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COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 86)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Center for Disaster Medicine



Tuesday, August 24, 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

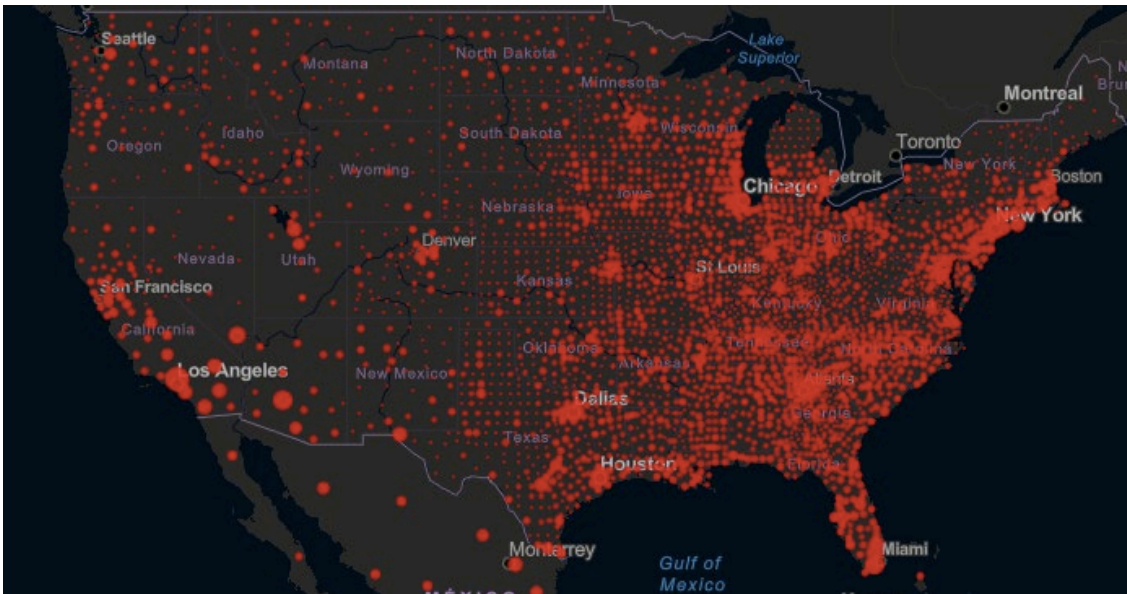
Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	212,489,925	4,440,409	4,956,569,648
United States	37,935,277	629,390	362,176,545
New Jersey	1,074,306	26,752	10,932,679
New York	2,237,639	54,199	23,969,129
Connecticut	365,856	8,337	4,750,834

Information as of 8/24/21 at 0100 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](#)

FEDERAL

- FEMA has provided more than \$1.044 billion to nearly 159,000 people to assist with COVID-19-related funeral costs for deaths occurring on or after January 20, 2020. Eligibility determinations are not driven by state/location; instead, they are based on when the applicant submits all required documentation. FEMA provided state-by-state breakdown of COVID-19 funeral assistance.

<https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210823/fema-covid-19-funeral-assistance-state-state-breakdown>

The White House

On August 23, 2021, President Biden provided an update on the COVID-19 Response and the Vaccination Program- President Biden addressed the nation regarding the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA, full approval for the Pfizer vaccine. After a strict process, the FDA has reaffirmed its findings that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective, and the FDA has given its full and final approval.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/08/23/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-covid-19-response-and-the-vaccination-program-7/>

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)

Biden-Harris Administration Invests more than \$19 Million to Expand Telehealth Nationwide and Improve Health in Rural, Other Underserved Communities- On August 18, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced key investments that will strengthen telehealth services in rural and underserved communities and expand telehealth innovation and quality nationwide. These investments—totaling more than \$19 million—are being distributed to 36 award recipients through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/08/18/biden-harris-administration-invests-over-19-million-expand-telehealth-nationwide-improve-health-rural.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

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

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH study shows no significant benefit of convalescent plasma for COVID-19 outpatients with early symptoms- The final results of the Clinical Trial of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma in Outpatients (C3PO) demonstrate that COVID-19 convalescent plasma did not prevent disease progression in a high-risk group of outpatients with COVID-19, when administered within the first week of their symptoms. The trial was stopped in February 2021, due to lack of efficacy based on a planned interim analysis. The formal conclusions from the trial, which was funded primarily by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health, and by the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, appear in the current online issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-study-shows-no-significant-benefit-convalescent-plasma-covid-19-outpatients-early-symptoms>

NIH hamster study evaluates airborne and fomite transmission of SARS-CoV-2- National Institutes of Health scientists studying SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, have defined in Syrian hamsters how different routes of virus exposure are linked to disease severity. Their study, published in *Nature Communications*, details the efficiency of airborne transmission between hamsters and examines how the virus replicates and causes disease throughout the respiratory system. Their work also shows that virus transmission via fomites—exposure from contaminated surface contact — is markedly less efficient than airborne transmission but does occur.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-hamster-study-evaluates-airborne-fomite-transmission-sars-cov-2>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

On August 23, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine has been known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, and will now be marketed as Comirnaty (koe-mir'-na-tee), for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>

As of August 20, 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 is one molecular prescription at-home test, three antigen prescription at-home tests, six antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and two 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 610 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-august-20-2021>

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 August 23, 2021, CDC offers health tips for back to school during COVID-19- as schools plan for a safe return to campus this year, it is critically important to consider the health and well-being of students and staff, and address issues with COVID-19, mental and physical health, and managing other chronic health conditions. When school health policies and practices are put in place, healthy students can grow to be healthy and successful adults. Learn what parents and teachers can do to help children have a successful school year.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0823-back-to-school-covid-19.html>

On August 18, 2021, public health and medical experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a joint statement on the Administration's plan for COVID-19 booster shots for the American people. The statement is attributable to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Dr. Janet Woodcock, Acting Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General; Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH); Dr. Anthony Fauci, Chief Medical Advisor to President Joe Biden and Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID); Dr. Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health; Dr. David Kessler, Chief Science Officer for the COVID-19 Response; and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, Chair of the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0818-covid-19-booster-shots.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 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)

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 23, 2021, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Moderna and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted full approval to Pfizer. Now with two vaccines with EUA and one vaccine with full FDA approval, 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.

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>

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
 - After their presidents died unexpectedly, Converse University and Saint Augustine's University had to quickly install new leadership. Succession plans for such tragedies have become high priorities for college and university boards in the wake of the pandemic.
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/08/23/university-officials-reflect-transitions-following-presidents-deaths>
- K-12
 - New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Commissioner (DOHMH) Dr. Dave A. Chokshi today announced a new health care mandate requiring all New York City Department of Education employees to provide proof of first dose of vaccination by September 27.
<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/578-21/mayor-de-blasio-chancellor-porter-commissioner-chokshi-department-education>
 - Results of a national survey of teachers released in April by Christopher Newport University found high levels of stress and varying degrees of anxiety. An increasing rate of superintendent resignations and early retirements is a reminder of the toll of COVID-19.
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/burnout-busters-5-strategies-to-help-school-leaders-combat-pandemic-fatigu/605146/>

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

- On August 23, 2021, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo made the following statement, "This morning's announcement that the federal Food and Drug Administration has fully approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccination eliminates any doubt in the science and efficacy of COVID vaccines. In the wake of this decision, every single employer in New York State should require all eligible employees to get vaccinated, just like New York State already requires of all eligible government and healthcare employees. It's past time for pleading and cajoling - the vaccines are safe, effective, free, and readily available. The only way we'll beat COVID once and for all is by getting every single eligible New Yorker vaccinated. No more excuses - let's get it done, New York."
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/statement-governor-andrew-m-cuomo-calling-mandatory-employee-vaccinations-following-fda>

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On August 23, 2021, Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combatting COVID-19. "The Delta variant is a very serious threat, and we see that in the numbers here in New York and across the nation," Governor Cuomo said. "When this virus first wreaked havoc on our communities, we showed the world what it means to be 'New York Tough' - as well as loving and smart. We got through the worst of this crisis by being loving and caring to one another, but now we need to be smart and make sure everyone gets vaccinated. If you still need to get your shot, please do so immediately. The faster you do that, the faster we will defeat this beast and put COVID behind us once and for all."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-during-covid-19-pandemic-229>

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

- On August 23, 2021, Governor Murphy orders vaccination requirement for all N.J. state workers, including at public colleges- All New Jersey state workers will be required to be vaccinated for the coronavirus or undergo regular testing, Governor Phil Murphy announced on Monday. The governor made the announcement the same day he said teachers and school employees must be vaccinated or get tested regularly. The deadline for the mandate to go into effect is October 18. It affects all state workers, Murphy said, including “those at all state agencies, authorities, and public colleges and universities — whether they be full- or part-time, or contract employees.” People who opt out of getting vaccinated will be tested once to twice weekly “at minimum,” the governor said.

<https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2021/08/murphy-orders-vaccination-requirement-for-all-nj-state-workers-including-at-public-colleges.html>

Connecticut

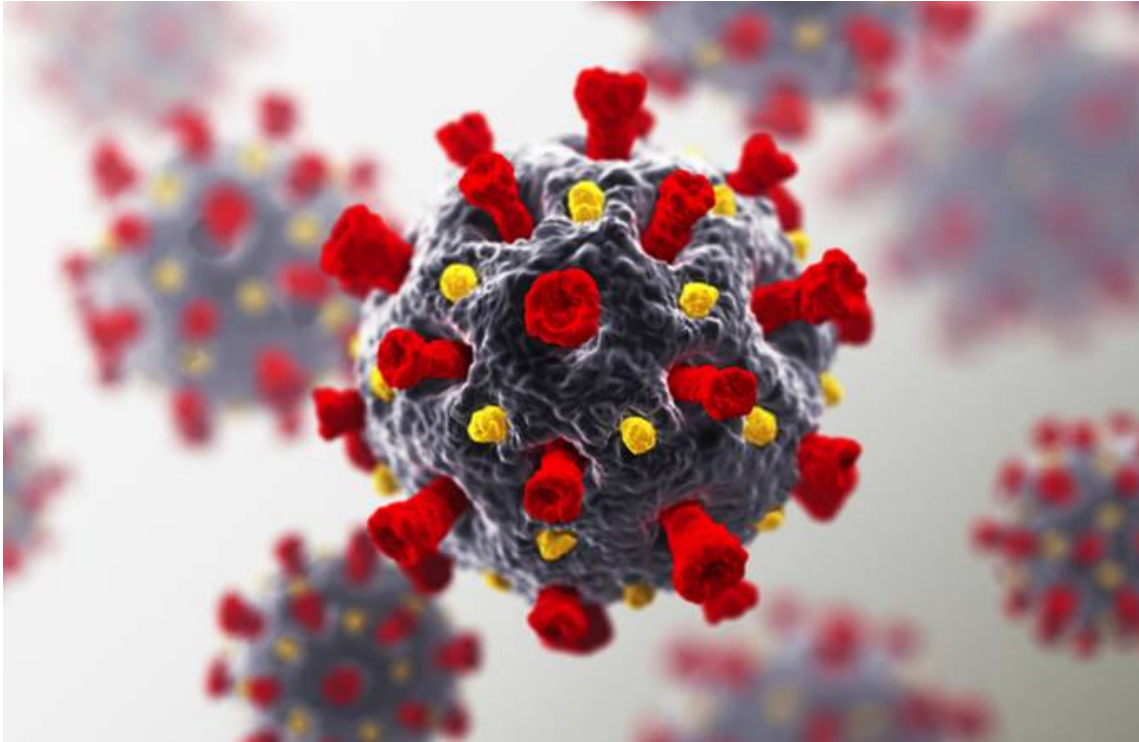
- As the State of Connecticut continues taking actions in response to the global spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Governor Ned Lamont provided an update as of 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 23, 2021.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/08-2021/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-August-23>

- On August 23, 2021, Governor Lamont and Commissioner Gifford provided a statement on FDA’s Full Approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine. Governor Lamont said, “This is an important moment for our fight against the coronavirus as schools are set to return and more companies are looking to see the safe return to work. It is my hope that this approval leads even more people to receive their safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine at any one of the hundreds of available sites across our state through both appointments

and walk-ins. I am also proud that Pfizer has a significant operation here in Connecticut, which contributed to the development of this vaccine.”

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/08-2021/Governor-Lamont-and-Commissioner-Gifford-Statements-on-FDA-Full-Approval-of-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)

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 22, 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 19, 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 23, 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 23, 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 23, 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:

President Biden: Americans can get COVID-19 booster 8 months after 2nd dose

News 12 Westchester

8/18/2021

<https://westchester.news12.com/biden-says-booster-shots-could-begin-next-month>

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

Meet the Dynamic Duo Keeping Westchester Safe From COVID-19

Westchester Magazine

8/18/2021

<https://westchestermagazine.com/life-style/health/robert-sherlita-amler/>

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

Sherlita Amler, M.D., M.S., clinical associate professor of pediatrics, adjunct professor of public health and senior fellow in the Center for Disaster Medicine

Faculty News:

Employers weigh insurance surcharges for unvaccinated workers

Times of News (Originally published in Modern Healthcare)

8/13/2021

<https://italy.timesofnews.com/health-care/employers-weigh-insurance-surcharges-for-unvaccinated-workers>

Adam E. Block, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health in the Division of Health Policy and Management

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