GENERAL SITUATION

Dr. Moncef Slaoui, chief scientific adviser for Operation Warp Speed said that there is no evidence to suggest that the new Covid-19 variants discovered in the UK and South Africa have a different impact on patients.

Dr. Slaoui also provided an update on other vaccine candidates currently in trials. In addition to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, other vaccines in Operation Warp Speed’s portfolio are making progress. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine program continues to progress well and may have vaccine doses available and approved for use in the US by February. The AstraZeneca Phase 3 program in the US is also progressing well, almost reaching full enrollment. The Novavax vaccine is gearing up to start Phase 3 trials soon.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced some new regulations for travelers coming in from the United Kingdom, in response to news of a new variant of the coronavirus. Starting Wednesday, 30 December 2020 passengers traveling from the UK will receive a Department of Health Commissioner’s Order to quarantine via certified mail. Additionally, UK travelers will be personally served the DOH Commissioner’s Order to quarantine by the Sheriff’s Office. The Travel Unit will door knock to ensure compliance with these orders and violators will be charged a $1,000 fine each time. Mayor de Blasio also said that New York City is working closely with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, a jointly run transit agency, and state authorities to make sure individuals are following the mandatory quarantine. Meantime, Virgin Atlantic, British Airways and Delta Air Lines have all agreed to test passengers coming to New York City from the United Kingdom.

Washington D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that the state of emergency and public health emergency for D.C. would be extended through March 31, 2021.

Staring Wednesday, 30 December 2020 cash is gone forever as a method to pay the $16 toll at the Holland Tunnel. The tunnel between Jersey City and Lower Manhattan will be the first Port Authority Hudson River crossing to use cashless toll collection and joins the authority’s Staten Island bridges that already use all electronic toll collection. Toll systems at the George Washington Bridge and the Lincoln Tunnel are scheduled to be upgraded to the new modern system within the next 18 months.
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

Notify NYC alerts in العربية, বাঙালি, 中文, Français, Kreyòl Ayisyen, Italiano, 한국어, Polski, Русский, Español, اردو or יידיש: 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

***Christmas Eve 2020: What’s open, what’s closed on Thursday? Banks, UPS, mail delivery, restaurants, stores, malls, supermarkets...

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/


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)

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/](https://www.ahip.org/health-insurance-providers-respond-to-coronavirus-covid-19/)

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, with some additional restrictions to indoor dining and gatherings.

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: 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.