

4-17-2020

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 7)

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



Tuesday April 17, 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, M.D., M.B.A.
Director
Center for Disaster Medicine

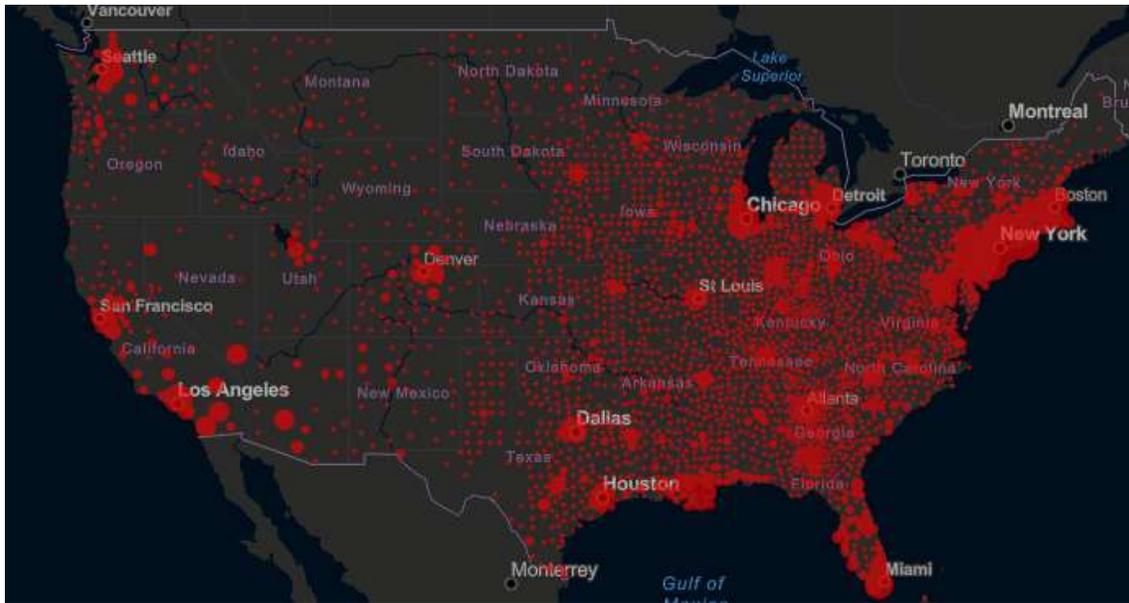
COVID-19 Statistics

| | Total Cases | Total Deaths | Total Recovered | Total Tested |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Worldwide | 2,173,432 | 146,291 | 554,786 | No Data |
| United States | 671,425 | 33,286 | 56,236 | 3,420,394 |
| New Jersey | 75,317 | 3,518 | No Data | 151,830 |
| New York | 223,691 | 14,832 | No Data | 550,579 |
| Connecticut | 15,884 | 971 | No Data | 53,122 |

Information as of 4/17/20 at 0900 EDT. Source:

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

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS



Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

- Coordinating volunteers to support local public health response to COVID-19
- Conducting research and analysis of current events and COVID-19 response to identify strengths and areas for improvement in other regions
- Updating and developing new programs to provide enhanced education on public health emergencies including pandemics
- Redesigning summer fellowship in disaster and emergency medicine to better address preparedness skills, lessons learned and highlight the importance of high-fidelity simulation in medical education while finding new focus on pandemic-related research projects
- Exploring course development opportunities in infection prevention and control for frontline responders **in the** hospital and in the field
- Serving as a source of information for COVID-19 related concerns or questions regarding public health, emergency medical service (EMS), public safety and healthcare response
- Local networking and pandemic response analysis for New York metropolitan tri-state area, using first-person experiences to highlight current trends.

Federal Updates

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) memorandum expands temporary enforcement guidance provided in OSHA's March 14 memorandum to Compliance Safety and Health Officers for enforcing annual fit-testing requirements of the Respiratory Protection standard, 29 CFR § 1910.134(f)(2), with regard to supply shortages of N95s or other filtering

face piece respirators (FFRs) due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The March 14 guidance, which applied to healthcare, now applies to all workplaces covered by OSHA where there is required use of respirators. This memorandum will take effect immediately and remain in effect until further notice <https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-04-08/expanded-temporary-enforcement-guidance-respiratory-protection-fit-testing-n95>

- The return to work criteria for health care personnel (HCP) with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 has been updated. The update adds return to work criteria for HCP with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms, stating they should be excluded from work until 10 days after the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html
- The World Health Organization (WHO) published an update to its COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. Among the changes is a new section that includes guidance regarding conditions and considerations that should inform decisions regarding efforts to relax existing social distancing measures. <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-mission-briefing-on-covid-19---16-april-2020>
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Federal Healthcare Resilience Task Force published the COVID-19 Hospital Resource Package, which is intended to provide publicly accessible guidance and tools to better enable the healthcare response to COVID-19. <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/covid-19-hospital-resource-package-document.pdf>
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced multiple new contracts under the Defense Production Act (DPA) for mechanical ventilator production. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/13/hhs-announces-new-ventilator-contracts-orders-now-totaling-over-130000-ventilators.html>

The White House

- President Trump halts WHO funding. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dBxsB5o5nk&feature=youtu.be&t=124>
- 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

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH to launch public-private partnership to speed COVID-19 vaccine and treatment options <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-launch-public-private-partnership-speed-covid-19-vaccine-treatment-options>

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

- FDA, Gates Foundation, UnitedHealth Group, Quantigen, and U.S. Cotton Collaborate to Address Testing Supply Needs
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-gates-foundation-unitedhealth-group-quantigen-and-us-cotton>
- FDA Encourages Recovered Patients to Donate Plasma for Development of Blood-Related Therapies
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-encourages-recovered-patients-donate-plasma-development-blood>
- FDA launches new website to guide recovered COVID-19 patients to local blood or plasma collection centers to discuss their eligibility and potentially schedule an appointment to donate
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-april-16-2020>
- FDA releases guidance regarding shopping for Food During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Information for Consumers
<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/shopping-food-during-covid-19-pandemic-information-consumers>
- FDA releases Temporary Policy for Compounding of Certain Drugs for Hospitalized Patients by Outsourcing Facilities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
<https://www.fda.gov/media/137031/download>
- FDA releases Enforcement Policy for Tele thermographic Systems During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency
<https://www.fda.gov/media/137079/download>
- FDA releases updated Guidance on Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
<https://www.fda.gov/media/136238/download>
- FDA launched a new “[At-a-Glance Summary](#)” that captures the agency’s major activities in the fight against COVID-19
<https://www.fda.gov/media/137005/download>
- FDA offers accelerated emergency use authorization (EUA) summary COVID-19 elisa IGG antibody test at Mount Sinai laboratory
<https://www.fda.gov/media/137029/download>
- FDA issues accelerated emergency use authorization (EUA) summary SARS-CoV-2 assay (saliva test) at Rutgers Clinical Genome Laboratory
<https://www.fda.gov/media/136875/download>

Health and Human Services (HHS)

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

- HHS Secretary Azar Statement on New Partnership to Develop National Strategy for COVID-19 Therapies and Vaccines
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/17/secretary-azar-statement-on-new-partnership-to-develop-national-strategy-for-covid19-therapies-and-vaccines.html>
- HHS announces Ventilator Contract with GE Under Defense Production Act
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/16/hhs-announces-ventilator-contract-with-ge-under-defense-production-act.html>
- HHS awards \$90 Million to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Recipients for COVID-19 Response
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/15/hhs-awards-90-million-ryan-white-hiv-aids-program-recipients-for-covid-19-response.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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

Daily updates of cases in United States:

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

CDC's new weekly COVID-19 surveillance report:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview.html>

CDC's tutorial and instructions on how to make face coverings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>

CDC's updated Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

CDC's Interim Guidance on Public Health Communicators: Get your Community Ready:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-communicators-get-your-community-ready.html>

CDC's Guidance on Pregnancy and COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>

CDC's updated FAQs for healthcare professionals: Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>

CDC's travel recommendations by country:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>

CDC's Considerations for Pharmacies during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pharmacies.html>

CDC's updated Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html>

CDC's updated Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Clinical Trials

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19>

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Guidance for long-term care facilities:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/4220-covid-19-long-term-care-facility-guidance.pdf>

American Red Cross

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html>

State Updates

New York

- "New York on PAUSE" will be extended until May 15. This action is taken in consultation with other regional states. Non-essential workers must continue to stay home and social distancing rules remain in place. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-announces-nys-pause-extended-until-may-15>
- Governor Andrew Cuomo unveiled a blueprint to bring New York out of the COVID-19 pandemic. His plan to "Un-Pause" New York can be found here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-outlines-blueprint-un-pause-new-york>
- New Yorkers must wear masks or face coverings on public transportation systems and while taking private transportation or riding in for-hire vehicles. Additionally, all operators of public systems, private carriers and for-hire vehicles must wear a mask or face covering at all times while working. These directives expand on the Executive Order requiring everyone in New York to wear a mask or a face covering when out in public and in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. The order went into effect on Friday, April 17. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-issues-executive-order-requiring-all-people-new>
- Beginning this week, New York will start conducting antibody tests, prioritizing frontline healthcare workers, first responders and other essential workers. Using a new finger prick method, the state will test up to 2,000 New Yorkers per day for antibodies (proteins in our blood that indicate someone has had the virus). The state is also asking the FDA for expedited approval of a finger prick antibody test that could test up to 100,000 New Yorkers a day. New York is continuing to engage with other partners including hospital labs and private companies to bring mass antibody testing to scale statewide.
- The New York State Department of Health (DOH) issued interim guidance on Executive Order 202.16 requiring face coverings for public and private employees interacting with the public during the COVID-19 outbreak. https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh_covid19_eo20216employeefacecovering_041420.pdf

New York State Department of Health

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

For the latest information about COVID-19 testing:

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

Positive cases by county in New York State:

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

NYS DOH Weekly healthcare provider update:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/weekly-healthcare-provider-update>

NYS DOH updated COVID-19 Weekly Healthcare Provider Update Compilation:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/covid19providerupdatecompilation4.15.20.831a.pdf>

New Jersey

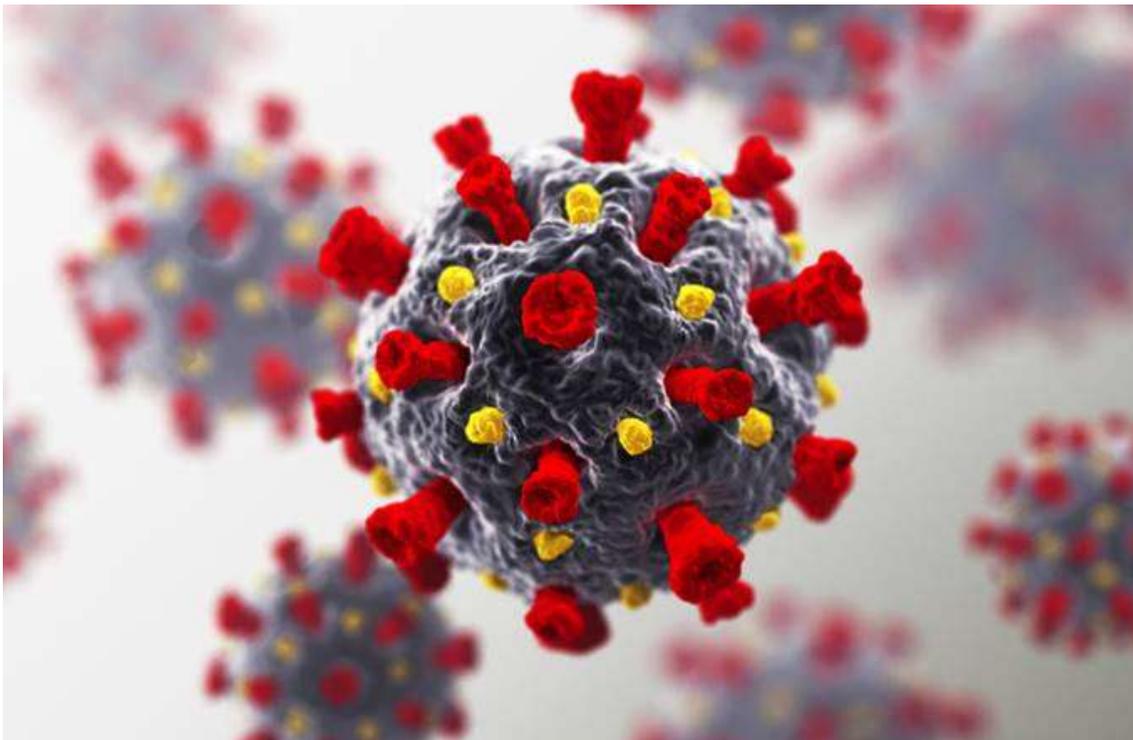
- Executive Order 127 issued extending certain deadlines associated with rulemaking <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-127.pdf>
- Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order 125 reducing capacity on NJTRANSIT trains, buses, Light Rail and private carriers by 50 percent, and requiring employees and customers to wear face coverings when on board all modes of transit.
- Executive Order 121, Allowing Greater Weight Limit for Vehicles Carrying COVID-19 Relief Supplies <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-121.pdf>
- Ambulances from around the nation have responded to New Jersey through the national ambulance contract and FEMA to support the local EMS departments. More than 75 ambulances have responded to Northern New Jersey with the potential for more to respond in the coming weeks. <https://hudsonreporter.com/2020/04/15/hudson-county-receives-ambulances-as-part-of-fema-aide/>
- New Jersey schools are now closed through mid-May. <https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/coronavirus/phil-murphy-new-jersey-coronavirus-schools/2365346/>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont today announced that the State of Connecticut has formed a partnership with CVS Health in an initiative that will make free, rapid COVID-19 tests available to eligible Connecticut residents. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases>
- The Connecticut Department of Labor successfully processed 60,000 unemployment claims overnight Wednesday utilizing the new software improvements the agency deployed in response to the overwhelming surge in claim applications resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional claims will continue to be processed through this new system, helping to expedite the process.
- All fully-insured plan health plan members, including those with high-deductible health plans, can now receive COVID-19 testing and treatment with no out-of-pocket costs.

Some employers, especially large ones, sponsor self-funded health plans. Insurance Commissioner Andrew N. Mais urges those employers to waive testing and treatment costs as well. <https://portal.ct.gov/CID/News-Releases/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-20200415>

- Governor Lamont signed Executive Order 7Z, enacting the following:
 - Modification of state contracting statutes to facilitate the emergency procurement of essential goods: Temporarily waives certain requirements related to state contracts in order to expedite the procurement of essential goods and services, including personal protective equipment (PPE), that are needed urgently to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - In-person attendance requirement suspended for assessment appeals: Allows property owners or their attorney or agent to appear before a board of assessment appeals using remote technology instead of in person.
 - Suspension of requirements for security officer license: Authorizes the commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to waive licensing requirements to temporarily allow security services or businesses to employ security officers who are not licensed in Connecticut but are licensed in another state, to address a shortage of available security officers. This applies only to unarmed security officers.
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7Z.pdf?la=en>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center

- New York Blood Center partners with Survivor Corps to recruit recovered COVID-19 patients to donate convalescent plasma
<https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/new-york-blood-center-partners-survivor-corps-recruit-recovered-covid-19-patients-donate-convalescent-plasma/>

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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

NYC DOHMH's potential decontamination strategies for N95 respirators:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/n95-decontamination-strategies.pdf>

NYC DOHMH's COVID-19 information for providers:

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

Westchester County Department of Health

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

- Latest daily COVID-19 briefing (April 16) from Westchester County Executive Latimer:
<https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/8391-april-16-county-executive-george-latimer-gives-westchester-county-coronavirus-update>

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 (GNYHA) that covers hospitals in the tristate area:

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

For the latest information on agency prevention and treatment guidance:

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/cdc-doh-and-dohmh-prevention-and-treatment-guidance/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:

VERIFY: No, gloves aren't recommended for the public

WUSA9

4/16/2020

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/verify/verify-no-gloves-arent-recommended-for-the-public/65-daf973d8-a5b2-45ad-91f4-768c4fe71aa0>

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

Experts Say We Can All Stop Freaking Out About Wiping Down Our Groceries

Mom

4/13/2020

<https://mom.com/news/experts-anxiety-shopping-wiping-down-groceries>

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Faculty News:

Human rights and social inequity issues are magnified by COVID-19

KevinMD

4/15/2020

<https://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2020/04/human-rights-and-social-inequity-issues-are-magnified-by-covid-19.html>

Padmini Murthy, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., M.Phil., CHES, professor of public health and global health director and clinical assistant professor of family and community medicine

Wake Up Call for Industry Leaders: The Time to Think About COVID-19 As A Complex Adaptive Challenge Is Now

Forbes

4/12/2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/irabedzow/2020/04/12/wake-up-call-for-industry-leaders-the-time-to-think-about-covid-19-as-a-complex-adaptive-challenge-is-now/#4990aea66e8b>

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

COVID-19: A wake-up call for biosafety

GM Watch

4/13/2020

<https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/latest-news/19377-covid-19-a-wake-up-call-for-biosafety>

Stuart A. Newman, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy and medicine

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