COVID-19: The Numbers

More than 223,600 confirmed cases in New York state; more than half of those cases are in New York City

Nearly 11,000 deaths in New York state

More than 662,000 cases in the U.S.; more than 29,000 deaths

Globally, more than 2.17 million cases

From Johns Hopkins University (as of April 17)

New video message by President Kowal

UUP President Fred Kowal provides important updates and information about the coronavirus crisis and its impact on SUNY and UUP in a new video, the latest in a series of weekly videos that began in March.

Look for it today on the UUP website, at uupinfo.org.

CLICK HERE to go to UUP’s website.

Wear the mask

New Yorkers will have to wear face coverings in public areas under a new executive order from Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The order will take effect at 8 p.m. tonight. People must wear a mask or cloth covering—like a bandana—that
People must wear masks in any space where it’s impossible to keep at least 6 feet away from others—including on buses and public transit, in grocery stores and in crowded areas, such as streets with pedestrians.

There won’t be a penalty—as in a civil fine—for not wearing a face covering, at least at first. That could change if too many people ignore the executive order, the governor said.

During the early days of the pandemic, health officials said healthy people didn’t have to wear masks unless they were caring for someone who had the virus. The Centers for Disease Control reversed that April 3, recommending that people wear nonsurgical cloth face coverings in public during the pandemic.

Make the mask

So, you need a cloth face mask, but you have no idea how or where to buy one?

Don’t fret. The Centers for Disease Control has online tutorials to make your own cloth face covering—and you don’t need to know how to sew to craft one.

The CDC provides step-by-step instructions on how to make your own face mask—with and without a sewing machine.

For those of us who don’t sew, the CDC has instructions to make a face covering out of a T-shirt and a bandana. You’ll need a pair of scissors for both projects; you’ll need a few rubber bands to make the bandana face mask.

CLICK HERE for directions.

New York state ‘on pause’ until May 15

The governor extended New York state’s shutdown, keeping nonessential workers at home until May 15.

The shutdown, which was set to end April 29, is in coordination with six other states—Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.
Ten Upstate Medical University Chapter members are part of a second group of Upstate employees in Stony Brook to help their colleagues care for COVID-19 patients.

The group of 22 Upstate Medical University health care workers left Syracuse April 14 and arrived at Stony Brook University Hospital later that day.

Two of the UUP members who volunteered for the assignment are pharmacist Katie Triesel and respiratory therapist Amber Hart. The other UUP members include a second respiratory therapist, two other pharmacists, and five pharmacy technicians, said Upstate Chapter President Rich Veenstra.

Veenstra said he didn’t have the names of the other UUP members who volunteered to go to Stony Brook. A CNYcentral.com story identified Triesel and Hart; Veenstra said Upstate’s respiratory therapists and pharmacists are represented by UUP.

“It takes a lot of courage to do what they’re doing,” said Veenstra. “They’re stepping up.”

CLICK HERE to read the CNYcentral.com story.

Tell Congress: Help NY in new coronavirus stimulus package

Our nation is at war against COVID-19 and New York state is the epicenter of this crisis. Our state desperately needs significant resources and it needs them now.

Send an e-letter to your congressional representatives and tell them to act now on a new COVID-19 mitigation package that provides crucial support to New York state.

CLICK HERE to send the e-letter.

If you’re on Facebook or Twitter, please check out UUP’s social media toolkit, which has sample tweets and Facebook posts to get your friends and family to send an e-letter to Congress.

CLICK HERE to download the social media toolkit.

Dairy giveaway redux
Last week's dairy giveaway was so successful that Morrisville Chapter member Ashley Adams Marshall is set to do it all again this weekend.

The college's second community dairy drive-thru starts 4 p.m. today at 3555 Eaton Road in Eaton, just south of the Hart Road intersection. It ends 6 p.m. or when all the dairy is gone.

On April 10, Adams Marshall and a group of SUNY Morrisville students gave away a truckload of yogurt, 200 gallons of milk and a ton of string cheese to more than 230 people who lined up to get the free goods as part of the college's dairy drive-thru. More than 450 cars lined up for a mile on Route 20 for last week's drive.

“We hope to be able to serve more people this week,” said Adams Marshall, an assistant professor of dairy science at SUNY Morrisville who's spearheading the event.

Pasteurized milk, cottage cheese and sour cream will be distributed in this week's dairy drive-thru.

For more details, to donate dairy products (milk, yogurt and cheese), or to make a cash donation, contact Adams Marshall at adamsae@morrisville.edu.

---

**We can be heroes**

Our members at SUNY’s hospitals aren’t the only heroes of the coronavirus crisis.

UUP members at campuses across the state have stepped up to support their health care colleagues during the pandemic. UUP members are making face shields and homemade masks, and donating grocery store gift cards to colleagues who are out of work.

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW to read about how UUP members are making a difference.

- **SUNY Brockport**: Facilities team flips dorm in less than two days - April 16, 2020
- **UUP**: Helping front-line providers—one hotel room at a time - April 16, 2020
- **SUNY Poly**: Members build a better coronavirus test April 16, 2020
- **Potsdam**: ‘The Masked Stitcher’ has it covered - April 15, 2020
Help our members on the front lines

Our doctors and health care workers at SUNY’s public hospitals in Brooklyn, Stony Brook and Syracuse are in desperate need of personal protective equipment and other crucial medical supplies.

These are our colleagues, who are doing all they can to help COVID-19 patients. Please help if you can.

Our members are in urgent need of these supplies:

- Personal Protective Equipment – PPE
- N95, N99 and N100 masks
- PAPRs (powered air-purifying respirators)
- Half-mask or full facepiece elastomeric respirators
- Surgical masks
- Nitrile gloves
- Goggles and face shields
- Surgical gowns
- Hand sanitizer
- Any medical respiratory equipment

To donate to Downstate, please email donation submissions to the Downstate Chapter office at brooklyn@uupmail.org or Downstate Chapter President Rowena Blackman-Stroud at rblackma@uupmail.org.

To donate to Upstate, email Coviddonations@upstate.edu.

To donate to Stony Brook, email COVID19Donations@stonybrook.edu.
TWU deaths discussed in new Union Strong podcast

The impact of the coronavirus on members of the Transport Workers Union of America is the topic of the New York State AFL-CIO’s new "Union Strong" podcast.

Host Darcy Wells talks with TWU International President John Samuelsen about an alarming number of TWU members who have died due to COVID-19. TWU members are essential employees who transport doctors, nurses and medical professionals on airlines, trains and other modes of public transportation.

The podcast also includes interviews with a flight attendant, an Amtrak service worker, and a local leader of the subway division in New York City.

CLICK HERE to listen to the podcast.

---

New AFT ad takes on Trump

The AFT has launched a new ad campaign blasting President Donald Trump for failing to protect health care workers after suggesting March 31 that doctors and nurses were taking and hoarding personal protective equipment like masks and gowns.


CLICK HERE to view the 15-second ad.

CLICK HERE to view the 30-second ad.

In the ads, AFT members criticize Trump for failing to secure enough N95 masks, face shields and ventilators for U.S. hospitals and health care workers on the front lines of the pandemic, and for forcing states to compete against each other to obtain equipment.

The ads ask viewers to call the White House at 202-456-1111 and tell Trump to do his job to protect the American people.

At his March 31 media conference, Trump implied that health care workers were making off with PPE, which was helping to cause shortages.

“Something is going on, and you ought to look into it as reporters,” Trump said. “Where are the masks going? Are they going out the back door? How do you go from 10,000 to 300,000? I just don’t see, from a practical standpoint, how that’s possible ...”