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COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 4)

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



Friday April 3, 2020

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	1,017,693	53,164	211,856
United States	245,573	6,058	9,228
New Jersey	25,590	537	No Data
New York	92,743	2,468	No Data
Connecticut	3,824	112	No Data

Information as of 4/3/20 at 0400 EDT. Source:

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

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS

Federal Updates

- The Secretary of Homeland Security released an update regarding Real IDs: “Due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the national emergency declaration, the Department of Homeland Security, as directed by President Donald J. Trump, is extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline beyond the current October 1, 2020 deadline. The new deadline for REAL ID enforcement is October 1, 2021.” <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/26/acting-secretary-chad-wolf-statement-real-id-enforcement-deadline>
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expanded on identified vulnerable groups and published an overview of the available information and guidance for pregnant women and individuals experiencing homelessness. The CDC notes that the extent to which pregnant women are at increased risk for infection, disease, or severe disease remains uncertain. Other coronaviruses and respiratory viruses (e.g., influenza) can be more severe in pregnant women, but additional study is required for COVID-19. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>
- An ongoing outbreak onboard the *USS Theodore Roosevelt* aircraft carrier could potentially put thousands of U.S. Sailors and Marines at risk for COVID-19. Several identified cases have been evacuated from the ship, but the majority of the more than 100 cases onboard remain. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Exclusive-Captain-of-aircraft-carrier-with-15167883.php>
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization to Battelle for their N95 decontamination system. This system can potentially process up to 80,000 masks per day and will be deployed to New York, Washington State, and Washington D.C. <https://www.battelle.org/newsroom/news-details/battelle-deploys-decontamination-system-for-reusing-n95-masks>
- Based on available modeling, notably by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the U.S. government projects at least 100,000 deaths nationwide, under continued and effective implementation of social distancing measures. <https://covid19.healthdata.org>
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged U.S. citizens, currently overseas who wish to return home, to do so as quickly as possible. Secretary Pompeo emphasized that the U.S. government remains committed to repatriating U.S. citizens during this crisis. However, the continued operation of international commercial air service remains uncertain, and the U.S. government cannot guarantee that it will be able to coordinate charter flights in the future. The United States has repatriated 27,572 Americans from nearly 60 countries since the end of January. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-michael-r-pompeo-remarks-to-the-press-7>

- U.S. government officials, including representatives from the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. President Donald Trump, have confirmed that the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is running low on supplies and equipment.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/coronavirus-protective-gear-stockpile-depleted/2020/04/01/44d6592a-741f-11ea-ae50-7148009252e3_story.html

The White House

- The President's 30 Days to Slow the Spread: On March 31, President Trump extended the Coronavirus Guidelines for America through April 30. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

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

- The FDA has created a Daily Update that provides a summary to the public regarding the latest information. For the most recent Daily Update:
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-april-2-2020>
- For updated FAQs on diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2:
<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/faqs-diagnostic-testing-sars-cov-2>
- The FDA provides updated guidance to address the urgent need for blood during the pandemic
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-provides-updated-guidance-address-urgent-need-blood-during-pandemic>
- The FDA issues emergency use authorization (EUA) to Cellex Inc. as the first serology test to date to detect the presence of coronavirus antibodies
<https://www.fda.gov/media/136622/download>
- The FDA continues to accelerate development of novel therapies for COVID-19
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-continues-accelerate-development-novel-therapies-covid-19>
- The FDA expedites review of diagnostic tests to combat COVID-19
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-expedites-review-diagnostic-tests-combat-covid-19>

Health and Human Services (HHS)

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

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) partner to distribute more than half a million medical supplies confiscated from price gougers
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/02/doj-and-hhs-partner-to-distribute-more-than-half-a-million-medical-supplies-confiscated-from-price-gougers.html>
- HHS' Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announces notification of enforcement discretion to allow uses and disclosures of protected health information (PHI) by business associates

for public health and health oversight activities during COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/02/ocr-announces-notification-of-enforcement-discretion.html>

- HHS issues letter regarding optimizing ventilator use during COVID-19 pandemic
<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/optimizing-ventilator-use-during-covid19-pandemic.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

The CDC statement of COVID-19 Apple App:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0327-statement-covid-19-apple-app.html>

Daily updates of cases in United States. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

State Updates

New York

- The state-owned Javits Center in Manhattan has been turned into a 2,500-bed emergency medical facility being run by the U.S. Army. The original plan for Javits was that it be used to take non-COVID patients from hospitals to open up hospital beds. However, the number of COVID positive patients has increased so dramatically that it would be beneficial to the state if Javits could accept COVID positive patients.”
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-andrew-m-cuomo-announces-temporary-hospital-facility-javits-convention-center-will>
- The Department of Health has approved a new protocol from Northwell Health allowing BiPAP machines to be converted into ventilators. The State has purchased 3,000 BiPAP machines from Philips in Pittsburgh, and 750 machines are already in stock and will be distributed to hospitals. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-announces-state-department-health-has-approved>
- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced a new hospital network Central Coordinating Team that will help facilitate a more coordinated and strategic approach among the state's healthcare system in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The coordinating team will help implement the statewide public-private hospital plan, to share information, supplies, staff and patients among hospitals across the State.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-announces-new-hospital-network-central>

New York Blood Center

- New York Blood Center to collect first blood plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients to treat severe cases
<https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/new-york-blood-center-collect-first-blood-plasma-donations-recovered-covid-19-patients-treat-severe-cases/>

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:

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

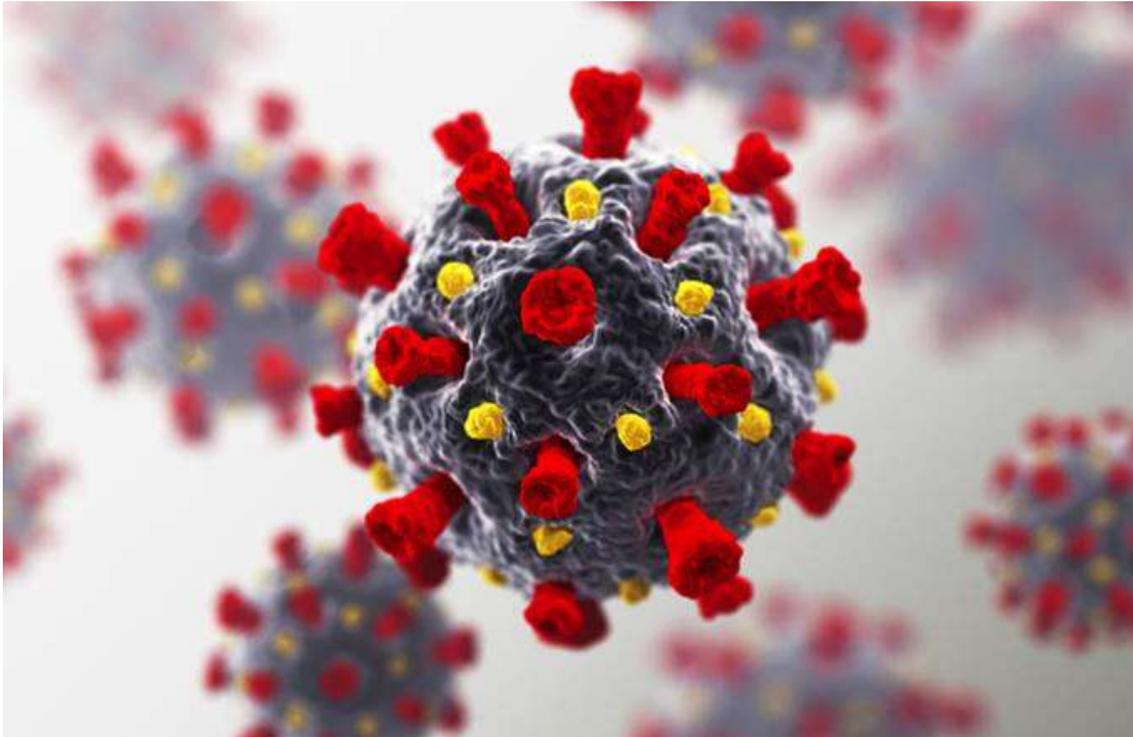
New Jersey

- EO-112 seeks to remove barriers to health care professionals and protections for front line health care responders acting in good faith during this public health emergency. Verbiage is included that outlines granting of licenses to those individual clinicians who have lapsed or gone inactive as well as clinicians from foreign countries.
<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-112.pdf>
- NJ released administrative order 6 in an effort to clarify essential business designations.
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/ao/docs/AO2020-6.pdf>
- New Jersey's fiscal year end has been extended to September 30, 2020.
- Administrative order 7 was issued on April 2, 2020 that clarifies the exemption of blood drives from the executive order limiting mass gatherings.
http://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200402/2c/b8/10/8e/a147cb79a6914a14ec209626/admin_order_2020-7_blood_drives.pdf
- Information has been released regarding steps to register for state subsidized emergency childcare for essential personnel. <https://www.childcarenj.gov/emergency>

Connecticut

- Among recent updates is Connecticut's first reported pediatric fatality linked to COVID-19. This was a 6-week-old baby in the Hartford area who was brought unresponsive to a Connecticut hospital late last week and could not be revived. Post-mortem testing confirmed last night that the newborn was COVID-19 positive.
- According to Executive Order 7S, effective upon the opening of each retail establishment for the first time on April 3, 2020, every retail establishment in the state will be required to take additional protective measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between and among customers, employees, and other persons such as delivery drivers and maintenance people. The order requires the commissioner of the Economic and Community Development to issue mandatory statewide rules prescribing such additional protective measures. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7S.pdf?la=en> and <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Safe-Store-Rules>
- Beginning on April 1, 2020 for a period of 60 days, no insurer in Connecticut – including life, health, auto property, casualty, and other types – may lapse or terminate a covered insurance policy because a policyholder does not pay a premium or interest during this time. This grace period is not automatic. To be eligible, affected policyholders must provide additional information acceptable to their insurance carriers.

- Governor Lamont announced that his administration is collaborating with Connecticut's long-term care facilities on a medical surge plan that will involve moving some residents and the creation of dedicated spaces for residents who are COVID-19 positive.
- The National Guard deployed a 250-bed medical station provided by FEMA at the Moore Field House on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven.
- In addition, the National Guard began preparations to set-up 300 beds of additional medical capacity from the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at the O'Neill Center on the campus of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury. Those beds will be assembled on Thursday April 2, 2020.
- <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>



Local Updates

New York City

- New York City playgrounds will close because they have been too crowded. Open spaces in New York City will remain open for fresh air and sun — but you must stay six feet apart from others.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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

Westchester County Department of Health

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

- On March 31, 2020, Westchester County DOH Commissioner Issues Protocols for Essential Personnel to Return to Work following COVID-19 exposure or infection
<https://health.westchestergov.com/images/stories/PDF/03312020nysprotoleasantpersonnelreturnwork.pdf>
- On March 29, 2020, Westchester County DOH Commissioner issues updated isolation order of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases.

<https://health.westchestergov.com/images/stories/PDF/03292020StandingOrderIsolation.pdf>

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>

Rockland County Department of Health

<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Healthcare

For the latest COVID-19 information for healthcare facilities from the *Greater New York Hospital Association* that covers hospitals in the tristate area:

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

For hospital guidance regarding the transfer and tracking of patients to alternate care sites:

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/hospital-guidance-for-the-transfer-and-tracking-of-patients-to-alternate-care-sites/>

For a working protocol for supporting two patients with a single ventilator:

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/working-protocol-for-supporting-two-patients-with-a-single-ventilator/>

For NYC Mass Fatality Management Guidance:

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/nyc-mass-fatality-management-guidance/>

For tracking statutory and regulatory waivers:

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/tracking-statutory-and-regulatory-waivers/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:

Coronavirus outbreak sparks face mask debate: Should you wear them?

Fox News

3/31/2020

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/coronavirus-outbreak-sparks-face-mask-debate-should-you-wear-them>

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

Who Knew Grocery Shopping Could Be So Stressful?

The New York Times

3/26/2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/26/well/eat/coronavirus-shopping-food-groceries-infection.html>

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How to Shop Safely at the Farmer's Market During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Food and Wine

4/1/2020

<https://www.foodandwine.com/news/how-to-shop-safely-at-the-farmers-market-coronavirus-food-safety>

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UPDATING — Coronavirus in Westchester: Reduced Bee-Line Bus Service & County Parks

Westchester Magazine

3/31/2020

<https://westchestermagazine.com/life-style/news/coronavirus-in-westchester/>

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Coronavirus in New York: As deaths and cases soar, should NY leaders have acted sooner?

The Journal News

4/1/2020

<https://www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/2020/04/02/coronavirus-deaths-soar-should-ny-leaders-have-acted-sooner/5102417002/>

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The ethical minefield of prioritizing health care for some with Covid-19

CNN

4/1/2020

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/opinions/ethical-minefield-of-prioritizing-health-care-for-covid-19/index.html>

Ira J. Bedzow, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine and director of the Biomedical Ethics and Humanities Program

Lila Kagedan, M.Ed., adjunct assistant professor of medicine

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