GENERAL SITUATION

President-elect Joe Biden promised to help vaccinate more Americans against coronavirus by approving a wider range of professionals who can administer vaccines. He also said he would ask Congress to hire 100,000 more public health professionals.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced today that it will temporarily suspend in-person services at all field offices, asylum offices and application support centers on Jan. 19 and 20 to ensure the safety of employees and individuals with appointments. USCIS will reschedule individuals who had appointments on Jan. 19 and 20 and send them notices with their new appointment dates. The USCIS website and USCIS Contact Center will remain available for information, case status updates, and other online tools and resources.

The United Kingdom will close all travel corridors from 4 a.m. local time Monday, 18 January. The only way to get into the country is by having a negative coronavirus test result. Travelers will need to provide documentation that they have taken the test in the 72 hours before departure. They must have filled in their passenger locator form because the airline will ask for proof of both before boarding.

In New York City the vaccine supply is stretching thin across several hospitals, causing some to cancel or stop scheduling new appointments. Mount Sinai Hospital said it cancelled public vaccination appointments from Friday, January 15, through Tuesday, January 19, due to supply shortages. A representative of Mount Sinai said that the hospital will inform patients when more supplies become available and reopen vaccination appointments for eligible patients. NYU Langone is no longer scheduling new appointments due to their supply constraints.

Restaurants in some COVID-19 hot spots in New York can once again offer limited indoor dining in the wake of the latest lawsuit against Gov. Andrew Cuomo's virus restrictions.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced the opening of the Middlesex County vaccination mega-site today at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center in Edson. New Jersey opened up COVID-19 vaccinations to residents 65 and older, as well as those from 16 to 64 with serious medical conditions or who are smokers. Seniors in Hoboken received their first shots yesterday at the Hoboken University Medical Center.
Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont announced that the state of Connecticut will expand phase 1b of the coronavirus vaccine plan in the coming weeks to include people who are 65 and over as well as residents who have underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of the virus. That will include residents between 65 and 74, a group that is estimated to be around 353,000 individuals; and residents between the ages of 16 and 64 who have underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of the virus. Please read more [here](#) about phases 1A, 1B and how to schedule an appointment in CT.
NEW YORK STATE

*** New York State opened its third mass vaccination site in our area Thursday morning at Jones Beach. The site will operate as a drive-thru.

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 for vaccination.


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 use to check your eligibility and schedule. New York State also has a vaccination hotline you can call 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, 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
Notify NYC alerts in العربية, বাঙালি, 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.


NYC Ferry: https://www.ferry.nyc/

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

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

***COVID-19 vaccine: Latest list of N.J.’s 128 vaccination sites.

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

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


How to get vaccinated in New Jersey:
COVID-19 vaccines are on the way to hospitals and clinics across 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.

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


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

COVID-19 cases are at an all-time high in Pennsylvania. For updated information 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.)**

***DC Road and Metro Closures, Parking Restrictions Ahead of Inauguration.***

The District of Columbia is currently in Phase 2 of the ReOpen DC plan. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser extended the suspension of indoor dining until Jan. 22, 2021.

**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

TRAavel

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.