COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 73)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Tuesday, May 25, 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></th>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
<th>Total Vaccine Doses Admin.</th>
<th>Total Tested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>167,001,377</td>
<td>3,466,871</td>
<td>1,677,297,169</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>33,134,618</td>
<td>590,141</td>
<td>286,155,393</td>
<td>459,239,906</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>1,014,190</td>
<td>26,100</td>
<td>8,803,139</td>
<td>14,398,587</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>2,096,280</td>
<td>53,164</td>
<td>18,941,008</td>
<td>54,976,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>346,325</td>
<td>8,212</td>
<td>3,919,374</td>
<td>8,378,867</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information as of 5/25/21 at 0000 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**
• 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
The White House


On May 17, 2021, President Biden reaffirmed his commitment to leading an international and coordinated vaccination effort, announcing that the U.S. will donate 80 million U.S. vaccines – the 60 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines previously announced and at least an additional 20 million doses of U.S. authorized vaccines by the end of June. [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/17/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-is-providing-at-least-80-million-covid-19-vaccines-for-global-use-commits-to-leading-a-multilateral-effort-toward-ending-the-pandemic/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/17/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-is-providing-at-least-80-million-covid-19-vaccines-for-global-use-commits-to-leading-a-multilateral-effort-toward-ending-the-pandemic/)

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](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

Health and Human Services (HHS)


National Institutes of Health (NIH)

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

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United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of May 21, 2021, 376 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 272 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 79 antibody and other immune response tests, and 25 antigen tests. There are 50 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 nine antigen tests and four molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 508 revisions to EUA authorizations.


Making COVID-19 vaccines widely available is key to getting people vaccinated and bringing the pandemic to an end. Pfizer Inc. submitted data to the FDA to support storage of undiluted, thawed vials of its COVID-19 vaccine for up to one month at refrigerator temperatures. This change should make this vaccine more widely available to the American public by facilitating the ability of vaccine providers, such as community doctors’ offices, to receive, store and administer the vaccine.


For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19.


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

On May 24, 2021, CDC provided update regarding the basics of COVID-19.


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 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 May 25, 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.

If you receive a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, you will need two shots to get the most protection. COVID-19 vaccines are not interchangeable. If you received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, you should get the same product for your second shot. You should get your second shot even if you have side effects after the first shot, unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get it. [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/second-shot.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/second-shot.html)

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects. [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html)

More people get vaccinated when they have strong confidence in the vaccines within their communities. And more people vaccinated leads to fewer COVID-19 illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. CDC has designed a toolkit to help administrators and staff at institutions of higher education (IHE) share clear, complete, and accurate messages about COVID-19 vaccines. These unified messages can help build confidence among students and staff and encourage COVID-19 vaccination among students. [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/higher-education.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/higher-education.html)

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](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](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](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.
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 24, 2021, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that every person who gets vaccinated with either a first dose, or single dose of Johnson & Johnson, anywhere in New York State between May 24 and 31 is eligible to receive a free two-day pass to any New York State Park, valid through September 30, 2021. Passes can be picked up at any New York State Park. Today's announcement was made at Jones Beach State Park, where the already-operational mass vaccination site will offer the same incentive for those who receive their eligible vaccination. Additionally, 15 New York State Parks will host pop-up COVID-19 vaccination sites. These 15 sites will offer vaccinations on a first come first served basis utilizing the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-vaccine-incentive-providing-free-two-day-pass-any-new-york-state

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
    - Colleges and universities are scrambling to revise campus public safety protocols in the wake of new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention saying that people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to wear masks in most indoor and outdoor settings or maintain physical distance from others. The CDC guidance, which was issued late last week, has added a layer of confusion to the already politicized debate about mask wearing and is prompting some institutions that had mask mandates in place to change course. Some colleges have begun lifting indoor mask mandates, while others are keeping them in place for now, citing considerations such as a need to increase vaccination rates and the inability to determine who is or is not vaccinated. https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/05/20/colleges-scramble-incorporate-new-cdc-guidance-masking-their-plans
    - Few sectors of higher ed have been hit as hard by the pandemic as study abroad. The rapid spread of COVID-19 in spring 2020 forced colleges and study abroad providers to suspend their in-person programs and
embark on an unprecedented worldwide effort to bring students home. A small number of colleges resumed limited study abroad options this year. But at many colleges, study abroad simply disappeared. Now, as some colleges plan to restart their study abroad options, they are grappling with an unanticipated variable: recent revisions to the U.S. Department of State’s travel advisories intended to better align the country-level advisories with travel health notices issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The changes, announced in mid-April, resulted in a substantial jump in the number of countries that bear the State Department’s highest warning, Level 4: Do Not Travel.

https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/05/19/colleges-grapple-resuming-study-abroad

- K-12
  - A clutch of diagnostic companies have advanced their COVID-19 test offerings for K-12 as the strategy for safely reopening schools for in-person learning takes shape. In Ohio, Color Health and Thermo Fisher Scientific are providing testing to students, teachers and staff as part of a pilot project. Separately, Quest Diagnostics has teamed up with Ginkgo Bioworks to provide tests to K-12 schools across the U.S. News of the initiatives comes weeks after all four companies contributed to a report by the Rockefeller Foundation that set out how to put the Biden administration’s $10 billion plan for school reopenings into effect.
  

Clinical Trials

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


American Red Cross


State Updates
New York

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that more than 1 million Excelsior Passes have been issued since New York State launched the first-in-the-nation voluntary platform in March. Excelsior Pass, which is now being utilized by venues, universities, stadiums and businesses statewide, is a free, fast, and secure way to present digital proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test results that's helping to get New Yorkers back to the things they love and miss — safely. "After a long and incredibly difficult year, New Yorkers are finally returning to normal life and getting back to work amid rising vaccination rates, and the first-in-the-nation Excelsior Pass is a key part of that restoration of normalcy," Governor Cuomo said. "The fact that we've so quickly achieved a milestone — more than 1 million passes issued — speaks to New Yorkers' desire to resume many of the activities they've given up over the past year and is good news for bringing our economy back and building a stronger state for the future. New Yorkers are ready for the new normal, and the Excelsior Pass will help them get there until we can defeat this terrible pandemic for good." [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-1-million-excelsior-passes-retrieved-launch](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-1-million-excelsior-passes-retrieved-launch)

- Governor Cuomo announced that every person who gets vaccinated with either a first dose, or single dose of Johnson & Johnson, anywhere in New York State between May 24 and 31 is eligible to receive a free two-day pass to any New York State Park, valid through September 30, 2021. Passes can be picked up at any New York State Park. Today's announcement was made at Jones Beach State Park, where the already-operational mass vaccination site will offer the same incentive for those who receive their eligible vaccination. Additionally, 15 New York State Parks will host pop-up COVID-19 vaccination sites. These 15 sites will offer vaccinations on a first come first served basis utilizing the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-vaccine-incentive-providing-free-two-day-pass-any-new-york-state](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-vaccine-incentive-providing-free-two-day-pass-any-new-york-state)

- Governor Cuomo directed flags on State government buildings to be flown at half-staff and state landmarks to be lit red, white and blue on Sunday, May 30 to honor the essential workers who lost their lives due to COVID-19. Flags will remain at half-staff until noon and landmarks will remain lit on Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day in honor of the service members who lost their lives fighting to defend our country. [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-directs-flags-half-staff-and-state-landmarks-lit-honor-essential-workers-who](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-directs-flags-half-staff-and-state-landmarks-lit-honor-essential-workers-who)


New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On May 24, 2021, Governor Cuomo announced that, based on current COVID trajectory, all New York State schools will reopen for full in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year beginning in September.
On May 24, 2021, Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's vaccination program. 63,443 doses have been administered across the state's vast distribution network in the last 24 hours, and 815,097 doses have been administered statewide over the past seven days. As of May 23, the weekly vaccine allocation update will not differentiate between first and second doses because of changes in the federal government's vaccine ordering process.

On May 23, 2021, Governor Cuomo announced the statewide COVID-19 positivity rate dropped to 0.77 percent yesterday, the lowest since August 29, 2020.

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.

New Jersey

- As New Jersey continues to make progress in the fight against COVID-19 and with state metrics continuing to trend in the right direction, Governor Phil Murphy and his Administration have begun working with Senate President Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Coughlin on legislation that will end the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in place since March 2020, while also ensuring that the Administration retains necessary tools to manage the ongoing threat to public health, as well as recovery and vaccination efforts. The Public Health Emergency was initially declared on March 9, 2020 through Executive Order No. 103. Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 240, which extends that Public Health Emergency for another 30-day period, ending in mid-June. Under the Emergency Health Powers Act, a declared public health emergency expires after 30 days unless renewed. If legislation is finalized ahead of the renewal date, the Public Health Emergency just extended will be allowed to expire.

- Continuing his commitment to ensuring that students have access to a high-quality education, Governor Murphy announced that upon the conclusion of this school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to
Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 241 eliminating the requirement of masks in outdoor public spaces, which was established under Executive Order No. 163 (2020). The Order reaffirms the masking requirement in indoor public spaces and workplaces, but clarifies that individuals at small gatherings in private residences are not required to wear masks indoors. 

Connecticut
Governor Ned Lamont announced that a new set of COVID-19 safety protocols regarding the use of face masks will be implemented in Connecticut beginning Wednesday, May 19, 2021, as a result of the updated recommendations released late last week from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The new order will include:
- Outdoors
  - Masks not required
- Indoors
  - Vaccinated not required to wear masks
  - Unvaccinated must continue to wear masks
  - Businesses, state and local government offices and events may choose to require universal masking
  - Masks will still be required in certain settings such as healthcare facilities, facilities housing vulnerable populations, public and private transit, correctional facilities, schools, and childcare
  - In addition to the revised order, the Connecticut Department of Public Health on May 19 will issue revised recommendations and considerations for masks in businesses, large gatherings and events, and other settings, as well as more detailed descriptions of the settings where masks will continue to be required.

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)

On May 18, 2021, NYC DOHMH provides Dear Colleague Letter regarding Pfizer vaccine administration to adolescents.

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 23, 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.

**Putnam County Department of Health**

Breakdown of positive cases by towns in Putnam County as of May 21, 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 24, 2021

For the latest COVID-19 information:

**Orange County Department of Health**

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County as of May 24, 2021
https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/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 May 24, 2021
https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096

For the latest COVID-19 information

**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/
New York Medical College Leadership News:
New York Medical College Center of Excellence in Precision Responses to Bioterrorism and Disasters Awarded $1 Million
AMSNY
May 2021
Attached PDF
Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president of government affairs
David S. Markenson, M.D., M.B.A., medical director, the Center of Excellence in Precision Responses to Bioterrorism and Disasters

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