

3-25-2020

## COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 1)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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# NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE Touro College and University System

## Center for Disaster Medicine



Welcome to the first New York Medical College Center for Disaster Medicine (CDM) COVID-19 Newsletter. This is the first of periodic updates from the CDM on the evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDM has a long history of researching and analyzing events—including public health emergencies, disaster and terrorism—and then using this analysis to inform and educate government leaders, EMS, fire service, law enforcement, healthcare, public health, education and business throughout New York State, nationally and internationally. The CDM uses this knowledge and our expertise to develop models for preparedness and response to include alternate care sites for public health emergencies, mass casualty triage and care for healthcare systems, operational and tactical medicine and novel approaches for responding to emerging threats and infections. ***During this COVID-19 pandemic and other future events, the CDM will continue to be a source of reliable information, education and models for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.***

David Markenson, MD, MBA  
Director  
Center for Disaster Medicine

**COVID-19 Statistics**

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered
Worldwide	360697	15495	100,472
United States	41026	479	No Data
New Jersey	3044	21	No Data
New York	20875	152	No Data
Connecticut	327	8	No Data

Information as of 3/23/20 at 1315 EDT. Source:

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

## Federal Updates

### CDC and COVID-19 Task Force

- Different parts of the country are seeing different levels of COVID-19 activity. Nationally The United States is in the initiation phase of the pandemic. States in which community spread is occurring are in the acceleration phase. The duration and severity of each pandemic phase can vary depending on the characteristics of the virus and the public health response.
- All 50 states have reported cases of COVID-19 to CDC.
- U.S. COVID-19 cases include:
  - Imported cases in travelers
  - Cases among close contacts of a known case
  - Community-acquired cases where the source of the infection is unknown.
- Twenty-seven U.S. states are reporting some community spread of COVID-19.
- Current resources and interim guidance for healthcare professionals, healthcare facilities, public health professionals, and others involved in the response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Government-related resources and information encompassing all sectors can be found at <https://www.coronavirus.gov>
- FEMA has now taken the domestic lead in COVID-19 response and is currently operating at Level 1, the highest for a national emergency.

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**The White House**

The President's 15 Days to Slow the Spread is the official White House document released on March 16 for guidance for the next 15 days. [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20\\_coronavirus-guidance\\_8.5x11\\_315PM.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf)

### **United States Food and Drug Administration**

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

- The FDA has approved New York State to authorize the state's 28 public and private labs to begin manual, semi-automated and automated testing for COVID-19. The approval will allow the state to dramatically increase testing capacity to approximately 6,000 tests per day in the next week. The approval also extends to the Roche high-volume platform for testing. Testing is free to all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a health care provider or by calling the NYS COVID-19 hotline at (888) 364-3065. Your local health department is your community contact for COVID 19 concerns. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-provides-update-patient-access-certain-rems-drugs-during-covid-19>
- The FDA issued new guidance to sponsors and healthcare providers regarding certain Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS)- required during this time
  - <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-provides-update-patient-access-certain-rems-drugs-during-covid>
- There are currently **no FDA-approved** vaccines or treatments at this times so beware of any news or products claiming otherwise
  - <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/health-fraud-scams/fraudulent-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-products>

### **Health and Human Services**

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>

- An antibody medicine being evaluated to treat severe cases of COVID-19 will receive additional support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) under an existing partnership with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals of Tarrytown, New York.
  - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/21/hhs-funds-phase-2-3-clinical-trial-for-potential-treatment-for-covid-19.html>
- On March 16, 2020, the first vaccine was administered to 40 volunteers in Seattle.
  - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/16/hhs-secretary-azar-statement-on-launch-of-phase-1-covid-19-vaccine-trial.html>

**State Updates**

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## **New York**

- Now in effect, 100% of the workforce must stay home, excluding essential services.
- All non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason are temporarily banned.
- The Army Corps of Engineers will begin construction on four temporary hospital sites in New York State in an effort to address imminent capacity issues - the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, and locations at SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Old Westbury and the Westchester County Center.
- FEMA will erect four additional federal hospital facilities within the Javits Center. Each of the four federal hospitals will have 250 beds and be fully equipped and fully staffed by the federal government.
- Matilda's law enacted to protect vulnerable senior population over 70 years of age.
- All barber shops, hair salons, tattoo or piercing salons, nail salons, hair removal services and related personal care services will be closed to the public effective Saturday, March 21 at 8:00PM.
- Casinos, gyms, theaters, retail shopping malls, amusement parks and bowling alleys are closed until further notice.
- Local Health Departments will serve as community contact for COVID-19 concerns.
- Updated guidance for healthcare providers and other professions continues to be posted to the New York State Department of Health COVID-19 website at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

### **NYS Department of Health**

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing#overview>

For a detailed list of positive cases by county in New York State, please visit:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/county-county-breakdown-positive-cases>

### **New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

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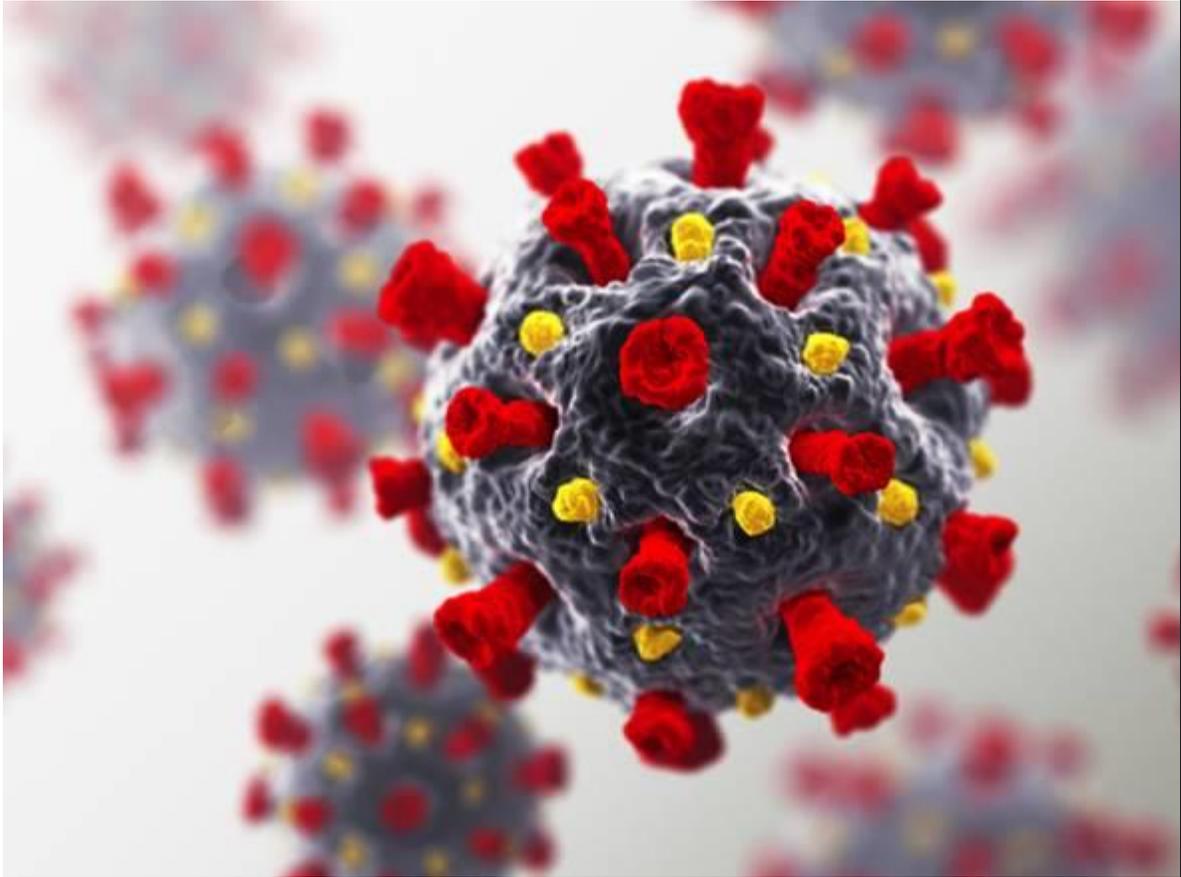
## **New Jersey**

- Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 108 which invalidates any county or municipal restriction that in any way will or might conflict with any of the provisions of Executive Order No. 107 with limited exceptions. <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-108.pdf>
- Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 107 which directs all residents to stay at home until further notice. <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-107.pdf>

- A new website created to address any COVID-19 related information and concerns. <https://covid19.nj.gov/>
  - There is no travel ban on NJ roadways. The Governor requested that people stay off the roads during the COVID-19 emergency unless they are providing or seeking to obtain essential services or supplies.
  - NJ 2-1-1 is live. Residents can also text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive text information and stay informed. To receive live text assistance, residents can text their zip code to 898-211. This will increase call capacity and reduce wait time.
  - Text "NJCOVID" to 898211 to subscribe to updates for NJ.
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## **Connecticut**

- Effective at 8p.m. on Monday, March 23, per Executive Order 7H, all workers at non-essential businesses in the state shall work from home. The governor is encouraging all businesses to employ, to the maximum extent possible, any telecommuting or work-from-home procedures that they can safely implement. The governor's order excludes any essential business or entity providing essential services or functions, such as healthcare, food service, law enforcement, and similar critical services.
  - Similar to many other states, Connecticut has requested additional Personal Protective Equipment supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile to supplement their current limited stock and have only been guaranteed 14% of their original order so far. A framework to accept donated PPE has been implemented.
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>
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## Local Updates

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### **Westchester County Department of Health**

- On March 23, 2020, The Westchester County DOH Commissioner issued mandatory isolation order of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases.

<https://health.westchestergov.com/images/stories/PDF/StandingCommissionerorderForIsolation.pdf>

<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>

### **Putnam County Department of Health**

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/>

### **Dutchess County Department of Health**

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>

### **Orange County Department of Health**

<https://www.orangecountygov.com/1906/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-Information>

## **Healthcare**

The latest COVID-19 information from the Greater New York Hospital Association which covers the tri-state area:

<https://www.gnyha.org/>

## **Center Updates**

### **Media**

#### **New York City Had a Coronavirus Warning Sign: Spikes in ER Visits**

The Wall Street Journal

3/18/2020

Attached PDF

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., vice president for government affairs and dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice

#### **#CoronavirusPandemic: How to Clean Your Clothes If You Cannot Avoid Going Out?**

Popxo Daily

2/20/2020

<https://www.popxo.com/trending/how-to-clean-your-clothes-if-youve-to--go-out-amidst-coronavirus-881959/>

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#### **Dr. Marisa Montecalvo and Castle Connolly Private Health Partners, LLC explain what you need to know about COVID-19**

EIN Presswire

2/20/2020

<https://www.einpresswire.com/article/512553908/dr-marisa-montecalvo-and-castle-connolly-private-health-partners-llc-explain-what-you-need-to-know-about-covid-19>

Marisa Montecalvo, M.D., professor of medicine and director of student health services

#### **First patients injected with coronavirus vaccine**

Fox News

3/16/2020

<https://video.foxnews.com/v/6142190653001#sp=show-clips>

Robert G. Lahita, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine

#### **Here's Exactly Where We're At With Vaccines and Treatments for COVID-19**

HealthLine

3/17/2020

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/heres-exactly-where-were-at-with-vaccines-and-treatments-for-covid-19>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., vice president for government affairs and dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice

**Coronavirus live blog: Former CDC official Dr. Robert Amler answers your questions**

Fox News

3/17/2020

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/coronavirus-live-blog>

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**Are coronavirus precautions lowering flu infection rates?**

Fox News

3/17/2020

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/coronavirus-live-blog>

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**Stay coronavirus-free while flying: Use these health tips on airplanes**

Fox News

3/14/2020

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/avoid-coronavirus-flying-tips>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., vice president for government affairs and dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice

**Inside An American Coronavirus Containment Zone**

CBS News 60 Minutes

3/15/2020

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-containment-zone-inside-60-minutes-2020-03-15/>

Sherlita Amler, M.D., M.S., clinical associate professor of pediatrics, adjunct professor of public health and senior fellow for Center for Disaster Medicine

**As California Closes Bars and Wineries, Restaurants Turn to Food Delivery**

The Beet

3/16/2020

<https://thebeet.com/as-california-closes-bars-and-wineries-restaurants-turn-to-food-delivery/>

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**Hudson River Health Care Responds To Coronavirus Outbreak in New York State**

Daily Voice

3/16/2020

<https://dailyvoice.com/new-york/southwestdutchess/lifestyle/udson-river-health-care-responds-to-coronavirus-outbreak-in-new-york-state/785079/>

Daniel Miller, M.D., clinical assistant professor of family and community medicine

### **Commonsense Coronavirus: Expert Explains Containment**

Patch

3/15/2020

<https://patch.com/new-york/pleasantville/coronavirus-expert-explains-cluster-containment>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., vice president for government affairs and dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice

### **How Long Coronavirus Lives On Clothes, And How To Wash Them**

Huffington Post

3/19/2020

[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/how-long-coronavirus-lives-on-clothes-and-how-to-wash-them\\_uk\\_5e73367fc5b6f5b7c53e8a06](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/how-long-coronavirus-lives-on-clothes-and-how-to-wash-them_uk_5e73367fc5b6f5b7c53e8a06)

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### **A Med School Dean Answers Your Coronavirus Questions**

NBC 4 New York

3/17/2020

<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/on-air/as-seen-on/a-med-school-dean-answers-your-coronavirus-questions/2331687/>

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### **COVID-19 coronavirus needs apolitical truth-telling**

Kevin MD

3/13/2020

<https://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2020/03/covid-19-coronavirus-needs-apolitical-truth-telling.html>

Jeffrey H. Dobken, M.D., M.P.H., adjunct assistant professor of public health

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