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COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 37)

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, September 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. 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	29,275,604	928,342	19,861,336	Not Available
United States	6,554,335	194,530	2,474,570	89,603,688
New Jersey	196,968	16,034	34,458	3,189,970
New York	444,948	33,030	75,814	9,381,651

Connecticut	54,895	4,485	9,142	1,379,988
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Information as of 9/15/20 at 0200 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

- On September 1, TSA Administrator Pekoske visited Newark Liberty International Airport where he toured the checkpoint modifications implemented as a result of COVID-19 and held a virtual town hall with the TSA workforce. On September 1, TSA announced a pilot at Reagan National Airport using credential authentication technology with camera (CAT-C) that automatically matches a traveler's picture taken to the photo on their ID. The technology also further minimizes physical contact between the TSA officer and the traveler. On September 3, TSA issued a press release outlining seven easy steps airline travelers can take to efficiently and quickly get through the TSA screening checkpoint while adhering to new checkpoint changes as a result of COVID-19.
<https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/releases/2020/09/03/tsa-reassures-airline-passengers-ahead-labor-day-holiday-travel>

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 Harnessing Technology to Address Loneliness and Social Isolation

<https://www.hhs.gov/blog/2020/09/10/harnessing-technology-to-address-loneliness-and-social-isolation.html>

Trump Administration Takes Action to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/09/09/trump-administration-takes-action-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccines.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Substance use disorders linked to COVID-19 susceptibility

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/substance-use-disorders-linked-covid-19-susceptibility>

NIH ACTIV initiative launches adaptive clinical trials of blood-clotting treatments for COVID-19

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-activ-initiative-launches-adaptive-clinical-trials-blood-clotting-treatments-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 September 14, 2020, including FDA-authorized 247 tests under EUAs, which include 197 molecular tests, 46 antibody tests, and 4 antigen tests.
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-september-14-2020>
- FDA and global partners to analyze coronavirus samples
<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-regulatory-science/fda-and-global-partners-analyze-coronavirus-samples>
- FDA announces Virtual Town Hall Series - Immediately in Effect Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Diagnostic Tests
<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/workshops-conferences-medical-devices/virtual-town-hall-series-immediately-effect-guidance-coronavirus-covid-19-diagnostic-tests-09162020>
- The FDA's Scientific and Regulatory Oversight of Vaccines is Vital to Public Health <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-voices/fdas-scientific-and-regulatory-oversight-vaccines-vital-public-health>

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>

To view the CDC's updated weekly COVID-19 surveillance report

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview.html>

To view CDC's updated information on Testing in the United States

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

To view CDC's guidance on Contact Tracing

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

To view the updated 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 announces Federal Government Adjusts COVID-19 Entry Strategy for International Air Passengers

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s-0909-covid-19-entry-strategy-air-passengers.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)

Key Components for Continued COVID-19 Management for Dialysis Facilities

<https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfo/policy-and-memos-states-and/key-components-continued-covid-19-management-dialysis-facilities>

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 a public awareness campaign to ensure New Yorkers know all the ways they can vote in November's election, including voting early, voting absentee, or voting in person on Election Day. The Governor issued an executive order requiring boards of elections to develop a plan to allow a registered voter to drop off a completed absentee ballot at a board of elections, early voting location, or election day voting location, without requiring they wait in line with in-person voters, to help minimize delays during in-person voting and promote contactless voting.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-campaign-ensure-new-yorkers-are-aware-expanded-options-voting>
- Governor Cuomo announced indoor dining in New York City will be allowed to resume beginning September 30 with a 25 percent occupancy limit. All restaurants that choose to reopen will be subject to strict safety protocols, including temperature checks, contact information for tracing, face coverings when not seated and other safety protocols. Bar service will not be permitted, and restaurants will close at midnight. Guidelines will be reassessed based on the data by November 1. If the infection rate does not increase, restaurants may be permitted to go to 50 percent capacity; the State will monitor any positivity increase on an ongoing basis and potentially reassess if necessary.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-indoor-dining-new-york-city-allowed-resume-beginning-september-30-25>
- Governor Cuomo issued an executive order directing the MTA to develop a plan to bolster mask compliance across public transportation system's subways, buses and railroads. In response to this directive, the MTA announced riders who refuse to wear a mask on public transit will be subject to a \$50 fine. This new measure - effective Monday, September 14 - follows Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.18 issued on April 17 requiring all customers and employees to wear a face covering while riding on public transit. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-issues-executive-order-directing-mta-develop-plan-bolster-mask-compliance-public>

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>

On September 14, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that New York State's COVID-19 infection rate has been below 1 percent for 38 straight days

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-38th-straight-day-covid-19-infection-rate-below-1-percent>

New Jersey

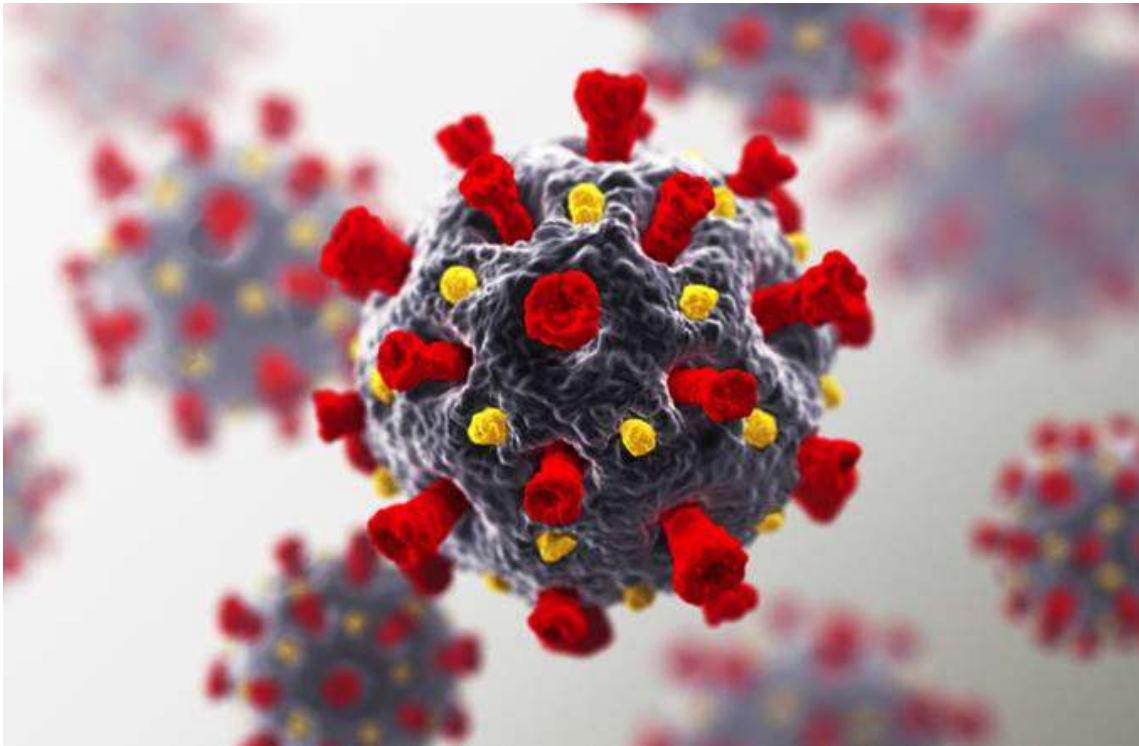
- Governor Phil Murphy and State Police Superintendent Colonel Pat Callahan announced Administrative Order 2020-21, which clarifies that health club facilities located in hotels, motels, condominiums, cooperatives, corporate offices, and other businesses can open their indoor premises. The Order also states that health club facilities that are open to the public, and not only to guests, residents, and employees, must conform to the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Executive Order No. 181 (2020) and associated guidance issued by the New Jersey Department of Health.
https://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200908/3d/f7/3a/44/08aaf1a8cd594b483946b31e/AO_2020-21.pdf
- Governor Murphy signed legislation (A4486) which authorizes the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to use stored driver's license or identification card photos for longer than eight years and limits certain appointment times at MVC locations to senior citizens and persons with certain medical conditions during COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor also signed A4520, which temporarily extends deadlines to register vehicles and obtain driver's licenses for new State residents during the COVID-19 public health emergency. <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200910c.shtml>

Connecticut

- Executive Order No. 9A enacted with the following provisions:
 - Reissuance and extension of COVID-19 executive orders to November 9, 2020: Renews and extends all of the unexpired executive orders that were issued under the March 10, 2020, public health and civil preparedness emergency

declarations through November 9, 2020, unless an order already has a specific expiration date, in which case the specific expiration date will remain in place.

- Extension of agency and municipality orders of concurrent duration with public health and civil preparedness emergencies: Extends all unexpired orders, rules, regulations, directives, or guidance issued by any official, agency, department, municipality, or entity to continue through November 9, 2020, unless earlier modified or terminated.
- <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-9A.pdf>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19:

<https://www.nybc.org/covid-19/>

NYBC provides update regarding COVID-19 and Blood Donation
<https://www.nybc.org/donate-blood/covid-19-and-blood-donation-copy/>

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>

NYC DOHMH updates on Rapid COVID-19 testing
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-rapid-testing.page>

Westchester County Department of Health

<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/>

MedPAC Discusses COVID-19 Financial Impacts, Telehealth Expansion and Congressionally Mandated Reports
<https://www.gnyha.org/news/medpac-discusses-covid-19-financial-impacts-telehealth-expansion-congressionally-mandated-reports/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

Faculty News:

Nurturing Neonates During COVID-19: 8 Steps for Safe Transitions

Medbridge
8/25/2020

<https://www.medbridgeeducation.com/blog/2020/08/nurturing-neonates-during-covid-19-8-steps-for-safe-transitions/>

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

Dr. Bob Lahita predicts coronavirus vaccine will be available in 'mid-December, before the holidays'

Fox News
9/8/2020

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/dr-bob-lahita-coronavirus-vaccine-mid-december>

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

If They Open It, Will You Come?: Tenet & Moviegoing in a Pandemic

PaperBlog
9/4/2020

<https://en.paperblog.com/if-they-open-it-will-you-come-tenet-moviegoing-in-a-pandemic-2484331/>

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

Challenges of reopening colleges campuses amid COVID pandemic

Yahoo Finance
9/8/2020

<https://finance.yahoo.com/video/challenges-reopening-colleges-campuses-amid-204557497.html>

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

AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine trial pause 'a good thing': Dr. Bob Lahita

Fox News
9/8/2020

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/astrazeneca-coronavirus-vaccine-pause-dr-bob-lahita>

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

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