

3-22-2022

COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 111)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Center for Disaster Medicine



COVID-19 Information Brief

Tuesday, March 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.

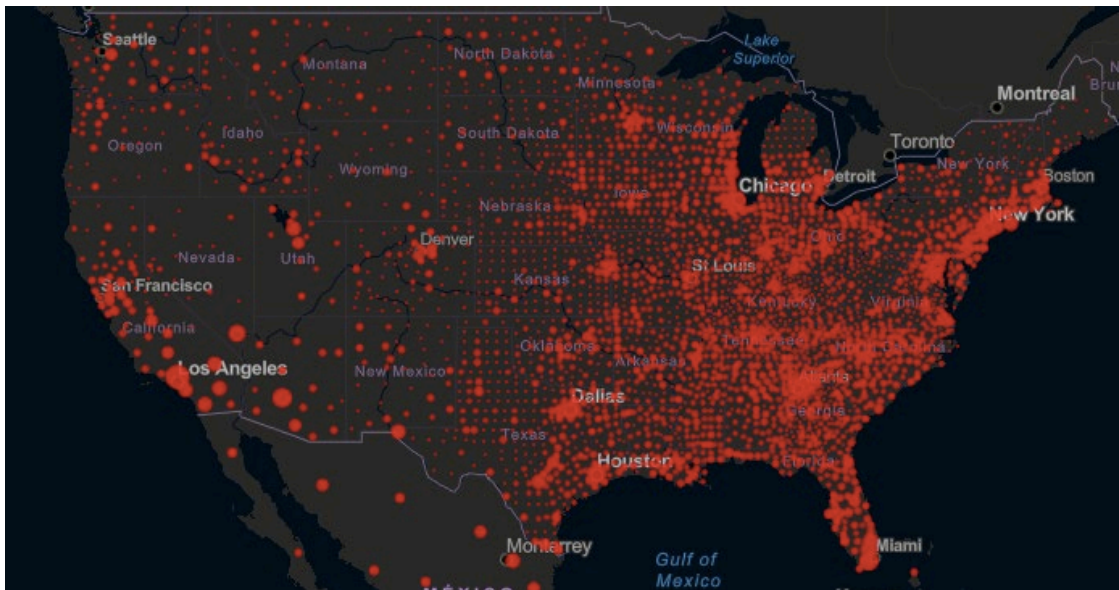
David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.
Director
Center for Disaster Medicine

[COVID-19 Statistic](#)

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	472,089,935	6,093,688	10,806,217,310
United States	79,778,889	972,634	556,460,943
New Jersey	2,188,780	33,178	16,731,796
New York	4,964,964	67,822	38,198,524
Connecticut	732,471	10,723	7,363,698

Information as of 3/22/22 at 0100 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 18, 2022, CDM staff conducted STOP THE BLEED training to local Westchester school security and teaching staff in an effort to better prepare them for life-threatening emergencies.

The White House

On March 17, 2022, the Biden Administration launched effort to improve ventilation and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in buildings- the Administration is launching the Clean Air in Buildings Challenge, a key component of the President's Plan, that calls on all building owners and operators, schools, colleges and universities, and organizations of all kinds to adopt key strategies to improve indoor air quality in their buildings and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-launches-effort-to-improve-ventilation-and-reduce-the-spread-of-covid-19-in-buildings/>

On March 17, 2022, President Biden named Dr. Ashish Jha as the White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator- Dr. Jha is one of the leading public health experts in America, and a well-known figure to many Americans from his wise and calming public presence.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/17/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-the-white-house-covid-19-response-coordinator/>

On March 15, 2022, the Biden Administration released the background press call by Senior Administration Officials on COVID response and funding needs in order to outline the consequences that a lack of COVID-19 response funding will have on the United States if Congress fails to act.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2022/03/15/background-press-call-by-senior-administration-officials-on-covid-response-and-funding-needs/>

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)

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 March 21, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced a virtual meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) on April 6, to discuss considerations for future COVID-19 vaccine booster doses and the process for selecting specific strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus for COVID-19 vaccines to address current and emerging variants.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-hold-advisory-committee-meeting-covid-19-vaccines-discuss-future>

On March 18, 2022, 422 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 290 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 84 antibody and other immune response tests and 48 antigen tests. There are 71 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, two EUAs for antigen prescription at-home tests, 15 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests, and three for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 28 antigen tests and nine molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 882 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-roundup-march-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-2019-covid-19>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

On March 18, 2022, the CDC released a statement reporting that COVID-19 vaccines continue to protect against hospitalization and death among adults. During Omicron, COVID-19-associated hospitalization rates increased for all adults, regardless of vaccination status, but rates were 12 times higher among adults who were unvaccinated compared to adults who received a booster or additional doses. Hospitalization rates were also highest among non-Hispanic Black adults and nearly four times as high among Black adults than White adults during the peak of Omicron.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0318-COVID-19-vaccines-protect.html>

On March 18, 2022, CDC released a study today showing that, among adults hospitalized with COVID-19 during the Delta and Omicron waves, those who received two or three doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine had 90–95 percent less risk of dying or needing a ventilator compared with adults who were not vaccinated.

<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 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 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 21, 2022, Governor Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "We are closely monitoring BA.2, and will continue to stay vigilant by making tests, vaccines and boosters widely available," Governor Kathy Hochul said. "The best way to keep the numbers down is by using the tools we know work. If you feel sick, get tested. If you test positive, talk to a doctor right away about treatments. Together we will continue to move forward safely through this pandemic."

On March 17, 2022, Governor Hochul announced that more than 20 million COVID-19 over-the-counter tests will be distributed across the state through the Spring to bolster New York State's ongoing preparedness efforts. "As we've seen throughout the pandemic, test kits are a critical tool in the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19 and prevent exposure to others," Governor Hochul said. "While our numbers remain low, now is the time to ramp up the distribution of tests and build up our stockpile so we can bolster our preparedness for the future to protect our communities, and safely move forward through this pandemic."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-more-20-million-covid-19-tests-be-deployed-across-state-through>

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

- K-12
 - The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) is looking to transition the National Assessment of Education Progress, known as the Nation's Report Card, to remote administration in the wake of COVID-19, according to Stephaan Harris, a spokesperson for NAGB. The change could include automated scoring for students' written responses through artificial intelligence. The idea became popular during COVID-19, which made it difficult for states to meet their 95 percent participation rate requirement in many cases. Now, testing experts agree the update would

help districts administer the exam in the future. The NAGB does not yet have a timeline for development and implementation, however. Harris said in an email "we are working through what we can accomplish," and the board will provide a timeline "as soon as it's feasible."

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/nagb-intends-to-remotely-administer-naep-after-pandemics-sobering-lessons/620408/>

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 more than 20 million COVID-19 over-the-counter tests will be distributed across the state through the Spring to bolster New York State's ongoing preparedness efforts. "As we've seen throughout the pandemic, test kits are a critical tool in the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19 and prevent exposure to others," Governor Hochul said. "While our numbers remain low, now is the time to ramp up the distribution of tests and build up our stockpile so we can bolster our preparedness for the future to protect our communities, and safely move forward through this pandemic." The State will continue to provide over-the-counter test kits to nursing homes, adult care facilities, and schools, and will partner with elected officials for continued distribution to the public, during the next few months to identify new COVID-19 cases and keep New Yorkers safe. This includes one million tests to schools outside of New York City every other week until the end of the school year. New York City no longer receives State distributions because they have sufficient test kits to get them through the year. At home tests have proven to be an invaluable tool for identifying cases and protecting our communities; they were responsible for finding at least 15,000 positive cases among students and staff the week after the winter break alone. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-more-20-million-covid-19-tests-be-deployed-across-state-through>
- Governor Hochul today announced that nearly 29,000 small and micro businesses throughout New York State have been awarded over \$500 million in grant funds through the COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program. The program was created to provide flexible grant assistance to small businesses, micro-businesses and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations in the State of New York who have experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Small Businesses are the backbone of our state's economy, and in order to truly recover from the COVID-19 crisis our small businesses need a helping hand," Governor Hochul said. "It is imperative that we continue to move funding out efficiently and quickly so businesses can get back on their feet and get back to business." <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-over-500-million-pandemic-relief-distributed-nearly-29000-small>

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

- Statement by Governor Murphy regarding recent rise in COVID cases: “We are closely watching the recent rise in global COVID numbers and, given both previous trends with regard to spread and our location as an international nexus for travel and trade, we do anticipate that we will eventually see an increase in the number of cases in New Jersey. We will continue to closely monitor virus activity in the state, in particular for impacts to our health care system. However, at this time, we do not anticipate any need to reinstate universal statewide mandated protective measures. We encourage residents to stay up to date with vaccinations and boosters, get tested when exposed or sick, and monitor the state's COVID-19 Activity Level (CALI) Report and CDC COVID Community Levels for awareness of local COVID-19 activity and CDC masking recommendations. Those who are immunocompromised or otherwise at high risk are encouraged to follow the guidance of their health care provider and the CDC. We continue to be among the

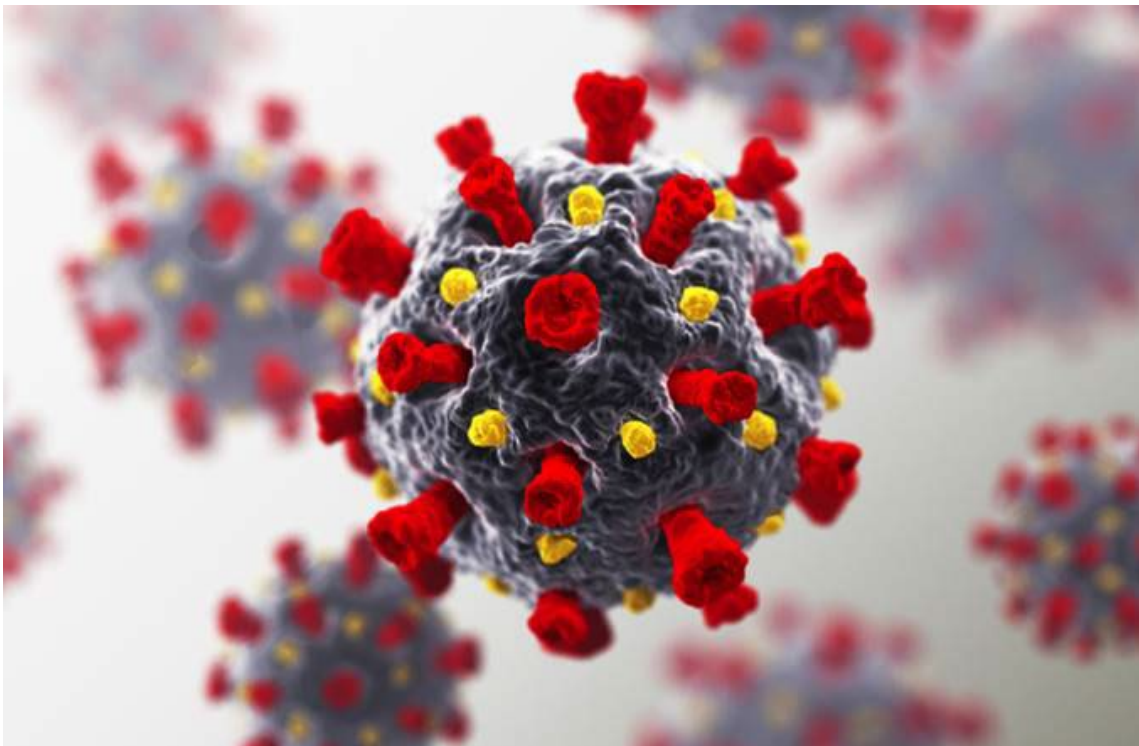
nation's most-vaccinated states. Our health care infrastructure remains strong. We are not going to manage COVID to zero nor are we impervious to the virus. We expect COVID to continue to mutate and cases to continue to ebb and flow. Moving to an endemic status still means we must all take personal responsibility to protect ourselves and our loved ones.”

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220317c.shtml>

Connecticut

- Connecticut NG ends COVID response mission: The Connecticut National Guard handed over the keys to the state commodities warehouse in New Britain to the Connecticut Department of Health March 15, effectively ending its COVID-19 response mission. On March 10, 2020, Gov. Ned Lamont declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, activating the Connecticut National Guard to assist with operating the warehouse where the state received, organized, and distributed its shipments of personal protective equipment and other supplies to help battle the virus. read more at

https://www.army.mil/article/254796/connecticut_national_guard_ends_covid_response_mission



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 20, 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 18, 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 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 March 21, 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 18, 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/>



Faculty News:

CDM Hosts Specialized CONTOMS Training for Tactical Medical Response

River Journal

3/16/2022

<https://riverjournalonline.com/schools/cdm-hosts-specialized-contoms-training-for-tactical-medical-response/30241/>

Kevin L. Pohlman, M.Ed., assistant director of the CDM and assistant professor in the Institute for Public Health, SHSP

One surgeon's decision during COVID to finally believe in her long-term survival

KevinMD
3/15/2022

<https://www.kevinmd.com/2022/03/one-surgeons-decision-during-covid-to-finally-believe-in-her-long-term-survival.html>

Tali Lando, M.D., assistant professor of clinical of otolaryngology
Elizabeth G. Zellner, M.D., assistant professor of surgery

NYMC Leadership News:

Got Brain Fog Because Of Long COVID? Here's Why, And How To Cope.

HuffPost
3/15/2022

<https://www.huffpost.com/entry/brain-fog-long-covid-1622f9530e4b0e01d97af4afd>

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

Here's How to Cope with Long COVID-Related Brain Fog

Health Thoroughfare
3/20/2022

<https://www.healththoroughfare.com/disease/heres-how-to-cope-with-long-covid-related-brain-fog/45202>

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