COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 66)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Tuesday, April 6, 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

COVID-19 Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
<th>Total Recovered</th>
<th>Total Tested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Critical Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
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<td>Worldwide</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>316,655</td>
<td>7,923</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Information as of 4/6/21 at 0400 EDT. 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](image)

**Center for Disaster Medicine Updates**

- Delivered Geriatric Emergency Medical Services (GEMS) course to members of different public safety agencies from New York.
- 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 organizations such as Westchester Department of Emergency Services and Westchester Medical Center 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 will deliver updated information 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)

On April 1, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced additional measures to encourage vaccinations and increase vaccine confidence as part of the next phase of its COVID-19 public education campaign. The Administration is launching the COVID-19 Community Corps – a nationwide, grassroots network of local voices people know and trust to encourage Americans to get vaccinated. As part of the launch of the Community Corps, Vice President Kamala Harris and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy met with founding members as she begins championing the next phase of the public education campaign from the White House.


For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS


National Institutes of Health (NIH)

An investigational vaccine designed to protect against the B.1.351 SARS-CoV-2 variant has been administered as part of a new Phase 1 clinical trial evaluating the vaccine candidate’s safety and immunogenicity in adult volunteers. The vaccine, known as mRNA-1273.351, was developed by the biotechnology company ModernaTX, Inc., based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The trial is led and funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. The trial will enroll approximately 210 healthy adult volunteers at four clinical research sites in the United States that are part of the NIAID-funded Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium (IDCRC).


The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has launched an innovative community health initiative called “Say Yes! COVID Test” starting in Pitt County, North Carolina, and coming soon to Chattanooga/Hamilton County, Tennessee. As many as 160,000 residents across the two communities will have access to free, rapid antigen tests that they can administer themselves to use three times a week for one month. NIH will provide the tests (also called a home-test or at-home test) and evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative, which aims to determine if frequent
self-administered COVID-19 testing helps residents reduce community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease.

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH
https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of April 2, 2021, 354 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 258 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 74 antibody and other immune response tests, and 22 antigen tests. There are 43 molecular authorizations that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, two antigen prescription at-home test, four over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen test, and one OTC molecular test. The FDA has authorized six antigen tests for serial screening programs.
On April 2, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced two revisions regarding the number of doses per vial available for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. The first revision clarifies the number of doses per vial for the vials that are currently available, in that the maximum number of extractable doses is 11, with a range of 10-11 doses. The second revision authorizes the availability of an additional multi-dose vial in which each vial contains a maximum of 15 doses, with a range of 13-15 doses that can potentially be extracted.


On March 31, 2021, following recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration actions to support test development, the FDA took swift action this week to get more tests for screening asymptomatic individuals on the market. The agency authorized several tests for over-the-counter (OTC) use without a prescription when used for serial screening. In addition to the tests authorized for OTC use, one serial screening test was authorized for use in a point-of-care (POC) setting without a prescription, and an additional screening test was authorized for POC use with a prescription. The addition of the OTC and POC tests for screening will give schools, workplaces, communities and others several options for serial screening tests that are accurate and reliable. These authorizations follow the FDA’s recent actions to advance OTC and other screening test development.


For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19.


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Because of the many factors affecting the efficiency of environmental transmission, the relative risk of fomite transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is considered low compared with direct contact, droplet transmission, or airborne transmission. However, it is not clear what proportion of SARS-CoV-2 infections are acquired through surface transmission. There have been few reports of COVID-19 cases potentially attributed to fomite transmission. Infections can often be attributed to multiple transmission pathways. Fomite transmission is difficult to prove definitively, in part because respiratory transmission from asymptomatic people cannot be ruled out.


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 is important to understand that genetic mutations are expected, and some variants can spread and become predominant while others subside. 

CDC provides daily data tracker which has maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States- updated daily by 8 p.m. ET.
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home

For the latest CDC information 

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

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 April 6, 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 April 2, 2021, the CDC updated its travel guidance for fully vaccinated people to reflect the latest evidence and science. Given recent studies evaluating the real-world effects of vaccination, CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people can travel at low risk to themselves. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine. 

CDC provides update on “How to talk about COVID-19 vaccines with friends and family.” COVID-19 vaccines are new, and it’s normal to for people to have questions about them. The sheer amount of information—and misinformation—about COVID-19 vaccines can be overwhelming to anyone. 

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
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.

The HHS COVID-19 Public Education Campaign is a national initiative to increase public confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines while reinforcing basic prevention measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. Through a nationwide network of trusted messengers and consistent, fact-based public health messaging, the campaign helps the public make informed decisions about their health and COVID-19, including steps to protect themselves and their communities.

On April 5, 2021, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the start of the statewide "Roll Up Your Sleeve" ad campaign to encourage all New Yorkers, especially those from neighborhoods where COVID was most devastating, to get vaccinated. The ads will be shown on television and online statewide beginning April 7. The ads were directed by Contagion screenplay writer Scott Burns, and shot at New York City's Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. This effort comes as universal eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine goes into effect and all New Yorkers 16-years-of-age and older are eligible to receive the vaccine starting April 6.

On April 5, 2021, Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's vaccination program. 117,418 doses have been administered across the state's vast distribution network in the last 24 hours, and more than 1.4 million doses have been administered over the past seven days.

On April 2, 2021, Governor Cuomo announced 18 community-based pop-up vaccination sites are coming online over the next week at houses of worship, community centers and gathering spaces as well as local businesses. These sites are expected to vaccinate 8,500 people throughout the week. Since January 15, more than 180 community-based pop-up sites have administered more than 69,000 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
As has been the case with previous pop-up sites, these sites will be re-established in three weeks to administer second doses if necessary. Vaccinations are by appointment only and walk-ins are not allowed.


The New York State Department of Health (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
  - President Biden unveiled his new infrastructure legislation plan proposing billions of dollars for higher education over eight years. The plan -- which is about $2 trillion in total -- would give $12 billion to updating infrastructure in community colleges and $50 million to the National Science Foundation. Historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions would also be in for more funding under the proposal. The plan calls for a $10 billion investment in research and development and $15 billion to create 200 research incubators at those institutions, with the framing that those investments could eliminate racial and gender inequities in R&D and STEM. Of the $40 billion dedicated to improving research infrastructure and laboratories, half would be set aside specifically for HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions.


- K-12
  - A new report from Results for America, a nonprofit working with education decision-makers, outlines steps districts, states and the federal government can take to support the use of daily evidence- and data-based decisions. The report cites "the urgent need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, increase economic mobility and ensure racial justice" as reasons to accelerate the use of data, evidence and evaluation. The report recommends districts work with their state and federal governments to produce more relevant, meaningful and
accessible data to support schools. This includes utilizing longitudinal data systems, which should integrate administrative data from early childhood, postsecondary education, workforce, judicial, and public health and benefits agencies in order to be equitable and effective. The report also suggests states and districts fund the use of evidence-based approaches in school improvement plans and consider a full range of evidence in the intervention selection process. This would also mean districts stop ineffective or less-effective practices, investing instead in more effective approaches like high-dosage tutoring, early college high schools and high-quality curricula. https://www.k12dive.com/news/report-evidence-based-interventions-data-crucial-in-k-12-pandemic-recover/597612/

Clinical Trials


American Red Cross


State Updates

New York

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced an expansion of the New York Forward Rapid Test Program to help businesses and events safely reopen, with 25 new sites open April 1 and 10 sites opening within the next two weeks for a total of 70 sites statewide. This unique public-private partnership — first announced in the Governor’s 2021 State of the State: Reimagine | Rebuild | Renew and launched in February — makes low-cost rapid testing available to the public to support enhanced economic activity as the State continues to reopen sectors of the economy. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-further-expansion-new-york-forward-rapid-test-program-help-economic
- Governor Cuomo announced that performing arts and entertainment venues can reopen at 33 percent capacity beginning today. Venues can host up to 100 people indoors or up to 200 people outdoors. If all attendees present proof of completed vaccination or recent negative test result prior to entry, capacity can increase up to 150 people indoors or up to 500 people outdoors. Social distancing, face coverings, health screening and other health protocols will be required by all attendees, as well as strict adherence to all

- Governor Cuomo announced the start of the statewide "Roll Up Your Sleeve" ad campaign to encourage all New Yorkers, especially those from neighborhoods where COVID was most devastating, to get vaccinated. The ads will be shown on television and online statewide beginning April 7. The ads were directed by Contagion screenplay writer Scott Burns, and shot at New York City's Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. This effort comes as universal eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine goes into effect and all New Yorkers 16-years-of-age and older are eligible to receive the vaccine starting April 6. This comes nearly a month earlier than President Biden's May 1 deadline for states to enact universal eligibility. [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-statewide-launch-roll-your-sleeve-campaign-and-encourages-new-yorkers](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-statewide-launch-roll-your-sleeve-campaign-and-encourages-new-yorkers)

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On April 5, 2021, Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's progress during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning today, the 11 p.m. curfew currently in place for casinos, movie theaters, bowling alleys, billiards halls, gyms and fitness centers will be lifted. The 11 p.m. curfew for food and beverage establishments and the 12 a.m. curfew for catered events remains in effect. Both curfews will be evaluated later this month. [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-during-covid-19-pandemic-162](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-during-covid-19-pandemic-162)


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](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](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home)

New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy signed into law S-3523, which provides $25 million in federal COVID-19 relief aid for small businesses throughout New Jersey. The bill – sponsored by Senators Dawn Marie Addiego and Joe Lagana and Assemblymen Gordon Johnson, John Armato, and Roy Freiman – focuses on providing a lifeline to microbusinesses with five or fewer employees. The bill is part of a five-bill, $100 million relief effort aimed at
helping New Jersey’s economy recover from the year-long pandemic. 

- Governor Murphy announced that all individuals ages 16 and older will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination on April 19 – two weeks ahead of the state’s initial target of May 1. New Jersey’s phased vaccination roll out has successfully administered 4.7 million doses of vaccine to essential frontline workers, educators, high-risk groups, and other eligible adults who live, work, or study in the state. With 1,796,798 adults already fully vaccinated, New Jersey is on track to meet Governor Murphy’s goal of fully vaccinating 4.7 million adults by June 30. https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210405a.shtml

Connecticut
- The Connecticut Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the State Department of Education, today announced that $88.6 million in special food assistance benefits will be going in April to families of nearly 220,000 schoolchildren in the state who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals programs. Funded through the federal “Pandemic EBT” (or P-EBT) program, the new benefits will help ensure that eligible children in pre-kindergarten through high school can purchase food to support learning from home or in hybrid models during the public health emergency. https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/04-2021/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-April-2

- Governor Ned Lamont today announced that as part of his administration’s ongoing efforts to help the state recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, he is directing CTtransit to provide free, statewide bus service to all customers every weekend this summer beginning Memorial Day weekend and lasting through Labor Day. The governor said that offering free bus service during the weekends will encourage people in Connecticut to visit locally owned, small businesses and help support the economy in those communities that have been most heavily impacted by the pandemic, particularly within the state’s largest cities. https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/03-2021/Governor-Lamont-Implements-Free-Weekend-Bus-Service-During-Summer-Months
Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)
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 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 April 4, 2021
https://wqgis.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 April 2, 2021-
[https://www.putnamcountyny.com/covid19/](https://www.putnamcountyny.com/covid19/)

For the latest COVID-19 information

**Dutchess County Department of Health**

Breakdown of positive cases in Dutchess County as of April 5, 2021

For the latest COVID-19 information:

**Orange County Department of Health**

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY as of April 2, 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 April 6, 2021
[https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096)

For the latest COVID-19 information

**Healthcare**

GNYHA provides update on the New York State Department of Health (DOH) Guidance for Hospitals Vaccinating Long Term Care Patients Before Discharge to a Long Term Care Facility. The guidance reinforces that Article 28 general hospitals are required to offer COVID-19 vaccine to medically eligible consenting patients prior to discharge to a nursing home or other long term care facility.
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:**
**Coronavirus NY: Domestic travel restrictions loosen in New York, but is it safe?**
ABC News
4/1/2021
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 Vaccines are here. So why are the cases still rising? We can't relent**
Lohud.com
4/2/2021
George W. Contreras, M.E.P., M.P.H., M.S., CEM, FAcEM, assistant director of the Center for Disaster Medicine and assistant professor in the Institute of Public Health

New York Medical College News:
COVID-19: Here’s New Vaccine Allocation As Westchester Looks To Innoculate 17,000+ This Week
Daily Voice
3/25/2021

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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.

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