2-22-2022

COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 107)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

Tuesday, February 22, 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.

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Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	426,219,106	5,896,937	10,400,274,337
United States	78,529,492	935,992	548,154,647
New Jersey	2,155,400	32,647	16,438,280
New York	4,910,920	67,034	37,573,510
Connecticut	720,618	10,374	7,249,762

Information as of 2/22/22 at 0600 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 includingWestchester 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.
- On February 7, 2020, CDC assistant director George W. Contreras, DrPH(c), MEP, MPH, MS, CEM was invited guest speaker at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing undergraduate program. He presented a special lecture entitled "Nursing and Disasters" which discussed the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration among public health, disaster medicine and nursing.

The White House

On February 18, 2022, President Biden sent letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate on the Continuation of the National Emergency Concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic.
https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/18/letter-to-the-speaker-of-the-house-of-representatives-and-president-of-the-senate-on-the-continuation-of-the-national-emergency-concerning-the-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-pandemic/

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials- On February 16, 2022, Drs. Fauci and Walensky provided an update regarding the COVID-19 response.
https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2022/02/16/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-83/

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 February 18, 2022, Secretary Becerra Encourages COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters, Spotlights Community Efforts to Increase Vaccine Confidence in Florida- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra urged Floridians to get vaccinated and boosted and spotlighted the Biden-Harris Administration's work to boost vaccine confidence, COVID-19 testing, and support frontline workers. During the trip, Secretary Becerra hosted a roundtable with a grassroots organization working to increase vaccinations and vaccine confidence in the Black community, visited a COVID-19 testing site, and toured a hospital. Throughout the trip, he engaged with local elected leaders, volunteers, and health care workers who have been fighting to keep Americans healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.
https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/02/18/in-florida-secretary-becerra-encourages-covid-19-vaccinations-boosters-spotlights-community-efforts-increase-vaccine-confidence.html

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS
https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

On February 17, 2022, NIH announced that scientists pinpoint mechanisms associated with severe COVID-19 blood clotting- After studying blood samples from 244 patients hospitalized for COVID-19, a group of researchers, including those who work at the National Institutes of Health,

identified "rogue antibodies" that correlate with severe illness and may help explain mechanisms associated with severe blood clotting. The researchers found circulating antiphospholipid antibodies, which can be more common among people with autoimmune disorders, such as lupus. However, these "autoantibodies," which target a person's own organs and systems, can also be activated in response to viral infections and activate other immune responses.
https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/scientists-pinpoint-mechanisms-associated-severe-covid-19-blood-clotting

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

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of February 18, 2022, 420 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 290 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 85 antibody and other immune response tests and 45 antigen tests. There are 70 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, 15 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and three EUAs for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 26 antigen tests and 10 molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 835 revisions to EUA authorizations.
https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-roundup-february-18-2022

For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19.
https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-019-covid-19

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

On February 18, 2022, CDC issued new reports on Health and Well-being of Children During COVID-19 Pandemic- CDC released two new reports in MMWR that provide important insights on the health and well-being of children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic.
https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0218-children-wellbeing-covid-19.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 February 22, 2022, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted full approval to Pfizer. On January 31, 2022, the FDA granted full approval to Moderna. Now with two vaccines with full FDA approval and one vaccine with EUA, 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 February 20, 2021, Governor Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "The vaccine is a key tool to beat back this virus and keep our families safe," Governor Hochul said. "Parents and guardians, please talk to your pediatrician or health care provider about getting your children vaccinated, and boosted if eligible, if you haven't already."
https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-185

On February 16, 2022, Governor Hochul announced 29 new #VaxForKids pop-up vaccination sites to increase vaccination rates among children and adolescents. The new sites support the state's goal of ensuring New York children 5 years and older get vaccinated and keep up with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including the booster. "New York State ranks first among large states in fully vaccinated adolescents, thanks in part to our #VaxForKids program that brings the vaccine directly to communities, with over 222 sites established to date," Governor Hochul said. "The vaccine is doctor-approved and our best tool to keep our families and communities safe from COVID-19. Parents and guardians, please talk to your child's pediatrician or health care provider about getting your child vaccinated if you haven't already."
https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-29-new-vaxforkids-sites

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. As of January 31, 2022, the fully FDA approved Moderna vaccine will now be known as SPIKEVAX for ages 18 and older.
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 string of states lifting indoor mask mandates means changes are in store for a number of public colleges in the U.S., though others will continue with face coverings for the foreseeable future. Following a slowdown in the latest COVID-19 surge, a handful of states across the country have dropped mask mandates in recent days. Now states including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Nevada, New Jersey, New York and Oregon are changing their mask requirements—some effective are immediately, and others will be rolled out over time. However, some states will still require those working and studying in colleges and K-12 schools to continue to mask up as a COVID-19 precaution. For a more in-depth look at how some of these schools vary, please read more at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/02/15/colleges-follow-states-lifting-mask-mandates

- K-12
  - The $14.2 billion Affordable Connectivity Program, funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed in November, has enrolled 10 million households to help provide broadband to low-income families, the Biden administration announced Monday. The program provides financial assistance up to $30 per month for internet service for eligible households and $75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands, according to the Federal Communications Commission. Eligible households can receive up to $100 in a one-time discount to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if the household spends between $10 and $50 toward the purchase. Among the 28.2 million U.S. households that do not have access to the internet, 18.1 million are in communities with broadband infrastructure but cannot afford to connect, according to a fall report by EducationSuperHighway, a

nonprofit focused on closing the digital divide.
https://www.k12dive.com/news/district-outreach-critical-as-10m-households-benefit-from-affordable-connec/618954/

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 today announced the availability of up to $1.5 million in federal funding under the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) to allow providers to expand telehealth services for addiction treatment. Providers will be able to use this funding to expand and upgrade their telehealth infrastructure through new telehealth equipment, as well as new software, tablets, and phones. This funding is being administered by the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports. "Like too many New Yorkers, I know what it's like to lose a loved one to addiction - there's an empty chair at our family table where my nephew, Michael, should be," Governor Hochul said. "New Yorkers struggling with addiction should have access to telehealth services that will provide the treatment they need. I am humbled by our mental health professionals who've helped guide our most vulnerable during this pandemic. We remain committed to providing whatever help is needed to those affected by addiction, as well as the providers across New York State who deliver these important services." The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of telehealth services throughout New York State, which has made it easier for people to access the care that they need without the need to travel to a doctor's office. This has been especially important in addiction treatment settings, which often require continuous, uninterrupted care. https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-availability-15-million-expand-telehealth-services-addiction

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

- Governor Phil Murphy announced that $10 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) will be allocated to support New Jersey's Foreclosure Prevention Act (P.L. 2021, c.34) program administered by the New Jersey Housing and

Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA). NJHMFA will use these funds to stabilize communities through supportive homeowner interventions and vacancy rehabilitation and sale, stemming the loss of single-family homes to rental property investment firms. "The Foreclosure Prevention Act was more than a decade in the making. My administration is proud to have signed this landmark legislation adding to our state's capacity to address the concerns of current New Jersey homeowners and future homebuyers," said New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy. "Today's funding will permit this program to launch at scale and continue to grow." Following the 2008 financial crisis, New Jersey's single-family residential market was decimated, with many properties purchased by investors for rental purposes, reducing the stock of affordable single-family homes. Nationwide, the financial impact of COVID-19 on homeowners may lead to a similar — if not greater — loss of single-family homes. https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220216bb.shtml
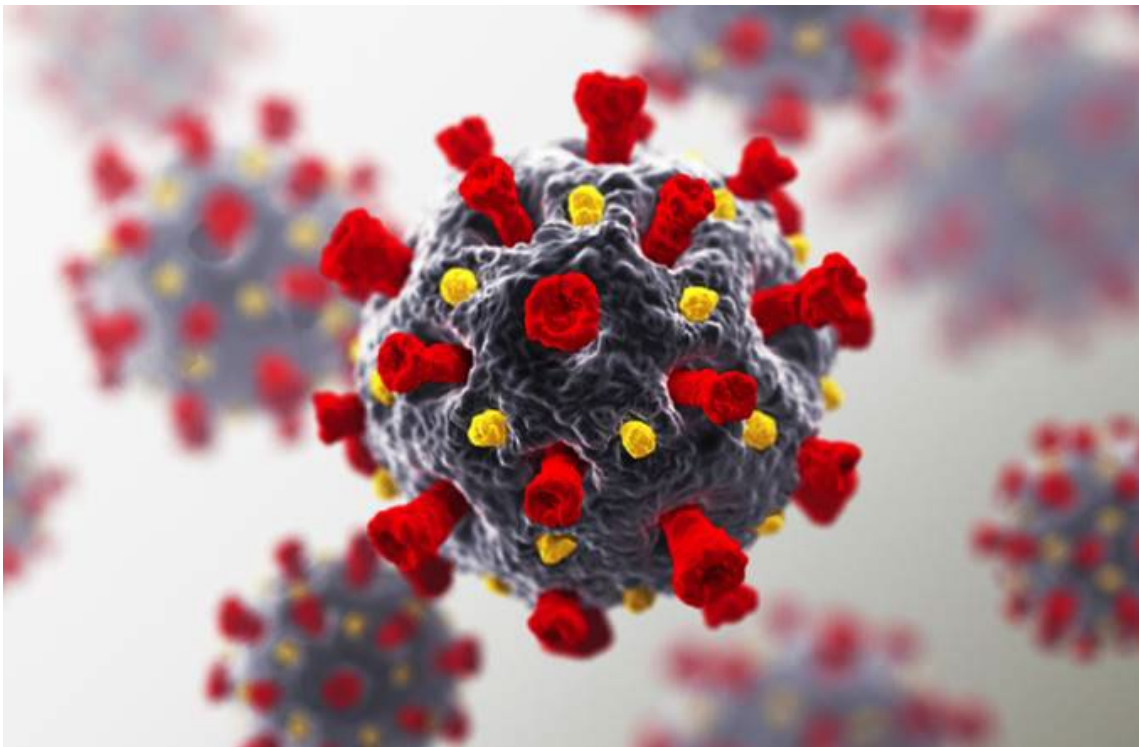
- Governor Murphy announced the release of the New Jersey State Future of Work Task Force's Roadmap and Recommendations. The Task Force's 19 core recommendations underscore the State's need to invest in policies, platforms, and programs that respond to both the challenges and the opportunities technology creates to foster worker rights, worker safety, and lifelong learning. Informed by a first-of-its-kind online engagement with New Jersey workers, many of the Roadmap's recommendations have already been implemented. "In a rapidly changing economy directly impacted by the development of new technology, inequality, and the challenges of the climate crisis, we have an important and urgent role to play in equipping our workers to be successful," said Governor Murphy. "We must act now to address these challenges and take steps to strengthen workers' rights, including the right to organize; protect worker health and safety; and expand opportunities for lifelong learning. I want to thank the Task Force and its Chair, Beth Noveck, for their dedication and hard work in service of New Jersey's workforce." "From the outset of the Task Force, we aspired to assemble and mobilize a diverse body of dedicated experts – not just to advise, but to act," said Beth Simone Noveck, New Jersey State Chief Innovation Officer, and Chair of the Task Force. "The Task Force has not just formulated recommendations but has taken actions to measurably improve opportunities for workers in New Jersey." The Roadmap and Recommendations highlight policies and initiatives that the Task Force has advanced since its formation, including the nation's first $10 million lifelong learning account pilot for low-wage workers, the creation of the nation's first Future of Work Accelerator to incubate 20 innovative technologies or services designed to help workers in New Jersey and nationally, and the launch of the country's first training transparency platform designed to help workers make more informed decisions about their lifelong learning. https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220217a.shtml

Connecticut
- Governor Ned Lamont released the following statement regarding the expiration of his authority to issue emergency orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic: "Today marks a new phase in our state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are by no means declaring mission accomplished in our efforts to stop the spread of this virus, but we are acknowledging that this is a long-term situation that will need a long-term response.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, my administration has been able to work collaboratively with the legislature to swiftly enact the essential emergency orders that have been in the best interest of public safety and health. During this time, we built the structure that is supporting our state's response to this virus. Going forward, while our authority to issue these emergency orders is expiring, I have no doubt that we will be able to faithfully continue collaborating with the legislature to enact policies that keep our state safe to the greatest extent possible." Governor Lamont declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies on March 10, 2020, which gave him the authority to issue emergency orders that limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect public safety. Under an agreement reached with the Connecticut General Assembly, that authority expires today. https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2022/02-2022/Governor-Lamont-Statement-on-Todays-Expiration-of-His-Authority-to-Issue-Emergency-Orders

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 February 17, 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 February 17, 2022.
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 February 21, 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 February 18, 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 February 17, 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

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