3-9-2021

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 62)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

Follow this and additional works at: https://touroscholar.touro.edu/nymc_covid19_newsletter
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

**COVID-19 Statistics**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
<th>Last Update</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>117,188,008</td>
<td>2,601,043</td>
<td>66,393,113</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>29,045,448</td>
<td>525,816</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>363,789,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>814,916</td>
<td>23,590</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>10,999,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1,700,091</td>
<td>48,401</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>39,695,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>287,396</td>
<td>7,725</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>6,520,366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information as of 3/9/21 at 0600 EST. Source: [https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)

**United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS**

![United States COVID-19 Case Map](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 invited lecture regarding COVID-19 response and best practices to graduate students enrolled in Master in Homeland Security degree in Guatemala.
- 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

Federal

• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its first set of recommendations on activities that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can safely resume. The new guidance—which is based on the latest science — includes recommendations for how and when a fully vaccinated individual can visit with other people who are fully vaccinated and with other people who are not vaccinated. This guidance represents a first step toward returning to everyday activities in our communities. CDC will update these recommendations as more people are vaccinated, rates of COVID-19 in the community change, and additional scientific evidence becomes available. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html
• The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) received 71,400 doses of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, March 3, authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under an Emergency Use Authorization. In clinical trials, the Janssen vaccine showed an efficacy of 66% against moderate to severe/critical COVID-19 disease occurring at least 28 days after vaccination — and demonstrated greater than 85% efficacy in preventing severe/critical COVID-19 disease occurring at least 28 days after vaccination. https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5632
The White House

The official website of the White House will deliver bold action and immediate relief for American families as the country grapples with converging crises. This will include 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. This website will provide all information in one central location.

https://www.whitehouse.gov

Health and Human Services (HHS)

President Biden announced on March 2, 2021, that his Administration has helped forge a historic manufacturing collaboration between two of the largest U.S. health care and pharmaceutical companies, Merck and Johnson & Johnson (J&J), to expand production of J&J’s COVID-19 vaccine. The collaboration will increase manufacture of vaccine drug substance, as well as its fill-finish capacity – two of the biggest bottlenecks facing J&J in the production of its vaccine.


For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS


National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The National Institutes of Health has launched the last of three Phase 3 clinical trials to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of blood thinners to prevent life-threatening blood clots in adults diagnosed with COVID-19. The first patient in the trial was enrolled on February 15.


The ACTIV-3 clinical trial, which is evaluating the safety and efficacy of investigational therapeutics for COVID-19 in hospitalized patients, has closed enrollment in two sub-studies: one examining the investigational monoclonal antibody therapy VIR-7831, and another evaluating the investigational combination monoclonal antibody therapy containing BRII-196 and BRII-198.


The National Institutes of Health has halted a clinical trial evaluating the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in treating emergency department patients who developed mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.
United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of March 5, 2021, 337 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 251 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 71 antibody tests and 15 antigen tests. There are 38 molecular authorizations that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, two antigen prescription at-home test, and one over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen test.

On March 5, 2021, the U.S. FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the T-Detect COVID Test developed by Adaptive Biotechnologies. The T-Detect COVID Test is a next generation sequencing based (NGS) test to aid in identifying individuals with an adaptive T cell immune response to SARS-CoV-2, indicating recent or prior infection with SARS-CoV-2.


On March 5, 2021, the U.S. FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Cue COVID-19 Test for Home and Over The Counter (OTC) Use. The product is a molecular nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) that is intended to detect genetic material from SARS-CoV-2 virus present in the nostrils. The test is the first molecular test authorized for at-home use without a prescription.


For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Comprehensive prevention measures are critical strategies to reduce the burden of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States. These prevention measures include wearing a mask, maintaining at least six feet of physical distance from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, following CDC travel guidance, and following workplace or school guidance related to personal protective equipment use or SARS-CoV-2 testing 1.


The emerging variants CDC is closely monitoring have 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 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

Vaccines

In this section, vaccine-related information from various sources will be collected, reviewed, and tabulated here. As of March 9, 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.

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.


The CDC issued new guidance—which is based on the latest science—on how and when a fully vaccinated individual can visit with other people who are fully vaccinated and with other people who are not vaccinated. This guidance represents a first step toward returning to everyday activities in our communities. CDC will update these recommendations as more people are vaccinated, rates of COVID-19 in the community change, and additional scientific evidence becomes available.


CDC provides overall US 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

CDC created this section regarding the Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen 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 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.

On March 8, 2021, Governor Mario M. Cuomo announced that more than 40,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered at community-based pop-up sites in houses of worship throughout New York State. More than 22,500 first doses and more than 18,000 second doses have been administered. 48 pop-up sites have been established in houses of worship. Partnering with houses of worship builds on New York’s efforts to bring the vaccine to underserved communities across the state.

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
Congress is poised to send another $40 billion in aid to the nation’s colleges and universities after the Senate approved a $1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill Saturday. The House is expected to pass the measure -- which contains the largest infusion of help to higher education approved by Congress during the pandemic -- as soon as Tuesday, sending it to President Biden for his signature. Biden called the Senate’s passage of the bill “historic” and a “giant step forward” in providing help to Americans during the pandemic. The money will be distributed to public and private institutions. Colleges and universities are required to spend at least half of the money on emergency grants to students. Whether undocumented and international students can get the help, however, still hasn’t been decided by the Education Department.


The coronavirus pandemic is reinvigorating hunger-free campus legislation in states including Maryland, Massachusetts and New York, where lawmakers recently proposed bills that would provide colleges with financial and administrative assistance for helping food-insecure students. State lawmakers are becoming more aware of the needs of the diversifying student population, said Sunny Deye, director of the postsecondary education program at the National Conference of State Legislatures. Today's students were already more likely to be working adults, first generation and low income, and to require additional support with basic needs such as food, housing and childcare, Deye said. Then came the pandemic, which caused students and their families to lose employment and income. The result is a broad swath of students who are at risk of dropping out, she said.

https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/03/05/legislators-revisit-efforts-pass-hunger-free-campus-laws

K-12

In several ways, the public health crisis has hampered students’ exposure to reading and literacy. Students learning remotely may have fewer opportunities to hold books in their hands and practice turning pages left to right. Those learning in-person are finding classroom bookshelves empty or limited due to safety protocols. But in other ways, the pandemic is allowing educators to be more purposeful and resourceful when it comes to promoting literacy, reading experts say. Immersing students in rich text, engaging them in conversations about a book’s characters, plot and scenery, and creating positive associations with books can occur in any learning format, Bassford said. So can scaffolding strategies to help struggling readers, she added. https://www.k12dive.com/news/how-teachers-are-inspiring-students-to-read-during-the-pandemic/596092/

Clinical Trials

To view the latest information on 4,636 clinical trials regarding COVID-19

State Updates

New York

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that beginning April 2, event, arts and entertainment venues can reopen at 33 percent capacity, up to 100 people indoors and up to 200 people outdoors. If all attendees present proof of negative test prior to entry, capacity can increase up to 150 people indoors and up to 500 people outdoors. Social distancing and face coverings will be required by all attendees, as well as strict adherence to all applicable Department of Health guidance. Governor Cuomo also announced domestic travelers to New York State who have been vaccinated no longer have to quarantine or test out within 90 days of their full vaccination. Governor Cuomo also announced that beginning March 22, residential gatherings of up to 25 people can be held outdoors. Indoor residential gatherings remain capped at 10 people to reduce the continued risk of spread. Also, non-residential social gatherings of up to 100 people can occur indoors and up to 200 people can occur outdoors. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-event-arts-and-entertainment-venues-can-reopen-33-percent-capacity

- Governor Cuomo announced $29 million is available to support essential workers and first responders through the Empire Pandemic Response Reimbursement Fund program coordinated by the Office of Children and Family Services. The program is designed to reimburse out-of-pocket childcare, transportation, lodging and other qualifying expenses that enabled workers to perform their duties. The funding comes from private donations from individuals, charitable trusts and businesses made during the COVID crisis. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-29-million-available-support-essential-workers-and-first-responders

- Governor Cuomo announced that restaurants outside of New York City, which have been operating at 50 percent capacity, can now move to 75 percent capacity starting March 19. The data has shown that restaurants can operate safely and in accordance with strict health protocols at 75 percent capacity. New York City restaurant capacity will remain at 35 percent capacity. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-restaurants-outside-new-york-city-can-move-75-percent-indoor-capacity

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On March 8, 2021, Governor Cuomo announced the mass vaccination site at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City performed best in the nation from Saturday through Monday. The site administered 13,431 doses over a 24-hour period on Saturday and Sunday, and 13,713 doses over a 24-hour period on Sunday and Monday. 123,124 doses have been administered across New York’s vast distribution network in the last 24 hours. The total week 12 federal vaccine allocation has been delivered to providers for administration. As of 11 a.m.today,
New York providers have administered 89 percent of first doses so far delivered. The week 13 allocation from the federal government begins mid-week.


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 signed Executive Order No. 228, allowing indoor wedding receptions to operate at 35 percent capacity of the room in which they are held, up to 150 individuals, and outdoor wedding receptions to permit up to 150 individuals. Both capacity limits are exclusive of venue staff. Receptions will be required to follow indoor and outdoor dining guidance, which requires that people eat and drink while seated and wear face coverings at all other times. Additionally, Governor Murphy today indicated that overnight camps will be permitted to resume operations for the summer season. The Governor and the Department of Health will issue additional guidance regarding the application process and the applicable health and safety protocols in the coming weeks. https://nj.gov/infobank/oe/056murphy/pdf/EO-228.pdf

- Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 229, extending a moratorium preventing New Jersey residents from having their utilities disconnected through at least June 30, 2021. The moratorium was previously set to expire on March 15, 2021, pursuant to Executive Order No. 190 (2020). The moratorium applies to all residential gas, electric and water utilities, both public and private. Further, the utilities will not be permitted to charge late fees nor fees to reconnect services that have been disconnected.

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont today announced that in the coming days he plans to revise some requirements that were implemented in Connecticut in the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly when it comes to those relating to capacity levels and travel restrictions. The governor stressed that while some of these restrictions are being eased, all of the protocols that relate to face coverings, social distancing, and cleaning measures are being maintained, and people and businesses are urged to continue adhering to those health and safety procedures. [https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/03-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Plans-To-Ease-Some-COVID-19-Restrictions-in-Connecticut](https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/03-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Plans-To-Ease-Some-COVID-19-Restrictions-in-Connecticut)

Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19: [https://nybc.org/covid-19/](https://nybc.org/covid-19/)
New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)


For NYC DOHMH updated COVID-19 data page
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.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 breakdown of positive cases in Westchester County as of March 7, 2021
https://wcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/280339d96db14ef96304dba0f3a71d

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 8, 2021-
https://www.putnamcountyny.com/breakdown-of-positive-cases-by-towns-in-putnam-county-3-8-2021/

For the latest COVID-19 information
https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/

Dutchess County Department of Health

Breakdown of positive cases in Dutchess County as of March 8, 2021
https://dcny.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/8905f4428f3148d0b0d5a2f3e4db11

For the latest COVID-19 information:

Orange County Department of Health

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY as of March 8, 2021
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 8, 2021
https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096

For the latest COVID-19 information

Healthcare

GNYHA provides updated New York Stat 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/

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:
Why You Shouldn't Feel Guilty for Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine
HuffPost
Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

**Line Up For 3rd Coronavirus Vaccine Just Like The Others: Expert**
Patch
3/2/2021
Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president for government affairs

**Children May Start to Be Vaccinated for COVID-19 in the Fall: Why That's Important**
Healthline
3/2/2021
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:**

**COVID Long-Haulers: An End in Sight?**
ASHA Leader Online
3/5/2021
Luis F. Riquelme, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-S, associate professor of speech-language pathology and director of the Advanced Certificate Program in Pediatric Dysphagia

---

*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/