

8-18-2020

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 33)

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 18, 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	21,815,984	772,782	13,807,163	No Data
United States	5,437,969	170,491	1,865,580	68,056,780
New Jersey	187,455	15,912	33,013	2,511,070
New York	425,508	32,840	73,736	7,115,087

Connecticut	50,897	4,453	8,721	981,968
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Information as of 8/17/20 at 2100 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

- The U. S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) partners with OnStar to bring suicide prevention services to Veterans with the push of a button. This partnership will offer

Veterans in crisis the opportunity to be transferred to around-the-clock, confidential support via VA's [Veterans Crisis Line](#) (VCL) when they use the emergency services button in an OnStar-equipped vehicle or OnStar Guardian smartphone app.

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5502>

- The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces its plan to award more than \$400 million in grants to end Veteran homelessness. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it will begin awarding more than \$400 million in grants under the [Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program](#) (SSVF) to 266 non-profit organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands on Oct. 1 of this year.

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5498>

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides weekly update regarding Response to COVID-19

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/08/10/weekly-update-dhs-response-covid-19>

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>

Trump Administration Collaborates with McKesson for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/14/trump-administration-collaborates-mckesson-covid-19-vaccine-distribution.html>

Trump Administration to Begin Distributing \$1.4 Billion in Relief Funds to Certain Children's Hospitals

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/14/trump-administration-to-begin-distributing-1.4-billion-in-relief-funds-to-childrens-hospitals.html>

HHS Invests in Diagnostic Labs to Expand COVID-19 Testing Capacity in the United States

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/13/hhs-invests-in-diagnostic-labs-to-expand-covid-19-testing-capacity-in-the-united-states.html>

HHS Announces Investments for Health Information Exchanges to Strengthen their Ability to Support State and Local Public Health Agencies

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/12/hhs-announces-investments-for-health-information-exchanges-to-strengthen-ability-to-support-state-and-local-public-health-agencies.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Clinical trials of monoclonal antibodies to prevent COVID-19 now enrolling

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/clinical-trials-monoclonal-antibodies-prevent-covid-19-now-enrolling>

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 214 tests under EUAs, which include 175 molecular tests, 37 antibody tests, and 2 antigen tests. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-august-17-2020>
- FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization to Yale School of Public Health for Saliva Direct, Which Uses a New Method of Saliva Sample Processing. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-issues-emergency-use-authorization-yale-school-public-health>
- FDA issues consumer updates to Help Stop the Spread of Coronavirus and Protect Your Family. <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/help-stop-spread-coronavirus-and-protect-your-family>

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 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>

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

CDC issues Information for Pediatric Healthcare Providers
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>

CDC issues Information for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

CDC issues Updated Isolation Guidance Does Not Imply Immunity to COVID-19
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0814-updated-isolation-guidance.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)

Trump Administration Has Issued More Than \$15 Million in Fines to Nursing Homes During COVID-19 Pandemic
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-has-issued-more-15-million-fines-nursing-homes-during-covid-19-pandemic>

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 on August 17 that gyms and fitness centers can reopen in New York starting August 24. Facilities that reopen will be subject to rigorous health and safety standards and all gyms and fitness centers will be able to open by September 2.
- <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-gyms-and-fitness-centers-can-reopen-starting-august-24>
- Governor Cuomo today announced that New York State had a rate of positive COVID-19 tests of less than 1 percent for the tenth straight day yesterday. The rate of positive tests, 0.71 percent, is the state's lowest since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. The average infection rate has been 1 percent or lower since June.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-covid-19-infection-rate-below-1-percent-tenth-straight-day>
- Governor Cuomo Announces New Guidance for Police Reform Collaborative to Reinvent and Modernize Policing. Guidance Offers Framework, Resources for 'New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative' Established by Governor's Executive Order in June; Localities Must Adopt a Plan by April 1, 2021 to Be Eligible for Future State Funding
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-guidance-police-reform-collaborative-reinvent-and-modernize>
- Governor Cuomo Announces New York State Will Provide Health Personnel to Allow 9/11 Tribute in Light Show to Happen Safely
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-state-will-provide-health-personnel-allow-911-tribute-light>
- Governor Cuomo announced bowling alleys throughout New York will be allowed to reopen starting August 17 with strict safety protocols in place.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-bowling-alleys-can-reopen-50-percent-capacity-starting-monday>
- Governor Cuomo today announced a series of new initiatives related to COVID-19 testing that will improve New York State's ability to detect and control the virus in communities across the state.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-testing-initiatives-improve-covid-19-detection-control-across-new>

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>

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>

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

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

Latest information regarding the safety of blood donations:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/donate-blood>

New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy Signs Executive Order Extending Certain Statutory Deadlines Across State Government
<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/announcements/all-announcements/governor-murphy-signs-executive-order-extending-certain-statutory-deadlines-across-state-government>
- Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Protect Public Health by Mailing Every Active Registered Voter a VBM Ballot Ahead of the General Election
<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/announcements/all-announcements/governor-murphy-signs-executive-order-to-protect-public-health-by-mailing-every-active-registered-voter-a-vbm-ballot-ahead-of-the-general-election>
- Murphy Administration Announces \$150 Million in Coronavirus Relief Funds to be Awarded to New Jersey Colleges and Universities
[https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/announcements/all-announcements/murphy-administration-announces-\\$150-million-in-coronavirus-relief-funds-to-be-awarded-to-new-jersey-colleges-and-universities](https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/announcements/all-announcements/murphy-administration-announces-$150-million-in-coronavirus-relief-funds-to-be-awarded-to-new-jersey-colleges-and-universities)
- Murphy Administration to Open New Jersey's Schools For In-Person Instruction Subject to Critical Health and Safety Protocols
<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/announcements/all-announcements/murphy-administration-to-open-new-jerseys-schools-for-in-person-instruction-subject-to-critical-health-and-safety-protocols>
- New Jersey Department of Health Releases COVID-19 Recommendations for Schools
<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/announcements/all-announcements/new-jersey-department-of-health-releases-covid-19-recommendations-for-schools>
- Governor Murphy Announces the First Phase of the Small and Micro Business PPE Access Program

<https://covid19.nj.gov/fags/announcements/all-announcements/governor-murphy-announces-the-first-phase-of-the-small-and-micro-business-ppe-access-program>

- Updated Quarantine Advisory Issued for Individuals Traveling to New Jersey, Bringing New Total to 33 States and Territories

<https://covid19.nj.gov/fags/announcements/all-announcements/updated-quarantine-advisory-issued-for-individuals-traveling-to-new-jersey-bringing-new-total-to-33-states-and-territories>

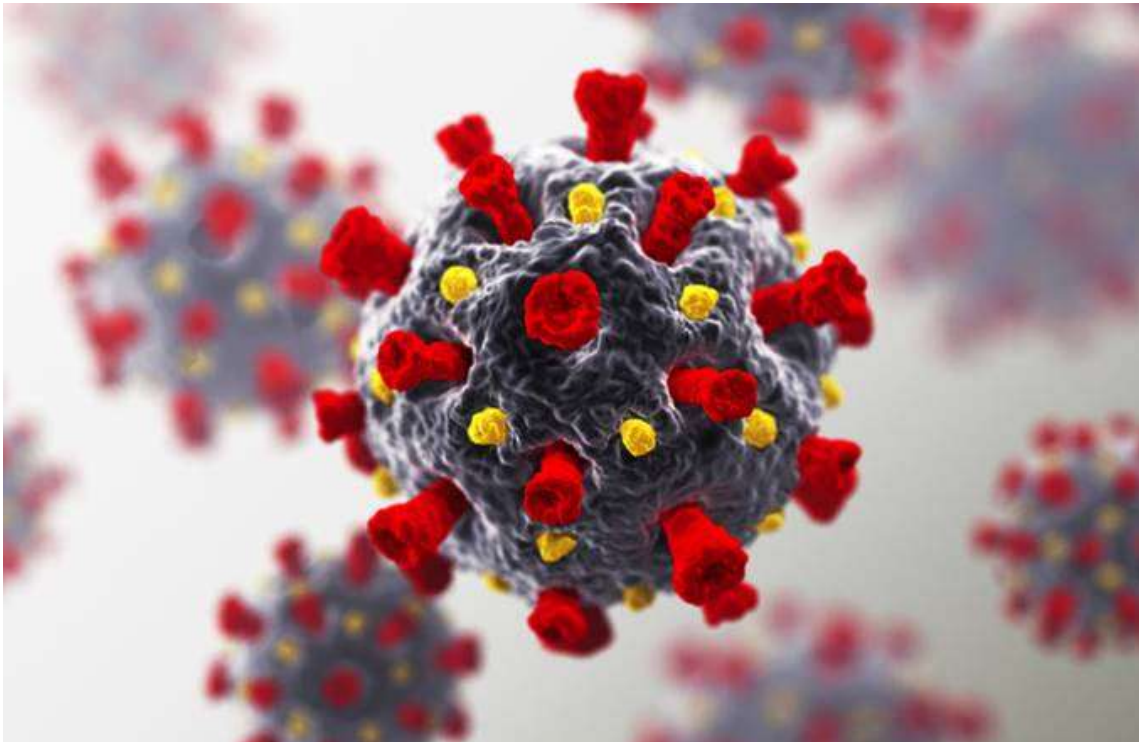
Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont Provides Daily Update on August 17, 2020 on Connecticut's Coronavirus Response Efforts

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/08-2020/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-August-17>

- At the request of Governor Lamont, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz – in her capacity as acting governor – today signed an executive order – the 66th since the enactment of the emergency declarations – that builds upon the Lamont administration's efforts to encourage mitigation strategies that slow down transmission of COVID-19.

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7NNN.pdf>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

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

As Pandemic Destroys Traditional Blood Drive Model, 75% of Incoming Supply is Threatened
<https://nybc.org/news/articles/pandemic-destroys-traditional-blood-drive-model-75-incoming-supply-threatened/>

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 updated summary regarding quarantine, isolation and transmission:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-provider-quarantine-precautions.pdf>

NYC DOHMH's updated FAQs for health care providers:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-provider-faqs.pdf>

NYC DOHMH webinar on August 21:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-providers.page>

NYC DOHMH information on mental and behavioral health:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/health-topics/mental-and-behavioral-health.page>

Westchester County Department of Health

For the latest COVID-19 information in Westchester:
<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Community Wide Action Day Honoring Memory of Those Lost On September 11 To Focus On Addressing Local Covid-19 Food Insecurity Spike
<https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/8596-community-wide-action-day-honoring-memory-of-those-lost-on-sept-11-to-focus-on-addressing-local-covid-19-food-insecurity-spike>

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 comments on DOH Emergency Regulations on Surge and Flex Health Coordination System: <https://www.gnyha.org/news/gnyha-comments-on-doh-emergency-regulations-on-surge-and-flex-health-coordination-system/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:

The COVID-19 vaccine is coming. But will we be ready? | Opinion

LoHud

8/12/2020

<https://www.lohud.com/story/opinion/2020/08/12/covid-19-vaccine-coming-but-we-ready/3331167001/>

Alan Kadish, M.D., president

Faculty News:

Africa: COVID Crisis Challenges in People with Disabilities and Hansen's Disease

AllAfrica

8/10/2020

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202008110102.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

New book to help explain the science of COVID-19 to children

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<https://www.wtnh.com/on-air/gmct-at-nine/new-book-to-help-explain-the-science-of-covid-19-to-children/>

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

Even After a COVID-19 Vaccine is Approved, Distribution Will Be Challenging

City Limits

8/18/2020

<https://citylimits.org/2020/08/18/even-after-a-covid-19-vaccine-is-approved-distribution-will-be-challenging/>

Raj K. Tiwari, Ph.D., professor and interim chair in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and associate professor and otolaryngology

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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/>