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COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 85)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Center for Disaster Medicine



Tuesday, August 17, 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

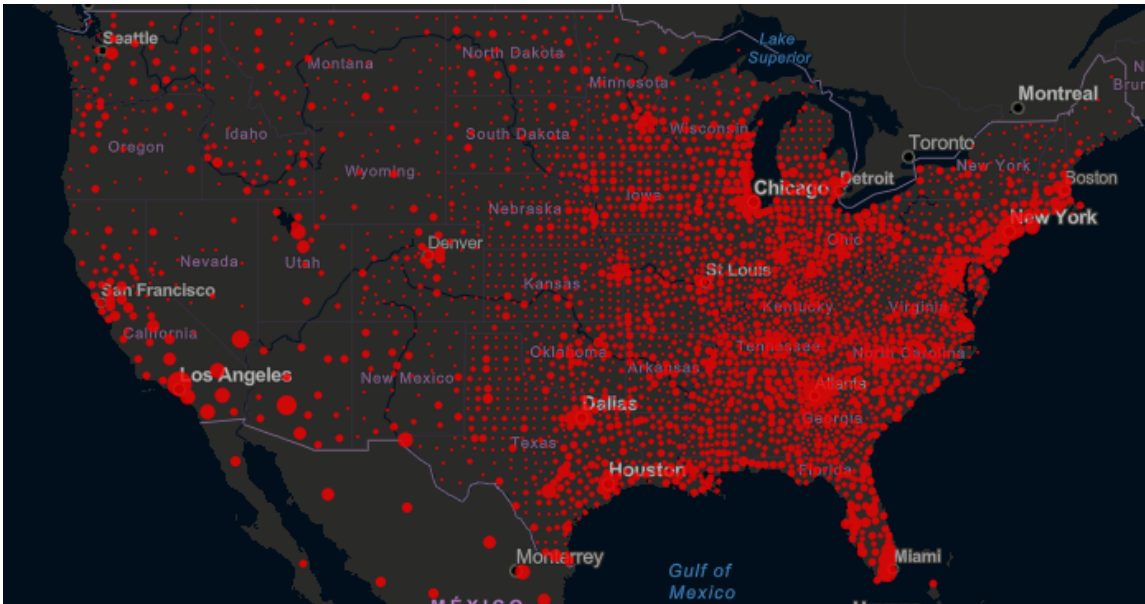
Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	208,044,254	4,375,086	4,741,127,625
United States	36,891,023	622,437	356,249,524
New Jersey	1,062,238	26,696	10,771,370
New York	2,209,767	54,099	23,640,655
Connecticut	363,417	8,307	4,700,511

Information as of 8/17/21 at 0800 EDT. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS



Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

- 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 13, 2021, the Biden Administration took action to improve the health of rural communities by making billions of dollars in American Rescue Plan funding available to meet immediate COVID-19 needs. This funding, which will also help rural hospitals stay open in the long run and improve the care provided to rural communities, builds on efforts the Administration has already taken to help rural communities tackle the COVID-19 crisis and improve access to health care.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/13/fact-sheet-biden-administration-takes-steps-to-address-covid-19-in-rural-america-and-build-rural-health-back-better/>

On August 12, 2021, White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials provided update to the public led by Drs. Fauci, Nunez-Smith and Walensky.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/08/12/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-49/>

On August 11, 2021, President Biden virtually met with four business, university and health care leaders who have adopted COVID-19 vaccination requirements for their workforces. The President expressed his appreciation for these leaders stepping up to protect the lives of their employees and communities. He highlighted the Administration's vaccination requirements for the federal workforce, including requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for health care workers at the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense's plan to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of required vaccinations for service members.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/11/readout-of-president-bidens-meeting-with-business-university-and-health-care-leaders-on-covid-19-vaccination-requirements/>

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 August 12, 2021, Secretary Becerra announced requirement of COVID-19 Vaccinations for HHS Health Care Workforce. To increase vaccination coverage and protect more people from COVID-19, including the more transmissible Delta variant, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will require more than 25,000 members of its health care workforce to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/08/12/secretary-becerra-to-require-covid-19-vaccinations-for-hhs-health-care-workforce.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have developed a new sample preparation method to detect SARS-Cov-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The method bypasses extraction of the virus' genetic RNA material, simplifying sample purification and potentially reducing test time and cost. The method is the result of a collaboration among researchers at the National Eye Institute (NEI), the NIH Clinical Center (CC), and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-scientists-develop-faster-covid-19-test>

A pilot study has begun to assess the antibody response to a third dose of an authorized COVID-19 mRNA vaccine in kidney transplant recipients who did not respond to two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The Phase 2 trial is sponsored and funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-launches-study-third-covid-19-vaccine-dose-kidney-transplant-recipients>

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

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of August 13, 2021, 402 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 282 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 87 antibody and other immune response tests and 33 antigen tests. There are 56 molecular authorizations and one antibody authorization that can be used with home-collected samples. There are two molecular prescription at-home test, three antigen prescription at-home tests, six antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and three molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 13 antigen tests

and eight molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 602 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-august-13-2021>

On August 12, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for both the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to allow for the use of an additional dose in certain immunocompromised individuals, specifically, solid organ transplant recipients or those who are diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is scheduled to meet Friday to discuss further clinical recommendations regarding immunocompromised individuals. This action does not apply to people who are not immunocompromised.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-additional-vaccine-dose-certain-immunocompromised>

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 August 13, 2021, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., provided a media statement regarding Signing the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Recommendation for an Additional Dose of an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine in Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0813-additional-mRNA-mrna-dose.html>

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.

<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)

In response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recent action that authorizes an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals, CMS is

assuring people with Medicare who qualify for an additional dose that they can receive it with no cost sharing. This is part of President Biden's commitment that patients have access to the necessary vaccinations to protect themselves from COVID-19.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/news-alert/people-medicare-who-are-immunocompromised-would-be-able-receive-additional-covid-19-dose-no-cost>

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 17, 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 August 11, 2021, CDC released new CDC Data regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Safety for Pregnant People. "CDC encourages all pregnant people or people who are thinking about becoming pregnant and those breastfeeding to get vaccinated to protect themselves from COVID-19," said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. "The vaccines are safe and effective, and it has never been more urgent to increase vaccinations as we face the highly transmissible Delta variant and see severe outcomes from COVID-19 among unvaccinated pregnant people."

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0811-vaccine-safe-pregnant.html>

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

On August 16, 2021, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that all healthcare workers in New York State, including staff at hospitals and long-term care facilities (LTCF), including nursing homes, adult care, and other congregate care settings, will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Monday, September 27. The State Department of Health will issue Section 16 Orders requiring all hospital, LTCF, and nursing homes to develop and implement a policy mandating employee vaccinations, with limited exceptions for those with religious or medical reasons. To date, 75 percent of the state's ~450,000 hospital workers, 74 percent of the state's ~30,000 adult care facility workers, and 68 percent of the state's ~145,500 nursing home workers have completed their vaccine series. Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul's administration was briefed prior to the announcement.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-covid-19-vaccination-mandate-healthcare-workers>

On August 16, 2021, New York State Department of Health issued updated guidance regarding for the administration of a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals with compromised immune systems.

https://www.gnyha.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Guidance-for-COVID-Vaccine-Providers_8.16.21_final.pdf

On August 16, 2021, New York State Department of Health issued a new advisory regarding for the administration of a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals with compromised immune systems.

<https://www.gnyha.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Health-Advisory-for-Additional-Dosing-during-COVID-19-8.16.21.pdf>

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
 - As incoming college students start their first weeks of postsecondary education, many are optimistic about a new beginning, but they are also

struggling with mental health and academic challenges created by the pandemic. The annual Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement found that 53 percent of first-year students reported a substantial increase in mental and emotional exhaustion. Of those, nearly 70 percent indicated "high expectations of academic difficulty," compared to 42 percent of their peers who did not experience greater exhaustion. Additionally, 30 percent of students surveyed reported increased depression, 27 percent said they experienced greater loneliness and 20 percent felt more hopeless.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/08/17/most-incoming-freshmen-are-mentally-exhausted>

- K-12
 - One of the most disruptive pandemic factors for in-person student learning last school year was quarantines — forced stay-at-home orders due to student and staff illnesses or close contact with people infected with COVID-19. The temporary student absences from in-person instruction were not supposed to happen as frequently this school year because last school year's data showed low COVID-19 transmission rates in schools that used preventative measures and because vaccinations are more widely available now. But just days after the new school year began, quarantines are becoming a routine of this school year, too. To hear more about what some school districts are doing, please visit: <https://www.k12dive.com/news/how-schools-are-addressing-covid-19-quarantines-this-school-year/605000/>

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 Andrew M. Cuomo announced that all healthcare workers in New York State, including staff at hospitals and long-term care facilities (LTCF), including nursing homes, adult care, and other congregate care settings, will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Monday, September 27. The State Department of Health will issue Section 16 Orders requiring all hospital, LTCF, and nursing homes to develop and implement a policy mandating employee vaccinations, with limited exceptions for those with religious or medical reasons. To date, 75 percent of the state's ~450,000 hospital workers, 74 percent of the state's ~30,000 adult care facility workers, and 68 percent of the state's ~145,500 nursing home workers have completed their vaccine series. Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul's administration was briefed prior to the announcement.
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-covid-19-vaccination-mandate-healthcare-workers>

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On August 16, 2021, Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combatting COVID-19. "We continue to fight COVID-19 across the state each and every day, but vaccinations are the key to our success and more New Yorkers need to get their shots," Governor Cuomo said. "We've maintained vaccination sites conveniently located throughout New York State, and residents can make appointments or simply walk in to get their shots. I implore anyone who is eligible and hasn't yet taken the vaccine to do so right away—it's a safe step we can all take to protect our families, friends and all New Yorkers."
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-during-covid-19-pandemic-222>

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>

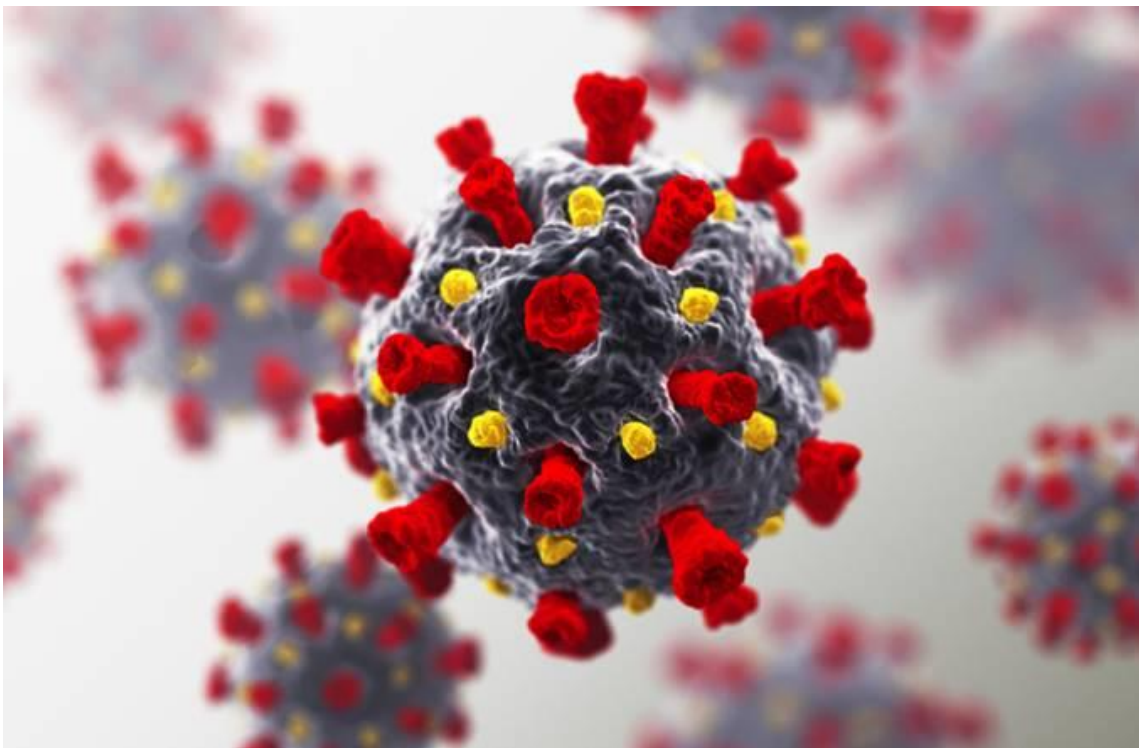
New Jersey

- Live Nation, which operates PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, BB&T Pavilion in Camden and promotes events at Prudential Center in Newark, MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford and the Stone Pony Summer Stage in Asbury Park, announced Friday it will require proof of COVID vaccination or a recent negative test for all attendees and performers starting October 4.

<https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2021/08/these-nj-concert-venues-will-soon-require-covid-vaccination-or-negative-test.html>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that at the advice of Connecticut Department of Public Health Acting Commissioner Dr. Deidre Gifford, he is directing Connecticut's COVID-19 vaccine program to implement the recommendations released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Friday regarding the administration of third doses of COVID-19 vaccines to individuals who are moderately or severely immunocompromised. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/08-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Connecticut-Implementing-CDC-Recommendations-on-Additional>



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 15, 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 August 13, 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 16, 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 13, 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 16, 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

Faculty News:

11 Delta COVID-19 Variant Symptoms That May Affect You, Even If You're Vaccinated

Good Housekeeping

8/14/2021

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/a37284753/delta-variant-symptoms-adults-covid-19/>

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

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