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RMS End of Week Update 12/13/2024



2025 State Of The State Affordability Agenda

This week Governor Kathy Hochul went grocery shopping with constituents to highlight her 2025 State of the State affordability agenda. As her first proposal for the 2025 State of the State, Governor Hochul proposed New York State's first-ever Inflation Refund, which would deliver about \$3 billion in direct payments to around 8.6 million New York taxpayers statewide in 2025. This new refund would send a payment of \$300 to single taxpayers who make up to \$150,000 per year, and a payment of \$500 for joint tax filers making up to \$300,000 per year. The announcement is one of several proposals to help address the cost of living that will be unveiled as part of the Governor's upcoming State of the State.

The Governor will give her 2025 State of the State Address on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Hart Theater at The Egg.

To view the full press release click [here](#).

Assembly Majority Nominate Speaker Heastie For Sixth Time

The NYS Assembly Majority have nominated Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie as Speaker of the Assembly for the sixth time.

In a Statement on the nomination Speaker Heastie stated, “ I am honored and humbled that the members of the Assembly Majority have, for the sixth time, nominated me for speaker of the New York State Assembly. I have been proud to lead this chamber since 2015 and today's caucus vote is just as meaningful to me this as it was nearly ten years ago when I first became speaker. The New York State Assembly is the most diverse legislative body in the country, leading the way in passing groundbreaking legislation that serves as a model for other states and indeed the entire country. I look forward to getting to work with my colleagues in 2025 as we strive to lift up all New Yorkers and help them climb the ladder of economic success and prosperity.”

To view the full statement please click [here](#).

2025 Legislative Calendar Released

The NYS legislative session calendar was released earlier this week with legislative session set to begin on January 8th, 2025, and scheduled to wrap up June 12th, 2025.

To view the calendar please click [here](#).

Governor Hochul Signs Legislation To Require Health Insurers To Cover EpiPens

This week Governor Hochul today signed legislation to reduce the high costs of epinephrine auto-injector ("EpiPen") devices for consumers with commercial health insurance. The legislation will require health insurers to cover Epi-Pens and caps the amount consumers will be required to pay out-of-pocket at \$100.

“For people with severe allergies, immediate access to an Epi-Pen device can mean the difference between life and death,” Governor Hochul said. “When every second counts, the last thing New Yorkers should have to worry about is whether they can afford the medication they need to survive an anaphylactic reaction. By signing this bill, we are putting people over profit and giving New Yorkers peace of mind by ensuring equitable access to this lifesaving emergency treatment.”

The Legislation (S7114-A/A6425-A) will reduce the cost of these devices for consumers by requiring health insurers in the individual and group markets, including non-profit insurers and HMOs, to cover medically necessary Epi-Pens for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions and cap out-of-pocket costs for such coverage at \$100 per year. The cost of Epi-Pen devices has far outpaced the rate of inflation, with some reports citing a 600% increase in price since the medication was first acquired by Mylan in 2007. While Epi-Pens once cost \$60 per device, they can now sell for upwards of \$600 for a pack of two pens. Epi-Pens have a relatively short shelf-life, expiring after 12 months on average, requiring those

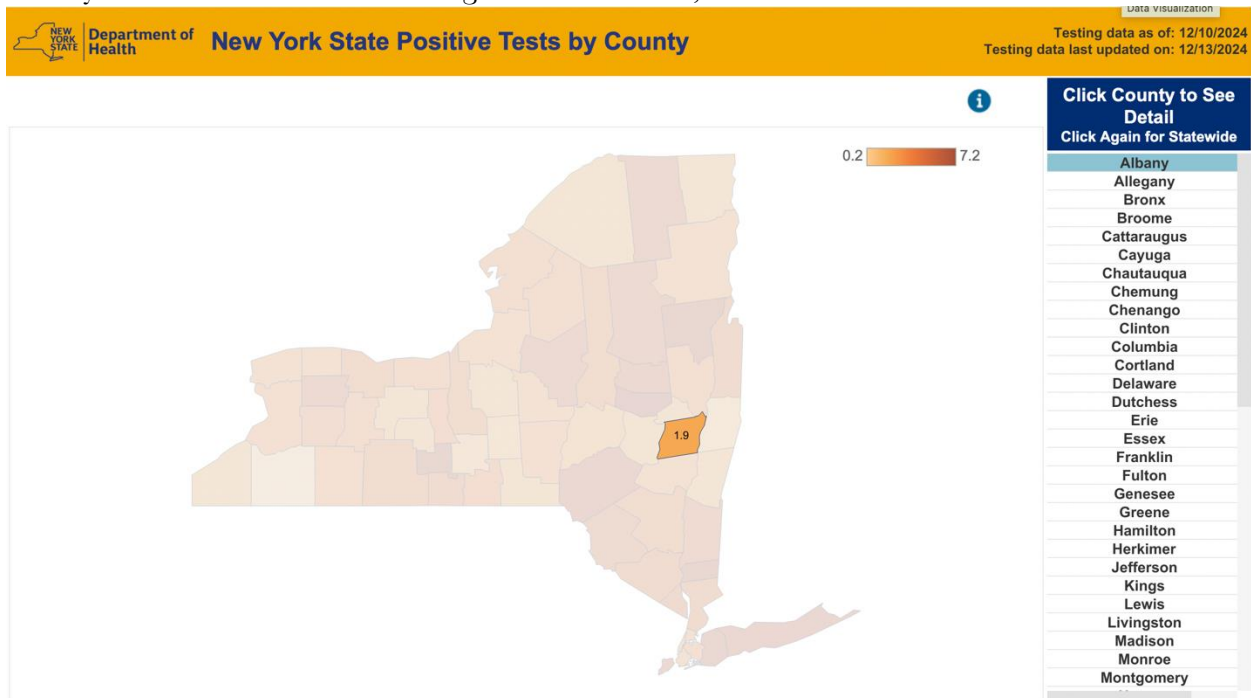
in need to purchase the medication repeatedly. Adding to their expense, users of Epi-Pens are also advised to carry two devices at all times, as a single dose of epinephrine may not be enough to treat a serious allergic reaction. Acquiring the devices requires a prescription from a healthcare provider. Due to the rising costs, many who are prescribed the auto-injectors, try to stretch out their supply by going beyond expiration dates or delaying picking up their prescriptions.

Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, “Governor Hochul understands that for too long, skyrocketing costs have increasingly become a barrier to these lifesaving medications. By capping the out of pocket costs of medically necessary EpiPen devices, more New Yorkers who are at risk of severe allergic reactions will have access to the medications they need if an emergency arises.”

To view the full press release please click [here](#).

NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

Below we have included the link to the State’s Testing Tracker which includes the State’s overall testing status--by clicking on the link above you can view the testing results by county. This data is current through December 12, 2024.



Use this link to view the State’s updated [COVID-19 Hub](#).

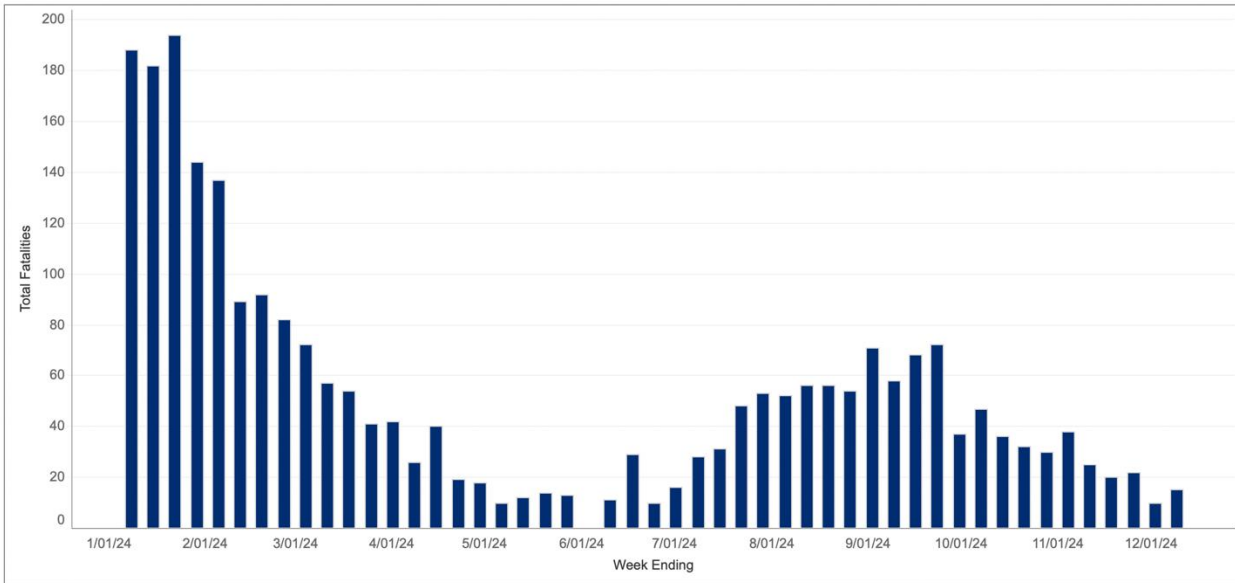
NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker

Below we have included the Fatalities Tracker with the webpage where updated numbers can be found throughout the week linked [here](#).



Total Fatalities reported to and compiled by CDC : 84547

This weekly COVID-19 provisional death certificate data reported by NYS DOH and NYC to the CDC includes those who died in any location, including hospitals, nursing homes, adult care facilities, at home, in hospice and other settings.



Helpful Links and Resources

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Department of Financial Services information and resources](#)

[New York COVID-19 Vaccine Information Page](#)

Department of Health

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

[COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers](#)

Office of Mental Health

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/covid-19-resources.html>

OPWDD

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

State Education Department

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19.html>

NYS Department of Labor

<https://dol.ny.gov/>