NEW YORK

SITUATION REPORT for NY, NJ, CT, PA and DC
18 December 2020

GENERAL SITUATION

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said today that the state’s hospitals are in “crisis management” mode and capacity has been added at facilities across the state. Cuomo said the state’s Department of Health mandated that 25% additional capacity be added and advised that hospitals should cancel elective surgeries if there are capacity issues. Accordingly, about 31,000 hospital beds have been added in New York’s “downstate” region.

Gov. Cuomo said today that despite the rise in state-wide coronavirus cases, he is optimistic that New York can avoid another complete shutdown. Cuomo said that no hospital in the state is currently forecast to reach the danger zone for capacity, indicating that a shutdown is not imminent despite recent warnings from him and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. He said that "I believe we can avoid a shutdown, and I believe we will avoid a shutdown".

The New York Department of Health has mandated that hospitals notify state officials if they are three weeks away from reaching 85% maximum capacity. NY Gov. Cuomo said if such a threshold is reached, the state would move to shut down the economy in that area. However, no hospital in the state has given the health department any such notice, which Gov. Cuomo said was “good news.”

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy said the state is on schedule to open six vaccine "mega sites" in early January 2021. The sites include the Meadowlands Complex, the Rockaway Townsquare Mall, New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center, Moorestown Mall, Rowan College of South Jersey and Atlantic City Convention Center. Gov. Murphy said that these sites will be in position to vaccinate frontline health care workers who are part of Category 1A. Gov. Murphy also announced that New Jersey is in final preparations for the administration of vaccinations at the state's long-term care facilities for both staff and residents beginning on December 28. CVS and Walgreen's will coordinate with enrolled facilities to create on-site clinics.

Walgreens has announced plans to vaccinate 3,000,000 residents and staff members in nursing homes and long-term care facilities across the country. The pharmacy chain said it planned to begin administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Friday at assisted living facilities in Ohio and Connecticut. Eventually, the operation will expand to 800 facilities next week before moving to a nationwide effort to serve 35,000 nursing homes.

Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser is planning to issue an order within the next few days that will prohibit indoor dining. It is set to suspend indoor dining starting Dec. 23 and continuing until sometime after Jan. 1. Capacity restrictions at D.C. restaurants, grocery stores and retailers were already reduced this week to 25% or 250 people.
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

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

Coronavirus Testing: [Where to find testing centers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut](#)  

[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)  


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.


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

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

This is the New Jersey COVID-19 information hub.

Coronavirus Testing: Where to find testing centers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut

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

Governor Ned Lamont Frequently asked questions in relation to COVID-19 in 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

Coronavirus Testing: Where to find testing centers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut

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](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx)

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**MASS TRANSIT**


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

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

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

HEALTHCARE UPDATES

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 dedicated to individuals with compromised immune systems (regardless of age), senior citizens, as well as caregivers for customers who are unable to shop because of their health: 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.