

12-15-2020

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 50)

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, December 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

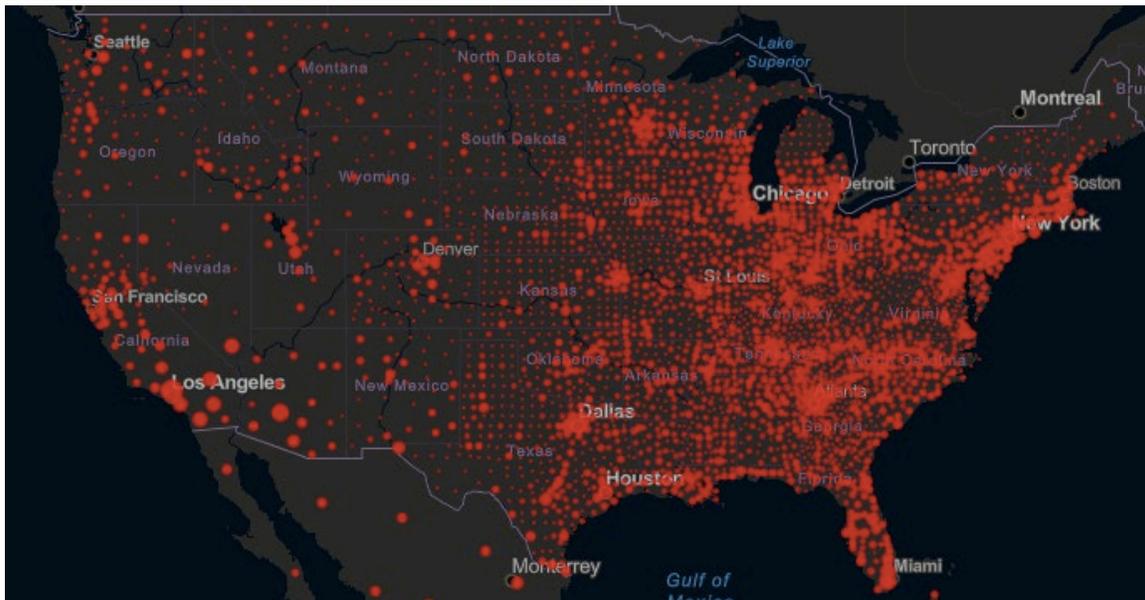
COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	72,417,335	1,615,421	47,380,338	Not Available

United States	16,280,842	299,370	6,298,082	217,114,386
New Jersey	400,650	17,751	48,654	6,597,406
New York	775,160	35,557	91,366	21,962,295
Connecticut	146,761	5,363	9,800	3,695,091

Information as of 12/14/20 at 1600 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) today announced a preliminary plan for distributing COVID-19 vaccinations it will implement once the Food and Drug Administration issues an emergency use authorization for a vaccine. VA has worked in close coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Operation Warp Speed to plan for COVID-19 vaccination of VA staff and Veterans. VA will first provide vaccinations to front-line VA health care workers and Veterans residing in long-term care units in 37 of its medical centers across the country.
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5580>

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)

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>

Statement from HHS and DoD on FDA Emergency Use Authorization of a COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/11/statement-hhs-dod-on-fda-emergency-use-authorization-covid-19-vaccine-candidate.html>

Trump Administration purchases additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 investigational vaccine from Moderna
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/11/trump-administration-purchases-additional-100-million-doses-covid-19-investigational-vaccine-moderna.html>

HHS Publishes COVID-19 Hospital Facility-Level Data
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/07/hhs-publishes-covid-19-hospital-facility-level-data.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

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

Baricitinib plus remdesivir shows promise for treating COVID-19

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/baricitinib-plus-remdesivir-shows-promise-treating-covid-19>

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 10, 2020, including FDA-authorized 298 tests under EUAs, which include 229 molecular tests, 61 antibody tests, and 8 antigen tests.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-december-10-2020>

FDA Takes Key Action in Fight Against COVID-19 By Issuing Emergency Use Authorization for First COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-key-action-fight-against-covid-19-issuing-emergency-use-authorization-first-covid-19>

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 Authorizes First Direct-to-Consumer COVID-19 Test System

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-first-direct-consumer-covid-19-test-system>

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-covid.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 vaccine recommendations

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations.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 what to expect after getting the COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

CDC provides updated guidance on COVID-19 vaccines

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/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)

View the latest information from CMS

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

Statement from CMS Administrator Seema Verma on FDA Emergency Use Authorization of a COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/statement-cms-administrator-seema-verma-fda-emergency-use-authorization-covid-19-vaccine-candidate>

CMS Proposes New Rules to Address Prior Authorization and Reduce Burden on Patients and Providers

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-proposes-new-rules-address-prior-authorization-and-reduce-burden-patients-and-providers>

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 updated New Yorkers on the state's vaccination distribution plan as the FDA has authorized Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine. The state's vaccination distribution effort will focus on battling skepticism, include outreach to Black, Brown and poor communities, as well as expedited distribution and administration. New York received its initial allocation of 170,000 vaccines early this week.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-vaccination-distribution-plan>
- Governor Cuomo announced the launch of the New York Forward Small Business Lease Assistance Partnership. Recognizing the economic impact of COVID-19, this program will provide small businesses and their landlords with informational resources and pro bono assistance to help both parties reach mutually-beneficial lease workout agreements. This service is available to all New York State small businesses and landlords, and participation is voluntary. Over the next year, the partnership has the capacity to serve thousands of small businesses statewide.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-launch-new-york-forward-small-business-lease-assistance-partnership>

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>

NYS COVID-19 Winter Plan
<https://forward.ny.gov/covid-19-winter-plan>

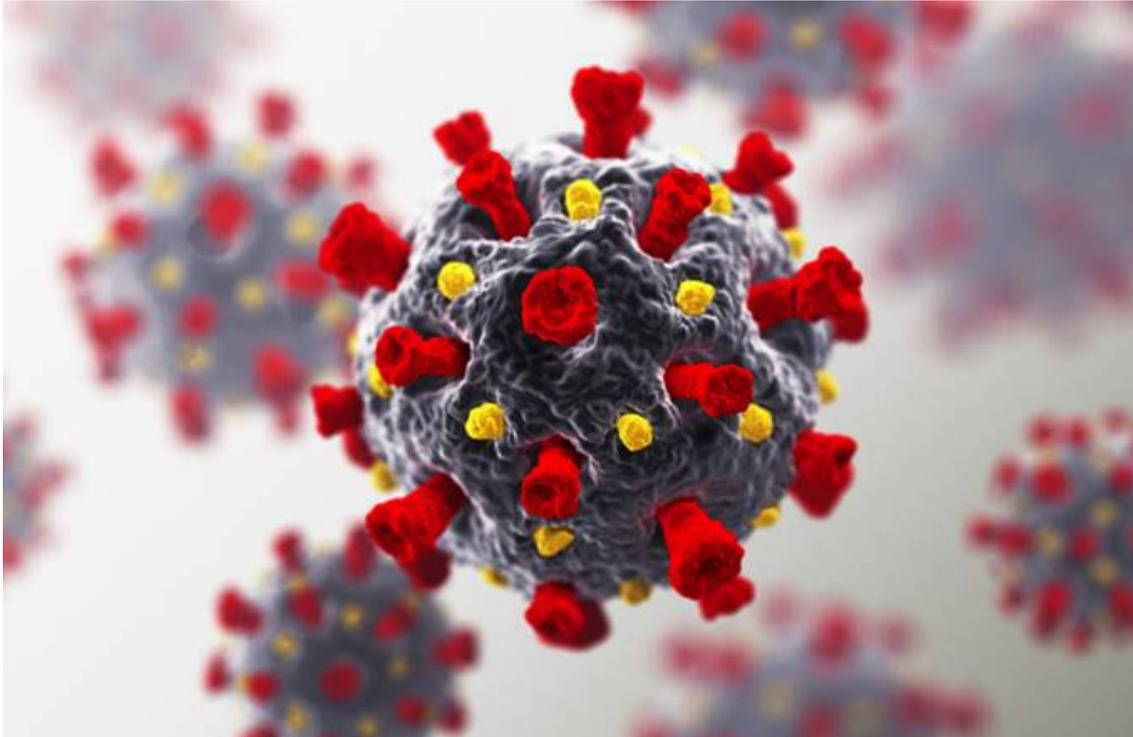
New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education announced a \$2.5 million grant to implement, scale-up, and enhance evidence-based interventions that accelerate students' academic progress and reduce learning loss among New Jersey students that has resulted from school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The "Addressing Student Learning Loss" grants will fund programs in public schools, including charter and renaissance schools across 16 districts. These 16 districts will receive up to approximately \$156,500 per award using funding that the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) set aside in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds for targeted initiatives.
<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201210a.shtml>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that the Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group's Science Subcommittee has submitted recommendations to him that the state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan start at the earliest opportunity. The recommendation comes after the subcommittee reviewed all available scientific and trial data from the U.S. FDA, the FDA's Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, clinical trial information provided by Pfizer and BioNTech, and peer-reviewed scientific publications about the vaccine and its clinical testing. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also voted to recommend the vaccine for individuals over 16. Governor Lamont accepted the subcommittee's recommendations and is ordering the Connecticut Department of Public Health to make all necessary preparations in order for the vaccine to be received as early as Monday, distributed, and allocated shortly thereafter to healthcare institutions

and long-term care facilities all over the state. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/12-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Connecticut-Vaccine-Distribution-Plan-To-Begin>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-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/>

NYBC updates guidance regarding Convalescent Plasma (CP)
<https://www.nybc.org/donate-blood/covid-19-and-blood-donation-copy/convalescent-plasma/>

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 DOHMH updated guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccine

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

GNYHA provides New York State COVID-19 Vaccine Program Hospital Guidance and Upcoming Webinar

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/new-york-state-covid-19-vaccine-program-hospital-guidance-and-upcoming-webinar/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:

Dr. Alan Kadish, President of Touro College & New York Medical College. Topic: Introducing COVID-19 vaccines, the possibility of mandatory vaccination in NYC

The Joe Piscopo Show

12/09/20

<https://player.fm/series/the-joe-piscopo-show-1665113/ep-8-am-hour-the-joe-piscopo-show-12-09-20>

At 39:11 mark: Alan Kadish, M.D., president

Coronavirus updates: Joe Biden pledges to deliver 100M doses in 100 days; US reaches 15M infections; Ohio-State Michigan football game off

Times Record News

12/8/2020

<https://www.timesrecordnews.com/story/news/health/2020/12/08/covid-news-britain-vaccine-wyoming-california-donald-trump/6481339002/>

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

Coronavirus: Live updates for Tuesday, Dec. 8

The Florida Times

12/8/2020

<https://www.jacksonville.com/story/news/coronavirus/2020/12/08/coronavirus-florida-live-updates-tuesday-dec-8/6487949002/>

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:

Doctor says convincing skeptical patients that COVID-19 vaccines are safe will be challenging

News 12 Westchester

12/10/2020

<https://westchester.news12.com/doctor-says-convincing-skeptical-patients-that-covid-19-vaccines-are-safe-will-be-challenging>

Lori Solomon, M.D. '99, M.P.H. '09, chair and assistant professor of family and community medicine

NYC Board-Certified Dermatologist: Minority Communities Impacted by COVID-19 Experienced Surge in Temporary Hair Loss

NewsWise

12/10/2020

https://www.newswise.com/coronavirus/nyc-board-certified-dermatologist-minority-communities-impacted-by-covid-19-experienced-surge-in-temporary-hair-loss/?article_id=743122

Shoshana Marmon, M.D., Ph.D., clinical assistant professor of dermatology

The roots of the COVID-19 pandemic

Jewish News Syndicate

12/14/2020

<https://www.jns.org/opinion/the-roots-of-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

Stuart Newman, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy and medicine

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