



Update

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer



@galeabrewer www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, NY, NY 10007 (212) 669-8300
431 West 125th St., Storefront, NY, NY 10027 (212) 531-1609

Full text of all previous COVID newsletters (since March 2020) are in [this archive](#).

More information is available on my website (manhattanbp.nyc.gov),

Facebook (facebook.com/galeabrewer), Twitter (twitter.com/galeabrewer), and

Instagram (instagram.com/galeabrewer).

Friends,

It's Thursday, April 29, 2021. Welcome to my weekly COVID-19 newsletter.

Here are the bullets for NYC according to nonprofit news site [TheCity.nyc's COVID-19 tracker](#), the [New York State COVID testing dashboard](#), and the [NYC Dept. of Health](#):

Manhattan:

- 134,541 cumulative confirmed cases (+1,499 since last week)
- 4,379 cumulative deaths (+37 since last week-- but Tuesday, 4/27 was the first day since early January with no deaths in Manhattan)
- 1.2% seven-day positivity average (down from 1.9% last week)
- 237,441 adults (17%) partially vaccinated
- 642,486 adults (46%) fully vaccinated

NYC:

- 910,095 total cases (+11,957 since last week)
- 32,461 total deaths (+261 since last week)
- 3.18% seven-day positivity average (down from 4.54% last week)
- 1,049,001 adults (16%) partially vaccinated

- 2,455,722 adults (37%) fully vaccinated

The University of Washington Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's weekly "[reference scenario](#)" estimates 31,392 more deaths nationwide by August 1 (a projected cumulative total of 602,723), falling by more than 15,000 from last week's projection.

Nate Silver [tweeted](#), "Given how much was written about a relatively modest increase in COVID cases in the US a month or so ago, there should probably be more coverage of the ~20% decline over the past two weeks, which reflects the power of the vaccines among other things," and Axios, seemingly in response, this morning [reports](#): "New COVID infections fell by roughly 16% over the past week in the U.S. — a big improvement after [weeks of stasis](#)... The U.S. averaged about 55,000 new cases per day over the past week, down from about 66,000 per day the week before... The number of new infections declined in 26 states and rose in only four."

The FDA [lifted the pause](#) on the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine last week, following concerns over very rare but serious blood clots. J&J is back at sites in NYC, though some may first exhaust their two-dose Pfizer and Moderna supplies before switching back to J&J.

NYC plans to [fully reopen by July 1](#) with no capacity restrictions on businesses, entertainment venues, and offices, according to the Mayor this morning (4/29). (And yet, the City still refuses to allow senior centers to reopen outdoors or indoors, even at the same capacity of restaurants-- even though most seniors are now vaccinated.)

All City-run and State mass vaccination sites now accept walk-ins for anyone 16+. I've compiled this checklist (also accessible on [my website](#)) to help you know about every possible option.

- The [Manhattan walk-in City sites](#) are:
 - Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 W. 138th St. | Tu-Sa, 9a-5p (16+)

- American Museum of Natural History, 200 Central Park West | Fr-Tu, 8a-6p (18+)
- ATC Vaccination Times Square/NFL Experience, 20 Times Square (7th Ave. & 47th St.) | Su-Sa, 7:30a-7p (16+)
- City College North Academic Center, 1549 Amsterdam Ave. | Th-Su, 9a-6p (18+)
- Essex Crossing, 224B Broome St. | Th-Su, 9a-6p (18+)
- Ford Foundation, 320 E. 43rd St. | Mo-Sa, 9a-5p (18+)
- Fulton Community Senior Center/Hudson Guild, 119 9th Ave. | Tu-Sa, 10a-5p (16+)
- NYC Health Dept. - Downtown Clinic, 1 Centre St. | We-Su, 9a-5p (18+)
- NYC Health Dept. - Uptown Clinic, 158 E. 115th St. | Mo-Sa, 9a-5p (18+)
- Yeshiva University, 2495 Amsterdam Ave. | Su-Th, 9a-7p; Fr, 9a-5p (16+)

**These sites also give second doses to anyone who got their first shot elsewhere. Walk-in or [make an appointment](#), and bring your CDC vaccination card.

- Manhattan’s walk-in State mass vaccination site is the Javits Center (429 11th Ave.). Those who prefer to make an appointment, fill out the [NYS eligibility survey](#).
- Use the [NYC COVID Vaccine Finder](#).
- Check availability on [NYC Vaccine List](#) or [TurboVax](#), which aggregate open appointments at many federal, State, City, pharmacy, and private sites.
- Call the NYC vaccine hotline (877-VAX-4NYC or 877-829-4692), 8 am - 9 pm.
- Call the NYS vaccine hotline (833-NYS-4VAX or 833-697-4829).
- In-home vaccination is available for people who are fully homebound (can’t leave their unit even with assistance). Request an appointment by filling out [this form](#) or calling 877-829-4692 (this doesn’t guarantee an appointment; FDNY personnel will call to confirm eligibility). On that call, household members (family and home health aides) can also request to be vaccinated during the in-home appointment.

- Check hospital networks: [Northwell Health](#); [NYU Langone](#) (for current patients only and must create a MyChart account to be notified about an appointment); [Hospital for Special Surgery](#); [Fort Washington Armory](#) (216 Fort Washington Ave.), run by NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine (create a Connect account or walk in Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7 am - 4 pm).
- Check [SOMOS](#) vaccine sites.
- Check pharmacies: [CVS](#) (800-SHOP-CVS), [Walgreens](#) (800-WALGREENS), [RiteAid](#) (800-RITE-AID), and the [East Harlem Costco](#) (pharmacies must now offer second shots to people who got first shots elsewhere).
- Contact your medical provider or local pharmacy.
- The following sites are open to [NYCHA residents only](#), Thursdays-Sundays, 8 am - 6 pm (walk in or call 332-240-3330 to make an appointment, and bring proof of NYCHA residency):
 - Johnson Community Center,1833 Lexington Ave. btwn 112th and 115th Sts., through 6/20
 - St. Nicholas/Central Harlem Senior Citizens Center, 210 W. 131st St., through 5/2
 - Gompers Community Center, 80 Pitt St., through 5/23
 - Rutgers Community Center, 200 Madison St.
 - Douglass Addition Senior Center, 868 Amsterdam Ave. btwn 102nd and 103rd Sts., through 5/2
- If you need help making an appointment, contact Junior Martinez in my office at 212-531-1609 or juniormartinez@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

Sunday (5/2) from 9 am - 4:30 pm, there will be an additional vaccine clinic at NYCHA Douglass Houses (830 Columbus Ave.), run by the State and administered by SOMOS. The site will use the two-dose Pfizer vaccine, so 16+. Make an appointment [here](#).

Saturday and Sunday (5/1-2) from 10 am - 4 pm, two-dose Pfizer vaccine appointments are available at the [Broadway Housing Communities Sugar Hill Apartments pop-up](#)

(898 St. Nicholas Ave., enter on 155th St.), open to any NYS resident 16+. Make an appointment [here](#).

[Community Healthcare Network](#) operates two Manhattan vaccine sites, walk-ins welcome or click the hyperlinked names to schedule an appointment:

- [Convent Avenue Baptist Church](#), 420 W. 145th St. | Tu-We, 5:30p-9:30p, Sa-Su, 9a-5:30p
- [Fort Washington Collegiate Church](#), 729 W. 181st St. | We-Th, 5:30p-9:30p, Sa-Su, 9a-5:30p

[This flyer](#) lists East Harlem vaccine sites (Spanish version [here](#)).

During my weekly Manhattan Vaccine Task Force meeting, representatives from CUNY and Columbia University spoke about the schools' efforts to vaccinate students, faculty, and staff. Many CUNY locations are vaccine sites open to the public, promoted in the [#VaxUpCUNY](#) campaign. All Columbia students will be required to be vaccinated starting this fall semester, while CUNY has not yet made a determination.

We then heard from several senior center administrators about why the City should allow outdoor senior center programming and work on a plan toward fully reopening senior centers. If you'd like to join these weekly task force discussions about vaccines and reopening, email info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

The City strongly encourages all health providers to recommend that their patients get vaccinated. Providers who want to find out more, including tools to have these conversations, visit nyc.gov/VaccineTalks.

If you're uninsured, there are still a few weeks left to sign up for Obamacare/ACA health insurance (the deadline is Saturday, 5/15). There are new subsidies included in the American Rescue Plan that make Obamacare more affordable than ever. Apply through

the [New York State marketplace](#) or directly through insurers. If you have questions, make an appointment with a [local marketplace navigator](#), who can help individuals, families, and small businesses choose an affordable plan.

Important news for restaurants impacted by the COVID pandemic. The Restaurant Revitalization Fund, passed as [part of the American Rescue Plan](#) in March, will begin accepting applications THIS Monday (5/3).

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration: “This program will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location.” Any PPP payments made last year will be deducted from the total grant amounts.

The key facts:

--This \$28.6 billion fund is FIRST-COME, FIRST SERVED;

--\$5 billion of the total fund will be distributed only to businesses with gross receipts of \$500,000 or less in calendar year 2019;

--Chains of over 20 locations are ineligible.

So if you're a restaurant owner and haven't already, spend the next few days researching what documentation you'll need to apply on Monday; you can begin registering for the grant application portal tomorrow, Friday (4/30), and applications will open at noon EST on Monday (5/3). Here's the link to the SBA's RRF [information page](#), including a [sample application](#).

COVID News Clippings

[Vaccines Are Effective Against the New York Variant, Studies Find](#)

By Apoorva Mandavilli, NY Times, April 22, 2021

[People With Severe COVID-19 Have Higher Risk Of Long-Term Effects, Study Finds](#)

Laurel Wamsley, npr.com, April 22, 2021

[Japan Declares 3rd State Of Emergency, 3 Months Ahead Of Olympics](#)

Bill Chappell, npr.com, April 23, 2021

[CDC recommends pregnant women get coronavirus vaccine](#)

By Ariana Eunjung Cha, Washington Post, April 23, 2021

[A nasty pandemic problem: More flushed wipes are clogging pipes, sending sewage into homes](#)

By Katherine Shaver, Washington Post, April 23, 2021

[Kids need less academic pressure and more support after a year of isolation and learning losses](#)

By Kelly Glass, Washington Post, April 23, 2021

[‘Excess Deaths’ in 2020 Surpassed Those of 1918 Flu Pandemic](#)

By Denise Lu, NY Times, April 23, 2021

[Homebound and Waiting: Vaccine Push Misses Some Older New Yorkers](#)

By Sharon Otterman, NY Times, April 23, 2021

[It’s nearly summer camp season. Here’s the latest guidance to keep kids safe from the coronavirus.](#)

By Reis Thebault, Washington Post, April 25, 2021

[‘This Is a Catastrophe.’ In India, Illness Is Everywhere.](#)

A new variant known here as “the double mutant” may be doing a lot of the damage... this variant contains one mutation that may make the virus more contagious and another that may make it partially resistant to vaccines. Doctors are pretty scared. Some we have spoken to said they had been vaccinated twice and still got seriously ill, a very bad sign.

By Jeffrey Gettleman, NY Times, April 27, 2021

[As Covid sweeps India, experts say cases and deaths are going unreported](#)

By Jessie Yeung, CNN, April 27, 2021

[C.D.C. Eases Outdoor Mask Guidance for Vaccinated Americans](#)

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Roni Caryn Rabin, NY Times, April 27, 2021

[When do we have to wear a mask outside? The C.D.C. says less often, and here’s how and why.](#)

NY Times, April 27, 2021

Social distancing indoors may provide ‘false sense of security,’ Covid transmission study finds

“Efficient mask use is the most effective safety measure, followed by room ventilation, then filtration,” one of the study authors said.

By Kim Bellware, Washington Post, April 27, 2021

No more ‘Cuomo chips.’ New York’s legislature will suspend a rule that required food to be ordered with alcohol.

By Luis Ferré-Sadurní, NY Times, April 27, 2021

U.S. pharmacies are told to offer second vaccine doses to people who got first shots elsewhere.

NY Times, April 27, 2021

The CDC Is Still Repeating Its Mistakes

The agency’s new guidelines are too timid and too complicated.

By Zeynep Tufekci, The Atlantic, April 28, 2021

How Pfizer Makes Its Covid-19 Vaccine

By Emma Cott, Elliot deBruyn, and Jonathan Corum, NY Times Interactive, April 28, 2021

Stay Safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.