3-2-2021

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 61)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Tuesday, March 2, 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 occur, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
<th>Total Recovered</th>
<th>Total Tested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

COVID-19 Statistics
### United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
<th>Confirmed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>114,499,553</td>
<td>2,540,340</td>
<td>64,690,916</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>28,664,604</td>
<td>514,660</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>351,801,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>792,496</td>
<td>23,273</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>10,660,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1,650,303</td>
<td>47,719</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>38,281,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>282,626</td>
<td>7,651</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>6,403,426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information as of 3/2/21 at 1000 EST. Source: [https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)

Center for Disaster Medicine Updates
Delivered All Hazards Disaster Response course to members of different public safety agencies from New York and Connecticut
Presented lecture regarding disaster medicine, emergency management and COVID-19 to graduating class of NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing students
Coordinating and overseeing COVID-19 screenings at NYMC campus
Continue to partner with local agencies such as Westchester Department of Emergency Services to ensure ongoing collaboration with all public safety agencies.
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.
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.

To view the Center for Disaster Medicine's newest webinar, please click here - The COVID-19 Vaccine: What to Tell Your Patients
The White House

The official website of the White House delivers bold action and immediate relief for American families as the country grapples with converging crises. This includes actions to control the COVID-19 pandemic, provide economic relief, tackle climate change, and advance racial equity and civil rights, as well as immediate actions to reform our immigration system and restore America’s standing in the world.

https://www.whitehouse.gov

Health and Human Services (HHS)

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

A research team funded by the National Institutes of Health has launched a study to assess performance and usability of a smartphone app paired with the Quidel QuickVue At-Home COVID-19 Test, which just received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use with a prescription. The home test was supported by NIH through the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative, which has spurred the development and commercial availability of millions of COVID-19 tests over the past year.


The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to the Janssen Pharmaceuticals Companies of Johnson & Johnson for its single-shot COVID-19 vaccine, called Ad.26.COV2S or JNJ-78436725. The Janssen vaccine is a recombinant vector vaccine that uses a human adenovirus to express the spike protein found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19.


People who have had evidence of a prior infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, appear to be well protected against being reinfected with the virus, at least for a few months, according to a newly published study from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This finding may explain why reinfection appears to be relatively rare, and it could have important public health implications, including decisions about returning to physical workplaces, school attendance, the prioritization of vaccine distribution, and other activities.


View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH
https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus
United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of February 26, 2021, 332 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 248 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 70 antibody tests, and 14 antigen tests. There are 37 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.


On February 27, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the third vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The EUA allows the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S for use in individuals 18 years of age and older. The EUA for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine was issued to Janssen Biotech Inc., a Janssen Pharmaceutical Company of Johnson & Johnson.


For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC is closely monitoring mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently in ways that are significant to public health (e.g., causes more severe disease, spreads more easily between humans, requires different treatments, changes the effectiveness of current vaccines). It’s important to understand that genetic mutations are expected, and some variants can spread and become predominant while others subside.


CDC is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by learning more about how the disease spreads and affects people and communities. CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report publishes the results of COVID-19 outbreak investigations. CDC’s scientific journal Emerging Infectious Diseases has published dozens of studies by researchers studying COVID-19 since the pandemic began.


CDC provides update on COVID-19 cases caused by variants in the United States.
For daily updates of cases in United States

For the latest CDC information

**Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

In accordance with the Executive Order President Biden signed on January 21, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), together with the Department of Labor and the Department of the Treasury, (collectively, the Departments) issued new guidance today removing barriers to COVID-19 diagnostic testing and vaccinations and strengthening requirements that plans and issuers cover diagnostic testing without cost sharing.


View the latest information from CMS

**Vaccines**

In this section, vaccine-related information from various sources will be collected, reviewed, and tabulated here. As of March 2, 2021, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. Now with three vaccines with EUA, the goal is to vaccinate a larger number of persons in the coming months throughout the United States. As additional vaccines are granted EUA, information for those vaccines will also be included.

FDA grants Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine - On February 27, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the third vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The EUA allows the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals 18 years of age and older.


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.


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.

CDC provides overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine, deliveries and administration, maps, charts, and data updated daily by 8 p.m. This section represents all vaccine partners including jurisdictional partner clinics, retail pharmacies, long-term care facilities, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and federal entity facilities.
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations

Media Statement from CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., on Signing the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ Recommendation to Use Janssen’s COVID-19 Vaccine in People 18 and Older
https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0228-JJ-vaccine.html

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.

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.

HHS created this section to provide the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines.

New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that the New York State Clinical Advisory Task Force unanimously recommended use of Janssen Pharmaceuticals/Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine in New York State, following the FDA’s advisory committee’s recommendation for emergency use authorization. New York expects to receive approximately 164,800 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine this week, pending final FDA authorization. The added doses will supplement New York State’s expected Week 12 supply of 422,780 first doses and 290,500 second doses from Pfizer and Moderna, for a total of approximately 878,080 doses. This will be New York State’s highest-ever weekly vaccine allocation.

The COVID-19 vaccines are here. Supply from the Federal Government is extremely limited. Additional 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. Governor Cuomo revised the eligibility list of persons to include any New Yorker of any age with certain comorbidities and underlying conditions effective February 15, 2021.
https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a---phase-1b
The new NYS DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker Dashboard will update New Yorkers on the distribution of the vaccine including the number of doses received by the state, a breakdown of first or second doses, and the number of persons vaccinated with the first and second doses in each region.
https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker

NYS DOH releases instructions for New York State-operated vaccination sites
https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/

For NYC DOHMH updated guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccine
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page

The Vaccine Finder is a one-stop site for New Yorkers to find their nearest COVID-19 vaccination location. The Vaccine Finder can also provide New Yorkers with information to schedule vaccination appointments.
https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/

Educational Institution Information
- Higher Education
  - A years-long push to lessen the incentive for for-profit institutions to recruit veterans as students took a major step toward becoming law with the House’s passage of a $1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package Saturday morning. Included in the package, which would also send another $40 billion in aid to the nation’s colleges and universities during the pandemic, was a provision tightening the controversial “90-10” rule. The for-profit industry, however, is expected to try to kill the change when the Senate takes up the relief package this week, warning that the change pushed by Democrats would inadvertently lead to for-profits accepting fewer veterans and members of the military. The proposal did survive one hurdle Monday night when the Senate’s parliamentarian ruled that it could stay in the bill, according to groups on both sides of the debate. For-profit industry lobbyists had hoped the parliamentarian would rule that the measure goes beyond what is allowable in the funding bill, as she did in killing the Democratic proposal to raise the federal minimum wage.
  - More than half of students worldwide, and three-quarters in the U.S., said their mental health has suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new survey of nearly 17,000 undergraduate students across 21 countries commissioned by the nonprofit arm of Chegg, a controversial textbook rental and educational technology company. Chegg.org commissioned the polling company Yonder to interview 16,839 undergraduates across the 21 countries last fall, with sample sizes in the various countries ranging from 500 to about 1,000. Seventy-five percent of American students surveyed said their mental health had suffered due to the pandemic, second only to Brazil (76 percent) and similar to the percentage of Canadian students who said the same (73 percent). Worldwide, across the nearly two dozen countries where students were surveyed, 56 percent of students said their mental health

- K-12
  - As state leaders regroup to plan a path forward, district administrators are "at the mercy" of their decisions, said education policy expert Cara Jackson, an associate partner at Bellwether Education Partners. Aside from the remote option, states can shorten assessments, offer multiple testing windows and extend testing until fall 2021, according to the Education Department. Many of the options, except online administration, would bring remote students back into buildings, although the guidance says students should not come in solely for standardized testing if health and safety conditions do not allow for that. James Cantonwine, director of research and assessment for Washington's Peninsula School District, said that means jumping logistical hurdles, including scheduling and space constraints, to allow for safe conditions. In addition, Marion said schools may need testing, contact tracing and additional resources to successfully carry out their efforts. https://www.k12dive.com/news/how-will-districts-prepare-for-2020-21-summative-testing/595565/
  - States must still do all they can to measure student learning levels so schools can make progress in advancing educational equity, identifying student needs and targeting resources for interventions, the department said in a letter addressed to chief state school officers. In what it calls "significant flexibility," the department is encouraging states to consider waivers that would not require that calculation of progress toward long-term goals and measurements of interim progress or indicators. A waiver also would allow states to forgo the requirement to implement and report results of its accountability system. States would still need to maintain all state and local report card requirements and disaggregate data by student groups. However, reporting related to accountability, like school ratings, may not be required. https://www.k12dive.com/news/ed-dept-states-must-assess-students-but-with-flexibilities/595529/

Clinical Trials


American Red Cross


State Updates
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced 12 community-based pop-up vaccination sites coming online this week at community centers, public housing complexes and cultural centers. These sites are expected to vaccinate more than 3,700 people throughout the week, with more sites coming online every week. Since January 15, more than 100 community-based pop-up sites administered over 46,000 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine dose. As has been the case with previous pop-up sites, these sites will be re-established in three weeks to administer second doses. Moving forward as the federal vaccine supply increases, New York will continue to establish these sites at all 33 NYCHA Senior Housing Developments, which house more than 7,600 seniors. Pop-up locations will also continue to be established at other public housing complexes statewide, as well as at more than 300 churches and cultural centers which have volunteered to house these sites through Governor Cuomo’s Vaccine Equity Task Force.


Governor Cuomo announced the State will partner with local health departments to include vaccination sites for the 65+ population across New York State. These sites will be in partnership with local health departments and, where needed, will provide assistance to New Yorkers with transportation to and from the vaccination facilities and special support for paperwork regarding their vaccination. As New York State’s vaccine allocations increase, these 65+ facilities and appointments will be enabled from additional supply from the federal government. Counties across New York State will be getting an increased supply of Moderna vaccine for this purpose starting next week.


Governor Cuomo today announced that the New York State Clinical Advisory Task Force unanimously recommended use of Janssen Pharmaceuticals/Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine in New York State, following the FDA’s advisory committee’s recommendation for emergency use authorization. New York expects to receive approximately 164,800 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine this week, pending final FDA authorization. The added doses will supplement New York State’s expected Week 12 supply of 422,780 first doses and 290,500 second doses from Pfizer and Moderna, for a total of approximately 878,080 doses. This will be New York State’s highest-ever weekly vaccine allocation.


New York State Department of Health (DOH)

For a list of positive cases by county in New York State


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.
For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy and Secretary of Higher Education Dr. Brian Bridges announced that $29.5 million in federal funding will be available to New Jersey’s institutions of higher education amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to support the goals of the State Plan for Higher Education through a competitive challenge grant and address student food insecurities across college campuses. About $28.5 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Education through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER II) Fund will be awarded to New Jersey’s public and public-mission private institutions that receive state operating aid to implement vetted best practices that increase college completion, address barriers to student success, and develop sustainable systemic reforms. Another $1 million will be awarded to public institutions to combat food insecurity among students. https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210224b.shtml

- On March 1, Governor Murphy announced the expansion of eligibility for more frontline essential workers and high-risk groups in New Jersey’s COVID-19 vaccination program. Eligible groups include educators and staff in pre-k through 12th grade settings, childcare workers, and transportation workers, among others. For a full list of eligible groups, please visit https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210301a.shtml

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that his administration has filed an objection to motions under consideration at the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to approve plans submitted by Eversource Energy and the United Illuminating Company to begin allowing for the disconnection of customers for non-payment for the time since
PURA first implemented a shut-off moratorium in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lamont administration’s objections, which was made through the leadership of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), noted that resuming disconnections at this time would have a devastating impact on many customers who are still struggling to pay their utility bills in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/02-2021/Governor-Lamont-Urges-Regulators-To-Reject-Plan-for-Resumption-of-Service-Disconnections](https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/02-2021/Governor-Lamont-Urges-Regulators-To-Reject-Plan-for-Resumption-of-Service-Disconnections)

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

Fox 5 Good Day New York’s recent segment highlighted the lifesaving power of convalescent plasma donation for critical COVID-19 patients. Brian Strauss was hospitalized with coronavirus and received lifesaving convalescent plasma. He was grateful for the opportunity to meet and thank his plasma donors Robert McCord and Patrice Piretti, RN. [https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/good-day-ny-features-emotional-meeting-covid-convalescent-plasma-recipient-his-donors/](https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/good-day-ny-features-emotional-meeting-covid-convalescent-plasma-recipient-his-donors/)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19:
**New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)**

For NYC DOHMH updated COVID-19 data page  

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYC DOHMH  

**Westchester County Department of Health**

For the latest breakdown of positive cases in Westchester County as of February 28, 2021  
[https://wcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/280339d96db14efd9cc304dba0f3a71d](https://wcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/280339d96db14efd9cc304dba0f3a71d)

For the latest COVID-19 information in Westchester including how to avoid the latest vaccine scams offering earlier access to vaccines.  

**Putnam County Department of Health**

Breakdown of positive cases by towns in Putnam County as of March 1, 2021-  

For the latest COVID-19 information  

**Dutchess County Department of Health**

Breakdown of positive cases in Dutchess County as of March 1, 2021  

For the latest COVID-19 information:  

**Orange County Department of Health**

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY as of March 1, 2021  
[https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71](https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71)

For the latest COVID-19 information  

**Rockland County Department of Health**

Review Rockland County’s dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases as of March 1, 2021
For the latest COVID-19 information

**Healthcare**

GNYHA provides updated New York State guidance information regarding Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Authorization

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/

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**Center for Disaster Medicine Media**

**New York Medical College Leadership News:**
New York State’s COVID Positivity Rate Drops Again With Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Approval On Horizon
CBS New York
2/24/2021
Robert Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

**Could You Get the Vaccine Injected in Your Butt?**
Slate
2/23/2021
[https://slate.com/technology/2021/02/can-you-get-the-vaccine-in-your-butt.html](https://slate.com/technology/2021/02/can-you-get-the-vaccine-in-your-butt.html)
Robert Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

**Can You Choose Which COVID-19 Vaccine You Get?**
HuffPost
3/1/2021
[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/can-you-choose-which-covid-vaccine_l_6039597ec5b6d7794adeeb92](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/can-you-choose-which-covid-vaccine_l_6039597ec5b6d7794adeeb92)
Robert Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

**FDA panel endorses Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine**
Fox News
2/27/2021
Robert Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

**Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine headed for FDA committee vote: What the experts say**
Fox News
2/27/2021
Robert Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs
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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/