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COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 15)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE
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Center for Disaster Medicine

Friday May 15, 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.
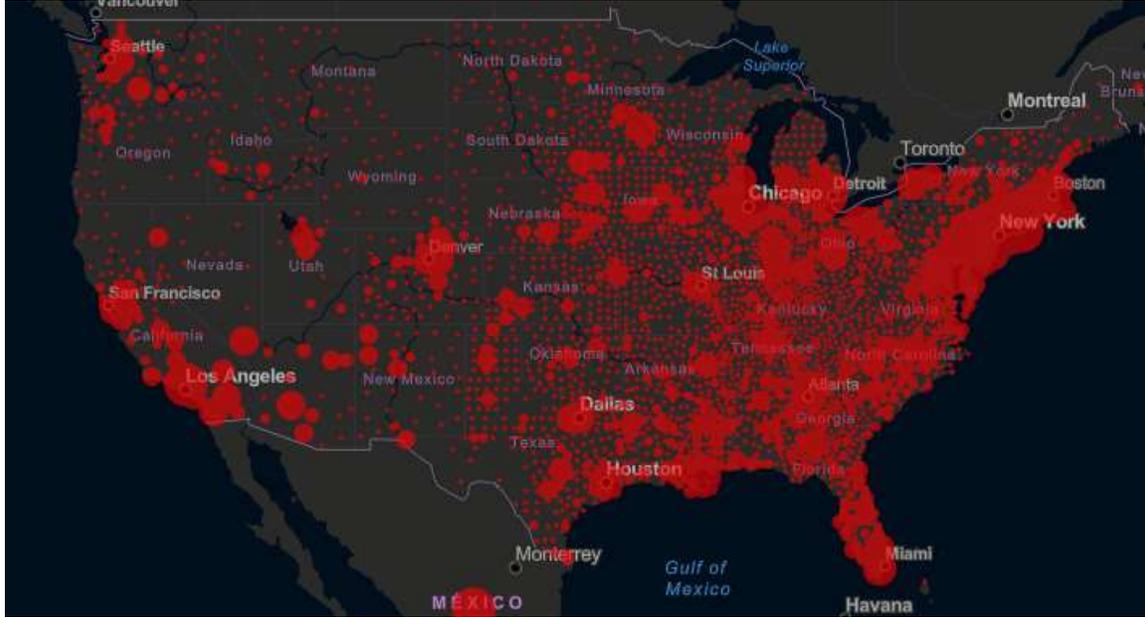
David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.
Director
Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	4,442,163	302,418	1,587,893	No Data
United States	1,417,774	85,898	246,414	10,341,775
New Jersey	142,704	9,946	15,642	451,696
New York	343,051	27,641	59,758	1,298,757
Connecticut	35,464	3,219	6,264	149,562

Information as of 5/15/20 at 0400 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's tri-state area, using first-person experiences to highlight current trends.

Federal Updates

- Reports of violence associated with social distancing guidelines have been on the rise in the United States, and elsewhere, concerning both law enforcement and the public. https://apnews.com/012f3c6a3706316776e2d7128531e68e
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently added a Framework for Non-COVID-19 Care to its guidance library to provide health care systems with a high-

level plan for delivering non-COVID-19 health care during the COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html

- The CDC also updated the Interim Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for handling and processing specimens associated with COVID-19 to provide additional information about point-of-care (POC) testing for SARS-CoV-2. The update includes guidance on the use of instruments at a location associated with a current Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 certificate, site- and activity-specific risk assessments, proper training for staff, precautions when handling clinical specimens, and decontamination of POC instruments. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/lab-biosafety-guidelines.html

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) released a predictive modeling tool to estimate natural decay of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) under a range of temperatures and relative humidity. Leveraging the results of research being conducted at S&T's National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC), the tool is designed to assist response efforts and estimate the environmental persistence of the virus under certain combinations of temperatures and humidity. https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/sars-calculator

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launch of the COVID Coach app, a new mobile app designed to help both Veterans and civilians cope with feelings of stress and anxiety they may be experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5448

- The VA announced it has maintained an increasing supply of beds for both Veterans and COVID-19 patients, steady supplies across the nation and a stable staffing situation in the vast majority of VA locations nearly two months into the national emergency. As of late April, VA had the capacity to take in 12,215 critical and non-critical patients, up from 9,840 in March. https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5449

The White House

- The President's 30 Days to Slow the Spread ended on April 30. President Trump has unveiled Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, a three-phased approach based on the advice of public health experts. These steps will help state and local officials when reopening their economies, getting people back to work, and continuing to protect American lives. To review the Guidelines and obtain additional information regarding Opening Up America Again: https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH begins clinical trial of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin to treat COVID-19 https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-begins-clinical-trial-hydroxychloroquine-azithromycin-treat-covid-19

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 Daily Update for May 14, 2020
  https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-may-14-2020
- FDA Informs Public About Possible Accuracy Concerns with Abbott ID NOW Point-of-Care Test
  https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-informs-public-about-possible-accuracy-concerns-abbott-id-now-point

- FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization for Potential COVID-19 Treatment
  https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-issues-emergency-use-authorization-potential-covid-19-treatment

Health and Human Services (HHS)
https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html

HHS to Award $5 Million for Health Services Research Related to COVID-19
https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/14/hhs-to-award-5-million-for-health-services-research-related-to-covid19.html

SAMHSA seeks applications for $40 million emergency COVID-19 grants for suicide prevention
https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/202005131138

HHS Awards $15 Million to Support Telehealth Providers During the COVID-19 Pandemic
https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/13/hhs-awards-15-million-to-support-telehealth-providers-during-covid19-pandemic.html

HHS announces shipments of donated remdesivir for hospitalized patients with COVID-19

https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/09/hhs-ships-first-doses-of-donated-remdesivir-for-hospitalized-patients-with-covid-19.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
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 updated information on Testing in the United States: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/testing-in-us.html

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

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

Updated CDC's Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-faq.html

Updated CDC's Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html

Updated CDC COVID-19 forecasts: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/forecasting-us.html

Clinical Trials
View the latest information on clinical trials regarding COVID-19: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Latest CMS update: https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-news-alert-may-13-2020

American Red Cross
https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html

State Updates

New York

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo is directing hospitals statewide to prioritize COVID-19 testing for children displaying symptoms of multi-system inflammatory syndrome. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-state-department-health-investigating-evidence-covid-19-can-cause
- Central New York and the North Country Regions are ready to begin reopening on Friday, May 15. Along with the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley, these regions have met all seven metrics required to begin phase one of the state's regional phased reopening plan. Phase one includes reopening construction, manufacturing, retail for curbside and in-store pickup, agriculture, forestry and fishing. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-announces-fourth-region-hits-benchmark-begin
- Twelve more counties are now eligible to resume elective surgeries. The state will allow elective outpatient treatments to resume in counties and hospitals without significant risk of COVID-19 surge in the near term, and a total of 47 counties can now resume elective surgeries. This also includes Ambulatory Surgical Centers, which will continue to provide select diagnostic and screening procedures. Doctor visits throughout the state are permitted, as they are classified as essential businesses. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-12-more-counties-are-now-eligible-resume-elective-surgeries

New York State Department of Health

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

Latest information about COVID-19 testing:

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

List of 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-health-provider-webinar

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Plan to Reopen New York:

https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/new-york-forward

Information regarding how to become a contact tracer within New York State: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/get-involved-how-you-can-help

New York State's Regional Monitoring Dashboard regarding the seven metrics needed to reopen:

https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard

The latest section regarding childhood inflammatory disease related to COVID-19: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/childhood-inflammatory-disease-related-covid-19
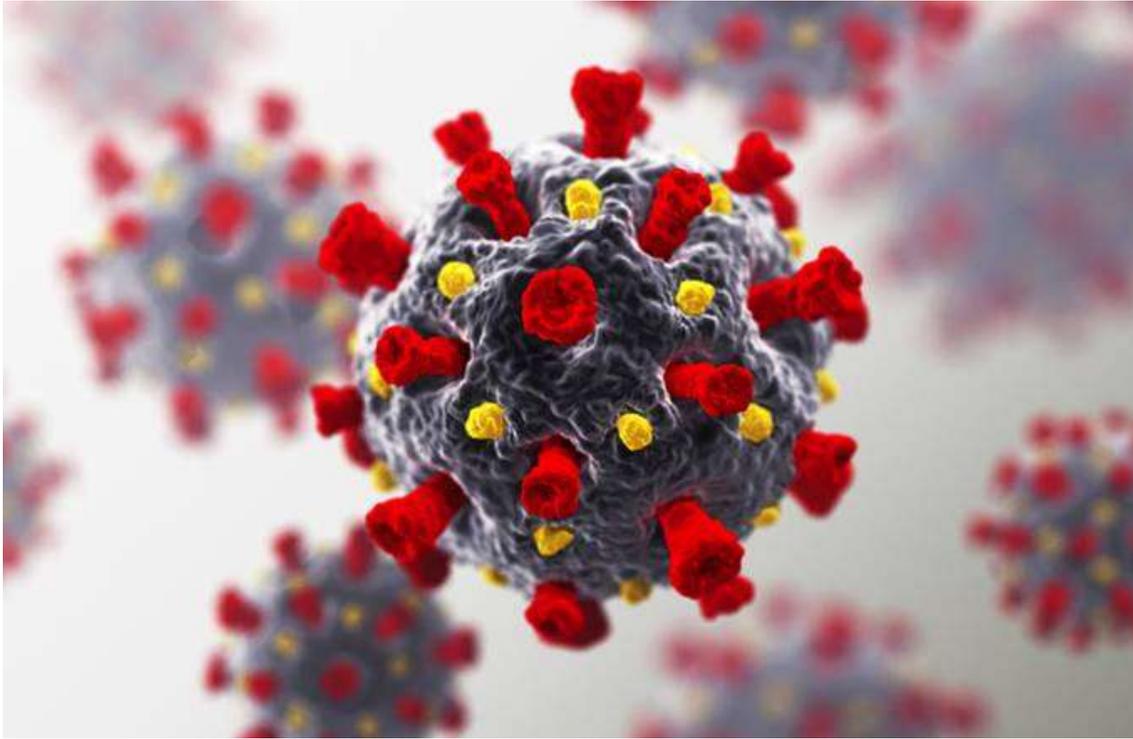
New Jersey
- To limit exposure and reduce the spread of COVID-19, Heath Commissioner Judith Persichilli signed an Executive Directive requiring all long-term care facilities in the State to implement testing of staff and residents for the virus by May 26. In addition, the Executive Directive provides for retesting of individuals who test negative within three to seven days to detect those with newly developed infection, and further retesting in according with CDC guidance. https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/05-12-2020_LTC_COVID19testing.pdf
- As part of New Jersey's Road Back, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 142, permitting the resumption of non-essential construction, curbside pickup at non-essential retail businesses, and car gatherings for the purpose of drive-through and drive-in events. The construction and non-essential retail provisions will take effect at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, May 18, while the car gatherings provision will take effect immediately. https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-142.pdf
- Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 143, allowing beaches, boardwalks, lakes, and lakeshores to remain open with social distancing measures in place. The directive takes effect on Friday, May 22. Under Governor Murphy's Executive Order, the following shall remain closed on private and public beaches, boardwalks, lakes, and lakeshores: water fountains, picnic areas, playgrounds, pavilions, indoor recreational facilities, and other buildings and facilities, such as visitor centers. There is an exception allowing bathrooms, showering areas, and changing areas to stay open. https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-143.pdf

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont enacted Executive Order No. 7MM, which includes the following provisions:
    - Allows municipalities to expedite changes to their zoning rules or other ordinances to expand outdoor dining.

- - Creates an expedited approval process for restaurants and other establishments that serve food to get fast-tracked permission to create or expand outdoor dining areas.
  - Allows other businesses such as retail stores to get fast-tracked permission to sell goods on the sidewalk or in other outdoor areas, including shared spaces or spaces provided by municipalities.
  - Allows restaurants and other businesses who already have liquor permits to serve alcohol only with food without applying for a separate patio or extension of use permit.
  - Allows private clubs to sell alcohol only to their members for delivery or pickup.
  - https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7MM.pdf?la=en
- Governor Lamont enacted Executive Order No. 7NN, which includes the following provisions:
  - Waiver of statutory vote on supplemental federal block grant.
  - Remote participation in member meetings.
  - Waiver of certain regulatory limitations on the amount of support that can be provided to caregiver relatives.
  - Technical modification of grace period for April and May rent.
  - Authorization for OPM to direct DSS to provide Coronavirus Relief Fund distributions to nursing home facilities.
  - Authorization for OPM to direct DSS to provide Coronavirus Relief Fund distributions to COVID recovery facilities and alternate COVID recovery facilities.
  - Authorization for additional COVID-19 related hardship relief funding under the Coronavirus Relief Fund to nursing home facilities.
  - Coronavirus Relief Fund distribution determinations not subject to rehearing or appeal.
  - Extension and sunset of suspension of tax on single-use plastic checkout bags.
  - https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7NN.pdf?la=en
- The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood announced that it has launched "CTCARES for Family Child Care" to provide support to licensed family child-care providers during the COVID-19 public health emergency and beyond. The initiative is made possible with approximately $830,000 in support from nonprofit organizations, including the Connecticut Early Childhood Funder Collaborative, 4-CT, and other philanthropic groups – and financial support continues to grow. https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/ctcares-for-family-child-care
- Governor Lamont announced that the State of Connecticut is receiving $111 million in federal coronavirus relief aid for the state's school districts that will be used to support continued learning and address educational disruptions due to the global pandemic. https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases
- Governor Lamont enacted Executive Order No. 7OO, which includes the following provisions:
  - Procedures for local appointments and elections requiring in-person vote
  - https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7OO.pdf?la=en

Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

New York Blood Center issues urgent call for health donors as blood supply drops to dangerously low levels
https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/new-york-blood-center-issues-urgent-call-healthy-donors-blood-supply-drops-dangerously-low-levels/

New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page

NYC DOHMH's COVID-19 information for providers:
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-providers.page

2020 Health Advisory #14 regarding Updated NYC Health Department COVID-19 Recommendations: https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/han/advisory/2020/covid-19-update-05142020.pdf

The latest information regarding infant feeding during the COVID-19 pandemic:
https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-infant-feeding.pdf

Westchester County Department of Health
For the latest COVID-19 information including how to become a contact tracer:
https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus
- Daily COVID-19 briefing (May 14) from Westchester County Executive Latimer:
  https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/8461-may-14-westchester-county-executive-george-latimer-gives-covid-19-update-from-westchester-county-emergency-child-care-drop-in-center

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

The latest 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/

The latest information on agency prevention and treatment guidance:
https://www.gnyha.org/tool/cdc-doh-and-dohmh-prevention-and-treatment-guidance/

Financial Resources for Hospitals During the COVID-19 Emergency:
https://www.gnyha.org/tool/financial-resources-for-hospitals-during-the-covid-19-emergency/

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:
When Can I Go Back to Work During Novel Coronavirus? Experts Weigh In
Women's Health
5/13/2020
https://www.womenshealthmag.com/health/a32440168/when-can-i-go-back-to-work-coronavirus/
Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., vice president for government affairs and dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice

The US probably had the coronavirus in December, but was too busy watching China to notice
Business Insider

5/12/2020
https://www.pulse.ng/bi/tech/the-us-probably-had-the-coronavirus-in-december-but-was-too-busy-watching-china-to/keteyzj
Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer

Faculty News:
Healthy Habits: Kelly Stays Home - The Science of Coronavirus
NY1
5/12/2020
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3UNl_OvRLA&feature=youtu.be
Adam E. Block, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health in the Division of Health Policy and Management

Covid-19 patients sharing ventilators is possible—but not ideal
NOVA
5/12/2020
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/covid19-ventilators-sharing-safe/
Albert H. Kwon, M.D., assistant professor of anesthesiology

Accessing Non-COVID Medical Care During the Time of Corona
The Inside Press
5/14/2020
https://www.theinsidepress.com/accessing-non-covid-medical-care-during-the-time-of-corona/
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