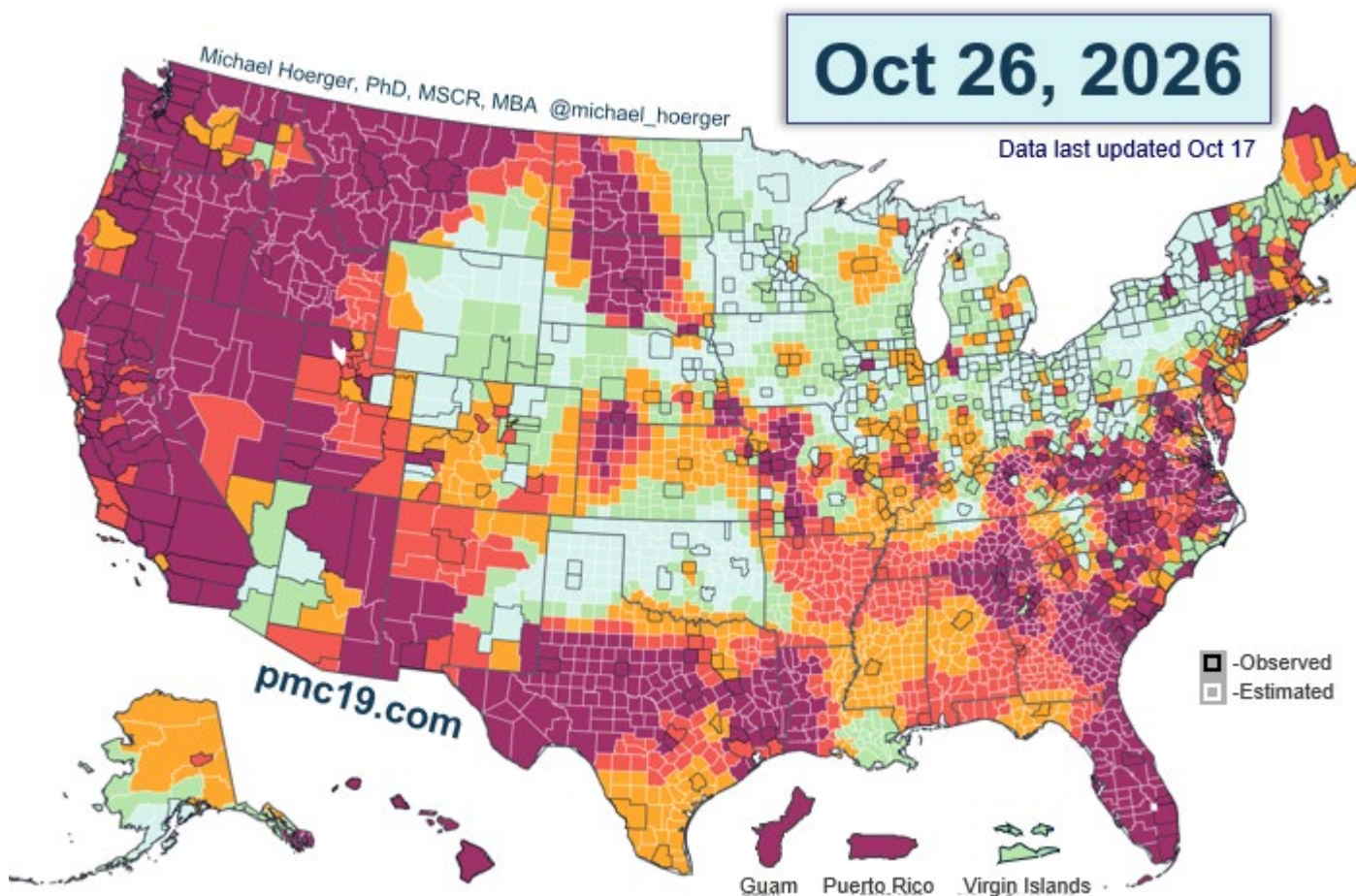


PMC U.S. COVID-19 Report for October 26, 2026.

pmc19.com

Michael Hoerger, PhD, MSCR, MBA, Pandemic Mitigation Collaborative (PMC)



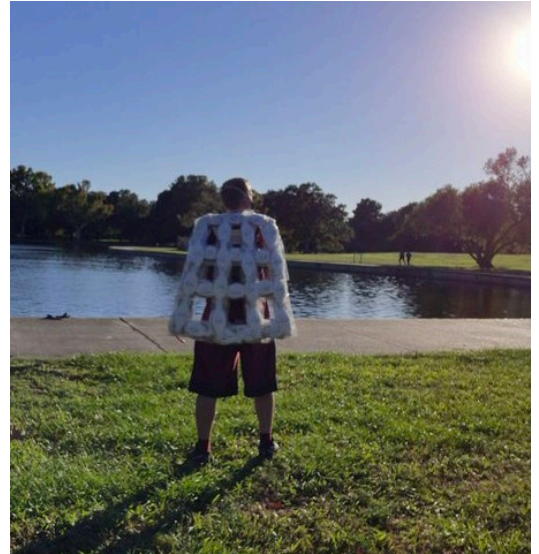
Cite as: Hoerger, M. (2026, October 26). *PMC U.S. COVID-19 Report for October 26, 2026*. Pandemic Mitigation Collaborative. <http://www.pmc19.com>

Announcements

TCC Wave Makers 5K

Thanks for your support. Dr. H. successfully completed the 5K on October 18, while wearing 120 N95 masks. Most were fashioned into a cape, aside from what was worn for respiratory protection. The cape masks are individually wrapped and will not go to waste. The run raised over \$6,000 to support cancer research, with \$50 donated for each mask donned. More pictures and video will be posted soon across social media.

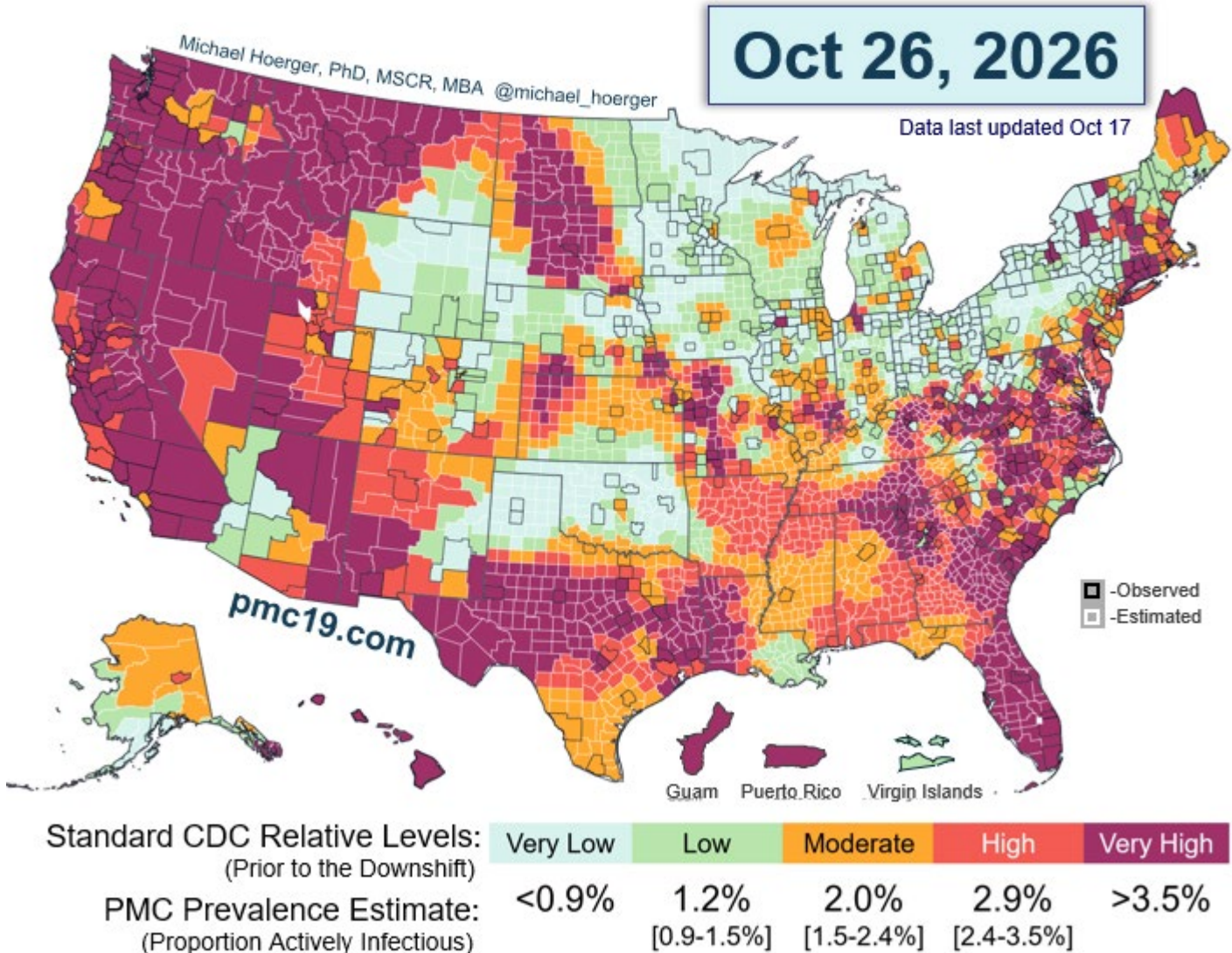
<https://runsignup.com/mask>



Data Quality

- The CDC (80% model weight) reported this week. Biobot (20% model weight) reported too.
- The CDC has had major upward corrections for the 6th week in a row. These weekly upward corrections extend back through July 1, which is highly atypical, and have shifted the observed wave magnitude from small to large. We are seeing retroactive corrections upward in the magnitude of 25-40% from real-time to two weeks later; a correction of 10-15% would be considered large.
- About 1 in 6 (200) sites are off temporarily, as the CDC works through a contractor issue. Expect recent levels to experience further retroactive corrections when those sites come online.
- It is fair to say that the 13th wave's national peak could have fallen as early as September 5 and may not have happened yet. In general, monitor local levels and defer to the most pessimistic data source for a cautious approach.

COVID-19 Heat Map, Based on CDC Wastewater Data & Standard Levels



The US has at least 44 states and territories with COVID outbreaks, a figure identical to last week. The CDC continues to make large, upward retroactive corrections, and we are in a secondary wave peak. States with observed outbreaks include Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawai'i, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania,

Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. Additional states with poor monitoring likely have outbreaks based on high levels in bordering counties in adjacent states.

COVID-19 State Prevalence Estimates

pmc19.com

Oct 26, 2026

State	Standard CDC Level	Revised # CDC Level (Downshifted)	PMC Estimate, % Actively Infectious	Chances anyone is infectious in a room of 10 to 100 people			
				10	25	50	100
Alabama	Moderate	Low	1 in 64 (1.6%)	15%	32%	54%	79%
Alaska	Very Low	Very Low	1 in 134 (0.7%)	7%	17%	31%	53%
Arizona	High	Moderate	1 in 41 (2.5%)	22%	46%	71%	92%
Arkansas	High*	Moderate*	1 in 35 (2.9%)	25%	52%	77%	95%
California	Very High	High	1 in 26 (3.9%)	33%	63%	86%	98%
Colorado	Moderate	Low	1 in 57 (1.8%)	16%	36%	59%	83%
Connecticut	Very High	High	1 in 22 (4.5%)	37%	68%	90%	99%
Delaware	High	Moderate	1 in 31 (3.2%)	28%	56%	81%	96%
District of Columbia ^(delays)	Low	Low	1 in 74 (1.4%)	13%	29%	50%	74%
Florida	Very High	Very High	1 in 16 (6.1%)	47%	79%	96%	>99%
Georgia	Low	Low	1 in 74 (1.3%)	13%	29%	49%	74%
Guam ^(delays)	Very High	High	1 in 23 (4.3%)	36%	67%	89%	99%
Hawaii	Very High	High	1 in 19 (5.1%)	41%	73%	93%	>99%
Idaho	High	Moderate	1 in 31 (3.2%)	28%	56%	80%	96%
Illinois	Moderate	Low	1 in 62 (1.6%)	15%	34%	56%	81%
Indiana	Low	Very Low	1 in 87 (1.1%)	11%	25%	44%	69%
Iowa	Low	Very Low	1 in 94 (1.1%)	10%	24%	42%	66%
Kansas	Moderate	Low	1 in 63 (1.6%)	15%	33%	55%	80%
Kentucky	Moderate	Low	1 in 56 (1.8%)	16%	36%	59%	83%
Louisiana	Low	Low	1 in 81 (1.2%)	12%	27%	46%	71%
Maine	Low	Low	1 in 71 (1.4%)	13%	30%	51%	76%
Maryland	Very High*	Moderate*	1 in 28 (3.5%)	30%	59%	83%	97%
Massachusetts	High	Moderate	1 in 41 (2.4%)	22%	46%	71%	92%
Michigan	Very Low	Very Low	1 in 114 (0.9%)	8%	20%	36%	58%
Minnesota	Very Low	Very Low	1 in 119 (0.8%)	8%	19%	35%	57%
Mississippi	High	Moderate	1 in 35 (2.8%)	25%	51%	76%	94%

* Limited data reporting

Data last updated Oct 17

On August 14, 2026, the CDC revised categorical descriptors downward without notice or rationale for both past and present data. Very High levels were often revised downward to "High," High levels to "Moderate" or "Low," typically one category downward. More at pmc19.com/bluewashing.mp4

COVID-19 State Prevalence Estimates

pmc19.com

Oct 26, 2026

State	Standard CDC Level	Revised # CDC Level (Downshifted)	PMC Estimate, % Actively Infectious	Chances anyone is infectious in a room of 10 to 100 people			
				10	25	50	100
Missouri	High	Moderate	1 in 41 (2.4%)	22%	46%	71%	91%
Montana	Very High*	Very High*	1 in 17 (5.9%)	45%	78%	95%	>99%
Nebraska	Low	Low	1 in 85 (1.2%)	11%	26%	45%	69%
Nevada	Very High	High	1 in 23 (4.3%)	35%	66%	89%	99%
New Hampshire	Very Low*	Very Low*	1 in 138 (0.7%)	7%	17%	31%	52%
New Jersey	Moderate	Low	1 in 53 (1.9%)	17%	38%	61%	85%
New Mexico	High	Moderate	1 in 28 (3.5%)	30%	59%	83%	97%
New York	Very Low	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
North Carolina	High	Moderate	1 in 36 (2.8%)	25%	51%	76%	94%
North Dakota	Very High*	Very High*	1 in 28 (3.5%)	30%	59%	83%	97%
Ohio	Very Low	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Oklahoma (delays)	Very Low*	Very Low*	1 in 202 (0.5%)	5%	12%	22%	39%
Oregon (delays)	Very High*	Very High*	1 in 15 (6.7%)	50%	82%	97%	>99%
Pennsylvania	Low	Very Low	1 in 92 (1.1%)	10%	24%	42%	67%
Puerto Rico	Very High*	Very High*	1 in 17 (6.0%)	46%	79%	95%	>99%
Rhode Island	High	Moderate	1 in 30 (3.3%)	28%	57%	81%	96%
South Carolina	High	Moderate	1 in 32 (3.1%)	27%	55%	80%	96%
South Dakota	Very High*	High*	1 in 26 (3.9%)	33%	63%	86%	98%
Tennessee	Very High	High	1 in 22 (4.5%)	37%	68%	90%	99%
Texas	High	Moderate	1 in 37 (2.7%)	24%	50%	75%	94%
U.S. Virgin Islands	Low	Very Low	1 in 92 (1.1%)	10%	24%	42%	66%
Utah	High	Moderate	1 in 35 (2.8%)	25%	51%	76%	94%
Vermont	Moderate	Low	1 in 61 (1.6%)	15%	34%	56%	81%
Virginia	High	Moderate	1 in 31 (3.2%)	28%	56%	80%	96%
Washington	Very High	Very High	1 in 15 (6.7%)	50%	82%	97%	>99%
West Virginia	Very Low	Very Low	1 in 222 (0.5%)	4%	11%	20%	36%
Wisconsin	Low	Low	1 in 69 (1.4%)	14%	31%	52%	77%
Wyoming	Low	Low	1 in 71 (1.4%)	13%	30%	51%	76%

* Limited reporting; ND averages MN, MT, SD; PR from non-CDC PR dashboard

Data last updated Oct 17

On August 14, 2026, the CDC revised categorical descriptors downward without notice or rationale for both past and present data. Very High levels were often revised downward to "High," High levels to "Moderate" or "Low," typically one category downward. More at pmc19.com/bluwashing.mp4

SARS-CoV-2 New Daily Infections, Wastewater-Derived Estimates (U.S.)



PMC identifies **12** SARS-CoV-2 waves and estimates averages of **5.6** infections per person and **14.1** months between infections.

National COVID-19 Estimates (U.S.)

<u>Infections</u>	Oct 26, 2026	pmc19.com
Proportion Actively Infectious	1 in 60 (1.7%)	
New Daily Infections	822,000	
Infections the Past Week	5,890,000	
Infections in 2026	160,000,000	
Cumulative Infections per Person	5.64	

Long COVID

Long COVID Cases Resulting from New Daily Infections	41,000 to 164,000
Long COVID Cases Resulting from New Weekly Infections	295,000 to 1,180,000

Excess Deaths

Excess Deaths Resulting from New Daily Infections	200 to 350
Excess Deaths Resulting from New Weekly Infections	1,400 to 2,500

National COVID-19 Risk Table (U.S.)

Oct 26, 2026

pmc19.com

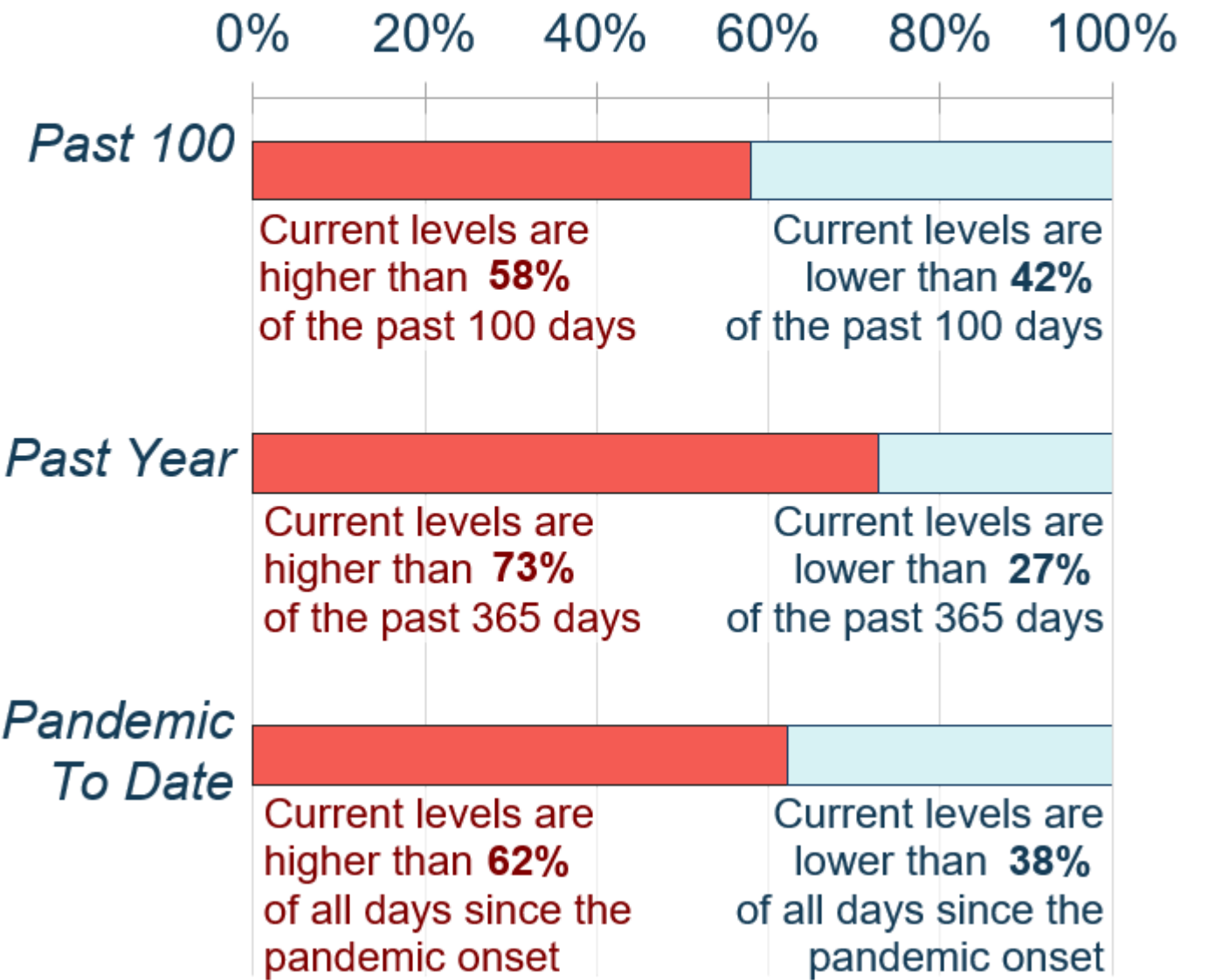
<u>Number of People</u>	<u>Chances Anyone is Infectious</u>
1	1.7%
2	3.3%
3	4.9%
4	6.5%
5	8.1%
10	15.5%
15	22.4%
20	28.7%
25	34.4%
30	39.7%
50	57.0%
75	71.8%
100	81.5%
200	96.6%
300	99.4%

SARS-CoV-2 Relative Transmission

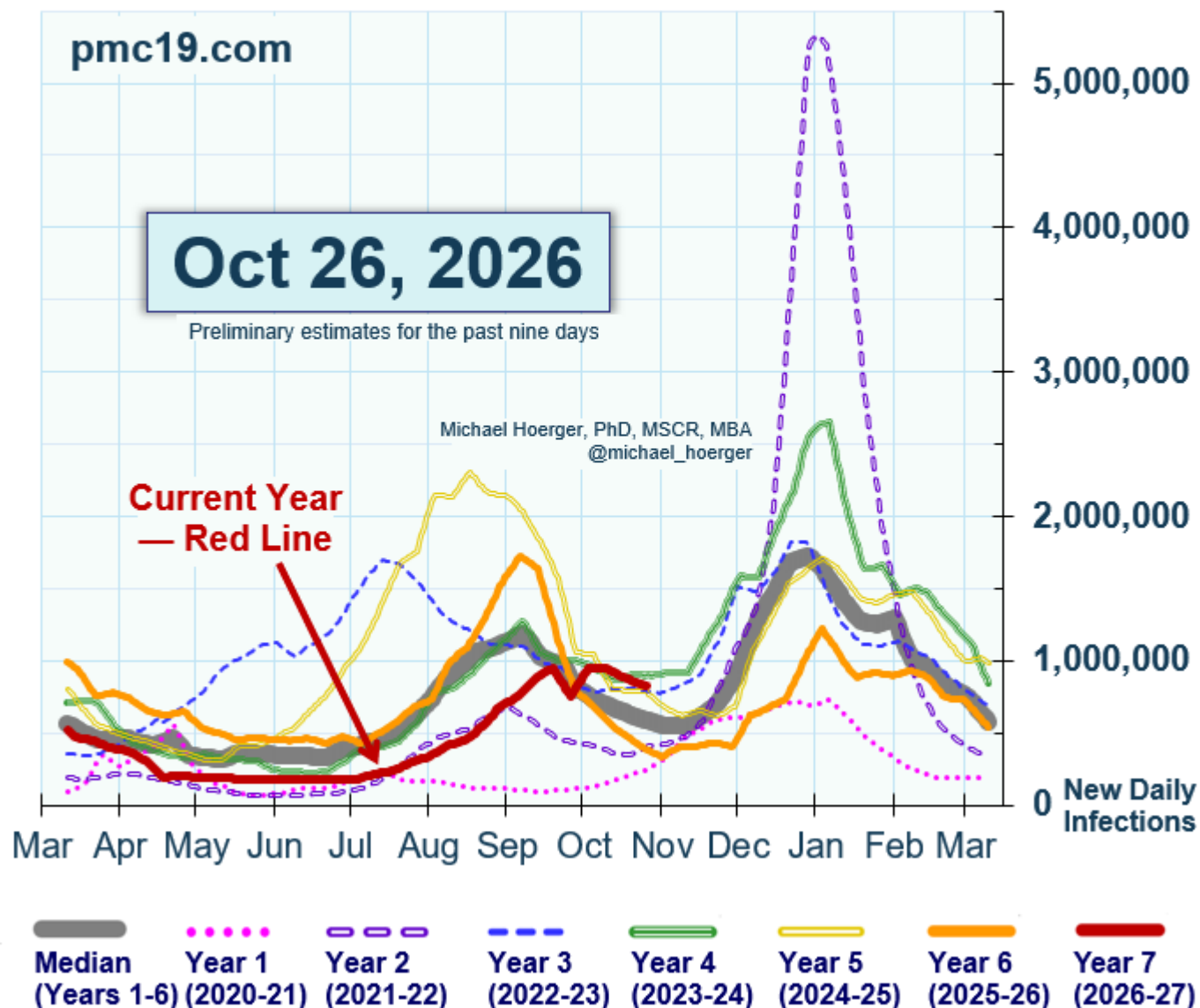
"Barometer" (U.S.)

Oct 26, 2026

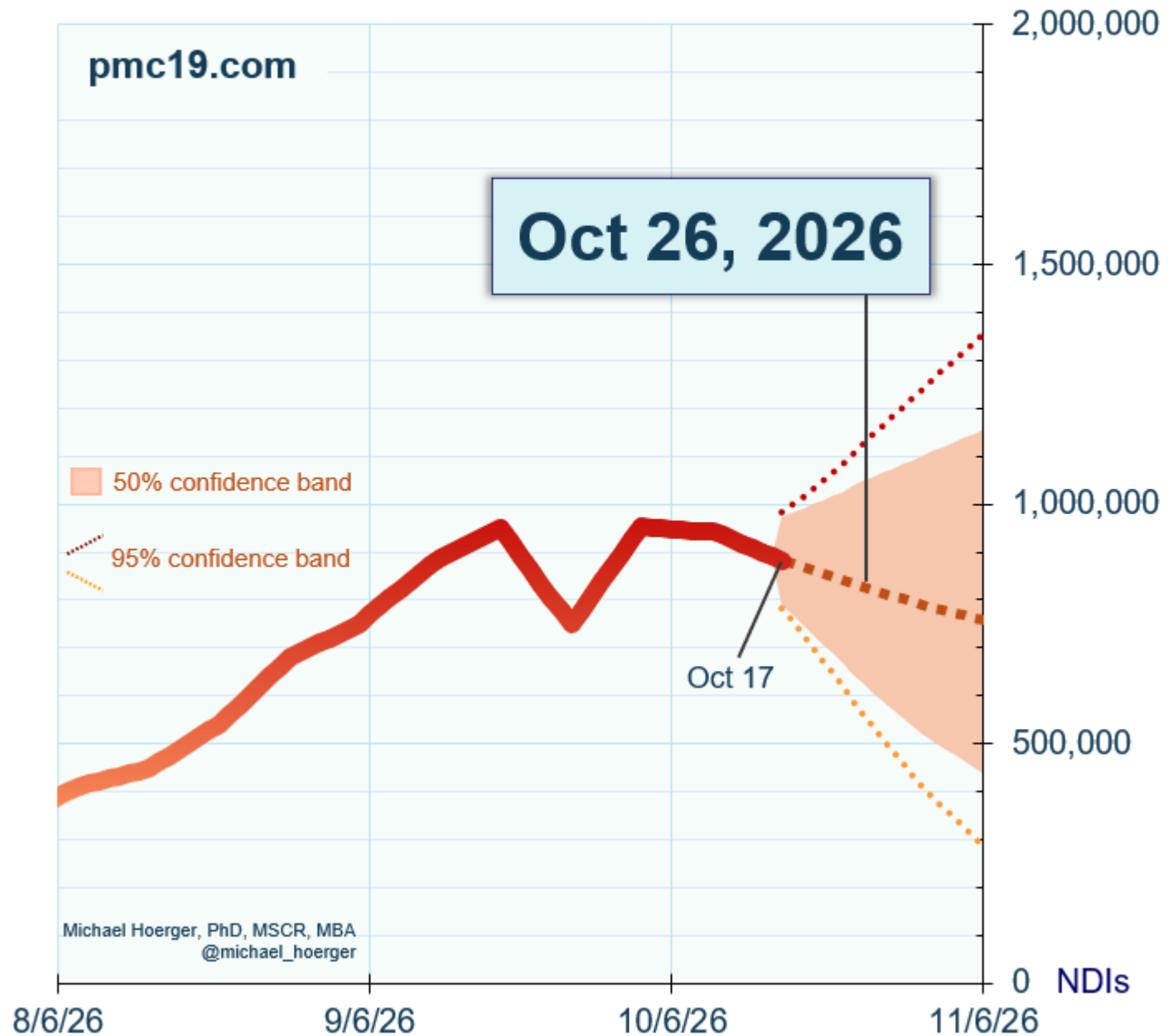
pmc19.com



SARS-CoV-2 Year-Over-Year Estimates of Transmission (U.S.)



SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Forecast, Wastewater-Derived Estimates (U.S.)



Note, the national forecast will remain volatile while the CDC experiences difficulties with real-time reporting.

A separate document called a Technical Appendix appears on the dashboard page and has more methodologic info. Search for key answers there first, and then send a public comment tagging Dr. H. on Twitter if further help is needed.