GENERAL SITUATION

The European Union is seeking to resume “transatlantic travel as soon as it is safe to do so,” and is urging member nations to take a unified approach to opening borders to US citizens. Talks are underway between the EU and the US regarding a possible ‘vaccine passport’ with the European Commission preparing a proposal for member states to “amend the recommendation on the external travel restriction, in order to take into account the recent developments.”

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said they have revised their emergency use authorization for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. The shots are expected to be accompanied by a new warning about an increased risk of rare but serious blood clots for adult women under 50.

New York State Governor Cuomo announced more reopening plans for the state.

- Offices can increase capacity from 50% to 75%
- Casinos can increase capacity from 25% to 50%
- Outdoor stadiums can go from 25% to 33%
- Gyms and fitness clubs increase to 50% capacity, from 33%, outside of New York City.

Gov. Cuomo announced that New York continues its slow and methodical approach to reopening from the coronavirus pandemic today with increased capacity restrictions at several types of businesses, including movie theater, zoos and museums (the museum and zoo capacities would increase to 50%, while movie theater capacity expands to 33%). Still, masks are required when a patron is not eating or drinking.

Gov. Cuomo also announced that the New York State Fair would be back this summer, operating at 50% capacity. The state fair will operate for a full 18 days, August 20 - September 6. The four areas at the fair would be for amusements, food and vendors, concerts, and agriculture.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said that NYC will resume “mobile, pop-up, and homebound vaccination programs” with the one-shot J&J vaccine. In addition, NY State officials announced that the state-run vaccination sites will resume administering the vaccine.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced today that the size limit on outdoor gatherings in New Jersey will increase from 200 to 500 people in two weeks, while the capacity limits for large outdoor sports and entertainment venues in the state will rise to 50%.

Connecticut: Community Health Center announced that they will no longer require appointments at their COVID-19 vaccination sites state-wide. That includes their mass vaccination sites at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Wesleyan in Middletown, Danbury Fair Mall in Danbury, Lord & Taylor in Stamford, or any pop-up community clinics run by CHC. The clinic will be offering COVID-
19 vaccinations without appointments to Connecticut residents seven days per week, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser announced today that starting Saturday, 1 May, D.C. residents and workers will be able to go to 11 high-capacity vaccination sites without needing an appointment for their first dose. This Wednesday, 28 April is the last day preregistrations will be accepted. Anyone who pre-registered for a vaccine will be offered an appointment. Go to the District’s coronavirus website to learn how and where to get vaccinated.
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 or 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)

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 2 and 4 a.m.

Busses are running at regular service. Fare payment is now required on all busses and boarding will be through the front door.

LIRR to restore previous timetable by March 29

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


**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.

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

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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: https://www.greyhound.com/en-us/bus-from-new-york-to-hartford
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.)

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.

How to Book a COVID-19 Vaccine appointment in DC, Maryland and Virginia.

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
- 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.