

NYC reports 1st coronavirus death of a person under 18

31 March 2020

New York City reported its first coronavirus death of a person under 18 years old as the number of fatalities in the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak continued to rise rapidly.

City officials announced Tuesday that 250 more ambulances and 500 paramedics and EMTs are headed to New York to help manage record numbers of calls for assistance. A temporary [hospital](#) in a convention center began accepting patients.

Here are the latest [coronavirus](#) developments in New York:

CITY'S FIRST CORONAVIRUS DEATH OF A CHILD REPORTED

New York City's Health Department recorded the city's first death of a person under 18 years old, though details about the person's exact age were not disclosed. There have been 914 coronavirus deaths in New York City, the department reported Monday.

More than 1,200 have died of COVID-19 across New York state, and 9,500 people are hospitalized with the disease statewide. More than 66,000 people statewide have tested positive for the virus, including more than 38,000 in New York City.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said Tuesday that he expects the crisis to stretch through May. "For the weeks ahead, let's not kid ourselves, it gets a lot worse before it gets better," de Blasio said on NBC's "Today."

The virus, which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread rapidly across the globe. It causes mild symptoms in many of those infected, but it can cause severe symptoms or death for some, including older adults and those with underlying

[medical conditions](#) such as respiratory ailments. Relatively few deaths among children have been reported.

MORE HOSPITAL BEDS

A temporary hospital built inside a New York City convention center began accepting patients and a nearby Navy hospital ship was expected to take in patients as early as Tuesday.

Beds at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and the USNS Comfort are designed to take pressure off New York City hospitals as coronavirus cases spike. The combined 2,000 beds were added to handle non-coronavirus patients.

The emergency hospital sites at the convention center began taking patients Monday night, according to the governor's office. The Navy said Tuesday morning that the ship docked off Manhattan was expected to accept patients soon.

There were 9,500 people in New York hospitalized Monday for COVID-19, with more than 2,300 in intensive care.

In one snapshot of the situation in the region's hospitals, Northwell Health said Monday it has 2,200 coronavirus patients being treated at its facilities, triple the number from a week ago.

The company said several of its hospitals are at or near capacity, including Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Mather Hospital in Port Jefferson and Glen Cove Hospital.

FEMA has sent new supplies of masks and ventilators, the company said.

MORE AMBULANCES ON THE WAY

New York City officials and the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced a partnership Tuesday to bring 250 more ambulances and 500 paramedics and emergency medical technicians from around the nation to the city.

"Our EMTs and paramedics are doing unbelievable work under the toughest of circumstances," de Blasio said in a statement. "Our partnership with FEMA will give our first responders the help they need to continue being the heroes of our city."

The [city's](#) Emergency Medical Service has been responding to record numbers of emergencies since the COVID-19 crisis hit this month. Calls for assistance have been up by 50% over normal daily call volume.

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