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COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 49)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

Tuesday, December 8, 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.

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COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	67,357,522	1,540,697	43,252,851	Not Available

United States	14,827,950	282,797	5,624,444	204,063,869
New Jersey	371,579	17,336	46,021	6,286,813
New York	713,129	34,980	87,949	20,594,694
Connecticut	127,715	5,146	9,800	3,422,098

Information as of 12/7/20 at 1800 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.
- Coordinating and overseeing COVID-19 screenings at NYMC campus

Federal Updates

- One Tribal Nation Winning Against COVID https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20201202/one-tribal-nation-winning-against-covid

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 Announces New Half Billion Incentive Payment Distribution to Nursing Homes
https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/07/trump-administration-announces-new-half-billion-incentive-payment-distribution-to-nursing-homes.html

HHS Amends PREP Act Declaration, Including to Expand Access to COVID-19 Countermeasures Via Telehealth
https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/03/hhs-amends-prep-act-declaration-including-expand-access-covid-19-countermeasures-telehealth.html

Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations Choose How They Will Access the COVID-19 Vaccine
https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/01/tribal-health-programs-and-urban-indian-organizations-choose-how-they-will-access-covid-19-vaccine.html

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus

NIH-funded tool helps organizations plan COVID-19 testing

https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-funded-tool-helps-organizations-plan-covid-19-testing

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 December 4, 2020, including FDA-authorized 295 tests under EUAs, which include 227 molecular tests, 61 antibody tests, and 7 antigen tests.
https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-december-4-2020

Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee December 10, 2020 Meeting Announcement regarding Pfizer
https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-december-10-2020-meeting-announcement

Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee December 17, 2020 Meeting Announcement regarding Moderna
https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-december-17-2020-meeting-announcement

FDA announces Webinar Series - Respirators and Other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Health Care Personnel Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic
https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/workshops-conferences-medical-devices/webinar-series-respirators-and-other-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-health-care-personnel-use

FDA Authorizes First COVID-19 and Flu Combination Test for use with home-collected samples
https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-first-covid-19-and-flu-combination-test-use-home

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

For the latest CDC information
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 provides guidance for Workplaces and Businesses
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/workplaces-businesses/index.html

CDC provides guidance regarding Vaccination Plans
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/vaccination.html

CDC provides updated guidance on holiday celebrations and small gatherings
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html

CDC provides guidance regarding Health Equity
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/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

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 receive an initial delivery of enough COVID-19 vaccine doses for 170,000 New Yorkers. If all safety and efficacy approvals are granted by the federal government, the state expects to receive the vaccines—which were created by Pfizer—on December 15. New York State expects additional allocations of vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna later this month. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-state-receive-initial-delivery-covid-19-vaccine-doses-170000-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

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 legislation (A4852) expanding eligibility for extended UI benefits to claimants who either had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits or earned 40 times their unemployment weekly benefits rate.

Per prior law, eligibility for extended UI benefits, which offer up to an additional 20 weeks of benefits, was limited to claimants who satisfied both criteria. https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201204b.shtml
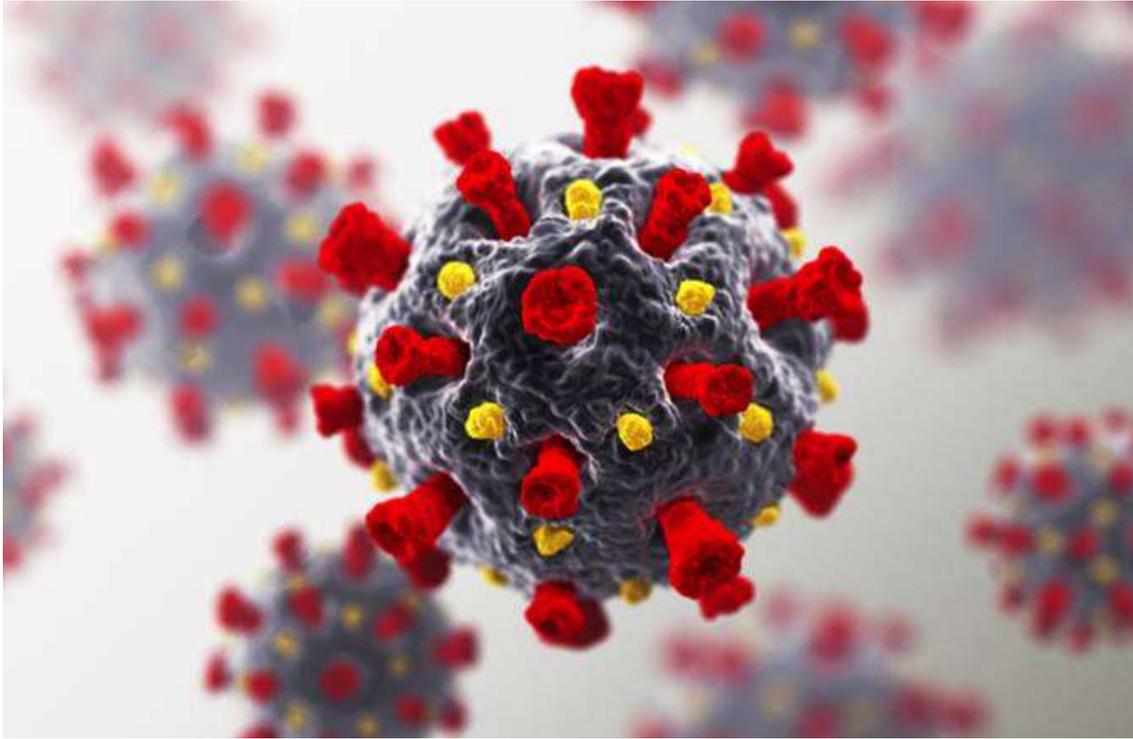
- In preparation for the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines to New Jersey, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 207, which automatically enrolls residents who choose to receive a COVID-19 vaccine into the state's existing vaccine registry. The Governor's Executive Order changes inclusion into the New Jersey Immunization Information System from an opt-in to an opt-out program for residents who elect to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. That group of residents will be automatically enrolled into the system, and will then be permitted to opt-out of the registry 30 days after the public health emergency expires. https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-207.pdf

- Governor Murphy and Superintendent of the State Police Colonel Patrick Callahan today announced an Administrative Order clarifying that indoor entertainment centers where a performance is viewed or given, including a movie theater, performing arts center, and other concert venues, may host a performance in an adjacent outdoor area with a maximum capacity equivalent to the facility's indoor capacity permitted under Paragraph 6 of Executive Order No. 196 (2020). https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/ao/docs/AO2020-24.pdf

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that Connecticut is the first state in the nation to provide a learning device to every PK-12 student in need, achieving a major milestone in the fight to close the K-12 digital divide in Connecticut, particularly as many schools move toward remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor committed to closing the state's PK-12 digital divide by purchasing every student who indicated a need with a learning device and a reliable, at-home internet connection. https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/12-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Full-Delivery-of-141000-Laptops-To-PK12-Students

- Governor Lamont announced that he plans to sign an executive order that expands eligibility to the federal Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program for Connecticut residents who did not initially qualify for the program. Due to a federal rule requiring claimants receive at least $100 per week in unemployment benefits to receive the additional LWA funding, approximately 38,000 residents were excluded from the program when it ran over six weeks late last summer. Governor Lamont's executive order will retroactively and temporarily increase weekly unemployment benefits to $100 for most of these 38,000 residents, allowing them to qualify for the program. https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/12-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Executive-Order-Expanding-Federal-Lost-Wages-Assistance

Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

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

NYC Mayor's Office Video Highlights Urgent Need for Blood
https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/nyc-mayors-office-video-highlights-urgent-need-blood/

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

For NYC Dear Colleague Letter from December 3, 2020 regarding long term sequelae

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/providers/covid-19-providers-dear-colleague-updates-12032020.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

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 updates General Public Health Agency Coronavirus Guidance
https://www.gnyha.org/tool/cdc-coronavirus-updates/

GNYHA provides guidance regarding New York City Post-COVID-19 Care Clinics
https://www.gnyha.org/tool/new-york-city-post-covid-19-care-clinics/

GNYHA provides guidance regarding agency workforce updates
https://www.gnyha.org/tool/agency-workforce-updates/

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:

'We need to listen and understand:' Pew Research finds Americans divided over COVID-19 vaccine
Bronx News 12
12/4/2020
https://bronx.news12.com/we-need-to-listen-and-understand-pew-research-finds-americans-divided-over-covid-vaccine
Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

<u>**Faculty News:**</u>
<u>**Safely Assess Swallowing During COVID? It's Complicated**</u>
ASHA
11/10/2020
https://leader.pubs.asha.org/do/10.1044/leader.FTR2.25112020.58/full/
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