

CMO REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF

Amy Tucker, MD, MHCM, Chief Medical Officer, Upstate University Hospital
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine
Vice President, Ambulatory Services and Population Health, Upstate Medical University

UPSTATE
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

December 17, 2020

COVID Update

# COVID Inpatients	# ICU
175	50

Please see attached COVID Update Report for details.

COVID-19 Vaccines are Here!

The COVID vaccine is here and is our best defense against COVID-19. Please protect yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated. Most COVID vaccines have been shown to be at least 90 percent effective in preventing COVID.

A forum, featuring Dr. Stephen Thomas, dedicated to information on the COVID vaccine will be held on Friday, December 18th, at 12:00 pm. The forum will be recorded and available for those unable to join in real time. To register for the forum, visit: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/902410280975124494>

New York State (NYS) is very prescriptive about how vaccine administration is prioritized, so we will be rolling out vaccinations to clinicians and others in stages, based upon instructions received by the NYS DOH. Furthermore, because some people experience flu-like symptoms for 24 hours or so after receiving the COVID vaccine and may call in sick, we do not want to vaccinate all those delivering care in a single area at one time. While you may not be in the initial vaccination group, please be patient--we do plan to vaccinate all willing staff. Please join Drs. Tucker and Joslin for a Town Hall to describe the roll out strategy and address your questions. The session is at 3 pm on Friday, December 18th, and can be accessed at the following link:

<https://upstate.zoom.us/j/91388346240?pwd=LzJSTnNmTzZGVERKVi9KY2M1QzhXdz09>

If you have any questions, please email AskCovid@upstate.edu and your questions will be sent to the COVID vaccine team for a response.

STAT Requests for Radiology by Jennifer Caldwell

In response to requests from many physician clinics and departments, the radiology department will continue to schedule outpatients to receive the continued highest level of imaging care. It is the goal of radiology to provide optimal services for the patients that require imaging.

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In order to provide these services appropriately during this period of time it is imperative that clinicians appropriately order the status for the exam. A number of exams are coming through as stat or urgent, when in fact they are routine requests.

The radiology department is requiring all clinics/providers to please prioritize the exam requests in such a way that those exams that are truly urgent/stat are scheduled immediately and those that can be scheduled out 2-3 weeks are ordered routine. The schedules will be reviewed daily and those exams requested urgent or stat, may receive a call to the ordering clinician if the exam history equates to a routine exam.

We will work with each group to ensure their patients receive the level of care they need in an appropriate time frame.

N95 Fit Test by Paul Suits

If you have been successfully fit tested for a N95 mask and sized, continue to wear the fit-tested N95 mask. If you have a fit-tested N95 mask, Employee/Student Health fit tested you, provided you with a mask fit certification card, and the card confirms your mask model and size. Only wear the N95 model and size on your card. If you lost your card, contact Employee/Student Health at ESHealth@upstate.edu with Mask Fit in the subject line. Details on N95 supply chain and mask options, making an appointment to be re-fit tested, how to make an appointment to fit tested, and tips on how to keep yourself safe in your N95 mask, visit this PDF on the COVID intranet:

https://www.upstate.edu/emergencymgt/pdf/intra/memo_fit_test_12_08_2020_final.pdf

Fast Lane Self-Screening Kiosk at UUH 2nd Floor Entrance

The Self-Assessment Health Screening Chat Bot passes will now have QR codes embedded below the green check mark. A new Fastlane Kiosk is now open at the 2nd floor bridge entrance at Upstate University Hospital to further expedite the COVID self-screening process. Staff and students will scan the QR code from the daily pass, and the kiosk will indicate if you are cleared to proceed. The Self-Assessment Health Screening Chat Bot meets state and federal guidelines for COVID-screening, and plays a vital role in keeping our patients, staff and students safe. Please ensure that you utilize it every day prior to entering an Upstate site.

The Self-Assessment Health Screening Chat Bot can be found here:

<https://www.upstate.edu/emergencymgt/trending/coronavirus/self-screen.php>

Instructions on how to put the Self-Assessment Health Screening Chat Bot or QR code on your mobile device for easy use are here: <https://www.upstate.edu/emergencymgt/trending/coronavirus/intra/>

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A Message on Virtual Holiday Gatherings from Quality and Infection Prevention

Upstate is encouraging creative, out of the box ways to celebrate virtually this holiday season. While in-person celebrations of any kind are not an option at this time given the severity of the pandemic, virtual celebrations are encouraged.

New Streamlined Process for Staff Scheduling COVID Test Online

A simplified form for staff looking to schedule a COVID test is available via Self-Serve. Once logged on to Self-Serve, select the My Information tab and then select 'Request COVID Test'. Users will be directed to the MyChart schedule with the ability to self-schedule and register for a test at the appropriate location based on information provided by the individual. As always, staff and students are encouraged to call the Employee Resource Line with questions about COVID and testing at 315-464-8436.

Interactive PPE Zooms

The Infection Prevention team will host two Zooms each weekday at 6:00 am and noon, featuring educational and interactive COVID-19 PPE donning and doffing reminders and instruction. Infection Prevention will review the step-by-step process and allow time for Q&A on COVID and enhanced PPE. The Zoom link to connect is:

<http://upstate.zoom.us/j/98105821463>

Wellness Resource Chart Online

A chart detailing available wellness options is available on the COVID Intranet at the following link:

<https://www.upstate.edu/emergencymgt/pdf/intra/covid-wellness-resources.pdf>

New / Revised COVID-19 Policies of Special Interest for Clinicians

New / revised / deleted policies of special interest for clinicians include:

New Policies

- [Inpatient Crisis staffing Documentation \(COV D-06\)](#)

Revised Policies:

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- [Adult Patients Admitted to Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital During COVID-19 \(COV A-08\)](#): adult patients may go to any UGCH unit, added nursing documentation, policy provides recommendations for safe placement, age increased to 35 yr for surgical/trauma patients
- [COVID-19: Bed Management and Throughput \(COV B-03\)](#): changed high-risk population from droplet to enhanced precautions, updated appendices A and B.
- [Discontinuation of Transmission Based Precautions of Patients with COVID-19 \(COV D-04\)](#): updated non COVID-19 high risk patient algorithm on page 4.
- [Personal Protection Equipment \(PPE\) Table for COVID-19 Exposure Scenario \(COV P-01\)](#): clarification to room assignment for patient exposure with roommate (page 4 A.2)
- [PPE Requirements During COVID-19 Pandemic \(COV P-08\)](#): updated PPE charts to reflect current locations
- [Surgical/Procedural Cases During Prevalence of COVID-19 \(COV S-02\)](#): clarification of eye protection in Addendum A, removed ear loop mask for Addendum B for enhanced airborne precautions.
- [COVID-19 Testing at Upstate University Hospital Locations \(COV T-08\)](#): added new testing statement regarding ability to waive admission COVID test.

Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) by Dr. Emily Albert and Dr. Ali Khan, Co-Directors, CDI

We want to wish a warm, safe and peaceful holiday season to our heroes in the trenches.

Thank you for everything you do!

Outstanding Physician Comments

Comments from grateful patients receiving care on the units and clinics at Upstate:

Breast Care Center: Dr. Lisa Lai explained everything to me in great detail and listened to any of my concerns. Dr. Mijung Lee – excellent!

Joslin Center for Diabetes: Dr. J Kurt Concilla is one of the best doctors I have ever been to.

Multidisciplinary Programs Cancer Center: Dr. Mark Crye went out of his way during the pandemic to make me feel a part of my husband's care. He is smart, kind, and caring. His surgical skills are superb! Dr. Mashaal Dhir never left me feeling rushed. Dr. Mashaal Dhir was clear as to the procedure and my options. Dr. Kaushal Nanavati made me feel so



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at ease. I felt like I was talking to an old friend. He was very kind and helpful. I look forward to working with him. **Dr. Jesse Ryan** is an incredible individual. The greatest doctor I have ever met in my whole life. **Dr. Ranjna Sharma** is awesome!

Pediatric Gastroenterology: **Dr. Marcus Rivera** was excellent. He explained everything in detail, took his time when asking questions, and even drew visuals which was appreciated.

Peds Neph, Rheum, Integrative Medicine: My child loves seeing **Dr. Caitlin Sgarlat Deluca**. She talks to my child and not just me. She wants my child's thoughts and feelings. She is an amazing doctor.

Pulmonology Clinic: **Dr. Dragos Manta** is an awesome physician. I appreciated **Dr. Dana Savici** listening to my concerns, and I felt she wanted to help me with those concerns. I also appreciate that she took her time with me. I felt she cared about what she was doing for me as her patient.

Rheumatology Clinic: **Dr. Sheetal Rayancha** – thank you! **Dr. Sheetal Rayancha** has always showed the best professional service I would expect. She is the most concerning and gentle doctor that I have ever experienced in my life. I love her as a professional doctor. She is the best!

SUNY Upstate – Virtual: **Dr. Andrea Berg** explains things to me if I don't understand. She wants me to understand what she is saying so I can make informed decisions with her. **Dr. Andrea Berg** is always very helpful and listens well. She is a pleasure to have as a provider. **Dr. Timothy Byler** has been very good in helping me maintain good health and effectively communicating my health issues and care options. **Dr. Mark Crye** is very good with communication and very helpful. **Dr. Mark Crye** was very helpful in all my questions. **Dr. Amit Dhamoon** is a very good listener and our discussions are very fruitful. I really appreciate how thoughtful and kind he appears to be. **Dr. Joseph Jacob** is careful to explain all procedures to me. **Dr. Joseph Jacob** – knowledgeable, thorough, and I have been very pleased with the care I receive. Video appointment with **Dr. Shahram Izadyar** went very well! **Dr. Hiroshi Kato** is an outstanding physician. He listens closely and helps me to take steps to improve my health. **Dr. Zahi Makhuli** is the best physician ever! **Dr. Kaushal Nanavati** gave me very thorough explanations and examples that I could implement. **Dr. Sheetal Rayancha** – approachable. **Dr. Zainab Shahnawaz** is extremely professional, always thorough, and takes her time to research and answer any questions. 20 stars! **Dr. Oleg Shapiro** is a trusted professional and I appreciate the care and time he spends with me. I know that I am in good hands – thank you! I would highly recommend **Dr. Dana Savici**. **Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind** is amazing, she truly cares about our family, our concerns and providing solutions. **Dr. Zafer Soultan** is exceptional!

Transplant Center: **Dr. Matthew Hanlon** is awesome!

UHCC – Neurology: **Dr. Deborah Bradshaw** – outstanding! **Dr. Shahram Izadyar** – excellent! **Dr. Shahram Izadyar** was very knowledgeable. He was efficient in asking questions, so as to gather all the pertinent information needed to help me with my condition. Also addressed my questions and concerns with empathy. Excellent doctor. I would highly recommend **Dr. Shahram Izadyar** to anyone in need of his services. **Dr. Corey McGraw** – thorough, insightful, and practical in approach. **Dr. Corey McGraw** answered any questions thoroughly, made sure I understood everything he was doing/considering with my treatment and testing, was very thorough in understanding my symptoms, and

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observant - very impressed! **Dr. Luis Mejico** is always very thorough, knowledgeable, and consults with others if needed. Of the 15 current doctors I visit and 24 doctors I have seen in the past, **Dr. Jenny Meyer** is #1! She listens, takes an abundant amount of time, explains, and truly cares about her patients. I would follow her anywhere. **Dr. Dragos Mihaila** was very professional, charming, and kind. **Dr. Ai Sakonju** takes her time to make sure you understand everything. **Dr. Awss Zidan** – warm and attentive.

University Center for Vision Care: **Dr. Robert Fechtner** – engaging, good listener, highly qualified in terms of his specialty. Always a good experience with **Dr. Robert Swan**. He has always discussed my treatments with me and included me in the final decision of treatment. **Dr. Robert Swan** is a superb doctor and I would not go elsewhere. He has been very instrumental in keeping my vision good and treating me to do so. I would highly recommend him to anyone having vision problems. **Dr. Robert Swan** – best doctor I have been to for my eye. **Dr. Amirfarbod Yazdanyar** – excellent in explaining situation and who to do, very clear, and called immediately if any problem arose.

University Geriatricians: **Dr. Andrea Berg** spoke in easy terms.

University Internists: **Dr. Vincent Frechette** always listens to my issues and concerns, discusses a doable plan for better health and makes me feel it will be OK. **Dr. Jessica Mayer** is the best Internist. She is so receptive and able to articulate recommendations in a seamless and personable manner. **Dr. Jessica Mayer** is amazing. I feel lucky to have her as my Internist.

Upstate Urology: **Dr. Dmitriy Nikolavsky** genuinely cares about what he does. **Dr. Oleg Shapiro** – very thorough, supportive, and informative. I have already referred other patients to his practice. **Dr. J Trussel** is always upbeat, knowledgeable and listener friendly!

Upstate Pediatrics: **Dr. Tobey Kresel** is phenomenal, she always takes the time to meet my child's needs, is very thorough, and is so caring. My child and I absolutely love her! **Dr. Jaclyn Sisskind** has been absolutely awesome! We are very pleased with her services and her ability to keep up the good work!

Thank you for all you do! Please stay safe *in here* and *out there*, and do what you can to help protect those around you.

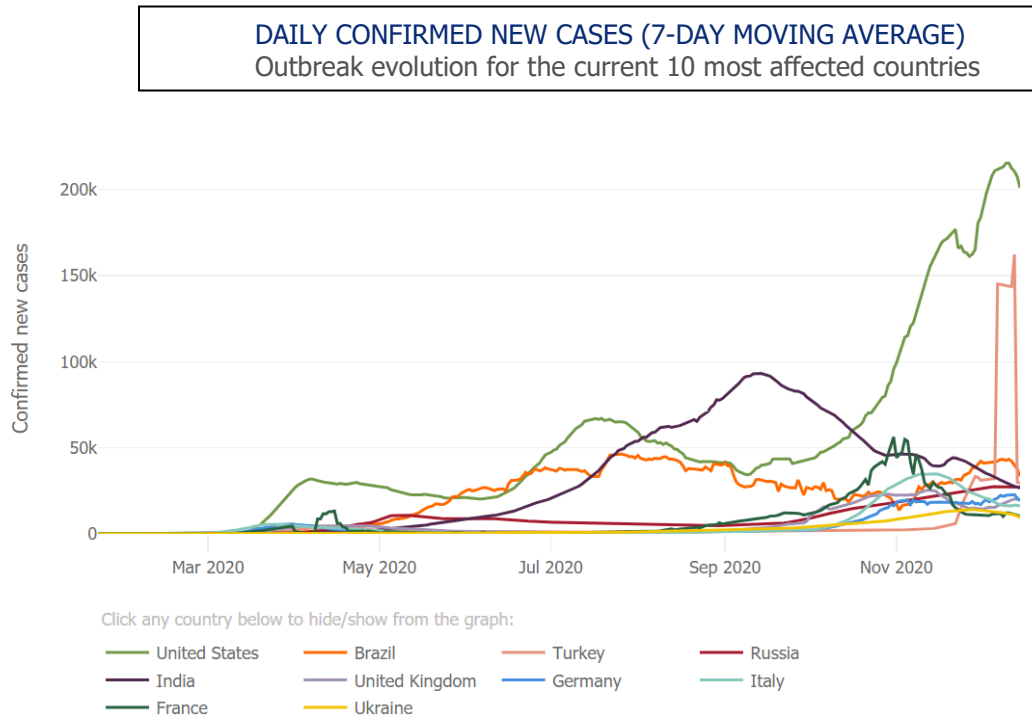
Amy

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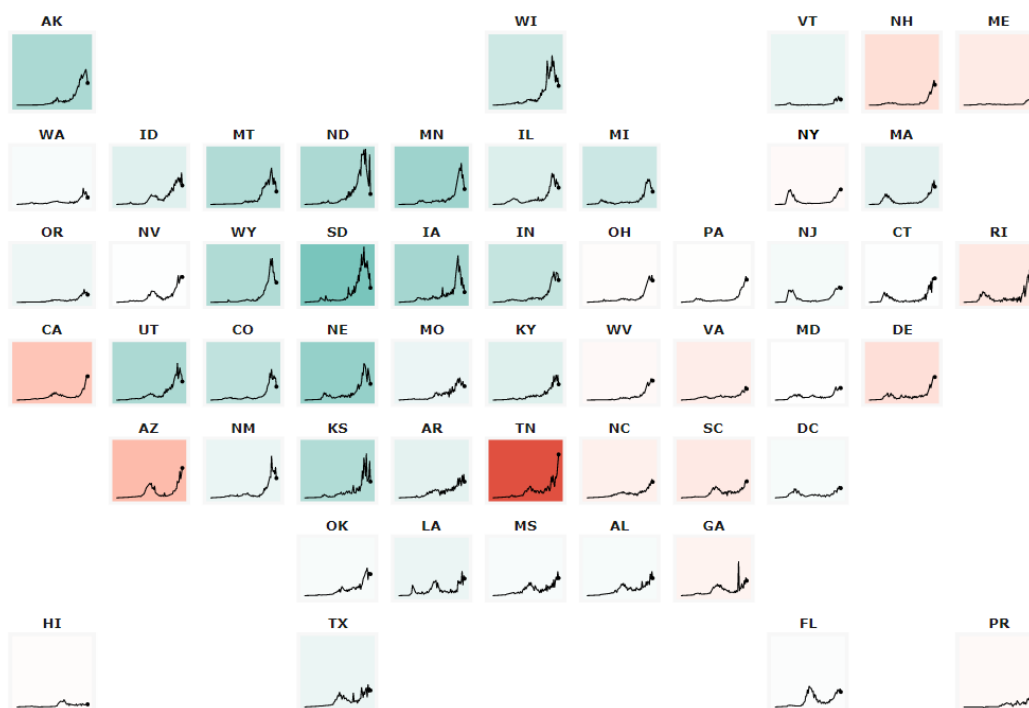
1. Global trends (source <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/new-cases>)

Graph updated by JHU 12/17/20

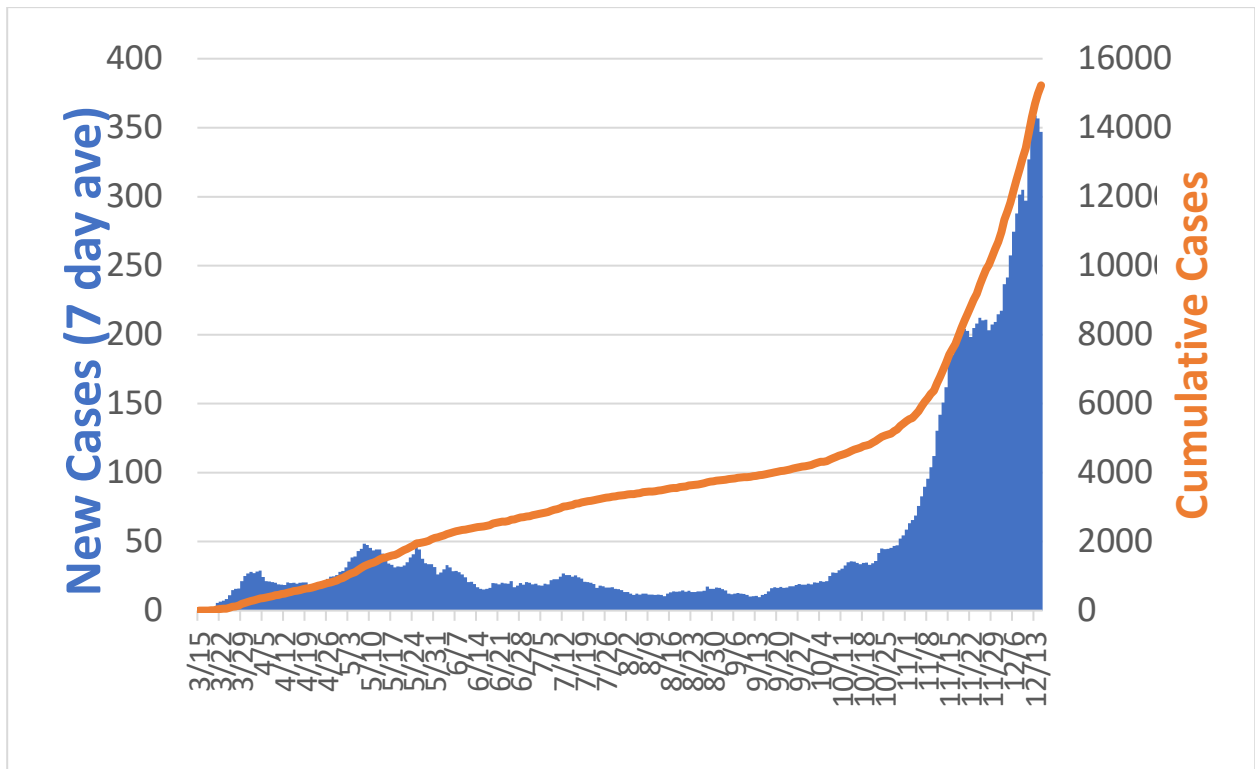


2. Statewide trends (source <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/new-cases-50-states>)

Graph updated by JHU 12/16/20



3. **Numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases per day in Onondaga county** (orange: cumulative cases of COVID, blue: 7-day average of new daily cases; calculated by K. Anderson)



12/13/2020 Onondaga 299
 12/14/2020 Onondaga 241
 12/15/2020 Onondaga 332

sources:

<https://covid19.ongov.net/data/#Testing>

<https://socpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/7bd218bc8be04b209c0b80a83fc2eba5>

***Note: effective 12-16-20, Likely Exposure Source will be reported on a weekly basis beginning 12-22-20.*

<https://covid19.ongov.net/data/#Testing>

12/16

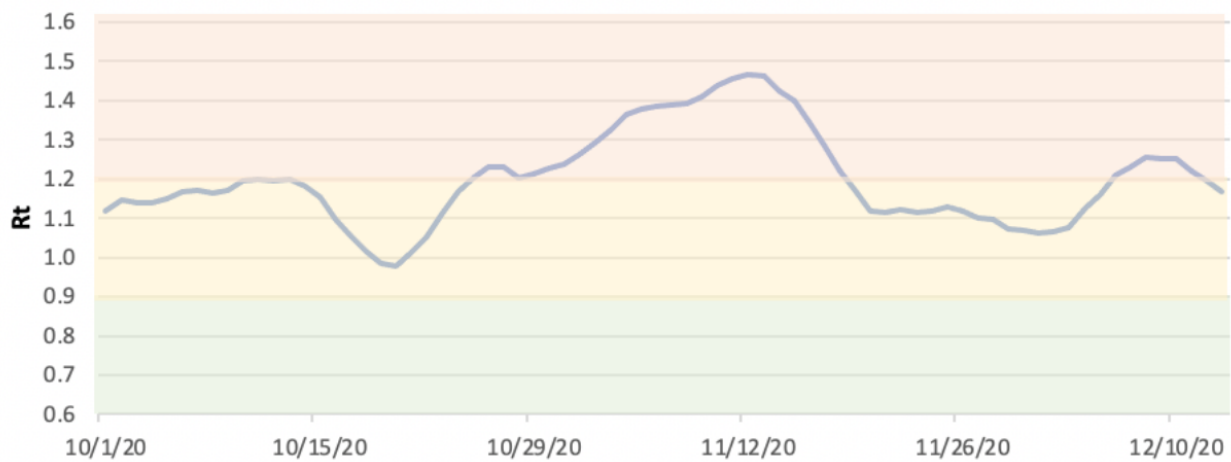
SYRACUSE, N.Y. (WSYR-TV) — Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon announced 18 new deaths due to COVID-19 within the county Wednesday. McMahon said it was the “deadliest day in the pandemic.”

4. Estimates of Rt over the last month (Calculated by D. Wang)

Reproductive Number (Rt) for COVID-19

Data sources: Onondaga county new cases by day (7-day average)

October 1, 2020 - Dec 14, 2020



7 day average for NYSDOH (12/13): 1.17

5. Percent of tests resulting as positive for the week.

	% Positive – 7 day average
New York State (7 day average)*	5.2↑
NYC (7 Day Average)*	4.1↑
Central NY (region 7 day average)*	7.0→
Onondaga County (7 day average)**	6.7↓
Monroe County (Rochester)	8.8
Erie County (Buffalo)	6.1
Albany County (Albany)	7.0
Within 30 miles of Upstate over last week^	10.0↓

Sources

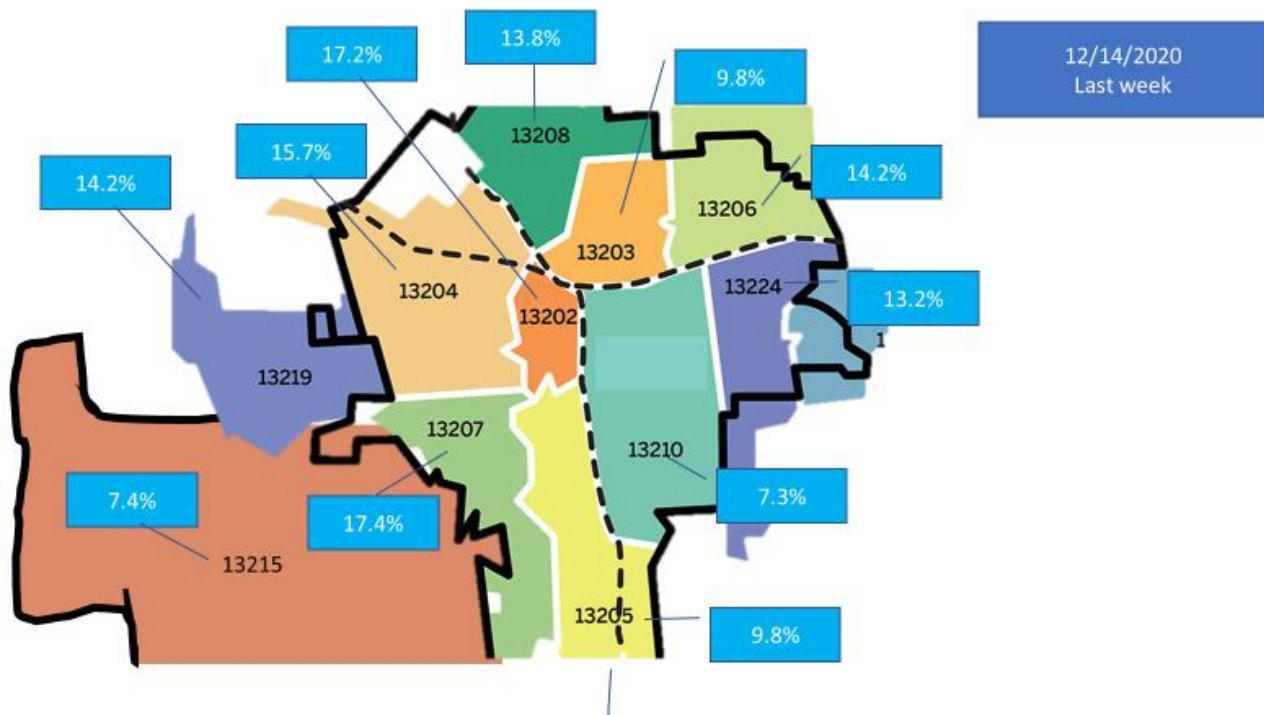
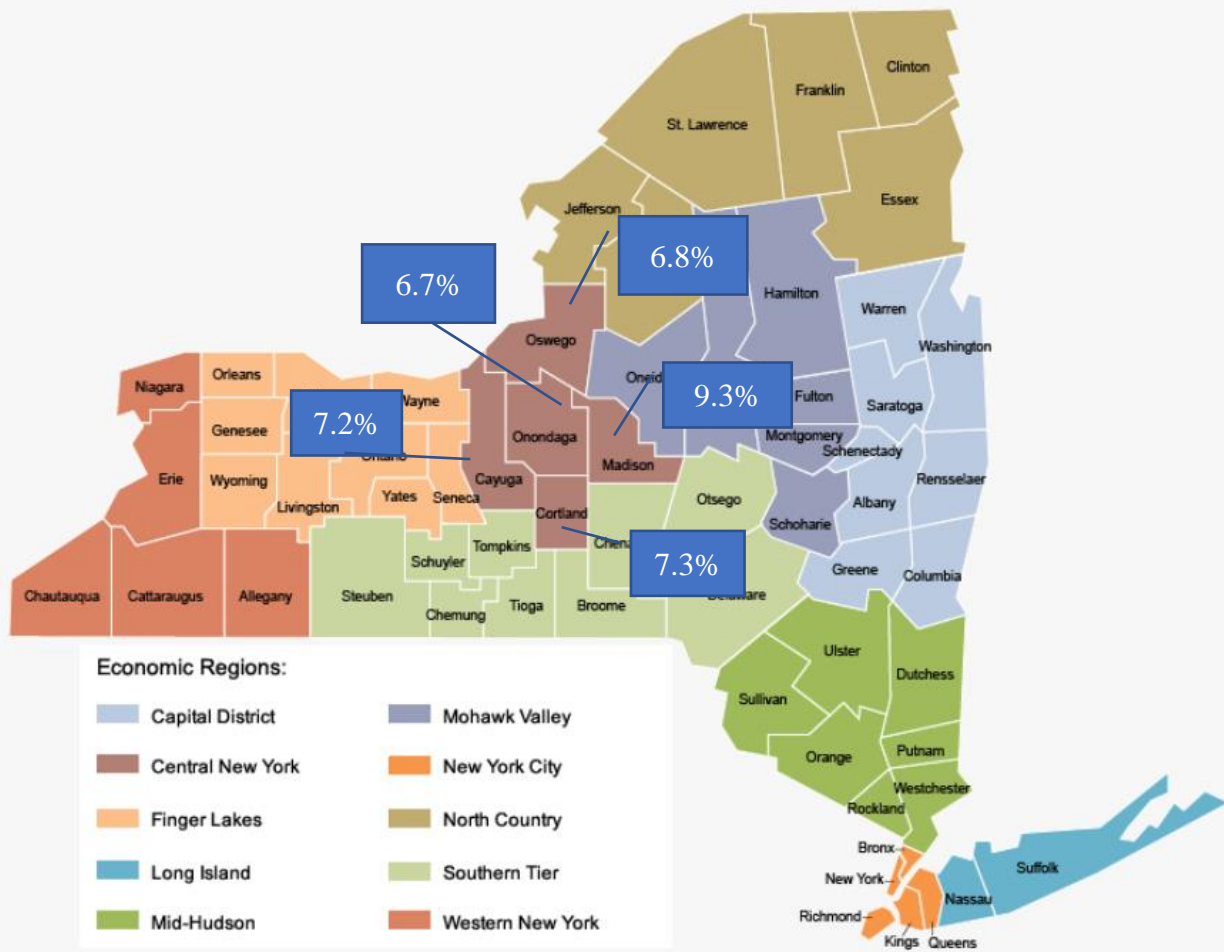
*<https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-region-dashboard>

<https://forward.ny.gov/early-warning-monitoring-dashboard>

~<https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>

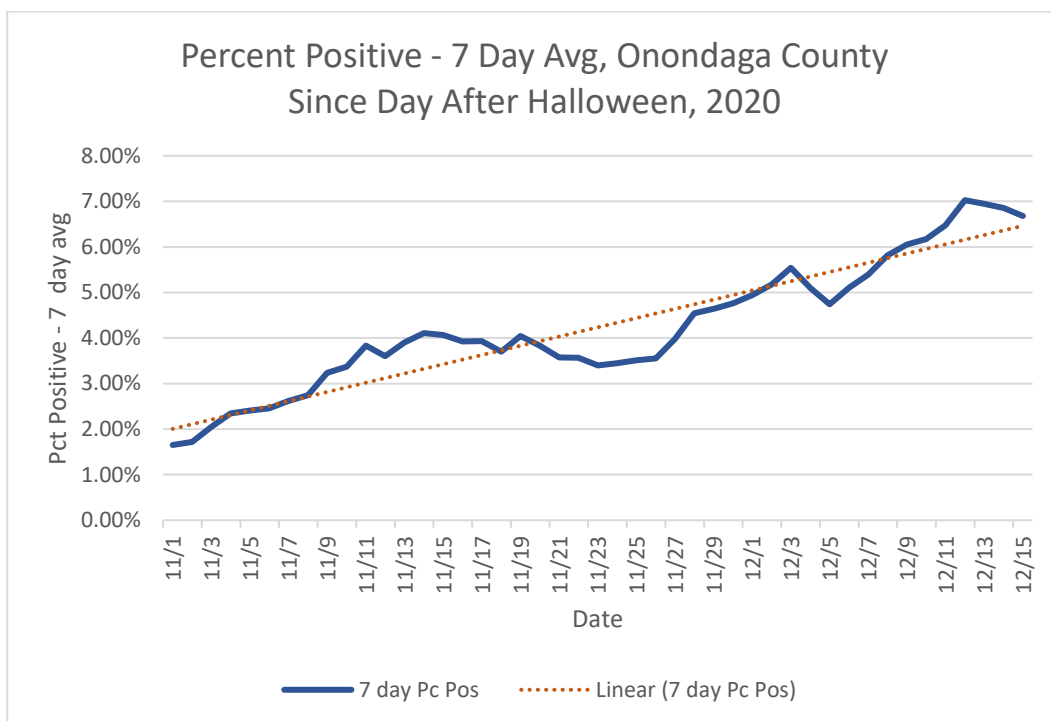
**Calculated by Upstate team using data from health.data.ny.gov (see below)

^Radius drawn from SUNY Restart Tableau dashboard, Upstate team



Percent Positive calculated by C. Morley from:

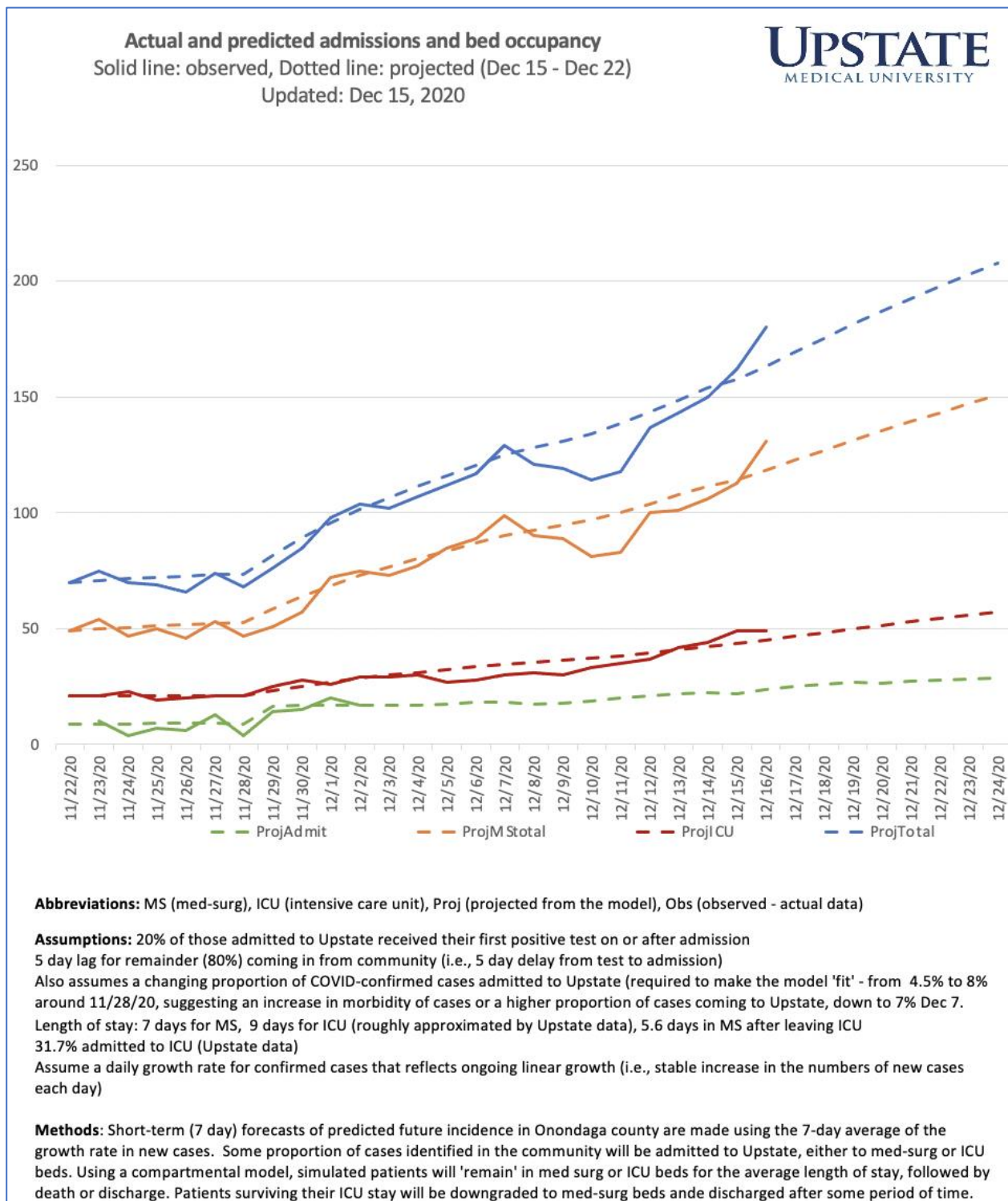
<https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/New-York-State-Statewide-COVID-19-Testing/xdss-u53e/data>



12/15 Percent Positive, Daily: 7.59%

Percent Positive, 7-day average: 6.7%

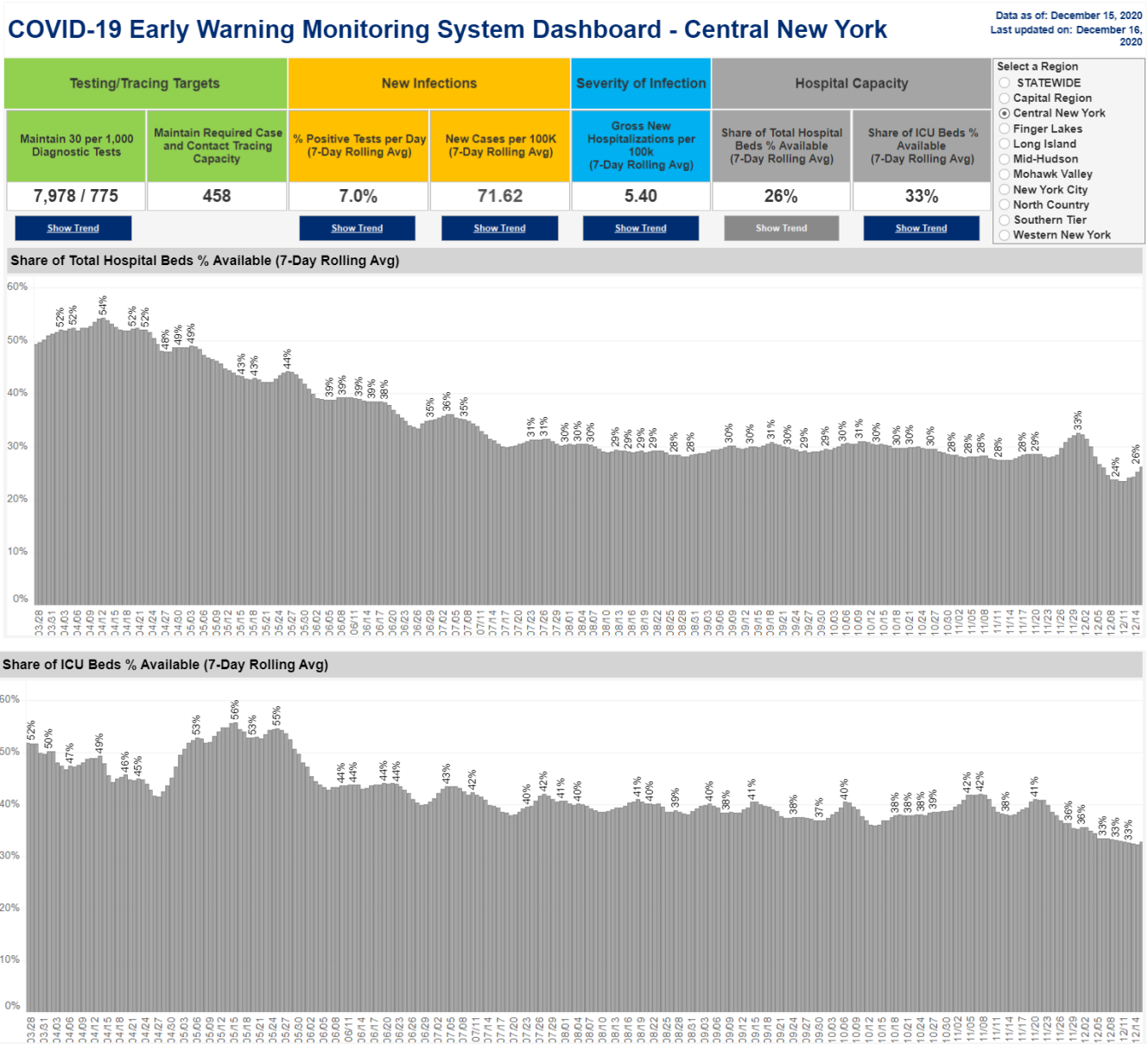
6. Modeling Update – Update on 12/15/20 by K. Anderson



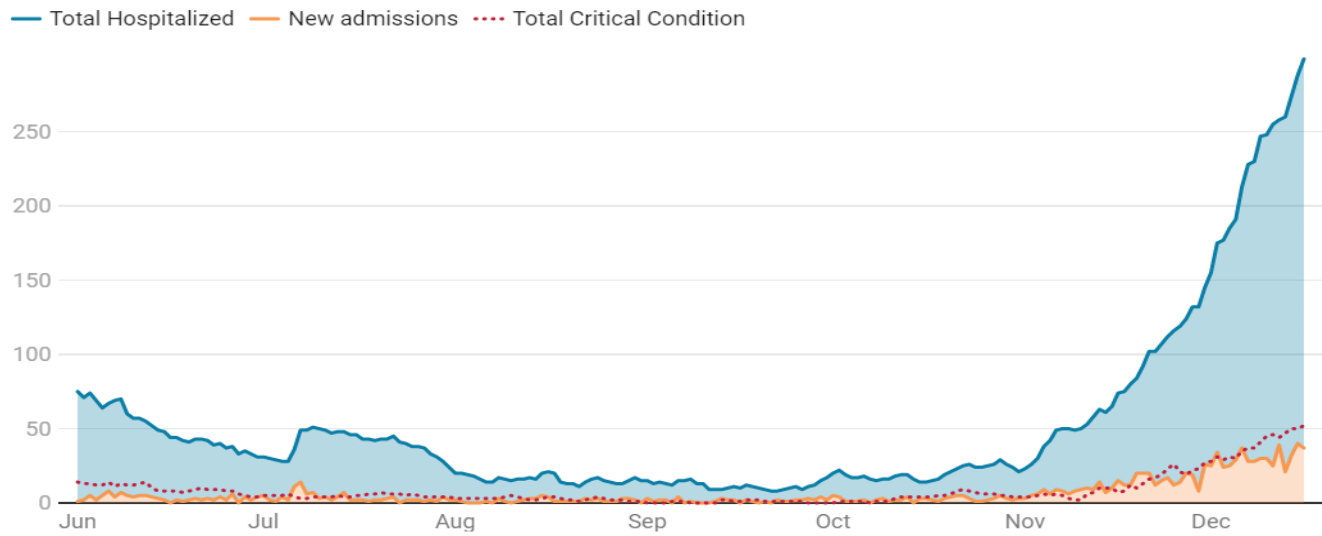
Projections: 12/17/20 - 12/24/20

DATE	Projected New Admissions	Med-Surg	Med-Surg Post ICU	Med-Surg Total	ICU	Total Beds	Deaths	Discharges
12/17/2020	25.1	100.5	21.2	121.7	49.3	171.0	1.4	17.5
12/18/2020	25.8	104.2	21.9	126.1	51.1	177.1	1.5	18.1
12/19/2020	26.7	108.0	22.6	130.6	52.9	183.5	1.5	18.8
12/20/2020	26.6	111.2	23.4	134.6	54.5	189.1	1.6	19.5
12/21/2020	27.2	114.3	24.2	138.5	56.1	194.6	1.6	20.1
12/22/2020	27.7	117.4	24.9	142.3	57.6	199.9	1.7	20.6
12/23/2020	28.2	120.4	25.7	146.1	59.1	205.2	1.7	21.2
12/24/2020	28.7	123.3	26.5	149.8	60.6	210.3	1.8	21.8

7. Hospital Capacity (<https://forward.ny.gov/covid-19-regional-metrics-dashboard>)



Hospitalization Trend



Data updated daily, last update: 12/16/20

Source: OCHD • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

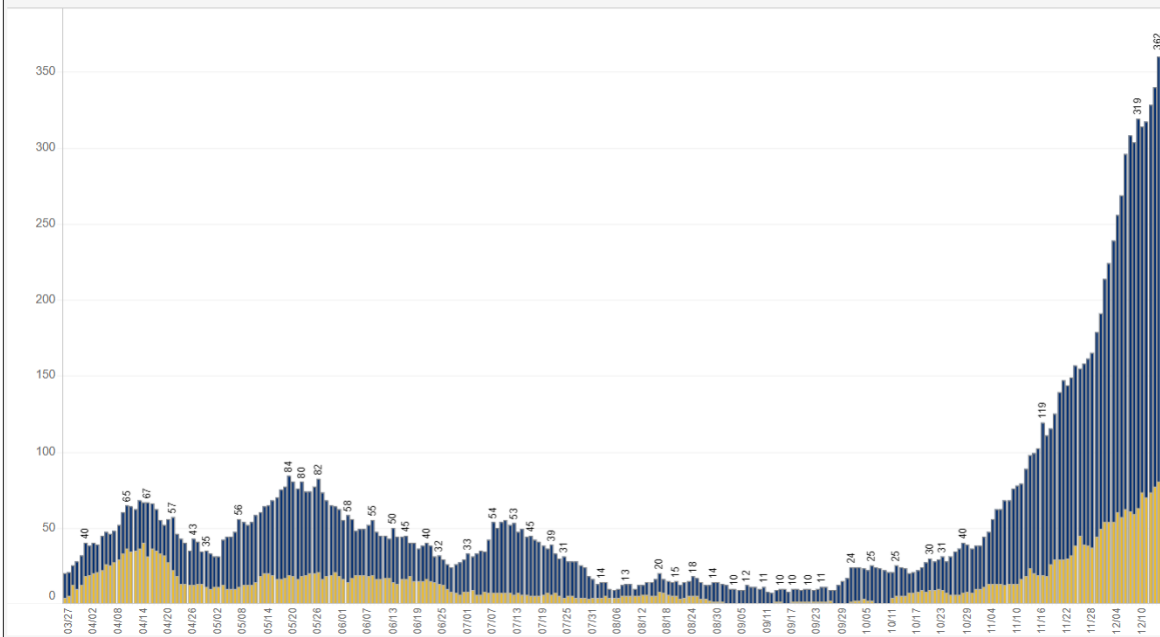
Central New York

Data as of: 12/15/2020
Last updated on: 12/16/2020

■ Total COVID-19 Patients Hospitalized ■ Total COVID-19 Patients in ICU

Select a Region

- ☐ (All)
- ☐ Capital Region
- ☒ Central New York
- ☐ Finger Lakes
- ☐ Long Island
- ☐ Mid-Hudson
- ☐ Mohawk Valley
- ☐ New York City
- ☐ North Country
- ☐ Southern Tier
- ☐ Western New York



<https://forward.ny.gov/daily-hospitalization-summary-region>