

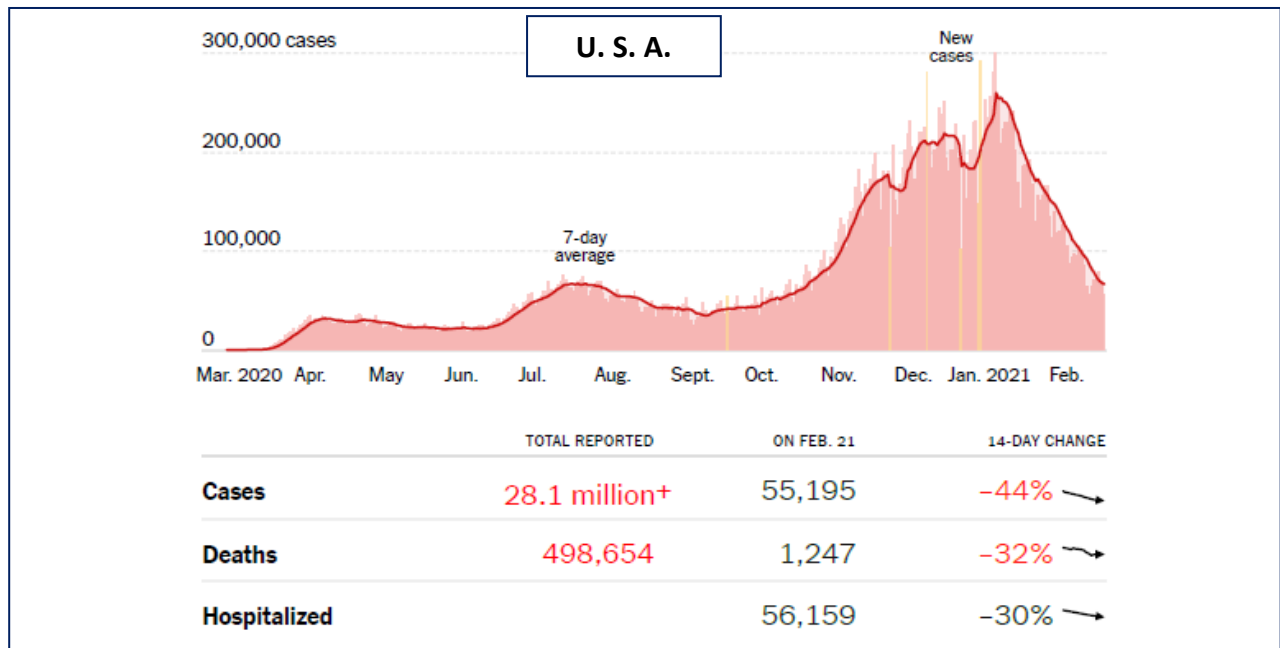
COVID-19 UPDATE – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Dear Members of the DoM Community,

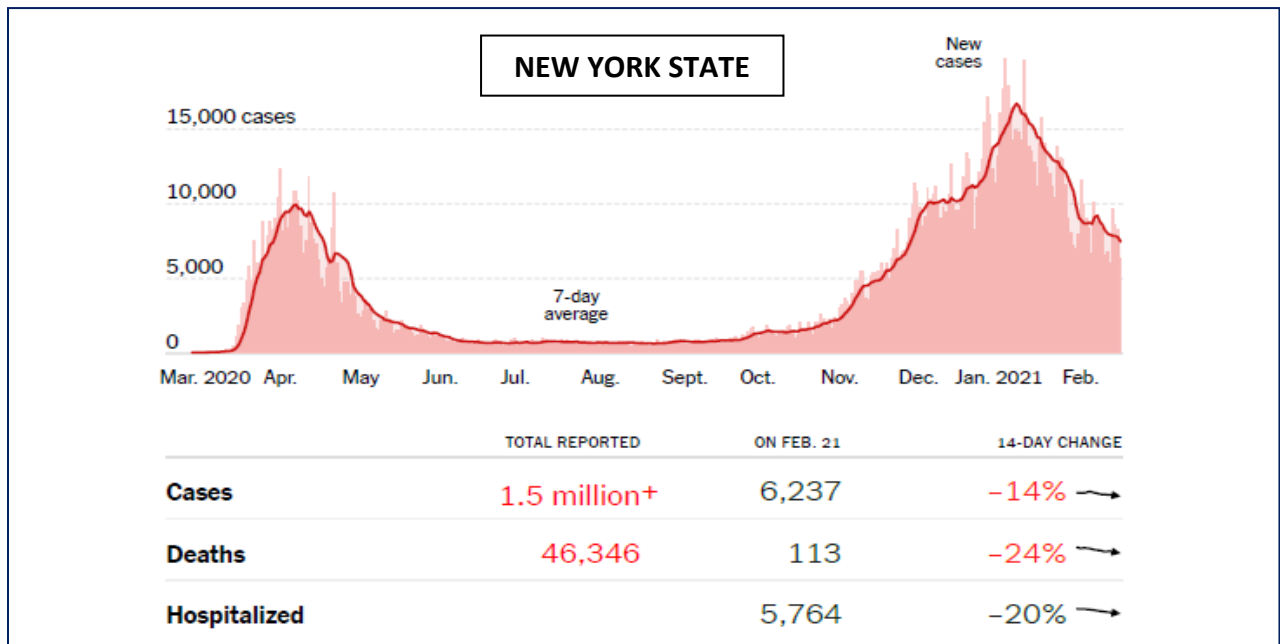
Good morning to you on this last Monday of February. Here are the updates on the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to our community.

1. Nationwide COVID-19 Data

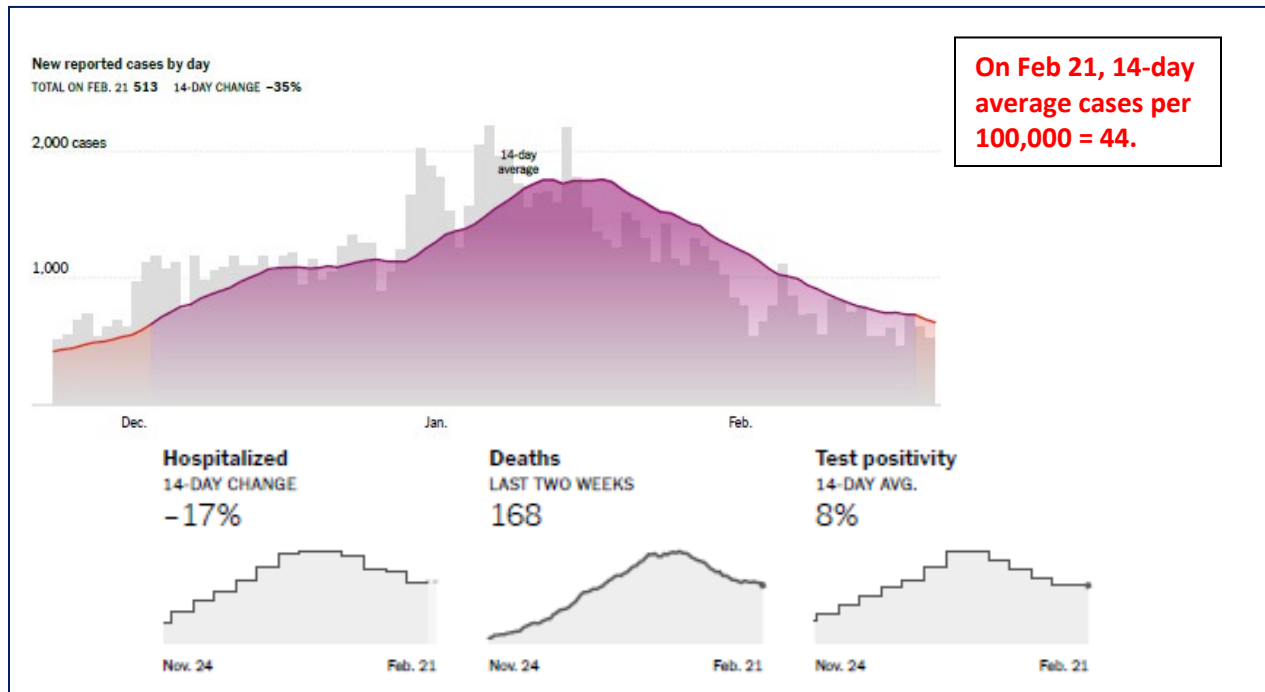
U.S. daily COVID cases continue to decline with the death toll approaching 500,000.



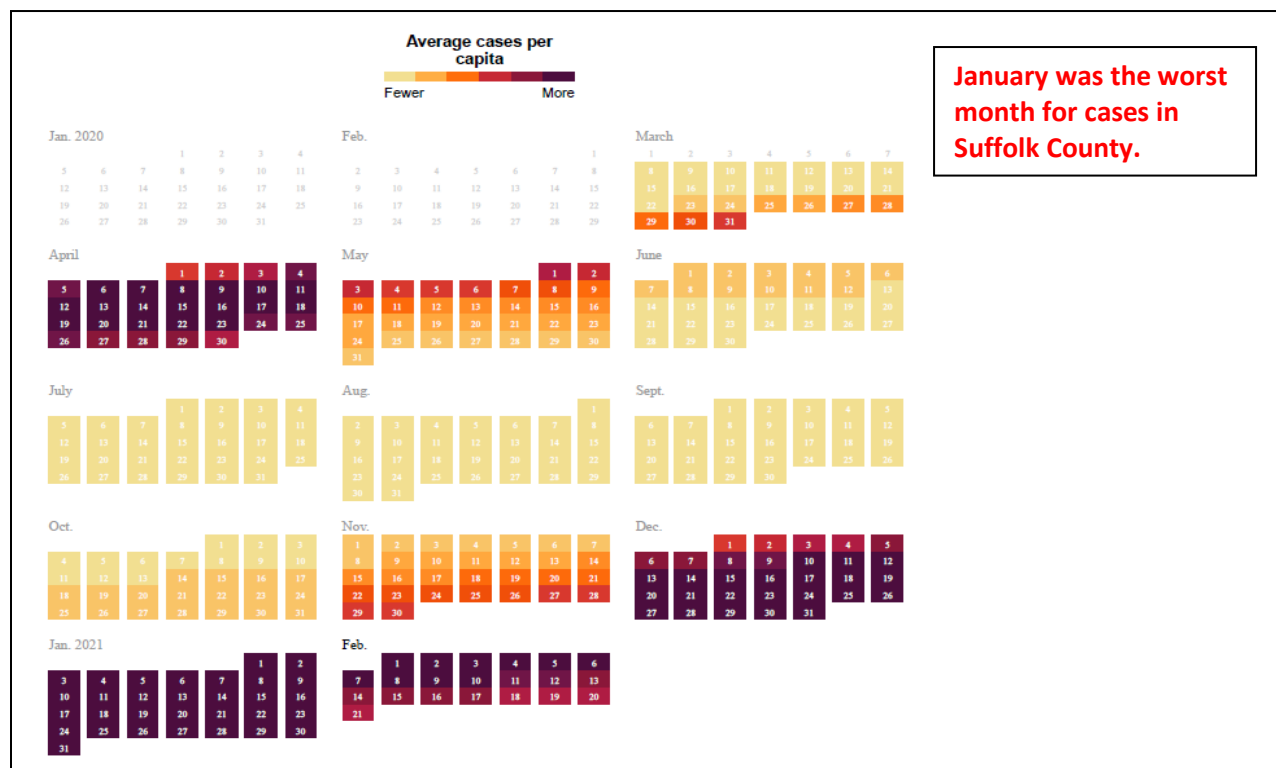
2. The rate of decline in cases in New York State lags that of the country.



3. Suffolk County is now at **Very High-Risk** level, down from **Extremely High-Risk** level.



A county is at a **very high-risk** level if it reported between 160 and 640 cases per 100,000 people during the past two weeks. This is equivalent to a **daily rate between 11 and 46 cases per 100,000 people**.



COVID-19 Testing in Suffolk County:

On February 21,

- 13,033 COVID-19 tests were administered.
- 2,808,691 total tests have been administered since March.
- 513 new cases were reported.; 7-day average = 561.
- 158,029 total cases have been reported since March.
- 5.6% of those tested since March have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- 3.9% tested positive in Suffolk County yesterday; 4.1% positive on a 7-day average.

Fatalities:

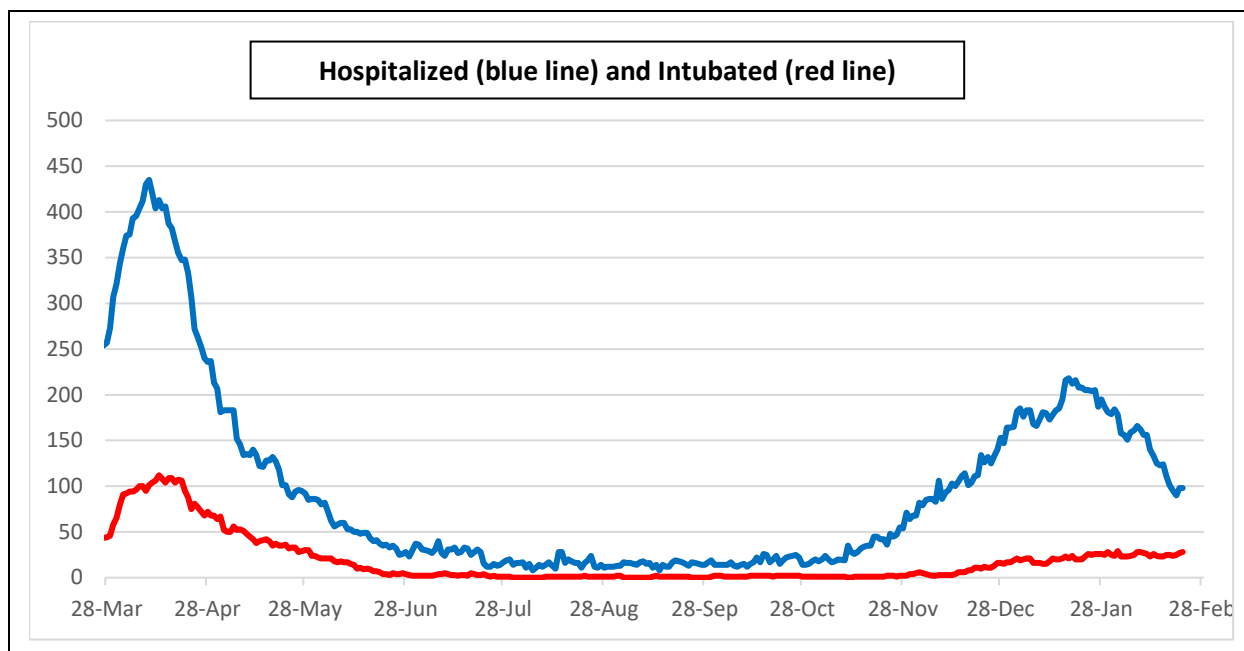
- 3,031 total fatalities, an increase of 78 from one week before.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations:

- 447 individuals were hospitalized, a decrease of 98 from one week before.
- 99 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a decrease of 18 from a week ago.

4. SBUH COVID-19 Hospitalization Data (source = Hospital Incident Command Structure or HICS)

At midnight Sunday, February 21, SBUH census is as follows (see figure below for all-time trend of hospitalization).



- 98 COVID + inpatients, a decrease of 25 from one week before.
 - 31 patients were in ICU level of care; 28 on ventilators; 12 in ICR.
 - COVID admissions on Sunday = 7.
 - COVID live discharges = 3.
 - COVID-related deaths = 2.
- Total SBUH census = 617; 491 are Medicine/Surgery (111% capacity).
- COVID ICU numbers remain stubborn. 17S and 18S are expected to be needed for COVID ICU patients for an extended period of time.
- Endoscopy on 14N opened today in limited capacity.
- Cardiac cath/EP to expand volumes.
- Resident deployment for COVID to end on Mar 1.
- Department licensed independent practitioners (LIPs) redeployed to cover COVID ICUs beginning Feb 28.

5. Vaccination Program Update (sources = CDC, NYS DOH, and NYT)

As of February 21, the status of COVID vaccine rollout is as follows.

COVID-19 Vaccine Distributed and Administration (as of 2/21/2021)					
Region	Total Distributed	Total Administered	Percent Administered	Percent Population (one shot)	Percent Population (two shots)
US	75,204,965	63,090,634	84%	13%	5.7%
NY	4,171,175	3,621,973	87%	12%*	6%
LI	468,995**	416,577	89%	13.8%	7.6%

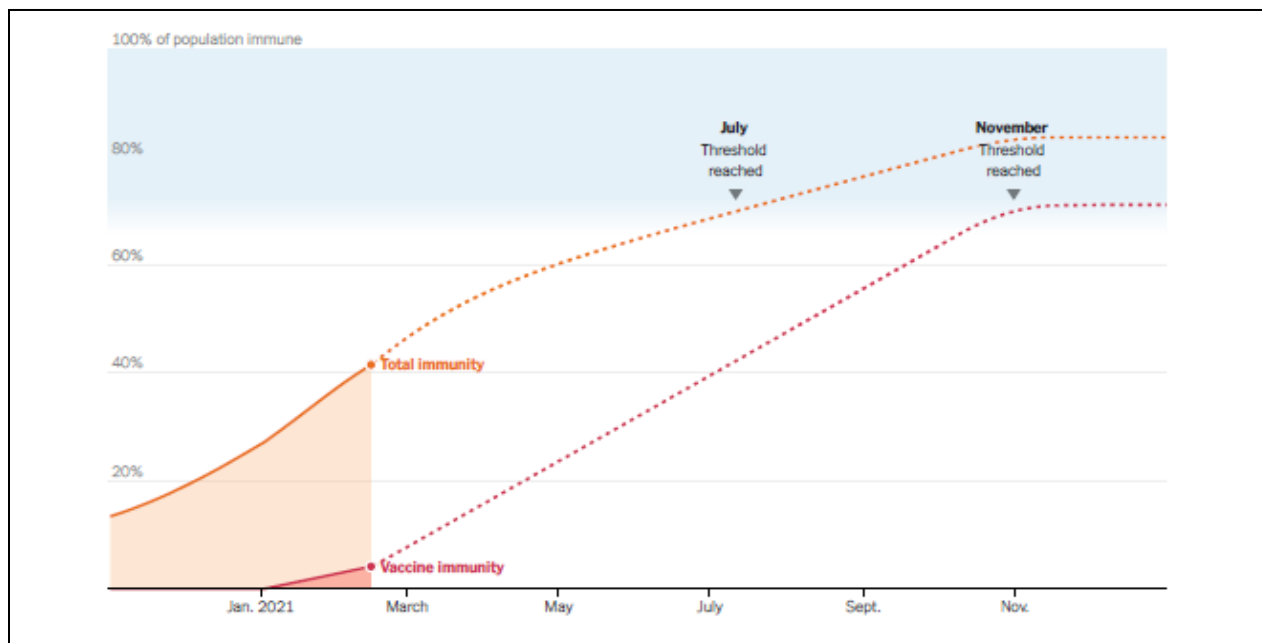
*New York state ranks #35 among states in percent population receiving at least one shot.
 **LI distributed doses do not include those distributed by the Federal Long Term Care Facility program.

When Could the United States Reach Herd Immunity? (source = NYT;

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/02/20/us/us-herd-immunity-covid.html?searchResultPosition=1>)

The graph below shows the current path to herd immunity in the United States, based on a model developed by PHICOR, a public health research group. It looks at the number of people who have been **fully vaccinated** and combines that with an estimate of the number of people who have been infected and have recovered to measure **total immunity**. When the orange line crosses into the blue area, that means we have entered the **herd immunity range**. The exact threshold for herd immunity for the coronavirus is unknown, but recent estimates range from 70 percent to 90 percent.

The scenario below indicates that we could reach the immunity threshold by July with several caveats: (1) vaccination is at the current pace (~1.7 mil. per day); (2) mitigation measures are kept in place; and (3) viral transmissibility rate remains the same. In this scenario, it is estimated that 100,000 additional people could die from the virus. In a different scenario in which more contagious virus becomes predominant and precautions are lifted now, immunity threshold may be reached by April but at the expense of an additional 530,000 deaths.



Expanded Vaccine Eligibility

Beginning Monday, February 15, the New York State Department of Health is expanding Phase 1b to include certain medical conditions for individuals between the ages of 16 to 64 for COVID-19 vaccination. This includes people who are pregnant and those with chronic conditions including cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and pulmonary disease. [View the full list of these conditions here.](#) If you fall into these expanded criteria, your healthcare provider can direct you on how to obtain the necessary documentation you need to verify your eligibility. As a reminder, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has the sole authority to allocate the State's vaccine supply to points of distribution (PODs) across the State, and supply is extremely limited. Currently, Stony Brook does not independently have access to the vaccine.

6. Weekly Employee Anterior Nasal Swab Testing (source = *ThePulse*; February 10)

- As a reminder, all Stony Brook University Hospital staff, FSA hospital colleagues and School of Medicine clinical faculty are required to participate in weekly anterior nasal swab COVID surveillance testing in the Health Sciences Galleria on Level 3. Testing hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:45 am to 3:15 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:45 am to 5 pm.
- Appointments and pre-registration are not needed. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past six weeks, please do not report for testing. If it is after six weeks since you tested positive, you are required to receive ANS testing as long as you do not have symptoms.
- ***You are still required to participate in the surveillance testing even if you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. In fact, with the new COVID variants, surveillance testing is more important than ever.***
- For non-clinical faculty and staff, please follow instructions from the University for pooled testing (<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/comingback/covidtesting.php>).

7. Support Resources for Employees (source = *ThePulse*, SBM and SBU websites)

With the pandemic persisting for close to a year, each of us has been affected in different ways. Many are seeking ways to cope and adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic and to recover from the difficulties in this journey. The following websites may provide some resources and tools that provide tips and insights with which individuals may consider visiting.

Confidential COVID Help Line and Support Website

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health has developed a confidential help line to get employees connected to appropriate support and other resources. Please call (631) 632-CHAT (2428). For specific tips and skills for taking care of your mental health, please visit <https://stonybrookmedicine.edu/covid19support>.

Code Lavender

This code provides a rapid response to the emotional needs of staff after unexpected or adverse events. Any employee can call a silent code (not called overhead) by dialing the operator (3-2-1) and requesting a Code Lavender. A callback number, the unit and the name of the individual requesting the code is given to the operator, and a responder will return your call. This service is available 24/7.

Become a Wellness Champion

At Stony Brook Medicine, we aim to create an environment that promotes and fosters mental health and wellness. We are seeking unit Wellness Champions to join our Employee Support Team to support mental health and wellness initiatives throughout the hospital. Learn more and fill out an application form.

Employee Assistance Program

Our Employee Assistance Program has an evolving employee resource guide for managing the COVID-19 pandemic and can be contacted for more specific requests (Hardship Fund, emotional support, etc.). You can reach out to EAP directly: eap@stonybrook.edu or (631) 632-6085

Resilience at The Brook

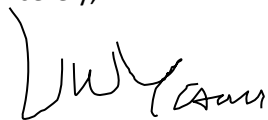
All employees are welcomed to take a break in this safe, quiet environment – a place to rest, receive emotional support and re-energize with snacks and beverages. Resilience at The Brook is open 24/7 to all Stony Brook Medicine employees.

Healthier U

Healthier U, Stony Brook University's employee wellness program, is designed to address your total well-being — mind, body, and spirit. Visit the website to explore upcoming wellness events and programs: stonybrook.edu/healthieru. Watch video sessions on mindfulness meditation, nutrition, and stress reduction, among other topics on Healthier U's Facebook page.

I hope the information provided here is useful to you in keeping track of the progression of the pandemic. Thank you for your attention and please stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VW Yang'.

Vincent W. Yang, MD, PhD

Simons Chair of Medicine

Professor of Medicine, Biomedical Informatics, and Physiology and Biophysics

Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University