

5-22-2020

## COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 17)

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 May 22, 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.*

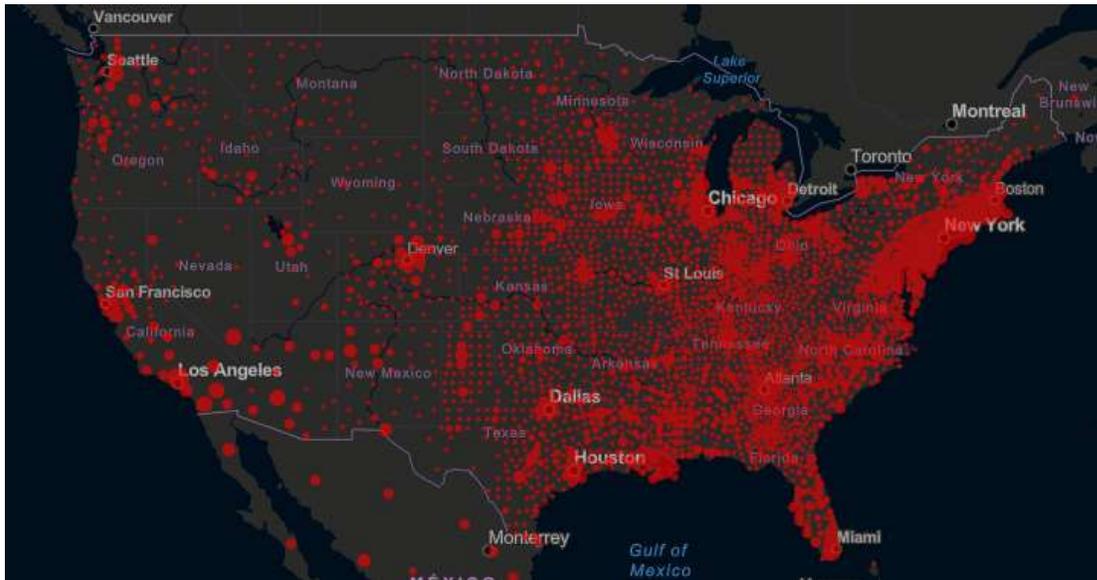
David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.  
Director  
Center for Disaster Medicine

### COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	5,101,967	332,900	1,948,686	No Data
United States	1,577,140	94,702	298,418	13,056,206
New Jersey	148,240	10,846	24,236	544,274
New York	351,371	28,743	62,826	1,555,055
Connecticut	38,116	3,583	6,264	202,747

Information as of 5/21/20 at 0000 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**

- As some communities in the United States open K-12 schools, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers considerations for ways in which schools can help protect students, teachers, administrators, and staff and slow the spread of COVID-19. Schools can determine, in collaboration with state and local health officials to the extent possible, whether and how to implement these considerations while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community.  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html?deliveryName=USCDC\\_2067-DM28938](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM28938)

The CDC has updated the guidance for contact tracing efforts.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/index.html>

## **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. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

## **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

NIH-funded study to investigate pregnancy outcomes resulting from COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-funded-study-investigate-pregnancy-outcomes-resulting-covid-19-pandemic>

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## **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 19, including to date, the FDA has authorized 104 tests under EUAs, which include 91 molecular tests, 12 antibody tests, and 1 antigen test.  
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-may-19-2020>
- USDA, FDA Strengthen U.S. Food Supply Chain Protections  
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/usda-fda-strengthen-us-food-supply-chain-protections>
- FDA Collaborations Promote Rigorous Analyses of Real-World Data to Inform Pandemic Response  
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-collaborations-promote-rigorous-analyses-real-world-data-inform>

## **Health and Human Services (HHS)**

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

Trump Administration's Operation Warp Speed Accelerates AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine to be Available Beginning in October

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/21/trump-administration-accelerates-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-to-be-available-beginning-in-october.html>

HHS Provides \$225 Million for COVID-19 Testing in Rural Communities

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/20/hhs-provides-225-million-for-covid19-testing-in-rural-communities.html>

HHS, Industry Partners Expand U.S.-Based Pharmaceutical Manufacturing for COVID-19 Response

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/19/hhs-industry-partners-expand-us-based-pharmaceutical-manufacturing-covid-19-response.html>

HHS announces that providers must act by June 3, 2020 to receive additional relief fund general distribution payment <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/20/providers-must-act-june-3-2020-receive-additional-relief-fund-general-distribution-payment.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-notice.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>

The latest CDC information for pediatric healthcare providers:

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

The latest CDC Clinical Care Guidance for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus (COVID-19):

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

The latest CDC guidance for college, universities and higher learning:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html>

CDC Evaluation and Management Considerations for Neonates at Risk for COVID-19:<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/caring-for-newborns.html>

COVID-19 contact tracing guidance and resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/index.html>

### **Clinical Trials**

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**

- Starting this past Wednesday, the Capital Region was able to begin Phase 1 of the state's regional phased reopening plan. The region has identified enough tracers to meet the required metrics and will be joining Western New York, Central New York, the North Country, the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley in reopening Phase 1 businesses.
- New York is starting a two-week hospital visitation pilot program. The program will take place in 16 hospitals across the state and allow increased visitations for family members and loved ones. Visits will be time limited and visitors will be provided and must wear PPE and are subject to symptom and temperature checks. This pilot program will shed light on whether we can safely allow increased visits in hospitals. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-announces-seventh-region-hits-benchmark-begin>
- Starting May 21, religious gatherings of no more than 10 people are now allowed statewide. Social distancing measures must be enforced and all participants must

wear masks. Additionally, drive-in and parking lot services will be permitted. The state is convening an Interfaith Advisory Council to discuss proposals to safely bring back religious services.

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/052020\\_Interfaith\\_Advisory\\_Council\\_Members.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/052020_Interfaith_Advisory_Council_Members.pdf)

- Summer school will be conducted through distance learning this year to help reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus. Meal programs and child care services for essential employees will continue. The state will make a determination on the fall semester and issue guidelines in June.
- Rockland and Nassau Counties are now eligible to resume elective surgeries and ambulatory care. The state is again permitting elective outpatient treatments in countries and hospitals without significant risk of COVID-19 surge in the near term, and a total of 51 counties now can offer elective surgeries.

## **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:

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

For the NYS DOH Weekly healthcare provider update:

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

To view Governor Cuomo's Plan to Reopen New York:

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

To view 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>

To view the latest section regarding childhood inflammatory disease related to COVID-19:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/childhood-inflammatory-disease-related-covid-19>

To view the latest information on pilot hospital visitation program:

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/doh\\_covid19\\_hospitalvisitation\\_pilot\\_5.20.20\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/doh_covid19_hospitalvisitation_pilot_5.20.20_final_1.pdf)

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## New Jersey

- Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced that the Division of Consumer Affairs has authorized licensed New Jersey pharmacists to widely administer COVID-19 tests to customers, paving the way for thousands of pharmacies statewide to serve as testing sites. [https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/COVID19/Documents/DCA-AO-2020-06\\_DCA-W-2020-10.pdf](https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/COVID19/Documents/DCA-AO-2020-06_DCA-W-2020-10.pdf)
- The Department of Health issued guidelines on the conditions for hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to begin resuming elective surgeries. Last week, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 145, allowing elective surgeries and invasive procedures, both medical and dental, to resume on Tuesday, May 26. Facilities shall establish a prioritization policy for providing care and scheduling of these procedures. Scheduling must be coordinated to promote social distancing: minimize time in waiting areas, stage appointment hours and post signs at entrances in appropriate languages about symptoms and precautions. [https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/5-19-2020\\_HospitalGuidance\\_forResumingElectives.pdf](https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/5-19-2020_HospitalGuidance_forResumingElectives.pdf)
- Governor Murphy, Walmart, and Quest Diagnostics announced that seven Walmart stores across New Jersey will open COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites beginning on May 22. The testing sites, which are supported by state and local officials, Walmart, and Quest Diagnostics, will test adults who meet Centers for Disease Control and state and local criteria on who should be tested, including first responders, health care providers, and others with symptoms of COVID-19, and those in high-risk groups without symptoms. <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200520a.shtml>
- In an effort to help protect the thousands of seasonal farm workers in New Jersey, the state Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Labor and Workforce Development have issued guidance on working conditions as well as testing/treatment procedures to assist agricultural businesses and farm workers in minimizing the risk and potential exposure to COVID-19. The nature of agricultural work puts thousands of seasonal farm workers (both transient and non-transient) in close proximity with co-workers, and they also rely on employer-provided group transportation and camp-style housing. [https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID\\_MigrantFarmWorkerGuidance\\_5.20.2020.pdf](https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_MigrantFarmWorkerGuidance_5.20.2020.pdf)

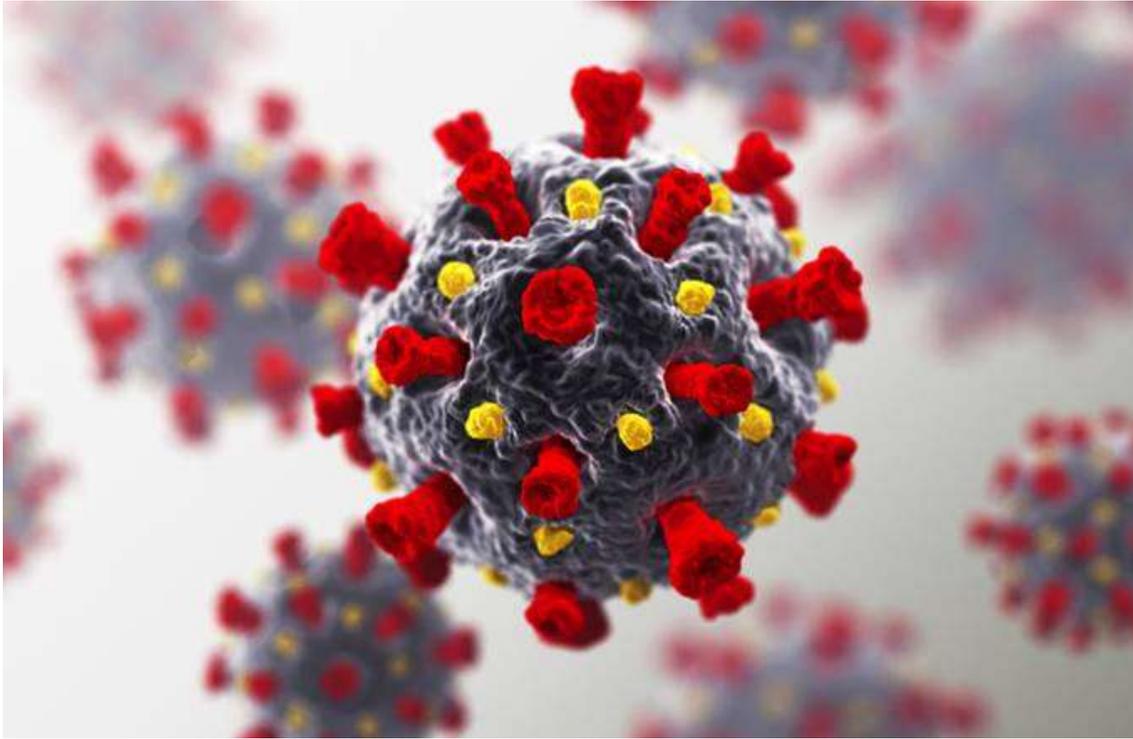
## Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont enacted Executive Order No. 7QQ with the following provisions:
  - Modifications to permit the use of absentee ballots to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during August 11, 2020 primary
  - Clarification that orders by commissioners issued pursuant to the governor's executive orders are not regulations
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7QQ.pdf?la=en>
- On Wednesday, The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) posted online findings of deficiency in 20 additional nursing homes. The findings relate to infection control and were made following focused infection control surveys of all 213 nursing homes in Connecticut that were conducted in partnership with the Connecticut National

Guard and inspectors from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases>

- The State of Connecticut has established new enforcement protocols to ensure businesses follow the “Sector Rules for May 20th Reopen” designed to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Enforcement will be done by local health officials, local law enforcement, and municipalities. These agencies have the authority to inspect businesses for compliance with public health and the reopen sector rules established to protect businesses, employees, and residents from spreading or contracting COVID-19. <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-for-May-20-Reopen>
- The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released an operation plan that outlines current guidelines around the operation and use of Connecticut state park grounds, trails, beaches, boat launches, and other areas amid the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://portal.ct.gov/deep-parkscovid19>
- Connecticut Insurance Commissioner Andrew N. Mais announced Wednesday that additional frontline health care workers and volunteers in Connecticut are now eligible to receive up to \$25,000 of free term life insurance. The Connecticut Insurance Department has expedited approval of the expansion of HealthBridge, a new Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) life insurance product that offers free guaranteed issue policies to frontline health care workers and eligible volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases>
- Governor Lamont enacted Executive Order No. 7RR with the following provisions:
  - Authority for DEEP to issue rental refunds: Authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to reimburse funds that were collected from rent paid by any person for use of state park property, including for camping or any special event.
  - Modification of age limit for early intervention coverage: Requires health insurance policies to continue providing coverage for birth to three programs after a child's third birthday in the event that school closures may delay a child's transition to other services for older children.
  - Waiver of requirement for guest books at private clubs: Waives the statutory requirement that private clubs maintain guest books to reduce shared points of contact.
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7RR.pdf?la=en>
- The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) today announced that as the state continues responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, its previously enacted 90-day extension for Connecticut residents with expiring credentials is being extended to a total of 180 days. Eligible DMV credentials that expire between March 10, 2020 and June 30, 2020 are automatically covered by this extension. In addition to extending the expiration date of DMV credentials, late fees associated with eligible expired credentials will be waived during the time period of the extension for qualifying credentials. <https://www.ctdmv.info>



## Local Updates

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### **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>

NYC DOHMH's FAQs regarding what New Yorkers need to know about COVID-19:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/coronavirus-factsheet.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>

- For the latest daily COVID-19 briefing (May 21) from Westchester County Executive Latimer:  
<https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/8475-may-21-county-executive-george-latimer-gives-covid-19-update-with-nassau-county-executive-laura-curran-suffolk-county-executive-steve-bellone>

### **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 tri-state 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/>

Demobilization of New York City Fatality Management Operations and Body Collection Points

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/demobilization-of-new-york-city-fatality-management-operations-and-body-collection-points/>

## **Center for Disaster Medicine Media**

### **New York Medical College Leadership News:**

#### **Coronavirus Pandemic**

WCBS

5/19/2020

<https://youtu.be/Gj44cMxGjc8>

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

### **Faculty News:**

**'Kelly Stays Home' explains coronavirus to children, and it's written by a Long Islander**  
Newsday

5/20/2020

<https://www.newsday.com/lifestyle/family/kelly-stays-home-coronavirus-1.44770718>

Adam E. Block, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health in the Division of Health Policy and Management

### **Can You Explain COVID-19 Herd Immunity to Your Kids?**

Psychology Today

5/18/2020

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/singletons/202005/can-you-explain-covid-19-herd-immunity-your-kids>

Adam E. Block, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health in the Division of Health Policy and Management

### **The Impact of COVID-19 on Populations with Special Needs**

Different Brains

5/1/2020

<https://www.differentbrains.org/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-populations-with-special-needs/>

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  
Vikas Grover, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, assistant professor of speech-language pathology

### **Evolving Ethics and the COVID Pandemic**

Columbia Business School Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. Center for Leadership and Ethics

5/18/2020

<https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/leadership/newsn/9029/evolving-ethics-and-the-covid-pandemic>

Angela Rossetti, M.B.A., adjunct assistant professor of medicine

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