GENERAL SITUATION

The European Commission has today outlined plans that would allow fully vaccinated travelers from outside the European Union (EU) to be able to enter the 27 countries. Current restrictions, which bar travel from all but seven countries to the EU, have been in place since July 1 last year. The Commission’s plan is to use the EU’s "Digital Green Certificate" once it becomes operational to facilitate travel to Europe. To obtain a certificate, international travelers will need to submit evidence that they have been vaccinated to the individual European country they intend to travel to. Until the EU-wide "Digital Green Certificate" system is operational, countries would need to take “into account the ability to verify the authenticity, validity and integrity of the certificate and whether it contains all relevant data,” before granting a Certificate.

The FDA could expand COVID vaccines for 12-to-15-year-olds as early as this week. Health experts say the agency is expected to authorize Pfizer’s drug for that age group any day now. The decision would allow middle school students and all high school students to get the shots. If authorized, that age group may start receiving the Pfizer vaccine later this month.

New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced today that MTA subway service will return to a 24/7 schedule beginning May 17, coinciding with a curfew lift. Beginning May 19, most Covid-19 capacity restrictions will end across the tri-state area, including retail, food services and gyms. Restaurants, museums, theaters, Broadway, retail and shops are all included in the lifting of capacity restrictions. Gov. Cuomo also said that in New York State, outdoor food and beverage curfew will be lifted on May 17. Indoor food and beverage curfews will be lifted on May 31. Outdoor large stadiums will go to 33% capacity on May 19, according to Gov. Cuomo. Also in New York State, the governor said they will keep the six-foot social distancing requirement.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio celebrated a “turning point moment” today for the city as 80,000 city workers returned to the office. “City hall is abuzz today – it’s a great feeling,” he said. Approximately 80% of the city’s workforce has been working in the field throughout the pandemic, he said, and he thanked them. New York City has administered over 6.6 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine, he said.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy said in a joint announcement with New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont that New Jersey will join New York and Connecticut in eliminating many of its biggest coronavirus capacity limits on May 19, including indoor caps at restaurants and stores, while also ending all outdoor gathering caps — though indoor mask and social distancing restrictions will remain. Restaurants, gyms, personal services, movie theaters, stores, museums, and amusement parks will be allowed to operate without set indoor capacity limits for the first time in more than a year.
Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont lifted all outdoor restrictions as of May 1, including for bars that have been closed since the early days of the pandemic. All restrictions for Connecticut businesses will end on May 19.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser has loosened rules for vaccinated people on face coverings, travel and self-quarantining, however, no one can walk into a restaurant or business maskless. Businesses can, however, require proof of vaccination. If they do so for admittance, registration or employment, exceptions must be made for people with medical issues or religious beliefs that bar vaccinations. Read [here more about the latest mask rules](#), travel guidelines and exposure order.
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](https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine). 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/](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](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/](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:
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
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.