

3-1-2022

## COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 108)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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# NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE TOURO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## Center for Disaster Medicine



**Tuesday, March 1, 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.***

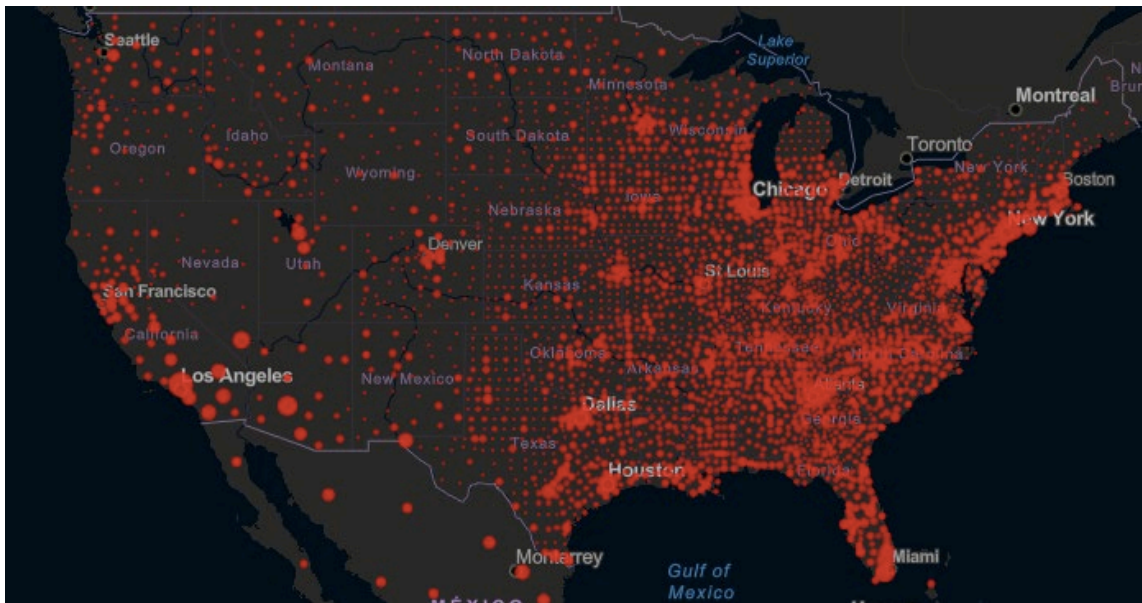
David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.  
Director  
Center for Disaster Medicine

**COVID-19 Statistics**

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	437,025,681	5,956,734	10,535,510,733
United States	79,045,217	950,524	551,347,541
New Jersey	2,167,515	32,915	16,561,741
New York	4,925,221	67,358	37,860,326
Connecticut	723,389	10,470	7,292,128

Information as of 3/1/22 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 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.
- On February 24, 2022, CDM hosted a training entitled All Hazards Disaster Response for local public safety agencies.
- On February 28, 2022, CDM staff coordinated the mandatory saliva COVID-19 screening at New York Medical College as part of its ongoing COVID-19 surveillance program.
- On February 28, 2022, CDM staff George W. Contreras was an invited keynote presenter for the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. His presentation was entitled "The intersecting worlds of emergency management and emergency medical services." This presentation marks the first time that CDM was invited to speak at the statewide NYS DOH continuing medical education (CME) program for all New York prehospital care providers.

## **The White House**

On February 24, 2022, Administration Announces New Actions to Address the Needs of People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Response to and Recovery from COVID-19- the Administration has collaborated and consulted with the disability community and taken several key actions to address the unique needs of individuals with disabilities. Among other actions, the U.S. government released key civil rights guidance to protect disabled individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic or any public health emergency; prioritized long COVID services, supports, and research in the context of disability; established a call line dedicated to ensuring individuals with disabilities can equitably utilize the Administration's at-home test distribution program; ensured disabled individuals and other high-risk individuals have access to at-home testing; and invested American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources to build COVID-19 vaccine confidence and access among people with disabilities.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/24/fact-sheet-administration-announces-new-actions-to-address-the-needs-of-people-with-disabilities-and-older-adults-in-response-to-and-recovery-from-covid-19/>

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 24, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), made more than \$560 million in Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 General Distribution payments to more than 4,100 providers across the country this week.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/02/24/hhs-distributing-560-million-provider-relief-fund-payments-health-care-providers-affected-covid-19-pandemic.html>

On February 24, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a virtual roundtable focused on increasing routine pediatric and adult vaccinations. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, less children and adults have been getting routine vaccinations, which leaves them more at risk for illness. This impact has been felt hardest by children in communities of color and in rural areas.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/02/24/readout-secretary-becerras-virtual-roundtable-on-increasing-routine-vaccinations.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 24, 2022, NIH announced a study highlighting the need for public health messaging strategies that address biases against all population groups that have been marginalized. People from all major racial and ethnic minority population groups in the United States report experiencing more COVID-19–related discrimination than white adults, a new study shows. COVID-19-related discrimination includes experiences of being threatened or harassed based on someone’s perception of another having COVID-19. To date, this is the largest study, with the most diverse participants, to examine discrimination related to COVID-19. The study was led by Paula D. Strassle, Ph.D., of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), part of the National Institutes of Health, and was published in the *American Journal of Public Health* on February 23, 2022.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/people-racial-ethnic-other-groups-report-frequent-covid-19-related-discrimination>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

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

As of February 25, 2022, 419 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 289 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, 14 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests and three EUAs for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 25 antigen tests and 10 molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 847 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-roundup-february-25-2022>

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 February 25, 2022, CDC issued a media telebriefing update regarding COVID-19. To hear the update, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/a0225-covid-19-update.html>

On February 25, 2022, CDC provided a weekly review of COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.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 March 1, 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 U.S. COVID-19 vaccine, deliveries and administration, maps, charts, and data updated daily by 8 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>

On February 28, 2021, Governor Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "As we move on to a new phase in the fight against this virus, it is important that we do not let up on the hard work that got us here," Governor Hochul said. "We must stay vigilant and double down on the tools we know are effective. Get your vaccine if you haven't yet, your booster if you have, and make sure your children and loved ones get theirs as well."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-193>

On February 28, 2022, Governor Hochul announced nearly \$2 million in federal funding is available for the New York Great Lakes Fisheries Relief Program, provided through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Originally authorized by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, this funding will assist New York's Great Lakes fishing industry following the significant economic losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible seafood, commercial fishing, and recreational for-hire fishing businesses will be able to apply for the funding beginning March 1.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-2-million-federal-funds-available-great-lakes-fisheries-industries>

On February 27, 2022, Governor Hochul announced plans to end the state mask requirement in schools starting on March 2, 2022. The Governor made this decision based on the analysis of several key COVID-19 data trends and after consulting with health and education experts, as well as parents, teachers and school administrators. The announcement also follows recent changes in metrics used by the CDC to determine risk and transmission levels in communities. Other mitigation measures should remain in place.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-plan-end-state-mask-requirement-schools-starting-march-2>

On February 23, 2022, Governor Hochul announced 39 new #VaxForKids pop-up sites to increase vaccination rates among children and adolescents. Governor Hochul and the State's Department of Health continue to urge parents and guardians to ensure their children get fully vaccinated and boosted when eligible. The State launched the #VaxForKids campaign to increase vaccination rates among New York children 5 - 11 and provide booster doses for eligible adolescents 12 - 17, furthering the Governor's commitment to making the health and well-being of children, families and school



communities a top priority. On January 19, Governor Hochul announced 80 sites would take place over a six-week period. At the conclusion of the six weeks, 261 sites have been established — far surpassing this goal. Events were hosted in 32 counties, 72 schools, and 105 zip codes, spanning every region of the state.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-39-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-conneec/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 announced plans to end the state mask requirement in schools starting on March 2, 2022. The Governor made this decision based on the analysis of several key COVID-19 data trends and after consulting with health and education experts, as well as parents, teachers and school administrators. The announcement also follows recent changes in metrics used by the CDC to determine risk and transmission levels in communities. Other mitigation measures should remain in place. "With more New Yorkers getting vaccinated, and the steady decline over the past several weeks in cases and hospitalizations from Omicron, we are now entering a new phase of the pandemic. Because New Yorkers have stepped up, we can confidently remove the statewide mask requirement in our schools," Governor Hochul said. "This is a huge step forward for our kids and communities and I am grateful to the students, educators and parents for their dedication to keeping us all safe—we've reached this milestone because of your hard work." <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-plan-end-state-mask-requirement-schools-starting-march-2>

## **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**

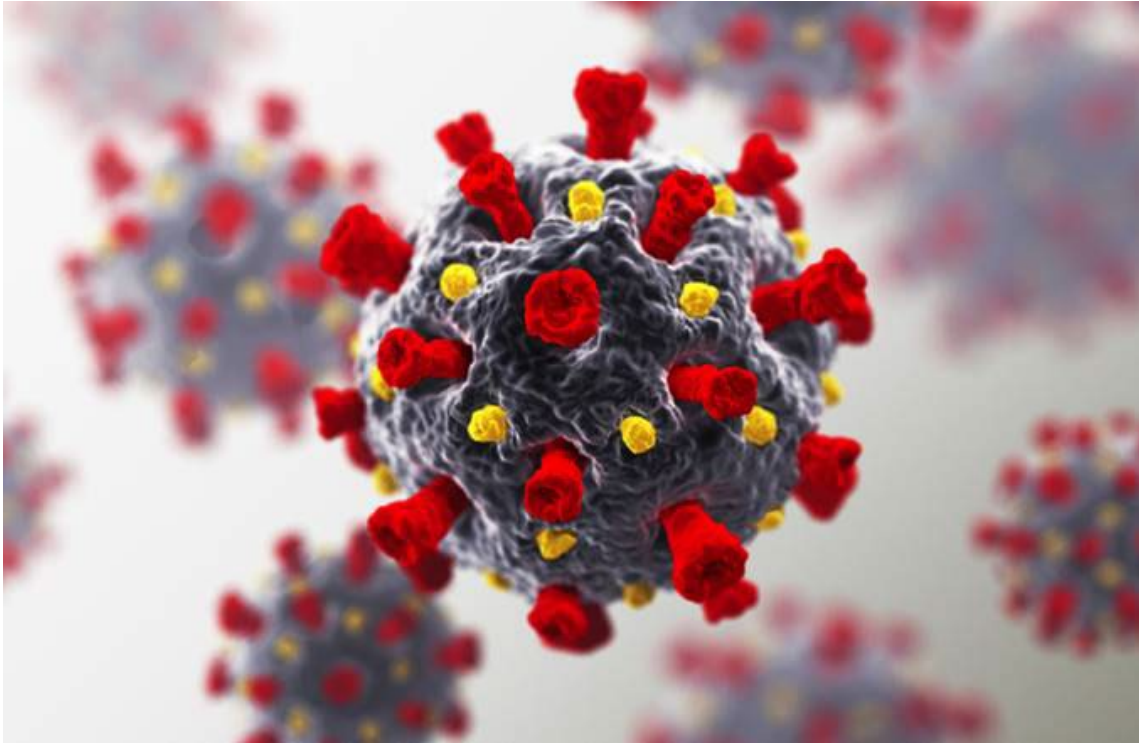
- The New Jersey Hospital Association is asking Governor Phil Murphy for a 90-day extension to Monday's deadline for health care workers across the state to get a COVID-19 booster shot or risk disciplinary action, including termination. Earlier this year, Murphy set the deadline through executive order, eliminating an option to submit to weekly testing in lieu of getting a jab that had been part of a vaccine mandate last year. The NJHA, which has put the percentage of hospital employees who have completed their primary vaccination series at more than 90 percent, says its members need more time to encourage workers to get the booster shot. "We wholeheartedly support vaccination and

booster shots as the best protection against COVID for healthcare workers and the people they care for," said NJHA president Cathleen Bennett in a statement. "They're also important for continuing to move us forward from this pandemic. However, we have asked the Governor for a 90-day extension of the February 28 booster shot deadline.

<https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2022/02/nj-hospitals-want-covid-booster-deadline-for-health-care-workers-extended.html>

### **Connecticut**

- Connecticut's COVID-19 safety protocol for masks to be worn in all schools and childcare centers expired Monday, leaving the determination to local districts. Governor Ned Lamont announced earlier this month that he would let the mandate lapse, endorsing a plan developed in consultation with Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani and Connecticut State Department of Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker. "Connecticut is seeing a dramatic decline in cases caused by the omicron variant, and children over the age of five have had the ability to get vaccinated for more than three months now," Lamont said. "With this in mind, I think we are in a good position to phase out the requirement that masks be worn in all schools statewide and shift the determination on whether to require this to the local level." <https://abc7ny.com/variant-omicron-connecticut-covid-symptoms-ct-vaccine/11608152/>



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### Local Updates

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#### **New York Blood Center (NYBC)**

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19:

<https://nybc.org/covid-19/>

#### **New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)**

On February 27, 2022, Mayor Adams provides statement on Mask Mandates in Schools, Vaccine Mandates Across NYC. He stated, "More than a million New York City school children will return to class tomorrow after a week off. At the end of this week, we will evaluate the numbers and make a final announcement on Friday. If we see no unforeseen spikes and our numbers continue to show a low level of risk, New York City will remove the indoor mask mandate for public school children, effective next Monday, March 7. Our schools have been among the safest places for our children since the beginning of the pandemic, and we will continue to make the proper public health decisions to keep our kids safe, including making masks available for any child or school staff member who wishes to continue wearing them."

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/096-22/mayor-adams-on-mask-mandates-schools-vaccine-mandates-across-nyc>

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 27, 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 24, 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 28, 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 28, 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 25, 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**

### **Faculty News:**

**COVID-19 long-haulers find hope in Westchester recovery program**

NY1

2/16/2022

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/news/2022/02/16/covid-19-long-haulers-find-hope-with-westchester-recovery-program->

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