

12-7-2021

COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 98)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

Follow this and additional works at: https://touro scholar.touro.edu/nymc_covid19_newsletter



Part of the [Infectious Disease Commons](#), [Influenza Humans Commons](#), and the [Virus Diseases Commons](#)



NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE TOURO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Center for Disaster Medicine



Tuesday December 7, 2021

During this COVID-19 pandemic and other future events, the Center for Disaster Medicine (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

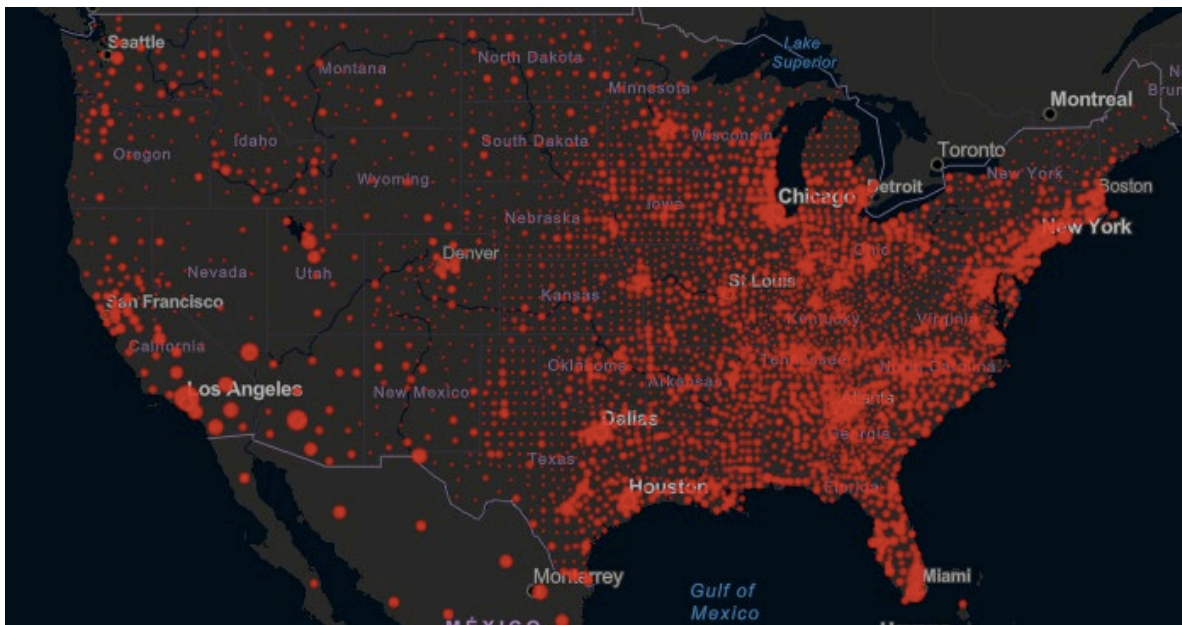
COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses
--	-------------	--------------	---------------------

			Admin.
Worldwide	266,449,429	5,262,356	8,220,747,182
United States	49,278,242	789,742	469,470,147
New Jersey	1,275,717	28,465	13,829,601
New York	2,788,476	57,816	30,686,689
Connecticut	430,756	8,925	6,142,778

Information as of 12/7/21 at 0000 EST. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS



Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

- On Tuesday November 23rd Center for Disaster Medicine offered Geriatric Emergency Medical Service (GEMS) 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 December 3, 2021, the White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials led by Drs. Walensky and Fauci conducted a press briefing regarding the COVID-19 national response.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/12/03/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-71/>

On December 2, 2021, President Biden provided an updated on the COVID-19 Winter Plan which focuses on five areas: continuing national booster campaigns, launching national family vaccination clinics, distributing free at-home tests, increasing “surge” response teams, and accelerating efforts to vaccinate the rest of the world.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/12/02/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-covid-19-winter-plan/>

On December 2, 2021, President Biden announced new actions to protect Americans against the Delta and Omicron variants as we battle COVID-19 this winter. President Biden outlined a plan regarding ongoing COVID-19 response which includes: Boosters for All Adults, Vaccinations to Protect Our Kids and Keep Our Schools Open, Expanding Free At-Home Testing for Americans, Stronger Public Health Protocols for Safe International Travel, Protections in Workplaces to Keep Our Economy Open, Rapid Response Teams to Help Battle Rising Cases, Supplying Treatment Pills to Help Prevent Hospitalizations and Death, Continued Commitment to Global Vaccination Efforts, Steps to Ensure We Are Prepared for All Scenarios,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/02/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-new-actions-to-protect-americans-against-the-delta-and-omicron-variants-as-we-battle-covid-19-this-winter/>

On December 1, 2021, White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Jeff Zients provided a statement on first case of the Omicron COVID-19 Variant in the United States.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/01/statement-from-white-house-covid-19-response-coordinator-jeff-zients-on-first-case-of-the-omicron-covid-19-variant-in-the-united-states/>

On November 30, 2021, the White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials led by Drs. Walensky and Fauci conducted a press briefing regarding the COVID-19 national response focusing on omicron variant and preparedness measures undertaken by The United States.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/11/30/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-70/>

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 December 3, 2021, A Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Release of Department's Division-Level COVID-19 Vaccination Data- HHS Secretary provided a follow up to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) release last week of federal COVID-19 vaccination data for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other federal agencies, HHS released vaccination data for its Divisions, which show that some have exceeded the Department's vaccination rate of more than 97 percent.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/12/03/statement-hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-release-of-departments-division-level-covid-19-vaccination-data.html>

On December 3, 2021, New HHS Study Shows 63-Fold Increase in Medicare Telehealth Utilization During the Pandemic- A new report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) found that massive increases in the use of telehealth helped maintain some health care access during the COVID-19 pandemic, with specialists like behavioral health providers seeing the highest telehealth utilization relative to other providers. The report, which was produced by researchers in HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) and analyzes Medicare fee for service (FFS) data in 2019 and 2020, also highlights that telehealth services were accessed more in urban areas than rural communities, and Black Medicare beneficiaries were less likely than White beneficiaries to utilize telehealth.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/12/03/new-hhs-study-shows-63-fold-increase-in-medicare-telehealth-utilization-during-pandemic.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>

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA Expands Authorization of Two Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment and Post-Exposure Prevention of COVID-19 to Younger Pediatric Patients, Including Newborns- On December 3, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration revised the emergency use authorization (EUA) of bamlanivimab and etesevimab (previously authorized for pediatric patients 12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kilograms, or about 88 pounds), to additionally authorize bamlanivimab and etesivimab administered together for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in all younger pediatric patients, including newborns, who have a positive COVID-19 test and are at high risk for progression to

severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. This revision also authorizes bamlanivimab and etesevimab, to be administered together, for post-exposure prophylaxis for prevention of COVID-19 in all pediatric patients, including newborns, at high risk of progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-expands-authorization-two-monoclonal-antibodies-treatment-and-post-exposure-prevention-covid-19>

FDA Actively Working to Investigate, Address Potential Impacts of Omicron Variant and Urges Vaccination and Boosters- the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is actively working with our federal partners, international regulators and medical product companies to quickly address any potential impacts of the new omicron variant on the tools to fight the pandemic.

The agency is working as quickly as possible to evaluate the potential impact of this variant on the currently available diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. We are closely monitoring the situation and are committed to communicating with the public as we learn more.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-actively-working-investigate-address-potential-impacts-omicron>

As of November 30, 2021, 423 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 40 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, 11 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and three EUAs for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 20 antigen tests and nine molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 696 revisions to test EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-november-30-2021>

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)

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 pm 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) +

On December 3, 2021, Biden-Harris Administration Makes 100% Federal Medicaid Matching Funds Available for State Expenditures on Certain COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Visits for Children and Youth- The Biden-Harris Administration, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, is now requiring states to cover COVID-19 vaccine counseling visits in which healthcare providers talk to families about the importance of kids' vaccination. Medicaid provides health insurance coverage to over 40% of all children in the United States and are a significant source of coverage for Black and brown children. Today's action will help expand access to individualized medical advice in all communities and give families the support they need to engage with trusted community providers.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-makes-100-federal-medicaid-matching-funds-available-state-expenditures>

On December 2, 2021, CMS Encourages People with Medicare to get COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot- As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing efforts to ensure that Americans are vaccinated against COVID-19 and to reduce stress across the nation's health care system, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is encouraging those with Medicare who are fully vaccinated to get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Data shows that a COVID-19 vaccine booster does increase immune response, which improves protection against COVID-19.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/news-alert/cms-encourages-people-medicare-get-covid-19-vaccine-booster-shot>

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 December 7, 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 December 3, 2021, CDC Tightens Testing Requirement for International Travel to the US to One Day- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is revising the current Global Testing Order to shorten the timeline for required testing for all international air travelers to one day before departure to the United States. This revision strengthens already robust protocols in place for international travel, including requirements for foreign travelers to be fully vaccinated. As we learn more about the Omicron variant, this new one-day testing policy will help to protect travelers and 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. Beginning December 6, all air travelers, regardless of citizenship or vaccination status, will be required to show a negative pre-departure COVID-19 viral test taken the day before they board their flight to the United States. For example, a passenger whose flight to the United States is at any time on a Sunday would need to have a negative test taken at any time on Saturday. CDC continues to recommend that all travelers get a COVID-19 viral test 3-5 days after arrival, and that unvaccinated travelers should quarantine for 7 days after travel. Both the U.S. Government and the airline industry are committed to making this process as seamless as possible for the traveling public. These travel requirements will be effective for air travel to the United States from any foreign country departing at or after 12:01AM ET on December 6, 2021.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1203-covid-testing-tightens-intl.html>

On December 1, 2021, First Confirmed Case of Omicron Variant Detected in the United States- The California and San Francisco Departments of Public Health have confirmed that a recent case of COVID-19 among an individual in California was caused by the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529). The individual was a traveler who returned from South Africa on November 22, 2021. The individual had mild symptoms that are improving, is self-quarantining and has been since testing positive. All close contacts have been contacted and have tested negative. Genomic sequencing was conducted at the University of California, San Francisco and the sequence was confirmed at CDC as being consistent with the Omicron variant. This was the first confirmed case of COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant detected in the United States.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1201-omicron-variant.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
 - Congress reached an agreement Thursday to temporarily fund the federal government, once again delaying the annual appropriations process and locking in the Trump administration's higher education funding levels for at least the next two months. With passage of the stopgap funding bill, Congress met its Friday deadline and averted a government shutdown. The House and Senate now have until Feb. 18 to reach an agreement on the language of the 12 appropriations bills that fund activities by the federal government, including at the Department of Education. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/12/06/congress-averts-government-shutdown-delays-higher-ed-budget>
 - When the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 appeared in South Africa, students at the Tshwane University of Technology were some of the first people to test positive for the variant, which the World Health Organization has labeled "of concern." In response, officials at the public university in Pretoria delayed exams, the Associated Press reported. Days later, a student at the University of Nottingham was identified as one of the first Omicron cases in the United Kingdom. U.S. college and university officials are now wondering when Omicron will appear on their campuses. As of Tuesday evening, no Omicron cases had been identified in the U.S., but Gerri Taylor, co-chair of the American College Health Association COVID-19 task force, said it's not a question of if but

when the variant will be detected Stateside.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/12/01/colleges-must-prepare-inevitable-arrival-omicron>

- K-12
 - Schools have become accustomed to flexing protocols to respond to the rapidly changing pandemic environment but navigating “long COVID” — persistent and recurring post-COVID conditions experienced for four or more weeks after initial infection — remains uncharted territory. In July, the White House classified the lingering effects of chronic post-COVID syndrome a disability, which means employers and schools must provide needed accommodations in compliance with Section 504 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. To read more, visit:
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/what-can-schools-do-to-navigate-the-effects-of-long-covid/610687/>

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 an additional \$5.7 million in federal funding is available from New York's Marine Fisheries Relief Program, established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, to provide financial relief for New York's marine fishing industry. Eligible seafood, commercial marine fishing, marine aquaculture, and marine recreational for-hire fishing businesses are eligible to apply for the funding beginning Dec. 1. This funding is in addition to the \$6.7 million in assistance provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, for a total of \$12.4 million in aid for New York's seafood, marine commercial, and for-hire fishing industries after excessive business losses in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-second-round-federal-funding-provide-57-million-covid-19-relief-new>
- Governor Hochul announced a new initiative to build upon extensive efforts already underway by the New York State Department of Labor to connect job seekers to the record more than 220,000 available jobs, tools and training resources. "After the hardship New York's workforce has experienced as a result of COVID-19, it is crucial that we connect individuals looking for jobs with businesses looking to hire," **Governor Hochul said**. "Streamlining the recruitment process benefits everyone involved, as well as the state as a whole. I look forward to seeing the good that will stem from this initiative as we build New York back better and stronger than it's ever been before." <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-statewide-initiative-help-connect-job-seekers-employment>
- Governor Hochul launched the statewide "Boost Up, New York" campaign to urge New York adults to get their booster dose for better protection against COVID-19. As the state monitors for the Omicron variant, the new education and advertising effort reminds New Yorkers that a boost against COVID-19 is needed to maximize protection, prolong the vaccine's durability, and help safeguard communities and loved ones against the virus. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-launches-boost-new-york-campaign-urging-new-yorkers-get-their-booster-shot>
- Governor Hochul announced the first confirmed cases of the COVID-19 Omicron variant in New York State. So far, the five cases appear unrelated and have been confirmed through sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. One case is from Suffolk County with a history of travel to South Africa. The individual was asymptomatic while traveling home and after returning became symptomatic. Sequencing performed at the Pandemic Response Lab (PRL) confirmed the presence of the Omicron variant. The other four cases are New York City residents. Two cases from Queens and one from Brooklyn were confirmed at PRL, while the other case, whose borough of residence is still being determined, was confirmed by the New York City Public Health Lab. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-five-confirmed-covid-19-omicron-variant-cases-new-york>

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On December 6, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the detection of four more confirmed cases of the COVID-19 Omicron variant in New York State, for a total of 12 confirmed cases. The cases have been confirmed through sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by the New York

State Department of Health's Wadsworth Center. Two of the new cases are from Suffolk County and two are from Oneida County.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-four-more-confirmed-covid-19-omicron-variant-cases-detected-new-york>

On December 6, 2021, Governor Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "We have to stay vigilant as the new variant, winter weather, and more time spent indoors with friends and family increases the likelihood of the virus spreading," Governor Hochul said. "But we are not where we were a year ago - we now have the tools to fight this pandemic and prevent New Yorkers from getting severely ill from COVID-19. Get vaccinated if you haven't already, get your booster if you have, encourage others to get the shot, and mask up."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-99>

On December 3, 2021, Governor Hochul announced the selection of six mental health providers to receive up to \$9 million over five years to support community programs that identify and assist adults age 55 or older whose independence or survival in the community is in jeopardy because of a mental health, substance use, or aging-related concern.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-9-million-awards-expand-mental-health-addiction-and-aging-services>

On December 1, 2021, Governor Hochul announced an additional \$5.7 million in federal funding is available from New York's Marine Fisheries Relief Program, established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, to provide financial relief for New York's marine fishing industry. Eligible seafood, commercial marine fishing, marine aquaculture, and marine recreational for-hire fishing businesses are eligible to apply for the funding beginning Dec. 1. This funding is in addition to the \$6.7 million in assistance provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, for a total of \$12.4 million in aid for New York's seafood, marine commercial, and for-hire fishing industries after excessive business losses in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-second-round-federal-funding-provide-57-million-covid-19-relief-new>

For a list of positive cases by county in New York State-

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

NYS DOH has created a dynamic COVID-19 Tracker which provides COVID-19 information regarding testing, cases, percentages, and fatalities across New York State. It also breaks down cases by county.

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH

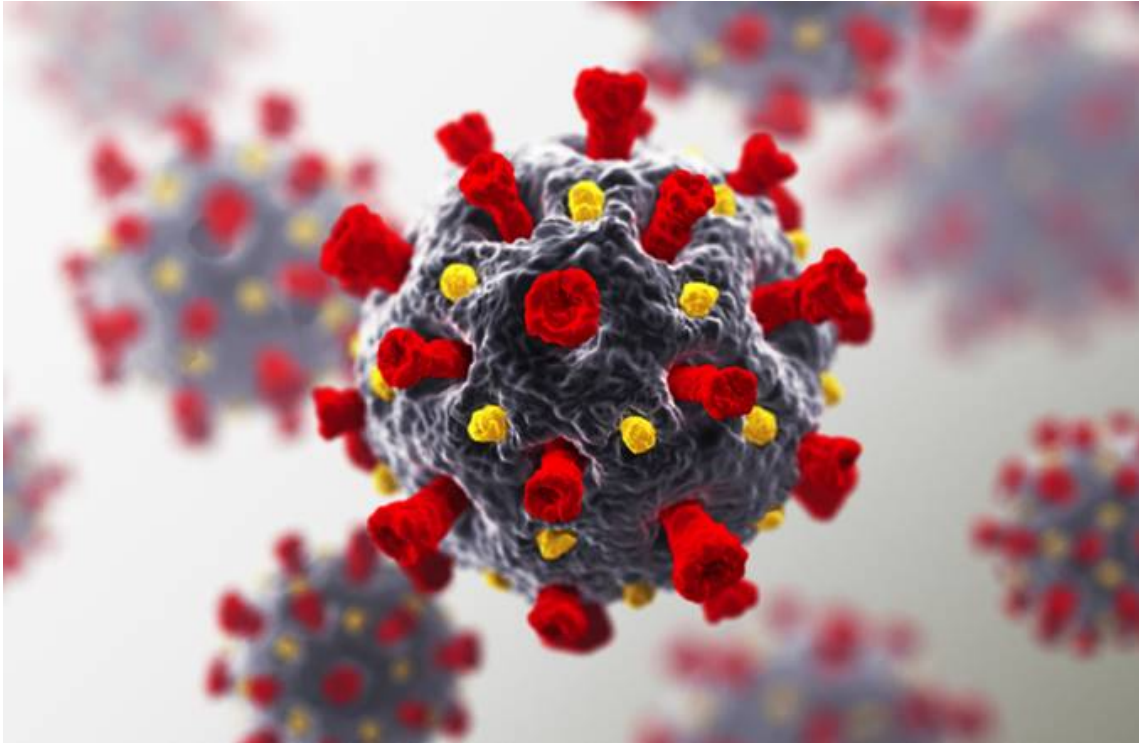
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

New Jersey

- On December 3, 2021 Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Judy Persichilli announced that the New Jersey Department of Health has identified a case of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) in a traveler to the state. The individual, an adult female, who is a fully vaccinated Georgia resident, had recently traveled to South Africa. Since testing positive on November 28, the woman has remained in isolation. She experienced moderate symptoms and is now recovering after receiving care in a North Jersey emergency department. The New Jersey Department of Health laboratory performed sequencing on the specimen to confirm it was the Omicron variant. <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20211203d.shtml>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced the first confirmed case of the COVID-19 Omicron variant in Connecticut. Sequencing performed at the Connecticut State Public Health Laboratory confirmed the presence of the variant. The case involves a man in his 60s from Hartford County who developed mild symptoms on November 27. An at-home COVID-19 test was positive on November 29 and a subsequent molecular test was positive on December 1. A family member traveled to New York City between November 17 and November 22 to attend the Anime NYC 2021 convention at the Javits Center. That family member developed mild symptoms on November 21, and on November 23 took an at-home COVID-19 test that delivered a positive result. The family member's symptoms have resolved. COVID-19 testing on additional family members is pending. The affected individual and their family member are fully vaccinated. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/12-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-First-Confirmed-COVID-19-Omicron-Variant-Case-in-Connecticut>



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)

On December 6, 2021, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced major expansions to the “Key to NYC” program, the first-in-nation vaccination mandate for workers and customers at indoor dining, fitness, entertainment and performance venues. Starting December 14th, the program will require children aged 5-11 to show proof of one vaccination dose for those venues. Starting December 27th, New Yorkers aged 12 and older will be required to show proof of two vaccine doses, instead of one, except for those who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The mayor also announced a first-in-the-nation vaccine mandate for private-sector workers. The mandate, which will take effect on December 27th, will apply to roughly 184,000 businesses. Finally, the mayor announced 5-11-year-old children will be required to get vaccinated to participate in high-risk extracurricular activities. These activities include sports, band, orchestra, and dance. This requirement for the initial vaccine dose will take effect on December 14th.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/807-21/mayor-de-blasio-vaccine-mandate-private-sector-workers-major-expansions-to>

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 December 5, 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 December 2, 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 December 6, 2021

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/covid-19-dashboard.htm>

For the latest COVID-19 information:

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>

Orange County Department of Health

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY as of December 6, 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 December 6, 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:

Power & Politics Full Show: What do we know about omicron variant?

News 12 Westchester

12/5/2021

<https://westchester.news12.com/power-and-politics-full-show-what-do-we-know-about-omicron-variant>

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

Fog and friction: The invisible enemy that is COVID-19 Long Haul Syndrome | Opinion

The Journal News

12/3/2021

<https://www.lohud.com/story/opinion/2021/12/03/fog-and-friction-enemy-covid-19-long-haul-syndrome/8851272002/>

Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H., FAAN, FAES, vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, associate dean of student affairs and associate professor of neurology and of medicine

School Closures Aren't Just for Covid Anymore

The Wall Street Journal (login required)

11/28/2021

https://www.wsj.com/articles/school-closures-arent-just-for-covid-anymore-education-children-shutdown-remote-learning-11638116323?mod=Searchresults_pos1&page=1

Royal S. Copeland, M.D., (1868-1938) was dean of NYMC from 1908 to 1918

Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information in this newsletter. However, New York Medical College cannot guarantee that there will be no errors. NYMC makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of the newsletters or the articles linked herein and further expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this newsletter.

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.



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/>