

1-12-2021

## COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 54)

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, January 12, 2021**

***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 we 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

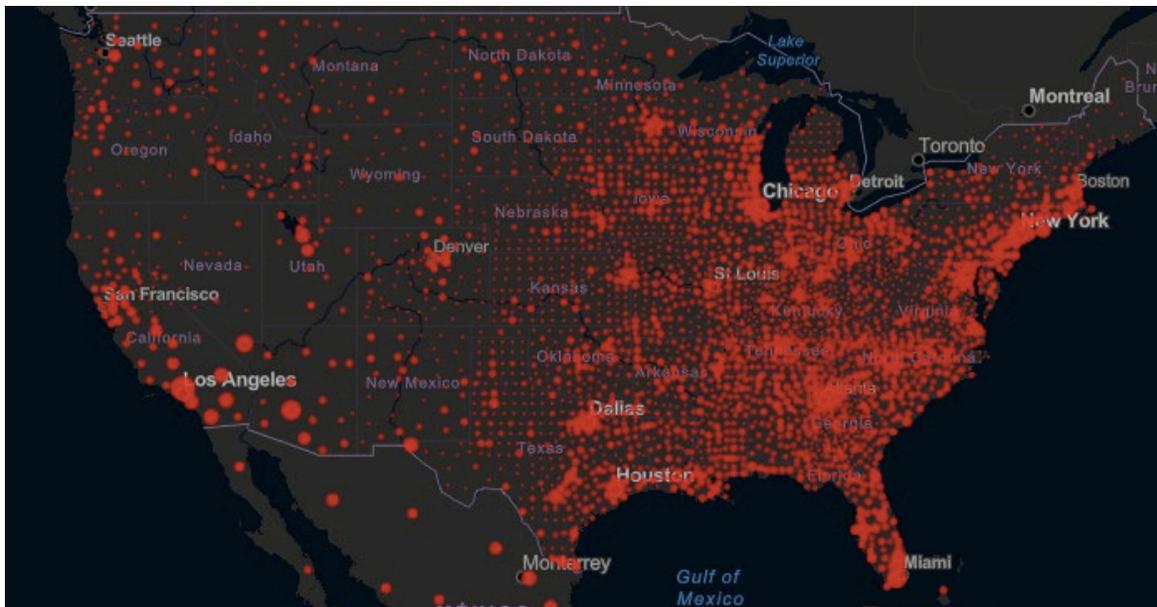
### **COVID-19 Statistics**

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	90,891,380	1,944,750	50,285,515	Not Available

United States	22,613,784	376,060	Not Available	267,490,302
New Jersey	590,162	19,854	60,052	8,251,845
New York	1,149,771	39,834	110,600	27,524,906
Connecticut	213,358	6,416	9,800	4,736,445

Information as of 1/12/21 at 0900 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) helped more than 12,000 Veterans obtain internet access or a video-capable device for their health care needs. As part of the program, VA providers refer Veterans to a VA social worker, who determines eligibility for various programs to assist with getting the internet service or technology needed for VA telehealth — ensuring older Veterans, those living in rural areas and Veterans who are homeless or in temporary housing have the opportunity to participate. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5600>
- The VA announced a new initiative with Fitbit that will provide eligible Veterans, caregivers and VA staff with access to Fitbit programs and services to help manage stress, improve sleep and increase physical activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5601>
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced two upcoming actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide more than \$22 billion in funding to states, localities, and territories in support of the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as directed by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.
  - More than \$19 billion will be allocated to jurisdictions through the existing CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) cooperative agreement. These awards will support testing, contact tracing, surveillance, containment, and mitigation to monitor and suppress the spread of COVID-19. Award recipients will include 64 jurisdictions including all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five major cities, and U.S. territories/islands. Consistent with Congressional direction, funds will be allocated by a population-based formula.
  - More than \$3 billion will be made available in an initial award to jurisdictions through the existing CDC Immunization and Vaccines for Children cooperative agreement. These awards will support a range of COVID-19 vaccination activities across jurisdictions. Award recipients will include 64 jurisdictions including all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five major cities, and U.S. territories/islands. Consistent with Congressional direction, funds will be allocated by a population-based formula. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0107-covid-19-funding.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/>

## **Office of The President-Elect**

On December 29, 2020, President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris announced additional members of the White House COVID-19 Response team. These diverse, accomplished, and crisis-tested individuals will work to quickly implement a comprehensive, whole-of-government COVID-19 response strategy to contain the pandemic, restore public trust, and protect all Americans.

<https://buildbackbetter.gov/press-releases/president-elect-biden-and-vice-president-elect-harris-announce-members-of-the-covid-19-response-team/>

President-Elect Biden and his team have established a website to keep the people updated in 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)**

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

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

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

Large clinical trial will test combination monoclonal antibody therapy for mild/moderate COVID-19- A Phase 2/3 clinical trial has begun to evaluate a combination investigational monoclonal antibody therapy for its safety and efficacy in people who have mild or moderate COVID-19. The two experimental antibodies, BR11-196 and BR11-198, target SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The trial, known as ACTIV-2, is sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/large-clinical-trial-will-test-combination-mono-clonal-antibody-therapy-mild-moderate-covid-19>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

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

As of January 5, 2021, 310 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 235 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 64 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-january-5-2021>

The FDA published a new toolkit to help stakeholders communicate in English and Spanish about hand sanitizer safety and use during the COVID-19 pandemic. New materials include social media messages and graphics, consumer information, and health professional messaging.

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/hand-sanitizer-safety-and-use-communication-toolkit>

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)**

CDC, in collaboration with other public health agencies, is monitoring the situation closely. CDC is working to detect and characterize emerging viral variants. Furthermore, CDC has staff available to provide on-the-ground technical support to investigate the epidemiologic and clinical characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 variant infections. CDC will communicate new information as it becomes available.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/scientific-brief-emerging-variants.html>

CDC provides updated information regarding healthcare workers via this section entitled Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers.

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

As some communities in the United States begin to plan and hold events and gatherings, the CDC offers the following considerations for enhancing protection of individuals and communities and preventing spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Event planners and officials can determine, in collaboration with state and local health officials, whether and how to implement these considerations, making adjustments to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community. Organizers should continue to assess, based on current conditions, whether to postpone, cancel, or significantly reduce the number of attendees for gatherings.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>

On December 24, 2020, President Trump required that 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.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s1224-CDC-to-require-negative-test.html>

For daily updates of cases in United States

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

For the latest CDC information

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

## **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>

## **Vaccines**

In this new section, vaccine-related information from various sources will be collected, reviewed, and tabulated here. As of January 11, 2021, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) only to Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna. As additional vaccines are granted EUA, information for those vaccines will also be included.

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. The emergency use authorization allows the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S.

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

On December 18, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the second vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The emergency use authorization 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 Statement on Following the Authorized Dosing Schedules for COVID-19 Vaccines- Two different mRNA vaccines have now shown remarkable effectiveness of about 95% in preventing COVID-19 disease in adults. As the first round of vaccine recipients become eligible to receive their second dose, we want to remind the public about the importance of receiving COVID-19 vaccines according to how they've been authorized by the FDA in order to safely receive the level of protection observed in the large randomized trials supporting their effectiveness.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-statement-following-authorized-dosing-schedules-covid-19-vaccines>

FDA outlines the process regarding vaccines and the path for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines#eua-vaccines>

CDC created this section regarding the Moderna vaccine to provide updated relevant information including side effects and safety data, clinical trials demographic statistics, and information on how the vaccine works.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Moderna.html>

CDC created this section regarding the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine to provide updated relevant information including side effects and safety data, clinical trials demographic statistics, and information on how the vaccine works.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html>

As of January 11, 2021, New Yorkers in Phase 1a and segments of Phase 1b are eligible for the vaccines. ALL VACCINATIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Eligible groups include doctors, nurses and health care workers, people age 75 and over, first responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and public safety workers. Residents and staff at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities will continue to be vaccinated through a federal program, which the state is providing resources to accelerate. Due to limited supply from the federal government, availability is limited. More and more New Yorkers will become eligible as the vaccine supply increases. While the vaccination process is underway, every New Yorker should wear a mask, social distance and avoid small and large gatherings.

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

New York State will distribute the COVID-19 vaccine in phases based on need and risk. New Yorkers who are more likely to be exposed to the virus, and who are more likely to become seriously ill if they get COVID-19, will be offered the vaccine first. Both the federal government and New York State have developed plans to ensure that everyone will be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as large quantities are available, at no cost no matter where they live.

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a---phase-1b>

New York State is encouraging eligible New Yorkers to take the required trainings to become vaccinators and support the State's COVID-19 vaccination program. Governor Cuomo signed an Executive Order expanding the eligible pool of trainees who can administer vaccinations at a "POD site" (flexible vaccination sites that can be set up in any community) pursuant to a non-patient specific order provided they first receive training.

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/vaccination-training>

Vaccines will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and bring this pandemic to an end. As Americans get vaccinated over the next few months, it is important to continue to follow public health safety measures. Wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community. Refer to this Health and Human Services (HHS) website to get the latest information about COVID-19 vaccine.

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/index.html>

## Educational Institution Information

- Health Professions Schools
  - “In the aftermath of September 11, higher education saw a burst of interest in Middle Eastern studies, Arabic and homeland security. Today, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, data and anecdotal evidence now suggest we may be seeing a similar rise in demand for health and medical education.”  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2021/01/11/health-professions-schools-see-surge-applications>
  
- Higher Education
  - A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention compared the rates of COVID-19 exposure in counties with large universities with remote instruction and with in-person instruction. "U.S. counties with large colleges or universities with remote instruction (n = 22) experienced a 17.9 percent decrease in incidence and university counties with in-person instruction (n = 79) experienced a 56 percent increase in incidence, comparing the 21-day periods before and after classes started. Counties without large colleges or universities (n = 3,009) experienced a six percent decrease in incidence during similar time frames," the study said. The study said, "Additional implementation of effective mitigation activities at colleges and universities with in-person instruction could minimize on-campus COVID-19 transmission and reduce county-level incidence."  
[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7001a4.htm?s\\_cid=mm7001a4\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7001a4.htm?s_cid=mm7001a4_w)
  - As expected, President-elect Joe Biden will, upon taking office January 20, instruct the Education Department to continue the pause excusing student loan borrowers from making payments, a top economic adviser in the incoming administration said. David Kamin, who will be deputy director of the National Economic Council in the Biden administration, did not reveal additional details including how much longer borrowers will not have to make their monthly repayments in a call with reporters Friday.  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2021/01/11/biden-extend-pause-student-loan-payments>
  - Reopening colleges and universities for in-person instruction last fall was a gamble. Some institutions failed spectacularly, with large outbreaks forcing a prompt return to remote learning. But many kept case numbers low and their communities intact-- our own, Hamilton College and Cornell University, included. The experience offers a road map for the spring semester. Here are five lessons learned from the fall.  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2021/01/11/five-coronavirus-lessons-learned-fall-offer-road-map-spring-semester-opinion>

- **K-12**
  - New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 214 to affect the following changes for the 2020-2021 school year: 1) waiver of the graduation assessment test requirement for any 12th grade student who has satisfied all other statutory graduation requirements; 2) removal of Student Growth Objectives (SGOs) as a component of formal educator evaluations; and 3) extension of the time in which certificated teachers or those in the process of becoming certificated teachers can serve as substitute teachers. <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-214.pdf>
  - U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced more than \$4 billion in additional COVID-19 emergency relief is now available to governors to ensure learning continues for students of all ages and at all schools. This emergency relief aid, the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, has two components: supplemental GEER awards (GEER II) and the Emergency Assistance to Non-public Schools (EANS) awards, which comprise \$2.75 billion of the total. These funds are authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, (CRRSA) Public Law 116-260, signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on Dec. 27, 2020. In total, CRRSA authorizes \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the \$30.75 billion Secretary DeVos expeditiously provided this spring through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-announces-more-4-billion-available-emergency-education-grants-governors-help-students-continue-learning>

## **Clinical Trials**

To view the latest information on clinical trials regarding COVID-19  
<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19>

## **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 and eight other Governors issued a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Chief Operating Officer General Gustave F. Perna asking that they expedite vaccine distribution throughout the nation. According to a media report, the federal government has yet to distribute more than half of the nation's vaccine supply. The letter was signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Washington Governor Jay Inslee and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-eight-other-governors-issue-letter-us-department-health-and-human-services>
- Governor Cuomo announced the expansion of the state's vaccination distribution network to help accelerate the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to New Yorkers currently eligible under group 1A and begin the vaccination of New Yorkers eligible under group 1B. As part of this effort, thousands of new providers and distribution sites are being identified throughout the state. Essential workers and New Yorkers over the age of 75 can begin to make vaccination reservations at administration sites as early as Monday, January 11. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-expanded-vaccination-network-accelerate-distribution-covid-19-vaccine>
- Governor Cuomo announced legislation to expand and improve access to telehealth for all as part of the 2021 State of the State. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the inequities in our healthcare system and showed that telehealth is a critical tool to expand access and lower costs for low-income communities, especially for behavioral health support. During the crisis, the Governor took executive action to expand access to remote care, and these proposals codify and build on those successful reforms. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-proposal-expand-access-telehealth-all-part-2021-state-state>
- Governor Cuomo announced the New Yorkers within priority group 1b can now begin scheduling appointments with individual providers, including pharmacies, local health departments, and hospitals, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Those now eligible to receive the vaccine include individuals 75 and older, first responders, public safety officers, teachers and other school staff; in-person college instructors, childcare workers, public-facing grocery store workers, transit workers and individuals living and working in homeless shelters. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-additional-new-yorkers-individuals-75-and-older-can-begin-scheduling>
- Governor Cuomo announced that following successful implementation of the pilot plan to open Bills Stadium to fans last week, Buffalo Bills fans can attend the team's second home playoff game on Saturday, January 16. Under this continued demonstration, approximately 6,700 fans will be allowed to attend the game only after first obtaining a negative COVID-19 test result and adhering to all public health precautions. Contact tracing will also be conducted after the game and tailgating remains prohibited. This plan was developed cooperatively between the Bills, the New York State Department of Health and BioReference Laboratories. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-buffalo-bills-fans-can-attend-second-home-playoff-game-under-pilot>

## **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>

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>

NYS DOH provides updated information regarding reduction in quarantine period from fourteen to ten days post COVID-19 exposure.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/12/covid19-health-advisory-updated-quarantine-guidance-12.26.20.pdf>

The Micro-Cluster Strategy identifies clusters and the areas around them and categorizes them into one or more color-coded zones with corresponding levels of restrictions based on severity: Red Zones, Orange Zones, and Yellow Zones. New rules and restrictions directly target areas with the highest transmission of COVID-19 cases & surrounding communities.

<https://forward.ny.gov/micro-cluster-strategy>

NYS DOH created an online survey to determine if you are eligible to schedule a vaccine appointment. You can complete the survey here to see if you are eligible.

<https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH

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

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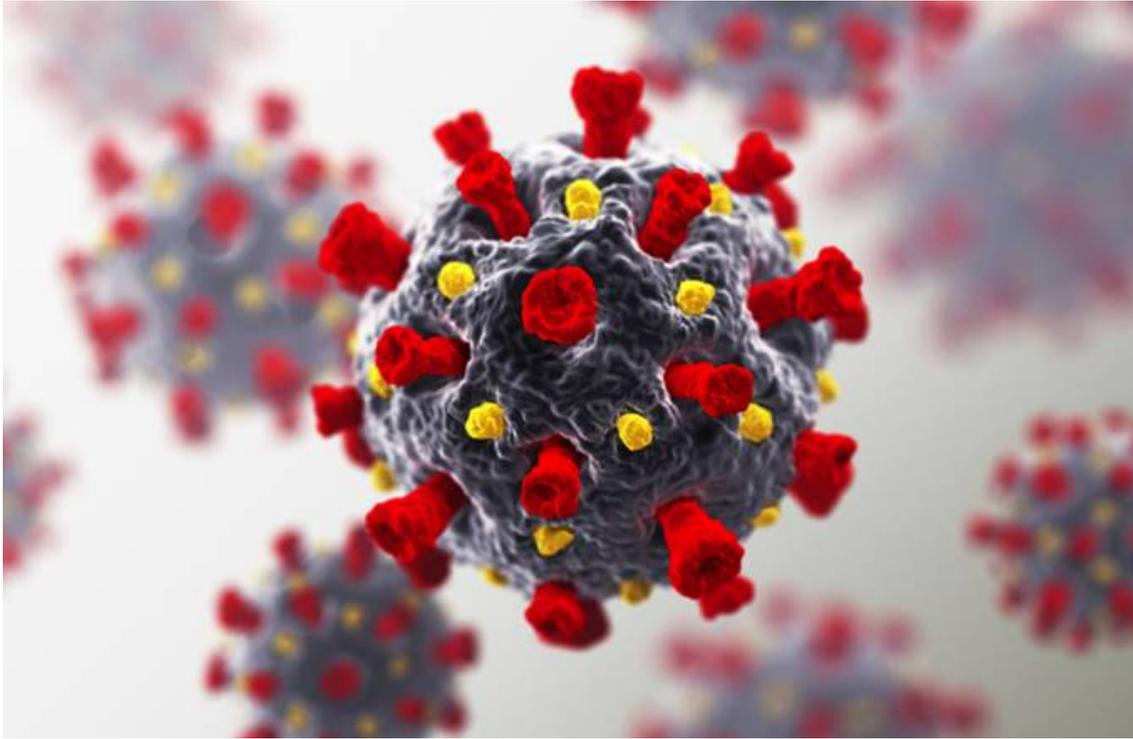
## **New Jersey**

- As New Jersey continues to scale up its statewide vaccination program, the Murphy Administration today reminded New Jerseyans that the COVID-19 vaccine will be available without cost sharing barriers. Pursuant to the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement, all providers must vaccinate individuals regardless of whether they have health insurance coverage or what type of coverage they have, and are prohibited from balance billing or otherwise charging vaccine recipients.  
<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210107d.shtml>
- Governor Phil Murphy, joined by New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, Superintendent of the State Police Colonel Patrick Callahan, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, Morris County Commissioner Director

Stephen Shaw, and labor officials, today visited the Morris County Regional Vaccination Center to highlight the beginning of New Jersey's vaccination effort for sworn law enforcement and fire professionals. All sworn law enforcement and fire professionals in New Jersey are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, which is estimated to include about 55,000 individuals. These first responders are the first individuals in Phase 1B to become eligible for vaccination. EMS professionals, also considered first responders, are already eligible for the vaccine under Phase 1A as health care workers. <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210108a.shtml>

## Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that public health officials in Connecticut have confirmed that the first two cases of the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7 have been detected in the state. This is the same variant initially discovered in the United Kingdom. The two individuals are between the ages of 15 and 25 and both reside in New Haven County. Both individuals recently traveled outside Connecticut – one to Ireland and the other to New York State – and both developed symptoms within 3 to 4 days of their return. Genetic sequencing of the virus has confirmed that the two cases are unrelated. The individuals' specimens were collected earlier this month and subsequently tested positive. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/01-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Two-Cases-of-COVID-19-Variant-Confirmed-in-Connecticut>
- Governor Lamont announced that **COVID Alert CT**, Connecticut's COVID-19 exposure notification app, has been activated on more than one million mobile devices – reaching roughly one-third of the state's population, which is among the highest activation rates in the country. <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVIDAlertCT/Homepage>  
Apple and Google have reported that public health benefits start to be realized when 15 percent of the population enables the feature.



## Local Updates

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### **New York Blood Center (NYBC)**

How NYBC Is Continuing the Fight Against COVID-19 & How You Can Help- As a non-profit, NYBC requires financial support in order to continue collecting CCP and conducting valuable COVID-19 research. Additionally, NYBC relies on philanthropy to conduct other groundbreaking research, continue its daily life-saving operations, and even provide professional education.

<https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/how-nybce-continuing-fight-against-covid-19-how-you-can-help/>

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 provides updated COVID-19 information regarding prevention and groups at higher risk and reminds people to do their part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in NYC by taking a few steps every day.

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

NYC DOHMH provides an update on vaccination distribution which is subject to change.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/planned-covid-19-vaccine-distribution-nyc>

NYC DOHMH provides the latest information regarding eligibility as of January 11, 2021.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/han/advisory/2021/covid-19-vaccine-1b-eligible-01112021.pdf>

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**

New York State (NYS) has greatly expanded the groups now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, the Westchester County Department of Health has no appointments available. We are waiting for further vaccine allocation from NYS. In the meantime you can go to the NYS Vaccine Website and select the "Am I Eligible" option to find providers who may have appointments available. Starting at 4:00 pm on January 11, 2021 the NYS COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline will open for scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible New Yorkers: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).

Vaccine Scam Alert- If you get a call, text, email, or even someone knocking at your door, claiming that they can get you early access to the COVID-19 vaccine, IT'S A SCAM! It is important to know that:

The vaccine will be free. There are no sign-up lists for the vaccine. You cannot pay to get the vaccine earlier. Medicare or Social Security will not call you about the vaccine. You do not need to give your social security number, credit card or bank information to get the vaccine. Contact the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection if you are contacted by a vaccine scammer at (914) 995-2155 or by e-mail at [ConPro@westchestergov.com](mailto:ConPro@westchestergov.com).

If you need to know whether you should quarantine or self-isolate, use our Quarantine or Self-Isolate tool. This tool will ask a series of questions to help determine whether you are subject to an Order of Isolation, an Order of Quarantine, or if it is recommended that you Self-Quarantine. Guidance will be given based on your answers.

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

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>

## **Putnam County Department of Health**

As of January 11, 2021, PCDOH does not have appointment availability at this time. We anticipate a closed POD to be scheduled this week for specific portions of those eligible under phase 1b. As soon as the Putnam County Department of Health receives additional guidance from New York State regarding vaccinations for those eligible in Phase 1B, this information will be shared with our community and additional PODs will be scheduled.

Breakdown of positive cases by towns in Putnam County as of January 11, 2021-

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/breakdown-of-positive-cases-by-towns-in-putnam-county-1-11-2021/>

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**

Review Rockland County's dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases, hospitalizations and deaths

<https://rockland-covid-19-portal-rockland.hub.arcgis.com/>

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 provides updates from New York State on its COVID-19 vaccine program.

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/updated-vaccine-guidance-1b-priority-groups-minimizing-vaccine-wastage-and-tonights-vaccine-event/>

GNYHA provides the latest vaccination guidance updates as the rollout continues throughout New York City area. Please refer to this website to get the latest information.

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/public-health-agency-vaccination-guidance/>

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: I got the vaccine, but did I deserve it?**

Forward  
1/4/2020

<https://forward.com/news/national/461452/i-got-the-vaccine-but-did-i-deserve-it/>

Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer

### **Epidemiologist weighs in on handling the spread of new COVID strains, herd immunity**

Pix 11  
1/5/2020

<https://www.pix11.com/news/coronavirus/epidemiologist-weighs-in-on-handling-the-spread-of-new-covid-strains-herd-immunity>

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:**

#### **Tips to fight COVID fatigue**

The Journal News  
1/5/2020

<https://www.lohud.com/videos/news/health/2021/01/05/tips-fight-covid-fatigue/3784017001/>

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

## **COVID confusion: What to do if you receive contradictory test results**

NBC News

1/5/2020

<https://www.nbcnews.com/now/video/covid-confusion-what-to-do-if-you-receive-contradictory-test-results-98806341996>

Robert G. Lahita, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine (at 5:10 mark)

*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.*

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