

11-17-2020

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 46)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Recommended Citation

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College. (2020). COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 46). Retrieved from https://touro scholar.touro.edu/nymc_covid19_newsletter/47

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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE Touro College and University System

Center for Disaster Medicine



Tuesday, November 17, 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, which appears 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	55,021,938	1,327,228	35,349,444	Not Available
United States	11,202,980	247,202	4,244,811	164,366,274
New Jersey	281,493	16,580	39,643	5,341,289
New York	563,690	34,054	81,908	16,876,843
Connecticut	93,284	4,759	9,800	2,793,152

Information as of 11/17/20 at 0100 EST. 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.
- Coordinating and overseeing COVID-19 screenings at NYMC campus

Federal Updates

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it published an interim final rule affirming VA's current policy allowing VA health care professionals to practice across state lines in accordance with the scope and requirements of their VA employment, regardless of conflicting state requirements. This regulation allows VA the flexibility to mobilize and hire qualified health care professionals from any state and quickly place them in areas of need — which is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5566>
- As part of the VA fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the department announced today its nationwide effort to recruit volunteers for COVID-19 clinical trials at select VA facilities across the country. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5569>

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 Secretary Azar Statement on Moderna Vaccine Announcement

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/11/16/secretary-azar-statement-on-moderna-vaccine-announcement.html>

Trump Administration Partners with Chain and Independent Community Pharmacies to Increase Access to Future COVID-19 Vaccines

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/11/12/trump-administration-partners-chain-independent-community-pharmacies-increase-access-future-covid-19-vaccines.html> For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

<https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>

Promising Interim Results from Clinical Trial of NIH-Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/promising-interim-results-clinical-trial-nih-moderna-covid-19-vaccine>

Treatments for people with early COVID-19 infection is an urgent research focus

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/treatments-people-early-covid-19-infection-urgent-research-focus>

<https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>

Hydroxychloroquine does not benefit adults hospitalized with COVID-19

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/hydroxychloroquine-does-not-benefit-adults-hospitalized-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 November 16, 2020, including FDA-authorized 288 tests under EUAs, which include 223 molecular tests, 58 antibody tests, and 7 antigen tests.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-november-16-2020>

FDA issues A Closer Look at COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing

<https://www.fda.gov/health-professionals/closer-look-covid-19-diagnostic-testing>

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

FDA Issues Daily Update for November 9, 2020, including FDA-authorized 288 tests under EUAs, which include 223 molecular tests, 58 antibody tests, and 7 antigen tests.

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

FDA Authorizes Monoclonal Antibody for Treatment of COVID-19

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-monoclonal-antibody-treatment-covid-19>

FDA Authorizes First Test that Detects Neutralizing Antibodies from Recent or Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-first-test-detects-neutralizing-antibodies-recent-or>

FDA Offers Guidance to Enhance Diversity in Clinical Trials, Encourage Inclusivity in Medical Product Development

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-offers-guidance-enhance-diversity-clinical-trials-encourage-inclusivity-medical-product>

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 issues guidance for screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

CDC issues updates for Colleges, Universities, and Higher Learning

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.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)

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

CMS Takes Steps to Ensure Medicare Beneficiaries Have Wide Access to COVID-19 Antibody Treatment

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-takes-steps-ensure-medicare-beneficiaries-have-wide-access-covid-19-antibody-treatment>

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

American Red Cross

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html>

State Updates

New Yorkk

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced new COVID-19 restrictions on bars, restaurants, gyms and residential gatherings in New York State. Effective 11/13/20 at 10 p.m., bars, restaurants and gyms or fitness centers, as well as any State Liquor Authority-licensed establishment, will be required to close from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily. Restaurants will still be allowed to provide curbside, food-only pick-up or delivery after 10 p.m., but will not be permitted to serve alcohol to go. The State Liquor Authority will issue further guidance for licensees as to what sales are continued to be permitted. The Governor also announced that indoor and outdoor gatherings at private residences will be limited to no more than 10 people. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-restaurants-bars-other-sla-licensed-entities-must-close-person-service>
- Governor Cuomo announced a new web application that will help struggling New Yorkers locate benefits to assist them during their time of need. Developed through a public-private partnership with Google.org, the user-friendly social services discovery application will help individuals who are either new to or unfamiliar with the state's social programs network. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-tool-help-new-yorkers-access-critical-benefits-amid-covid-19>

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>

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

For the latest information about COVID-19 testing

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing#overview>

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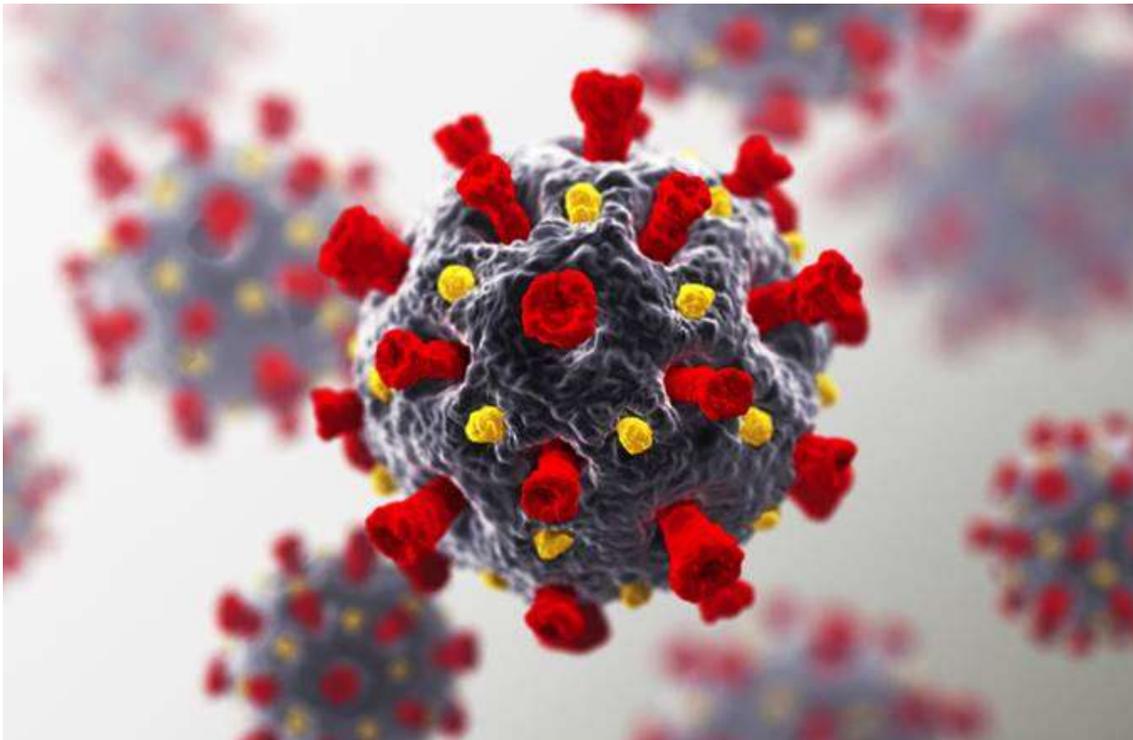
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 195, which permits municipalities and counties to impose additional restrictions on the hours of operation of non-essential retail businesses, food and beverage establishments, and recreation and entertainment businesses after 8:00 p.m. The Order prohibits municipalities and counties from imposing restrictions that prevent dining establishments from arranging for the pickup or delivery of goods or otherwise limiting their scope of operations. The Order will take effect immediately. <https://www.nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-195.pdf>
- With the upcoming holiday season, the New Jersey Department of Health issued health and safety guidance for the state's long-term care facilities, which provides measures for residents who leave the facility for a holiday gathering, including a 14-day quarantine at the conclusion of their visit. To protect the health of this vulnerable population, the Department strongly recommends against families taking residents out of facilities for holiday celebration events or gatherings. Instead, the Department recommends visitation outdoors or possibly indoors in facilities that meet the requirements for indoor visitation. Long-term care facilities should plan to accommodate increased virtual communications for residents. <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/docs/11-16-20%20Memo%20Long%20Term%20Care%20Facilities%20-%20NJ%20Department%20of%20Health%20Holiday%20Visitation%20Guidance.pdf>
- Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 196, which lowers indoor and outdoor gathering limits. Effective Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00 a.m., the indoor gathering limit will decrease from 25 to 10 people. The outdoor gathering limit will decrease from 500 people to 150 people, effective Monday, November 23 at 6:00 a.m. <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-196.pdf>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that the State of Connecticut has launched its official COVID-19 exposure notification app, *COVID Alert CT*. The app, available for Apple and Android mobile devices, informs users if they may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 – all without sharing any personal information. <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/covidalertCT/homepage>
- Governor Lamont announced that he sent a letter to President Donald J. Trump requesting that he extend the federal authorization for the Connecticut National Guard to provide support to the State of Connecticut through June 30, 2021, for its ongoing response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. In addition, he is requesting a 100 percent federal cost share on behalf of the state. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/11-2020/Governor-Lamont-Requests-Federal-Extension-of-the-Connecticut-National-Guard>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19:

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

NYBC announces 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 NYC DOHMH updated COVID-19 data page

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

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY

<https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71>

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/>

GNYHA COVID-19 Resources and Supports, Critical Wave II Preparedness Efforts
<https://www.gnyha.org/news/gnyha-covid-19-resources-and-supports-critical-wave-ii-preparedness-efforts/>

New York State Announces New Testing Protocol for Out-of-State Travelers
<https://www.gnyha.org/news/new-york-state-announces-new-testing-protocol-for-out-of-state-travelers/>

City Council Holds COVID-19-Related Hearings
<https://www.gnyha.org/news/city-council-holds-covid-19-related-hearings/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:

Coronavirus and Face Masks: Everything You Need to Know Right Now

Good Housekeeping

11/13/2020

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/a32703820/coronavirus-face-mask-guide/>

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

Faculty News:

COVID-19 medical articles draw major attention to preprint servers

M.D. Alert

11/13/2020

<https://www.mdalert.com/news/article/covid-19-medical-articles-draw-major-attention-to-preprint-servers>

Neil W. Schluger, M.D., the Barbara and William Rosenthal Chair of the Department of Medicine

As Covid cases take off in Pike County, we must redouble our efforts to stay safe

Pike Country Courier

11/11/2020

<http://www.pikecountycourier.com/news/local-news/as-covid-cases-take-off-in-pike-county-we-must-redouble-our-efforts-to-stay-safe-XN1384572>

Robert A. Ollar, Ph.D., clinical assistant professor of neurology

New York Medical College Leadership:

Witness to the 'The Story of the Century'

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