



March 5, 2021

Greetings --

This week the New York State Assembly met to take action to address the Governor's extraordinary emergency powers and to pass a package of bills to improve safety conditions in New York's long-term care facilities, to enhance nursing home oversight, and to better ensure the well-being of their residents.

Last March, I was one of a handful of Assemblymembers who voted against providing Governor Cuomo with expanded emergency powers. In recent months, particularly related to the mismanagement of nursing homes, we have seen the grave consequences of a lack of oversight and accountability. Today, the Assembly passed [A.5967](#), to immediately repeal the Governor's expanded emergency powers that were granted to him at the beginning of the pandemic and return to a more regular order with increased oversight and review from the state Legislature

This bill will ensure that we begin to restore accountability and transparency in New York's response to COVID-19. Removing the Governor's emergency powers helps restore the balance of power and helps give New Yorkers the tools to bounce back.

Here are my remarks on the bill today:



Nursing Home Legislative Package

More than 89,000 New Yorkers currently live in long-term care facilities, including Assisted Living and Independent Living Centers, Skilled Nursing Homes, and Continuing Care Communities. The bills we passed this week are crucial steps to addressing the grave mistakes made by the governor since he was granted expanded powers last March. See below for a summary of the specific bills we passed this week:

Transparency and Oversight

- [A.3397](#) repeals the blanket immunity that health care facilities were given during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This immunity was one of the reasons that New

Yorkers could not get a clear picture of what was happening to our loved ones in nursing homes. View [my remarks](#) on the bill below:



- [A.5842](#) prevents the proliferation of for-profit nursing homes, which are proven to provide a lower quality of care than their not-for-profit counterparts.
- [A.5436-A](#) establishes the *Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Reform Act*, which works to ensure that nursing home residents are actively connected to advocates who will be there to speak up for them.
- [A.244-A](#) requires the Health Emergency Response Data System (HERDS) to be linked with the Department of Health (DOH) and published on its website. HERDS aggregates data from health care systems across the state, and functions as an online clearing-house for healthcare facilities, enabling them to exchange information, broadcast specific needs, and offer available resources to one another.
- [A.5848](#) ensures that nursing home residents and their families have easy access to information about their respective nursing home facilities.

Improvements in Quality of Care

- [A.3922-A](#) establishes the Reimagining Long-Term Care Task Force, which will provide information on the state of New York's long-term services overall, including a survey of the ways long-term care in New York has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [A.5846](#) requires facilities to include infection control monitoring in their Quality Assurance protocols.
- [A.5847](#) requires long-term care facilities to ensure that their employees are educated and trained in proper and effective infection control systems.
- [A.3919](#) establishes specific criteria for the discharge or transfer of patients out of residential nursing facilities ensuring that no person living in a nursing home will leave prematurely or be moved to a setting that is unable to offer them the proper level of care.
- [A.1052-B](#) ensures that certain exemptions are made to allow visitors to nursing homes during public health emergencies. With new strides in testing and other safety measures since the early stages of the pandemic, it is important that a system be in place to allow for certain limited visitation in nursing homes.

Vaccination Updates

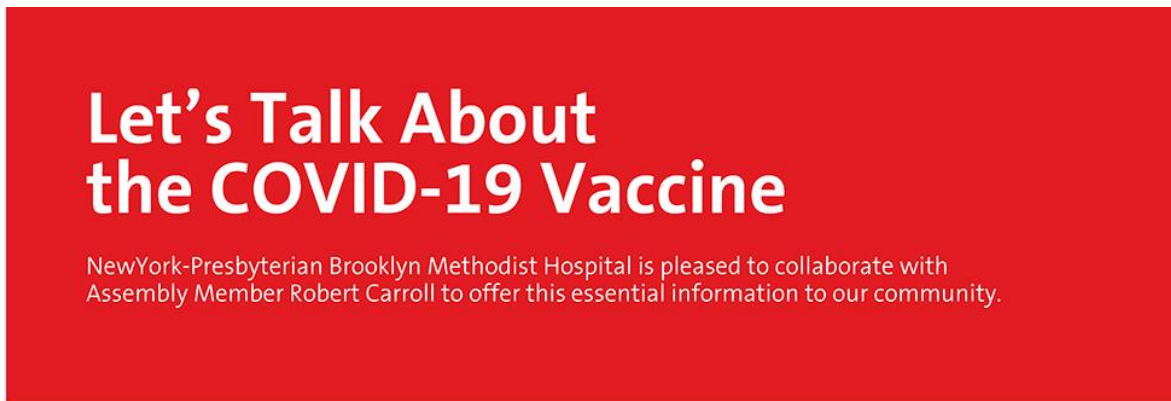
The one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine is now available for home bound seniors who have not already been vaccinated, and do not already have access to a vaccination program in New York City. [Click here](#) to sign up or contact my office at (718) 788-7221 or by emailing carrollr@nyassembly.gov if you need assistance in signing up.

If you are currently eligible to get a vaccine, but are struggling to gain an appointment, there are a few tools that my office uses to find appointments for constituents - [Turbovox](#), [NYC Vaccine](#)

[List](#) and the city's Vaccine finder [website](#) are all helpful sites that will alert you to open vaccine appointments.

The Medgar Evers super vaccine site is vaccinating thousands of Brooklynites. Check [here](#) to see if you are eligible and click [here](#) to see if there are appointments available and to schedule. If you have any questions or need help, please reach out to my office.




If you are looking for more information about COVID-19 vaccines, please join me and doctors from NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital at 6 PM on March 11th for an information session on COVID-19 vaccination. See the flyer below for more information and email me at Carrollr@nyassembly.gov to RSVP.



**Let's Talk About
the COVID-19 Vaccine**

NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital is pleased to collaborate with Assembly Member Robert Carroll to offer this essential information to our community.



			
Assemblymember Robert Carroll 44 th Assembly District	Onyinye Balogun, MD Attending Radiation Oncologist	Chris Kelly, MD Chief, Pediatric Emergency Medicine	Ed Ha, MD Resident, Internal Medicine

Thursday, March 11 at 6pm

https://nyph.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WL7gncWYTzyoE55B0JLPtw
Dial-in: (833) 548-0276 Webinar ID: 969 0590 3641 Passcode: 712902

The virtual webinar will include:

- What are vaccines and how do they work?
- How was the COVID-19 vaccine developed so quickly?
- Safety and side effects of vaccine
- How do I know if it's right for me?



NYC DOF Homeowner's Benefit Information Session

Thank you to everyone who attended the Homeowner's Benefit Information Session with the NYC DOF this week. For those who were interested but missed it, the [Notice of Property Value Assistance Page](#) has a lot of the information that was covered in the session. If you have questions, you can send the Department of Finance a question [here](#) and reach out to my office for help. I am hosting a similar event with the Department of Finance for renters on March 18th. If

you'd like to attend to learn about SCRIE, DRIE, and other programs the NYC DOF offers for renters, please email me at Carrollr@nyassembly.gov to RSVP.

Stay Safe,

Bobby

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