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COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 135)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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From: [NYMC_COVID19Newsletter](#) on behalf of [Disaster Medicine](#)
To: NYMC_COVID19NEWSLETTER@LISTSERV.TOURO.EDU
Subject: Center for Disaster Medicine Information Brief
Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 5:07:01 PM
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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Center for Disaster Medicine



Information Brief

Tuesday, September 9, 2022

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we are seeing other emerging public health threats/emergencies and we continue to address ongoing/emerging disaster issues, the Center for Disaster Medicine has been and will continue to be a source of reliable information, education and models for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. As such we have expanded this informational document to address the broader areas addressed by the center while retaining critical COVID19 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

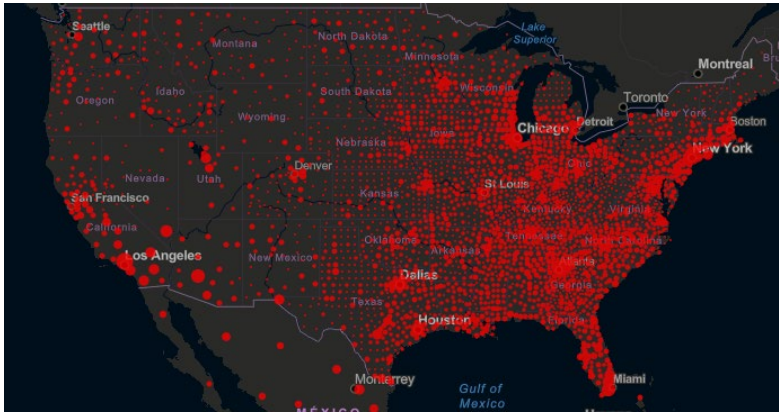
David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.
Director
Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	605,749,757	6,504,039	12,179,651,504
United States	94,768,181	1,047,563	605,599,941
New Jersey	2,685,719	34,583	18,100,834
New York	6,004,300	71,196	41,044,869
Connecticut	878,056	11,269	8,039,465

Information as of 9/6/22 at 0900 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 September 1 & 2, 2022, staff from the Center for Disaster Medicine conducted special trainings on Incident Command System, Emergency Management and Personal Preparedness, Stop the Bleed, and Opioid Overdose Prevention for all Public Safety Officers of the Yonkers School District. Such training highlights the importance of raising awareness and knowledge for any emergency or disaster.

The White House

The official website of the White House delivers updated information as the country grapples with converging crises. This will include actions to control current public health threats, 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)

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

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Recent data discussed by the NIH regarding COVID-19 found the following: The amount of SARS-CoV-2 antigen measured in the blood of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 is associated with illness severity and other clinical outcomes, according to a new study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Following the ACTIV-3 trial of COVID-19 therapeutics in people hospitalized with COVID-19, researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, and their collaborators analyzed levels of SARS-CoV-2 antigen in blood samples taken from study participants and assessed the association of those levels with disease progression. Higher levels of viral antigen in the blood, which could indicate ongoing SARS-CoV-2 replication, correlated with more severe disease. The authors suggest that SARS-CoV-2 antigen levels hold promise as a biomarker, or a measurable substance, to predict which patients hospitalized with COVID-19 have a higher risk of worse outcomes. The ACTIV-3 trial enrolled people hospitalized with COVID-19 between August 2020 and November 2021. Participants contributed a baseline blood sample and were then randomized to receive either an experimental COVID-19 therapeutic or a placebo. All participants received the antiviral remdesivir unless contraindicated. In this follow-up analysis, the researchers examined 2,540 participant baseline blood samples for SARS-CoV-2 antigen levels. The researchers assessed the relationship between each participant's SARS-CoV-2 blood antigen levels and their time to discharge from the hospital, as well as their pulmonary symptoms at day five of the trial—whether they had stayed the same, worsened, or improved since enrollment. With all this information in hand, the researchers conducted statistical analyses to determine if plasma antigen levels were associated with the participants' pulmonary function when they gave the blood sample—and whether they could predict how the participants would fare over time. In addition, the researchers examined the relationship between a number of participant and viral characteristics and antigen levels. Read more at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/sars-cov-2-antigen-levels-linked-patient-outcomes>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH.
<https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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>

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to authorize bivalent formulations of the vaccines for use as a single booster dose at least two months following primary or booster vaccination. The bivalent vaccines, which we will also refer to as "updated boosters," contain two messenger RNA (mRNA) components of SARS-CoV-2 virus, one of the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the other one in common between the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older. The monovalent COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized or approved by the FDA and have been administered to millions of people in the United States since December 2020 contain a component from the original strain of SARS-CoV-2.
 - What you need to know:
 - The authorized bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, or updated boosters, include an mRNA component of the original strain to provide an immune response that is broadly protective against

COVID-19 and an mRNA component in common between the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 lineages to provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant.

- The BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant are currently causing most cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. and are predicted to circulate this fall and winter. In June, the agency's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee voted overwhelmingly to include an omicron component in COVID-19 booster vaccines.
- For each bivalent COVID-19 vaccine, the FDA based its decision on the totality of available evidence, including extensive safety and effectiveness data for each of the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, safety and immunogenicity data obtained from a clinical study of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine that contained mRNA from omicron variant BA.1 lineage that is similar to each of the vaccines being authorized, and nonclinical data obtained using a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine that contained mRNA of the original strain and mRNA in common between the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant.
- Based on the data supporting each of these authorizations, the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are expected to provide increased protection against the currently circulating omicron variant. Individuals who receive a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine may experience side effects commonly reported by individuals who receive authorized or approved monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.
- With today's authorization, the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are not authorized as booster doses for individuals 12 years of age and older.
- The agency will work quickly to evaluate future data and submissions to support authorization of bivalent COVID-19 boosters for additional age groups as we receive them.

COVID-19 testing updates:

- As of today, 438 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 301 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 85 antibody and other immune response tests, 51 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, 19 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests, and 3 for molecular OTC at-home tests.
- The FDA has authorized 31 antigen tests and 8 molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 1106 revisions to EUA authorizations.

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>

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

CDC created this section regarding COVID-19 vaccinations in the United States- CDC provides overall U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine, deliveries and administration, maps, charts, and data updated daily by 8 p.m. This section represents all vaccine partners including jurisdictional partner clinics, retail pharmacies, long-term care facilities, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and federal entity facilities.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>

- The CDC has established a new website dedicated to the monkeypox virus and 2022 US outbreak. For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

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.

<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/>

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Educational Institution Information

- Higher Education
 - College and university officials are grappling with big questions like these, “trying to figure out what our new reality looks like,” says Jay Stephens, vice president for human capital services at Kansas State University and chair of the executive committee of CUPA-HR, the association of college and university human resources leaders. Although many campus departments managed to function fully remotely during the unprecedented medical emergency in spring 2020, “now we’re mainly sort of in this post-COVID period,” Stephens says. An estimated 60 to 70 percent of his unit’s employees are hybrid or fully remote now; “pre-COVID, that was zero. We didn’t even think about it.” As institutional teams mull over how best to navigate current and prospective employees’ desires for flexibility in work location and hours, there seems to be agreement that student needs should be central to decision-making about departments and individual employees. Even with positions that have heavy student contact, however, must those services be delivered in person? That’s a question Andy Brantley, president and CEO of CUPA-HR, says college and university and department leaders are discussing based on data they’re collecting on student interactions. “Some virtual presence might be effective, or more effective. It’s not about just putting one department in a bucket and saying, “Yes, all these need to be delivered in person.” Officials are weighing the impact of such balancing act decisions in the context of campus culture and the mission of the institution. Jeff Herring, chief human resources officer at the University of Utah, says this discussion has been “top of the list in HR” for the last two years. At first, some people thought things would return to pre-COVID normal after the pandemic. “I’m not sure that’s even an option. We’ve got to be creative in how we find the solution to dealing with the situation, while providing new flexibility that the workforce is demanding,” explains Herring, also past chair of CUPA-HR’s executive committee. About 55 percent of the university’s workforce of 25,000 employees (excluding those at the hospitals) currently have a hybrid work status, and 15 percent are fully remote. Read more at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/09/06/students-largely-dont-mind-remote-work-campus-employees>
- K-12
 - When school buildings closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19, educators, sector experts and researchers all had their hunches: test scores would drop, gaps would widen, achievement would reverse. Since then, a plethora of surveys and anecdotal evidence have supported those theories. On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Education confirmed them. Since the 1970s, National Assessment of Education Progress long-term trend scores for 9-year-olds had been on an upward trajectory. Aside from insignificant decreases here and there, results were on the overall incline. That changed during the pandemic, reversing progress and setting students back to

performance levels last seen two decades ago. The declines spanned nearly every race and income level in the age group. However, outcomes were particularly bad for the lowest-performing students. Those who fared well despite remote learning reported having higher levels of access to a learning device, a quiet place to work and a teacher available to help them with math or reading nearly every day. Still, scores for the highest-performing students dipped, something that hadn't happened in a decade. To read more and view the charts, visit <https://www.k12dive.com/news/7-charts-highlighting-the-pandemics-impact-on-2022-naep-scores/631098/>

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>

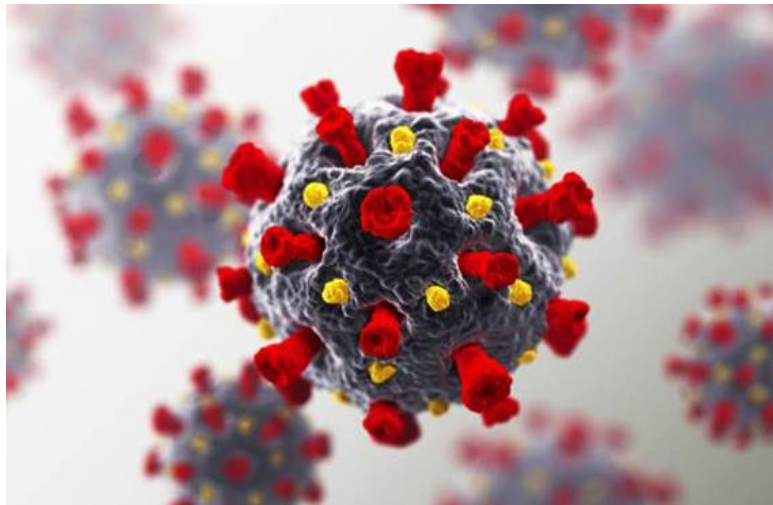
State Updates

New York 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

- Individuals ages 12 and older are now able to obtain a COVID-19 bivalent booster dose, which should be received two months after their most recent booster or primary series. This updated version of COVID-19 boosters offers stronger protections against severe illness and death from Omicron sub-variants. The recommendation by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) follows the recommendation from its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization of the Pfizer and the

Moderna bivalent boosters. New Jersey has received allocations of both Pfizer and Moderna bivalent boosters, which are being delivered to vaccine providers. Over 800 sites are expected to have bivalent booster doses in the coming days. Individuals can find locations offering the boosters on the COVID-19 Vaccine Finder and Community Calendar at covid19.nj.gov. As bivalent vaccines, these boosters will target both the original COVID-19 strain as well as the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants. Omicron is currently causing most U.S. COVID-19 cases and are predicted to circulate this fall and winter as well, according to the FDA. "As we continue to adapt our response to COVID-19 to protect public health, these new boosters have been updated to target commonly-circulating variants in order to guard individuals against severe illness this fall," said Governor Phil Murphy. "I continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated and to stay up to date on their boosters, as vaccines are our greatest tool in the fight against COVID-19." "COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be safe and effective and continue to protect against serious illness and save lives. With children back in school and the upcoming fall and winter holidays, the new bivalent vaccine will give New Jerseyans additional protections against these highly transmissible subvariants," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "As always, if you have yet to get any COVID-19 vaccine or booster, we strongly encourage you to get one today to help protect yourself, your family and community." The new Pfizer bivalent booster is recommended for all individuals ages 12 and older, while the Moderna bivalent booster is recommended for those ages 18 and older. People can get the bivalent booster if it has been at least two months since they have completed their primary vaccination series or two months after they have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine. In its statement, the CDC said in the coming weeks, the agency also expects to recommend updated COVID-19 boosters for other pediatric groups. When data are available and FDA authorizes these other types of COVID-19 boosters, CDC will quickly move to help make them available in the United States, according to the statement.

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220902a.shtml>

Connecticut

- Connecticut continues to report notable levels of death related to COVID-19, official numbers show, even as other metrics offer signs that the state's BA.5 wave may have begun to ease. The state's weekly report Thursday showed 74 additional COVID-19 deaths over the past week, most in a seven-day span since March. A spokesperson for the Department of Public Health, however, said the unusually high number of deaths was the result of a backlog dating as far back as May and that the state had actually recorded 17 deaths in the past week, in line with other weeks this summer. Connecticut has now reported 11,269 COVID-19 deaths during the pandemic and 2,104 so far this year, down only slightly from the 2,358 the state recorded through the first eight months of 2021. <https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/CT-reports-backlog-of-COVID-deaths-as-cases-17413432.php>

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 September 1, 2022

<https://wcfgis.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 September 2, 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 September 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 September 1, 2022

<https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71>

For the latest COVID-19 information
<https://www.orangecountygov.com/1906/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-Information>

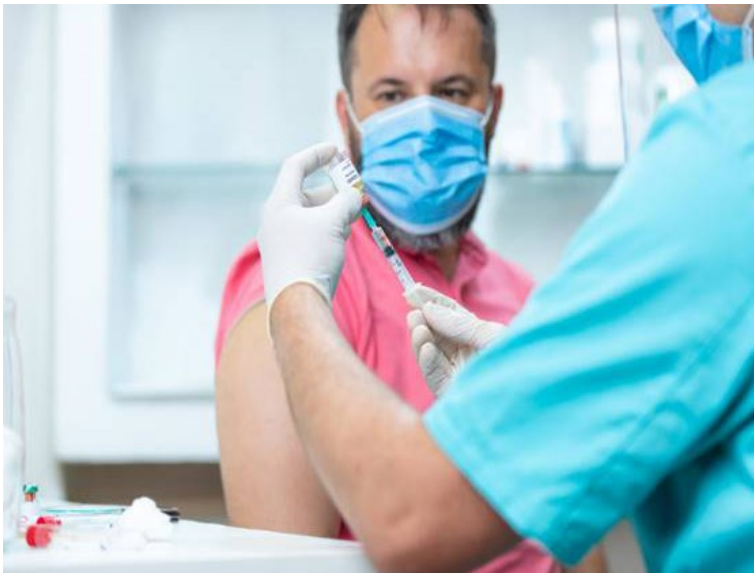
Rockland County Department of Health

Review Rockland County's dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases as of August 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/>



Center for Disaster Medicine Media

NYMC Faculty News:

Can I exercise if I have COVID? Here's what Staten Island's top doctors say

SiLive.com


8/29/2022

<https://www.silive.com/news/2022/08/can-i-exercise-if-i-have-covid-heres-what-staten-islands-top-doctors-say.html>

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