GENERAL SITUATION

The United Kingdom reversed plans to loosen restrictions over Christmas and announced strict lockdowns across much of the country, citing concerns about a variant of the coronavirus believed to be much more infectious. The new variant, which was first identified in the southeast of England, has resulted in British travelers being cut off from much of Europe and other parts of the world as countries imposed restrictions on travel from the UK.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced today that British Airways and Delta Airlines have agreed to test all passengers before they enter New York state. Cuomo also asked Virgin Atlantic to join those airlines in voluntarily testing passengers before boarding flights to New York.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said he believes that a temporary travel ban on travelers from Europe should be instituted in light of a new Covid-19 variant having been discovered in southeast England, echoing sentiments expressed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Mayor de Blasio said that hundreds of nursing homes across New York began administering COVID-19 vaccinations to residents and staff today, and the first doses of the newly authorized Moderna vaccine are expected to arrive in New York City. New York City is vaccinating at twice the pace of the rest of the country, with 42% of vaccine doses having been administered in NYC, over double the national average of 19%.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy is extending the public health emergency in New Jersey for an additional 30 days.

Gov. Murphy said that about 500,000 New Jersey residents will receive the coronavirus vaccine in the next month. Approximately 212,000 shots of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are due in New Jersey this week.

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont provides more details about tentative Phase 1B, 1C Vaccine distribution following CDC recommendations. Governor Ned Lamont said he hopes to have all people in phase 1A vaccinated with both doses by the end of January. He also hopes to start vaccinating residents in phase 1B at that time. In phase 1B, frontline essential workers and adults over the age of 75 could receive the vaccine. Frontline essential workers under this category will include first responders, teachers/school staff, childcare, correctional staff, public transit, postal workers, grocery store staff, food and agricultural, and manufacturing, according to Lamont. For phase 1C, which is expected to take place late spring, people 65 and up will be
eligible to receive the vaccine. Other essential workers and people with high-risk medical conditions will also be included in this category, the governor said.

Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that D.C. is suspending indoor dining effective Dec. 23 at 10 p.m. through 5 a.m. on Jan. 15. D.C. is also preparing a slew of new restrictions to curb the surge in COVID-19 cases. Additionally, the order extends the state of emergency and public health emergency for Washington, D.C. through March 31, 2021.

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

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


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

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


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

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.)

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.