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COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 42)

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



Tuesday, October 20, 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

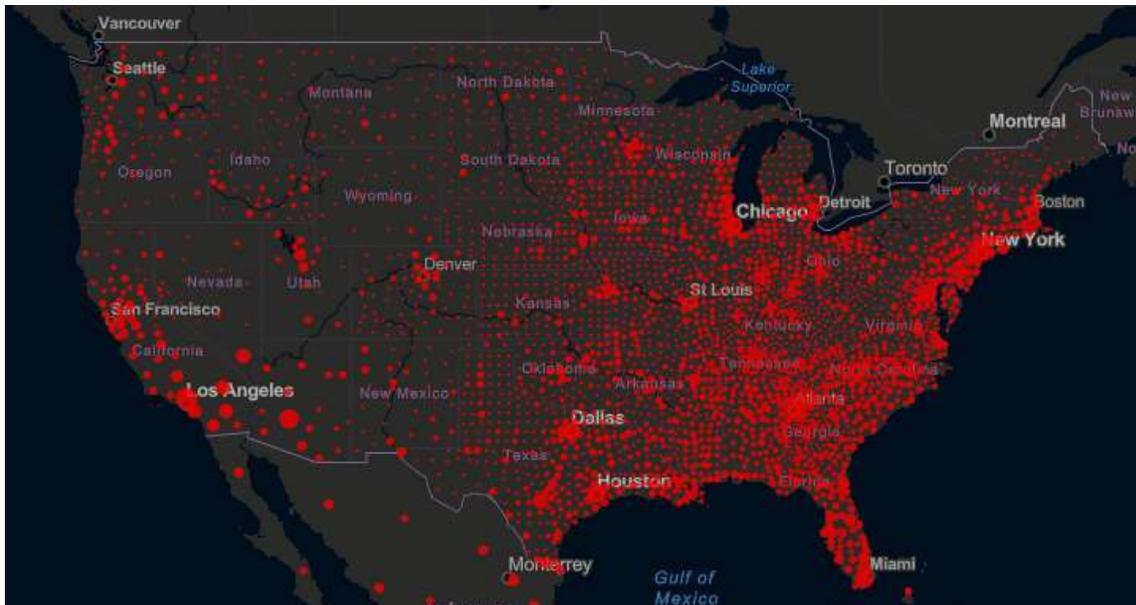
COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	40,334,098	1,117,470	27,622,344	Not Available
United States	8,210,867	220,095	3,272,603	126,033,173
New Jersey	221,205	16,214	35,944	4,217,705
New York	485,279	33,366	78,442	12,982,175
Connecticut	64,021	4,554	9,651	2,039,597

Information as of 10/20/20 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

- To better support Veterans impacted by COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it is partnering with Blue Star Families (BSF) for the COVID-19 Military Support Initiative (CMSI). The mission of CMSI is to share information, maintain engagement and develop best practices and policy approaches to ensure our military families receive the support it deserves. <https://covid19militarysupport.org>

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>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

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

Trump Administration Partners with CVS and Walgreens to Provide COVID-19 Vaccine to Protect Vulnerable Americans in Long-Term Care Facilities Nationwide

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/10/16/trump-administration-partners-cvs-walgreens-provide-covid-19-vaccine-protect-vulnerable-americans-long-term-care-facilities-nationwide.html>

Trump Administration Expands Manufacturing Capacity with Cytiva for Components of COVID-19 Vaccines

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/10/13/trump-administration-expands-manufacturing-capacity-cytiva-components-covid-19-vaccines.html>

Trump Administration Makes Major Investment to Increase Availability of Fast Molecular POC Test

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/10/13/trump-administration-makes-major-investment-to-increase-availability-of-fast-molecular-poc-test.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH begins large clinical trial to test immune modulators for treatment of COVID-19

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-begins-large-clinical-trial-test-immune-modulators-treatment-covid-19>

NIH study aims to identify promising COVID-19 treatments for larger clinical trials

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-study-aims-identify-promising-covid-19-treatments-larger-clinical-trials>

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

For the latest overall information about COVID-19 <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

FDA Issues Daily Update for October 19, 2020, including FDA-authorized 282 tests under EUAs, which include 220 molecular tests, 56 antibody tests, and 6 antigen tests.

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

FDA Reissues Emergency Use Authorization for Certain Non-NIOSH-Approved Filtering Face-Piece Respirators Manufactured in China

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-reissues-emergency-use-authorization-certain-non-niosh-approved-filtering-face-piece-respirators>

FDA announces Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee October 22, 2020 Meeting Announcement 10AM-5PM

<https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-october-22-2020-meeting-announcement>

FDA announces Virtual Town Hall Series - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Test Development and Validation 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. ET

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/workshops-conferences-medical-devices/virtual-town-hall-series-coronavirus-covid-19-test-development-and-validation-10212020-10212020>

FDA Reissues Emergency Use Authorization for Certain Non-NIOSH-Approved Filtering Face-Piece Respirators Manufactured in China

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-reissues-emergency-use-authorization-certain-non-niosh-approved-filtering-face-piece-respirators>

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-covd.html>

CDC updates Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education

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

Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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

CDC offers guidance for upcoming Holiday Celebrations

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.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 Survey Data Illustrates Impact of COVID-19 on Medicare Beneficiaries' Daily Life and Experiences

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-survey-data-illustrates-impact-covid-19-medicare-beneficiaries-daily-life-and-experiences>

CMS Changes Medicare Payment to Support Faster COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-changes-medicare-payment-support-faster-covid-19-diagnostic-testing>

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 New York State will withhold funds for localities and schools in COVID-19 cluster zones that fail to enforce public health laws. The New York State Department of Health will send a letter warning local governments in cluster zones that they will lose state funding if they fail to enforce state limits on gatherings and the closure of schools. The letter will be sent to New York City, Orange County, Rockland County, the Town of Ramapo and the Village of Spring Valley.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-state-will-withhold-funds-localities-and-schools-covid-19-cluster>
- Governor Cuomo announced that movie theaters outside of New York City can reopen at 25 percent capacity under state guidance starting October 23. No more than 50 people are allowed in front of each screen in each movie theater at once. Theaters can only open outside of New York City in counties that have COVID-19 positivity rates of less than 2 percent on a 14-day average and do not have any cluster zones. Theaters will be subject to rigorous state guidance and enforcement.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-most-movie-theaters-outside-new-york-city-can-reopen-october-23>
- Governor Cuomo outlined New York State's new "micro-cluster" strategy to tackle COVID-19 hot spots that may come with the Fall and Winter weather. The micro-cluster strategy is predicated on three principles: refined detection, specific and calibrated mitigation, and focused enforcement. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-outlines-new-micro-cluster-strategy-tackle-covid-19-hot-spots-arise-fall>
- Governor Cuomo announced the NYS Department of Health has released a draft COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Program that serves as an initial framework for ensuring the safe and effective distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine in New York. The draft program was developed in consultation with leading clinical and public health experts, and requires collaboration and partnership with local departments of health, community partners and organizations, and the federal government.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-draft-new-york-state-covid-19-vaccination-administration-program>

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

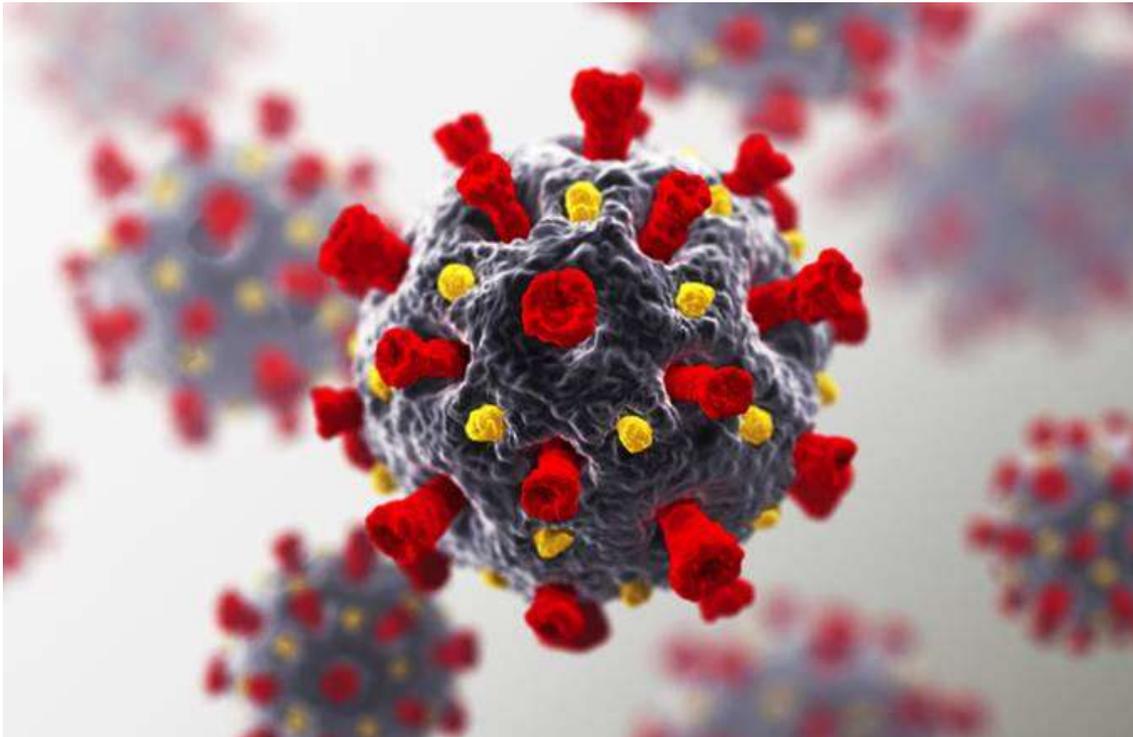
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 190, extending a moratorium preventing New Jersey residents from having their utilities disconnected through at least March 15, 2021. The moratorium applies to all residential gas, electric and water utilities, both public and private. Further, the utilities will not be charging late fees nor fees to reconnect services that have been disconnected. The Order also requires that all residential services that were disconnected after social distancing measures went into effect on March 16 be reconnected. The Governor and legislative leadership further announced that \$15 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund will be allocated to assisting low income households in paying off utility arrearages.
<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-190.pdf>
- Governor Murphy announced the launch of New Jersey's COVID-19 Transparency website, providing oversight and public confidence in the expenditure of federal recovery funds as the State continues to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement of the website follows the Governor's signing of Executive Order No. 166 on July 17, 2020, which established the Governor's Disaster Recovery Office (GDRO) and COVID-19 Compliance and Oversight Task Force.
<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201016c.shtml>
- Governor Murphy signed legislation (S2519) which requires public health emergency credits to be awarded to certain inmates and parolees during a public health emergency. The legislation includes certain exclusions and prohibits inmates or parolees to contact their victims upon their release.
<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201019c.shtml>

Connecticut

- The Connecticut Department of Public Health launched a new weekly, color-coded COVID-19 alert map for every city and town in the state, identifying the average daily case rate per 100,000 population over the last two weeks. The new weekly alert level is also accompanied by municipal-level guidance on recommended actions for individual residents, institutions such as schools, houses of worship, community organizations, municipal leaders, and local health directors. <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>
- Governor Ned Lamont announced that the State of Connecticut will be providing up to \$9 million in grants to certain nonprofit arts organizations in the state to help them recover more quickly from the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing federal CARES Act funding from the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) Office of the Arts will administer the COVID Relief Fund for the Arts program with the goal of supporting:
 - Arts nonprofits for whom grants will make a difference in terms of survival or rehiring; and
 - Arts nonprofits that have had to curtail operations for a period of time due to the pandemic and which have had limited ability to reopen due to pandemic restrictions and/or have had to pivot their service delivery due to pandemic restrictions.
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/10-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Grant-Program-To-Support-Connecticuts-Arts-Community>



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>

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>

BTC DOHMH issues 2020 Health Alert #38: COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing and Screening Recommendations for People Who Live or Work in New York City

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/han/alert/2020/covid-19-diagnostic-testing-10142020.pdf>

NYC DOHMH issues Dear Colleague letter (Oct 13, 2020) regarding Flu season during COVID-19

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/providers/covid-19-providers-dear-colleague-updates-10132020.pdf>

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/>

COVID-19 Medical Respite Program to Support Safe Patient Discharges

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/covid-19-medical-respite-program-to-support-safe-patient-discharges/>

DOHMH Updates COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing Guidance

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/dohmh-updates-covid-19-diagnostic-testing-guidance/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

Faculty News:

New York Medical College Leadership News:

THE RED ZONE: A Roundtable Discussion on the New York COVID Uptick

Hamodia

10/14/2020

<https://hamodia.com/2020/10/14/red-zone-hamodia-touro-roundtable-discussion-new-york-covid-uptick/>

Alan Kadish, M.D., president

Trying to Contain the Spread of COVID-19

FOX 5

10/14/2020

<https://youtu.be/CNwBLFD0Q78>

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

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