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RMS End of Week Update 8/8/2025



Comptroller DiNapoli Releases Report On Shortages Of Health Professionals In Rural Areas

A new [report](#) released by State Comptroller DiNapoli earlier this week examined healthcare professional shortages in 16 rural counties in New York state and found alarming shortfalls in primary care, pediatric, and obstetrician and gynecologist (OBGYN) doctors, dentists and mental health practitioners, with several counties having no pediatricians or OBGYN doctors at all. The shortage of mental health practitioners in New York's rural counties may be the most severe, with all counties designated by the federal government as areas having professional shortages.

The rural counties examined were Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chenango, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Schuyler, Steuben, Sullivan, Washington, Wyoming and Yates.

“Having access to health care is an essential quality of life issue and helps people live healthier lives,” DiNapoli said. “Addressing gaps in the rural healthcare workforce to alleviate current shortages and plan for future demand will not only positively impact the health of people living in less populated areas of New York but could also create new jobs and bolster our rural economies.”

Please find below a summary of the report:

- The report examines 16 counties with just under 750,000 people, around 3.8% of New York's population, but over 37 percent of its land area.
 - 27% of this population were enrolled in Medicaid as of May 2025
 - Enactment of HR1 will greatly impact rural hospitals: 6 rural hospitals in NYS are in the top 10% for Medicaid payer mix in the country
- They found low rates of health care providers and an alarming lack of access to basic care in many counties
- Specific to primary care:
 - On average, the 16 rural counties examined in this report have 4 primary care physicians per 10,000 people – a ratio that is less than half that of the state (8.1) and the U.S. (8.4) and falls below the GMENAC guideline (6.9).
 - For the nearly 173,000 people in Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) who are underserved (23% of these rural counties' populations), these shortages are more severe (as low as 0.12 physicians per 10,000 people)
 - All 16 counties are designated as Primary Care HPSAs except Essex
- Physician Assistant and Nurse Practitioner ratios:
 - PAs - 4.2 per 10,000 (as compared to NYS: 9.2)
 - NPs - 10.5 per 10,000 (as compared to NYS: 16.4)
- Their recommendations include:
 1. Bring more healthcare to people by identifying ways to open new healthcare offices and facilities, which could also include creating mobile clinics and school-based health centers.
 2. Enhancing and expanding ways to bring people to existing care, including expanded and multi-county paratransit, transportation vouchers where private transportation companies exist, and expanding opportunities for telemedicine.
 3. Pursuing policies to bolster the rural healthcare workforce. One policy to consider would be incentivizing the training of new healthcare professionals to serve in rural New York through loan forgiveness programs and rural stipends/subsidies for salaries and attracting existing professionals to rural areas through similar programs or implement reciprocity programs for out-of-state professionals to serve in rural areas.

Other findings that may be of interest:

- Pediatrics:
 - Rural counties have only 0.5 pediatricians per 10,000 people (vs. NYS: 2.8)
 - Three counties have no pediatricians
- Obstetrics/Gynecology:
 - The average ratio is 0.4 Ob/Gyns per 10,000
 - Four counties have no Ob/Gyns at all
- Dentists:
 - Average ratio is 3.6 per 10,000, less than half of NYS (8.3)

- Hamilton County has no dentists
- Mental Health Providers:
 - Rural ratio: 6.9 per 10,000, less than half of NYS (16.1)
 - All 16 counties are designated as Mental Health HPSAs

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

Governor Hochul Update On Cap-And-Invest

In a recent [article](#) by Dan Clark that discussed the cap-and-invest issue it was pointed out that environmentalists were incensed earlier this year when Governor Hochul punted on the program, which was expected to come online this year.

That program would essentially set a price and cap on the amount of carbon emissions allowed from large-scale sources and distributors of heating and transportation fuels. That revenue would then be used to offset any increased energy costs that result from the program, fund strategies to encourage growth of renewable energy, and help small industrial businesses with utility expenses.

The program was born from the state's long-term plan to reduce carbon emissions, which was approved in late 2022 by the Climate Action Council. Governor Hochul then announced in early 2023 that she had directed the state Department of Environmental Conservation to advance the program, which requires the agency to promulgate and adopt regulations on its administration. However, to date the program has not materialized.

Governor Hochul said to reporters this past Wednesday regarding the status of cap-and-invest. "There's many ways to approach the whole issue of how we deal with protecting our environment. I will continue to lead that effort and cap-and-invest has been a tool," Hochul said.

"But I also can not ignore the fact that the disruptions in our economy that have occurred since the laws went into place, and also since we even supported this, need to be examined in terms of what is happening to people's pocketbooks right now," she continued.

When asked if she would describe the status of the program as "on pause" Governor Hochul said she was committed to moving the program forward. It's just not the right time for it to take effect, she said.

"I believe that is the right way to go, but I also have to moderate and make sure I'm not doing something that's going to drive up costs for consumers right now. And the data shows that at this time it would," Governor Hochul said.

NYS Assembly District 115 Seat

Late last week Assemblymember Billy Jones announced he will be stepping down from his role in the Assembly in September to take a new job leading the Clinton Community College Institute for Advanced Manufacturing. To date two candidates have come forward stating they intend to run for the seat.

Michael Cashman on Thursday announced he will run as a Democrat for the 115th Assembly District seat. Cashman says his experience as town supervisor and as vice president of the New York State Association of Towns makes him the best choice for voters. "Things from housing; things from infrastructure; broadband; the affordability for seniors and our families; good education; making sure we continue to support the opportunity to bring in new businesses and support workforce advancement. So, there's a lot on the plate," he said.

On the Republican side Malone Mayor Andrea Dumas announced she is also running. She was elected to her current post in 2019 and has the backing of Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, who this week endorsed her and said she will campaign with her.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Governor Hochul Statement On Texas Redistricting

Governor Hochul said New York Democrats are ready to fight fire with fire in a national battle over redrawing congressional lines in the middle of the decade and get involved in the election process a few years early.

In a recent press conference with a number of Texas state house Democrats who left the state to prevent a vote on a mid-decade redistricting measure, Hochul said she and top Democratic legislative leaders are looking into all options to redraw the state's congressional district lines.

"Congressional districts are never re-drawn mid-decade, but here they are, flagrantly breaking the rules so they can hold onto power," Hochul said. "And with that power, they're gonna inflict even more pain."

Six Texas Democrats joined Governor Hochul and Assembly Speaker Heastie in Albany on Monday.

The governor said both Speaker Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins are on board with the plan to look into New York redistricting. The process would almost certainly require changing the state constitution, a time-consuming process that requires legislative approvals and then a statewide ballot question.

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

New Tariffs Go Into Effect As U.S. Economy Shows Signs Of Strain

President Donald Trump began imposing higher import taxes on dozens of countries Thursday just as the economic fallout of his monthslong tariff threats has begun to cause visible damage to the U.S. economy.

Just after midnight, goods from more than 60 countries and the European Union became subject to tariff rates of 10% or higher. Products from the EU, Japan and South Korea are taxed at 15%, while imports from Taiwan, Vietnam and Bangladesh are taxed at 20%. Trump also expects the EU, Japan and South Korea to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in the United States.

"I think the growth is going to be unprecedented," Trump said Wednesday. He said the U.S. was "taking in hundreds of billions of dollars in tariffs," but did not provide a specific figure for revenues because "we don't even know what the final number is" regarding the rates.

Despite the uncertainty, the White House is confident that the onset of his tariffs will provide clarity about the path for the world's largest economy. Now that companies understand the direction the U.S. is headed, the Republican administration believes it can ramp up new investments and jump-start hiring in ways that can rebalance America as a manufacturing power.

So far, however, there are signs of self-inflicted wounds to the U.S. as companies and consumers brace for the impact of the new taxes.

Hiring began to stall, inflationary pressures crept upward and home values in key markets started to decline after the initial tariff rollout in April, said John Silvia, CEO of Dynamic Economic Strategy.

"A less productive economy requires fewer workers," Silvia said. "But there is more, the higher tariff prices lower workers' real wages. The economy has become less productive, and firms cannot pay the same real wages as before. Actions have consequences."

Many economists say the risk is that the American economy is steadily eroded. "It's going to be fine sand in the gears and slow things down," said Brad Jensen, a professor at Georgetown University.

Trump has promoted the tariffs as a way to reduce America's persistent trade deficit. But importers tried to avoid the taxes by bringing in more goods before the tariffs took effect. As a result, the \$582.7 billion trade imbalance for the first half

of the year was 38% higher than in 2024. Total construction spending has dropped 2.9% over the past year.

Germany, which sends 10% of its exports to the U.S. market, saw industrial production sag 1.9% in June as Trump's earlier rounds of tariffs took hold. "The new tariffs will clearly weigh on economic growth," said Carsten Brzeski, global chief of macro for ING bank.

Trump on Wednesday announced additional 25% tariffs to be imposed on India because of its purchases of Russian oil, bringing its total import taxes to 50%. A leading group of Indian exporters said that will affect nearly 55% of the country's outbound shipments to America and force exporters to lose long-standing clients.

"Absorbing this sudden cost escalation is simply not viable. Margins are already thin," S.C. Ralhan, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, said in a statement.

The Swiss executive branch, the Federal Council, was expected to meet Thursday after President Karin Keller-Sutter and other Swiss officials returned from a hastily arranged trip to Washington in a failed bid to avert a 39% U.S. tariffs on Swiss goods.

Import taxes are still coming on pharmaceutical drugs, and Trump announced 100% tariffs on computer chips. That could leave the U.S. economy in a place of suspended animation as it awaits the impact.

The president's use of a 1977 law to declare an economic emergency to impose the tariffs is under a legal challenge. Even people who worked with Trump during his first term are skeptical, such as Paul Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican who was House speaker.

"There's no sort of rationale for this other than the president wanting to raise tariffs based upon his whims, his opinions," Ryan told CNBC on Wednesday. Trump is aware of the risk that courts could overturn his tariffs. In a Truth Social tweet, he said, **"THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP AMERICA'S GREATNESS WOULD BE A RADICAL LEFT COURT THAT WANTS TO SEE OUR COUNTRY FAIL!"**

The stock market has been solid during the tariff drama, with the S&P 500 index climbing more than 25% from its April low. The market's rebound and the income tax cuts in Trump's tax and spending measure signed into law on July 4 have given

the White House confidence that economic growth is bound to accelerate in the coming months.

On the global financial markets, indexes rose across much of Europe and Asia, while stocks were slipping on Wall Street.

But ING's Brzeski warned: "While financial markets seem to have grown numb to tariff announcements, let's not forget that their adverse effects on economies will gradually unfold over time."

Trump foresees an economic boom. American voters and the rest of the world wait, nervously.

"There's one person who can afford to be cavalier about the uncertainty that he's creating, and that's Donald Trump," said Rachel West, a senior fellow at The Century Foundation who worked in the Biden White House on labor policy. "The rest of Americans are already paying the price for that uncertainty."

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

NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

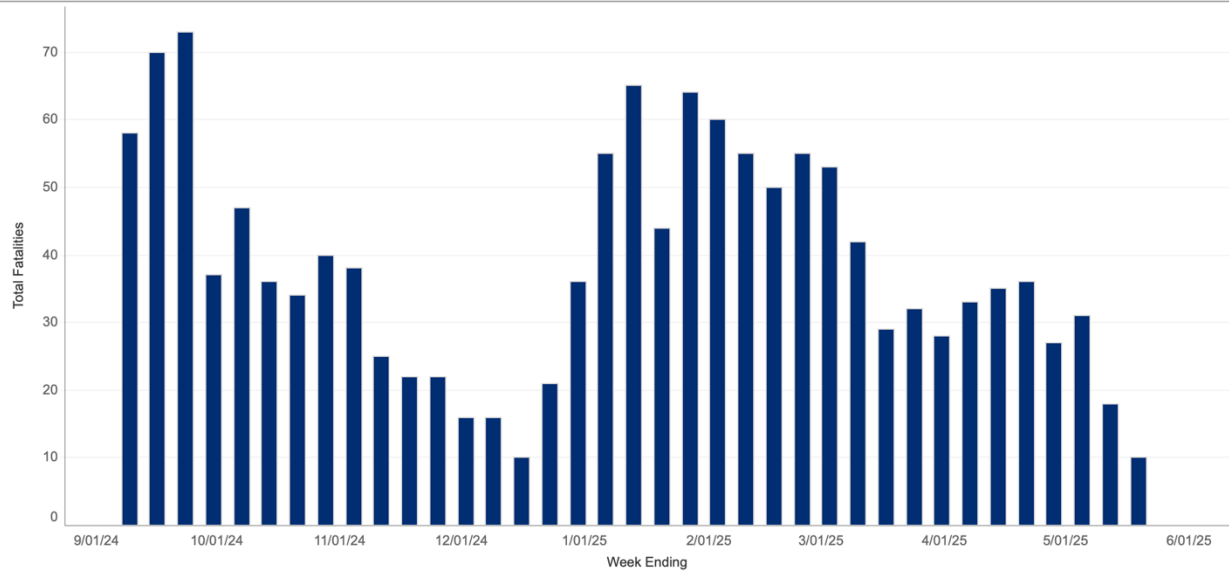
Use this link to view the State's updated [COVID-19 Hub](#).

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 : 85497

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**
- [RMS Final Budget Tax/Revenue Table](#)
- [RMS SFY 2025-26 Final Budget H/MH Summary](#)
- [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/>