

11-30-2021

## COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 97)

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 30, 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.*

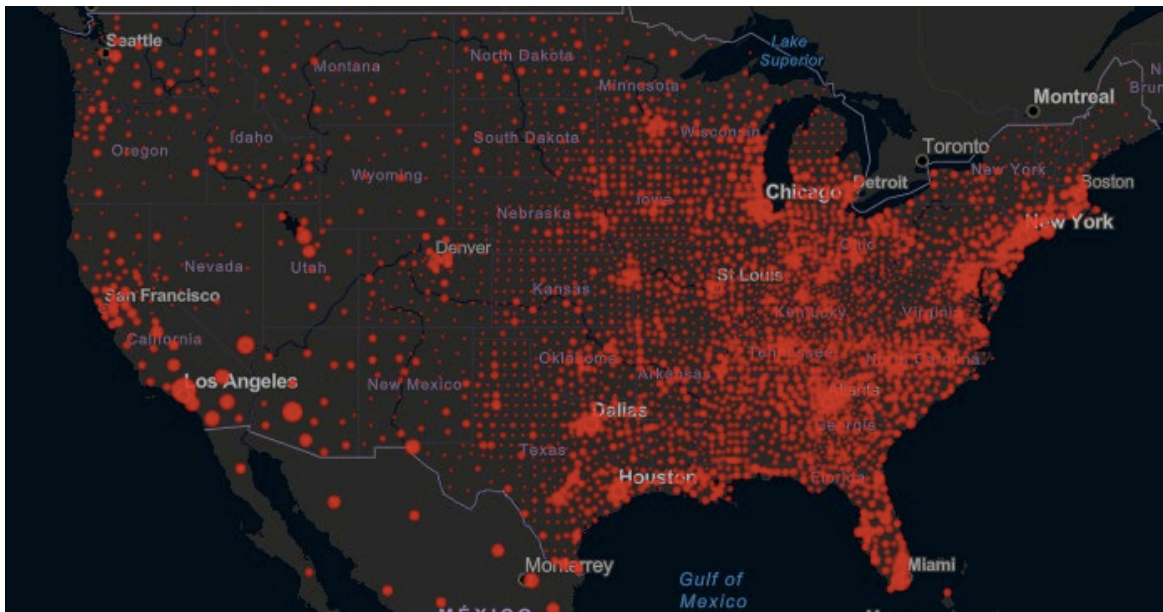
David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.  
Director  
Center for Disaster Medicine

**COVID-19 Statistics**

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	262,221,568	5,209,891	7,963,092,880
United States	48,438,037	778,601	457,529,051
New Jersey	1,249,454	28,348	13,464,109
New York	2,722,936	57,477	29,854,124
Connecticut	420,785	8,864	5,970,563

Information as of 11/30/21 at 0700 EST. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

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



**Center for Disaster Medicine Updates**

- On Tuesday, November 23, Center for Disaster Medicine offered Geriatric Emergency Medical Service (GEMS) training to the emergency responder community.
- 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 29, 2021, President Biden held a press briefing discussing the newest variant of COVID-19 – the Omicron variant. President Biden stresses the importance of vaccination and boosters in an effort to afford the population to the most protection possible.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/11/29/remarks-by-president-biden-providing-an-update-on-the-omicron-variant/>

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)**

*More than 96 percent of HHS's 88,000+ employees are vaccinated.* In response to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) release of federal COVID-19 vaccination data for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other federal agencies, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement: "President Biden set a goal of requiring COVID-19 vaccination of our federal employees by November 22, and at HHS we delivered. Nearly every member of our workforce who was asked to verify their status has reported that they are vaccinated or has requested an exception or medical extension, with some of our largest Divisions surpassing the Department-level vaccination rate. As the federal agency tasked with developing COVID-19 guidance for hundreds of millions of Americans, it is important that we follow the same guidance. As the HHS data show, we have answered the President's call with more than 96 percent of our 88,000+ employees vaccinated against COVID-19." <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/11/24/statement-hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-omb-release-federal-covid-19-vaccination-data.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

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

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

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

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

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 November 29, Dr. Wallensky commented, "Today, CDC is strengthening its recommendation on booster doses for individuals who are 18 years and older. Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster shot either when they are 6 months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or 2 months after their initial J&J vaccine. The recent emergence of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters, and prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19. Early data from South Africa suggest increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, and scientists in the United States and around the world are urgently examining vaccine effectiveness related to this variant. I strongly encourage the 47 million adults who are not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated as soon as possible and to vaccinate the children and teens in their families as well because strong immunity will likely prevent serious illness. I also want to encourage people to get a COVID-19 test if they are sick. Increased testing will help us identify Omicron quickly. And finally, to stop the spread of COVID-19 we need to follow the prevention strategies we know work."

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 8:00 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 2, 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 U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine, deliveries and administration, maps, charts, and data updated daily by 8:00 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. 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
  - A new initiative to fund efforts to support prospective first-generation college students in Nevada is modeled on an existing program designed to provide sixth-grade students a future path to college. The Dean's Future Scholars program was launched by the University of Nevada at Reno more than two decades ago with just 50 middle school students who would presumably become the first in their families to go to college. More than 1,400 students have since participated. The program was so successful that it caught the attention of State Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert, a first-generation college graduate, who advocated for using federal COVID-19 relief dollars to fund a new statewide effort. The effort was part of a recovery bill passed by the Nevada Legislature in May, which allocates \$4 million to the University of Nevada at Reno over three years to establish the Nevada First-Gen Network, a group of education institutions and organizations that are currently supporting prospective first-generation college students in the state in the aftermath of the pandemic. The bill now awaits the signature of Governor Steve Sisolak. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/11/30/nevada-lawmakers-invest-first-generation-students>
  - What are other institutions of higher education doing to mitigate the possible spread of COVID-19 when returning from the holiday break? Depending on where they go to college, students returning from the holiday break might face required testing, extended mask mandates, online classes—or no mitigation measures at all. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/11/24/colleges-impose-covid-19-protocols-thanksgiving>
  
- K-12
  - The percentage of three- and four-year-olds enrolled in public preschool increased overall from 2005 to 2019, according to a new analysis by the U.S. Census Bureau that stopped short of the pandemic's onset. During that same time period, the percentage of children in private preschools decreased. Enrollment in public preschools rose by 3.4 percentage points between 2005 and 2008, after which it dipped until 2013, likely due to the global recession and parents' inability to afford preschool. However, enrollment slowly trended upward once more between 2013 and 2019. A separate analysis confirms predictions and findings that pre-K enrollment dropped during the pandemic. For the first time since 1996, less than half of youngsters ages three and four were enrolled in preschool during the pandemic. Enrollment for this age group dropped from 54 percent in 2019 to 40 percent in 2020. Read more at <https://www.k12dive.com/news/analysis-pre-k-enrollment-rose-prior-to-pandemic/610624/>

### **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 on Upstate drive time radio a new vaccine incentive to bolster vaccination rates among New Yorkers who enjoy the great outdoors. Beginning December 1 through the end of the year, anyone that receives their first vaccine dose will have the opportunity to enter the 'Take Your Shot for an Outdoor Adventure' sweepstakes and a random drawing to win special prize packages tailored to anglers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-launches-new-take-your-shot-outdoor-adventure-vaccine-incentive-sweepstakes>
- Statement by Hochul on the new COVID-19 variant: "We are closely monitoring the emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.529, also known as the Omicron variant. The Department of Health's Wadsworth Center Laboratory will continue to actively monitor COVID-19 virus samples selected from throughout New York State to compare sequences and identify circulating and new variants. While we have not yet identified any Omicron cases, we are not surprised that new variants are emerging and may likely end up in New York. We will continue to monitor WHO actions and work with our partners at the CDC to keep a close eye on developments. I want to remind New Yorkers to continue taking the precautionary steps we know reduce the spread of this deadly virus: wear a mask in indoor public places, use proper hand hygiene, get tested, and stay home when sick. The vaccine also remains one of our greatest weapons in fighting the pandemic, and this news further emphasizes the need for each of us to get vaccinated and get the booster if you're fully vaccinated." <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/statement-governor-kathy-hochul-new-covid-variant>
- Governor Hochul announced urgent action to boost hospital capacity and address staffing shortages ahead of potential spikes in COVID-19 cases this upcoming winter. Through an Executive Order signed by Governor Hochul, the Department of Health will be allowed to limit non-essential, non-urgent procedures for in-hospitals or

systems with limited capacity to protect access to critical health care services. Limited capacity is defined as below ten percent staffed bed capacity, or as determined by the Department of Health based on regional and health care utilization factors. The new protocols will begin on Friday, December 3, and will be re-assessed based on the latest COVID-19 data on January 15. The Executive Order will also enable New York State to acquire more quickly any critical supplies to combat the pandemic. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-urgent-action-boost-hospital-capacity-and-address-staffing-shortages>

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

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**

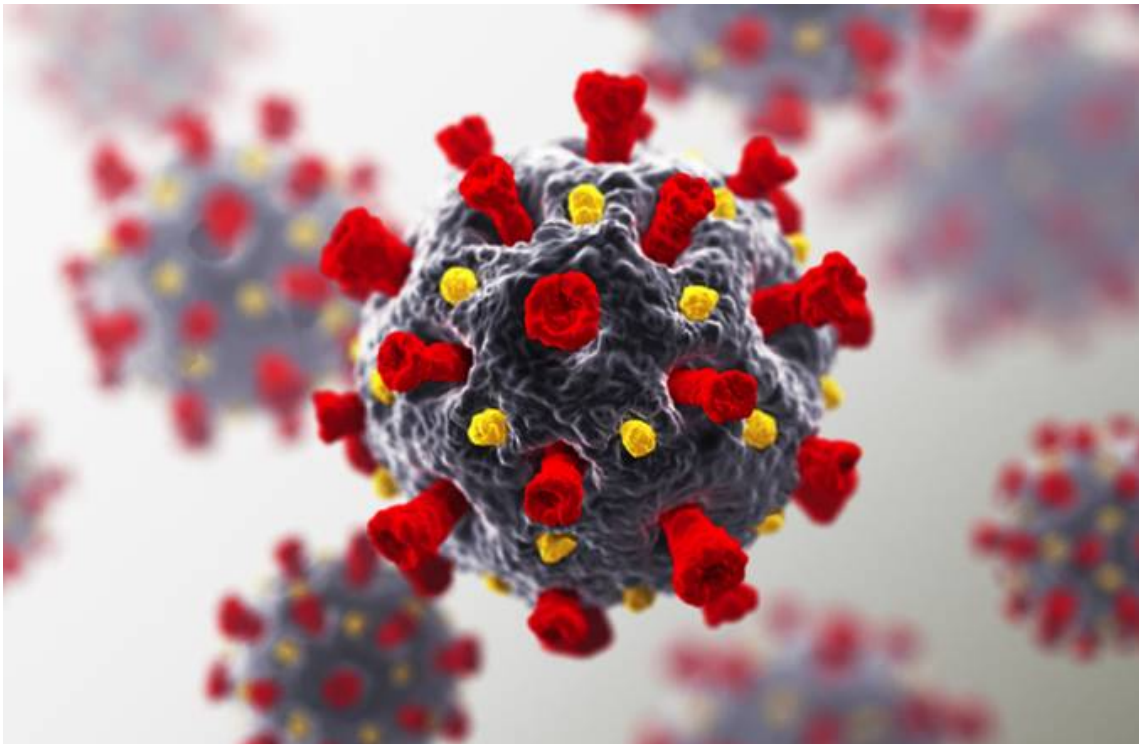
- Building on his commitment to create a stronger, fairer, and more resilient post-pandemic New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy and legislative leadership agreed to allocate nearly \$700 million to stimulate economic growth and improve public health. The funding will allocate \$435 million from the New Jersey Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund (P.L.2021, c.125) and \$262.6 million from the American Rescue Plan's State Fiscal Recovery Fund. The proposals were sent from the Department of the Treasury to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee (JBOC) for their approval of the funds. "This proposal will allow us to responsibly fund capital construction and continue using federal dollars for one-time, transformative investments in our residents, communities, and infrastructure," said Governor Murphy. "I am grateful to my colleagues in the Legislature for their commitment to help us build a stronger, fairer, and more

resilient post-pandemic New Jersey for all.”

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20211126a.shtml>

### **Connecticut**

- Governor Ned Lamont released the following statement regarding the emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.529, also known as the Omicron variant: “We are monitoring a new COVID variant of concern, which was identified by the World Health Organization on Friday. This new variant – named Omicron – was first reported to the WHO by government officials in South Africa. Our team at the Connecticut Department of Public Health, led by Commissioner Manisha Juthani, is following these developments closely. While there have been no cases of the Omicron variant reported here in Connecticut or the United States to date, we still must be vigilant. Given the number of countries where Omicron has already been detected, it may already be present in the U.S. “Earlier this year we set up a network of labs, coordinated by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, that are conducting genomic sequencing on positive test specimens to provide understanding of the variants circulating in Connecticut. Our advance planning in this area will help us track Omicron, in addition to other variants that could appear in the future. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/11-2021/Governor-Lamont-Statement-on-New-COVID-Variant-Omicron>



## 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)**

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.pae>

### **Westchester County Department of Health**

For the latest breakdown of positive cases in Westchester County as of November 30, 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 30, 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 30, 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 29, 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 29, 2021

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### **Healthcare**

As of November 26, it has been reported that New York Governor Kathy Hochul declared a disaster emergency beginning December 3, 2021 through January 15, 2022 in response to increasing COVID-19 transmission rates and hospital admissions. Among other things, the Governor's declaration allows the State to utilize the Surge and Flex system to increase hospital capacity, including by postponing non-essential elective procedures. In a press statement, Governor Hochul announced that the New York State Department of Health (DOH) would be allowed to limit such procedures by hospitals or systems with limited capacity, which is defined as below ten percent staffed bed capacity, or as determined by DOH based on regional and health care utilization factors.

<https://www.gnyha.org/news/governor-hochuls-emergency-declaration-triggers-surge-and-flex-system/>

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:**

##### **Health officials: COVID-19 surge tied to unvaccinated community**

News 12 Hudson Valley

11/23/2021

<https://hudsonvalley.news12.com/health-officials-covid-19-surge-tied-to-unvaccinated-community>

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

#### **Experts offer guidance on COVID vaccines**

Eastchester Review

11/23/2021

<https://www.eastchesterreview.com/lead-stories/experts-offer-guidance-on-covid-vaccines/>

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:**

##### **Thanksgiving's already stressful for a lot of families, and now climbing COVID cases add pressure**

Poughkeepsie Journal

11/22/2021

<https://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/coronavirus/2021/11/22/covid-anxiety-thanksgiving-2021-families-smaller-celebrations/6384379001/>

Stephen Ferrando, M.D., Har Esh Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Donald S. Chen M.D., assistant professor of medicine

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New York Medical College  
Center for Disaster Medicine  
7 Dana Road Suite 511  
Valhalla, New York 10595  
914-594-1750

<https://www.nymc.edu/center-for-disaster-medicine/>