

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Special Report

March 25, 2020: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SPECIAL REPORT

Dear Neighbor,

We welcome this opportunity to connect with you to provide updates and resources you may not have seen already in the news surrounding COVID-19. First and foremost, a wholehearted thank you to our teachers who are educating in creative ways in non-traditional digital classrooms, essential workers who are keeping New York going in our hospitals, police precincts, firehouses, pharmacies, restaurants, train cars, buses, post offices and grocery stores!

This week, I supported efforts to create State supports for small businesses. I signed onto a letter urging the Governor to establish an employee retention fund, create a real estate or corporate tax forgiveness program of up to \$50,000 for property owners who agree to cancel or reduce commercial rent payments based on the current lease, and to defer the collection of state taxes until 60 days after the State disaster emergency is lifted.

In New York State there are 25, 665 cases of COVID-19, with 14,904 cases in New York City. Currently, there is a focus on all fronts to increase hospital capacity and healthcare workers reserves to address the critical need. An executive order was signed by Governor Cuomo requiring all hospitals to increase capacity by a minimum of 50 percent, with a goal of increasing capacity by 100 percent. The Governor also announced an initial delivery of hospital supplies to the Jacob K. Javits Center where FEMA has started to build a 1,000-bed temporary hospital that will help increase New York's hospital capacity to combat COVID-19 and open next week. The 340 beds at Coler Hospital have been released this week to treat low-acuity patients from elsewhere in the system. The people transferred to Coler do not require advanced care.

We hope you find the information below to be informative and helpful. If you are in need of information or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We regretfully have suspended in person appointments and meetings, due to public health considerations. We are eager to continue assisting constituents by telephone and email. Please leave a message on our voicemail with your name, address and phone number and our staff will return your call:

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

Rebecca



Stay Inside, Reduce Density in NYC & Help Flatten the Curve

*"We also still have **issues with density control, especially in New York City**, and we are continuing to encourage all New Yorkers to think of others and **stay inside as much as possible** to protect our most vulnerable populations." ~Gov. Cuomo*

Financial Relief For New Yorkers

- Search the NYS Comptrollers unclaimed funds site to see if you have money owed to you by the State (https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/?wicket-crypt=mKRk_n4lkAU&wicket-crypt=LbyX_telG2Y&wicket-crypt=m99M1VEmPgY)
- State debt collection on student debt and medical debt will have payments frozen for at least 30 days. (www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-and-attorney-general-james-temporarily-suspend-state-debt-collection-response)
- New 90-day mortgage relief period and foreclosures are suspended or postponed for those facing financial hardship because of COVID-19. (www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-executive-order-mandating-businesses-require-office-personnel-decrease)
- There is now a 90-day moratorium on commercial and residential evictions.
- New state law allows for sick leave and benefits to quarantined/isolated workers. (nyassembly.gov/Press/files/20200318a.php)

- It also eliminates the one-week waiting period for UI claims arising out of workplace closures due to COVID-19.
- The deadline for filing your taxes has been moved from April 15 to July 15.
- NY State of Health is offering a special open enrollment through April 15. (www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/2020-03-16_nysoh_special_enrollment_period.htm)
- Alternate Side Parking Restrictions will be suspended through Tuesday, March 31. (www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/159-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability-covid-19)
- Resources for NYS Arts and Cultural Organizations (<https://arts.ny.gov/blog/resources-nys-arts-and-cultural-organizations-re-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>)
- ATM fees are waived by NYS financial institutions
- Con Edison has temporarily suspended all collections-related activities. (<https://www.coned.com/en/about-us/media-center/news/coronavirus/updates>)

Supporting the COVID-19 Response

- New York City and State is seeking healthcare surge staff support and other resources (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/get-involved-how-you-can-help>)
- The Governor is asking for psychologists or therapists willing to volunteer to

contact: www.health.ny.gov/assistance

- Blood donations: Because many private blood drives have been cancelled, there is a need for blood. For those who can and are willing to donate, call 800-933-2566 or go to their Web site.
- Amid a shortage of personal protective equipment, businesses interested in selling products to the state should contact covid19supplies@exec.ny.gov
- Any company with the proper equipment or personnel to begin to manufacture PPE products, should contact COVID19supplies@esd.ny.gov
- *Foodbank for New York City needs able and healthy volunteers to help prepare meals, pack food and other essentials.*

Keep Calm and Stay Home

- [Take to YouTube for a Coronavirus workout challenge!](#)
- [Check out 92Y @ Home their website for some of the programs you can enjoy remotely](#)
- [Visit The Met from anywhere](#)
- [Stream the Metropolitan Opera](#)
- [The American Museum of Natural History has made videos and resources](#)

available online for enthusiasts of all ages

- New York Public Library Homework Help
- Access over 300,000 e-books
- Fill out your census
(https://2020census.gov/?cid=20002:%2Bus%20%2Bcensus:sem.ga:p:dm:en:&utm_source=sem.ga&utm_medium=p&utm_campaign=dm:en&utm_content=20002&utm_term=%2Bus%20%2Bcensus)
- Carnegie Hill Neighbors shared a list of restaurants still open for business and providing takeout and delivery options (<https://carnegiehillneighbors.org/cv-19-resources/>)
- Take a walk in the park- While solo exercise is okay, team sports (such as basketball, football, softball, and soccer) are not permitted in our parks at this time. Please maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others when outside and avoid congregating in groups.
(<https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/health-and-safety-guide/coronavirus>)
- Connect with family, friends and colleagues from home. Make use of free conference calling services to work or be social at home
- Resources from the Mission Society
 - Resources on talking to your children about COVID-19
 - Vital information about food and internet access in New York City
 - A how-to on creating routines
 - A fun, physical activity for the whole family

Health And Mental Health

- If you are experiencing symptoms of Coronavirus, consider NY-Presbyterian tele-health option (<https://www.nyp.org/ondemand/urgent-care>)
- Feeling anxious, stressed or overwhelmed? Connect with the NYC WELL's confidential helpline: Call 888-692-9355, text "WELL" to 65173 or chat online at nyc.gov/nycwell.
- Tips for coping with stress during infectious disease outbreaks. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>)
- Alcoholics & Narcotics Anonymous - New York Inter-Group office is closed to volunteers and customers but will continue to offer help via telephone and web chat to those in need of a meeting.
- NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault- The Alliance is switching to remote office hours - M-F 9 am to 5 pm. For support, please contact info@svfreenyc.org. Email will be checked routinely and forwarded to phone staff.

Avoiding COVID-19 Scams and Price Gouging

- Beware of scammers selling bogus medical treatments and learn the facts about the Coronavirus. There is currently no FDA-approved vaccine to prevent the disease, so ignore offers promising otherwise. Stay informed about the disease by visiting the websites of the:
 - U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/>)

- *NYS Department of Health* (<https://www.health.ny.gov/>) or by calling a special COVID-19 hotline: 1-888-364-3065
- Price Gouging - To file a price-gouging complaint with the Attorney General's office, see the online form at ag.ny.gov/price-gouging-complaint-form or calling the NYS Consumer Protection Division Hotline at 800.697.1220.

Resources For Seniors and Vulnerable Populations

- The City's Dept. for the Aging (DFTA) is phasing in a direct meal delivery system that will gradually replace the current Grab and Go model of food distribution at senior centers. Check in with your center for information.
 - Meals on Wheels- 212-687-1234
 - New York Foundation for Seniors - 212 962-7653
 - Aging Connect (Department For the Aging) - 212 244-6469
 - Lenox Hill Case Management - 212 218-0506
 - Carter Burden Center Case Management- 212-879-7400
- Check with your local grocery store about limited hours and/or special hours for seniors to shop.
 - Shop on Amazon.com as an EBT customer.
 - Click here for senior hours at Target.
 - Whole Foods: 7-8am
 - Gristedes: 7-8am (Tues./Wed.)
 - Ctown Markets: 8-9am
 - D'Agostino's: 7-8am (Tues./Wed.)
 - Morton Williams: 7-8am
 - Key Food 1769 Second Ave: 6-7 am
 - Costco: Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

- The City has created the GetFoodNYC food delivery program to provide food for coronavirus (COVID-19)-vulnerable and food-insecure New Yorkers not currently served through existing food delivery programs. [Sign up here \(https://cv19engagementportal.cityofnewyork.us/#/display/5e7555117ad6750216160409\)](https://cv19engagementportal.cityofnewyork.us/#/display/5e7555117ad6750216160409) or call 311.
- Immigrants - Need a provider? Call 844-692-4692 or 311, regardless of immigration status, insurance status or ability to pay.

Education, School Meals and Childcare

- All NYC schools are closed through at least April 19. (www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/151-20/new-york-city-close-all-school-buildings-transition-remote-learning)
- All students can pick up breakfast and lunch between 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. from any NYC school building. (www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/159-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability-covid-19 www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/coronavirus-update/crc-letter-to-families)
- Approximately 100 regional enrichment centers across all five boroughs starting March 23 for children in grades 3K-12 who need somewhere to be while their parents work. (www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/159-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability-covid-19)
- Elementary- and intermediate-level state assessments have been suspended for the remainder of this school year (<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/statement-board-regents-chancellor-betty-rosa-and-interim-state-education-commissioner-2>)
- The Pre-K application deadline has been extended to Sunday, March 29th. Pre-K

offers will still be released in May.

Relief For Small Businesses and Employees

- To increase social distancing, gyms, movie theaters, barber shops, hair salons, tattoo/piercing parlors, bars, restaurants and casinos are closed temporarily, but restaurants and bars can still provide takeout and delivery services.
(www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-governor-murphy-governor-lamont-and-governor-wolf-direct)
- NY State on PAUSE – which stands for Policies Assure Uniform Safety for Everyone – takes effect on the evening of March 22. It mandates that any businesses not deemed “essential” must keep 100 percent of their workforce home. (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>)
- The state is strongly encouraging essential services, such as gas stations, grocery stores, pharmacies and medical facilities, to stay open.
(<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>)
- If you believe an employer is in violation of either existing labor laws or recently issued executive orders you can contact the NYS Attorney General’s Office at (212) 416-8700 or Labor.Bureau@ag.ny.gov
- Unemployment - The State has waived the 7-day waiting period for qualifying for unemployment insurance. If you lose your job from COVID-19-related reasons, you will immediately qualify for benefits. I have asked the Governor to create similar relief program for those who would not normally qualify for unemployment insurance coverage, including domestic workers, freelancers and other independent contractors.
- Small Businesses- assistance is available on the New York City Small Business Services website (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/businesses/covid19-business-outreach.page>)
 - NYC Employee Retention Grant Program
 - NYC Small Business Continuity Loan Fund

- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program
- Guidance for Business Owners and FAQs

Transportation

Getting Where You *NEED* To GO

- MTA Subways and Buses - Open for those who need them. That includes our medical professionals, firefighters, law enforcement personnel, child care workers, food service employees, and everyone else we need to keep New York safe and healthy.
 - The MTA has announced that bus riders will board and exit local buses using the rear door. Express buses will board as normal, but riders will not be permitted to sit in the first three rows in an effort to practice social distancing from bus operators.
 - The MTA and Transport Workers Union Local 100 also announced that all cash transactions, other than reduced-fare purchases will be conducted via MetroCard vending machines effective Tuesday, March 24, until further notice. The new measure will reduce person-to-person contact at subway station booths.
 - NYCT is available 24/7 on Twitter at @NYCTSubway, and @NYCTBus, and via phone at 511. Check new.mta.info/coronavirus and sign up for the City's text alerts by texting COVID to 692-692.
- The Governor has issued an executive order temporary closing the Department of Motor Vehicles for all in-office visits. Online transactions, including for license renewals, are still be available. License and permit expirations will be extended.
- NYC Ferry is operating on a modified schedule until further notice. Starting Monday, March 23, weekend schedules will remain the same, while

weekday schedules will be operating with a reduced frequency to account for lower ridership. To view schedules for each route, please visit <https://www.ferry.nyc/routes-and-schedules/>.

- Access- A- Ride – a The MTA is no longer scheduling shared rides for Access-A-Ride services effective March 19. Customers will still be permitted to travel with a personal care attendant and approved guest.
- Red Bus Service on Roosevelt Island - As of 3/19/2020, the Red Bus will operate on a Weekend Service Schedule until further notice. This means the bus will make all local stops every 15 minutes from 5:30 AM - 2:30 AM. There will be no Octagon Express Bus Service.
- Ride Share- The Mayor issued an executive order banning shared rides on popular e-hail services in an effort to promote social distancing.

Roosevelt Island

- Senior Shopping Bus Discontinued Until Further Notice- The shopping bus to Queens will be discontinued until further notice. The food markets and restaurants that remain open on Roosevelt Island continue to receive regular deliveries of food and goods. All stores also make home deliveries as well.
- MSKCC Children's Center Remains Open- The day care center is open from 7:30 AM - 6:30 PM. We are serving families of first responders. Our plan is to remain open to service the families of our MSKCC employees.
- Roosevelt Island Services Continue- Please keep in mind that our Red Bus Service may be operating on a Weekend Schedule, but our Public Safety Officers, Grounds Personnel and Facilities Staff are working constantly to maintain the quality of life on Roosevelt Island.

- Farmer's Market Returns This Saturday- Please watch out for more information on the farmer's market in tomorrow's advisory.
- RI Senior Center Road Runner Classes- The Senior Center's Road Runners Walking Group meets each day in front of the Senior Center (546 Main Street) at 10:00 AM for a daily walk around the island. All participants keep safe social distances from each other. All are welcome.

NYS COVID-19 What You Need To Know

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES FROM NEW YORK STATE [HERE](#).

- *New York State on PAUSE*: (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-pause>) 100% of the workforce must stay home, excluding essential services.
- Critically needed supplies are being distributed from the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center to Hospitals in need across the State, in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester in consultation with the Greater New York Hospital Association and the Healthcare Association of New York State.
- All non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason are temporarily banned.
- The FDA approved the use of a new experimental drug in New York on a compassionate care basis to help treat patients with COVID-19.
- Department of Motor Vehicles offices are temporarily closed for in-office visits. Online transactions, including for license renewals, are still be available. License and permit expirations will be extended.
- Enacting Matilda's Law to protect New Yorkers age 70+ and those with

compromised immune systems

- Remain indoors
 - Can go outside for solitary exercise
 - Pre-screen all visitors by taking their temperature
 - Wear a mask in the company of others
 - Stay at least 6 feet from others
 - Do not take public transportation unless urgent and absolutely necessary
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- All non-essential businesses statewide must close in-office personnel functions until further notice as part of New York State on PAUSE. Bars and restaurants are closed, but takeout can be ordered during the period of closure.
 - Testing is free for all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a health care provider.
 - Your local health department (<https://www.nyscho.org/directory/>) is your community contact for COVID-19 concerns.