

8-11-2020

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 32)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College



NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE Touro College and University System

Center for Disaster Medicine



Tuesday, August 11, 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. As the pace of new information and changes has slowed and out of respect for the volume of everyone's communications, we have changed the frequency of our newsletter to once per week.

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

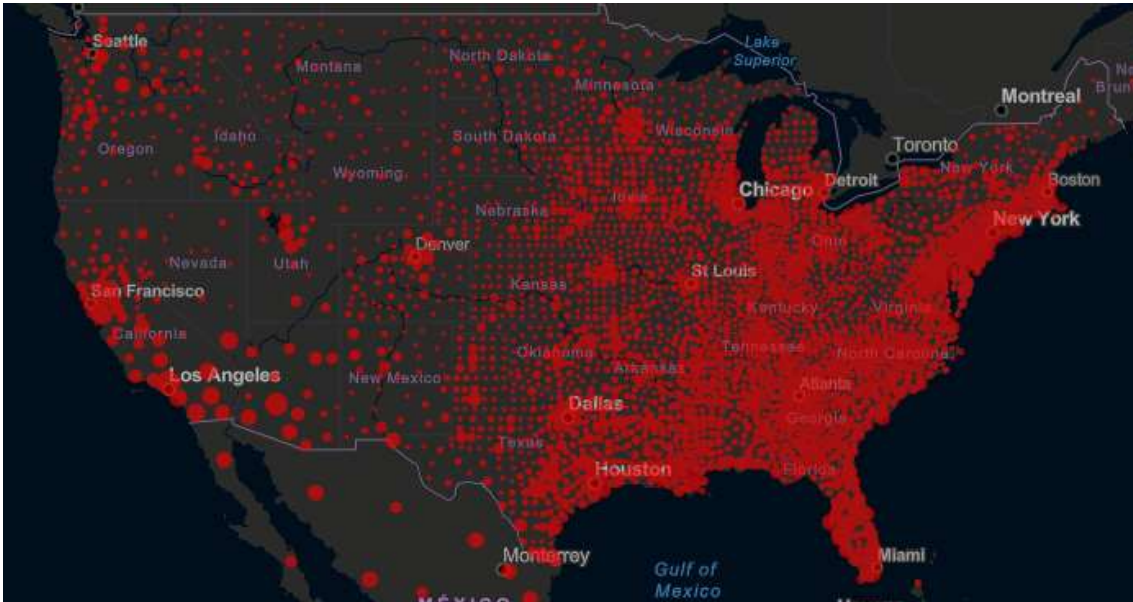
COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	20,092,855	736,254	12,350,879	No Data
United States	5,094,565	163,465	1,670,755	62,513,174
New Jersey	185,031	15,878	33,013	2,324,046
New York	421,336	32,781	73,736	6,563,646

Connecticut	50,567	4,444	8,721	902,957
-------------	--------	-------	-------	---------

Information as of 8/11/20 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

- After delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) revised its previous schedule to convert facilities to its new electronic health record (EHR) capabilities with updated timelines for deployments in August in Columbus, Ohio, and October in Spokane, Washington. The new timeline will preserve the 10-year implementation schedule and the overall cost estimates of VA's EHR modernization program. After the conversion at these sites, VA will bring other select facilities forward in the timeline. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5499>
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released new data today showing a significant increase in the use of [My Health eVet](#), a VA online tool designed to help Veterans make informed decisions about their health. From January to June 2020, Veterans and providers exchanged more than 11.6 million secure messages through My Health eVet, a 24.1% increase compared to the same period in 2019. Veterans also made more than 11.2 million prescription refill requests through My Health eVet; an 8.1% increase compared to the same period in 2019. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5497>

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/>

Health and Human Services (HHS)

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

HHS Releases July - December COVID-19 State Testing Plans

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/10/hhs-releases-july-december-covid-19-state-testing-plans.html>

HHS Announces Allocations of CARES Act Provider Relief Fund for Nursing Homes

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/07/hhs-announces-allocations-of-cares-act-provider-relief-fund-for-nursing-homes.html>

HHS provides updated FAQ on Operation WARP Speed

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/07/fact-sheet-explaining-operation-warp-speed.html>

HHS, DOD Collaborate with Johnson & Johnson to Produce Millions of COVID-19 Investigational Vaccine Doses

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/05/hhs-dod-collaborate-with-johnson-and-johnson-to-produce-millions-of-covid-19-investigational-vaccine-doses.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH-funded project seeks to identify children at risk for MIS-C

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-funded-project-seeks-identify-children-risk-mis-c>

NIH clinical trial testing remdesivir plus interferon beta-1a for COVID-19 treatment begins

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-clinical-trial-testing-remdesivir-plus-interferon-beta-1a-covid-19-treatment-begins>

NIH harnesses AI for COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-harnesses-ai-covid-19-diagnosis-treatment-monitoring>

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 August 10, 2020, including FDA-authorized 208 tests under EUAs, which include 169 molecular tests, 37 antibody tests, and 2 antigen tests.
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-august-10-2020>
- FDA posts The Critical Role of Health Care Professionals During the COVID-19 Pandemic <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/speeches-fda-officials/critical-role-health-care-professionals-during-covid-19-pandemic-08102020>
- FDA updates its Coronavirus Acceleration Treatment Program (CTAP)
<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/coronavirus-covid-19-drugs/coronavirus-treatment-acceleration-program-ctap>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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

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

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

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

Study highlights importance of CDC mitigation strategies
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0731-study-highlights-importance-mitigation-strategies.html>

CDC provides Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>

CDC Toolkit for People Experiencing Homelessness
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/people-experiencing-homelessness.html>

Clinical Trials

To 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)

CMS Announces a Temporary Policy for Premium Reductions
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-temporary-policy-premium-reductions>

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 announced that based on each region's infection rate, schools across the state are permitted to open this fall. Every region's infection rate is below the threshold necessary by the State's standards to open schools. The determination of how individual districts reopen - in-person vs. a hybrid model - will be made by local school districts under strict Department of Health guidelines. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-announces-based-each-regions-infection-rate-schools-across>
- Governor Cuomo announced a deadline of August 14 for school districts that have not submitted plans for in-person learning. Currently, 107 school districts have not submitted a plan for in-person learning. Districts that fail to meet the Friday deadline will be unable to provide in-person learning this year. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-friday-deadline-school-districts-have-not-submitted-plans-person>

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

<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 learn the latest on the NYS DOH COVID-19 Travel Advisory:

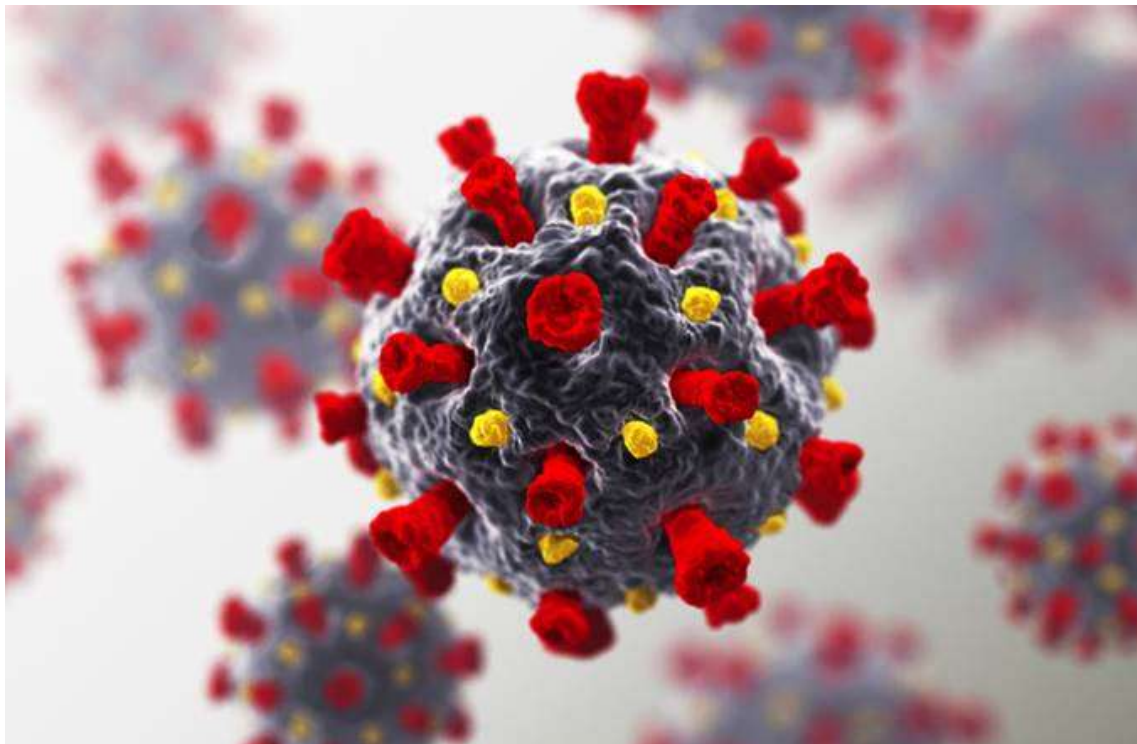
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

New Jersey

- As part of the Administration's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Phil Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver announced the creation of the Small Landlord Emergency Grant Program. The program, administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, will provide emergency grant funding to small property owners for COVID-19 related decreases in rent revenue for a four-month period between April and July 2020. <https://www.njhousing.gov/rentals/sleg/>
- Urging people to answer critical calls from contact tracers, the New Jersey Department of Health today unveiled an online dashboard highlighting New Jersey's contact tracing efforts throughout the state. https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that, following a telephone call with President Donald J. Trump, the State of Connecticut has been approved to receive an extension through September 30 of its full federal funding for its use of the National Guard in the state's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/08-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Connecticut-Receives-Extension-of-Full-Federal-Funding-for-National-Guard>
- Executive Order No. 7MMM enacted with the following provisions:
 - Management of absentee ballots for the August 11, 2020 primary: Enacted at the request of Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, who submitted a letter to the governor seeking an executive order, this order clarifies several administrative steps in the management of absentee ballots for the August 11, 2020 primary. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7MMM.pdf>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19: <https://www.nybc.org/covid-19/>

New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

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

For NYC DOHMH's COVID-19 information for providers:

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

For the NYC DOHMH's updated summary regarding quarantine, isolation and transmission:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-provider-quarantine-precautions.pdf>

For the NYC DOHMH's updated FAQs for health care providers:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-provider-faqs.pdf>

Identifying and Triaging Adult Patients at Increased Risk for Severe COVID-19 in Outpatient Settings

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/providers/covid-19-providers-id-adults-severe-risk-outpatient.pdf>

Addressing Health Inequities in Care During COVID-19

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/providers/covid-19-health-inequities.pdf>

Westchester County Department of Health

For the latest COVID-19 information in Westchester:

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

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 updated GNYHA Public Health Agency Supply Management Guidance:

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/cdc-doh-and-dohmh-surveillance-and-testing-treatment-guidance-2/>

For the updated GNYHA Public Health Surge Planning Guidance:

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/agency-surge-planning-guidance/>

For the latest information on agency prevention and treatment guidance:

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

GNYHA provides update on Assembly and Senate Meet, Eye Fall Return
<https://www.gnyha.org/news/assembly-and-senate-meet-eye-fall-return/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

Faculty News:

Is Another Shut Down the Answer to the Rampant COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States?

Healthcare Business Today

8/9/2020

<https://www.healthcarebusinesstoday.com/is-another-shut-down-the-answer-to-the-rampant-covid-19-pandemic-in-the-united-states/>

George W. Contreras, M.E.P., M.P.H., M.S., CEM, FAcEM, assistant director of the CDM, assistant professor in the Institute of Public Health of the SHSP and assistant director of the Advanced Certificate in Emergency Management Program

One Death Every 80 Seconds: The Grim New Toll of COVID-19 in America

NBC News New York

8/5/2020

<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/national-international/one-death-every-80-seconds-the-grim-new-toll-of-covid-19-in-america/2552799/>

Robert G. Lahita, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine

Why This Expert Has Hope for a 'Silver Bullet' Against Coronavirus

NBC Boston

8/4/2020

<https://www.nbcboston.com/lx/why-this-expert-has-hope-for-a-silver-bullet-against-coronavirus/2171420/?amp>

Robert G. Lahita, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine

New York Medical College Leadership News:

Five Months In: Dr. Robert Amler Shares the Latest Info

Touro News

8/10/2020

<https://www.touro.edu/news--events/stories/five-months-in-dr-robert-amler-shares-the-latest-info.php>

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

Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information in this newsletter. However, New York Medical College cannot guarantee that there will be no errors. NYMC makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of the newsletters or the articles linked herein and further expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this newsletter.

This newsletter is for informational purposes only; it does not constitute medical advice. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.



New York Medical College
Center for Disaster Medicine
7 Dana Road Suite 511
Valhalla, New York 10595
914-594-1750

<https://www.nymc.edu/center-for-disaster-medicine/>