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COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 102)

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 January 4, 2022

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	292,563,815	5,449,508	9,214,046,229
United States	56,191,523	827,749	505,560,351
New Jersey	1,644,839	29,073	14,946,060
New York	3,684,152	59,760	34,256,514
Connecticut	533,866	9,210	6,638,228

Information as of 1/4/22 at 0300 EST. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS



Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

- Coordinating and overseeing COVID-19 screenings at NYMC campus.
- Continue to partner with local organizations including the 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.

The White House

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials- On December 29, 2021, Drs. Fauci and Walensky provided an update regarding the COVID-19 response.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/12/29/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-76/>

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 29, 2021, The Biden-Harris Administration brought two new over-the-counter, at-home COVID-19 tests to the U.S. market. The tests, one manufactured by SD Biosensor and distributed by Roche and the other manufactured by Siemens, have received emergency use authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after being evaluated through the Administration's new accelerated pathway to support FDA review of tests with potential for large-scale manufacturing that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced just two months ago.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/12/29/two-new-over-the-counter-at-home-covid-19-tests-brought-to-us-market-quickly-by-biden-harris-administration.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)

On January 3, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to:

- Expand the use of a single booster dose to include use in individuals 12 through 15 years of age.
- Shorten the time between the completion of primary vaccination of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and a booster dose to at least five months.
- Allow for a third primary series dose for certain immunocompromised children 5 through 11 years of age.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-takes-multiple-actions-expand-use-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>

As of December 28, 2021, 419 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 290 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 87 antibody and other immune response tests and 42 antigen tests. There are 67 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, 12 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and three EUAs for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 23 antigen tests and nine molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 747 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-december-28-2021>

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 8:00 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 December 28, 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 January 3, 2022, Governor Hochul announced a partnership with SUNY and Syracuse University in which 10 new testing sites will be opening on State University of New York campuses across the state and at Syracuse University the week of Jan. 3. More campus sites will open in the coming weeks as the project expands.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-new-testing-sites-open-suny-campus-across-new-york-state>

On January 3, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul today updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "Let's celebrate the first day of school in 2022 by ensuring we are taking the proper precautions to keep them open through the rest of the year," Governor Hochul said. "We know how to overcome this winter surge: Get the vaccine, get the booster, mask up, get tested and stay home if you're feeling sick. If we don't use these tools, many more in our communities will get sick."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-127>

On December 31, 2021, Governor Hochul announced Winter Surge Plan 2.0, a new targeted effort to bolster New York's fight against the winter surge. Governor Hochul's comprehensive plan focuses on five core areas: keeping students in school, doubling

down on masks and testing, preventing severe illness and death, increasing access to vaccines and boosters, and working together with local leaders. Hours before the New Year began, Governor Hochul also urged New Yorkers to celebrate New Year's Eve in a safe, responsible way.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-winter-surge-plan-20>

On December 29, 2021, Governor Hochul announced during a visit to Plattsburgh that \$78 million in funding is now available through the Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV). The federal program administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal is now accepting [applications](#) to help eligible communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-78-million-federal-funds-now-available-help-communities-respond>

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
 - Remember the start of the fall semester, when college presidents spoke about how their institutions could resume normal operations? Fast-forward to the last weeks of December, and it's clear the pandemic isn't close to being gone. Omicron, a variant of the coronavirus, has spread in

the United States and is now the dominant form of SARS-CoV-2 found here. Many colleges, especially those where the winter quarter or spring semester begins today, are adjusting their academic calendars. Some colleges are holding a few weeks of classes online, and some of those colleges are discouraging students from returning to campus. Other colleges have delayed the start of their semesters. Some are switching the start of the semester to online only. January terms, in which students study one subject for a few weeks, have largely gone online. Some colleges announced their decisions before Christmas. Other announcements came on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Read more at: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/01/03/colleges-face-question-starting-semester-amid-covid-19>

- K-12
 - “American schools are ringing in another year of anxiety and uncertainty, as COVID-19’s fast-spreading Omicron variant forces campuses to redeploy their pandemic playbooks just as students return from winter break.” Read more about COVID-19’s turbulent new year for American schools at: <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-education/2022/01/03/covid-19s-turbulent-new-year-for-american-schools-799620>

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 Hochul announced New York State's success in awarding \$900 million in Child Care Stabilization Grants to childcare programs statewide. The grants are part of a \$2.3 billion package of investments in New York State's childcare industry funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) awarded funding to nearly 15,000 eligible childcare providers over four months, from August through November. "Childcare is the backbone of our economy, and this transformative investment is critical to building our economic recovery," Governor Hochul said. "This funding is a lifeline to providers and helps ensure New Yorkers have access to quality childcare across the state. I am proud of our success in getting these funds out the door to the essential workers who care for our youngest." The funds are being administered by OCFS to cover the costs of personnel, rent or mortgage, utilities, facility maintenance or improvements, personal protective equipment, supplies needed to respond to COVID-19, goods and services needed to maintain or resume child care services, mental health supports for children and employees, health and safety training for staff, and more. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-success-child-care-stabilization-grant-initiative>
- Governor Hochul announced issuance of spring semester reopening guidance for SUNY and CUNY campuses which includes the continuation of the student vaccine mandate as well as requiring all students regularly accessing campus to receive the COVID-19 booster for the spring semester. Additional requirements for students also include mandatory pre-testing ahead of their semester return, which will apply to all students who plan to regularly access campus. Each campus will develop and communicate an ongoing testing plan to monitor for positive cases throughout the semester. Campuses will continue to enforce universal indoor masking regardless of vaccination status and social distancing for anyone who is unvaccinated on campus — as New York State continues to help communities respond to the uptick in COVID cases. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-spring-semester-guidance-has-been-issued-suny-and-cuny-campuses>
- Governor Hochul announced a new partnership between the New York State Department of Health and the New York National Guard that will train soldiers to become certified EMTs, resulting in additional service members eligible for clinical deployments at health care facilities in need of staff due to the winter surge of COVID-19. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-partnership-between-nys-department-health-and-new-york-national>
- Governor Hochul announced that applications are now being accepted for the New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF), a program that will provide up to \$539 million in aid or other direct assistance to help eligible homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure, or displacement due to financial hardship caused by the pandemic. New York was the first state in the nation to receive U.S. Department of the Treasury

approval to launch its program. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-applications-now-being-accepted-539-million-homeowner-assistance>

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>

New Jersey

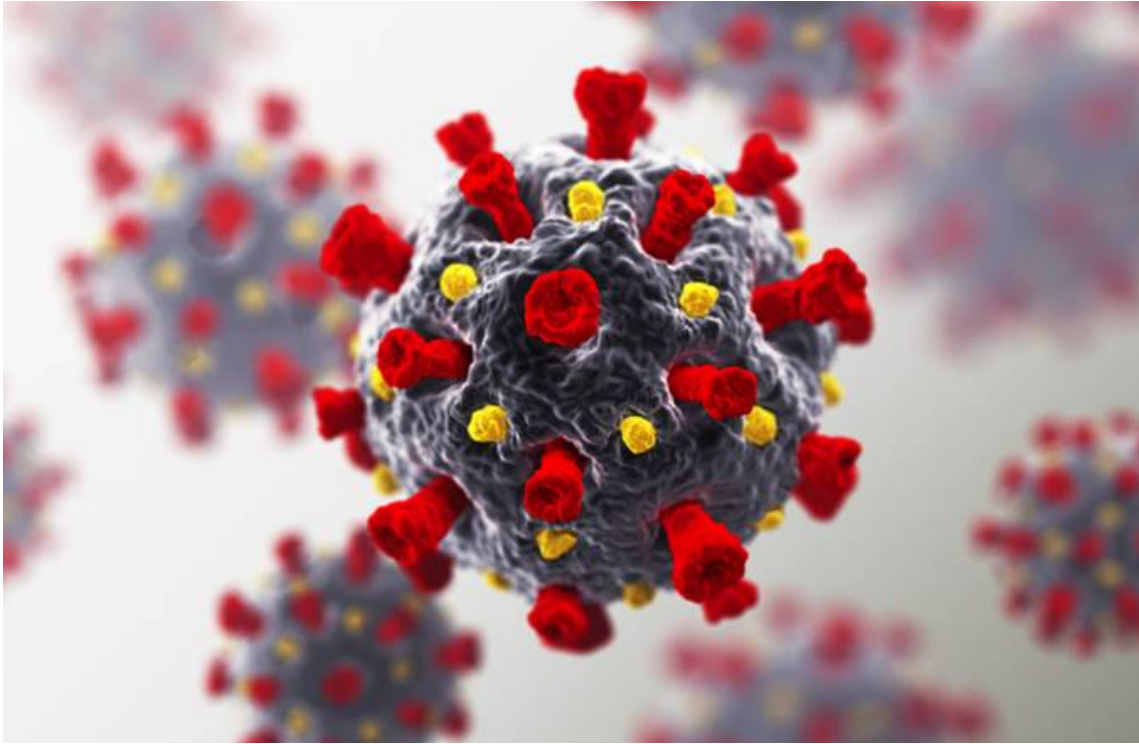
- To increase availability of COVID-19 testing in the state, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will establish a surge testing site in New Jersey. The site will be part of the CDC's Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) for COVID-19 Surge Response effort, which partners with pharmacies and commercial laboratories to provide free testing resources to underserved communities. The New Jersey Department of Health is working with CDC officials to determine a location for the surge testing site, when a location is selected and a timeline for opening is established it will be announced to the public. <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20211227a.shtml>

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that he is calling up nearly 100 Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen to assist in the logistical operations for the immediate

distribution of the three million COVID-19 at-home rapid tests and six million N95 masks that he announced the state has purchased to help curb the spread of COVID-19 during this heavy travel and holiday season. The at-home tests and N95 masks are being distributed by the state to municipalities and school districts. Each municipality and school district will then determine how best to provide them to people who live in their respective cities and towns. While ordered to duty, the Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen will also perform missions to alleviate the effects caused by the current Omicron variant surge. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/12-2021/Governor-Lamont-Calls-up-Connecticut-National-Guard-Soldiers-and-Airmen-to-Assist>

- Governor Lamont announced that he is directing the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services to retroactively enhance the 2020 Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 23 percent of the federal credit to 41.5 percent. The additional state tax refund will provide needed economic support to low-to-moderate income working individuals and families disproportionately burdened by COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts. The enhancement will benefit 198,708 households that earned up to \$56,844 in 2020 and filed for that year's EITC. The amount of each household's enhanced credit is need-tested and depends on the size of its federal credit, which the IRS calculates based on taxpayers' income, marital status, and number of qualifying children. For example, a single parent of two at the federal poverty level who received a \$1,246 state credit in the spring will now receive an additional \$1,002 for a total state credit of \$2,248. The \$75 million cost of the enhanced credit will be covered by the final portion of the state's \$1.38 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund, made available through the federal CARES Act. Connecticut previously used its Coronavirus Relief Fund to purchase PPE, expand access to testing, and support schools, small businesses, non-profits, nursing homes, hospitals, renters, homeowners, public colleges, and municipalities dealing with the unexpected costs of COVID-19. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/12-2021/Governor-Lamont-Directs-EITC-for-2020-To-Be-Retroactively-Enhanced>



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.

<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 January 2, 2022
<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 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 January 3, 2022.

<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 January 2, 2022.

<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 January 3, 2022.

<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:

How to Keep Your Kids and Family Safe From the Omicron COVID-19 Variant

Very Well Health

12/20/2021

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/the-omicron-covid-19-variant-and-kids-what-you-need-to-know-5212371>

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

Viome Life Sciences announces discovery of signature for detecting early stage cancer and launch of its Grants Program

NBC Right Now

12/16/2021

https://www.nbcrightnow.com/news/state/viome-life-sciences-announces-discovery-of-signature-for-detecting-early-stage-cancer-and-launch-of/article_44be566f-6da8-5ba8-a9b1-d4d44271f751.html

Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D., vice president for research, NYMC, and senior vice president for research affairs, Touro College and University System

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