



**MARCH 19, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SICK LEAVE For Workers**

### ***Amid Coronavirus Pandemic***

*legislation passed, change in ballot petition filing, public hospital testing capacity, student iPad loaners, 90-day Mortgage Relief; Work from home and more*

**NYS Confirmed: 4,152**

**NYC confirmed: 1871**

**NYC deaths: 11**

**Brooklyn confirmed: 452**

**U.S.:** Congress passed and President Trump signed into law a COVID Relief Package that will allow for sick leave and unemployment benefits for workers affected by coronavirus. In addition free coronavirus testing and medical aid available and food.

## SICK PAID LEAVE

**New York State: Assemblymember Bichotte and the NYS Legislature passed Paid Sick Leave and Governor Cuomo sign into law**

Sick Leave for **COVID-19** employees ( [A10153](#) / [S8091](#) ):

- Employers with **10 employees or less and net income less than \$1 million**: unpaid sick leave and immediately become eligible for Paid Family Leave and Temporary Disability;
- Employers with **11-99 employees or net income >\$1 million**: 5 days paid sick leave then eligible for Paid Family Leave and Temporary Disability;
- Employers with **100 employees or more and all public employees**: minimum of 14 days paid sick leave.

## PETITION FILING ADJUSTMENTS



Photo Credit: Mic.com

Adjust Ballot Petition Requirements ( [A10151/S8058](#) )

- filing designation petitions will be accelerated to March 17th to March 20th.

## CONSUMERS



Photo Credit: sweepstakesbible.com

Starting today on Thursday from 6:00 a.m - 7:30 a.m., **Stop & Shop** will be open for people 60 years of age and older only, giving them an opportunity to shop in a less crowded environment.

**Pathmark** is implementing Senior Citizen Shopping Hour between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. to make it easier for seniors to get their groceries with less pressure during these difficult times. Non-Seniors should begin shopping after 8 AM.

## BUSINESS

### **NYC Employee Retention Grant Program Application Now Open!**

This grants offers small businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 5 employees a grant to cover 40% of payroll costs (up to \$27,000) for two months to help retain employees.

Applicants must:

- Be located within the five boroughs of New York City
- Demonstrate that the COVID-19 outbreak caused at least a 25% decrease in revenue
- Employ 1-4 employees in total across all locations
- Have been in operation for at least 6 months
- Have no outstanding tax liens or legal judgments

[APPLY HERE](#)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Photo Credit: businesswire.com

The Department of Education is lending internet-enabled iPads to students in support of remote learning. To request a device, **complete a Remote Learning Device Request Form by March 20th**. Following submission, DOE will contact you to discuss pick-up arrangements. Priority will be given to students most in need. ***All devices are granted on a temporary basis.*** Form is [here](#)

*Continue to stay updated with information on the DOE Website page <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/coronavirus-update>*

**THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED 90-DAY  
MORTGAGE RELIEF FOR NEW YORKERS  
IMPACTED BY CORONAVIRUS**



## MORTGAGE RELIEF FOR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OF COVID-19

- **90-DAY MORTGAGE RELIEF**
  - Waive mortgage payments based on financial hardship
  - No negative reporting to credit bureaus
  - Grace period for loan modification
  - No late payment fees or online payment fees
  - Postponing or suspending foreclosures
- **WAIVE FEES FOR OVERDRAFTS, ATMS, CREDIT CARDS**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced steps Thursday, March 19, 2020, to help people with their mortgage payments. (Photo: Joseph Spector, USA TODAY Network New York) Democrat & Chronicle

The Governor announced 90-Day Mortgage Relief for New Yorkers impacted by coronavirus. This includes: waiving mortgage payments; no negative reporting to credit bureaus; grace period for loan modification; no late payment fees or online payment fees: postponing or suspending foreclosures [Click Here for more information](#)

## FEDERAL FORECLOSURE AND EVICTION MORATORIUM

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson, in consultation with the Trump Administration and the Coronavirus Task Force, authorized **the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to implement an immediate [foreclosure and eviction moratorium](#) for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages for the next 60 days.** These moratoriums are part of the continued effort to address impacts to the financial well-being of America's individuals, families, and businesses caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19).

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Insurance Marketplace **re-opens enrollment between March 16th through April 15th** for an April 1st effective date.

## HOSPITALS



Photo Credit: Nationalpost.com

**New York City:** Mayor Bill de Blasio signed an executive order today

- As of **March 19th** our public hospitals will have the capacity to conduct **5,000 tests per day**.
- Tests will come back in can be processed in 1 to 2 days

**Doctors Needed:** Yesterday, the Mayor called on retired or non-practicing healthcare professionals to get signed up for the City's medical reserve at [nyc.gov/helpnownyc](https://nyc.gov/helpnownyc). Over **1,000** have already signed up! Please help us spread the word.

## IMMIGRATION

**CUNY Citizenship Now!** will continue to provide legal services remotely until further notice. Their applications will be limited to green card renewals, citizenship, DACA and TPS. All other applications will resume when they reopen to the public. For general questions, you can call us at 646-664-9400.

Effective March 18th, **Immigration and Customs Enforcement** (ICE) announced that during the coronavirus epidemic, it will **delay** making arrests, except for individuals considered "public safety risk."

MTA



Photo Credit: New York Post

MTA announced effective March 19th that shared rides with Access-A-Ride will no longer be scheduled. Travel with a personal care attendant and approved guest will still be permitted.

## TAX

[The tax deadline is postponed for 90 days](#) . Individuals, pass-through entities and small businesses have been given an extra 90 days to pay income taxes, up to \$1 million owed, as part of the US government's effort to cope with the coronavirus pandemic. The limit for corporations is \$10 million in taxes owed.

## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS



Photo Credit: livelihoodlaw.com

NYS waives the 7-day waiting period for unemployment benefits for individuals who are out of work due to closure or quarantine. To file a claim call 1-888-209-8124 for New York State residents or visit the Department of Labor [online](#).

You may file your claim (Eastern Time):  
Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday: Anytime  
Sunday: Until 7 p.m.

### **GOVERNOR CUOMO EXECUTIVE ORDER**

Governor Cuomo Executive Order:

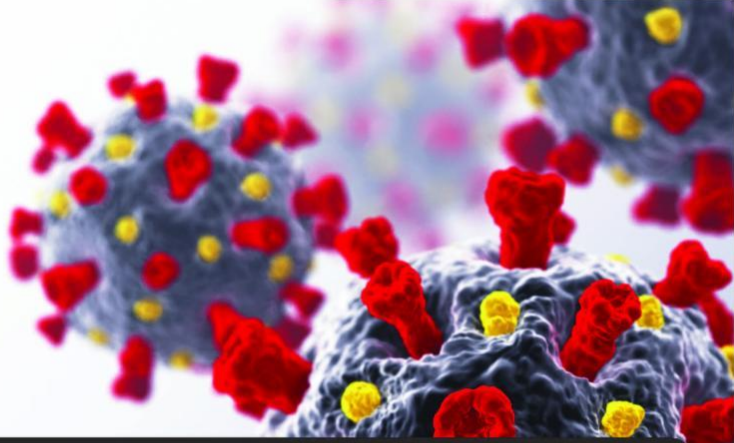
- All Schools closed for two weeks ending April 1st
- Non-essential businesses to implement work from home policies effective Friday, March 20
  - excluding media, shipping, warehousing, grocery/food production, pharmacies, healthcare providers, utilities, banks and related financial institutions
- No business may have more than 50% of workforce report to work outside of their home, excluding exceptions
- 1000 bed hospital ship deployed to New York Harbor
- Testing free for all eligible New Yorkers when ordered by a healthcare provider



# COVID-19 Constituent Information Conference Call



**Assemblymember  
Rodneyse Bichotte**  
in Partnership with  
**Councilmember  
Farah Louis** hosts a



## COVID-19 Constituent Information Conference Call

**Conference Number: (515) 606-5443**

**Access Code: 168720**

Join the call and listen to experts talk about the facts relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), preventative measures, and its impact on our businesses and social services.

**Thursday,  
March 19, 2020  
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

### Invited Guests:

- Department for the Aging
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Department of Social Services
- Small Business Services
- SUNY Downstate
- MTA
- Real Estate Board of New York

Space is limited and will be available first come, first served. In the event we reach conference call capacity, the call will be recorded and made available on the following websites:

[www.nyassembly.gov/mem/rodneyse-bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/rodneyse-bichotte)  
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-45/>

For any questions related to COVID-19, call the **New York State Department of Health's Novel Corona Virus Hotline 24-hour hotline at 1-888-364-3065** or **text COVID 692-692** to get daily updates from the city. For non-emergency assistance, please call 311.

For more information about this or any state or local issue, contact Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte's office:  
1312 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210 • 718-940-0428 • [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov) • [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte)

## Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte

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- MTA
- Real Estate Board of NY

**Submit questions in advance of conference call to have your concerns considered for the discussion.**

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# You can stop the spread of coronavirus

- Wash your hands regularly
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your face

The best preventative steps you can take are the tried and true ones:

- frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow<sup>[10]</sup>
- try to avoid coming in contact with someone who is sick
- disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces at work and at home.<sup>[11]</sup>

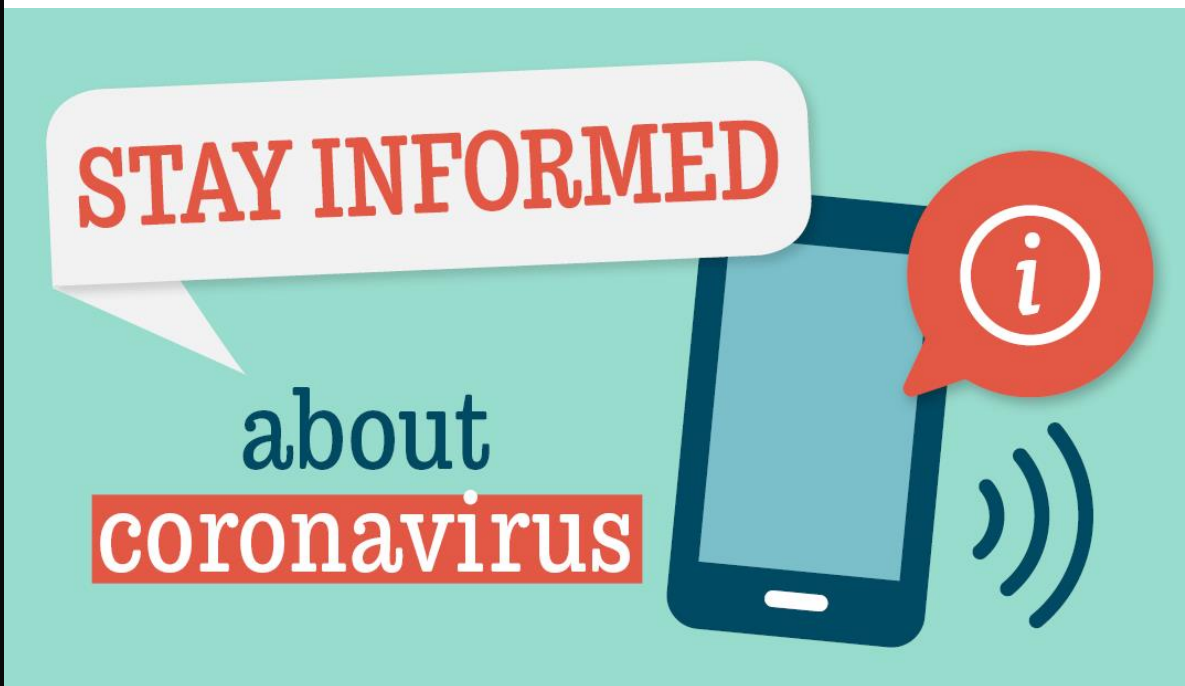
If you can't wash your hands with soap and water, be sure to **use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**.<sup>[12]</sup> If you're at a **higher risk** of getting seriously ill from COVID-19, such as the **elderly** or those with **underlying medical problems**, you should also try to avoid crowds and touching high-touched surfaces such as door handles, hand rails and elevator buttons.<sup>[13]</sup> In order to better protect yourself, those who smoke should cut back or try to quit as smokers are at higher risk of getting respiratory infections and twice as likely to develop pneumonia than a non-smoker.<sup>[14]</sup> It's also important that you stay home if you're feeling sick to prevent germs from spreading.

**New York City officials are asking that anyone who is able to avoid public transportation do so, or if a bus or subway car is packed, wait for one that has more room.**<sup>[15]</sup>

Experts have recommended ensuring you have basic home supplies – food staples, laundry detergent, over-the-counter medicine and pet food. You should also try to have at least a 30-

day supply of any prescription medication. Go over any emergency plans you may have with every member of your household and make sure you keep up-to-date with any information from your child's school district.

Meanwhile, the governor has said the state would institute new cleaning protocols in heavily used public areas, such as bleaching surfaces on public transportation and in schools. <sup>[16]</sup> Local health departments will notify school districts if and when they need to close and when they can reopen. <sup>[17]</sup>



Health officials are working tirelessly to protect public health and contain this virus. And, as your representative in Albany, I am working to ensure that our state is putting the health and safety of our families first.

Remember COVID-19 can affect any community and we must stand by one another during this time, not alienate, threaten or discriminate against others.

For questions you can also reach out to the New York State's novel coronavirus hotline at **1-888-364-3065**. For continuous updates, you can visit the following websites:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

*The CDC also now has the option for you to sign up for weekly updates on COVID-19.*

**RECAP**

# CORONAVIRUS: Q & A

## **What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms range from mild to severe and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms often appear two to 14 days after exposure.

## **How does it spread?**

Health officials are studying how the virus spreads, but it's believed to spread from person-to-person via respiratory droplets that are released when an infected person coughs. Individuals are believed to be most contagious when they're the sickest.

## **When should I see a doctor?**

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness such as a cough or shortness of breath, call your health care provider before seeking treatment in person and tell them you may have the novel coronavirus so they can take proper precaution

### **Resources:**

- [10] [who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses)
- [11] [health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus)
- [12] [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html)
- [13] [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk)
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- [21] [nytimes.com/2020/03/10/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-update.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/10/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-update.html)

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Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the **Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs)** , and serves on the following committees: **Housing, Government Operations, Education , Banks, Health, and Higher Education** . She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on **Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force.**

As a current Assemblymember, District Leader, and Chair of Brooklyn Democratic Party, Rodneyse Bichotte has been an outspoken advocate on issues concerning **immigration, education, economic development, unemployment, education reform, health care access, senior citizen**

**centers, affordable housing, school safety, women's and LGBTQ rights** , as well as other issues affecting the quality of life in the community.

Learn more about  
Rodneyse Bichotte by visiting her website:  
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>

STAY CONNECTED

