



Photo Credit: Michigan Radio

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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718-940-0428

NYC To Develop Supply Chain To Produce Testing Kits

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

Additional companies will create face shields and surgical gowns; regional enrichment centers include more essential workers; virtual census forum; and more!

NYS Confirmed: 202,208
NYS deaths: 10,834
NYC confirmed: 107,263
Brooklyn confirmed: 28,183

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo / FLICKR

- **Massachusetts** Governor Charlie Baker is now the 7th Governor to join the **regional council** to work on a reopening plan for New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

- Governor Cuomo announced that the **President does not have total authority to re-open** states according to Constitution. For more information visit [here](#).
- There has been a number of **nursing room deaths**, the State will look into the matter and release data when available.

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



Photo Credit: Secret NYC

Today the Mayor provided updates on the development of face shields, surgical gowns and testing kits.

- **Face Shields:**
 - There are **8** companies in **Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn Army Terminal** and in **Manhattan** creating face shields.
 - The companies can produce **240,000** face shields a week.
 - The companies can grow to produce **465,000** a week by **April 24th**.

- The **goal** is to produce **620,000** a week.
- **Surgical gowns:**
 - There are **5** firms in **Brooklyn Navy Yard, Sunset Park, Garment Center, Broadway, and Long Island City** creating surgical gowns.
 - The firms are producing **30,000** surgical gowns a week.
 - The firms will grow to produce **100,000** a week by April 24th.
 - The **goal** is to produce **250,000** a week.
- **Testing:**
 - **Aria Diagnostics**, a lab in Indiana, is **donating 50,000 kits** to NYC and confirmed they can produce test kits for NYC regularly.
 - Starting next week NYC will **purchase 50,000** testing kits per week from Aria Diagnostics.
- **Developing Testing kits in NYC:**
 - A test kit includes Nasal swabs, Viral transport medium (liquid solution) and tubes.
 - NYC is building a **new supply chain to produce 50,000 test per week** in NYC.
 - NYC **needs labs** to produce the Viral Transport Medium solution.
 - NYC **needs local manufacturers and 3D printers** to produce testing swabs and tubes
 - The Mayor hopes to **launch** the production in the beginning of **May**.

The Mayor is calling on Biotech companies, labs, companies with 3D printers and those who can help, to join the fight by emailing: **TestHelp@edc.nyc** .

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Photo Credit: Yahoo Finance

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** approved a **new saliva test** for " **emergency use** to diagnose COVID-19." The test was developed by **Rutger University** in partnership with Spectrum Solutions and Accurate Diagnostic Labs and will help limit the risk of healthcare professionals being infected with COVID-19 due to testing. For more information visit [here](#).

NBC NEWS INTERVIEW



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte visiting the COVID-19 testing site at Sears parking lot, holding up a sign informing people to call for an appointment before arriving



Today, **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte** was interviewed by **NBC News** in front of the new Sears Parking Lot mobile testing site about the lack of available COVID-19 tests. "I don't think there is enough testing and availability," **said Assemblymember Bichotte** . "The fact of the matter is most people here have been exposed and the right way to do this is to test everybody."

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Regional Enrichment Centers

For the Children of Essential Workers



NYC Department of
Education

schools.nyc.gov/recs

Photo Credit: Department of Education

The Department of Education has extended their **Regional Enrichment Centers** to include the children of **restaurant workers, food, takeout and delivery workers, and residential and commercial building staff**. To find more information about Regional Enrichment Centers, visit [here](#).

VIRTUAL 2020 CENSUS FORUM



JOIN US! #WECOUNTWEDNESDAY

Flatbush YMCA Virtual 2020 Census Forum

Mobilizing Communities

Tune in with the YMCA, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte, census experts and community leaders to discuss the importance of the 2020 Census to the community.

Wednesday, April 15

12 PM – 1 PM

Register at link in
description.

*Spanish and Haitian Creole interpretation will
be available.



CONGRESSWOMAN
Yvette D. Clarke
Representing the 9th District of New York



**YMCA OF GREATER
NEW YORK**

Where there's a Y,
there's a way.

Learn more: ymcany.org/2020-census

Join **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte**, **Congresswoman Yvette Clarke**, **Councilmember Farah Louis** and **community leaders** tomorrow to learn about the importance of the 2020 Census and ways to mobilize your community to Get Out the Count. The Forum is tomorrow, **April 15th, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.** To register for the forum, register [here](#).

If you need to complete the 2020 Census, you can do so [here](#).

IMMIGRATION



**Our paralegals and attorneys
are ready to help, Monday to Friday,
9 to 5 pm.**



Photo Credit: CUNY Citizenship Now!

If you or a loved one is in need of **free Immigration assistance** , please call **CUNY Citizenship Now** at 646-664-9400 or text at 929-334-3784, Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Furthermore, the CUNY Citizenship Now Director, Allan Wernick, is hosting a **Facebook live**, tomorrow **April 15th, from 3:00- 3:30 p.m.**, to provide answers to some immigration questions.

According to CUNY Citizenship Now, below are some of the **topics that will be discussed:**

- Is USCIS still accepting applications?
- What to do if you lost your job and were planning on applying for an immigration benefit?
- Could COVID-19 treatment make you become a public charge?
- How are international students being affected?
- What if I am stuck in the United States and unable to go back to my country?
- What is happening with DACA?

To view the live, you can visit [here](#).

BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Photo Credit: Fiorigianluigi/iStock, via Getty Images

According to the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, "**child victims and their families remain a top priority.**" There is an unfortunate risk of increase in child abuse cases due to COVID-19's stay at home order, for more information on this development visit [here](#). If you need to report a case of child abuse or maltreatment, call the **New York State Child Abuse Hotline** at **1-800-342-3720** . If a child is in immediate danger, please call 911.

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

*You keep our
shelves stocked and
families healthy.*

Thank you grocery store workers.



Photo Credit: ministryofsport.com

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **Grocery Store workers** for keeping our shelves stocked and families healthy.

AVOID SCAMS

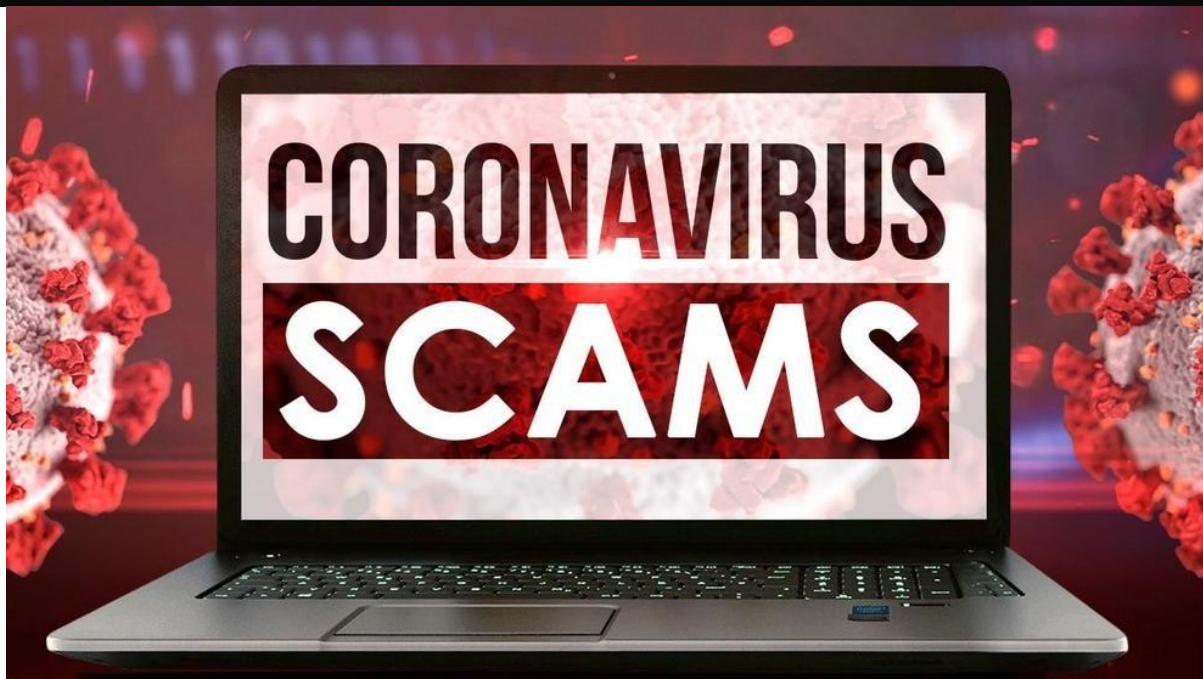


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dewp](https://www.nyc.gov/dewp). You can also file a complaint to the Attorney General's office, fill out a [complaint form](#).
- **NYS Price Gouging Hotline**: 800-697-1220.
- CDC staff will **NOT** go door-to-door. If you experience this, call 911.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES



Photo Credit: Ansi.org

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on New York City's workforce, the City of New York has developed a list of resources for those who may be unemployed due to COVID-19 or are seeking additional assistance. The list below will be updated frequently.

It has information on the following categories:

- **Employment Resources**
- **Food Assistance**
- **Health & Medical Assistance**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Rent Arrears and Public Assistance**
- **Emotional Support & Spiritual Care**
- **Other Assistance**

Visit this [website](#) for resources.

NYS Department of Health Hotline for people who want to be assessed and get appointment for test ([888-364-3065](tel:888-364-3065)). NYC residents should call ([844-692-4692](tel:844-692-4692)).

Volunteer to Support

Others: https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare_workers.

Free Internet Services:

Charter is offering free spectrum broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to household with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have Spectrum broadband subscription. To enroll, **call 844-488-8395**.

Until further notice, all Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots are now open to everyone on the "xfinitywifi" SSID. For more information visit [here](#).

In-District Businesses open/closed : Provided by **Flatbush Avenue BID and Church Avenue BID** : Visit Flatbush Avenue Business Directory [here](#) and Church Avenue Business directory [here](#). **Businesses open/closed**: Provided by **Flatbush Development Corporation** : Visit Flatbush Business Corridor Directory [here](#). Includes businesses located in:

- Cortelyou Road (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Coney Island Avenue (Cortelyou Road - Foster Ave)
- Newkirk Plaza
- Newkirk Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Foster Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Ditmas Park

Small Businesses:

For resources on **business** grants and loans, [visit here](#).

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19



What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, immediately clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., shortness of breath or difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>.

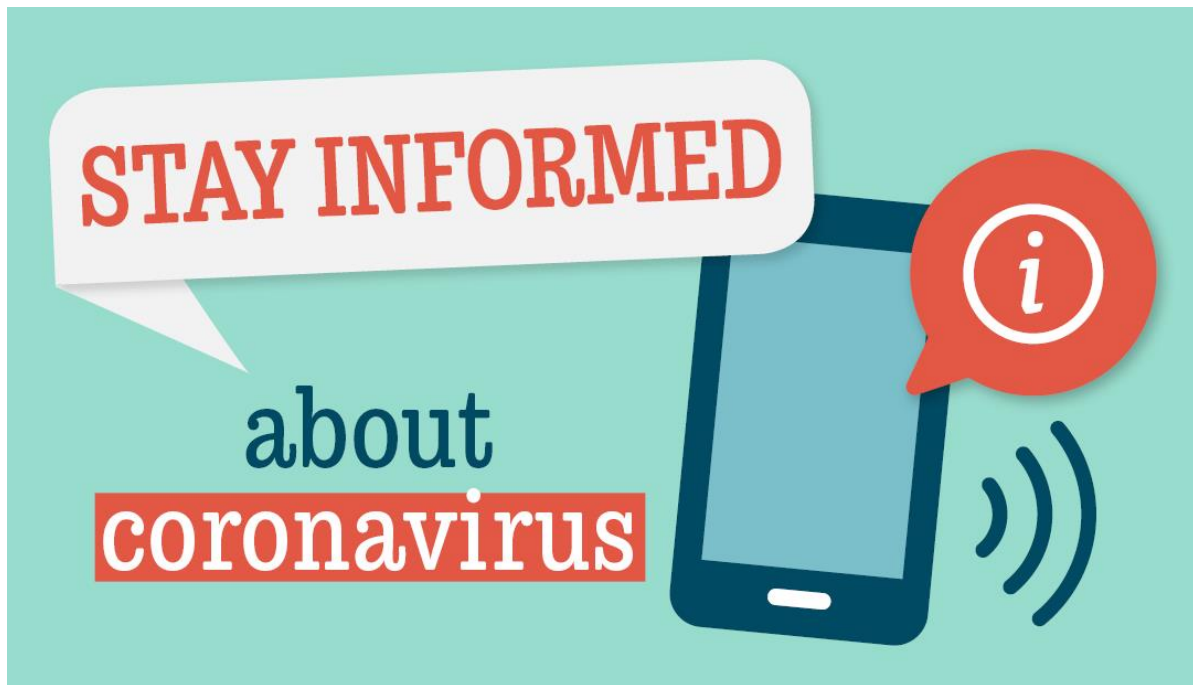
Discontinuing home isolation

Patients confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments. Current information on COVID-19 is limited; home precautions are conservative and based on general recommendations for other diseases, like Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

STAY INFORMED



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.

New Yorkers Can Sign Up for Email Updates [Here](#) and Ask

Questions About COVID-19 [Here](#)

New Yorkers Can Find More Information About the New COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Law [Here](#)

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

