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COVID-19 Newsletter (Vol. 150)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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Center for Disaster Medicine



Information Brief

Tuesday, December 20, 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 COVID-19 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.

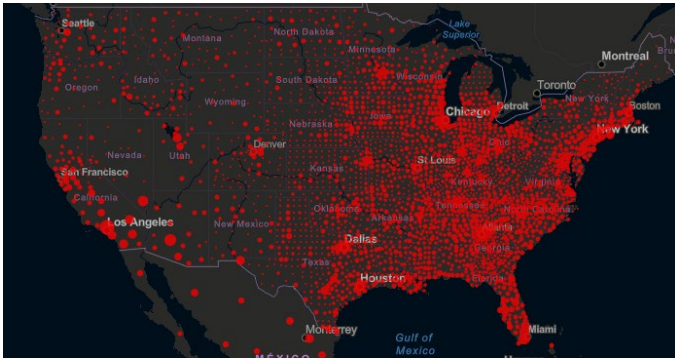
David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.
Director, Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Vaccine Doses Admin.
Worldwide	654,083,386	6,668,125	13,110,695,888
United States	99,953,031	1,087,682	649,501,939
New Jersey	2,893,870	35,361	19,342,608
New York	6,504,806	74,582	44,043,680
Connecticut	939,281	11,665	8,801,850

Information as of 12/20/22 at 11:30 a.m. EST. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

[United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS](#)



Mpox Statistics

State	Number of Cases
Connecticut	149
New Jersey	763
New York	4,184
Total US Case Count	29,646

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/us-map.html>

Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

- Continuing 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.

The White House

On December 15, 2022, the White House announces COVID-19 Winter Preparedness Plan- the Biden Administration announced a plan to stay ahead of an increase in COVID-19 cases this winter. While COVID-19 is not the disruptive force it once was, the virus continues to evolve, and cases are on the rise again as families are spending more time indoors and gathering for the holidays. Throughout the COVID-19 response, this Administration has been prepared for whatever the virus throws our way – and this moment is no different.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/15/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-covid-19-winter-preparedness-plan/>

The official website of the White House delivers updated information as the country grapples with converging crises. This will include actions to control the COVID-19 pandemic and mpox and 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 provides 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)

"Now children as young as six months have an opportunity to get the protection the updated COVID-19 vaccines provide. As we spend more time indoors during the holiday season and winter months, I encourage parents of eligible children to get one of these free updated COVID-19 vaccines to help keep their families safe."
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/12/09/statement-from-hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-on-cdc-recommendation-of-the-updated-covid-19-vaccines-for-young-children.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>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Mpox is a rare disease caused by infection with the mpox virus. Mpox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. Mpox symptoms are like smallpox symptoms, but milder, and mpox is rarely fatal. Mpox is not related to chickenpox.

For the latest CDC information including symptoms, testing, vaccines and prevention regarding mpox, please visit
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/>

According to the CDC, as of December 19, 2022, there are 29,646 cases in the United States. For the latest mpox cases in the United States, please visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/response/2022/us-map.html>

According to the CDC, as of December 19, 2022, there are 82,999 cases in the world. For the latest global mpox cases, please visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/response/2022/world-map.html>

On December 19, 2022, the CDC updated the mpox section regarding the latest information on signs and symptoms, vaccines, prevention, sexual health, cases and data.
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/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>

On December 16, 2022, the CDC released a MMWR entitled Early Estimates of Bivalent mRNA Vaccine Effectiveness in Preventing COVID-19–Associated Hospitalization Among Immunocompetent Adults Aged ≥65 Years—IVY Network, 18 States, September 8–November 30, 2022—Among immunocompetent adults aged ≥65 years hospitalized in the multistate IVY Network, a bivalent booster dose provided 73% additional protection against COVID-19 hospitalization compared with past monovalent mRNA vaccination only. To maximize protection against severe COVID-19 this winter season, all eligible persons, especially adults aged ≥65 years, should receive a bivalent booster dose and consider additional prevention strategies,

including masking in indoor public spaces.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm715152e2.htm?s_cid=mm715152e2_x

On December 16, 2022, the CDC a MMWR entitled Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza Coinfection and Clinical Characteristics Among Children and Adolescents Aged <18 Years Who Were Hospitalized or Died with Influenza—United States, 2021-22 Influenza Season—During the 2021–22 influenza season, 6 percent of hospitalized pediatric influenza patients had SARS-CoV-2 coinfection; a higher percentage of patients with coinfection required invasive or noninvasive respiratory support compared with those with influenza only. Among influenza-associated pediatric deaths, 16 percent had SARS-CoV-2 coinfection; only one coinfecting decedent received influenza antivirals and none had been fully vaccinated against influenza. The public should adopt prevention strategies, including influenza and COVID-19 vaccination and consider mask use during high respiratory virus circulation.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7150a4.htm?s_cid=mm7150a4_x

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 8:00 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)

On December 16, 2022, 440 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 298 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 86 antibody and other immune response tests, 55 antigen tests, and 1 diagnostic breath test. There are 79 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, 23 EUAs for antigen over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests, and 4 for molecular OTC at-home tests. The FDA has authorized 39 antigen tests and 8 molecular tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 1181 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-roundup-december-16-2022>

On December 16, 2022, FDA to Hold Advisory Committee Meeting to Discuss Future Vaccination Regimens Addressing COVID-19- On Jan. 26, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will hold a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) to consider whether and how the composition for primary doses of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines should be modified and how and whether the composition and schedule for booster doses should be adjusted moving forward. Along with the independent experts of the advisory committee, representatives from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health will also participate in the meeting.

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

The FDA created a specific mpox response page which serves as a central source of information regarding diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics. For the latest FDA information regarding mpox, please visit

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/fda-mpox-response>

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

In this section, vaccine-related information from various sources will be collected, reviewed, and tabulated here. As of July 19, 2022, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Janssen/Johnson & Johnson for adults over 18 years and Novavax for adults over 18 years of age and EUA for Moderna and Pfizer for children 6 months to five years. On August 26, 2022, the FDA authorized the emergency use of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted for the prevention of COVID-19 caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in individuals 12 through 17 years of age. This authorization follows a rigorous analysis and evaluation of the safety and effectiveness data conducted by the FDA. On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted full approval to Pfizer for adults. On January 31, 2022, the FDA granted full approval to Moderna for adults. Now with two vaccines with full FDA approval and three vaccines with EUA for adults and children, 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 U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine, deliveries and administration, maps, charts, and data updated daily by 8:00 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

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>

The NYS DOH provides updated mpox information regarding signs and symptoms, cases, vaccine, treatment and prevention at
<https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/mpox/>

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 6 months 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 6 months 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/>

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 Encourages New Yorkers to Keep Using the Tools to Protect Against and Treat COVID-19: Vaccines, Boosters, Testing and Treatment
 - 29 Statewide COVID-19 Deaths Reported on December 16

New Jersey

- Murphy Administration Highlights Public Health Preparedness for Winter Months
 - [Office of the Governor | Murphy Administration Highlights Public Health Preparedness for Winter Months](#)

[nj.gov](https://www.nj.gov)

Connecticut

- Governor Lamont Provides Update on Connecticut's Coronavirus Response Efforts
 - [Governor Lamont Provides Update on Connecticut's Coronavirus Response Efforts](#)

New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On December 16, 2022, Governor Hochul updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combatting COVID-19 and outlined basic steps they can take to protect against the spread of viral respiratory infections that become more common during the cold weather months. "As New Yorkers gather together this holiday season, I urge everyone to remain vigilant and continue to use all available tools to keep themselves, their loved ones and their communities safe and healthy," Governor Hochul said. "Stay up to date on vaccine doses, and test before gatherings or travel. If you test positive, talk to your doctor about potential treatment options."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-406>

For a list of COVID-19 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.

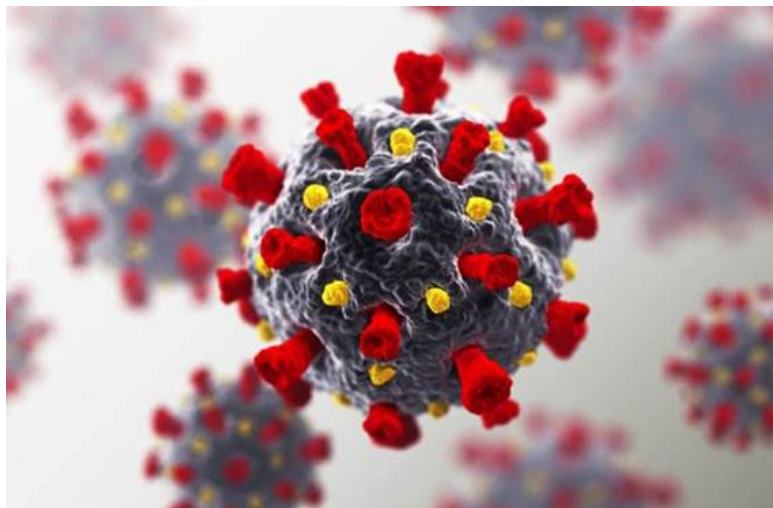
<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH

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

As of December 19, 2022, there are 4,176 cases of mpox in New York State. For the latest mpox information including vaccines and provider information from NYS DOH, please visit:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/mpox/>



Local Updates

New York Blood Center (NYBC)

On December 13, 2022, NIH released a study regarding endocarditis in patients with cocaine or opioid use disorder saw marked increase between 2011 to 2022. The incidence rate of infective endocarditis – a rare but often fatal inflammation of the heart valves—among patients with cocaine use disorder or opioid use disorder increased from 2011 to 2022, with the steepest increase occurring from 2021 to 2022, a new study reports. Study findings contribute to expanding evidence of endocarditis as a significant and growing health concern for people who inject drugs and further demonstrate that this risk has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/endocarditis-patients-cocaine-or-opioid-use-disorder-saw-marked-increase-between-2011-2022>

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)

New York City is currently the epicenter of the mpox outbreak in the United States. As of December 19, 2022, there are 3,803 cases of mpox in New York City. For the latest information including cases, symptoms, testing, and vaccine information regarding mpox in New York City, please visit

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/mpox.page>

NYC DOHMH launched a new COVID-19 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>

Westchester County Department of Health

For the latest breakdown of COVID-19 positive cases in Westchester County as of December 19, 2022,
<https://wcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/280339d96db14efd9cc304dba0f3a71d>

For the latest COVID-19 information in Westchester including vaccines for children.
<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>

As of December 19, 2022, Westchester County has 93 cases of mpox. Mpox Vaccine Clinics on Mondays and Wednesdays at 134 Court Street, White Plains, NY. Appointments are required. People at higher risk for mpox infection may consider vaccination with the two-dose JYNNEOS vaccine. In accordance with CDC guidance, this includes those who:

- Had contact with someone who had a rash that looks like mpox or with someone who was diagnosed with confirmed or probable mpox
- Had skin-to-skin contact with someone in a social network experiencing mpox activity; this includes men who have sex with men who meet partners through an online website, digital application ("app"), or social event such as at a bar or party
- Traveled outside the United States to a country with confirmed cases of mpox or where mpox activity has been ongoing

Mpox Vaccine appointments are also available at:

- Westchester Medical Center, 15 Oval Connector, Valhalla, NY 10595
Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., appointment required.
Call (914) 326-2060 to schedule an appointment.

For more information regarding mpox in Westchester County, please visit
<https://health.westchestergov.com/>

Putnam County Department of Health

Breakdown of COVID-19 positive cases by towns in Putnam County as of December 19, 2022.
<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/covid19/>

As of December 19, 2022, there are 5 cases of mpox in Putnam County.
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 December 19, 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>

As of December 19, 2022, there are 10 cases of mpox in Dutchess County. For the latest information regarding mpox, please visit
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/dbch.htm>

Orange County Department of Health

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY as of December 19, 2022.
<https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71>

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

As of December 19, 2022, there are 23 cases of mpox in Orange County. For more information regarding mpox, please visit
<https://www.orangecountygov.com/149/Health>

Rockland County Department of Health

Review Rockland County's dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases as of December 19, 2022.
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d074e03336e81449393a76d1768ceb096>

For the latest COVID-19 information
<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/>

As of December 19, 2022, there is 19 cases of mpox in Rockland County.
For more information regarding mpox, please visit Rockland County Health Department website
<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/>

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/>



NYMC in the News:

MERS: What to Know About the Virus and if it Will Spread After the World Cup

Healthline

12/16/2022

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/mers-what-to-know-about-the-virus-and-if-it-will-spread-after-the-world-cup>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president of government affairs

Navigating COVID, the Flu and RSV Concerns

NY1 Live at 10

12/7/2022

<https://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1168a93d-195e-4db4-b18c-0f89472b0f1c>

Lori A. Solomon, M.D. '99, M.P.H. '09, clinical associate professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and director of the Family Health Center

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

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

