

4-22-2020

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 8)

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 21, 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.

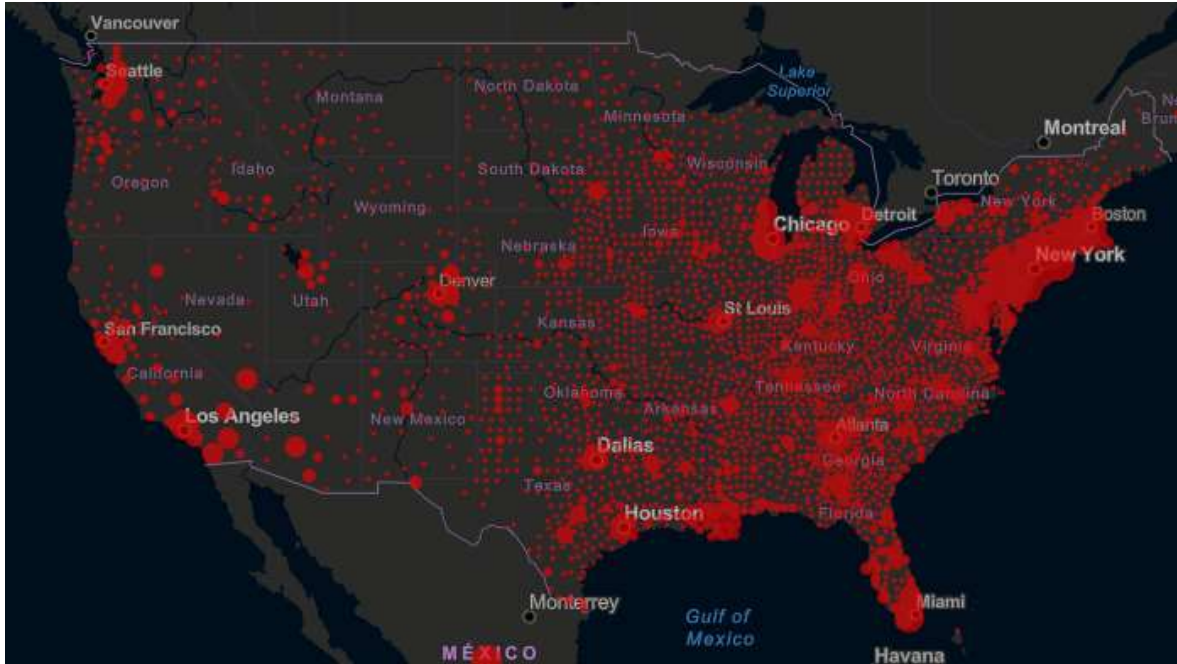
David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.
Director
Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	2,494,915	171,249	658,009	No Data
United States	787,960	42,364	73,527	4,026,572
New Jersey	88,806	4,520	No Data	178,057
New York	253,311	18,653	No Data	633,861
Connecticut	19,815	1,331	No Data	62,806

Information as of 4/21/20 at 0730 EDT. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

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

- A group of Midwestern states have begun to discuss and plan to a reopening of their regional economies and a proposed relaxation of social distancing.

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/coronavirus/midwest-governors-announce-plan-to-coordinate-on-reopening-of-economy/2256936/>

- Serological testing has proven to be a hot-button topic in recent days as it has been looked to as a means for developing a community, regional, and national level picture of how prevalent COVID-19 is and how high our exposure risk can be. Experts have expressed concern about the availability of SARS-CoV-2 serological tests without sufficient data to demonstrate their reliability. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/19/us/coronavirus-antibody-tests.html>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to update its rumor control page, as needed: <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/rumor-control>

The White House

- President Trump has announced that he will sign an executive order temporarily suspending immigration into the United States in an effort to curb coronavirus spread. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52363852>
- On April 16, President Trump announced new guidance regarding future efforts to relax existing social distancing measures. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-beginning-next-phase-fight-coronavirus-guidelines-opening-america/>
- 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 issues update regarding antiviral drug remdesivir prevents disease progression in monkeys with COVID-19. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/antiviral-remdesivir-prevents-disease-progression-monkeys-covid-19>
- NIH issues update regarding Investigational chimp adenovirus MERS-CoV vaccine protects monkeys. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/investigational-chimp-adenovirus-mers-cov-vaccine-protects-monkeys>

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 issues COVID-19 daily update on April 20, 2020. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-april-20-2020>

- FDA issues Important Information on the Use of Serological (Antibody) Tests for COVID-19 - Letter to Health Care Providers.
<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/important-information-use-serological-antibody-tests-covid-19-letter-health-care-providers>
- A new FDA Voices was issued, [The Path Forward: Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-voices-perspectives-fda-leadership-and-experts/path-forward-coronavirus-treatment-acceleration-program), describing a new program that aims to move new treatments to patients as soon as possible, while at the same time finding out whether they are helpful or harmful.
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-voices-perspectives-fda-leadership-and-experts/path-forward-coronavirus-treatment-acceleration-program>
- FDA issues COVID-19 Update: Serological Test Validation and Education Efforts.
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-serological-test-validation-and-education-efforts>

Health and Human Services (HHS)

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

- HHS announces partnership with Oracle via Therapeutic Learning System to Gather Crowd-Sourced Data on COVID-19.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/20/oracle-donates-therapeutic-learning-system-to-hhs-to-gather-crowd-sourced-data-on-covid-19.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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

- The U.S. CDC implemented the COVID-19–Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network (COVID-NET) surveillance system in March to provide insight into hospitalized COVID-19 patients in the United States. The information collected can offer a more in-depth look into how the population is impacted by the virus and inform clinical discussions.
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e3.htm?s_cid=mm6915e3_w
- The CDC updated its Q&A document about COVID-19 testing and reporting for laboratories. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/testing-laboratories.html>
- The CDC has published guidance and resources in order to help states, governments, and others in preparing to relax physical distancing measures and re-opening the United States. Information can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/index.html>
- The CDC has collected data on COVID-19 forecasting for the United States. Information from state modeling, Columbia University, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Northeastern, are included.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/forecasting-us.html>

For 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 Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

CDC's Guidance on Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in a Variety of Settings Throughout Your Community:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/infection-control.html>

CDC's Guidance on Contact Tracing:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/contact-tracing.html>

CDC's updated list of Testing in the United States:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/testing-in-us.html>

CDC's Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html>

CDC's travel recommendations by country:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>

CDC's Interim Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html>

CDC's guidance on households living in close quarters:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/living-in-close-quarters.html>

Clinical Trials

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

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS released recommendations on reopening facilities to provide non-emergent non-COVID-19-related health care. The recommendations outline general considerations and matters pertaining to personal protective equipment, workforce availability, facilities, sanitation, supplies, and testing capacity.
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-flexibility-reopen-essential-non-covid-services.pdf>

American Red Cross

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

State Updates

New York

- Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced he will issue an Executive Order directing all public and private labs in New York to coordinate with the State Department of Health to prioritize coronavirus diagnostic testing. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-issues-executive-order-directing-all-nys-public>
- Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order allowing New Yorkers to obtain a marriage license remotely and allowing clerks to perform ceremonies via video conference. The Executive Order will temporarily suspend a provision of law that requires in-person visits. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20220-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>
- Secretary to the Governor Melissa DeRosa and the New York State Council on Women and Girls today announced the creation of a COVID-19 maternity task force to examine the best approach to authorizing and certifying additional dedicated birthing centers in an effort to provide mothers a safe alternative to already stressed hospitals amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/secretary-governor-melissa-derosa-and-new-york-state-council-women-girls-launch-covid-19>
- The New York State Department of Health (DOH) issued a Health Advisory on the discontinuation of isolation for patients with COVID-19 who are hospitalized or in nursing homes, adult care homes, or other congregate settings with vulnerable residents. DOH recommends discontinuation of transmission-based precautions for patients with COVID-19 in these settings when they meet more stringent conditions compared to recent guidance. http://dmna.ny.gov/covid19/docs/all/DOH_COVID19_DiscontinuingIsolationHospitalCongregateSetting_041920.pdf
- Governor Cuomo announced the creation of the Reimagine NY Task Force to improve systems in downstate New York once the state is no longer on PAUSE. The Task Force will be led by the state and NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and will comprise other local elected officials and housing and transportation experts.

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>

For a list of positive cases by county in New York State, please visit the COVID-19 tracker:

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

NYS DOH Weekly healthcare provider update:

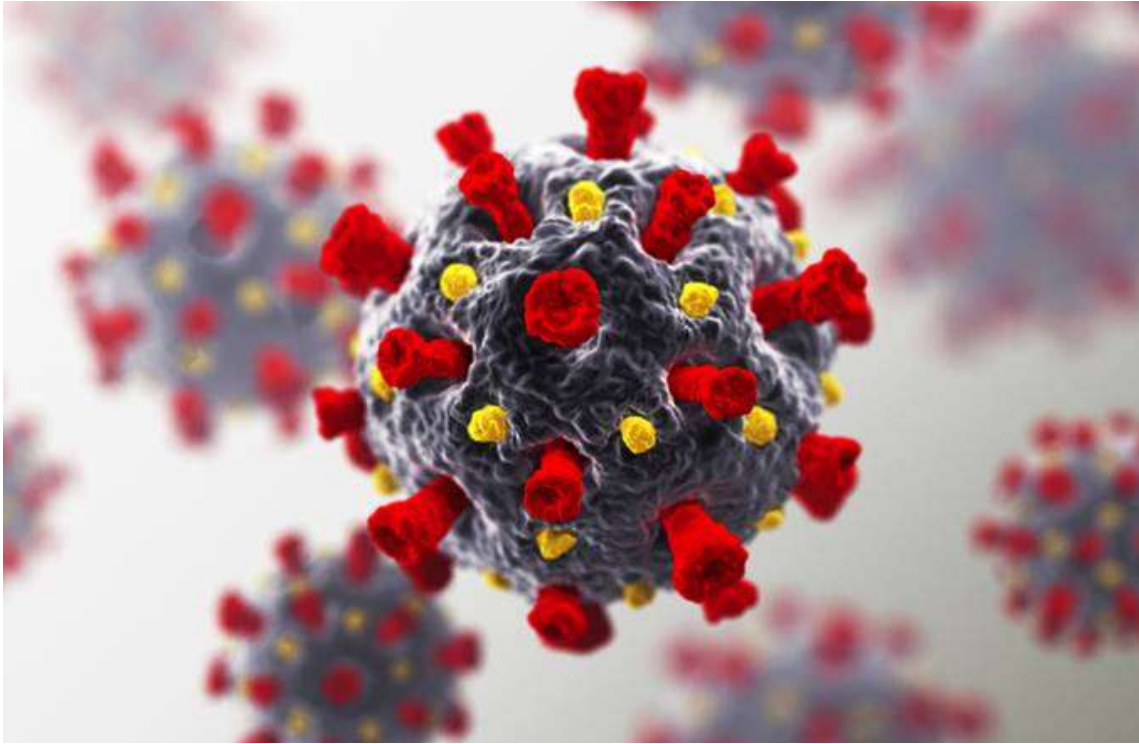
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/weekly-healthcare-provider-update>

New Jersey

- The State of NJ published an informational notice regarding their field medical stations and their locations.
<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/Field%20Medical%20Station%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>
- The State recently published and updated a fact sheet of frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 for the public:
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID19_public_faqs.pdf
- With recent changes to the executive orders regarding businesses and food service establishments, guidance has been provided by the State of NJ to assist food service establishments, bars, and general businesses, in navigating the recommendations.
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Restaurants_Bars.pdf and https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Retail.pdf
- NJ Office of Homeland Security released an interesting write-up and analysis discussing the jihadist exploitation of economic instability in areas overseas:
<https://www.njhomelandsecurity.gov/analysis/salafi-jihadists-exploit-economic-instability-overseas>
- The NJ Hospital Association continues to periodically update their waiver tracker that offers information for businesses, healthcare facilities, healthcare professionals, statutes, and insurance-related systems: <http://www.njha.com/Coronavirus/Waiver-Tracker>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that – in coordination with Secretary of the State Denise Merrill – he is ordering Connecticut's 2020 presidential primary election to be rescheduled to Tuesday, August 11, 2020, due to the ongoing public health crisis caused by COVID-19.
- Governor Lamont enacted Executive Order 7BB which call for the following provisions:
 - Cloth face coverings or higher level of protection required in public wherever close contact is unavoidable: Effective at 8:00 p.m. on April 21, 2020, any person in a public place in Connecticut who is unable to or does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face-covering. Additional guidance can be found in the executive order.
 - Further postponement of presidential preference primary to August 11.
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7BB.pdf?la=en>
- Governor Lamont increased financial aid to the state's nursing homes as well as planned site visits to every nursing home in the state in an effort to leverage available resources to support them. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center

- TIME Magazine Features Blood Plasma Treatment for Coronavirus:
<https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/time-magazine-features-blood-plasma-treatment-coronavirus/>

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>

- The latest daily COVID-19 briefing (April 20) from Westchester County Executive George Latimer: <https://youtu.be/9jXBHxATE3Y>

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

COVID-19 information for healthcare facilities from the Greater New York Hospital Association that covers hospitals in the tri-state area:

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

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

For the latest COVID-19 meeting recaps from April 11-17: <https://www.gnyha.org/news/coronavirus-meeting-recaps-april-11-17/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

Faculty News:

We need a better CARES package for the elderly

The Hill

4/18/2020

<https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/492822-we-need-a-better-cares-package-for-the-elderly>

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

Grad Students Confront Coronavirus Adjustments

Politico New York

4/17/2020

<https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/newsletters/politico-new-york-education/2020/04/17/new-york-new-jersey-extend-school-closures-334103>

Kate Franklin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and director of clinical education

Leaders Must Flatten the Political Curve

Forbes

4/19/2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/irabedzow/2020/04/19/leaders-must-flatten-the-political-curve/#766a7081acef>

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

Doctors Are Left Jittery About Their Health and Their Families

The Examiner

4/21/2020

<https://www.theexaminernews.com/doctors-are-left-jittery-about-their-health-and-their-families/>

Marc S. Arkovitz, M.D., clinical associate professor of surgery and pediatrics

MIT team races to fill Covid-19-related ventilator shortage

MIT News

4/20/2020

<http://news.mit.edu/2020/e-vent-covid-19-ventilator-shortage-0420>

Albert H. Kwon, M.D., assistant professor of anesthesiology

Student News:

Queens Go Fund Mes raise nearly \$1 million to fight COVID-19

Queens Daily Eagle

4/17/2020

<https://queenseagle.com/all/queens-go-fund-mes-raise-nearly-1-million-to-fight-covid-19>

Lillian Huang, M.S. candidate in the Basic Medical Sciences Master's program

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