COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 89)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Tuesday, October 5, 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>
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<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>235,409,996</td>
<td>4,809,189</td>
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<td>United States</td>
<td>43,852,265</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>1,160,878</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>392,163</td>
<td>8,650</td>
<td>5,098,528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information as of 10/5/21 at 0400 EDT. Source: https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS

Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

- On September 24, 2021, CDM staff conducted an All Hazards Disaster Response course to participants from local hospital and ambulance agencies.
• 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 October 2, 2021, President Biden provided a statement on the 700,000 COVID-19 deaths in the United States.  

On October 1, 2021, Drs. Walensky, Fauci, and Murthy gave an update on three key topics: First, the effectiveness of vaccines and our work to get more people vaccinated, including through vaccine requirements. Second, our work to bring Americans additional protection through booster shots. And, third, the potential on the horizon for vaccinating younger children.  

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)**

On September 10, 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced that it is awarding $20 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant funding to State-based Marketplaces (SBMs) to increase consumer access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage. The grants will be used by 21 SBMs to modernize IT systems and/or conduct targeted consumer outreach activities to help make health care coverage enrollment smoother. As a result, consumers will have access to increased financial assistance and eligibility determinations will be made faster.  

On September 10, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced today that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is making $25.5 billion in new funding available for health care providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding includes $8.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources for providers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or Medicare patients, and an additional $17 billion for Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic.  
United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

On October 4, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the ACON Laboratories Flowflex COVID-19 Home Test, an over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 antigen test, which adds to the growing list of tests that can be used at home without a prescription. This action highlights our continued commitment to increasing the availability of appropriately accurate and reliable OTC tests to meet public health needs and increase access to testing for consumers.


For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH
https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus
On October 1, 2021, the FDA announced that on October 14 and 15, the advisory committee will meet to discuss the use of booster doses of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. Both vaccines are currently authorized for emergency use to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older. The committee will also hear presentations and discuss the available data on the use of a booster of a different vaccine than the one used for the primary series of an authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine (heterologous or “mix and match” booster).


As of October 1, 2021, 412 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 289 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 88 antibody and other immune response tests and 35 antigen tests. There are 65 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, seven antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and two molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 16 antigen tests and eight molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 641 revisions to EUA authorizations.


On September 22, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to allow for use of a single booster dose, to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary series in: 1) individuals 65 years of age and older; 2) individuals 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19; and 3) individuals 18 through 64 years of age whose frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 puts them at high risk of serious complications of COVID-19 including severe COVID-19.


For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19.


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

On October 4, 2021, CDC provided an updated overview of COVID-19 quarantine for K-12 schools.


On October 1, 2021, the CDC now recommends that people aged 65 years and older, residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings, and people aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-
BioNTech’s COVID-19 Vaccine at least 6 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. Other groups may receive a booster shot based on their individual risk and benefit.

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.

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)

On September 9, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that it will require COVID-19 vaccination of staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities to protect both them and patients from the virus and its more contagious Delta variant. Facilities across the country should make efforts now to get health care staff vaccinated to make sure they are in compliance when the rule takes effect.

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 October 5, 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.
On September 29, 2021, the CDC released a health advisory regarding COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy.
https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0929-pregnancy-health-advisory.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

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. 

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. 

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. 

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
  - Battered by enrollment declines and lost academic momentum among low-income students, colleges across the country are ramping up their off-campus outreach efforts in the wake of the pandemic. Read more at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/09/29/two-year-colleges-ramp-community-outreach-efforts
  - An Arizona Superior Court judge struck down as unconstitutional a prohibition on COVID-19 vaccine mandates at public colleges that state
legislators had folded into a higher education budget reconciliation act. The voided section of the law prohibited public universities or community colleges from requiring that students get vaccinated against COVID-19, or placing “any conditions on attendance or participation in classes or academic activities, including mandatory testing or face covering usage” for people who opted against getting vaccinated or disclosing their vaccination status. The section also banned colleges from requiring COVID-19 testing except in cases of a “significant COVID-19 outbreak” in a student housing setting, and even then only with approval from the state’s Department of Health Services. https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/09/29/court-strikes-down-arizona-prohibition-vaccine-mandate

- K-12
  - California will become the first state to require students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, except for those with medical, personal belief and/or religious exemptions, according to a Friday announcement from Governor Gavin Newsom. The requirement will go into effect for the school term immediately following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s full approval of a vaccine for students ages 12 to 15, which could be as soon as this November. That means the requirement could take effect for students in grades 7-12 as early as January 1, 2022. The state will also require vaccinations for all school staff. Newsom encouraged local districts to move forward with mandates “more expeditiously” if they see fit, and he anticipates other states to follow in California’s footsteps. https://www.k12dive.com/news/california-becomes-first-state-to-mandate-covid-19-vaccines-for-students/607561/
  - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its quarantine guidance for K-12 schools, reiterating recommendations that those unvaccinated who come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should immediately quarantine for 14 days unless instructed otherwise by a school official. The agency also advises that vaccinated individuals who are close contacts of people diagnosed with COVID-19 don’t need to quarantine, but they should be tested three to five days following known exposure and continue to wear a mask indoors for the following 14 days. According to the Center on Reinventing Public Education, which is keeping track of COVID-19 responses in the nation’s 100 largest school systems, many districts nationwide have shortened quarantine periods and clarified protocols since the start of the school year. https://www.k12dive.com/news/cdc-reiterates-school-quarantine-guidance-as-states-and-districts-shorten-r/607395/

Clinical Trials

American Red Cross
State Updates

New York

- Governor Kathy Hochul announced $45 million in state grant funding has been awarded to counties statewide and the City of New York for improving the operability of emergency communications across the State. This funding will enable local governments to expand their ability to communicate, exchange valuable data, and streamline information to enhance collaboration and assist first responders. [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-45-million-state-grant-funding-improve-emergency-communications](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-45-million-state-grant-funding-improve-emergency-communications)

- Governor Kathy Hochul announced 20 new #VaxtoSchool pop-up vaccination sites to increase vaccination rates among school-aged New Yorkers. On September 21, Governor Hochul announced a total of 120 sites will be established over a 12-week period statewide. The Department of Health is working with localities, community-based organizations, and healthcare centers on-the-ground to establish these sites in all regions of the state. Partners, host sites, and outreach efforts are tailored to the communities they are built to serve. New locations are established on a rolling basis, and more sites will be announced each week over the 12-week period. [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-20-new-vaxtoschool-pop-sites](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-20-new-vaxtoschool-pop-sites)

- Governor Kathy Hochul announced that health care staff vaccination rates continue to rise throughout New York State, according to the latest data reported by health care facilities to the Department of Health. This new information comes as the vaccination mandate for health care staff in hospitals and nursing homes is now in effect. "This new information shows that holding firm on the vaccine mandate for health care workers is simply the right thing to do to protect our vulnerable family members and loved ones from COVID-19," Governor Hochul said. "I am pleased to see that health care workers are getting vaccinated to keep New Yorkers safe, and I am continuing to monitor developments and ready to take action to alleviate potential staffing shortage situations in our health care systems." [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-releases-encouraging-data-showing-impact-health-care-staff-vaccine-mandate](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-releases-encouraging-data-showing-impact-health-care-staff-vaccine-mandate)
New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On October 4, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state’s progress combating COVID-19. "We have made great strides in getting New Yorkers vaccinated, but it is important we stay vigilant," Governor Hochul said. "Remember to keep washing your hands and wearing your mask to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. Most importantly, make sure you and your family get vaccinated as soon as possible, as vaccines are our greatest weapon against the pandemic."

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.

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

New Jersey

- Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 264, requiring all childcare center personnel to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 1 or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week. Additionally, effective September 24, and in accordance with CDC recommendations, the Order also clarifies that all employees, visitors, students, and children aged two and over must wear facemasks indoors, with limited exceptions. These requirements will strengthen protections against COVID-19 to children in these settings who are all under 12 years old and not yet eligible for vaccination. https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-264.pdf

- Governor Phil Murphy announced that the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) will begin implementation of the Return and Earn program. This new initiative will provide a $500 incentive for unemployed workers reentering the workforce and receiving job training from businesses with 100 or fewer employees. “Throughout this pandemic, I have heard much about the issues facing small businesses and the dedicated, hard-working men and women who enable their success,” said Governor Murphy. “Our Administration is committed to assist businesses in hiring workers, while providing benefits to those entering and re-entering the workforce that will set them up for success in their new jobs and their future careers.
This program will help both businesses and their workers and is yet another step that we have taken to boost our economy.”  

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that as the Connecticut General Assembly has given final legislative approval to renew the COVID-19 civil preparedness and public health emergency declarations through February 15, 2022, he has signed an executive order – Executive Order No. 14 – authorizing nine previously issued executive orders to remain in effect through the duration of the renewed declarations and revising and narrowing two previously issued executive orders. The governor explained that this new executive order is necessary so that certain previously issued orders can continue beyond September 30, 2021, which is the date that the declarations had previously been scheduled to expire. He informed legislative leaders of his intent to issue this order in a letter delivered to them last week.  

- Governor Ned Lamont today announced that he is directing nearly $10 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funding and American Rescue Plan Act funding to support Connecticut’s dairy and aquaculture industries, which experienced significant market disruptions during the pandemic, negatively impacting sales. Additional funds will be used to address food insecurity with funds to purchase CT Grown products for drive-through distributions and extending the availability of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at farmers markets. This comes in addition to $1.45 million that was previously allocated to programs that support farmers and food access in Connecticut, including CT Grown for CT Kids; the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program; the Senior’s Farmers Market Nutrition program; and Foodshare’s drive-through distribution. These dollars will keep Foodshare distribution open through at least the end of October.
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.

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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Department of Health</th>
<th>For the latest breakdown of positive cases as of October 3, 2021</th>
<th>[ hyperlink ]</th>
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<tr>
<td>Westchester County</td>
<td>For the latest COVID-19 information including vaccine scams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Putnam County</td>
<td>Breakdown of positive cases by towns as of September 30, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dutchess County</td>
<td>Breakdown of positive cases as of October 4, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>Updated COVID-19 dashboard as of October 4, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockland County</td>
<td>Review dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information</td>
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</table>

**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.
[ hyperlink ]
Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:
600 Unvaccinated United Employees At Risk Of Losing Jobs
Simple Flying
9/29/2021
https://simpleflying.com/unvaccinated-united-airlines-job-loses/
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:
A Reflection from the Front Lines
Journal of Emergency Medical Services
9/11/2021
https://www.jems.com/commentary/a-reflection-from-the-front-lines/
George W. Contreras, M.E.P., M.P.H., M.S., CEM, FAcEM, assistant director of the Center for Disaster Medicine and assistant professor in the Institute of Public Health

Un paramédico recuerda el sacrificio de los latinos el 9/11
Telemundo
9/10/2021
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=It8MttMP574U
George W. Contreras, M.E.P., M.P.H., M.S., CEM, FAcEM, assistant director of the Center for Disaster Medicine and assistant professor in the Institute of Public Health
“Sentí mucho miedo”: paramédico cuenta el trauma con el que vive tras rescatar a víctimas del 9/11
Univision Nueva York
9/9/2021
https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=2oFJvSjHbJl
George W. Contreras, M.E.P., M.P.H., M.S., CEM, FAcEM, assistant director of the Center for Disaster Medicine and assistant professor in the Institute of Public Health

Open Door Brings Covid-19 Outreach Into Local Communities
Yorktown’s HamletHUB
9/30/2021
Leanne M. Forman, M.D., associate professor of medicine

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