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COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 72)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Center for Disaster Medicine



Wednesday, May 19, 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

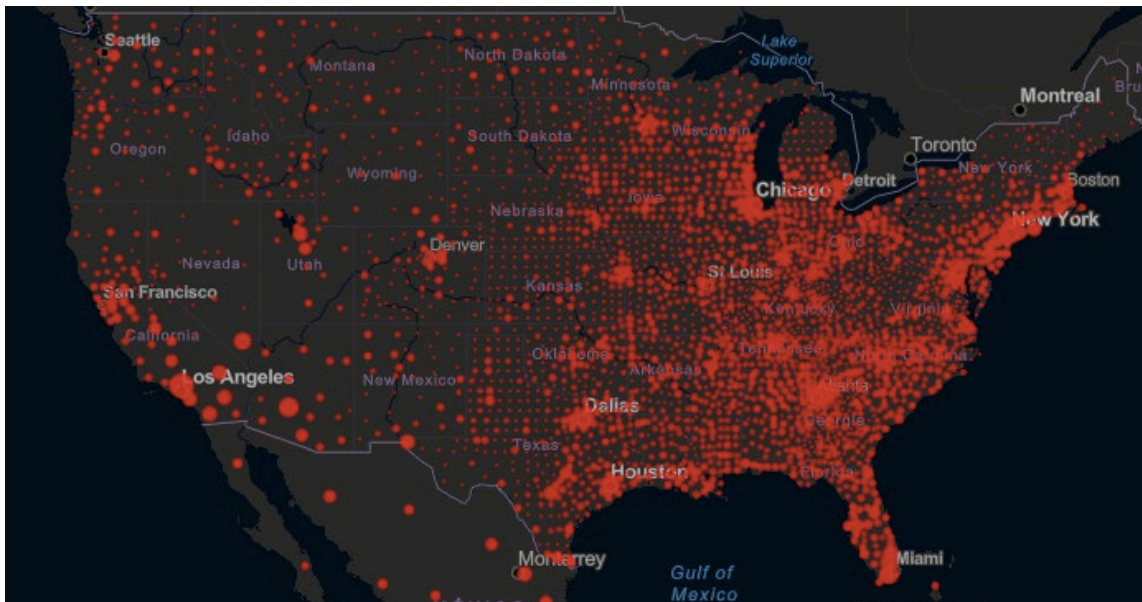
COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.	Total Tested

Worldwide	160,815,640	3,339,802	1,382,368,076	Not Available
United States	32,851,406	584,471	266,195,340	Not Available
New Jersey	1,009,521	25,906	8,156,536	14,028,056
New York	2,079,749	52,866	17,507,860	53,205,655
Connecticut	344,612	8,168	3,612,792	8,218,627

Information as of 5/14/21 at 0000 EDT. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS



Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

- On May 11, 2021, CDM conducted a Stop the Bleed training to various medical and public safety agencies in the region in order to better prepare them for disasters
- 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](#)

Federal

- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a second installment report identifying the department's strategic response from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021, to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The results are a continuation of VA's pledge to share best practices and lessons learned with other government agencies and the private health care system while the country continues to fight COVID-19. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Response Report Annex A concludes that overall, VA has aligned responsibilities, communicated with stakeholders and employed an operational concept that produced an effective response in support of Veterans and communities around the country. "We created this document so medical professionals can learn from our efforts to combat the virus," said Acting VA Under Secretary for Health Richard Stone, M.D. "As the nation's largest health care system, the department confronted the need for rapid and comprehensive action to protect the health of Veterans and contribute to federal support to the U.S. Meeting the challenges, VA acted with unity of effort and agility across 18 networks consisting of 171 medical centers."
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5669>

The White House

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials- On May 13, 2021, The White House provided an update regarding COVID-19.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/05/13/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-36/>

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)

HHS Announces \$250 Million from American Rescue Plan to Develop and Support a Community-Based Workforce to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in Underserved Communities. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the availability of approximately \$250 million to develop and support a community-based workforce who will serve as trusted voices sharing information about vaccines, increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence, and address any barriers to vaccination for individuals living in vulnerable and medically underserved communities.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/04/hhs-announces-250-million-from-american-rescue-plan-to-develop-and-support-underserved-communities.html>

U.S. Health and Human Service (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia L. Fudge announced a joint-agency effort to increase access to COVID-19 prevention and treatment services, including testing and vaccinations, among disproportionately affected communities, including among HUD-assisted households and people experiencing homelessness. This program will leverage the Health Center COVID-19 health Vaccine Program which currently provides a direct supply of vaccines to nearly 800 health centers across the country. HHS and HUD expect the effort will reach more than 6,000 multifamily housing properties, 6,700 homeless shelters, and approximately 7,500 public housing properties across the country to respond to and stop the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/05/hhs-secretary-becerra-hud-secretary-fudge-announce-joint-effort-increase-access-covid-19-vaccinations.html>

HHS Announces Nearly \$1 Billion from American Rescue Plan for Rural COVID-19 Response. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing the availability of nearly \$1 billion to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts and increase vaccinations in rural communities. As part of the Biden Administration's commitment to expanding access to vaccines and ensuring equity in the COVID-19 response, the Health Resources and Services Administration, a part of HHS, will increase the number of vaccines sent to rural communities, expand testing and other COVID-19 prevention services, and work to increase vaccine confidence by empowering trusted local voices with additional funding for outreach efforts in underserved communities.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/04/hhs-announces-nearly-1-billion-from-american-rescue-plan-for-rural-covid-19-response.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

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

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of May 14, 2021, 372 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 270 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 78 antibody and other immune response tests, and 24 antigen tests. There are 49 molecular authorizations and one antibody authorization that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, two antigen prescription at-home tests, four antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests,

and two molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 9 antigen tests and 4 molecular tests for serial screening programs.

The FDA has also authorized 498 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-may-14-2021>

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 provides the latest science update as of April 30, 2021.

https://www.cdc.gov/library/covid19/04302021_covidupdate.html

CDC provides updated guidance regarding the possibility of getting COVID-19 even after vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines are effective. However, a small percentage of people who are fully vaccinated will still get COVID-19 if they are exposed to the virus that causes it. These are called “vaccine breakthrough cases.” This means that while people who have been vaccinated are much less likely to get sick, it may still happen. Experts continue to study how common these cases are.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/why-measure-effectiveness/breakthrough-cases.html>

CDC provides updated information about the variants in the United States. 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.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>

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

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

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

CMS Data Shows Vulnerable Americans Forgoing Mental Health Care During COVID-19 Pandemic. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released data today highlighting the continued impact the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) is having on Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries and

utilization of health services. The data show that, from March through October 2020, beneficiaries have foregone millions of primary, preventive, and mental health care visits due to the COVID-19 PHE, compared to the same time period in 2019. Although utilization rates for some treatments have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, mental health services show the slowest rebound.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-data-shows-vulnerable-americans-forgoing-mental-health-care-during-covid-19-pandemic>

View the latest information from CMS

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

Vaccines

In this section, vaccine-related information from various sources will be collected, reviewed, and tabulated here. As of May 14, 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.

Largest CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Study in Health Workers Shows mRNA Vaccines 94 percent Effective- A new CDC study adds to the growing body of real-world evidence (outside of a clinical trial setting) showing that COVID-19 mRNA vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) protect health care personnel (HCP) against COVID-19. mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) reduced the risk of getting sick with COVID-19 by 94 percent among HCP who were fully vaccinated. This assessment, conducted in a different study network with a larger sample size from across a broader geographic area than in the clinical trials, independently confirms U.S. vaccine effectiveness findings among health care workers that were first reported March 29.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0514-covid-19-vaccine-effectiveness.html>

CDC created this section regarding COVID-19 vaccinations in the United States- 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.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/janssen.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.

<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>

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

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

On May 14, 2021, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's vaccination program. 140,551 doses have been administered across the state's vast distribution network in the last 24 hours, and 1,134 doses have been administered at the eight pop-up vaccination sites at MTA station stops on day 2 of the pilot program that launched on May 12. More than 900,000 doses have been administered statewide over the past seven days.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-state-vaccination-program-55>

The 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>

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
 - The U.S. Department of Education released guidance for \$36 billion in emergency funding that will be provided to higher education institutions, along with a final rule that expands access to emergency grants to undocumented and international students and those attending college under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, policy. The third round of funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, which was authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, passed in March, will give \$10 billion to community colleges, \$2.6 billion to historically Black colleges and universities, \$190 million to tribal colleges, and \$6 billion to other minority-serving institutions. Colleges can use the funding to disburse emergency grants to students regardless of their citizenship status, whether they completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or are eligible for federal financial aid. However, the grants must go to students deemed by their institutions to have exceptional need.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/05/12/feds-detail-36-billion-pandemic-relief-colleges>

- K-12
 - A gas shortage spreading in the Southeast due to a pipeline shutdown has caused schools in the region to take precautions, impacting daily K-12 district operations yet again after schools had reopened following COVID-19 shutdowns. Some districts are still monitoring the situation, according to school leaders and local reporting. Others have already cancelled afterschool activities or announced virtual learning days or the possibility of pivoting to virtual for as long as the rest of the school year in an effort to save fuel. Whether schools go remote due to the shortage, however, there remains the possibility that parents may opt to keep students home or that teachers are unable to get to work. "I believe a bigger concern at this point would be gas for our parents/students and teachers the rest of the week and early next week," said Jared Hosmer, superintendent of Chattooga County Schools in Georgia, according to a local news organization.
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/as-schools-prepare-for-gas-shortage-some-go-remote-or-cancel-activities/600098/>

Clinical Trials

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

<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?recrs=&cond=Covid19&term=&cntry=&state=&city=&dist=>

American Red Cross

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html>

State Updates

New York

- Governor Cuomo announced the launch of the new "Reimagine, Rebuild, Renew" multimedia campaign designed to support the state's reopening and economic recovery by showing that New York is back better than before. The new campaign utilizes television ads and billboards to coincide with the reopening of industries across the state. The goal of this collaborative effort-created and supported by and for New Yorkers-is to spur new investments while re-energizing residents, businesses and communities in the wake of COVID-19. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/back-new-york-groove-governor-cuomo-announces-launch-new-reimagine-rebuild-renew-campaign>
- Governor Cuomo signed legislation (S.1453-B/A.6255-A) extending a moratorium that prevents utility companies from disconnecting utilities to residential households and small businesses that are struggling with their bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The moratorium is extended for a period of 180 days after the COVID-19 state of emergency is lifted or 180 days after December 31, 2021, whichever is earlier. Utility companies must instead offer these customers a deferred payment agreement without fees or penalties on any past-due balance. This legislation will expand to cable and broadband internet service providers and additionally make the moratorium protections available to small businesses, in keeping with priorities laid out by the Governor in his 2021 State of the State address. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-legislation-extending-moratorium-prevents-utility-companies-disconnecting>
- Governor Cuomo signed legislation (S.5923-A/A.6617-A) protecting New Yorkers' COVID-19 stimulus payments from being garnished by debt collectors. All relief payments to New Yorkers under these federal acts, including stimulus payments, tax refunds, rebates, and tax credits to support individuals and children qualified for or received prior to the effective date, will be protected. This legislation also creates a carve-out for claims brought by individuals who have an interest in the relief payments to ensure that these funds can be collected to pay child and spousal support and to collect payments in situations involving fraud. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-legislation-protecting-new-yorkers-covid-19-stimulus-payments-debt>

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On May 14, 2021, Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's progress during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "As we near the light at the end of the COVID tunnel, it is imperative that we remain vigilant in our fight against the virus and continue to adhere to safety measures in place. New York was hit harder than any other state in the nation, but thanks to the hard work of New Yorkers, we are seeing a steady decline in our numbers. If you haven't already, get vaccinated so we can continue to make progress toward a healthier, stronger New York for all," said Governor Cuomo.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-during-covid-19-pandemic-186>

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

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

NYS DOH has created a dynamic COVID-19 Tracker which provides COVID-19 information regarding testing, cases, percentages, and fatalities across New York State. It also breaks down cases by county. <https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

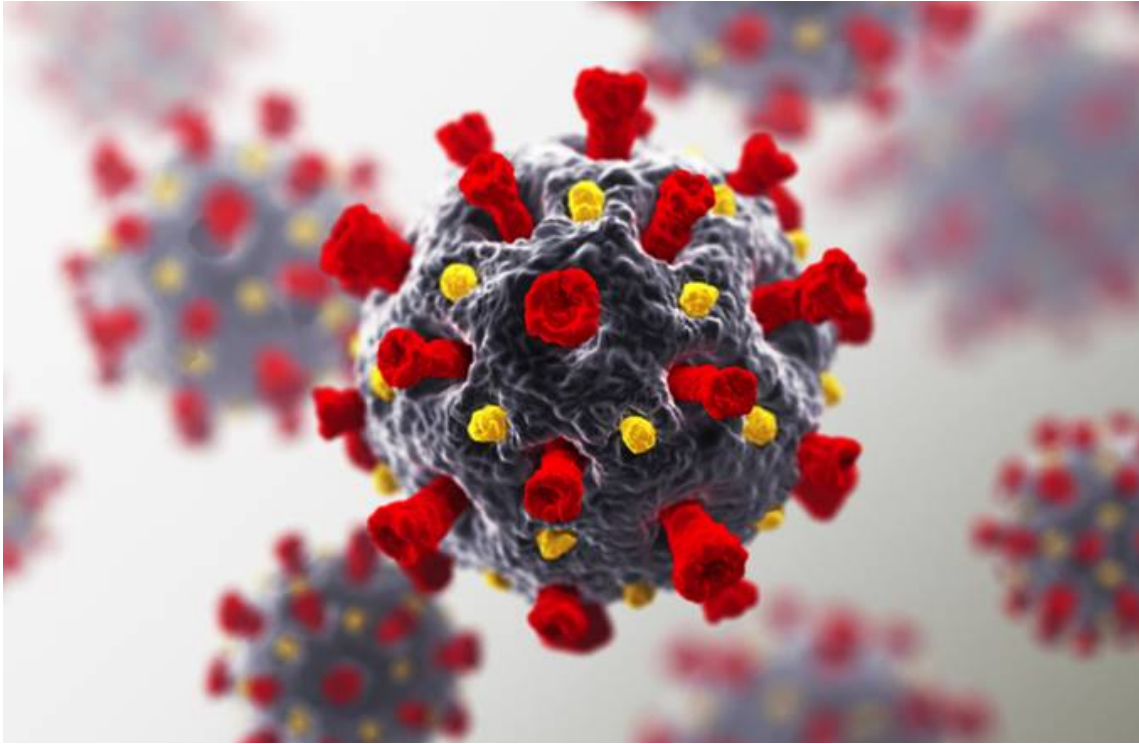
For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 239, moving forward with the COVID-19 restriction easing announced last week. The easing includes the complete removal of the outdoor gathering limit; an increased indoor gathering limit; the complete removal of all percentage-based capacity limits for indoor businesses, outdoor businesses, and houses of worship,; and an increased indoor large venue capacity. Additionally, the prohibition on indoor interstate youth sports competitions is being lifted.
<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-239.pdf>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that the COVID-19 vaccine made by Pfizer-BioNTech is available to residents in Connecticut between the ages of 12 to 15 at all clinics in the state that are offering that vaccine. The expansion of Connecticut's vaccine program follows on the heels of this afternoon's decision by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to recommend the vaccine for this age group. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/05-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-12-15-Year-Olds-in-Connecticut-Can-Receive-Pfizer>



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 May 13, 2021

<https://wcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/280339d96db14efd9cc304dba0f3a71d>

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

Breakdown of positive cases by towns in Putnam County as of May 14 2021-

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/covid19/>

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 May 14, 2021

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/covid-19-dashboard.htm>

For the latest COVID-19 information:

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>

Orange County Department of Health

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY as of May 14, 2021

<https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://www.orangecountygov.com/1906/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-Information>

Rockland County Department of Health

Review Rockland County's dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases as of May 10, 2021

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Healthcare

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:

When Will Kids Get COVID-19 Vaccines? Experts Share a Timeline to Keep In Mind

Good Housekeeping

5/12/2021

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/a36053475/when-will-kids-get-covid-19-vaccines/>

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:

County Executive Town Hall for Teens to Answer Their COVID-19 Concerns, Questions

Thursday Evening 6 to 7 PM

White Plains CitizeNet Reporter

5/12/2021

<http://whiteplainscnr.com/2021/05/12/county-executive-town-hall-for-teen-to-answer-questions-thursday-evening-6-to-7-pm/>

Mill Etienne, M.D., M.P.H. '02, vice chancellor of diversity and inclusion and associate dean of student affairs

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