

4-12-2022

## COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 114)

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, April 12, 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	499,748,065	6,181,560	11,110,770,965
United States	80,449,398	985,826	564,006,588
New Jersey	2,216,804	33,308	16,964,768
New York	5,044,098	68,067	38,682,931
Connecticut	742,730	10,802	7,476,990

Information as of 4/12/22 at 0600 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.
- As part of National Public Health Week 2022, CDM staff participated in multidisciplinary effort and conducted naloxone and STOP THE BLEED training for faculty, staff and students from SOM and SHSP on April 5 and April 7.
- On April 8, CDM staff conducted a virtual lecture regarding EMS, public health and disaster medicine to emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in training in Basque Country, Spain.

## **The White House**

On April 8, 2022, White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Jeff Zients provided a statement regarding American Lives Saved by the COVID-19 Vaccination Program- A new study out today from the Commonwealth Fund shows that President Biden's relentless efforts to get Americans vaccinated saved millions of American lives. Our vaccination campaign saved 2.2 million American lives, prevented 17 million hospitalizations, prevented 66 million COVID-19 cases, and avoided \$900 billion in health care costs.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/08/statement-by-white-house-covid-19-response-coordinator-jeff-zients-on-american-lives-saved-by-covid-19-vaccination-program/>

On April 5, 2022, White House COVID-19 Response Team and HHS Public Health Officials provided an update regarding COVID-19 response. Dr. Walensky shared the latest on the state of the pandemic and Dr. Fauci discussed the effectiveness of additional booster shots, and Secretary Becerra will provide an update on our work to address the long-term impacts of COVID.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2022/04/05/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-hhs-public-health-officials-april-5-2022/>

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>

## **COVID-19 Website**

On March 30, 2022, Biden Administration Launched COVID.gov, a New One-Stop Shop Website for Vaccines, Tests, Treatments, Masks, and the Latest COVID-19 Information- a new website was launched in an effort to consolidate information for consumers.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/30/fact-sheet-biden-administration-launches-covid-gov-a-new-one-stop-shop-website-for-vaccines-tests-treatments-masks-and-the-latest-covid-19-information/>

## **Health and Human Services (HHS)**

On April 5, 2022, Secretary Xavier Becerra provided remarks at White House COVID-19 Briefing on New Federal Plan to Accelerate Support for People Experiencing Long-Term Effects of COVID-19. He remarked that many people continue to feel the physical and the mental burden of this pandemic. We have to ensure that people with disabilities, older Americans, and people who are immunocompromised aren't left behind, and that they continue to have the tools and resources that they need to stay safe. HHS expanded coverage of free over-the-counter COVID tests to the tens of millions of Medicare beneficiaries. People with Medicare now have access

each month to up to eight easy-to-use, at-home COVID-19 tests at no cost. This is all a part of HHS overall strategy to ensure access to tests free of charge.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/04/05/remarks-by-secretary-xavier-becerra-white-house-covid-19-briefing-new-federal-plan-accelerate-support-for-people-experiencing-long-term-effects-covid-19.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>

### **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH.

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

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

On April 8, 2022, 428 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 294 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 84 antibody and other immune response tests and 50 antigen tests. There are 74 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, 17 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests, and 3 for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 28 antigen tests and 9 molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 923 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-roundup-april-8-2022>

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 April 8, 2022, CDC provided a weekly COVID-19 data tracker review.

<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 pm 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) +**

On April 7, 2022, CMS announced that The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking steps to continue to protect nursing home residents' health and safety by announcing guidance that restores certain minimum standards for compliance with CMS requirements. Restoring these standards will be accomplished by phasing out some temporary emergency declaration waivers that have been in effect throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). These temporary emergency waivers were designed to provide facilities with the flexibilities needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-returning-certain-pre-covid-19-policies-long-term-care-and-other-facilities>

On April 6, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it will pay for a second COVID-19 booster shot of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines without cost sharing as it continues to provide coverage for this critical protection from the virus. People with Medicare pay nothing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and there is no applicable copayment, coinsurance or deductible. People with Medicaid coverage can also get COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, at no cost.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/news-alert/eligible-individuals-can-receive-second-covid-19-booster-shot-no-cost>

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 April 12, 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\\_vacc-total-admin-rate-total](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_vacc-total-admin-rate-total)

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 April 11, 2022, Governor Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19. "Make sure you are up to date on your doses, including the second booster once you're eligible. Parents and guardians, make sure your children are fully vaccinated. Remember to get tested before you travel, and if you test positive, isolate from others and talk to your doctor about treatments. We've made great progress in fighting the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our numbers down, let's continue to move forward through this pandemic safely."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-233>

On April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul announced a historic \$20 billion, multi-year healthcare investment in the FY 2023 State Budget. Creating better working conditions for healthcare workers will be a priority, with \$1.2 billion dedicated to frontline healthcare worker bonuses, as well as a \$4.5 billion multi-year investment in payment reform. Other landmark investments include \$2.4 billion being directed to improving healthcare



infrastructure and \$3.9 billion in funding to provide aid to hospitals struggling financially from the COVID-19 pandemic. Another \$7.7 billion will be spent over four years to increase the home care worker minimum wage by \$3. These groundbreaking investments will work together to improve working conditions and grow the workforce by 20 percent over the next five years, and improve the healthcare industry for all New Yorkers.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-historic-20-billion-multi-year-healthcare-investment-fy-2023-0>

On April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul detailed the uses of \$2 billion in reserve pandemic recovery funding in the FY 2023 State Budget. When she introduced her Executive Budget in January, Governor Hochul indicated that she would work with the legislature to find the best use for these additional funds, which will support one-time, non-recurring programs that will lift up vulnerable New Yorkers who were hit especially hard by the pandemic. Under agreements with the legislature, \$800 million is being directed to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, \$250 million is for utility assistance, \$125 million is for the Landlord Rental Assistance Program, and \$800 million is going towards hospitals that are still experiencing financial distress from the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional \$25 million will go to other one-time, non-recurring investments.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-2-billion-reserve-pandemic-recovery-funding-fy-2023-budget>

On April 8, 2022, Governor Hochul announced that more than 70 million COVID-19 over-the-counter tests have been distributed to date by New York State as part of the administration's ongoing efforts to keep New Yorkers protected throughout the pandemic. At-home rapid tests are being provided regularly to schools and nursing homes throughout the state, and the State recently distributed more than 2.8 million tests to elected officials to provide to the public at no cost. Out of an abundance of caution, the State has provided several thousand additional test kits as well as 59,000 high-quality face masks directly to counties in the Central New York region.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-more-70-million-over-counter-covid-19-tests-distributed-new-yorkers>

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
  - When President Biden extended the pause on student loan repayment again last week, it renewed the debate about the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, in addition to complaints about inefficiencies in how PSLF is administered and inadequate efforts to inform those eligible for it. Rectifying past failures to approve applications and to clarify who is eligible for the program were part of the president's plan for the previous and current repayment extensions—and part of that failure was due to college faculty, staff and other employees not knowing they were eligible, and considered public service workers, and not being informed of their eligibility by their universities. Despite the extension of the pause on repayments, advocates for student loan borrowers continued to call for bigger and more meaningful changes in the program... Read more at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/04/11/wisconsin-program-informs-college-workers-about-loan-forgiveness>
  
- K-12
  - COVID-19 brought to light many worsening issues in education and school facilities, among them poor indoor air quality due to older school infrastructure. To begin to remedy that, Vice President Kamala Harris announced an action plan to put \$500 million toward upgrading public school facilities to be more cost- and energy-efficient. The funding is through the Build Back Better Act, a bipartisan infrastructure law passed November 19. The administration is also encouraging districts to use American Rescue Plan dollars toward improving their HVAC systems. In mid-March, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched the Clean Air in Buildings Challenge as part of the Biden administration's efforts to improve ventilation in schools and other buildings. Read more at <https://www.k12dive.com/news/biden-administration-launches-effort-to-improve-school-air-quality/621678/>

### **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 70 million COVID-19 over-the-counter tests have been distributed to date by New York State as part of the administration's ongoing efforts to keep New Yorkers protected throughout the pandemic. At-home rapid tests are being provided regularly to schools and nursing homes throughout the state, and the State recently distributed more than 2.8 million tests to elected officials to provide to the public at no cost. Out of an abundance of caution, the State has provided several thousand additional test kits as well as 59,000 high-quality face masks directly to counties in the Central New York region.  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-more-70-million-over-counter-covid-19-tests-distributed-new-yorkers>
- Governor Kathy Hochul detailed the uses of \$2 billion in reserve pandemic recovery funding in the FY 2023 State Budget. When she introduced her Executive Budget in January, Governor Hochul indicated that she would work with the legislature to find the best use for these additional funds, which will support one-time, non-recurring programs that will lift up vulnerable New Yorkers who were hit especially hard by the pandemic. Under agreements with the legislature, \$800 million is being directed to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, \$250 million is for utility assistance, \$125 million is for the Landlord Rental Assistance Program, and \$800 million is going towards hospitals that are still experiencing financial distress from the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional \$25 million will go to other one-time, non-recurring investments.  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-2-billion-reserve-pandemic-recovery-funding-fy-2023-budget>

## **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.

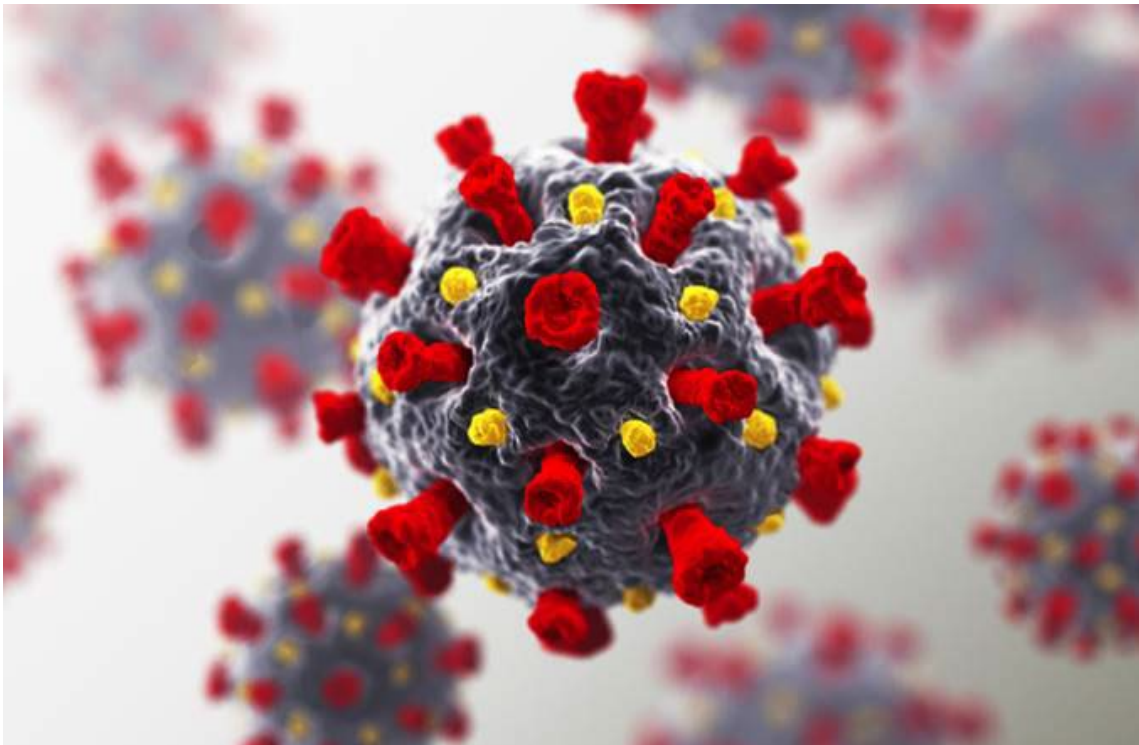
<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

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## Connecticut

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that he has signed legislation (Public Act 22-2) expanding two of the six statutory reasons under which voters in Connecticut can qualify for an absentee ballot during an election, primary, or referendum by allowing out-of-town commuters and caretakers of those who are ill or have a disability to vote by absentee ballot. The legislation removes more restrictive language on these qualifications from state statutes and better aligns state laws with the standard that is set in the state constitution. “This slight change better aligns our state laws with that allowed under the constitution,” Governor Lamont said. “We should be doing everything we can to encourage qualified voters to cast a ballot, and this is a responsible step forward in that direction. No voter should ever have to choose between protecting their health and exercising their right to vote,” Secretary of the State Denise Merrill said. “The COVID-19 crisis is still with us, and this legislation will ensure that voters will be able to cast their ballots and make their voices heard.” <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2022/04-2022/Governor-Lamont-Signs-Legislation-Expanding-Eligibility-for-Absentee-Ballots>



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)**

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 April 10, 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 April 6, 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 April 11, 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 April 11, 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 April 8, 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/>



### **Faculty News:**

**Westchester Medical Center study finds COVID long-haulers suffer memory, cognitive issues**

News 12 Westchester

3/31/2022

<https://westchester.news12.com/westchester-medical-center-study-finds-covid-long-haulers-suffer-memory-cognitive-issues>

Stephen Ferrando, M.D., Har Esh Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

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