

8-3-2021

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 83)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Center for Disaster Medicine



Tuesday, August 3, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Markenson".

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	198,993,465	4,237,546	4,181,520,964	Not Available
United States	35,131,467	613,679	345,822,230	504,993,069
New Jersey	1,041,159	26,606	10,505,407	14,786,610
New York	2,155,356	53,657	23,023,551	61,351,121
Connecticut	355,580	8,293	4,605,949	9,056,971

Information as of 8/3/21 at 0800 EDT. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS



Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

- This week, the students participating in CDM's summer fellowship in Emergency and Disaster Medicine completed their month-long intensive with a course on Prevention of

Suicide Bombing Incidents, a multidisciplinary clinical skills review day, and general discussion on flight medicine.

- On July 30, 2021, CDM staff became certified as a Fire and Life Safety Educator 1 by the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Such training will allow CDM to provide additional training to the community in areas of fire and life safety.
- On July 12, 2021, CDM staff provided life-saving American Red Cross Advanced Life Support (ALS) training to NYMC SOM students as part of the 2021 Summer Fellowship in Emergency and Disaster Medicine.
- On July 14, 2021, CDM staff provided life-saving pre-hospital trauma life support (PHTLS) training to NYMC SOM students as part of the 2021 Summer Fellowship in Emergency and Disaster Medicine.
- On July 15, 2021, CDM staff provided life-saving American Heart Association Pediatric Advanced Life Support training to NYMC SOM students as part of the 2021 Summer Fellowship in Emergency and Disaster Medicine.
- 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 August 2, 2021, the White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials held briefing regarding COVID-19- Drs. Fauci and Walensky provided the latest the latest update regarding the COVID-19 response.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/08/02/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-47/>

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)

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 July 30, 2021, 396 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 279 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 86 antibody and other immune response tests and 31 antigen tests. There are 53 molecular authorizations and one antibody authorization that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, three antigen prescription at-home tests, five antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and two molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 12 antigen tests

and eight molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 593 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-july-30-2021>

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)

On July 27, 2021, CDC updated its Science Brief regarding COVID-19 vaccines and vaccinations. Data were added from studies published since the last update that demonstrate currently authorized mRNA vaccines provide protection against variants of concern, including the Delta strain that is now predominant in the United States. Vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization and death is high for all current SARS-CoV-2 variants; emerging data suggest lower effectiveness against confirmed infection and symptomatic disease caused by the Beta, Gamma, and Delta variants compared with the ancestral strain and the Alpha variant.

[Science Brief: COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination \(cdc.gov\)](#)

On July 30, 2021, CDC provided guidance for implementing COVID-19 prevention strategies in the context of varying community transmission levels and vaccination coverage.

[Guidance for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in the Context of Varying Community Transmission Levels and Vaccination Coverage | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

On August 2, 2021, the CDC provided updated guidance regarding getting vaccinated which prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Unvaccinated people should get vaccinated and continue masking until they are fully vaccinated. With the Delta variant, this is more urgent than ever. CDC has updated [guidance for fully vaccinated people](#) based on new evidence on the Delta variant. This latest update focuses on families and children. [Families & Children | CDC](#)

On August 2, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an order under Sections 362 and 365 of the Public Health Service Act, and associated implementing regulations, that temporarily suspends the introduction of certain noncitizens based on the Director's determination that introduction of such noncitizens, regardless of their country of origin, migrating through Canada and Mexico into the United States creates a serious danger of the introduction of COVID-19 into the United States, and the danger is so increased by the introduction of such noncitizens that a temporary suspension is necessary to protect the public health. Unaccompanied noncitizen children, already excepted under a July 16, 2021, order, remain excepted from the order's coverage.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s080221-southern-northern-land-borders-order-extended.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 Final Rule Improves Health Equity, Access to Treatment, Hospital Readiness, and COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting of Hospital Workers- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) is taking action to drive value-based, person-centered care, and promote sustainability and readiness to respond to future public health emergencies in our nation's hospitals through the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS)/ Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Prospective Payment System final rule released today.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-final-rule-improves-health-equity-access-treatment-hospital-readiness-and-covid-19-vaccination>

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 August 2, 2021, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. Now with three vaccines with EUA, the goal is to vaccinate a larger number of persons in the coming months throughout the United States. As additional vaccines are granted EUA, information for those vaccines will also be included.

On July 28, 2021, the CDC provided the latest update regarding Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.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>

On August 2, 2021, New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that MTA and Port Authority employees working in New York facilities will be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 or be tested weekly starting Labor Day. Employee-only vaccination sites that previously closed as usage dropped will be reopened while those that remained open will continue to operate. Nine new vaccination sites will open in locations with a high concentration of state employees to make getting vaccinated as convenient as possible for those who haven't been yet.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-mta-and-new-york-port-authority-employees-will-be-required-get>

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>

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>

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

- Some colleges are expanding vaccine requirements or reimposing mask mandates in response to spread of Delta variant and new CDC guidance. Other institutions are finding their authority to mandate mitigation measures limited. The surge in coronavirus cases fueled by the spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant and low vaccination rates is leading some colleges to expand vaccine mandates or reinstate face-masking requirements, even as public colleges in a number of Republican-controlled states continue to be constrained by executive order or law from taking such steps. Read more at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/07/29/some-colleges-reconsider-covid-plans-cases-surge-and-cdc-revises-guidance>
- K-12
 - As many students return this fall to full-time, in-person learning for the first time in a year and a half, school leaders can make the transition a little easier by taking steps to create a culture of respect, acceptance and inclusion, Becki Cohn-Vargas, a veteran educator and administrator, writes for Edutopia. Doing so, she suggests, can improve overall achievement and ease anxiety. Cohn-Vargas urges school leaders to introduce the concept of identity safety — where students are assured their social identities are an asset rather than a hindrance to success — and to extend the culture of inclusion to the broader school community by making family events like science fairs and celebrations validating to all. School leaders should also take time to re-examine disciplinary policies and build a system that is equitable to students of all races. And since the return to full-time, in-person learning may also be difficult for staff, she also suggests school leaders pay attention to the wellness of the adults because the emotional support given to faculty and staff will make its way back to students. Read more at <https://www.k12dive.com/news/school-culture-built-around-belonging-crucial-for-re-engaging-students/604258/>

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

- "New York City will require proof of vaccination for leisure indoor activities at restaurants and gyms — becoming the first major city in the United States to do so. Mayor Bill de Blasio made the announcement at a Tuesday morning press conference. The program, also known as the "Key to NYC Pass," will be implemented mid-August during a transition period before it will be fully enforced beginning the week of Sept. 13." https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna1275807?_twitter_impression=true
- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the launch of New York State's \$35 million Restaurant Return-to-Work Tax Credit program, designed to help expand employment opportunities for workers and provide relief to COVID-impacted restaurants. Created as part of the New York State FY 2022 Budget, the program offers a tax credit for the rapid hiring of restaurant workers to reduce the restaurant industry's pandemic-induced economic difficulties. Qualifying restaurants could receive a \$5,000 tax credit per net new hire, totaling up to \$50,000 in tax credits per business. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-launch-35-million-restaurant-return-work-tax-credit-program>
- Governor Cuomo announced that New York State will administer nearly \$1.1 billion in federal funding directly to childcare providers to help stabilize the industry and enable more parents to return to the workplace fulltime. The funding - available through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act - represents the largest single investment in childcare in New York State history. It will provide direct support to childcare programs and help replenish losses experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-historic-nearly-11-billion-grants-support-child-care-providers-and>
- Governor Cuomo announced that MTA and Port Authority employees working in New York facilities will be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 or be tested weekly starting Labor Day. Employee-only vaccination sites that previously closed as usage dropped will be reopened while those that remained open will continue to operate. Nine new vaccination sites will open in locations with a high concentration of state employees to make getting vaccinated as convenient as possible for those who haven't been yet. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-mta-and-new-york-port-authority-employees-will-be-required-get>

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On August 2, 2021, Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combatting COVID-19. "The Delta variant spreads quickly and those who are vaccinated are less likely to catch it and less likely to be hospitalized if they do. We've seen this movie before, but this time we have the key to preventing another mutation - the vaccine," Governor Cuomo said. "Almost all new cases of COVID arising are the Delta variant. Don't wait until it's too late. Get your vaccination as soon as possible."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-during-covid-19-pandemic-208>

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>

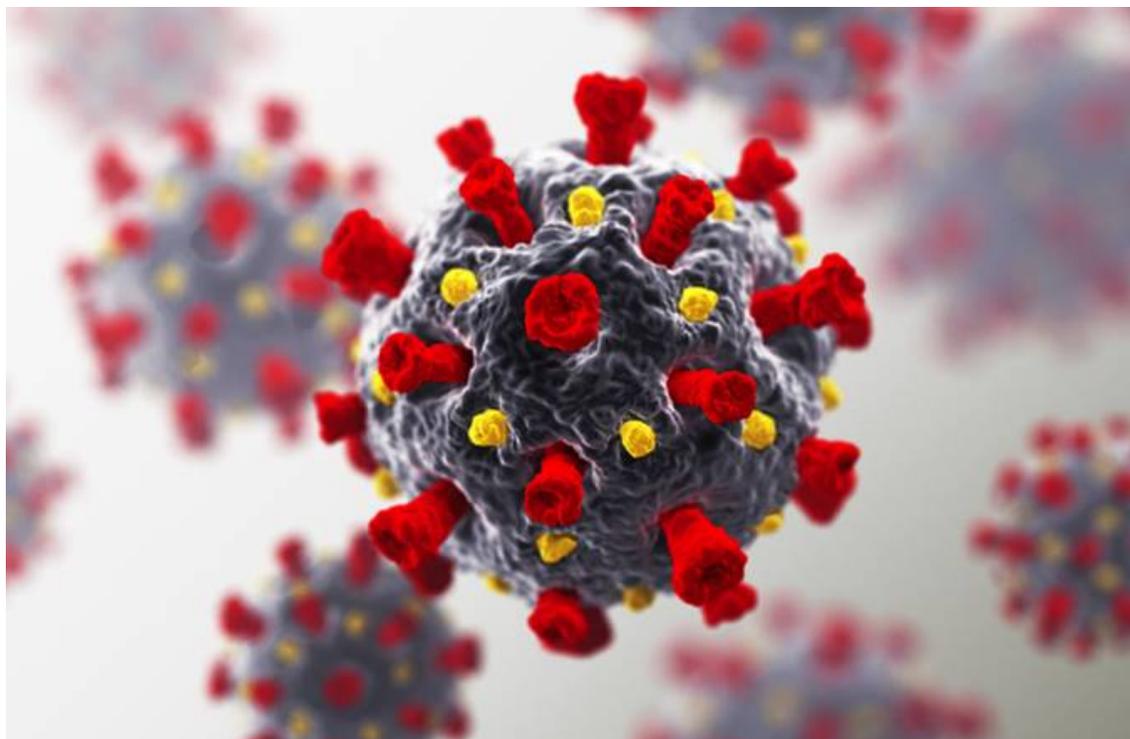
New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy announced that all workers in certain state and private health care facilities and high-risk congregate settings will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week. This requirement will help increase protection against the spread of COVID-19, including the highly transmissible Delta variant, to vulnerable populations who have been hardest hit during the pandemic.
<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210802a.shtml>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont and Connecticut Acting Commissioner of Education Charlene Russell-Tucker visited Regional School District 17 in Higganum to highlight the more than \$16 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) funds that are being made available to assist 170 school districts across Connecticut with delivering special education services to more than 80,000 students during the 2021-22 school year. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/08-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Deployment-of-More-Than-16-Million-To-Support-Local-Special-Education>
- The Lamont administration and leadership of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC), which represents several Connecticut state employees unions, have reached an agreement resolving disputes related to telework and its role in transitioning state employees back into the workplace following the initial outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the pandemic first emerged in the United States in early 2020, Governor Ned Lamont acted quickly and directed all executive branch state employees

who were able to telework to do so. This revised agreement settles some concerns regarding the transition back to the workplace and the role that telework will have in the work of state employees moving forward. The governor maintains discretion to return to higher levels of telework consistent with his emergency powers as set forth in legislation approved by the Connecticut General Assembly. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/08-2021/Lamont-Administration-Reaches-Revised-Telework-Agreement-With-State-Employee-Unions>



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)

NYC DOHMH launched a new variants data page. The data on this page show how variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 are spreading in NYC. Variants are versions of the virus with certain

sets of mutations. Some variants may result in a COVID-19 infection that is easier to spread, more severe or able to avoid antibodies from vaccines or previous infections.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-variants.page>

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 August 1, 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 July 30, 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 August 2, 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 August 2, 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 August 2, 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:

Data on pediatric COVID-19 deaths in US remains unclear

Fox News

7/31/2021

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/data-covid-19-kids-risk-experts>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president of government affairs

Faculty News:

10 COVID-19 Breakthrough Symptoms You Shouldn't Ignore, According to Doctors

Good Housekeeping

7/31/2021

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/a37182862/breakthrough-covid-symptoms-cdc/>

Marisa Montecalvo, M.D., professor of medicine and director of student health services

New York Medical College News:

Rare genetic variant may protect against obesity, provide new drug target

Healio

7/27/2021

<https://www.healio.com/news/endocrinology/20210727/rare-genetic-variant-may-protect-against-obesity-provide-new-drug-target>

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