SITUATION REPORT for NY, NJ, CT, PA and DC
05 February 2021

GENERAL SITUATION

The Transportation Security Administration said that violators of the federal transportation face mask requirement face a $250 fine that increases for subsequent violations. The fine can grow up to $1,500 for repeated violations. The penalties may be in addition to those imposed by operators. US airlines have taken the initiative to ban passengers who do not follow the rules, and the Federal Aviation Administration has said it will crack down on any passengers who disrupt flights or assault crew members over instructions to wear a mask.

The Director of US Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Rochelle Walensky said that CDC will release guidance on school reopenings in the coming week.

The FDA is set to review the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, now known to be 100% effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths from COVID. It requires regular refrigeration and is just one shot instead of two. The FDA says outside experts will review the vaccine on February 26 and it could be available in March for use if approved. Meanwhile, some schools in the US are looking to see if they can make summer school mandatory as students fall behind due to the pandemic.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that people in the state with certain health problems like cancer, Type 2 diabetes, severe obesity, heart conditions and more will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine beginning February 15.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced that NJ will be easing indoor capacity restrictions and curfew restrictions ahead of Super Bowl. The relaxation of restrictions begin Friday, February 5, and affects restaurants, gyms, other personal care businesses, performance venues, amusement and recreation facilities, casinos, and indoor gatherings that are religious ceremonies/services, wedding ceremonies, political activities, and memorial services/funerals.

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont said that residents 65 years and older might begin receiving the COVID-19 vaccine “within 10 days or so,” depending on the flow of vaccine into Connecticut from the federal government.

The state Department of Public Health and the United Way of Connecticut said they plan to expand availability and access to vaccine scheduling through the state’s Vaccine Appointment Assist Line, 877-918-2224. Starting on Monday, Feb. 8, the phone line to schedule appointments will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days per week. The state Department of Health said 125 people will be available to take phone calls and they have the capability to book up to 10,000 appointments at 12 locations across the state.
NEW YORK STATE

How to renew your driver’s license in New York State. [Click here](#).

Virtual Community Calendar - Virtual events, community info and more.

The Mayor of New York has set up the [COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund](#), with donations going to support healthcare workers and essential staff, local small businesses, displaced hourly workers, families, youth and vulnerable New Yorkers.

For a full list of NYC City Agency service updates see: [https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/city-agency-service-updates.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/city-agency-service-updates.page)

HEALTHCARE

How Do I Find a vaccination site in or near my NYC neighbourhood? You can find a COVID-19 vaccine site using the Vaccine Finder tool. The finder is designed to make the process easier for New Yorkers to find provider locations closest to their home and to schedule an appointment.


**How to get vaccinated in New York State:**
In New York State you can use the "Am I Eligible" app and [https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/](https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/) to check your eligibility and schedule an appointment. NY State also has a hotline to schedule a vaccine: 1-833-NYS-4VAX (1-833-697-4829).

**How to get vaccinated in New York City:**
In New York City you can visit [www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](https://www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder) to make an appointment for a vaccine online. The phone number to schedule a vaccine is 877-VAX-4NYC, operational 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, will go 24 hour soon.

Find a test site near you: [click here](#)

COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing, NYU Langone Health (results available within 1-2 days)

Parents: know the signs of Paediatric Multi-Symptom Inflammatory Syndrome to protect your child. Learn more: [https://on.nyc.gov/2T8Lybn](https://on.nyc.gov/2T8Lybn)

Notify NYC alerts in العربية, বাঙালি, 中文, Français, Kreyòl Ayisyen, Italiano, 한국어, Polski, Русский, Español, لغات أخرى: [https://on.nyc.gov/change-language](https://on.nyc.gov/change-language). To refer your friends and family to this service please visit [https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/Home/ReferAFriend](https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/Home/ReferAFriend).
The state is partnering with the Kate Spade New York Foundation and Crisis Text Line to provide a 24/7 emotional support service for frontline health care workers: workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access these emotional support services.

**MASS TRANSIT**

The Subway has resumed regular service, though there is no service between 1 and 5 a.m.

Busses are running at regular service. Fare payment is now required on all busses and boarding will be through the front door.

Off-peak fares remain in effect on LIRR and MetroNorth. While ridership remains lower than normal levels, the MTA is encouraging riders to avoid the rush-hour commute if they can. See COVID-19 updates here.

Access-A-Ride: [https://new.mta.info/accessibility/paratransit](https://new.mta.info/accessibility/paratransit)

NYC Ferry: [https://www.ferry.nyc/](https://www.ferry.nyc/)

NY Department of Motor Vehicles (transactions and services impacted by COVID-19): [https://dmv.ny.gov/offices](https://dmv.ny.gov/offices)

NY Department of Motor Vehicles (online transactions): [https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/all-online-transactions](https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/all-online-transactions)
NEW JERSEY

Coronavirus in N.J.: What’s reopened, what concerts, festivals and shows are rescheduled, canceled.

For updated information on the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission’s Licensing Centers and Vehicle Centers please click here. Most renewals, replacements, changes of address, and other transactions can be processed online.

See N.J. reopening guides here.

HEALTHCARE

COVID-19 vaccine: Latest list of more than 200 N.J. vaccination sites. (1/22/21)


How to get vaccinated in New Jersey:
You can reserve your spot to get a vaccine now by pre-registering at https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/. The site asks questions to determine when you are eligible to receive a vaccination.

Summit Medical Group said that they are not accepting any more COVID-19 vaccine appointments for now. The group is asking people not to call about appointments. They will be reaching out to patients when more vaccines can be scheduled.

This is the New Jersey COVID-19 information hub.

For more information on COVID-19 in NJ: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml

The following link lists most of the healthcare providers in the United States and their actions in relation to COVID-19: https://www.ahip.org/health-insurance-providers-respond-to-coronavirus-covid-19/

MASS TRANSIT

New Jersey Transit has resumed normal service, with increased vehicle frequency where possible to reduce occupancy. Please view more details here.

Please visit the NJ Transit website for specific schedule information.
CONNECTICUT


For more information on COVID-19 in CT: https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus

For information on the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles click here. Most Driver’s Licences, ID cards and vehicle registrations have been extended through December 2020.

HEALTHCARE UPDATES

***CVS Pharmacy is beginning vaccinations this week at two Connecticut locations, according to the company. CVS locations in Putnam and Waterford are now accepting appointments for eligible Phase 1b residents, including people ages 75 and over and long-term care residents and staff, its website states.


All COVID-19 testing sites in Connecticut: https://www.211ct.org/search/67201508

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If you are displaying symptoms consistent with those of COVID-19, and are unable to get into contact with your primary care physician, please reach out to one of the following hotlines:
Hartford Healthcare Hotline: (860) 972-8100
Yale New Haven Health: (833) 484-1200
Bristol Hospital Coronavirus Info Line: (860) 261-6855
Stamford Health: (203) 276-4111

MASS TRANSIT

Amtrak and commuter trains through eastern Connecticut: https://www.visitconnecticut.com/state/train-information/

Bus services Hartford, CT/NYC/Hartford, CT: https://www.greyhound.com/en-us/bus-from-new-york-to-hartford
Metro-North: http://www.mta.info/mnr
PENNSYLVANIA

For updated information on COVID-19 from the State government, click here.

PA residents are encouraged to download the COVID Alert PA app.

HEALTHCARE UPDATES


Testing sites in Pennsylvania can be found here.

For more information on COVID-19 in PA:
https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx

The following link lists most of the healthcare providers in the United States and their actions in relation to COVID-19:
https://www.ahip.org/health-insurance-providers-respond-to-coronavirus-covid-19/

MASS TRANSIT

Amtrak to Philadelphia:
https://amtrakguide.com/directions/amtrak-to-philadelphia/

Bus service from/to Philadelphia to NYC and from NYC to Philadelphia:
https://us.megabus.com/route-guides/philadelphia-to-new-york-bus
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (Washington, D.C.)

***How to Book a COVID-19 Vaccine appointment in DC, Maryland and Virginia.

The District of Columbia is currently in Phase 2 of the ReOpen DC plan.

Indoor dining is now allowed in Washington, D.C. up to 25% capacity.

Department of Motor Vehicles: make an appointment at dmv.dc.gov.

HEALTHCARE UPDATES

COVID-19 Vaccine: District Health Department website vaccinate.dc.gov.

All testing sites in Washington, D.C.: https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing

FOOD RESOURCES

Residents that are homebound because of COVID-19 can request support from the District for food and other essential items. Call 1-888-349-8323 or click here

Aldi
- Special hours for seniors and immunocompromised: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30 am

Dollar General
- Special hours for seniors: 8 am - 9 am daily

Family Dollar
- Special hours dedicated to at-risk customers, including senior citizens, individuals with pre-existing health conditions, and pregnant women: 8 am - 9 am daily

Giant
- Special hours for individuals with compromised immune systems (regardless of age), senior citizens, as well as caregivers: 6 am. - 7 am daily

Harris Teeter
- Special hours dedicated to seniors: Mondays and Thursdays 6 - 8 am
- ExpressLane Online Shopping for Seniors 9 am – 2 pm for seniors on Thursdays, free pickup (SD60) for Seniors, $5 delivery for Seniors (SDDEL), in addition to regular 5% Senior club discount every Thursday.

Safeway
- Special hours for seniors, expecting mothers, and immune-compromised individuals: 7 am - 9 am Tuesdays and Thursdays

Target
- Special hours for seniors, pregnant women, and those defined by the CDC as vulnerable or at-risk: first hour, each Tuesday and Wednesday
**Trader Joe’s**
- Special hours for those 60+ and customers needing extra assistance: 8 am - 9 am

**Walmart**
- Special hours for seniors and at-risk populations: 6 am - 7 am daily

**Whole Foods**
- Special hours for those 60+: 7 am - 8 am daily

**TRAVEL**

Amtrak (updates during COVID-19):  
https://www.amtrak.com/coronavirus?intcmp=wsp_hp-hero_link_service-updates_frame1

Travel Advisories: The U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories:  
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/

Country Specific Information from the U.S. Dep. of State:  

Flight / hotel / cruise reservations change and cancellation policies: (scroll down)  

Most airlines in the US have stopped blocking the middle seat to provide distancing between passengers, and some have reverted to booking planes to capacity. See more details here.