GENERAL SITUATION

President Joe Biden says his administration intends to take up the NFL on its offer to use all of the league's stadiums as COVID-19 vaccination sites. Biden mentioned the offer that came from Commissioner Roger Goodell in a letter this past week.

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) will help pay for COVID-related funeral and burial costs incurred by low-income families. The money will be available by application only to New York families in need. Families can be reimbursed for funeral and burial costs up to $7,000.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that indoor dining in New York City can reopen at 25% capacity beginning this Friday, two days ahead of the scheduled reopening on Valentine's Day. On vaccines, Gov. Cuomo said that “we are about 90% of all doses allocated used in arms and it is only Monday”. He added that New York has 5,000 distribution centers ready for additional vaccine supply, “we have more distribution than we have product on the shelves”.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said he would like to get high schools back to inside classrooms sometime during this current school year. For middle schools - which will return to in-person learning later this month “we had the pieces we needed, we had the testing capacity built out, we had the ability to build out the situation room,” he said. (Middle schoolers in grades 6 to 8 who have opted for in-person learning will return to classrooms on Feb. 25.) Both de Blasio and New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza stressed the effects of the isolation that students and teachers are feeling.

New York City will open a new COVID vaccination mega-site this Wednesday at Citi Field. Mayor de Blasio said the focus will be on Queens residents who meet vaccine requirements, as well as TLC drivers and food service workers.

The New York State Department of Health announced that people with comorbidities can begin making appointments at state mass vaccination sites on Feb. 14 for appointments beginning Feb 15. Local health departments will determine how, where and when to schedule appointments in their jurisdictions beginning Feb 15.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy said that overall, “the metrics we are seeing continue to point in the right direction and if these trends continue we can again look to additional steps to further reopen our economy”. However, he didn’t reveal which steps he would take.
Gov. Murphy said that the number of New Jersey school districts implementing full in-person instruction continues to rise. There are now 95 districts out of more than 600 school systems across the state open for full in-person instruction. That number increased by six since Feb. 1 and nearly 20 since the end of winter break.

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont announced that CT is opening coronavirus vaccinations to those 65-74 starting Thursday, 11 February and will allow providers to use any extra vaccine doses on that group effective immediately. The state is in Phase 1B of the vaccine rollout but has been following a tiered system within the phase that allowed those 75 and older to sign up for vaccinations first. This tiered system was put in place to ensure the most vulnerable populations were able to get vaccinated first.

Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser announced an update regarding the District's housing stabilization grants, which were established in November to provide financial support for renters. The Mayor announced additional help for people struggling to pay rent. In addition, she also noted that D.C. has opened COVID-19 vaccination appointments for childcare workers.
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

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/ 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 to make an appointment for a vaccine online. The phone number to schedule a vaccine is 877-VAX-4NYC (1-833-697-4829).

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

Notify NYC alerts in العربية, বাঙালী, 中文, Français, Kreyòl Ayisyen, Italiano, 한국어, Polski, Русский, Español, or ייִדיש: 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.
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

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/

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:
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.