COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 92)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Tuesday, October 26, 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worldwide</strong></td>
<td>244,054,440</td>
<td>4,954,527</td>
<td>6,833,629,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td>45,544,971</td>
<td>737,316</td>
<td>412,604,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Jersey</strong></td>
<td>1,189,496</td>
<td>27,851</td>
<td>12,244,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New York</strong></td>
<td>2,533,155</td>
<td>56,222</td>
<td>27,199,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connecticut</strong></td>
<td>400,226</td>
<td>8,739</td>
<td>5,310,937</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information as of 10/26/21 at 0100 EDT. Source: [https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)

**United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS**

![United States COVID-19 Case Map](image)

**Center for Disaster Medicine Updates**

- On October 20, 2021, Center for Disaster Medicine staff provided important National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) training to members of emergency services in New York State from as far as Mohawk, New York, to as local as Ossining. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs and
paramedics) from Ossining, Empress EMS, Yonkers Police, American Medical Response, Mohawk Valley Ambulance Corps and Valhalla Volunteer Ambulance Corps participated in this 16-hour course. The training focused on managing life-threatening trauma emergencies in the prehospital environment. Using high fidelity simulation and other modalities, the students received incredible realism to better prepare them for future emergencies.

- 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

- As of October 22, 2021, the Department of Veterans Affairs is offering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine booster shots under Emergency Use Authorization, expanding on last month’s authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech booster. “Booster shots are an important step forward in the fight against COVID-19,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “With the authorization of additional COVID-19 vaccine booster options, VA is helping more Veterans maximize their protection, continuing our work to keep people safe and save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.”
  https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5732

The White House

On October 25, 2021, Background Press Call by Senior Administration Officials on COVID-19 and International Air Travel Policy- Senior officials announced an important step forward in operationalizing this new system as it relates to international air travel by releasing a series of documents that will help airlines and travelers get ready for November 8 and ensure a smooth transition to the new system.

On October 25, 2021, a proclamation on advancing the safe resumption of global travel during the COVID-19 pandemic- The continued spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global threat to our health and safety. COVID-19 has resulted in more than 733,000 deaths in the United States and more than 4,932,000 deaths worldwide. New variants of SARS-CoV-2 have also emerged globally, and variants that are more transmissible or cause more severe disease than the original virus strain are identified by the United States Government SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group as variants of concern.

On October 22, 2021, the White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials provided a press briefing to discuss the latest updates including plans for Pfizer vaccines for children ages 5-11.

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 October 22, 2021, HHS Invests more than $560 million to Bolster Product Manufacturing to Increase Supply, Availability of COVID-19 Tests- As the Administration works to vaccinate the population, in the past several weeks the Biden Administration, through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has invested more than half a billion dollars from the American Rescue Plan to boost manufacturing of key products needed to increase domestic testing supply. These investments are an integral part of the Administration’s strategy to expand COVID-19 testing and make tests more widely available for Americans as we work to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

COVID vaccine booster increases antibody responses, is protective in rhesus macaques- A booster dose of the mRNA-1273 COVID-19 vaccine given to rhesus macaques about six months after their primary vaccine series significantly increased levels of neutralizing antibodies against all known SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern, according to a new study from National Institutes of Health scientists and colleagues. The study, published in I also showed that the increased neutralizing antibody responses were sustained for at least eight weeks after the boost, were significantly higher than after the primary vaccine series, and generated high-level protection – meaning the ability to significantly limit virus from replicating in the lungs and nose. These data suggest that boosting triggers a strong immune memory response and potentially longer lasting immunity.

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

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of October 22, 2021, 419 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 292 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 89 antibody and other immune response tests and 38 antigen tests. There are 66 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, nine 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 657 revisions to EUA authorizations.


On October 20, 2021, the FDA took additional actions on the use of a booster dose for COVID-19 Vaccines- the U.S. Food and Drug Administration took action to expand the use of a booster dose for COVID-19 vaccines in eligible populations. The agency is amending the emergency use authorizations (EUA) for COVID-19 vaccines to allow for the use of a single booster dose as follows:

- The use of a single booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine that may be administered at least 6 months after completion of the primary series to individuals:
  - 65 years of age and older
  - 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19
  - 18 through 64 years of age with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2

- The use of a single booster dose of the Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered at least 2 months after completion of the single-dose primary regimen to individuals 18 years of age and older.

- The use of each of the available COVID-19 vaccines as a heterologous (or “mix and match”) booster dose in eligible individuals following completion of primary vaccination with a different available COVID-19 vaccine.

- To clarify that a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered at least 6 months after completion of the primary series to individuals 18 through 64 years of age with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2.


Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee October 26, 2021 (830AM-5PM) Meeting Announcement- The meeting presentations will be heard, viewed, captioned, and recorded through an online teleconferencing platform. The committee will meet in open session to discuss a request to amend Pfizer-BioNTech’s Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for administration of their COVID-19 mRNA vaccine to children 5 through 11 years of age.

https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-october-26-2021-meeting-announcement
For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

On October 25, 2021, CDC Issues Orders Operationalizing the President’s Safer, More Stringent International Travel System- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing Orders to implement the new travel policy announced by the Biden administration to safely resume global travel to the United States while protecting the health and safety of American communities from COVID-19. These Orders put in place a stringent and consistent global international travel policy that is guided by public health.
https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1025-International-Travel-System.html

On October 22, 2021, the CDC provided updated guidance regarding Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot? CDC now recommends that certain people are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster shot, including those who received Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. Get more information and read CDC’s media statement.

On October 21, 2021, CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots- CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) recommendation for a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccines in certain populations. The Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) authorization and CDC’s recommendation for use are important steps forward as we work to stay ahead of the virus and keep Americans safe.
https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.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.

CDC provides daily data tracker which has maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States- updated daily by 8 p.m. ET.
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home

For the latest CDC information

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
View the latest information from CMS

Vaccines

In this section, vaccine-related information from various sources will be collected, reviewed, and tabulated here. As of October 26, 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

On October 25, 2021, at Binghamton University’s Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Governor Kathy Hochul received her COVID-19 vaccine booster shot and encouraged other eligible New Yorkers to do the same. Governor Hochul received the Moderna booster after getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in March. 

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. As of October 16, 2021, the fully FDA approved Pfizer vaccine will now be known as COMIRNATY for ages 16 and older.
HHS created this section to provide the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines. [https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/index.html)


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/](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/)

**Educational Institution Information**

- **Higher Education**
  - Especially if trained to do so, faculty members should shift their mind-sets and become much more a part of students’ network of mental health care, writes Krista Speicher Sarraf. [https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2021/10/25/how-professors-can-support-students-mental-health-opinion](https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2021/10/25/how-professors-can-support-students-mental-health-opinion)

- **K-12**
  - The nation's public school districts faced unprecedented disruption to the school year as the novel coronavirus pandemic shut down buildings and forced learning online, to the extent educators were able to do so. Shutdowns forced districts and policymakers alike to make strides in addressing the "homework gap" resulting from a lack of home internet and device access that already adversely affected many students prior to shutdowns. Further complicating the situation: Educators needed additional training, the delivery of curriculum had to be rethought, and many low-income students' only guaranteed meals throughout the day were through school programs. [https://www.k12dive.com/news/tracking-how-the-coronavirus-is-impacting-school-districts/578628/](https://www.k12dive.com/news/tracking-how-the-coronavirus-is-impacting-school-districts/578628/)
  - Quarantine absence policies threaten state funding for California schools—Two overlapping attendance policies in California could contribute to a decline in funding for the state's schools. The state reverted to its pre-pandemic average daily attendance policies for the 2021-22 school year, meaning schools will no longer use attendance from 2019-20 to calculate funding as in the previous academic year and will instead rely on average daily attendance of the 2021-22 school year. [https://www.k12dive.com/news/quarantine-absence-policies-threaten-state-funding-for-california-schools/608622/](https://www.k12dive.com/news/quarantine-absence-policies-threaten-state-funding-for-california-schools/608622/)

**Clinical Trials**

To view the latest information on clinical trials regarding COVID-19.
American Red Cross


State Updates

New York City

- On October 25, 2021, Mayor DiBlasio held a media briefing regarding COVID-19 response. During the media briefing, Mayor DiBlasio received his booster shot. [https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/710-21/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability](https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/710-21/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability)
- On October 20, 2201, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a COVID-19 vaccination mandate for all City workers. Starting today, City employees will receive an extra $500 in their paycheck for receiving their first shot. This benefit will end at 5 p.m. on Friday, October 29, by which point City employees are required to have proof of at least one dose. Unvaccinated employees will be placed on unpaid leave until they show proof of vaccination to their supervisor. [https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/698-21/mayor-de-blasio-vaccine-mandate-new-york-city-workforce](https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/698-21/mayor-de-blasio-vaccine-mandate-new-york-city-workforce)

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On October 25, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "The COVID-19 vaccine is readily available, free, and most importantly, it's effective - now, for those eligible, it is also important to get booster shots to ensure your vaccine is as efficient as possible," Governor Hochul said. "A year ago, we were not lucky enough to have a vaccine at our disposal, but now we have multiple. The vaccine is the best tool we have to work our way out of this pandemic and I encourage those who have not yet received theirs to go out and get it to protect yourself and your loved ones." [https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-60](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-60)
On October 23, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation allowing employees facing potential layoff to petition employers to participate in a shared work program. Under this amendment to labor law, the majority of employees may submit a request for a shared work program in writing to the employer before the layoff or within 10 days of the layoff. The employer then has seven days to respond and is not required to implement the program. This is especially important for ensuring full groups of laid off workers are rehired when business returns to normal, instead of just smaller portions of workers.

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

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**New Jersey**
- On October 20, 2021, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 271, which requires new and potential state contractors to demonstrate that all of their employees who enter, work at, or provide services in any state agency location are fully vaccinated or otherwise undergo weekly testing. “This executive order will bring state contractors in line with the requirements set for all direct state employees,” said Governor Murphy. “Quite simply, we must ensure that everyone providing service to the people of New Jersey is being held to the same public health safety and standards.”
- On October 20, 2021, Governor Phil Murphy provided COVID-19 briefing to the media

**Connecticut**
- As the State of Connecticut continues taking actions in response to the global spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Governor Ned Lamont provided the following updates as of 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2021:
- On October 22, 2021, Governor Lamont released updated data regarding compliance with the state’s COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements among agencies in the State of Connecticut executive branch. Overall compliance remains high with 95 percent of employees fully vaccinated or current in their weekly testing. When including those who are temporarily out of compliance due to incomplete or late testing result
submissions and are in the process of becoming compliant, that percentage increases to 99 percent. The overall vaccination rate is currently 80.8 percent. That is an increase from the most recent update on October 7, when the overall vaccination rate was 78.5 percent.  

- For the most up-to-date information from the State of Connecticut on COVID-19, residents are encouraged to visit ct.gov/coronavirus. Residents can also subscribe to text message alerts from the state by texting the keyword COVIDCT to 888-777.

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

Westchester County Department of Health

For the latest breakdown of positive cases in Westchester County as of October 24, 2021  
https://wcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/280339d96db14efd9cc304dba0f3a71d

For the latest COVID-19 information in Westchester including how to avoid the latest vaccine scams offering earlier access to vaccines.  

Putnam County Department of Health

Breakdown of positive cases by towns in Putnam County as of October 21, 2021-  
https://www.putnamcountyny.com/covid19/

For the latest COVID-19 information  
https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/

Dutchess County Department of Health

Breakdown of positive cases in Dutchess County as of October 25, 2021  

For the latest COVID-19 information:  

Orange County Department of Health

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County as of October 25, 2021  
https://ocnygis_maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71

For the latest COVID-19 information  

Rockland County Department of Health

Review Rockland County’s dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases as of October 25, 2021
For the latest COVID-19 information

Healthcare

For the latest COVID-19 information for healthcare facilities from the Greater New York Hospital Association that covers hospitals in the tri-state area.
https://www.gnyha.org/

Center for Disaster Medicine Media

New York Medical College News:
NY Medical College receives state grant for Center for Disaster Medicine
Westchester and Fairfield County Business Journal
10/19/2021
https://westfaironline.com/141543/ny-medical-college-receives-state-grant-for-center-for-disaster-medicine/

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Renee Garrick, M.D., vice dean and chief medical officer for Westchester Medical Center and professor of clinical medicine
Ronnie Myers, D.D.S., dean of TCDM

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This newsletter is for informational purposes only; it does not constitute medical advice. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

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