



Assemblyman
Charles D. Fall
Assembly District 61

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

March 12, 2020

Advisory Notice: If you would like to speak with a member of my staff, please call (718) 442-9932 or email Agosas@nyassembly.gov in advance to request a meeting at my office.

- Call the 24/7 NYS Department of Health Hotline for all coronavirus related questions at 1-888-364-3065
- Call the 24/7 Health+Hospitals line for those with no health care provider or insurance at 1-844-692-4692

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and Best Practices:

In response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), I want to share some information on how to keep you and your loved ones calm, safe and healthy.

Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believe that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as two days or as long as 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.

Prevention and Protection Against Spread

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The CDC recommends you take the following preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- Wash your hands often and vigorously with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Always clean surfaces prior to use of disinfectants in order to reduce soil and remove germs. Dirt and other materials on surfaces can reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants.
- **It is currently flu season, please get your flu vaccine if you haven't already.**

- Per the advice of local health officials on Staten Island, call your primary care physician or local healthcare professional to discuss any symptoms you may be experiencing before going to the hospital or emergency department.



Travel Warnings

The CDC has issued “Travel Health Notices” for multiple countries, a full list of notices and CDC’s guidance can be found [here](#).

If you are still planning to travel to countries affected by COVID-19, I encourage you to enroll in the State Department’s **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program** to receive important messages, alerts, updates and travel advisories while you are there. Please note that upon your arrival to the United States, travelers may have to undergo a health screening and are subject to possible health monitoring or quarantine.

Additional Information

- Price gauging or placing an excessive price increase on vital goods and services is illegal in New York State. [Click here to file a price-gouging complaint.](#)
- Our most vulnerable populations are immunocompromised individuals and the elderly. Please limit any non-essential contact with such family members and friends to ensure they remain safe.
- **CDC** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)** provide updates on the virus and safety information for the public and healthcare professionals. You can sign up for CDC's email updates [here](#) and WHO's email

updates [here](#).

Click to watch my informational video regarding coronavirus.

Updates From Albany

New York State Legislative Response to COVID-19

- NYS has invested \$40 million to purchase necessary equipment and supplies and to hire and train more health care workers.
- In addition to constant communication with local and health officials, state leaders and the Department of Health (DOH) are also holding conference calls with people on the ground to ensure those on the frontlines have everything they need to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Businesses with fewer than 100 employees whose sales have decreased more than 25% will be eligible for zero-interest loans of up to \$75,000 to help mitigate the losses
- Small businesses with fewer than five employees will also be offered a grant to cover 40% of payroll costs for two months to help retain employees.
 - **Anyone interested in learning more about these programs should [click here to fill out an interest form](#) or call 311 for more information.**

Meeting with Public Employees Union (PEF) and Members of the United Steel Workers (USW)

It was great to meet with the men and women of PEF and USW to discuss fair compensation, safe workplace and communities, the right to join a union, and the importance of the Buy America Initiative here in New York State. I assured these dedicated members that I stand with them and am united in my commitment to protecting and building up our strong middle and working class.



Visiting Eden II Programs

It was great to visit the Eden II facility with my colleagues Assemblyman Reilly and Assemblyman Cusick as well as NYS Board of Regents representative, Dr. Christine Cea. During our visit, we met with some young children that benefit from the programs Eden II offers. Eden II Programs began in 1976 to support people with autism through service so they could achieve their full potential throughout their lives. The program currently serves over 500 participants yearly in ages ranging from 3 to 60. Eden II offers a wide range of specialized, community-based programs and other opportunities, with the goal of enabling them to achieve the highest possible quality of living across their life spans. The services and opportunities Eden II provide are especially crucial to the development of differently-abled young people and for improving the quality of life for their families. I will continue to be a supporter of the services and resources Eden II provides to our community.



The Census 2020 is Available!

Starting today, households across the United States will begin receiving invitations to complete the census by mail, online or on the phone. Here are some key things you need to know:

- The census, which happens every 10 years, determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress, and how billions of dollars in federal funding gets spent. Schools, roads, and other important things in your community will gain -- or lose -- funding over the next 10 years depending on this official population count.
- A citizenship question is NOT on the census. Everyone living in the United States is supposed to be counted by the census, whether they're citizens or not.
- Will my information be shared? No. Under federal law, all responses are kept completely confidential, and they can be used only to produce statistics.
- Besides English, respondents will be able to answer the census questionnaire in Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese and Japanese. Guides in both video and print are being issued in 59 languages, including American Sign Language.
- **Click here to fill out the 2020 US Census digitally and to find answers to more FAQ's!**



Grants, Scholarships, Internships, and Career Opportunities

- **The Partnerships for Parks Capacity Fund Grant** provides small grants of up to \$3,000 to strengthen the outreach, membership, and program-planning capacity of community groups who care for their neighborhood green spaces in all five boroughs of New York City. **Click here to apply! Applications are due by Sunday, March 15.**

- **The Fiscal Year 2020 Nonprofit Security Grant Program - Urban Area Request for Applications (RFA)** has been posted on the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services website. Eligible nonprofit organizations may apply for up to a total of \$100,000 in grant funds.
 - **Click here to find information about the RFA and necessary documents**
 - Nonprofit organizations that are applying for this funding opportunity must be prequalified in NYS Grants Management prior to application submission. **Click here to learn more about the prequalification process.**
 - All nonprofit organizations seeking to apply for this funding program must submit their applications to the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services via the E-Grants system. **The due date for applications is March 18, 2020 by 5pm.**
 - **For more information, e-mail Grant.Info@dhses.ny.gov or call 1-866-837-9133**

- **The Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union (LESFPCU)** is offering a **People's Memorial College Scholarship** to support first-time college students with their career path by offering a monetary incentive to cover qualified college expenses such as partial tuition, schoolbooks, school equipment, and relocation expenses.
 - **The People's Memorial College Scholarship awards two prizes of \$1,000.** This scholarship application is open to members and non-members of LES People's FCU. **Applications must be submitted no later than March 31, 2020 at 4pm. Completed applications can also be submitted via email to aportada@lespfcu.org. Click here to download an application!**



Calling all the college bound high school seniors!

Our People's College Scholarship deadline is fast approaching, March 31st, 2020 at 4PM!

LES People's is accepting scholarship applications to earn \$1,000 to help you pay for college tuition or other college expenses. There will be 2 awardees selected based on an essay, professional achievements, academic honors, volunteering and other criteria.

The main eligibility requirements are:

- Applicant must be a college bound high school senior
- Applicant must be attending college for the first time in the Fall of 2020

For more information on eligibility requirements, please visit our website.

Here are the steps for the application process:

1. Complete the scholarship application and submit it with a high school transcript documenting student's GPA for grades 9-11 and an SAT/PSAT/ACT transcript
2. A typed essay response about your perspectives on how you would change financial education for young people within your educational system and how a financial cooperative like us can help to achieve that positive change.

For more information about the scholarship program and application process, contact us at 212-529-8197 or e-mail us at aportada@lesfcu.org.

- **The Staten Island Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**, is offering two scholarship opportunities, one for graduating high school seniors (**Melody Scott-Decuir College Scholarship**) and another for rising college students (**Teresa A. Gallishaw Memorial Scholarship**). **Both applications are due by April 10, [click here to apply!](#)** Email scholarships@dstsialumnae.org for more information.

**Staten Island Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

2020 Scholarship Applications Now Available!
Deadline: April 10, 2020

Applications @ www.dstisalumnae.org/scholarships
Questions? Contact scholarship@dstisalumnae.org

Alicia Coleman and Pardeice Powell-McGoy, Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs
Yolanda R. Scott, Chapter President

- Join the city's **Department of Youth and Community Development** and 500+ NYC teens at **The Shed in Manhattan on April 25** for **NYC Youth Lead 2020**. DYCD's annual youth leadership summit is an

opportunity for teens to create, debate, connect, build, and take action on issues that matter to them. There will be food, special guests, prizes, and more. **Teens can apply to attend NYC Youth Lead by clicking [here](#).**

- **Congressman Max Rose is accepting submissions for the 2020 Congressional Art Competition** from Staten Island and South Brooklyn high school students. The theme of this year's competition is "**Salute to Public Servants.**" Students are asked to submit artwork that honors those who serve the community. Students are asked to submit their artwork by **Monday, April 13, to 265 New Dorp Lane. [Click here to learn more about this opportunity.](#)**

Community Resources

- If you are between the ages of 14 and 24, you can get a paid summer experience through the **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**. There are jobs in government, museums, sports, and more. SYEP also leads workshops on finding a job and understanding your finances.
 - **Apply now for a job this summer! The deadline is April 10, 2020**
 - Selection is based on a lottery.
 - Work opportunities are available for youth with disabilities.
 - **[Click here to find more details on applying to the 2020 SYEP program](#)**



- If you have child support debt permanently owed to NYC, you might qualify for a **limited-time program** called **Pay It Off**. This may be able to help you lower the amount you owe in child support. This is **offered only from March 2 to 16, 2020**. Pay It Off doubles the value of lump-sum payments that you make of \$500 or more on child support debt that is permanently owed to the New York City Department of Social Services (NYC DSS) you make.
 - **For more information and to see if you qualify, please call 929-252-5200; visit the walk-in center at 151 West Broadway, 4th floor, in Manhattan or [click here!](#)**

**Pay off NYC child support debt.
Twice as fast.**

Pay It Off

March 2–16, 2020

Call 929-252-5200 to see if you qualify.

Pay **\$500 or more** at a time toward your child support debt permanently owed to NYC, and we will **match that payment**.

In 2018, more than 600 parents like you reduced their debt an average of \$3,400.

By Mail

Call 929-252-5200 to find out how to participate by mail.

In Person

Customer Service Walk-In Center
151 West Broadway, 4th floor,
in Lower Manhattan.

Hours

Monday–Friday: 8 am–7 pm
Saturday, March 7 and 14 only: 9 am–5 pm

Pay By

- certified check or personal check
- money order
- credit card
- debit card (must be Visa or MasterCard)

Make checks or money orders payable to:
NYS Child Support Processing Center.
Write your Case ID and “Pay It Off” in the Memo
section of the check or money order.



Photo by iStockphoto.com/Thomson Reuters/Markus

Family Court Support Services Office
in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and
Queens. Call 929-252-5200 for details.

Hours

Monday–Friday: 9 am–5 pm

Pay By

- credit card
- debit card (must be Visa or MasterCard)



- Looking for a way to give back this month, **community groups are partnering up to launch a Menstrual Product Drive for victims of domestic violence with Safe Horizon.** The drive will run from **March 8 to April 8.** Drop-off locations will be on **444 St. Marks Place, 3rd Floor, Staten Island, NY, 10301** and on **130 Stuyvesant Place, 6th Floor, Staten Island, NY, 10301.** For more details about the drive, please contact sarah@siwwm.org or kjgrieco92@gmail.com.

Young Democrats of Richmond County, Safe Horizon, & Staten Island Women Who March
 ARE JOINING FORCES
 TO HOST A
**MENSTRUAL
 PRODUCT
 DRIVE**
 For Victims Fleeing Domestic Violence

All month long: from March 8 to April 8, 2020

♀ International Women's Day ♀

Any unused pads and tampons are acceptable (Open box is okay, but must be individually wrapped)

Donations can be dropped off at:

444 St. Mark's Place, 3rd Floor

130 Stuyvesant Place, 6th Floor

Did you know?
 Menstrual products are some of the most needed but least donated items in Domestic Violence Shelters

Questions? Contact sarah@siwwm.org or kjgrieco92@gmail.com

Community Events

It is advised that all large gatherings be postponed or conducted virtually until further notice. Please contact the organizer of any upcoming community event for further information on the status of the event. **Here is a list of a few events that have been adjusted or postponed:**

- **This evening's March 12 in-person Community Open House has been adjusted to an online webinar held from 5:00pm-6:30pm.** This online webinar will allow fellow community members, local businesses, and other North Shore stakeholders to learn about the projects that have been proposed to revitalize Downtown Staten Island and ask any questions you have about the process during a Q&A session at the end. **Thursday's webinar can be accessed through the following:**
 - **[Click here to view the live presentation at 5pm](#)**
 - Listen to the presentation by calling the following number: **646-741-5293 Meeting ID: 112-418-4698#**



- The **Property Tax Commission** hearing scheduled for **today, Thursday, March 12** at **Petrides School** has been postponed. A new hearing for Staten Island will be scheduled at a later date. **This round of public hearings come after the New York City Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform released a Preliminary Report on January 31, 2020.** The report includes 10 initial recommendations to address inequities in the current system and create a simpler, clearer and fairer property tax system. **[Click here to download the report.](#)** Those interested in submitting testimony before the hearing can email commissioners at **PropTaxInfo@propertytaxcommission.nyc.gov** or **[upload it here!](#)**



- **The NYPD Active Shooter Training at the Christian Pentecostal Church, 1020 Targee Street has been postponed. For more information email PBSI@nypd.org or call (718) 667-2219.**
- **All New York City public libraries are suspending public programming, outreach activities and community room rentals from Friday, March 13 until Tuesday, March 31.** However, it is important to note **that the city's libraries will remain open**, and continue to offer access to books, public computers, Wi-Fi, expert staff recommendations, and a variety of resources, including computers dedicated to the 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

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