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91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

April 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

This morning we finished passage of the 2020-21 state budget, a budget process dominated by the COVID-19 crisis itself. The budget takes into account current state responses to COVID-19, some initial assistance from the federal government and the result of reduced revenues caused by the health crisis itself. I will share details on the budget's impact in upcoming reports.

This update includes current resource information on COVID-19 and related issues. My staff and I have been working on the daily issues that arise for individuals, school districts, local governments, businesses and not-for-profits. This week much of our work has been occupied with helping on the unemployment insurance processing logjam, questions on the Census participation via online, mail or phone response and the other issues you have brought to my attention. Please call my office at 914-939-7028 if I can be of assistance on new issues that arise.

Warm regards,

Steve

Important Phone Numbers

- Glen Island COVID-19 test results call BioReference Labs 833-469-5227
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) State Hotline: 1-888-364-3065
- People under self-quarantine or exposure to known case: 866-588-0195
- NYS Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline: 888-364-3065
- Westchester County COVID-19 Information: Call 211
- 2020 Census help: 844-330-2020
- Domestic violence helpline 800-942-6906

Mental Health Support
For FREE emotional support, consultation, and referral: 844-863-9314

Access the NYS Health Dept, County Health website or the CDC website

To sell or donate goods or services to NYS, contact:
COVID19supplies@esd.ny.gov
212-803-3100 - Eric Gertler, Empire State Development, Business Funding
646-522-8477- Simondia Subotic, Executive Chamber

To request supplies email Emergency Operations Center
wceoc@westchestergov.com

Governor Cuomo daily press conferences can be accessed live or on file at:
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news>



Unemployment Benefits

We are aware of the challenges residents are facing accessing and completing applications for unemployment benefits as a result of the sharp increase in claims. In a typical week, about 50,000 people call to access unemployment benefits. Last week it was 7.8 million. The state has a number of people and outside tech companies trying to address the problem and create the necessary capacity to deal with this challenge. Rest assured that your benefits will be backdated to the date of your online claim even if it takes longer than expected to complete the claims process.

NYS is waiving the 7-Day waiting period for Unemployment Insurance benefits for people who are out of work due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) closures or quarantines. A recent FAQ's released by the Department of Labor that you may find helpful is posted on my [Facebook page](#).

To see if you qualify for unemployment benefits and to apply, please visit the NYS Department of Labor [HERE](#). *If you need assistance, please contact our office at 914-939-7028 or OtisS@nyassembly.gov*

Federal COVID-19 Relief Package

For additional information on the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as well as details on relief and recovery resources for individuals and businesses please click [HERE](#)



Metro-North Schedule Change

Metro-North Railroad is operating on a Saturday schedule on the Hudson, Harlem, and New Haven Lines until further notice. The [amended schedule](#) provides all-day service for healthcare workers, first responders and essential employees who are on the frontlines of this public health crisis, from early in the morning until after midnight. The schedule has additional trains in the morning and afternoon peak periods, and hourly service during off-peak mid-day and evening periods.

During this special schedule, off-peak fares will be in effect. The reduction in service follows a significant drop in ridership in response to federal, state and local health precautionary directives against COVID-19. The measure is also being taken to protect the health and safety of customers and employees.

Westchester County and Liberty Lines Transit

Westchester County is no longer collecting any fares, and riders are asked to use the rear door to ensure the safety and health of the operator. For passengers who require use of the ramp, they will continue to follow normal practices. More information can be found [HERE](#)



Reminder: Healthcare Enrollment Period Extended

A Special Enrollment Period is being made available during which eligible individuals will be able to enroll in insurance coverage through NY State of Health. Individuals who enroll in Qualified Health Plans through NY State of Health or directly through insurers between **March 16 and April 15, 2020** will have coverage effective starting April 1, 2020. Individuals who are eligible for other NY State of Health programs – Medicaid, Essential Plan and Child Health Plus – can enroll year-round.

As always, consumers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health online at nystateofhealth.ny.gov, by phone at 855-355-5777, and working with [enrollment assistants](#).



Support For Small Businesses and Middle Class Families

Last week, the federal government passed the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act", a stimulus plan that contains billions in Small Business Administration forgivable loans and grants to assist New York's 2.2 million small businesses and tens of thousands of non-profits, including religious-affiliated entities. For more information and to apply to the federal Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, please visit: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

For more information on the federal COVID-19 relief package please click [HERE](#).

Our local communities are stepping up to support their local businesses. Restaurants are open for pickup and delivery. Some online Business Directories have been created for the communities I represent:

- Larchmont/ Mamaroneck Directory of shops and restaurants [HERE](#)
- Port Chester- Rye Brook- Rye Town Chamber of Commerce [HERE](#)
- City of New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce [HERE](#)
- City of Rye Chamber of Commerce [HERE](#)

Income Tax Filing Deadline Postponed to July 15

The new New York tax filing and tax payment deadline has been extended from **April 15 to July 15, 2020** consistent with new federal deadlines due to COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance for additional information [HERE](#).

<p>STAY LOCAL STAY OUTSIDE SPACES CLOSE TO HOME. KEEP VISITS SHORT. AVOID TRAVELING TO HIGH-TRAFFIC DESTINATIONS.</p>	<p>STAY HOME STAY IN YOUR HOME. SHOULD POSTPONE VISITING IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL, STAY HOME.</p>	<p>GO SMALL AVOID CROWDS AND GROUPS. GO SOLO OR WITH THOSE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD.</p>	<p>BE READY MOVE QUICKLY THROUGH AREAS WHERE PEOPLE CONGREGATE SUCH AS PARKING LOTS, TRAINLEADS AND SCENIC OVERLOOKS.</p>
<p>SOCIAL DISTANCING New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation parks.ny.gov/covid19</p>		<p>BE SAFE KEEP 6' FEET FROM OTHERS. IF CROWDS ARE FORMING, CHOOSE A DIFFERENT PARK, A DIFFERENT TRAIL, OR RETURN ANOTHER TIME/DAY TO VISIT.</p>	



Complete Census Online Or By Phone

Once you receive your Census 2020 mailer with a unique code, go to www.my2020census.gov to access your 2020 Census questionnaire.

For residents who are unable to complete their 2020 Census questionnaire online, the U.S. Census Bureau will send you a paper questionnaire by mid-April for you to complete and mail back. You also have the option to complete your census by phone by calling this toll-free number **1-844-330-2020**. This number can also be used if you need any assistance in completing your census form.

Additional phone numbers for every language are available [HERE](#).

School budget votes and school board member elections are postponed until at least JUNE 1

Be Aware of COVID-19 Testing Scam

The [New York State Attorney General's](#) office is warning of reports of scammers knocking on doors pretending to be from CDC and offering COVID19 tests for a fee.

The CDC is NOT knocking on doors. If you encounter these scammers, do not engage with them and please report them to the [Attorney General's office](#).

