
In The News

What to Know About Masks as COVID-19 Spreads Rapidly

N95- filters 95% of airborne particles, available in multiple sizes so can fit anyone, properly sealed when metal bar is pressed around the nose, includes headstraps

KN95- filters 95% of airborne particles, includes ear loops, the supply chain has many counterfeit KN95s so make sure to double-check your supplier to ensure quality

KF94- top pick among health experts for quality, might be easier to speak while wearing, make sure it is made in Korea to get best quality, includes ear loops and molds around nose

Surgical mask- traps 60-80% of particles in lab, but is less effective in real world, can be improved by knotting the ear loops

Two-layer cloth mask + third layer of filter - best non-medical mask, effectiveness depends on fabric

Double masking - upgrades both cloth and surgical masks when worn together

Philadelphia Fire

Deadly fire at a row home in Philadelphia has killed at least 13, including 7 children. Inspection done on the apartments in May 2021 noted six working smoke detectors and three working carbon monoxide detectors which all failed to work on January 5th. The Philadelphia Fire Department reportedly took 50 minutes to get the fire under control.



Photo: PIXNIO

COVID Update

US COVID-19 hospitalizations have surpassed September's peak during the Delta variant surge. On Monday, the FDA expanded the emergency authorization of the COVID-19 booster to children ages 12-15. The CDC has also shortened the quarantine time for some who have tested positive for COVID-19. The recommendation stated that after five days of isolation, if there are no symptoms, that person may come out of isolation and wear a mask for the remaining five days instead of a ten day consistent isolation. Public health and medical experts speculate that this change was made for business benefits, as this step helped many businesses to have more available workers.

January 5th Storm

As we all enjoyed a day off of school due to icy roads, the storm on January 5th caused dozens of accidents in Westchester. Cars were stuck on the roads for hours. Westchester County police reported there were numerous accidents on all the major parkways. On the Hutchinson River Parkway, at least 35 cars were involved in a chain-reaction crash. Cars were spotted sliding down the icy roads along with one deadly crash on the ramp connecting the E/B Cross County Parkways to the N/B Bronx River Parkway.



Photo: Flickr

Winter Olympics

The 2022 Winter Olympics will take place in Beijing, China beginning February 4th. Controversy has spread due to China's repression of civil liberties and the pandemic. Olympic organizers have outlined their confidence in safety measures and only plan to allow spectators from inside the country with limited attendance from locals.