GENERAL SITUATION

Moncef Slaoui, chief scientific adviser for Operation Warp Speed (OWS), said that Johnson & Johnson’s Covid-19 vaccine may be authorized for emergency use in February and could be a “game-changer” for the US. He also said that the Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine may be authorized for emergency use in the US in April.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo today announced updated quarantine guidelines for New York that are consistent with the latest CDC guidance. Under the new guidelines, individuals exposed to COVID-19 can end their quarantine after 10 days without a testing requirement as long as no symptoms have been reported during the quarantine period. After day 10 is reached, individuals must continue monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and if any develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact the local health department or their healthcare provider to report this change and determine if they should seek testing.

New York is currently "undertaking preparations" to have emergency hospital facilities ready in case there is another Covid-19 surge, including Javits Center in New York City.

The New York Police Department has unveiled its security plans for New Year's Eve. NYPD announced there will be no spectators allowed in Times Square, no public fireworks in Coney Island and no midnight run in Central Park.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy announced today that indoor sports in New Jersey will resume Saturday, 2 January.

Gov. Murphy said that New Jersey unveiled a website covid19.nj.gov/vaccine where people can sign up to receive a vaccine for the coronavirus in “the near future.”. The website doesn’t currently allow people to register or pre-register for the vaccine. But the governor has said he hopes doses for the wider public will be available by April or May.

In 2021, Washington, D.C. is expanding their in-person learning options and every school is making plans to reopen for Term 3 on February 1, 2021, while maintaining the ability for students to continue learning at home.

In general, Washington, D.C. plans to give vaccines first to health care workers and people at high-risk for exposure, followed by other essential workers and high-risk people before the shot becomes widely available to the general public.
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

*** Another MVC agency closes over coronavirus infection, but 4 will reopen on New Year’s Eve. Please read the details here.

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. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser suspended indoor dining until Jan. 15, 2021.

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 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.