

RECENT COVID-19 SPIKES

AND WHY BLACK LIVES MATTER
PROTESTS ARE NOT THE NATION'S
BIGGEST THREAT

JUNE 2020



TIMELINE

A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN MAY AND JUNE

Source:
<https://www.nytimes.com/article/george-floyd-protests-timeline.html>

MAY 22ND

Start of Memorial Day Weekend
and risky celebrations

MAY 25TH

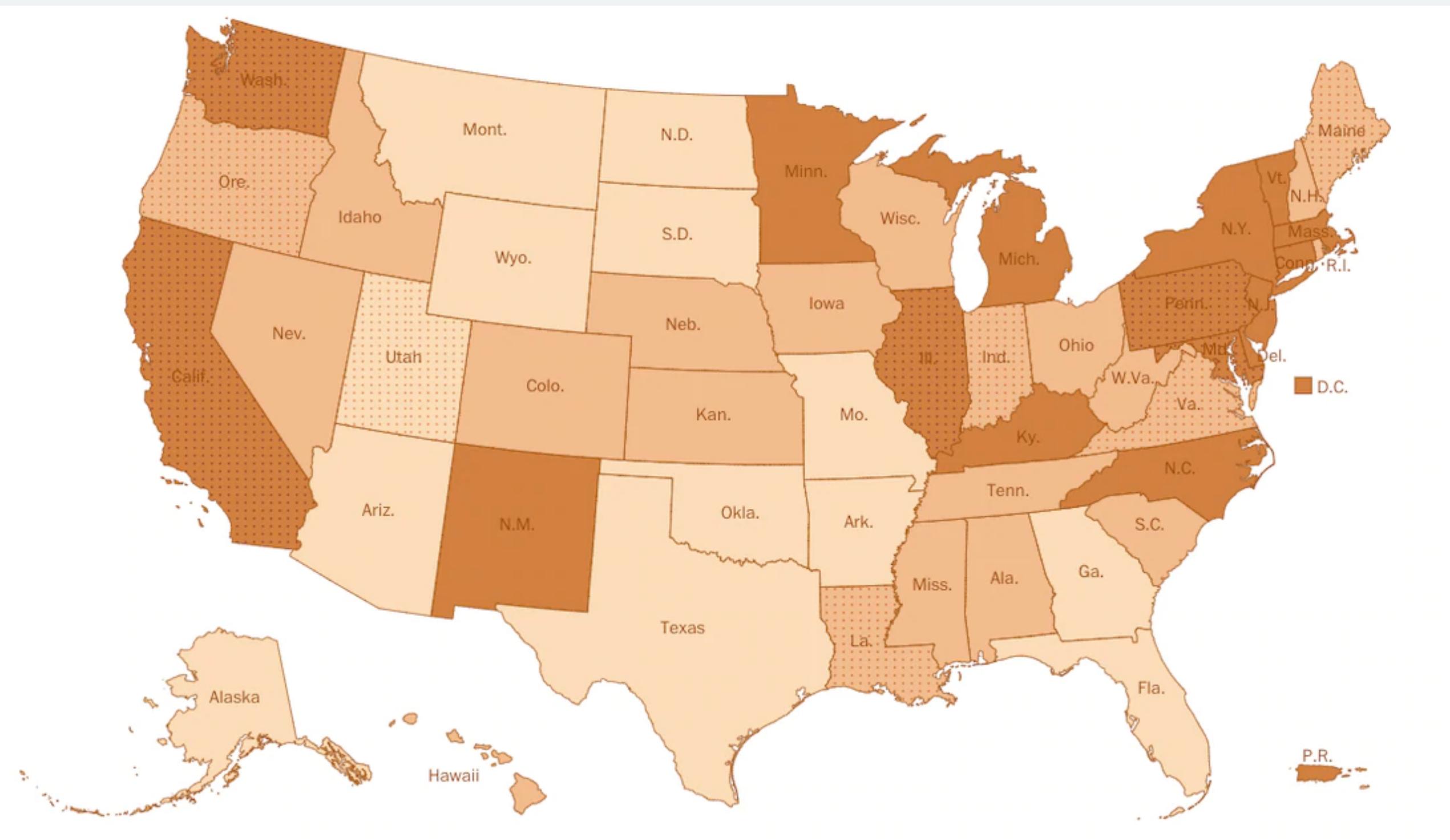
George Floyd is murdered by the
Minneapolis Police Department

MAY 27TH

Black Lives Matter protests start
gaining momentum nationwide

MANY STATES REOPENED
BUSINESSES RIGHT
BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND IN HOPES OF
REVIVING A STRUGGLING
ECONOMY

NONE OF THESE STATES OBEYED THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S
RECOMMENDATION TO WAIT FOR A
TWO-WEEK DECLINE IN CASES
BEFORE REOPENING SALONS, GYMS,
AND OTHER CLOSE-CONTACT VENUES.



Source:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/states-reopening-coronavirus-map/>

MANY STATES THAT REOPENED EARLY ARE STRUGGLING

ARIZONA

**49% INCREASE IN CASES
SINCE MEMORIAL DAY**

- Salons resumed appointments May 8
- Dine-in services resumed May 11
- Pools and gyms reopened May 13

TEXAS

**36% INCREASE IN CASES
SINCE MEMORIAL DAY**

- Retail stores, movie theaters, and museums reopened May 1
- Bars, bowling alleys, and rodeos reopened May 22
- Zoos and water parks reopened May 29

ARKANSAS

**88% INCREASE IN CASES
SINCE MEMORIAL DAY**

- Salons and spas reopened May 6
- Theaters, casinos, and arenas reopened May 18
- Bars reopened on May 19 and pools on May 22

Sources:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/states-reopening-coronavirus-map/>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/06/09/coronavirus-hospitalizations-rising/>

Risk Factors at Protests

- **LARGE CROWDS**

Despite extensive support for the movement, large congregations of people are always a risk for transmission

- **ARRESTS**

Close individual contact between police and protestors can increase risk of virus transmission

- **TEAR GAS AND PEPPER SPRAY**

A victim of tear gas or pepper spray can be more inclined to cough, which gives more opportunity for transmission by release of aerosol particles



Sources:

- <https://abcnews.go.com/US/dr-fauci-voices-concerns-coronavirus-spreading-amid-nationwide/story?id=71171103>
- <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/11/87531157/will-nationwide-protests-drive-up-the-coronavirus-cases>

WHAT PROTESTERS HAVE DONE WELL

AND WHAT ADVANTAGES THESE
DEMONSTRATORS HAVE AGAINST THE
VIRUS

OUTDOOR AREAS

The peaceful protests face lower risk of virus transmission by having outdoor ventilation and steadily moving crowds

MASK SAFETY

As seen in many photos, the overwhelming majority of protesters have been diligent about wearing masks



SOURCES:

- [HTTPS://ABCNEWS.GO.COM/US/DR-FAUCI-VOICES-CONCERNS-CORONAVIRUS-SPREADING-AMID-NATIONWIDE/STORY?ID=71171103](https://abcnews.go.com/us/dr-fauci-voices-concerns-coronavirus-spreading-amid-nationwide/story?id=71171103)
- [HTTPS://WWW.NPR.ORG/2020/06/11/875311157/WILL-NATIONWIDE-PROTESTS-DRIVE-UP-THE-CORONAVIRUS-CASES](https://www.npr.org/2020/06/11/875311157/will-nationwide-protests-drive-up-the-coronavirus-cases)

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**EXPERTS SAY IT IS LIKELY TOO EARLY
TO PREDICT THE EFFECTS OF PROTESTS
ON OUR FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19, AND
THAT NEW SPIKES ARE MORE LIKELY
DUE TO THE REOPENING OF THE
ECONOMY AND THE LACK OF SOCIAL
DISTANCING**

**“HOW MUCH TRANSMISSION HAPPENS
LATER ON IS FAR MORE DEPENDENT ON
OUR ACTIONS AS A SOCIETY AND
WHETHER WE CAN SUPPRESS
TRANSMISSION AROUND THE COUNTRY
THAN ON HOW MANY PEOPLE GO TO THE
PROTESTS”**

-MARC LIPSTICH, HARVARD EPIDEMIOLOGIST

SOURCES:

- [HTTPS://ABCNEWS.GO.COM/US/DR-FAUCI-VOICES-CONCERNS-CORONAVIRUS-SPREADING-AMID-NATIONWIDE/STORY?ID=71171103](https://abcnews.go.com/us/dr-fauci-voices-concerns-coronavirus-spreading-amid-nationwide/story?id=71171103)
- [HTTPS://WWW.NPR.ORG/2020/06/11/87531157/WILL-NATIONWIDE-PROTESTS-DRIVE-UP-THE-CORONAVIRUS-CASES](https://www.npr.org/2020/06/11/87531157/will-nationwide-protests-drive-up-the-coronavirus-cases)