



**RODNEYSE BICHOTTE**  
Assemblymember NYS 42nd Assembly District



Photo Credit: Insider.com

**APRIL 16, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Lisa Derrick: [derrickl@nyassembly.gov](mailto:derrickl@nyassembly.gov)  
718-940-0428

**NYS P.A.U.S.E EXTENDED TO MAY 15TH**  
(Policies That Assure Uniform Safety For Everyone)

***Amid Coronavirus Pandemic***

Mayor launches executive budget; mask mandate for use of public transportation; federal paycheck protection program reaches limit; and more!

**NYS Confirmed: 222,284**  
**NYS deaths: 12,192**  
**NYC confirmed: 117,565**  
**Brooklyn confirmed: 31,279**

**NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO**



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo / FLICKR

- Today, Governor Cuomo **extended** New York States stay at home order until **May 15th**.
- Governor Cuomo's **mask** executive order applies to all people **2 years old and older**.

- Individuals **must wear mask when riding public transportation systems**, private transportation and for hire vehicles.
  - All operators of public systems, private carriers, and for-hire vehicles must wear mask at all times.
  - For hire vehicles include Uber, Lyft, taxi cabs and other services.
  - This order is effective Friday at 8 p.m.
- Governor announced that NYS is sending **100** ventilators to New Jersey.
- **Plan to Unpause NY:**
  - Do No Harm: **Control** rate of infection.
  - Surge/Flex: **Strengthen** the Health care system.
  - Test/Trace: **Need federal partnership.**
  - Phasing an economic return to a “**New Normal.**”
    - New Normal includes taking precautions and using a **risk versus reward analysis.**
    - Answering questions to figure out which businesses to re-open.
    - Re-imagining the workplace. Can individuals social distance in the work place?

**NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO**



Photo Credit: Washington Examiner

Today, the Mayor announced the **City's priorities** which are:

- Keeping New Yorkers **healthy**.
- Keeping New Yorkers **safe**.
- Making sure **food** is on New Yorker's table.
- Keeping **roof** over New Yorker's head.

#### **NYC Executive Budget:**

- Today, the Mayor announced New York City's Executive **Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21)**. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the Mayor projects that we will lose **\$7.4 billion** in tax over the current and next fiscal year.
- The Mayor announced a Fiscal Budget of **\$89.3 Billion** dollars for FY2021.
- According to the Mayor, the budget focuses on health, safety, food and shelter.

- There is a total of **\$2.7 Billion** in savings within the budget. This includes a **\$2 Billion** program to eliminate the gap (PEG) and **\$700 million** in other savings.
- To view the **Mayor's press release** about the Executive Budget visit [here](#) and to access the **entire FY 2021 budget** visit [here](#).

### **What we need in the next stimulus package:**

- Today, the Mayor announced to the federal government that we need the following in the next stimulus package:
  - At least **\$150 Billion** for states and localities based on need. This would aid localities for their loss of revenue. Would also assist police, fire and emergency response expenses.
  - **\$100 Billion** for hospitals and health care workers.
  - **\$250 Billion** for small businesses and paycheck protection program.

### **Free hotel rooms for people who need to quarantine:**

- **11,000 rooms** are being prepared in Hotels.
- City will work with **NYC Health + Hospitals** and **community health providers** to see who needs the support.
- City will begin to accept referrals on **Wednesday, April 22nd**.
- Individuals who are at risk for COVID-19 and can not socially isolate in their rooms will be eligible for hotel rooms.
- Healthcare workers will be eligible for hotel rooms.
- Individuals who live in overcrowded households, especially multi generational homes are eligible.
- Those who are experiencing homelessness are eligible.

### **Reducing Jail population:**

- NYC has the **lowest** jail population in **74 years**.

- Fewer than **4,000** detainees now in jail system.
- Reduced population based on **public health and public safety.**

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Photo Credit: News 15

- Today, the **Paycheck Protection Program** reached its lending limit after approving more than **1.6 million** "small business loans valued at **\$339 billion**. The remaining **\$10 billion** is allocated for covering loan fees on approved small business loans." **The Small Business Administration is unable to provide further funds** and accept new loan applications **until the federal government passes a bill to increase funding** for the Paycheck Protection Program. For more information visit [here](#).

- According to the U.S. **Department of Labor**, **5.2 million** Americans filed for **unemployment** benefits last week. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the unemployment filing rate is now over **22 million**. For more information visit [here](#).
- Yesterday, the President threatened to invoke his **authority to adjourn the senate and appoint executive-branch nominees** while Congress is in recess. According to the President, there are **129** nominees that have not been approved by congress. The senate is scheduled to return to Washington on **May 4th**. For more information visit [here](#).

## NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS



Photo Credit: HIT Consultant

Today, NYC Health + Hospitals launched a **new volunteer recruitment process** to match approximately **2,000** licensed health care providers to hospitals around NYC. The website, Docs4NYCNow, allows health care practitioners to be **matched up with a hospital**

**facility in at least 24 hours.** Furthermore, the portal will **connect participants to free air fare and free hotel rooms** for "the duration of their volunteer assignment." To sign up, [visit here](#).

## CONSTRUCTION



Photo Credit: roline.com

Currently non-essential **construction is suspended** in New York State due to the P.A.U.S.E order. Yesterday, NYC provided **guidelines** on what is deemed as essential construction. To view the guidelines, visit [here](#). This includes construction for " **transit facilities on private properties, utilities, hospitals or health care facilities, homeless shelters, public or private schools, affordable and public housing and more!**



If unessential construction is being conducted near you, **please call 311** or visit report [here](#).

## THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

You allow us to get where we need to be safely in this time of crisis.

**Thank you gas station workers.**

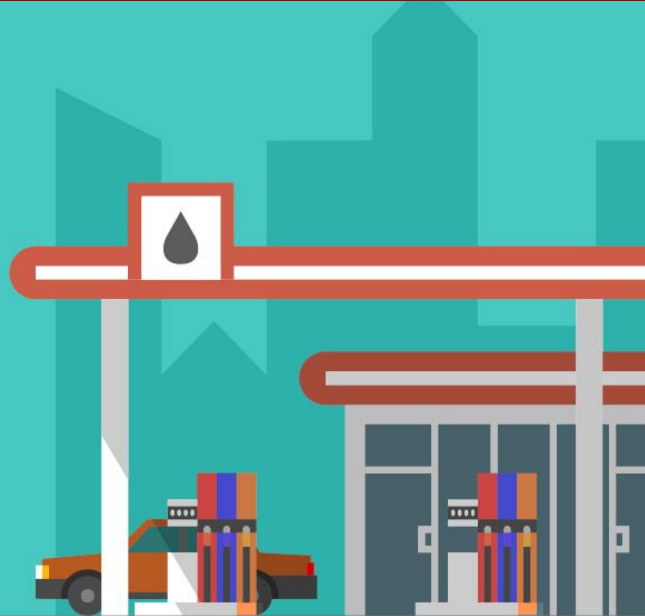


Photo Credit: ministryofsport.com

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **Gas station workers** for providing our drivers and essential workers with the services they need to reach their destination.

**AVOID SCAMS**



Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dcwp](https://www.nyc.gov/dcwp). 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](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](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

**STAY INFORMED**

**STAY INFORMED**

about  
**coronavirus**



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

