

# RM&S

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## RMS End of Week Update 12/6/2024



### Governor Hochul 2025 State Of The State Address

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 livestream please click [here](#).

### Senate Democratic Majority Re-elects Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins for 2025-26 Legislative Session

This week the Senate Democratic Conference voted unanimously to re-elect Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins to serve as Senate Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore for the 2025-26 legislative session. This historic re-election solidifies Senator Stewart-Cousins' continued leadership of the New York State Senate and position at the forefront of advancing policies that benefit all New Yorkers. This past November, New Yorkers re-elected the 3rd largest Democratic Majority Conference in state history.

In addition to Senator Stewart-Cousins' re-election, Senator Michael Gianaris will continue to serve as Deputy Majority Leader and Senator José M. Serrano as Chair of the Senate Majority Conference.

"I am deeply honored and privileged to be unanimously re-elected as Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore by my Democratic Senate colleagues from across New York State. Today's vote is a powerful testament to the Senate Democratic Conference's unwavering and bold vision for a stronger, fairer New York," stated Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "In addition, I am thrilled to re-appoint both Senator Gianaris as Deputy Leader and Senator Serrano as Conference chair. As we approach the 2025-26 legislative session, our commitment remains steadfast: we will focus on fueling a thriving economy, protecting our democracy, and delivering essential resources to our communities"

"I am honored to continue in my role as Senate Deputy Leader and Chair of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee under the groundbreaking leadership of Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins... After all the accomplishments of our historic majority we will continue into the new year steadfast in our commitment to deliver for New Yorkers and against any infringement on their rights. From protecting voting reforms and fighting for our environment, to improving tenant protections and addressing the affordability crisis, we will ensure New York remains a stronghold for working people" Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris said.

Majority Conference Chair, Senator José M. Serrano said, "It is my honor to continue to serve as Chair of the Majority Conference under the leadership of Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. We have passed historic legislation in the majority that improves the lives of all New Yorkers, and we will continue to fight for policy that betters our great state. I am excited about our work ahead as we find ways to best meet the needs of New Yorkers. I look forward to all that we will accomplish in this upcoming session."

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

### **Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Reverses Decision To Put A Time Limit On Anesthesia Coverage**

Yesterday, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield announced a reversal of their widely panned plan to limit coverage of anesthesia services. This plan would have impacted New Yorkers enrolled in the company's health plans, in addition to Anthem enrollees in Connecticut and Missouri starting February 1". Under the new payment policy, Anthem said it would not pay for anesthesia services beyond the expected length of time for a given surgery or procedure.

Anesthesiologists helped spread word of the forthcoming change over the last few weeks and strongly advocated for the reversal of the policy Dr. Gal, economics committee chair of the American Society for Anesthesiologists said, "It's incomprehensible how a health

insurance company could so blatantly continue to prioritize their profits over safe patient care.”.

Governor Kathy Hochul called the insurer’s move “outrageous” in a Wednesday night post on the social media platform X and late Thursday announced that New York had “pushed Anthem to reverse course.”

In addition to the Governor a number of other prominent NY legislators voiced their outrage at the proposed policy, including Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn, Assemblymember Solages, and Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris, among others.

Senator Gianaris said he is pursuing legislation to require anesthesia coverage for procedures’ full duration. “This policy is a perfect example of why people resent insurance companies, who too often are more concerned about increasing profits than servicing customers who desperately need care,” Senator Gianaris said in a statement on Anthem’s original plan.

For more information on the Anthem policy reversal please see the AP news article linked [here](#).

### **DFS Issues Proposed Rule Making Regarding Identification of Disparities in Quality and Utilization of Care by Underrepresented Populations**

On December 4, 2024, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) published a Proposed Rule Making in the [State Register](#) related to Minimum Standards for the Form, Content and Sale of Health Insurance, Including Standards of Full and Fair Disclosure. The purpose of the rule is to identify disparities in quality and utilization of care experienced by underrepresented populations. Please find the proposed rulemaking on page 7 linked [here](#).

The proposed rule requires insurers licensed to write accident and health insurance in New York State, corporations organized pursuant to Insurance Law Article 43, health maintenance organizations certified pursuant to Public Health Law Article 44, and student health plans certified pursuant to Insurance Law Section 1124 (collectively, “insurers”) to ask applicants applying for, or insureds currently insured under, a comprehensive health insurance policy questions regarding their race, ethnicity, preferred language, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression.

According to the rule, requiring the systematic collection of such demographic data will help enable the Department of Financial Services and insurers to identify disparities that exist in the quality and utilization of care experienced by underrepresented populations and inform data-driven public policymaking.

## **OMIG to Host Second Health Care Provider Engagement Forum on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Registration remains open for the New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General's (OMIG) Health Care Provider Engagement Forum to be held Wednesday, December 18, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The session follows the November 18th forum held at the Empire State Plaza in Albany and will include updates on the agency's initiatives and opportunities for participants to provide input and ask questions.

In-person attendance is available on a first-registered, first-served basis, as seating is limited. Please note: **Registration for in-person attendance will close at 5 p.m., December 9, 2024.** To ensure providers from across the state have an opportunity to participate, a virtual option is also available. Registration to join online will be available up to the date of the event.

Providers interested in submitting input, questions or recommendations prior to the session are encouraged to complete the [Health Care Provider Engagement Session Feedback Form](#). However, please note that OMIG cannot consider, in any capacity, specific matters pertaining to audits or investigations that are currently before the agency. Questions about the event can be sent via email to [information@omig.ny.gov](mailto:information@omig.ny.gov).

### Event Information And Registration

**When:** December 18, 2024; 10:30AM - 12:00PM EST

**Location:** 90 Church St., 4th Floor Conference Room, New York, NY, 10007

**In-person registration (Registration for in-person attendance will close at 5 p.m., December 9, 2024):** <https://forms.office.com/g/MW98Qjcs09>

**Please note:** If attending in person, please remember to bring a government-issued photo ID, as only those who registered for the event and who have a valid ID will be allowed access past building security.

### **Virtual Registration:**

<https://totalwebcasting.com/view/?func=VOFF&id=nysomig&date=2024-12-18&seq=1>

### **OHIP Release Of The October 2024 Medicaid Update**

The Office of Health Insurance Programs of the New York State Department of Health has approved the release of the October 2024 [Medicaid Update](#). Please find the improved, interactive issue as a PDF (Portable Document Format) file available to be downloaded at: [https://health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/program/update/2024/docs/mu\\_no11\\_oct24.pdf](https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2024/docs/mu_no11_oct24.pdf). A print-ready version is also available on the Medicaid Update web page.

You may also go straight to an article or topic that pertains to you by selecting from the current issue's table of contents below.

### **Policy and Billing**

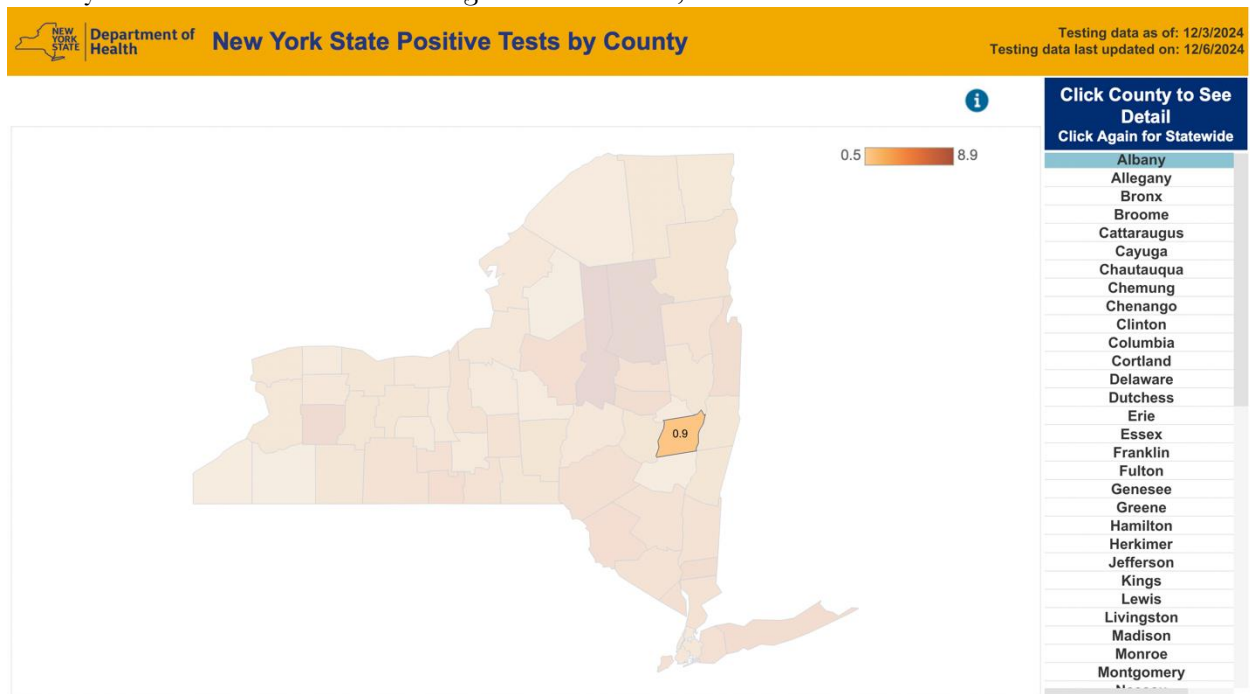
- [Expansion of Remote Patient Monitoring Coverage to Clinical Staff \(Cover\)](#)
- [Independent Practitioner Services Fee Updates for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers Reimbursement for Community Health Worker Services](#)
- [Ambulance Providers](#)
- [New York State Medicaid Fee-for-Service Coverage for Vaccinations Administered by Providers](#)
- [New York State Patient-Centered Medical Home Program](#)

### All Providers

- [eConsults in the Dental Setting](#)

### 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 5, 2024.



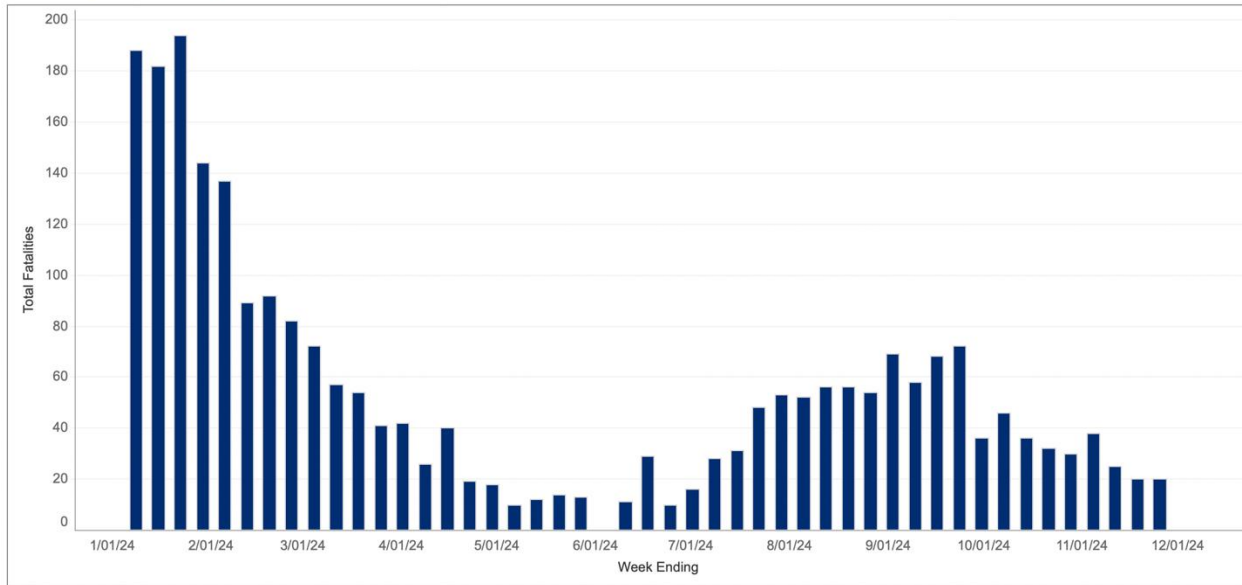
Use this link to view the State’s updated [COVID-19 Hub](#).

### 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 : 84518**

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/>