

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall September 30, 2021

If you or a loved one has been affected by the storm click here to reach out to our office

See more resources below:

- Click here to apply for FEMA if you have not done so already or call (800) 621 3362.
- American Red Cross in Greater New York is providing temporary shelter for those affected 877.RED.CROSS.
- College of Staten Island, Gymnasium Building R1 2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314 is our local Disaster Recovery Center and will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until further notice



Broadway Zoo Funding

Earlier this week, I was happy to announce alongside Assemblyman Cusick that we secured a total of \$90,000 in funds for the Broadway Zoo. The zoo is such a fundamental institution of the North Shore, receiving 30,000 youth visits a year before the pandemic. I thank Executive Director, Ken Mitchell for the hard work he and his staff put in every day to ensure our children can continue to have this experience.





African Heritage Festival in Park Hill

Last Saturday, the African Community Alliance of Staten Island hosted their annual African Heritage Festival in Park Hill. The festival displayed the cultures from different African countries we have here on Staten Island. The different vendors offered services, resources, clothes and food to all who attended. Thank you to ACASI and all the community sponsors who were able to make this happen.



Updates from Albany

This week, Governor Hochul announced COVID-19 booster doses for eligible New Yorkers

In a letter to the Health Commissioner, the New York State Clinical Advisory Task Force endorsed CDC's statement issued Friday, September 24th by Director Walensky - providing New York with a new boost in the fight against COVID-19. In accordance with CDC's recommendations, there are four groups of New Yorkers who are now eligible for their COVID-19 booster dose:

New Yorkers who received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine SHOULD receive their booster dose at least six months after their primary vaccine series $\underline{\mathbf{IF}}$:

- They are 65 years and older or residents in long-term care settings.
- They are 50 64 years of age with underlying medical conditions.

New Yorkers who received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine MAY receive their COVID-19 booster dose at least six months after their primary vaccine series **IF**:

- They are 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions, based on your individual benefits and risks.
- They are 18 64 years and are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of your occupational or institutional setting, based on your individual benefits and risks.

At this time, individuals must have received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for their initial vaccine series at least six months ago to be eligible.

Individuals who received the Moderna or Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine are not currently eligible for a booster dose at this time but may be soon.

The State has been actively planning for the development of booster doses, and because of this preparedness, free booster doses are already widely available statewide at:

- state-run mass vaccination sites.
- · Pharmacies.
- local health departments, clinics.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other locations across New York State.

As part of these efforts, the State launched a <u>new website</u> with dedicated information about booster doses, additional doses, eligibility, frequently asked questions, and resources for providers on-the-ground to support in the dissemination of information to eligible populations.

The State will be supporting outreach to all eligible New Yorkers, including through email and SMS-based messages, traditional and digital marketing efforts, and local notifications to fully vaccinated New Yorkers through the State's Excelsior Pass platform.

Additionally, Governor Hochul recently announced that \$65 million in funding will be allocated to county health departments to build the infrastructure needed to support the quick and reliable distribution of booster doses. The Governor also authorized EMTs to administer the COVID-19 vaccine, immediately adding more than 2,000 fully trained vaccinators into the State's program. An additional 50,000 basic EMTs will be able to receive the required training in order to help administer the COVID-19 vaccine and booster doses.

The State also reminds New Yorkers to receive all seasonal vaccines during this time - including flu vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine and/or a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine can be received at the same time as the seasonal flu shot, including at some primary health care providers' offices as well as some local county health department clinics and pharmacies.

At this time, only eligible New Yorkers should receive their COVID-19 booster dose. New York State will continue to follow the science and communicate openly with New Yorkers as additional data becomes available.

All New York State mass vaccination sites are now open to booster-eligible New Yorkers. To schedule an appointment at a state-run mass vaccination site, New Yorkers can visit the Am I Eligible page or call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX. People may also contact their local health department, pharmacy, or doctor to schedule appointments where vaccines are available. New Yorkers can also visit vaccines.gov, text their ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near them. New Yorkers should make sure nearby providers are administering booster doses when scheduling their appointments.

"We need to keep following the science and the advice of our healthcare providers and virologist for the sake of keeping our family's, neighbors and our communities safe and healthy during this pandemic."

Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

- 1. Governor Hochul announced that the MTA's nationally celebrated program to mentor local minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses (MWBE) has helped participating companies win a total of \$500 million in MTA contracts since the state's program was founded in 2010. A \$2 million contract to Alliance Tri-State Construction, Inc., of Staten Island was the decisive award that put the total over the half billion mark. It is the 485th contract to be awarded to a participating business since the start of the program. MTA Chief Diversity Officer Michael Garner and his team, working closely with MTA Construction & Development and the MTA's Office of Construction Oversight, have led the Authority to an unprecedented pace of activity in recent years, with hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts awarded.
- 2. Governor Hochul and Mayor Blasio announced \$27 million is available to provide relief to undocumented survivors of the storms and flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. This funding will be distributed through grants to an established network of community organizations and provided to New Yorkers who are not eligible to receive storm recovery assistance through the FEMA Individual Assistance Program or other means. When I saw the devastation of Hurricane Ida, I pledged that we would do everything in our power to help impacted communities recover, and this funding is a fulfillment of that promise," Governor Hochul said. "With these resources dedicated to undocumented New Yorkers who are ineligible for FEMA relief and partnerships with organizations on the ground, we can close gaps in aid and help New Yorkers in need. I urge eligible New Yorkers to apply to get the funding they need to rebuild.
- 3. Construction permit fees as high as \$1,200 to be waived for NYC homes and businesses affected by Ida. Mayor de Blasio signed an executive order that waives permit fees related to storm-related reconstruction and improvements.
- 4. Governor Hochul allocated \$59 million for the new Clean Green Schools initiative, which aims to advance clean energy and energy efficiency solutions that will improve indoor air quality and reduce emissions for more than 500 public and private Pre-K-12 schools in disadvantaged communities across the state. As part of the program, the State will convene education leaders this fall, including school

superintendents, administrators, and educators, to inform the initiative launching in early 2022 to address climate justice issues and create improved, healthier learning environments for students. Today's announcement supports New York's nation-leading goal of an 85 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act).

- 5. Governor Hochul announced a series of changes to both attract more applications and accelerate payments within New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance
 Program. Under the Governor's direction, the state will invest an additional \$1 million in marketing and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the rent relief program, the available funding, and the strong tenant eviction protections in place for those who apply. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, which administers the program, will analyze application data to target areas of the state with relatively low numbers of applications.
- 6. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
 - The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or clicking here
 - The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or clicking here
 - SOMOS, a community health provider at 833-766-6769
 - Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category. Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you, and schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.
 - Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.
- 7. Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.
- View the Test-and-Trace Corps <u>COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard</u> for estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.
 - Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.
 - Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites available at no cost to you on the North Shore.
 - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (844) NYC-4NYC. Call to connect with a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9 AM 9 PM.
 - Individuals that are unable to safely isolate themselves at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. <u>Click here to learn more</u> or call (844) 692-4692. <u>Please click here if you have any further questions.</u>

1. It's Important to Submit an SBA Loan Application - After you apply for disaster assistance from FEMA, you may be referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration. If you are referred to SBA, you should complete and submit the application. If your application is approved, you are not obligated to accept the SBA disaster loan but failure to submit the application may disqualify you from other possible FEMA assistance, such as disaster-related car repairs, essential household items and other expenses. SBA disaster loans are the largest source of federal disaster recovery funds for survivors. In planning your recovery, give yourself the widest possible set of options. Submitting the application makes it possible for homeowners and renters to be considered for additional FEMA grants. Applicants may apply online using SBA's secure website at DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov or they may email DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov for more information on SBA's disaster assistance program. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disaster assistance.

2. MTA Announces Customers Count & COVID Travel Survey

The MTA regularly conduct surveys to help better understand customer preferences and travel behaviors. If you are a subway, bus, Access-A-Ride Paratransit, Staten Island Railway, Long Island Rail Road, or Metro-North Railroad customer, <u>please take this survey</u>.

Your responses are very important even if you are not currently using MTA services. The results will help inform decision making and improve service. This survey should only take about 15 minutes to complete.

Upon completion of the survey, you can choose to be entered into a drawing to win one of ten \$100 gift cards. If you use more than one MTA service, you will be given an opportunity to take the survey again for a different service, and you'll increase your chances of winning. You can take the survey for up to two different MTA services.

We encourage you to take time to complete this important survey by October 4, 2021.

- 3. If you're a renter having trouble paying your rent, utilities, or other housing costs or if you're a landlord trying to stay afloat with tenants in this situation help may be available. State and local programs are distributing billions of dollars in rental assistance to help renters stay housed during the pandemic. Visit the CFPB's Rental Assistance Finder to find out what this means for you and what you can do. The CFPB's site also includes resources to help renters and landlords understand other resources to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.
- 4. **Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you**. If you need **free legal** help during the COVID-19 crisis, for matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice, and more, **call them at 718-233-6480**.



5. Project Hospitality provides a wide range of services to our communities. From vaccinations to mental health guidance to help applying for rental assistance. See flyers below for more information.



Feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, anxious during COVID?



Here to talk | Here to listen | Here to support

- Information
 Education
- Emotional support Links to resources

We can provide virtual presentations on:

- Recognizing common reactions on:
 Building coping skills for the recovery process
- Managing COVID-related stress
 Identifying and meeting children's needs

Contact Us! (718)608-7900 HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

We are here for YOU.

Free, anonymous & confidential

A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA



Necesitas Te sientes incierto, agobiado, ansioso durante COVID?

Aquí para hablar | Aquí para escuchar | Aquí para apoyar

Nosotros Proporcionamos...
Información
Educación

- Apoyo emocional
 Enlaces a recursos

- Proporcionamos presentaciones virtuales sobre:

 Reconcociendo las resciones comunes de COVID

 Desarrollando habilidades de afrontamiento para el proceso de recuperación

 Manejando estritis relacionada con COVID

 Identificando y satisfaciendo las necesidades de los niños

¡Contáctanos Hoy! 718-608-7900 HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

Estamos aqui para USTED.

Gratis, anónimo y confidencial

A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA









6. Small Business Resources:

For counseling and help services through SBS click here.

- Procurement Center Representatives (PCRs) help small businesses win federal contracts. PCRs view many federal acquisition and procurement strategies before they're announced. This enables them to influence opportunities that should be set aside for small businesses. PCRs also conduct market research, assist small businesses with payment issues, provide counseling on the contracting process, and more.
- <u>Subcontracting Program Assistance (SPA)</u> can help you with subcontracting questions after a contract is awarded. SPA can help you with tools to match prime contractors and subcontractors, help small businesses market their services to prime contractors, and more.
- SBA Learning Center. The SBA offers free online courses to help small businesses understand government contracting. You can find these video classes in the <u>SBA Learning Center</u>.

Useful Events and Opportunities

1. The Central Family Life Center presents The Women's Health Series. On Thursday, October 7th from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM is their virtual event and Saturday October 9th from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM is their Women's Health Fair. See the flyer below for more details.



2.	Everyone eats and Metro Plus Health is hosting a Health Education workshop in English and Spanish from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM on October 16th at #864 Post Ave.





3. Sunday, October 9th. From 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, you can enjoy a free Health and Resource Fair at Tompkinsville Park, 45 Victory Boulevard & Bay Street. For more information, please contact Patricia Walton at waltopa@metroplus.org or 718.696.0521.



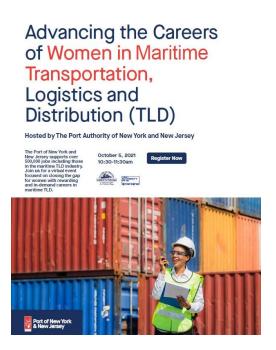


4. In partnership with PR Strong, the NYPD, and MetroPlusHealth my office will be hosting "Trick or Treat in the Park" on October 30th. From 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM, families can come out for games, candy and resources at Veterans park located on Park Ave and Bennett Street.





- 5. Planning a music curriculum? Educators in the New York City area are invited to apply for Link Up: Carnegie Hall's interactive curriculum that introduces students in grades 3–5 to the orchestra. This year, students explore what makes a great melody in The Orchestra Sings curriculum as they dive into works by Beethoven, Stravinsky, Reena Esmail, and more. At the end of the year, students sing and play the recorder with a professional orchestra in an inspiring culminating concert at Carnegie Hall in May 2022. For more information about Link Up or to apply for the 2021-2022 school year, please visit here or email the Link Up team at linkup@carnegiehall.org.
- 6. The Port Authority and the Council on Port Performance Workforce Development Implementation Team will host a virtual webinar on **October 5th from 10:30 AM-11:30 AM**. The focus is Women in Maritime Transportation, Logistics, and Distribution (TLD) Careers. The virtual webinar will include a panel of TLD professionals answering questions that may raise awareness around the many, varying career and training paths women can take in this industry. Click to register here.



7. The YMCA is looking for counselors. Full-time and part-time positions are available. Learn more by <u>clicking here</u>.



8. The Central Family Life Center is now accepting applications for their free Career Training Programs. **Call (718) 273-8414** ext.8 and see the flyer below for more information.



9. The Forest Ave BID is hosting their **Fall Stroll this October 3rd from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Between Hart Blvd and Broadway,** you can enjoy this free event featuring music, refreshments, sales all while supporting our local businesses.



10. The Forest Ave Comeunity Fridge is a group from Mariners Harbor looking to help out our community with Food Insecurity.

@FORESTAVECOMEUNITYFRIDGE

WHO ARE WE?

We are a collaborative group, born and raised on the North Shore, who are passionate about addressing the health food disparity in our neighborhood of Mariners Harbor. The foundation of our initiative is "take what you need, leave what you don't" and "we keep us fed and healthy!" – in hopes of creating a culture of unity, interdependence, community restoration and empowerment in Mariners Harbor.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FRIDGE?

A Community Fridge is a fridge that provides free and healthy food for community members. The fridges offer access to fresh produce, healthy grains and perishable items to communities that do not have a lot of access to healthy food options.



HOW CAN MY BUSINESS HELP?

Your business can help by donating surplus food to our fridge or allowing us to purchase food at reduced costs. WHY SHOULD MY BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CARE ABOUT A COMMUNITY FRIDGE?

In recent political and racial events, many businesses and organizations are looking for ways to fight against racial inequity. Community fridges represent mutual aid – the idea that solidarity not charity is what communities need in order to become fairer and stronger. By donating food to our fridge, your business will be taking part in our ongoing movement for creating justice – first within our

Sincerely,

Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. 518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946

DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942