5-3-2022

COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 117)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

During this COVID-19 pandemic and other future events, the CDM has been and will continue to be a source of reliable information, education and models for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. We hope this informational document has helped provide you filtered and actionable information. As the pace of new information and changes occur, we will evaluate the current once per week to determine if this information should be provided on a more frequent basis.
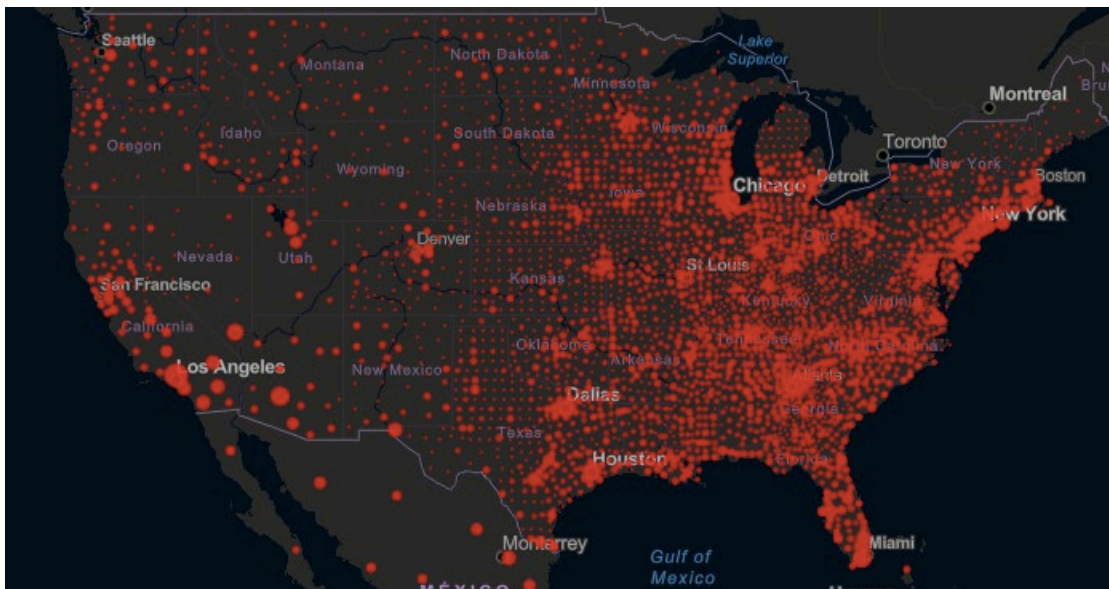
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COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	514,090,956	6,237,775	11,318,641,528
United States	81,444,332	993,999	574,574,516
New Jersey	2,267,006	33,444	17,229,452
New York	5,182,043	68,371	39,281,023
Connecticut	760,370	10,851	7,625,344

Information as of 5/3/22 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 April 27, 2022, CDM staff conducted Geriatric Emergency Medical Services (GEMS) course to public safety providers from the Westchester Country area to prepare first responders for any possible medical emergency or disaster.

The White House

On April 27, 2022, the Biden Administration Underscores Urgent Need for Additional COVID-19 Response Funding and the Severe Consequences of Congressional Inaction- The Biden Administration is sounding the alarm for the urgent need for Congress to provide funding for the nation's COVID-19 response and is underscoring the severe consequences of their inaction: Fewer vaccines, treatments, and tests for the American people and fewer shots in arms around the world.
https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/27/fact-sheet-biden-administration-underscores-urgent-need-for-additional-covid-19-response-funding-and-the-severe-consequences-of-congressional-inaction/

On April 26, 2022, Press Secretary Jen Psaki and newly appointed White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha provided Press Briefing.
https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2022/04/26/press-briefing-by-press-secretary-jen-psaki-and-white-house-covid-19-response-coordinator-dr-ashish-jha/

On April 26, 2022, Biden Administration Increases Access to COVID-19 Treatments and Boosts Patient and Provider Awareness- Driven by President Biden's comprehensive COVID-19 response, there are now more tools than ever before to protect people from the virus, including highly-effective treatments. Over the past 15 months, the Administration has pulled levers across the federal government and deployed resources Congress provided to expedite the development, production, and procurement of COVID-19 treatments. As a result, the U.S. now has several treatments available that can help keep people out of the hospital and save lives.
https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/26/fact-sheet-biden-administration-increases-access-to-covid-19-treatments-and-boosts-patient-and-provider-awareness/

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 Launches 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)

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

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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 April 29, 2022, FDA Announces Tentative Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule Regarding COVID- 19 Vaccines- the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is announcing its plans to hold virtual meetings of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) in anticipation of complete submissions of emergency use authorization (EUA) requests in the coming months that have been publicly announced by COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers.
https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-announces-tentative-advisory-committee-meeting-schedule-regarding

As of April 29, 2022, 433 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 298 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 84 antibody and other immune response tests, 50 antigen tests, and 1 diagnostic breath test. There are 78 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 8 molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 949 revisions to EUA authorizations.
https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-roundup-april-29-2022

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 May 2, 2022, the CDC provided updated data regarding 7-day case rate per 100,000 residents for all states and territories.
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days

On April 29, 2022, the CDC updated its requirement for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for air passengers.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/proof-of-vaccination.html.

On April 29, 2022, the CDC provided updated data regarding the 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

On April 28, 2022, the CDC provided an update on Health Equity in Action COVID-19 projects across the United States.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/he-in-action.html?Sort=Title%3A%3Aasc

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 May 3, 2022, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted full approval to Pfizer. On January 31, 2022, the FDA granted full approval to Moderna. Now with two vaccines with full FDA approval and one vaccine with EUA, the goal is to vaccinate a larger number of persons in the coming months throughout the United States. As additional vaccines are granted EUA, information for those vaccines will also be included.

CDC created this section regarding COVID-19 vaccinations in the United States- CDC provides overall US COVID-19 Vaccine, deliveries and administration, maps, charts, and data updated daily by 8 PM. This section represents all vaccine partners including jurisdictional partner clinics, retail pharmacies, long-term care facilities, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and federal entity facilities.
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_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

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
    - As higher education slowly returns to a long-awaited sense of normalcy, college students and employees with disabilities worry that they'll be forgotten in the rush to dial down coronavirus mitigation factors, noting that COVID-19 continues to pose a lethal threat to high-risk individuals. Case rates vary significantly at the state, county and city levels. Some colleges have recently dropped mask and vaccine mandates, even as others restore such practices or shift classes online amid local surges. But regardless of the numbers, some advocates for students and employees want to see universal standards in place to protect those most at risk. Some advocates say students are being asked to choose between their education and their lives. Read more at: https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/04/29/disability-advocates-dont-drop-covid-19-safety-measures

- K-12
    - The third round of funding for the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Connectivity Fund program opened, and it may be the last chance schools and libraries have to apply for remaining emergency money to improve internet access and purchase equipment to help address the homework gap, according to the agency. Applicants have already requested $6.427 billion to fund devices and broadband connections from the total $7.17 billion program during the first and second application windows. Higher-populated states like New York and California have requested the most money compared to other states, at

$754.9 million and $922.5 million, respectively. While the emergency fund has allowed school systems to improve at-home internet access, for students and staff, schools should not be responsible for solving long-term internet infrastructure deficits, said Noelle Ellerson Ng, associate executive director for advocacy and governance at AASA, The School Superintendents Association. "Schools are not supposed to be the conduits of community connectivity," she said. Read more at: https://www.k12dive.com/news/fcc-opens-third-and-likely-last-round-of-funding-to-address-homework-ga/622847/

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

- New York City entered a higher risk level for the coronavirus on Monday, a troubling reminder that the pandemic is not over and that the virus still has the power to harm New Yorkers. The city moved into the medium, or yellow, risk category for virus transmission as cases continued their steady rise, a development that could trigger the return of public health restrictions, although they are not required to be reinstated at this point. The city is now seeing nearly 2,500 new cases per day, a significant jump from about 600 daily cases in early March. The latest rise, fueled by the highly contagious Omicron subvariant known as BA.2, does not rival the first Omicron surge in December and January, but recorded case levels are as high as they were when the Delta variant swept through the city last year. What's more, case levels in New York and around the country are probably much higher than the official statistics because many residents are testing at home, and positive at-home tests are not typically included in official tallies. https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/02/nyregion/nyc-coronavirus-yellow-risk-level.html

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On May 2, 2022, Governor Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19.   "I remind all New Yorkers to stay vigilant so that we can continue to safely navigate through this pandemic," Governor Hochul said. "Make sure to get vaccinated and stay up to date on the booster once you are eligible. Get tested if you're feeling sick, especially before travelling, and talk to your doctor about available treatments if you test positive." https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-248

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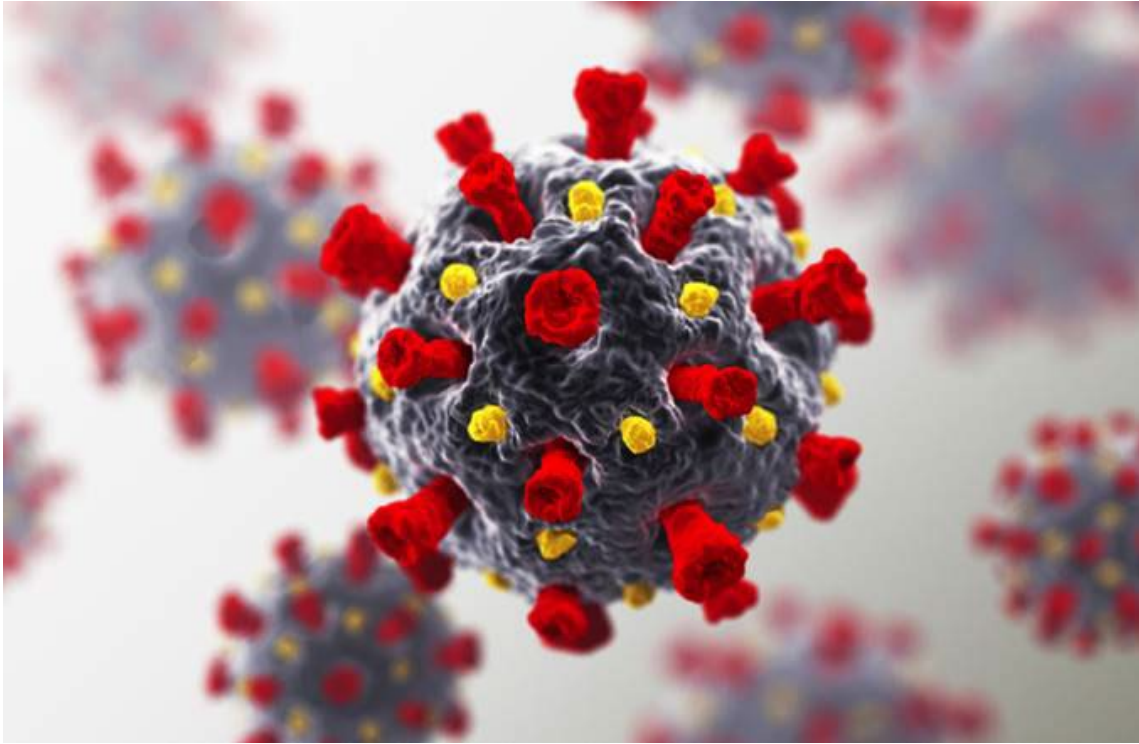
For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

New Jersey

- The Murphy Administration today announced that New Jersey has received an additional $12.77 million in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) program, which is administered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. This is the second time the non-supplemental LIHEAP program received additional funding for the Federal Fiscal Year 2022. "The Administration truly appreciates these additional funds and will utilize them to provide ongoing utility assistance to eligible families across the state," said Acting Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as DCA Commissioner. "We know that New Jerseyans continue to struggle to pay their utilities and this funding will go a long way in helping even more people in the coming months. Since eligibility requirements have been expanded to include higher income levels, we're urging people to apply for assistance on our one-stop online portal, DCAid." https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220426b.shtml

Connecticut
- Governor Ned Lamont today announced the launch of MyHomeCT – a new State of Connecticut program that is providing mortgage relief to homeowners who have experienced financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is being funded by $123 million that the Connecticut Department of Housing received from the federal American Rescue Plan Act, and it is being administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority. "The public health crisis that we've experienced over the last two years has had a significant impact on the ability of many homeowners to pay for the costs of their housing, which is why we are dedicating this funding to provide much-needed support," Governor Lamont said. "Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act and the support of our Congressional delegation, MyHomeCT will ease some of the financial burden that homeowners have faced during this pandemic and will help ensure that their housing situation remains stable. I encourage any homeowner who has come across difficult times since the pandemic to learn more about the program and consider applying." The program is providing grant assistance to homeowners who have experienced difficulty meeting their mortgage obligations or other housing costs due to a COVID-19-related financial hardship. For homeowners who meet the eligibility requirements, this assistance may include bringing a mortgage current or making future mortgage payments. Assistance is also available for other associated housing costs, including but not limited to non-escrowed real estate taxes, condominium and homeowners' association fees, non-escrowed homeowners' insurance, and municipal tax liens. Homeowners may apply for up to $30,000 in grant assistance, and payments will be made directly to the mortgage servicer or debt holder. https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2022/05-2022/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Launch-of-MyHomeCT

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 May 2, 2022, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene raised the COVID-19 Alert level from low to medium due to increasing 7-day case rate per 100,000 persons. On May 2, 2022, the 7-day case rate per 100,000 was 209.
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-alert-levels.page

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 May 1, 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 29, 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 May 2, 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 May 2, 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 29, 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/

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