americans. It is clearly time for us to reframe our understanding of this virus, from an existential threat to a normal, albeit troubling endemic disease.

Accordingly, this will be the last of my daily COVID-19 reports. I, for one, am not going to be staying late every night worrying the statistics on an endemic virus for the next three years. One year is enough. I will keep an eye on the stats and will give an update occasionally, particularly if events prove our understanding of the virus wrong. But in the meantime, please join me in resuming our regular lives.

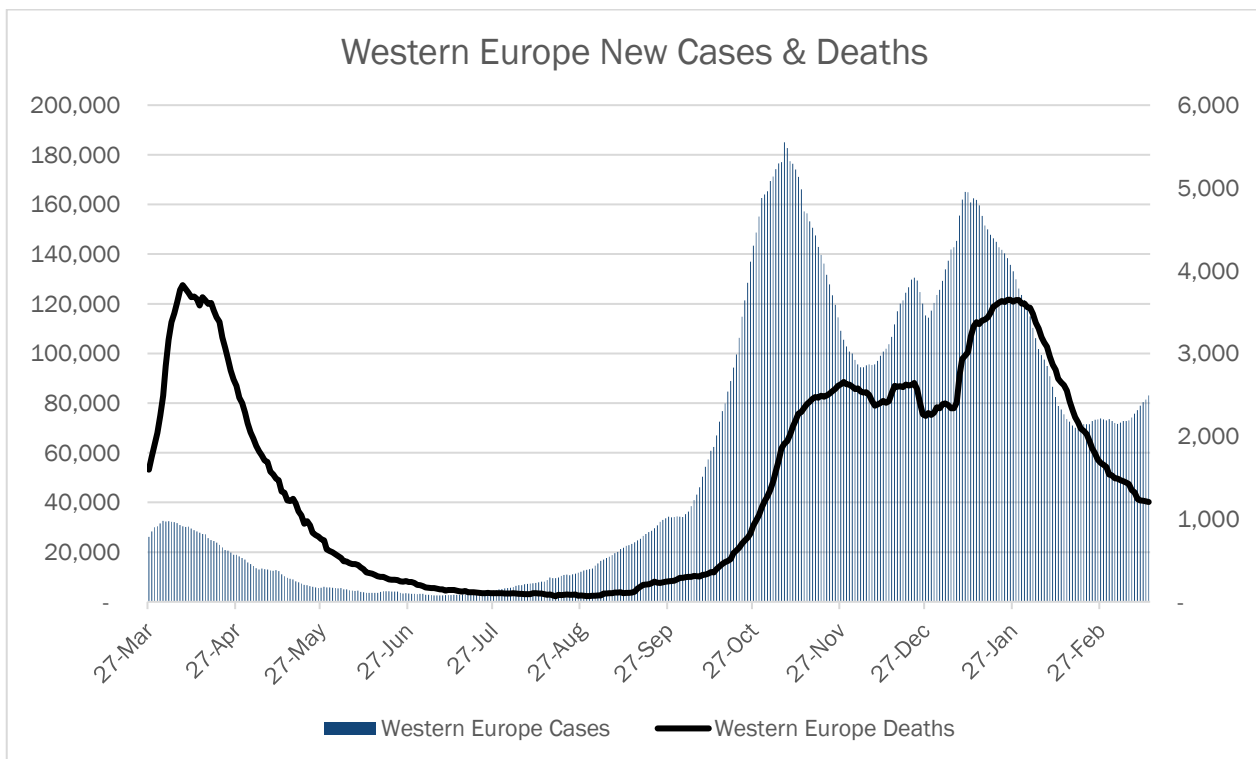
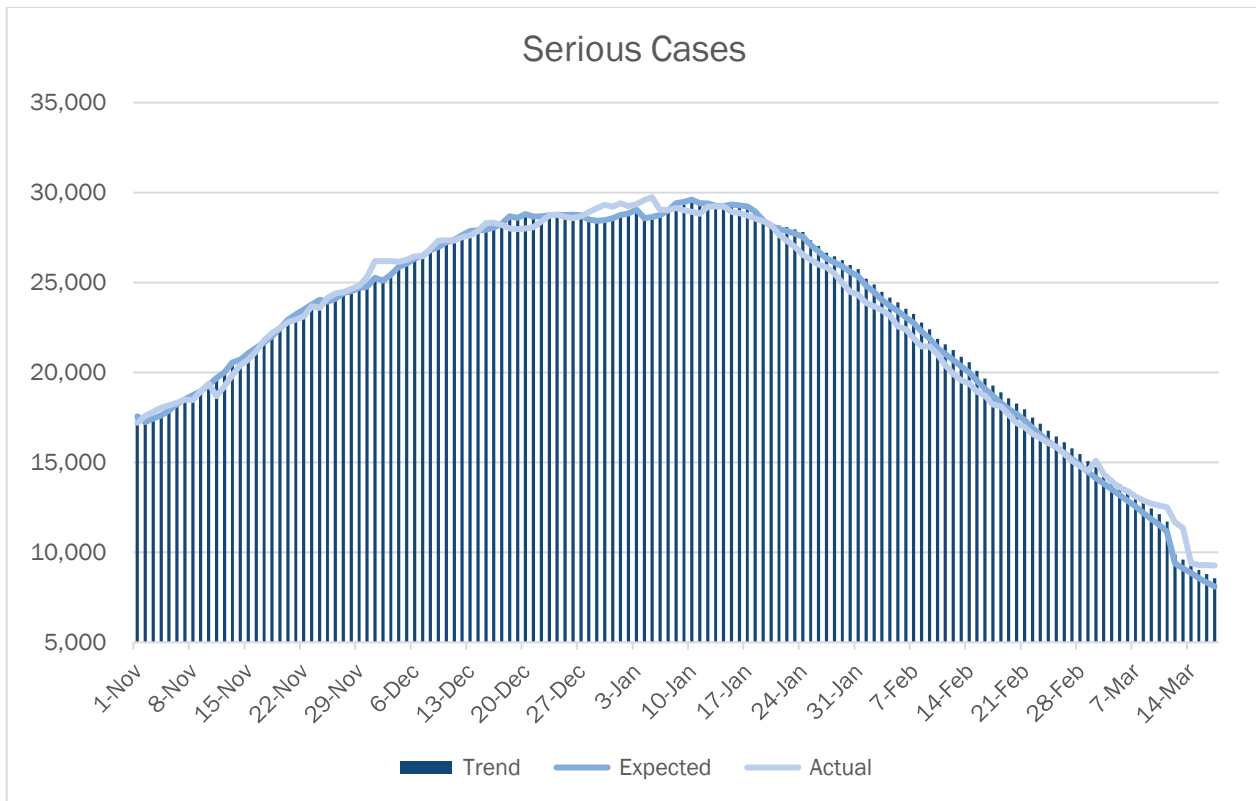
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Exhibit 1



Source: *Worldometer.com, Transport Futures*

Exhibit 2.



Source: Worldometer.com, Transport Futures

Exhibit 3.

		International Data For					17-Mar					
Country	Status	Cases	Deaths	Death Rate	Pop per case	Pop per death	New Cases Latest Day	New Deaths Latest Day	Change In New Case Count Latest Day	Change In New Case Count From Week Before	Change in New Death Count Latest Day	Change in New Death Count From Week Ago
China	Recovery	90,066	4,636	5.1%	15,873	333,333	4	-	(9)	(1)	0	0
S. Korea	Recovery	96,849	1,686	1.7%	530	30,303	469	8	106	(1)	5	5
Italy	Rising	3,281,810	103,432	3.2%	18	584	23,059	431	2,663	650	-71	99
Iran	Falling	1,771,115	61,492	3.5%	48	1,377	7,802	65	(578)	(801)	-32	4
Germany	Rising	2,610,769	74,677	2.9%	32	1,125	16,094	246	6,804	3,848	-70	-49
France	Rising	4,146,609	91,437	2.2%	16	715	38,501	267	8,526	8,198	-71	3
UK	Falling	4,274,579	125,831	2.9%	16	541	5,758	141	464	(168)	31	-49
Norway	Rising	83,519	648	0.8%	65	8,403	1,064	7	(86)	379	6	7
Netherlands	Inflection	1,173,487	16,165	1.4%	15	1,062	5,924	46	1,022	652	14	15
Sweden	Falling	732,070	13,228	1.8%	14	767	-	34	-	-	-1	0
USA	Inflection	30,294,798	550,649	1.8%	11	604	62,794	1,288	10,144	2,439	40	-322
Spain	Falling	3,206,116	72,793	2.3%	15	643	6,092	228	1,130	(580)	87	-6
Switzerland	Recovery	577,111	10,163	1.8%	15	856	1,858	16	420	367	-13	-1
Belgium	Inflection	813,026	22,572	2.8%	14	515	3,165	27	1,587	1,002	-77	-8
Denmark	Recovery	222,629	2,396	1.1%	26	2,421	787	1	16	(1,220)	-1	0
Austria	Inflection	501,224	8,956	1.8%	18	1,010	3,239	31	814	711	-2	12
Canada	Inflection	919,239	22,554	2.5%	41	1,684	3,371	35	550	150	11	4
Ireland	Recovery	228,215	4,566	2.0%	-	1,091	552	14	205	(79)	-4	-33
Portugal	Recovery	815,570	16,722	2.1%	12	609	673	15	289	31	2	-7
Australia	Recovery	29,154	909	3.1%	882	28,571	17	-	10	4	0	0
Brazil	Rising	11,700,431	285,136	2.4%	18	749	90,830	2,736	6,706	9,875	-62	387
Malaysia	Falling	327,253	1,220	0.4%	100	27,027	1,219	2	156	(229)	-3	-3
Mexico	Falling	2,169,007	195,119	9.0%	60	666	1,278	175	(161)	(6,129)	-59	-691
Singapore	Recovery	60,137	30	0.0%	98	200,000	9	-	(2)	(1)	0	0
North America	Falling	33,383,044	768,322	2.3%	15	651	67,443	1,498	10,533	(3,540)	(8)	(1,009)
Western Europe	Inflection	22,666,734	563,586	2.5%	18	715	106,766	1,504	23,854	13,791	(170)	(17)
Other	Rising	65,754,190	1,359,904	2.1%	104	5,053	354,636	6,710	45,859	57,259	60	790
World	Rising	12,180,968	2,691,812	2.2%	64	2,896	528,845	9,712	80,246	67,510	(118)	(236)

Source: Worldometer.com, Transport Futures

Exhibit 4.

		State Data For					17-Mar						
	Hot Spot Group	Total Cases	New Cases Latest Day	Change in New Cases Per	Change In Cases Per Day	Change In Cases Per Day	Total Deaths	New Deaths Latest Day	Change In New Deaths Per Day	Change In Deaths Per Day Since Week Ago	In Deaths Per Day Since Max	Cases Per Million	Deaths Per Million
USA Total	All	30,294,798	62,794	###	2,439	-79%	550,649	1,288	40	(322)	-69%	91,524	1,664
Hot-Spot Group 1	1	5,633,089	20,782	3,161	4,195	-63%	146,040	290	(15)	(136)	-84%	83,259	2,066
Hot-Spot Group 2	2	13,270,843	21,590	3,478	(154)	-86%	218,810	728	253	(104)	-68%	100,374	1,682
Hot-Spot Group 3	3	6,176,382	11,979	1,918	91	-81%	108,213	107	(100)	(50)	-89%	91,161	1,471
Hot-Spot Group 4	4	5,214,484	8,443	1,887	(1,693)	-84%	77,586	163	(98)	(32)	-82%	72,975	1,188
-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New York	1	1,803,680	9,179	2,579	3,261	-55%	49,444	65	(33)	(46)	-91%	92,717	2,542
New Jersey	1	848,876	4,313	597	538	-54%	24,045	79	38	(54)	-83%	95,571	2,707
Massachusetts	1	606,377	1,711	509	54	-81%	16,732	44	29	(9)	-83%	87,976	2,428
Pennsylvania	1	979,075	3,190	97	579	-76%	24,810	36	(47)	(9)	-91%	76,478	1,938
Louisiana	1	439,002	445	(547)	(143)	-94%	9,955	30	8	(13)	-76%	94,434	2,141
Connecticut	1	294,328	373	(480)	(139)	-96%	7,807	8	(3)	(5)	-94%	82,554	2,190
Maryland	1	395,633	917	259	17	-76%	8,099	19	(6)	5	-75%	65,441	1,340
Rhode Island	1	132,184	434	171	116	-75%	2,588	5	(2)	2	-81%	124,777	2,443
District Of Columbia	1	42,811	81	(26)	(15)	-84%	1,044	2	2	1	-89%	60,660	1,479
Delaware	1	91,123	139	2	(73)	-89%	1,516	2	(1)	(8)	-97%	93,578	1,557
California	2	3,632,024	3,499	1,411	20	-94%	56,414	272	122	5	-63%	91,922	1,428
Florida	2	1,989,024	4,599	(192)	(254)	-77%	32,530	58	(38)	(28)	-79%	92,609	1,515
Texas	2	2,745,955	5,088	45	(306)	-84%	47,063	181	48	(34)	-61%	94,702	1,623
Georgia	2	1,038,550	2,044	301	304	-85%	18,359	72	47	14	-65%	97,816	1,729
Tennessee	2	795,963	1,826	484	471	-84%	11,658	8	(4)	(10)	-96%	116,553	1,707
North Carolina	2	889,310	1,999	906	138	-83%	11,757	35	22	(8)	-79%	84,792	1,121
Alabama	2	509,476	558	70	(224)	-90%	10,363	26	18	(10)	-89%	103,907	2,114
Arizona	2	834,323	445	(52)	(385)	-96%	16,586	12	(9)	(66)	-96%	114,625	2,279
Nevada	2	300,118	301	(45)	(24)	-92%	5,147	12	(2)	(1)	-83%	97,436	1,671
South Carolina	2	536,100	1,231	550	106	-81%	8,933	52	49	34	-78%	104,123	1,735

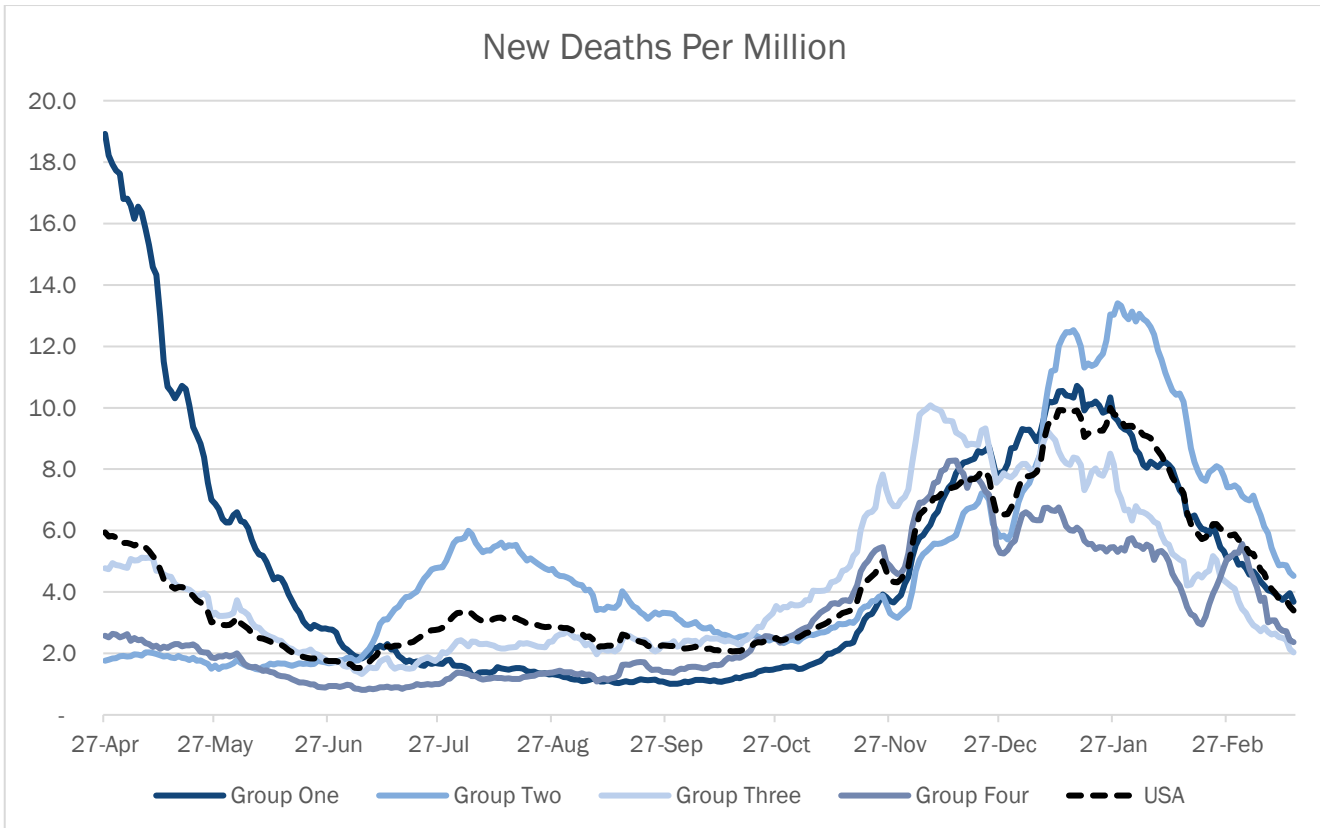
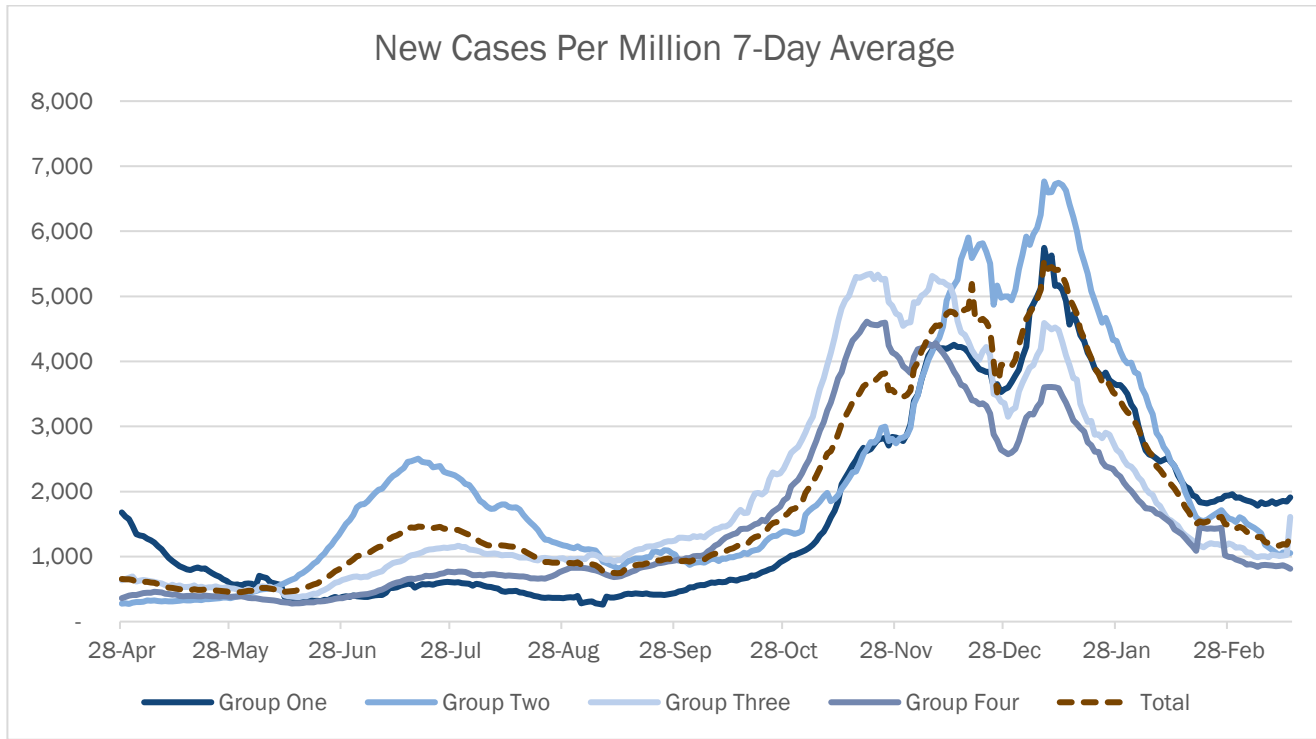
Source: Worldometer.com, [Transport Futures](http://TransportFutures.net)

Exhibit 5.

	Hot Spot Group	Total Cases	New Cases Latest Day	State Data For			17-Mar		New Deaths Latest Day	Change In New Deaths Per Day	Change In Deaths Per Day Since Week Ago	Change In Deaths Per Day Since Max	Cases Per Million	Deaths Per Million
				Change in New Cases Per Day	Change In Cases Per Day Since	Change In Cases Per Day Since	Total Deaths							
Ohio	3	993,681	1,458	(425)	(410)	-90%	17,992	-	(31)	-	-100%	85,009	1,539	
Washington	3	355,223	868	179	157	-87%	5,217	9	(5)	(11)	-90%	46,648	685	
Mississippi	3	301,602	352	(17)	(85)	-89%	6,936	7	(19)	(4)	-93%	10,1340	2,331	
Illinois	3	1,213,765	1,655	(342)	(27)	-89%	23,255	20	1	(8)	-92%	95,785	1,835	
Michigan	3	680,279	3,785	1,207	1,103	-63%	16,809	4	(22)	(4)	-99%	68,117	1,683	
Missouri	3	568,153	740	740	(127)	-89%	8,914	-	-	(19)	-100%	92,572	1,452	
Wisconsin	3	570,730	318	(162)	(198)	-96%	6,554	15	12	1	-88%	98,023	1,126	
Utah	3	379,780	699	218	41	-85%	2,037	5	-	3	-86%	118,461	635	
Arkansas	3	327,781	325	(71)	8	-92%	5,507	14	2	(11)	-90%	108,616	1,825	
Other	3	785,388	1,779	591	(371)	-85%	14,992	33	(38)	3	-83%	91,524	1,664	
Indiana	4	674,430	902	341	46	-89%	12,893	17	5	4	-90%	100,179	1,915	
Colorado	4	445,338	626	304	(614)	-90%	6,131	5	(6)	(1)	-98%	77,333	1,065	
Virginia	4	598,468	1,327	51	81	-82%	10,154	50	6	(9)	-73%	70,115	1,190	
Iowa	4	371,881	536	86	(294)	-90%	5,666	9	(6)	(18)	-96%	117,868	1,796	
Kentucky	4	418,372	960	158	(47)	-83%	5,056	27	3	(7)	-53%	93,644	1,132	
Oklahoma	4	433,516	491	259	(327)	-91%	4,788	-	(87)	-	-100%	109,558	1,210	
Minnesota	4	499,962	1,036	328	131	-88%	6,824	7	5	(2)	-93%	88,652	1,210	
Kansas	4	300,246	-	-	(759)	-100%	4,863	-	-	(11)	-100%	103,060	1,669	
New Mexico	4	188,907	243	67	(6)	-93%	3,872	12	5	3	-75%	90,092	1,847	
Oregon	4	160,259	209	(53)	(75)	-88%	2,349	3	(19)	1	-94%	37,996	557	
Idaho	4	176,461	454	104	(2)	-80%	1,935	6	(7)	(3)	-83%	98,743	1,083	
South Dakota	4	114,966	175	33	(34)	-91%	1,915	3	3	-	-94%	129,955	2,165	
Nebraska	4	205,214	-	-	-	-100%	2,129	-	-	-	-100%	106,086	1,101	
New Hampshire	4	79,367	297	40	86	-77%	1,202	-	(3)	(2)	-100%	58,370	884	
West Virginia	4	136,334	315	(26)	13	-87%	2,565	19	4	15	-59%	76,073	1,431	
Maine	4	47,591	203	14	8	-92%	725	-	-	-	-100%	35,404	539	
Vermont	4	17,106	59	4	(26)	-76%	217	3	3	3	-50%	27,414	348	
North Dakota	4	101,284	134	(15)	33	-94%	1,459	1	-	(1)	-97%	132,908	1,915	
Hawaii	4	28,421	69	22	23	-81%	451	-	-	(3)	-100%	20,073	319	
Wyoming	4	55,449	97	72	55	-92%	693	-	(2)	-	-100%	95,807	1,197	
Montana	4	102,484	140	(271)	(10)	-91%	1,396	-	(3)	(2)	-100%	95,889	1,306	
Alaska	4	58,428	170	69	25	-88%	303	1	1	1	-94%	79,869	414	

Source: Worldometer.com, Transport Futures

Exhibit 6.



Source: Worldometer.com, [Transport Futures](http://TransportFutures.net)