

12-22-2020

## COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 51)

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 22, 2020**

***During this COVID-19 pandemic and other future events, the CDM has been and will continue to be a source of reliable information, education and models for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. We hope this informational document has helped provide you filtered and actionable information. As the pace of new information and changes occurs will evaluate the current once per week to determine if this information should be provided on a more frequent basis.***

David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.  
Director  
Center for Disaster Medicine

### **COVID-19 Statistics**

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
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Worldwide	77,455,985	1,704,680	43,719,339	Not Available
United States	18,043,183	319,466	Not Available	232,206,470
New Jersey	435,763	18,223	51,746	7,295,523
New York	857,049	36,568	95,779	23,474,668
Connecticut	167,377	5,676	9,800	4,034,669

Information as of 12/22/20 at 0700 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
- Offered Geriatric Emergency Medical Services and All Hazard Disaster Response courses to public safety provider
- Hosted The COVID-19 MCI: What Training Didn't Prepare Us For
- COVID-19 Vaccines: Virtual Q & A Session
- Offered Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing

## Federal Updates

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today publication of its dynamic VA COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan, being executed at 37 sites across the country. VA began vaccinating Veterans and frontline employees this week, following the Food and Drug Administration's Dec. 11 decision to issue an Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5587>
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that more than 1,000 VA staff have volunteered for more than 3,700 deployments — the most for a single emergency — in response to COVID-19. To date, VA personnel have deployed to more than 49 states and territories to support VA medical centers with surges of COVID-19 cases and to provide support to state and community nursing homes.  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5589>

### The White House

President Trump has unveiled Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, a three-phased approach based on the advice of public health experts. To review the Guidelines and obtain additional information regarding Opening Up America Again.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

### President-Elect Biden Homepage

President-Elect Biden and his team have established a website to keep the people updated on his plans as he begins to transition for a transfer of power on January 20, 2021.

<https://buildbackbetter.gov/priorities/covid-19/>

### Health and Human Services (HHS)

HHS and DoD Statements on FDA Authorization of Moderna Vaccine

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/18/hhs-dod-statements-fda-authorization-moderna-vaccine.html>

HHS Increases and Begins Distributing Over \$24 Billion in Phase 3 COVID-19 Provider Relief Funding

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/16/hhs-increases-begins-distributing-over-24-billion-in-phase-3-covid-19-provider-relief-funding.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

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

## **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

NIH holds COVID-19 vaccine kick-off event

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-holds-covid-19-vaccine-kick-event>

NIH funds eight studies to uncover risk factors for COVID-19-related inflammatory syndrome in children

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-funds-eight-studies-uncover-risk-factors-covid-19-related-inflammatory-syndrome-children>

NIH to support radical approaches to nationwide COVID-19 testing and surveillance

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-support-radical-approaches-nationwide-covid-19-testing-surveillance>

Statement from NIH and BARDA on the FDA Emergency Use Authorization of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/statement-nih-barda-fda-emergency-use-authorization-moderna-covid-19-vaccine>

Investigational COVID-19 therapeutics to be evaluated in large clinical trials

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/investigational-covid-19-therapeutics-be-evaluated-large-clinical-trials>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

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## **United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

FDA Issues Daily Update for December 21, 2020, including FDA-authorized 306 tests under EUAs, which include 233 molecular tests, 62 antibody tests, and 11 antigen tests.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-december-21-2020>

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

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

FDA Statement on Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee Meeting

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-statement-vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-meeting-0>

For the latest FDA information about COVID-19

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

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

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>

Overdose Deaths Accelerating During COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p1218-overdose-deaths-covid-19.html>

Use Masks to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Implications of the Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variant VUI 202012/01

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-emerging-variant.html>

New Variant of Virus that Causes COVID-19 Detected

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

The Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/hcp.html>

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, December 2020

[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6950e2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6950e2\\_x](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6950e2.htm?s_cid=mm6950e2_x)

Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html#:~:text=CDC%20recommends%2014%20days%20of,the%20possibility%20they%20are%20infected.>

For the latest CDC information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/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>

### **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 Administration Plan and the establishment of Regional Vaccination Hubs to help facilitate vaccinations once Phase 2 of the state's plan begins in early 2021. Additionally, the Governor announced that the state has launched the Vaccinate New York campaign and website to provide the public with information about, and help instill confidence in, the vaccine and the state's administration plan. To help ensure New Yorkers are able to access the vaccine at no cost, the Department of Financial Services has also issued a directive to New York health insurers to immediately cover, without cost-sharing, approved COVID-19 immunizations and their administration.  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-vaccination-administration-plan>
- Governor Cuomo announced that the New York State Clinical Advisory Task Force, following the FDA's advisory committee's recommendation for emergency use authorization of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine, has reviewed and approved use of the vaccine in New York State. New York expects to receive approximately 346,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine next week, pending final FDA authorization.  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-state-clinical-advisory-task-force-approves-moderna-vaccine>
- Governor Cuomo announced he has signed an Executive Order providing additional support for two of the groups hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic - vulnerable homeowners and the restaurant industry. Under Executive Order 202.83, local governments can continue to provide property tax exemptions for low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities who own property through 2021 by lifting an in-person renewal requirement which would put vulnerable New Yorkers at risk of infection from COVID. Additionally, the sales tax deadline for restaurants in orange zones which have been required to suspend indoor dining will be extended until March.  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-executive-order-better-support-seniors-and-assist-restaurant-industry-amid>
- Governor Cuomo: "We have an agreement now with the 3 airlines that fly from the U.K. to the New York airports: Virgin, Delta and British Airways airlines that are flying into New York from the U.K. that have all agreed that they will test people before they get on the flight in the U.K. en route to New York." <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-virgin-atlantic-joins-british-airways-and-delta-airlines>

## **New York State Department of Health (DOH)**

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>

Get the NYS DOH COVID-19 App to stay informed

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH

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

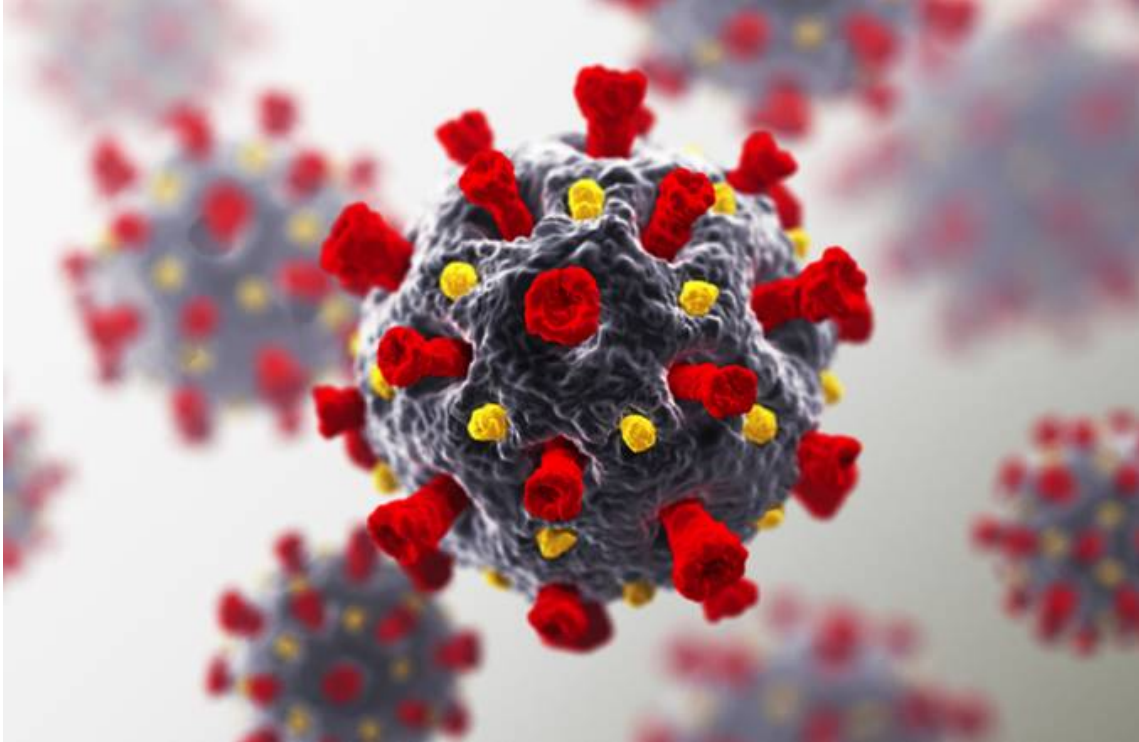
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## **New Jersey**

- Governor Phil Murphy today signed Executive Order No. 210. The Order extends the Public Health Emergency that was declared on March 9, 2020 through Executive Order No. 103, which was previously extended on April 7, May 6, June 4, July 2, August 1, August 27, September 25, October 24, and November 21. Under the Emergency Health Powers Act, a declared public health emergency expires after 30 days unless renewed. <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-210.pdf>
- Today, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 211, postponing the upcoming February fire district elections, March special school elections, and all other special elections for filling vacancies to April 20, 2021. <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-211.pdf>

## **Connecticut**

- Governor Ned Lamont today announced that he has signed an executive order revising the guidelines for the travel advisory he enacted earlier this year in Connecticut amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in order to streamline its operations and align with recently modified guidance on the virus from the U.S Center for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/12-2020/Governor-Lamont-Implements-New-Guidelines-for-Connecticuts-COVID-19-Travel-Advisory>
- Governor Lamont today announced that he has directed the Connecticut Department of Public Health to add Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine to the state's ongoing vaccination program following a recommendation from the Governor's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group's Science Subcommittee that it be authorized in the state. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/12-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Approval-of-Moderna-COVID-19-Vaccine-in-Connecticut>



## Local Updates

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### **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)**

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>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYC DOHMH  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

### **Westchester County Department of Health**

For the latest COVID-19 information in Westchester  
<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>  
Review this COVID-19 tool to determine what you need to do  
<https://covideterminationtree.westchestergov.com/covidDeterminationTree/>

### **Putnam County Department of Health**

COVID-19 quarantine and isolation for Putnam residents  
[https://www.putnamcountyny.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PC\\_Quarantine\\_and\\_Isolation\\_for\\_Residents\\_Important\\_Information\\_update\\_6.1.20.pdf](https://www.putnamcountyny.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PC_Quarantine_and_Isolation_for_Residents_Important_Information_update_6.1.20.pdf)  
For the latest COVID-19 information  
<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/>

### **Dutchess County Department of Health**

For the latest COVID-19 information:  
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>

### **Orange County Department of Health**

For the latest COVID-19 information  
<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**

County's COVID-19 Call Center 845-238-1956 is available Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-5:00 pm or email [COVIDCallCenter@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:COVIDCallCenter@co.rockland.ny.us)  
For the latest COVID-19 information  
<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### **Healthcare**

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/>

Week Two Vaccine Prioritization Guidance and Hospital/FQHC Responsibilities  
<https://www.gnyha.org/news/week-two-vaccine-prioritization-guidance-and-hospital-fqhc-responsibilities/>

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/>



## Center for Disaster Medicine Media

### **New York Medical College Leadership News:**

#### **How Do I Get a COVID-19 Vaccine? Everything You Need to Know Before Getting a Shot**

Good Housekeeping

12/21/2020

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/a34946302/how-to-get-covid-19-vaccine/>

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

#### **Dr. Alan Kadish, President of Touro College & New York Medical College: COVID-19 Vaccines**

The Joe Piscopo Show

12/16/20

<https://player.fm/series/the-joe-piscopo-show-1665113/ep-8-am-hour-the-joe-piscopo-show-12-16-20>

At 22:16 mark: Alan Kadish, M.D., president

### **Nervous About Covid-19 Vaccines? Here's How Scientists Are Feeling**

Gizmodo  
12/14/2020

<https://gizmodo.com/nervous-about-covid-19-vaccines-heres-how-scientists-a-1845881262>

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### **Dr. Amler Speaks to BBC News on COVID-19 Vaccine Skepticism**

BBC News  
12/15/2020

<https://youtu.be/8rkST0sHflc>

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### **How to Talk to Friends and Family Who Are Hesitant to Get the COVID-19 Vaccine**

Healthline  
12/17/2020

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-to-talk-to-friends-and-family-who-are-hesitant-to-get-the-covid-19-vaccine>

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### **Faculty News:**

#### **Vaccinating Black Americans Is Essential. Key States Aren't Doing the Work to Combat Hesitancy**

ProPublica  
12/18/2020

<https://www.propublica.org/article/vaccinating-black-americans>

Mark J. Kittleson, Ph.D., professor and chair of Department of Public Health

### **Pandemic has had emotional, financial impact on cath lab workers**

Healio  
12/15/2020

<https://www.healio.com/news/cardiac-vascular-intervention/20201215/pandemic-has-had-emotional-financial-impact-on-cath-lab-workers>

Srihari S. Naidu, M.D., professor of medicine

### **Should families wear masks when they're at home for Christmas?**

Fox News  
12/18/2020

<https://video.foxnews.com/v/6217224137001#sp=show-clips>

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

### **'Hope and humanity': Health care workers celebrate COVID-19 vaccination on social media**

Today  
12/18/2020

<https://www.today.com/health/covid-19-vaccine-health-care-workers-share-photos-t204282>

Shetal I. Shah, M.D., professor of pediatrics

*Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information in this newsletter. However, New York Medical College cannot guarantee that there will be no errors. NYMC makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of the newsletters or the articles linked herein and further expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this newsletter.*

*This newsletter is for informational purposes only; it does not constitute medical advice. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.*



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