



COVID cases down 26% in last two weeks: 'The worst is over,' says Dr. Singer

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According to the latest forecast from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are expected to decrease over the next four weeks.

“We're probably going to see cases start to decline, and the prevalence level will fall,” said former FDA commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb this week on The National Desk. “I don't think that this is going away. This is going to become an endemic virus and it will be with us, but you're certainly not going to see the raging kind of infection that you've seen.”

“I think actually the worst is over,” said Dr. Jeffrey Singer to The National Desk’s Scott Thuman. “Cases are down 26% just in the last two weeks nationwide.”

Dr. Singer says he agrees with Dr. Gottlieb.

“I've been saying for a long time that this virus is never going to be eradicated, it's going to become endemic,” said Dr. Singer

According to Dr. Singer, COVID could be similar to cold and flu season, with occasional flare-ups.

“It's not going to go away but it's not going to surge to the point we're going to see hospitals overloaded or disruption,” said Dr. Singer.

Will we receive shots annually, as we do with the flu shot every year?

“That remains to be seen,” said Dr. Singer. “We’ve got to continue to monitor the people who've been immunized, both for antibody levels and for T cell immunity and that kind of thing is possible but it might not be necessary.”

This week the CDC issued a strong recommendation for pregnant women to be vaccinated.

“Expectant mothers or women of childbearing age have understandably been concerned,” said Dr. Singer. “Not only has the data shown that it's very safe, but we've seen over this summer an uptick in severe complications from COVID in women who are pregnant, including death. So getting COVID doesn't only jeopardize your pregnancy but actually jeopardizes the mother's life.”

According to Dr. Singer, the Society for Fetal Maternal Medicine and other organizations have recommended women of childbearing age to get the vaccine, and the CDC's latest recommendation follows their expertise.

As the Delta variant remains the prominent variant in the U.S., the R1 COVID variant has died out, according to reports.

“This is a variant that because of its properties, people are worried about it. But it died out already. This variant no longer appears to be in circulation in the United States,” the LA County Public Health Director told the LA Times.”

“When you have two viruses that are basically the similar kind, like respiratory viruses, they tend to compete for hosts, and when one virus predominates it tends to crowd out another,” said Dr. Singer. “What a lot of people think is that the Delta variant was so contagious and so predominant in the United States, that it didn't give the R1 variant a chance to get a foothold.”