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COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 110)

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, March 15, 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	459,813,859	6,045,928	10,707,610,956
United States	79,562,252	965,105	555,226,160
New Jersey	2,181,828	33,114	16,686,479
New York	4,949,357	67,688	38,104,180
Connecticut	730,506	10,655	7,345,482

Information as of 3/15/22 at 0300 EDT. 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 March 7, 2022, CDM staff George W. Contreras led a team of instructors and provided STOP THE BLEED training to 70 nursing students at the NYU Rory Meyers School of Nursing.
- On March 10, 2022, CDM staff provided STOP THE BLEED training focusing on life-saving techniques and emergency medical aid to Police Officers from Basque Country in Spain.
- On March 11, 2022 CDM hosted the Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Operational Medical Support (CONTOMS) Medical Director's Course. The eight-hour course was curated for physicians and others who work with pre-hospital personnel and tactical law enforcement teams to provide medical control.

The White House

On March 11, 2022, the United States and African Union (AU) – Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) renewed their partnership by signing an updated Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. This strategic memorandum signifies a continued and expanded commitment to this partnership by outlining our shared priorities for a safer, healthier, and more equitable future. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/11/fact-sheet-united-states-partnership-with-the-african-union-africa-centres-for-disease-control-and-prevention/>

On March 11, 2022, the administration provided an update regarding American Rescue Plan (ARP) which powered historic jobs recovery – with the largest calendar increase in jobs on record, unemployment down to 3.8 percent, and record drops in Hispanic Unemployment and Youth Unemployment – and ensured less scarring than any recovery in memory. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/11/the-american-rescue-plan-people-difference/>

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 March 11, 2022, Secretary Xavier Becerra and leaders across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a statement celebrating the one-year anniversary of President Joe Biden's enactment of the American Rescue Plan on March 11, 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/03/11/one-year-anniversary-american-rescue-plan-secretary-becerra-hhs-leaders-celebrate-administrations-accomplishments-building-healthier-america.html>

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

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

On March 10, 2022, the NIH released a study reporting that schools with mandatory masking during the Delta surge had approximately 72% fewer cases of in-school transmission of SARS-CoV-2 when compared to schools with optional or partial masking policies, according to a study funded by the National Institutes of Health. The study included more than 1.1 million students and over 157,000 staff attending in-person school across nine states: North Carolina, Wisconsin, Missouri, California, Washington, Georgia, Tennessee, Kansas and Texas. The study is supported by NIH's Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics – Underserved Populations (RADx-UP)

program and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). It appears in Pediatrics.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/mandatory-masking-schools-reduced-covid-19-cases-during-delta-surge>

On March 9, 2022, the NIH reported that researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) are conducting a clinical trial designed to help understand rare but potentially serious systemic allergic reactions to COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. The single-site trial will enroll up to 100 people aged 16 to 69 years old who had an allergic reaction to a first dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. Study participants will receive a second dose of vaccine as inpatients under carefully controlled conditions at the National Institutes of Health's Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-launches-trial-study-allergic-reactions-covid-19-mrna-vaccine>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH

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

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

As of March 11, 2022, 421 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 291 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 85 antibody and other immune response tests and 45 antigen tests. There are 70 molecular authorizations and 1 antibody authorization that can be used with home-collected samples. There is 1 EUA for a molecular prescription at-home test, 2 EUAs for antigen prescription at-home tests, 14 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests, and 3 for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 25 antigen tests and 9 molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 875 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-roundup-march-11-2022>

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 March 11, 2022, the CDC released an updated MMWR regarding Effectiveness of 2-Dose BNT162b2 (Pfizer BioNTech) mRNA Vaccine in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Children Aged 5–11 Years and Adolescents Aged 12–15 Years — PROTECT Cohort, July 2021–February 2022.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7111e1.htm?s_cid=mm7111e1_x

On March 11, 2022, the CDC provided updates regarding Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death By Race/Ethnicity.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.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/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 15, 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 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 March 14, 2022, Governor Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "As we mark two years since the first confirmed death from COVID-19 in New York State, it's meaningful to see how effective our fight against the virus has been," Governor Hochul said. "We've made real progress over the course of this pandemic thanks to trusted tools like vaccines and boosters. Millions of New Yorkers have been vaccinated and boosted, and I encourage everyone to talk to their doctor and schedule a vaccine for yourself and your family."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-208>

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
 - COVID-19 only heightened stress and anxiety on campus. Mental health kits provide students with notes of encouragement, fuzzy socks—and access to the professional services they need.... When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Martez Files said, he saw an even greater need to help students struggling with depression, anxiety and isolation. Last year he partnered with the UAB School of Education’s GEAR UP Alabama program, which is designed to help local students graduate high school and enroll and succeed in college. Through the partnership, he has delivered more than 1,000 mental health kits to 42 rural Alabama schools. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/03/11/mental-health-kits-bring-stressed-students-tea-and-comfort>
 - Two separate lawsuits against American University and George Washington University have new life after an appeals court revived cases that allege both institutions violated contractual obligations to students when they shifted to online instruction in early 2020 at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. At the core of the issue is the refusal of both universities to refund students’ tuition and fees. The plaintiffs allege that both universities had a contractual commitment to provide in-person education and should have offered at least partial tuition and fee refunds for students forced into online classes. Plaintiffs in both cases are seeking class action status for their lawsuits. The lawsuits against American University and GWU are just two among dozens of similar suits filed by students and families since 2020, which have had various outcomes in courts across the United States. Read more at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/03/09/appeals-court-revives-covid-lawsuits-against-american-gwu>

- K-12
 - More than two-thirds of the nation’s 500 largest school districts are now mask-optional, according to an analysis from Burbio, a data management company. Among the latest urban districts to go mask-optional are Chicago; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; Portland, Maine; Seattle; and Portland, Oregon. Many Los Angeles County schools in California were also expected to drop mask requirements Monday, according to the Los

Angeles Daily News. <https://www.k12dive.com/news/tracking-how-the-coronavirus-is-impacting-school-districts/578628/>

- Throughout history, tragic events have served as springboards for advancements in quality of life. For example, World War II innovations like influenza vaccines, penicillin, radars and jet engines were developed and still serve vital purposes to society. For this moment in time, the COVID-19 pandemic allowed social-emotional learning to undergo a similar development. Social-emotional learning, or SEL, is essential for managing emotions and problem-solving. It equips an individual with the ability to deal with difficulties that may arise throughout their life and the ability to build relationships and navigate the community they live in. <https://www.k12dive.com/news/how-the-pandemic-made-social-emotional-learning-more-accessible/620222/>

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 that all New Yorkers enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will receive the maximum allowable level of food benefits for March. All households participating in SNAP—including those already at the maximum level of benefits—will receive a supplemental allotment this month, which will result in New York State's economy receiving roughly \$232 million in federal funding... Senator Kirsten Gillibrand said, "As food prices rise and New York continues to battle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, SNAP provides a critical lifeline for low-income New Yorkers," said Senator Gillibrand. "I applaud Governor Hochul's work to provide struggling families with additional food assistance this March and I'll keep fighting to bring federal resources to our state." <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-232-million-additional-food-assistance-new-yorkers-march>

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.

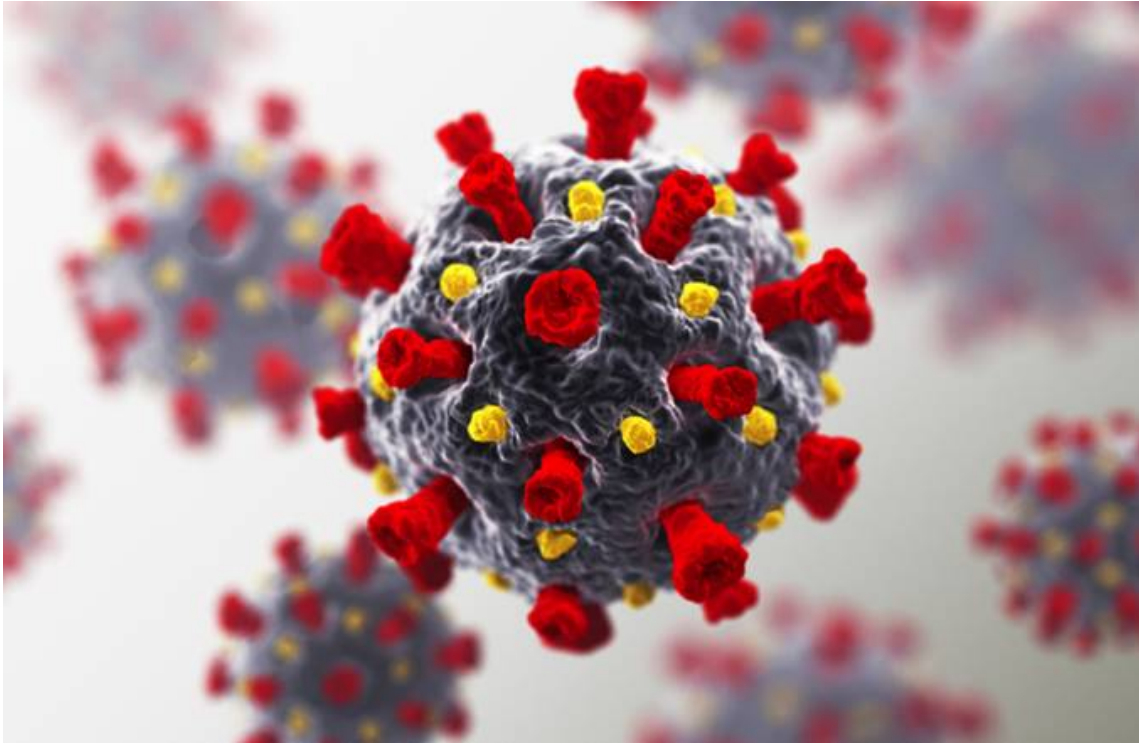
<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH

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

Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont and Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker announced that 150 proposals submitted by high school students across Connecticut have been deemed eligible by the Connecticut State Department of Education to be voted on as part of the Voice4Change initiative, a first-of-its-kind campaign that is empowering students to decide how \$1.5 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding for schools will be spent. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2022/03-2022/Governor-Lamont-Announces-150-Proposals-Submitted-by-Connecticut-High-School-Students>



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 March 13, 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 March 10, 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 March 7, 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 March 14, 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 March 11, 2022.
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096>

Review Rockland County's dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases as of February 4, 2022.
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096>

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/>



CDM Hosts Specialized CONTOMS Training for Tactical Medical Response

NYMC Center for Disaster Medicine (CDM) hosted the Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Operational Medical Support (CONTOMS) Medical Director's Course on March 11. The eight-hour course was curated for physicians and others who work with pre-hospital personnel and tactical law enforcement teams to provide medical control. The course featured extensive presentations and participants got a close-up look at a Westchester County S.W.A.T. team training session. [Read the full article on the CONTOMS course and view the photo gallery.](#)

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

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