

11-16-2021

## COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 95)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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# NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

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## Center for Disaster Medicine



**Tuesday November 16, 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

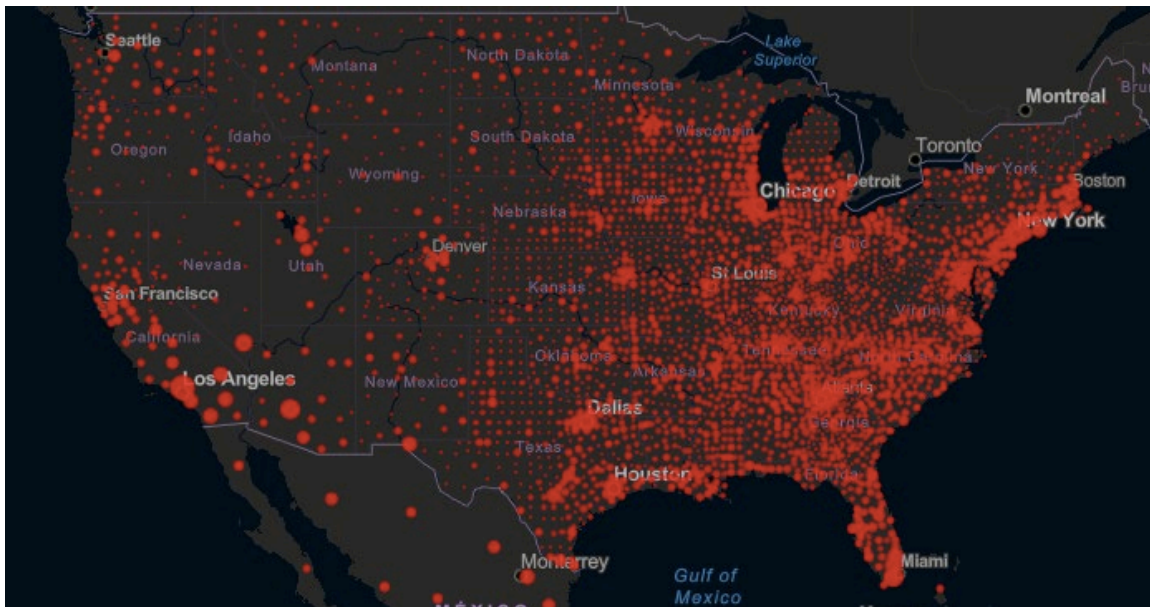
Center for Disaster Medicine

**COVID-19 Statistics**

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	254,016,834	5,110,818	7,536,093,443
United States	47,222,900	764,427	440,297,160
New Jersey	1,219,768	28,177	12,922,059
New York	2,633,082	56,976	28,617,388
Connecticut	409,929	8,826	5,717,414

Information as of 11/16/21 at 0800 EST. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

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



### **Center for Disaster Medicine Updates**

- On November 9, 2021, George W. Contreras, M.E.P., M.P.H., M.S., CEM, FACEM, assistant director of the Center for Disaster Medicine (CDM) and assistant professor at the Institute of Public Health, conducted a three hour workshop for an emergency medical technician (EMT) class held at Empress EMS in Yonkers, New York. He discussed the importance of the intersecting worlds of EMS, disaster medicine, public health and emergency management. The class is scheduled to complete their training in December 2021 and start to serve their communities soon thereafter.

- 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 November 10, 2021, the White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials provided an update briefing to the public.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/11/10/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-67/>

On November 10, 2021, Biden Administration Announces New Investments to Support COVID-19 Response and Recovery Efforts in the Hardest-Hit and High-Risk Communities and Populations as COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Submits Final Report.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/10/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-new-investments-to-support-covid-19-response-and-recovery-efforts-in-the-hardest-hit-and-high-risk-communities-and-populations-as-covid-19-health-equity-task/>

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)**

HHS Announces \$143.5 Million to Expand Community-Based Efforts to Address Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced \$143.5 million in American Rescue Plan funding to expand community-based efforts to conduct tailored local outreach about vaccines, build vaccine confidence and address barriers to vaccination in their communities.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/11/10/hhs-announces-143-million-to-expand-community-based-covid-19-vaccination-efforts.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

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

## **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Long-term study of children with COVID-19 begins- A large, long-term study of the impacts of COVID-19 on children has enrolled its first participant at the National Institutes of Health's Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The study, which is supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, will track up to 1,000 children and young adults who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on their physical and mental health over three years. The study is expected

to yield a detailed picture of COVID-19's effects on the overall health of children, their development and immune responses to infection, and their overall quality of life in the years following infection.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/long-term-study-children-covid-19-begins>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

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### **United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

FDA Updates Test Policies to Help to Ensure Accuracy and Reliability of Tests and Increase Access to At-Home Tests- On November 15, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is taking several important actions to support ongoing nationwide COVID-19 testing efforts. These actions are aimed at further increasing access to accurate and reliable COVID-19 tests, particularly diagnostic tests that can be performed at home or in places like doctor's offices, hospitals, urgent care centers and emergency rooms without having to be sent to a central lab for testing.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-updates-test-policies-help-ensure-accuracy-and-reliability-tests-and>

As of November 12, 2021, 422 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 293 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 90 antibody and other immune response tests and 39 antigen tests. There are 66 molecular authorizations and one antibody authorization that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one EUA for a molecular prescription at-home test, three EUAs for antigen prescription at-home tests, 10 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and three EUAs for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 18 antigen tests and nine molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 682 revisions to test EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-november-12-2021>

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)**

Global Progress Against Measles Threatened Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic- While reported measles cases have fallen compared to previous years, progress toward measles elimination continues to decline and the risk of outbreaks is mounting, according to a new report from the World Health Organization (WHO) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During 2020, more than 22 million infants missed their first dose of measles vaccine – 3 million more than in 2019, marking the largest increase in two decades and creating dangerous conditions for outbreaks to occur.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1110-measles-progress.html>

CDC provides updated information about the variants in the United States- The emerging variants CDC is closely monitoring have mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently in ways that are significant to public health (e.g., causes more severe disease, spreads more easily between humans, requires different treatments, changes the effectiveness of current vaccines). It's important to understand that genetic mutations are expected, and some variants can spread and become predominant while others subside.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>

CDC provides daily data tracker which has maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States- updated daily by 8 p.m. ET.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

For the latest CDC information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

### **Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) +**

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 November 16, 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 PM. 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>

On November 9, 2021, the CDC provided an update regarding COVID-19 booster shots and eligibility.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

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. As of October 16, 2021, the fully FDA approved Pfizer vaccine will now be known as COMIRNATY for ages 16 and older.

<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
  - During the pandemic, fundraising mainly supported emergency funds to keep students healthy and enrolled in college. This fall, colleges are unveiling broad capital campaigns that they'd put on hold. Fundraising announcements came in droves this fall: Cornell University seeks \$5 billion, Drake University aims to raise \$225 million, Texas State University set its goal at \$250 million and the University of Miami endeavors to raise \$2.5 billion, to name a few. Yale University is aiming to raise a whopping \$7 billion—its largest target ever. After a pandemic-caused hiatus, signature capital campaigns have returned. “I sense a return of energy after the pandemic, when everyone hunkered down a bit and was nervous about fundraising too aggressively,” said Amir Pasic, dean at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.
  
- K-12
  - Absenteeism has become part of the pandemic (and post-pandemic) conversation for a number of factors. “Several states released data in recent months showing increases in chronic absenteeism for the 2020-21 school year, and the analysis of 17 California school districts illustrates the pandemic is still taking a toll this academic year, and that chronic absenteeism is only likely to continue rising. “This year, we believe chronic absence rates are even more elevated given the rough start to school with buildings opening for in-person instruction just as the Delta variant was spreading,” said Hedy Chang, executive director of nonprofit Attendance Works, in an email. “Early chronic absence is especially problematic, as the beginning of the school year is so critical for gaining foundational knowledge that supports success in class later in the school year and building relationships to peers and teachers.”  
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/chronic-absenteeism-deepens-california-data-shows/609731/>

### **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 Kathy Hochul announced that the Biden-Harris Administration's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be making \$750 million in additional American Rescue Plan funding available for New York's Essential Plan. "If we are going to put an end to this pandemic, we need to make sure all New Yorkers have access to affordable, reliable health care coverage," Governor Hochul said. "I want to thank Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure for this funding and our ongoing partnership. The additional \$750 million in federal funding to support our Essential Plan will help us further boost coverage in New York and bring us closer to our goal of achieving health equity." <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-welcomes-750-million-federal-funding-boost-affordable-health-coverage>
- Governor Hochul announced that New York State has requested \$996 million in additional federal funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to help fulfill an unmet need among struggling tenants and landlords. Governor Hochul directed the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance — the agency administering New York's program — to apply for federal funding from reallocated sources sometime this fall. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-new-york-state-requests-additional-federal-funding-emergency-rental>
- Governor Hochul announced that \$25 million in federal funding will be used to provide free legal assistance to low-income renters facing eviction in areas of the state outside of New York City where access to free legal aid is not available to meet the need of these renters. The legal assistance is aimed at helping both tenants and landlords resolve rent-related disputes and maintaining tenants' housing stability. The awardees of this funding will be announced on Monday. "The pandemic has shown us that every New Yorker deserves the stability of a home," Governor Hochul said. "This critical funding will help struggling tenants access free legal assistance they can rely on to reach a resolution with their landlord and avoid the potential for eviction proceedings. We will continue to push for additional federal funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide relief to renters." <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-25-million-provide-free-legal-assistance-struggling-tenants>

**New York State Department of Health (DOH)**

On November 15, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "Our fight against COVID-19 is not over, but the vaccine helps us maintain the progress we've made in keeping each other safe and healthy," Governor Hochul said. "Winter months are fast approaching and we cannot let our guard down. Wear a mask indoors, wash your hands, and if you haven't gotten your vaccine, now is the time to do so. Booster shots are also available to those who continue to feel at risk to the virus. With expanded eligibility and shots readily available, getting your vaccine is as easy as ever."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-80>

On November 15, 2021, Governor Hochul released a statement regarding COVID-19 booster shots. "As Governor, I am committed to protecting the health and safety of all New Yorkers, and with the holidays coming up, we must continue to do everything we can to keep New Yorkers safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/statement-governor-kathy-hochul-covid-19-boosters>

On November 13, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that ten of New York State's mass vaccination sites will now be administering COVID-19 vaccines to newly eligible 5 to 11 year-olds. Following the CDC's recommendation of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children in this age group, New York State's Clinical Advisory Task Force endorsed the CDC recommendation and the state issued guidance to providers. Since that time, more than 50,000 New York children in this age group have received the first dose of the vaccine.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-10-state-mass-vaccination-sites-now-open-5-11-year-olds>

On November 12, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul announced 14 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 take place over a 12-week period statewide and to date, 165 sites have been set up - far surpassing this goal. The Department of Health works continuously with local county health departments, community-based organizations, and healthcare centers to provide logistical support 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 in partnership with localities.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-14-new-vaxtoschool-sites>

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>

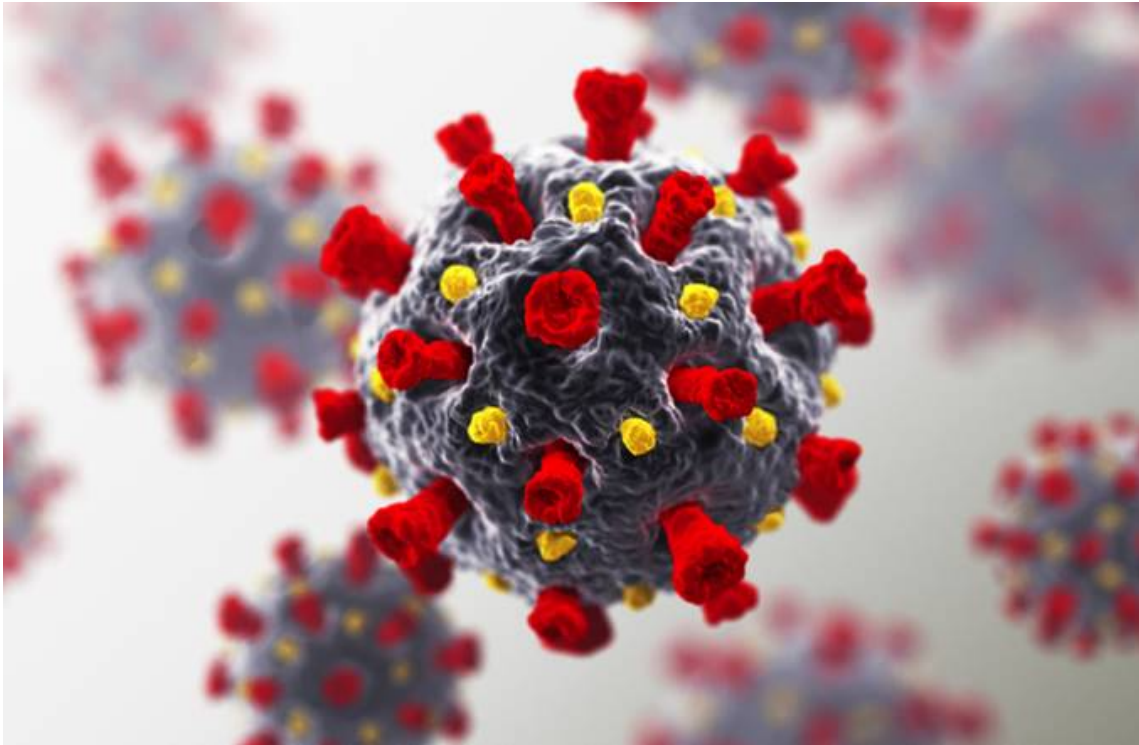
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## **New Jersey**

- Governor Phil Murphy suggested Monday that New Jersey will soon expand and simplify COVID-19 vaccine booster eligibility rules to allow all residents 18 and older to get another shot, a step beyond current federal guidelines. There are currently multiple sets of eligibility rules by age groups, jobs, and differences between brands in New Jersey. State officials acknowledge that can be confusing. “You can expect we’re going to make this even more simple in the days ahead,” Murphy said during his latest COVID-19 briefing in Trenton. “We think this is a big step we can take with the holidays coming up. We need as many people boosted as possible, plain and simple.”  
<https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2021/11/nj-likely-to-expand-simplify-covid-vaccine-booster-eligibility-soon-murphy-says.html>

## **Connecticut**

- The Connecticut Department of Social Services announced that it will deliver \$32.3 million in Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to more than 213,100 Connecticut households on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. Monthly allocations of emergency SNAP benefits are going to all enrolled households, based on continuance of a declared public health emergency related to COVID-19 in Connecticut. Authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, this federal allocation will provide a minimum of \$95 in extra food aid to all enrolled families and individuals, raising Connecticut’s total emergency SNAP funding to over \$505.7 million since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Specifically:
  - All 213,100 SNAP-eligible households statewide will receive the emergency benefits on their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards on November 17, 2021.
  - Households already eligible for the maximum monthly SNAP benefit will receive an extra \$95.
  - The remaining households that don’t usually qualify for the maximum monthly SNAP benefit because of income or other factors will receive extra benefits of at least \$95 but averaging an estimated \$154 (depending on their specific benefit situation).
  - With this additional \$32.3 million allocation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service, emergency benefits are totaling over \$505.7 million in additional SNAP assistance statewide over 19 months, with commensurate spending at supermarkets, groceries, farmers markets, and other food retailers.
  - The \$95 increase results from President Biden’s January 22, 2021, executive order, which required the USDA to consider new guidance allowing states to increase SNAP emergency benefit allocations for all households, including those previously ineligible to receive it. This increase is expected to be ongoing, contingent on the continuation of the state and federal public health emergencies.
  - All households also received their normal SNAP benefits, based on the new Thrifty Food Plan amounts, on one of the first three days of the month as they normally do, according to last name.
  - If a household is granted regular SNAP benefits on or after Monday, November 15, the additional SNAP benefits will be added to the EBT card on a Friday, depending on the date of granting.
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/11-2021/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-November-15>



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### Local Updates

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#### **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)**

On November 15, 2021, NYC Health Commissioner Dr. David Chokshi announced that anyone 18 years and older is eligible to receive COVID-19 booster shot. This announcement comes ahead of any official announcement from NYS, FDA or CDC.

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

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 November 14, 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 November 12, 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 November 15, 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 as of November 15, 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 November 12, 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:  
Local Summit Hosts Experts to Navigate COVID and the Vaccines**

Patch  
11/11/2021

<https://patch.com/new-york/larchmont/local-summit-hosts-experts-navigate-covid-vaccines-nodx>

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:**

**Last holiday season saw a deadly COVID surge. Here's what doctors say to expect this year.**

Poughkeepsie Journal  
11/5/2021

<https://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/2021/11/05/holiday-season-covid-safety-what-expect-dutchess/6295172001/>

Donald S. Chen M.D., assistant professor of medicine

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