

12-29-2020

## COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 52)

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 29, 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
Worldwide	81,260,603	1,774,130	45,969,222	Not Available

United States	19,300,726	334,830	Not Available	243,784,420
New Jersey	463,965	18,651	54,437	7,657,518
New York	932,552	37,548	100,008	24,753,360
Connecticut	181,200	5,904	9,800	4,265,232

Information as of 12/29/20 at 0200 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 providers
- 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**

- On December 24, President Trump took another step to protect the health of the American people by requiring air passengers arriving from the United Kingdom (U.K.) to test negative, via PCR or Antigen test, no more than 72 hours before departure from the U.K. to the United States. The public health authorities in the U.K. recently announced the discovery of a new variant of SARS-CoV-2. Viruses constantly change through mutation, and preliminary analysis in the U.K. suggests that this new variant may be up to 70 percent more transmissible than previously circulating variants. This order was signed by CDC Director Robert Redfield, M.D. on December 25, and became effective on December 28, 2020.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s1224-CDC-to-require-negative-test.html>

### **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 for updates 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)**

Trump Administration purchases additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 investigational vaccine from Pfizer- The Trump Administration, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DOD), will purchase an additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer  
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/23/trump-administration-purchases-additional-100-million-doses-covid-19-investigational-vaccine-pfizer.html>

The U.S. Department of the Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Defense (DOD) jointly announced an agreement with Merck to support advanced development and large-

scale manufacturing of their investigational therapeutic MK-7110 to treat hospitalized patients with severe or critical COVID-19.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/23/hhs-dod-collaborate-with-merck-continue-development-large-scale-manufacturing-investigational-covid-19-treatment.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

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

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

The Phase 3 trial of another investigational coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine has begun enrolling adult volunteers. The randomized, placebo-controlled trial will enroll approximately 30,000 people at approximately 115 sites in the United States and Mexico. It will evaluate the safety and efficacy of NVX-CoV2373, a vaccine candidate developed by Novavax. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/phase-3-trial-novavax-investigational-covid-19-vaccine-opens>

Pregnant women who are infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, during the third trimester are unlikely to pass the infection to their newborns, suggests a study funded by the National Institutes of Health. The study followed 127 pregnant women who were admitted to Boston hospitals during the spring of 2020.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/pregnant-women-third-trimester-unlikely-pass-sars-cov-2-infection-newborns>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

---

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

FDA Issues Daily Update for December 28, 2020, including FDA-authorized 309 tests under EUAs, which include 235 molecular tests, 63 antibody tests, and 11 antigen tests. There are 32 molecular authorizations that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, one antigen prescription at-home test, and one over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen test.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-december-28-2020>

FDA provides important information (in various languages) regarding Moderna vaccine. This information is for recipients and providers. On December 18, 2020, FDA issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) which allows the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S for use in individuals 18 years of age and older.

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine>

FDA provides important information (in various languages) regarding Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. This information is for recipients and providers. On December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued the first emergency use authorization (EUA) for a vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in individuals 16 years of age and older.

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>

FDA provides a wide range of COVID-19 resources in multiple languages.

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/multilingual-covid-19-resources>

For the latest overall 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>

COVID-19 cases and deaths are rising across the United States. The changes we have had to make to routines and daily life are extremely hard, but these changes are even more important now and in the future. We must stop the spread of this new and dangerous virus. The more steps you and your family can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the safer you will be.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/need-to-know.html>

Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is expected to be limited at first, CDC is providing recommendations to federal, state, and local governments about who should be vaccinated first. CDC's recommendations are based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an independent panel of medical and public health experts.

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

Since November 2020, the U.K. has reported a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in London and southeast England. This rapid increase in cases has been linked to a different version—or variant—of the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2). Public health professionals in the UK are evaluating the characteristics of this new variant.

<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>

For information and materials including administration, storage and handling, safety, and reporting regarding Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html>

For information and materials including administration, storage and handling, safety, and reporting regarding the Moderna vaccine:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html>

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued an interim recommendation for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in persons aged  $\geq 16$  years for the prevention of COVID-19.

[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)

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued an interim recommendation for use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in persons aged  $\geq 18$  years for the prevention of COVID-19.

[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm695152e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm695152e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm695152e1.htm?s_cid=mm695152e1_w)

As cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to increase across the United States, the safest way to celebrate the winter holidays is to celebrate at home with people who live with you. The CDC has provided updated information about holidays and gatherings with persons who do not live with you.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

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 announced he will sign an Executive Order increasing penalties on health care providers who intentionally disregard the state's vaccine prioritization protocols. Under the new Executive Order, providers who knowingly administer the vaccine to individuals outside of the state's prioritization protocols may face penalties up to \$1 million, as well as revocation of all state licenses. Additionally, certification of vaccine recipients will now be mandatory as part of the State's vaccination process. This action comes following reports of a provider, ParCare Community Health Network, apparently obtaining and administering the COVID-19 vaccine by flouting state guidelines. The Governor has already directed the Department of Health and State Police to investigate the matter and the case has been referred to the office of Attorney General Letitia James. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-issues-executive-order-increasing-penalties-health>
- Governor Cuomo announced that 140,000 New Yorkers have received the first COVID-19 vaccine dose to date. New York expects to receive another 259,000 doses this week, with 139,400 coming from Pfizer and 119,600 coming from Moderna. The Governor also announced that the state is expanding the priority populations eligible to receive a vaccine to include urgent care center employees, individuals administering COVID-19 vaccines, including local health department staff, and residents of the Office of Addiction Services and Supports' congregate facilities. Vaccines will continue to be distributed for high-risk hospital workers, federally qualified health center employees, EMS, coroners, medical examiners, funeral workers and residents and staff of Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and Office of Mental Health facilities. Next week, the state expects to expand this universe further with the addition of ambulatory care workers and public-facing public health workers. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-140000-new-yorkers-have-received-first-vaccine-dose>
- Governor Cuomo signed the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020. The Act (S.9114/A.11181) prevents residential evictions, foreclosure proceedings, credit discrimination and negative credit reporting related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also extends the Senior Citizens' Homeowner Exemption and Disabled Homeowner Exemption from 2020 to 2021. The Act adds to New York State's efforts to protect tenants and homeowners from the economic hardship incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-covid-19-emergency-eviction-and-foreclosure-prevention-act-2020>

### **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>

NYS COVID-19 Winter Plan

<https://forward.ny.gov/covid-19-winter-plan>

Get the NYS DOH COVID-19 App to stay informed. Download the COVID-19 Alert NY app, New York State's official exposure notification app, to get private exposure alerts.

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

NYS DOH has created a dynamic COVID-19 Tracker which provides COVID-19 information regarding testing, cases, percentages, and fatalities across New York State. It also breaks down cases by county.

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH

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

---

## **New Jersey**

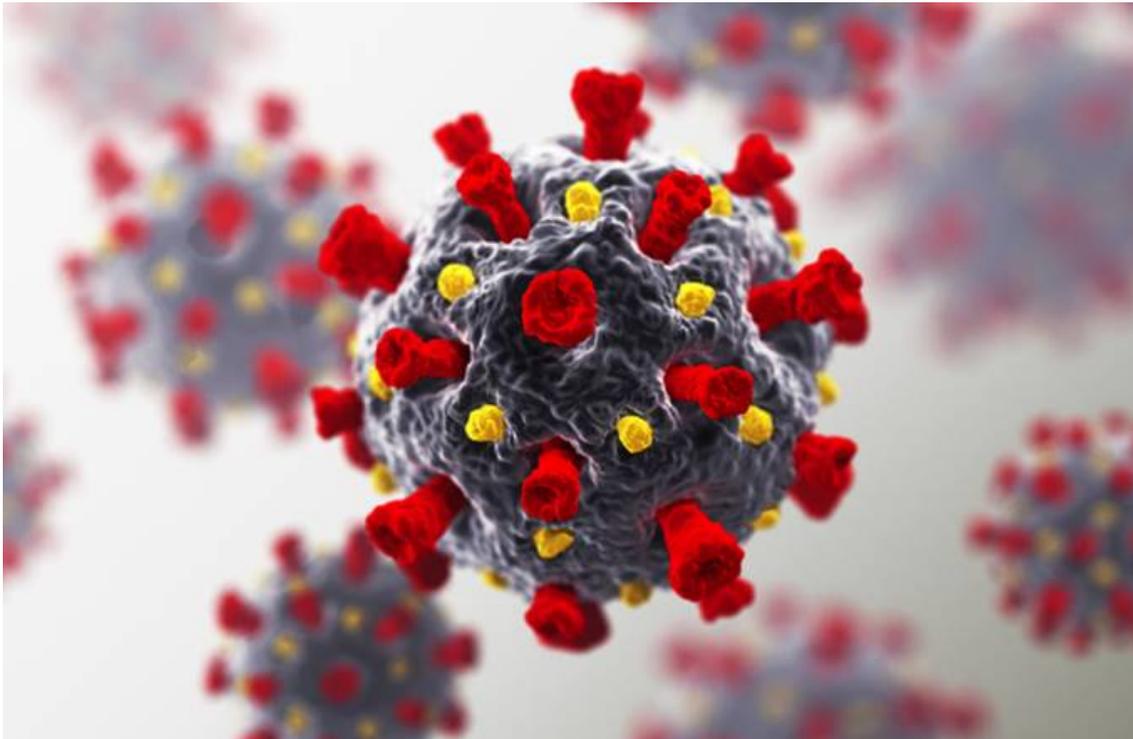
- In effort to strengthen existing travel protocols with our partners at United, beginning Monday, December 28, all United customers with flights originating in the U.K. will be required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test obtained within 72 hours of departure for incoming flights to Newark Liberty International Airport. As we continue to experience a second wave of COVID-19 cases, it's critical that we take any and all precautions to mitigate the potential for further transmission. While New Jersey continues to strongly discourage all non-essential travel at this time, if unavoidable, international travelers should adhere to CDC guidance for pre- and post-flight testing and the recommended self-quarantine period.”  
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201224a.shtml>
- Governor Phil Murphy, joined by New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli and CVS Health Regional Director Kat Kingston, visited Roosevelt Care Center in Old Bridge to mark the launch of New Jersey's vaccination effort of residents and staff of long-term care facilities. The vaccinations are being administered pursuant to the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), CVS, and Walgreens to facilitate on-site COVID-19 vaccination services. Through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, New Jersey already has 291 long-term care facilities scheduled and over 83,000 residents and staff slated to receive vaccinations through the beginning of February 2021, with more sites to be added in the coming weeks. <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20201228a.shtml>

## **Connecticut**

- Executive Order No. 9T enacted with the following provisions:
  - Extension of eviction moratorium: Extends the previously issued moratorium on residential evictions through February 9, 2021; bans evictions until January 2,

2021; and renews the option to apply a portion of security deposits in excess of one month's rent toward rent.

- <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-9T.pdf>
- As of December 28, hospitals and long-term care facilities in Connecticut have reported to the state that they have administered the COVID-19 vaccine to 36,276 people. However, the actual number of people who have been administered the vaccine so far is likely higher as these facilities are still in the process of reporting their data to the state. The Lamont administration is estimating that about two-thirds of the nursing homes in the state will have completed administration of the first dose of the vaccine to their residents and staff by the end of this coming weekend. All of the doses under this first phase of the state's COVID-19 vaccine program are being administered to people in the healthcare workforce, as well as residents and staff of long-term care facilities. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/12-2020/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-December-28>



---

## Local Updates

**New York Blood Center (NYBC)**

NYBC continues to ask for volunteers who have had COVID-19 to consider donating their convalescent plasma to help others.

[https://www.nybc.org/donate-blood/covid-19-and-blood-donation-copy/convalescent-plasma-covid-19-donor-request-form/?utm\\_source=web&utm\\_medium=banner&utm\\_campaign=covid](https://www.nybc.org/donate-blood/covid-19-and-blood-donation-copy/convalescent-plasma-covid-19-donor-request-form/?utm_source=web&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=covid)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19:

<https://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>

NYC DOHMH reminds people that the number of new COVID-19 cases in NYC has been rising rapidly and is now at a level we have not seen since April. People with underlying health conditions, as well as those who live or care for such people, should now take increased precautions. Here is a summary of persons who are higher risk and what they need to do to protect themselves.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-prevention-and-care.page#underlying>

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 including how to avoid the latest vaccine scams offering earlier access to vaccines.

<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Review this COVID-19 tool to determine what you need to do as you make decisions

<https://covideterminationtree.westchestergov.com/covidDeterminationTree/>

## **Putnam County Department of Health**

For the latest information regarding 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**

GNYHA updates General Public Health Agency Coronavirus Guidance

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/cdc-coronavirus-updates/>

GNYHA provides New York State Department of Health (DOH) guidance concerning reports of providers being able to draw more than 10 doses of Moderna vaccine from shipment vials.

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/doh-guidance-on-extra-moderna-doses/>

In anticipation of surge staffing needs - GNYHA released a surge staffing tool to assist hospitals and nursing facilities anticipating surge staffing needs due to the continued increase in COVID-19 patient care demands.

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/staffing-plan-in-anticipation-of-surge-staffing-needs/>

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:**

#### **New York City Covid-19 Contact Tracers Brace for Long Winter**

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-city-covid-19-contact-tracers-brace-for-long-winter-11609120004>

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:**

#### **Hospitals fear post-holiday COVID-19 surge, as new travel restrictions imposed**

CBS News

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/coronavirus-surge-holiday-uk-travel-restrictions/#x>

12/25/2020

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

#### **Exposed to coronavirus? Know when to isolate vs. quarantine**

Fox News

12/23/2020

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/exposed-to-coronavirus-know-when-to-isolate-vs-quarantine>

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

#### **Study: COVID-19 Stress Might Be Causing Uptick in Temporary Hair Loss**

Verywell Health

12/22/20

<https://www.verywellhealth.com/covid-temporary-hair-loss-nyc-study-5093128>

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

*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.*



New York Medical College  
Center for Disaster Medicine  
7 Dana Road Suite 511  
Valhalla, New York 10595  
914-594-1750

<https://www.nymc.edu/center-for-disaster-medicine/>