

10-13-2020

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 41)

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, October 13, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Markenson".

David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.

Director

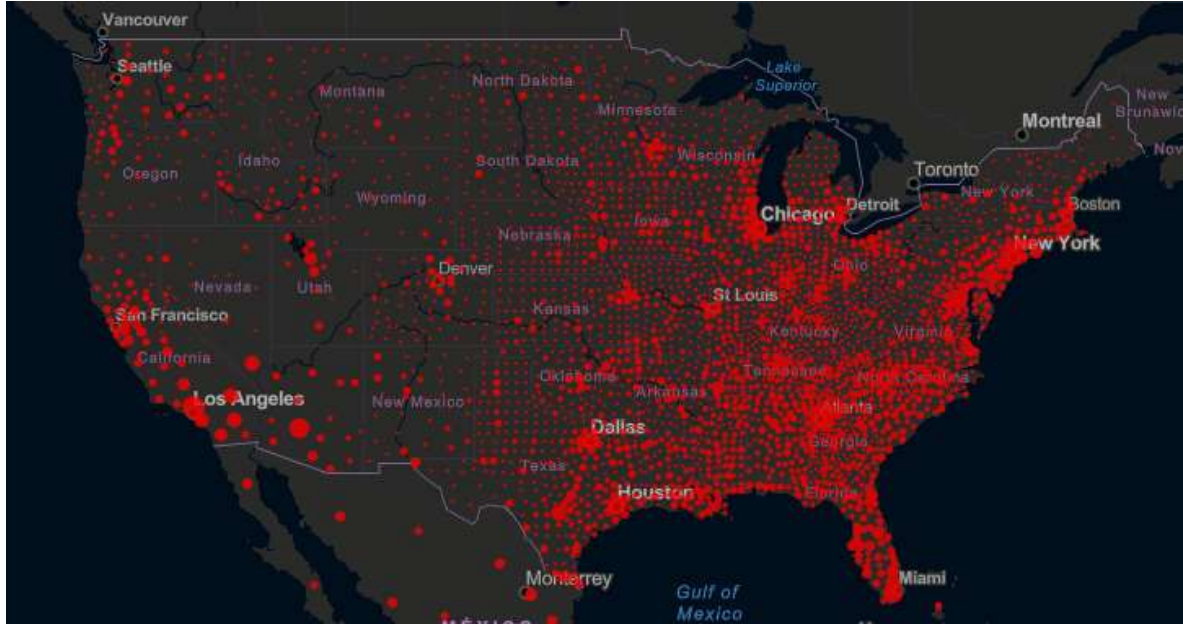
Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	37,745,942	1,079,963	26,197,855	Not Available
United States	7,804,047	215,078	3,106,728	116,428,059
New Jersey	214,097	16,175	35,464	3,971,597
New York	475,315	33,301	77,631	12,131,366
Connecticut	61,377	4,532	9,522	1,896,944

Information as of 10/13/20 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

- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued updated guidance to its “How COVID-19 Spreads” website, which includes information about the potential for airborne spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC continues to believe, based on current science, that people are more likely to become infected the longer and closer they are to a person with COVID-19. Today’s update acknowledges the existence of some published reports showing limited, uncommon circumstances where people with COVID-19 infected others who were more than six feet away or shortly after the COVID-19-positive person left an area. In these instances, transmission occurred in poorly ventilated and enclosed spaces that often involved activities that caused heavier breathing, like singing or exercise. Such environments and activities may contribute to the buildup of virus-carrying particles. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>
- The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the reestablishment of in-person benefits services in select locations throughout the country. Currently, there are 11 regional offices (RO) open to the public and more are expected to reopen in the coming weeks as reopening phases will vary by RO and local conditions. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5539>

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 Expands Collaboration with AstraZeneca to Develop and Manufacture an Investigational Monoclonal Antibody to Prevent COVID-19

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/10/09/trump-administration-expands-collaboration-with-astrazeneca-to-develop-and-manufacture-an-investigational-monoclonal-antibody-to-prevent-covid-19.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Rogue Antibodies and Gene Mutations Explain Some Cases of Severe COVID-19

<https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2020/10/06/rogue-antibodies-and-gene-mutations-explain-some-cases-of-severe-covid-19/>

NIH clinical trial testing hyperimmune intravenous immunoglobulin plus remdesivir to treat COVID-19 Begins

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-clinical-trial-testing-hyperimmune-intravenous-immunoglobulin-plus-remdesivir-treat-covid-19-begins>

NIH to launch the Serological Sciences Network for COVID-19, announce grant and contract awardees

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-launch-serological-sciences-network-covid-19-announce-grant-contract-awardees>

NIH RADx initiative advances six new COVID-19 testing technologies

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-radx-initiative-advances-six-new-covid-19-testing-technologies>

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 October 9, 2020, including FDA-authorized 279 tests under EUAs, which include 217 molecular tests, 55 antibody tests, and 6 antigen tests.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-october-9-2020>

FDA issues Recommendations on Providing Clear Instructions to Patients Who Self-Collect an Anterior Nares (Nasal) Sample in a Health Care Setting for SARS-CoV-2 Testing - Letter to Health Care Providers

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/recommendations-providing-clear-instructions-patients-who-self-collect-anterior-nares-nasal-sample>

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 the updated CDC's Frequently Asked Questions

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

CDC updates "How COVID is Spread" Webpage

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s1005-how-spread-covid.html>

CDC updates Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.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 Takes Action to Protect Integrity of COVID-19 Testing

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-takes-action-protect-integrity-covid-19-testing>

CMS Announces New Repayment Terms for Medicare Loans made to Providers during COVID-19

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-new-repayment-terms-medicare-loans-made-providers-during-covid-19>

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 COVID-19 rapid result testing will be made available to every county in New York State. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) will deploy an initial 400,000 rapid result test kits free of charge to local health departments, hospitals, pharmacies, and other health care providers to help increase access in all corners of New York State to free COVID-19 tests that can be done within 15 minutes and without having to send a specimen to a lab. DOH will prioritize the distribution of testing kits to counties and local health care providers in areas seeing recent uptick in cases. The rapid tests can be used to control new outbreaks, conduct surveillance testing, and will also be made available on an as needed basis to help schools in 'yellow zones' test students and staff as part of new requirements to monitor COVID-19 spread as part of the Governor's Cluster Action Initiative.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-covid-19-rapid-testing-be-made-available-every-county-new-york-state>

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

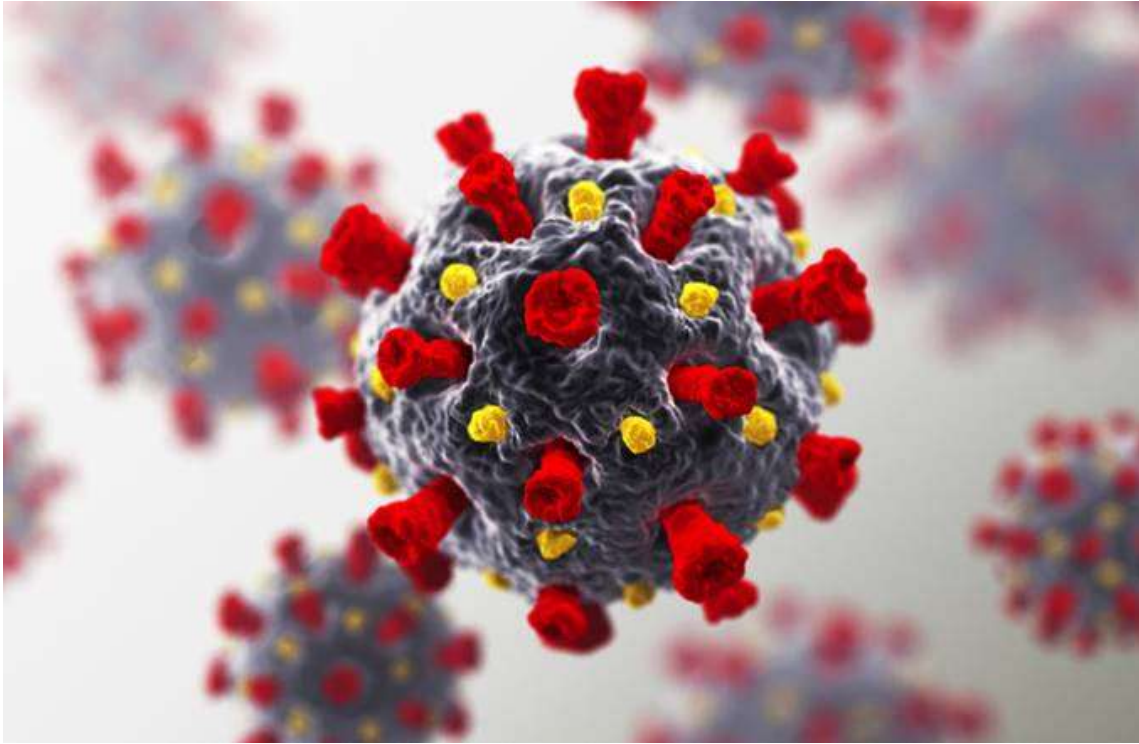
- Governor Phil Murphy, alongside Congressman Andy Kim and Congressman Donald Norcross, announced \$60 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for the Local Government Emergency Fund to aid counties and municipalities that were excluded from the federal government's direct CRF allocation plan. The COVID-19 crisis has

severely impacted county and local governments in New Jersey, and they are facing increased costs in health benefits, health and human services, public safety, overtime, equipment, and supply expenditures. These relief funds will help to address necessary and unexpected expenditures necessitated by the pandemic. <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201009b.shtml>

- Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 187, allowing the resumption of contact practices and competitions in indoor settings for organized sports defined as “medium risk” and “high risk” by the New Jersey Department of Health’s “Guidance for Sports Activities.” The order encompasses sports including hockey, basketball, cheerleading, group dance, rugby, boxing, judo, karate, taekwondo, and wrestling. Governor Murphy previously signed Executive Orders No. 149 and 168, which permitted the resumption of outdoor sports activities, “low risk” practices and competitions in indoor settings, and non-contact indoor practices for “medium risk” and “high risk” sports. <https://www.nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-187.pdf>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that his administration is dedicating \$2.6 million of Connecticut’s Coronavirus Relief Funds to support the state’s public libraries as they continue to make health and safety improvements and offer more services to residents amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/10-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-State-Will-Support-Public-Libraries>
- Executive Order No. 9F enacted with the following provisions:
 - Amendments to size restrictions on certain gatherings: Enacts the previously announced, Phase 3 increases in gathering sizes for spiritual, religious, and worship services.
 - Extension of drive-in worship services and graduations: Continues the previously enacted provisions regarding drive-in religious and graduation ceremonies through at least November 9.
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-9F.pdf>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19:

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

Convalescent Plasma Recipient Meets Donor Who Helped Save His Life

<https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/convalescent-plasma-recipient-meets-donor-who-helped-save-his-life/>

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>

NYC DOHMH updates Closing Schools and Nonessential Businesses in Nine ZIP Codes

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

Free Rapid Testing Kits Available for Health Departments and Health Care Providers

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/free-rapid-testing-kits-available-for-health-departments-and-health-care-providers/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

Faculty News:

NYMC Faculty and Global Health Director Dr. Murthy talks COVID-19 with Sky News on October 2, 2020

Sky News
10/2/2020

https://youtu.be/kLn6XIRJb_o

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

Pres. Trump: “Don’t Be Afraid of COVID

106.9 Kicks Country
10/6/2020

<https://1069kickscountry.com/doctor-on-trumps-covid-recovery-airborne-spread-and-timeline-for-vaccine/>

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

Coronavirus vaccine expected to be available spring 2021: Doctor

Fox Business
10/7/2020

https://video.foxbusiness.com/v/6198305854001/?playlist_id=933116618001#sp=show-clips

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

New York Medical College Leadership News:

To stop college students from attending COVID parties, start asking why

University Business
10/8/2020

<https://universitybusiness.com/to-stop-college-students-from-attending-covid-parties-start-asking-why/>

Alan Kadish, M.D., president

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

How to Wear a Face Mask

Latest Commentary
10/6/2020

<https://www.latestcommentary.com/how-to-wear-a-face-mask/>

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

Simchat Torah during a pandemic

Israel International
10/6/2020

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/288520>

Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive

Alan Kadish, M.D., president

Rabbi Moshe D. Krupka, M.S., executive vice president, Touro College and University System

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