



Assemblymember  
**RODNEYSE BICHOTTE**  
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader

## COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: NYC Mayor's Office

**MAY 5, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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718-940-0428

**NYC 311 Action Plan Addresses Call Volume  
With "Express Lanes"  
for COVID-19 and Food Calls**

## *Amid Coronavirus Pandemic*

Gates Foundation plans for future of education; Native American communities receive support; COVID-19 in children; And More!

**NYS Confirmed: 321,192**  
**NYS Deaths: 19,645**  
**NYC Confirmed: 176,874**  
**Brooklyn Confirmed: 47,579**

**NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO**



Photo Credit: Bill and Melinda Gates EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP | Getty Images

- Governor Cuomo announced a partnership with **Bill and Melinda Gates** to convene a collaboration with the **Gates Foundation** and a **group of national and international** experts to identify a blueprint of what the future of education will look like utilizing available technology.
- Several topics to be considered in exploring smart and innovative education alternatives using technology include:
  - provide more opportunities to students;
  - share education among schools and colleges;
  - reduce education inequality including language;
  - meet educational needs of students with disabilities;
  - provide educators with more tools to use;
  - break down barriers for all education levels to provide great access to high quality education;
  - deploy classroom technology with social distancing rules in mind.
  - for more information click [here](#).
- New **contest** for a 30-second video explaining the benefits of **why people should wear a mask in public**. Videos of top five contestants will be posted and New Yorkers will vote. Winner will have their video in a Public Service Announcement (PSA).
  - For more information and to apply visit [WearAMask.NY.Gov](#).
  - Deadline to submit is **May 15th**.
  - Share with others, #NewYorkTough

**NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO**



Photo Credit: Getty Images

- Mayor de Blasio announced that New York City will provide additional support for the 311 call centers with its **311 Action Plan**.
  - **285 new call-takers** trained
  - **4 new call centers** developed
  - help from **NYPD** and **FDNY** leadership to strategize important calls
  - **Express Lanes** created for COVID-19 and food calls
    - reduced wait time (dropped by 75%)
- The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) will be closely monitoring cases of children under 21 years old. **15 cases** have revealed **multi-system inflammatory syndrome**.
  - **Symptoms** of the syndrome includes:

- persistent fever
  - rash
  - abdominal pain
  - vomiting
- DOHMH is instructing all NYC providers to report cases immediately. For more information visit [here](#).
  - **140,000 new antibody tests** will be provided for NYC healthcare workers and first responders - hospitals, firehouses, police stations, and correctional facilities. Testing to start by Monday, 5/11 or earlier.
  - Mayor de Blasio reminds **small businesses** to submit their application for the **Federal Payroll Protection Program**. Businesses needing assistance completing their application can call 311. Visit [SBA.gov](http://SBA.gov) for more information.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Photo Credit: Gina Ferazzi / Los Angeles Times

- President Trump has directed support to Native American communities to combat the coronavirus. Allocation from the CARES Act included **\$8 billion** for preparedness, response and recovery for American Indian and Alaska Natives in addition to over **\$1 billion** through the Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Critical medical supplies and support were delivered which included:
  - **250 Abbott testing systems** to IHS allowing for rapid testing
  - **100 ventilators** to Arizona to support the Indian Country
  - **50 ventilators** to the Navajo Nation
  - deployment of **2 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams**
  - constructed **three 50-bed** Federal Medical Stations for the Navajo Nation
- An additional **\$600 million** will be sent for support
- Will re-activate the White House Council on Native American Affairs to promote economic development and rural prosperity in Indian Country.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Week of April 17th, 2020

*NYC Volunteer Coordination Task Force*

# COVID-19 Response Report

Area of greatest need:

**Food distribution**

**93**

**Projects happened  
across the city this week**

**851**

**New Yorkers signed up to  
volunteer this week**



Help now or get help for your organization at  
[nyc.gov/helpnow](https://nyc.gov/helpnow)

Photo Credit: Stapp

- NYC Service, a division of the Mayor's Office, handles the **Volunteer Coordination Task Force (VCTF)**. They are working on supporting nonprofit organizations, who are contributing toward COVID-19 relief efforts, with volunteers and resources.
  - **NYC Civic Impact Funding:** provides a one-time funding up to **\$10,000** for non-profits engaging

volunteers to deliver essential service such as food. Application are **due by May 11th at 5pm**. For more information, click [here](#).

- **Request Volunteer Support:** provides volunteers for projects related to food distribution and phone banking for social engagement. Over 12,000 volunteers are available to serve. For more information, click [here](#).
- For question about VCTF email [here](#).

## UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS



Photo Credit: JOHN MINCHILLO/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK



- The Department of Labor (DOL) reminds all claimants to continue to certify their status to continue to be eligible for unemployment benefits. **Certification must be done every week by Saturday.** They have recently notified over 90,000 claimants, instructing them on how to certify. To review the certification process click [here](#).

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**New York State Absentee Ballot Application**

Please print clearly. See detailed instructions.

This application must either be personally delivered to your county board of elections not later than the day before the election, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than 7th day before election day. The ballot itself must either be personally delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on election day, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than the day before the election and received no later than the 7th day after the election.

**1. I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason):**

absence from county or New York City on election day

temporary illness or physical disability

permanent illness or physical disability

duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled

patient or inmate in a Veterans Hospital

detention in jail/prison or action by a grand jury of a criminal court

voted in office

**2. absentee ballot(s) requested for the following election(s) :**

Primary Election only

Any election held between these dates: absence begins: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

General Election only

**3.** last name or surname \_\_\_\_\_ first name \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** date of birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ county where you live \_\_\_\_\_

ant \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD USE ONLY:  
Town/City/Ward/Dist: \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Credit: Ballot: MNN.org

The Board of Elections will be sending an **application** for all voters **to apply** for an **Absentee Ballot**. Voters have the option to request an Absentee Ballot Application online, by phone or by mail. For more information, click [here](#).

**BUILDING SERVICE WORKER APPRECIATION DAY**

**Thank you,  
Building Service  
Workers**



**#ProtectAllWorkers**

Today is **Building Service Worker Appreciation Day**. We appreciate the essential work that continues even through the coronavirus pandemic. **Thank you** for keeping our buildings clean, our water and heat running, our garbage emptied and all of the additional services in between.

**COVID-19 TESTING IN FLATBUSH**



Assemblymember  
**Rodneyse Bichotte**  
*42nd Assembly District*



# **FLATBUSH AVENUE WALK-IN COVID-19 TESTING SITE**

*This testing site is **by appointment only**.*

You **must** contact the  
**NYS Department of Health**  
at **1-888-364-3065** to  
schedule an appointment.

**Brookdale Family Care Center**

1095 Flatbush Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11226

For more information about this or any community concern,  
contact Assemblymember Bichotte's district office

718-940-0428 | [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov) | [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte)

We have a **drive through** and **walk-in** COVID-19 testing site in the **42nd Assembly District** . **You must make an appointment before visiting the center or you will be turned away.** To make an appointment you **must** contact the NYS Department of Health at **888-364-3065**.

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Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte  
*42nd Assembly District*



## **Sears Parking Lot**

2307 Beverley Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11226

**Testing site is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

For appointment call 888-364-3065

*If you experience symptoms or have been exposed  
to someone with the virus, call your doctor*



For information on this, or any other matter, please call Assemblymember Bichotte's district office at  
718-940-0428 | [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov) | [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte)

**THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

You continue to  
help our children  
learn during this  
difficult time.

*Thank you  
teachers.*



During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **Teachers** for stimulating the little minds that hold our future.

**AVOID SCAMS**



Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID-19 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 by filling 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](#).

**IMMIGRATION**

- 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. Visit their [website](#) for more information.
- **Open Society Foundation** has established the **Immigrant Emergency Relief Program** which is a \$20 million fund that will provide 20,000 undocumented immigrants with a one-time monetary emergency relief.
  - \$400/individual
  - \$800/couple or single parent with children
  - \$1,000/family with multiple adults and children
  - for more information, click [here](#).

## **SMALL BUSINESS**

- The Federal Government is offering programs to support small businesses:
  - **Payroll Protection Program** a loan that will be forgiven if employees are retained on payroll for a period of time. For more information, click [here](#).
  - **Economic Injury Disaster Loan** is a low interest loan to cover expense beyond payroll costs. For more information, click [here](#).
- New York City Small Business Services has a host of other services for small businesses including grant and loan opportunities. For more information, click [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

**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](#)

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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 websites:  
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>  
and [www.rodneysebichotte.net](http://www.rodneysebichotte.net)

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