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

July 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

New York State continues to maintain a low rate of infection and hospitalization thanks to the continued compliance of DOH guidelines by NYS residents. Westchester remains in Phase 4 which has allowed many businesses to re-open their doors. The state has a number of mandatory guidelines and best practices outlined for each of these industries that are able now to reopen. As with prior reopening stages, each business must develop a written Safety Plan outlining how its workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. Industry specific guidelines and Safety Plan templates can be found [HERE](#).

Other announcements:

- Governor Cuomo outlined **NYS Department of Education Guidance** for schools to develop their re-opening plans. The guidance docs are available [HERE](#)
- The **Assembly and Senate will hold joint hearings** on the Covid-19 effects and responses starting on July 28th. Additional details below.
- Governor Cuomo announced a new **Covid Rental Assistance program** for renters impacted by the pandemic and bolster efforts to keep New Yorkers in their homes. Program application available [HERE](#) starting Thursday 7/16. **Applications must be postmarked no later than July 30, 2020.**
- DOH has announced **resumed visitation in nursing homes**, limited to two people and with temperature checks, PPE and social distancing requirements. Additional information available [HERE](#).
- **Office of People With Developmental Disabilities** has also resumed home visits and day visits for individuals residing in their facilities. More information available [HERE](#)
- New York continues to test more than any state in the country. To find a **testing site near you**, click [HERE](#)
- Updated **guidance for travel** and the list of restricted states with mandatory quarantines are available [HERE](#).
- **Statewide guidelines** for all areas are available [HERE](#).

I hope the information included here is helpful. The issues you bring to my attention help frame changes in state policies as we move through this crisis.

My staff and I have been able to **help many unemployment insurance applicants** process their claims. We continue to assist residents who call our office with issues accessing and getting through the online system. Please contact my office at 914-939-7028 or OtisS@nyassembly.gov, if I can be of assistance on any issues that arise.

Warm regards,

Steve

Important Phone Numbers

- NYS Department of Health State Hotline: 1-888-364-3065
- Find a testing site [HERE](#). Online screening and appointment [HERE](#)
- 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

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

Stay informed about the **CORONAVIRUS**

REOPENING UPDATES [CLICK HERE](#)



School Re-Opening Guidance

On Monday, Governor Cuomo outlined the [school re-opening guidelines](#) and various areas that districts must consider in order to have their plans approved by the State Education Department (SED). To be allowed to open, a district must be in an area that is in Phase IV and has less than 5% infection rate over a 14-day average. Schools will close if regional infection rate rises over 9% after August 1st. Finalized DOH and Reimagine Education Advisory Council guidance is available [HERE](#).

This is a fluid situation with school districts evaluating the available space in their buildings to maximize in person learning while also maintaining social distancing and safety requirements. Right now all of Westchester meets that criteria, which will be closely monitored in the week prior to the first day of school.

Joint Legislative Hearings on the Impact of Covid-19 in New York

This week, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie announced a [series of joint legislative hearings](#) to examine the Coronavirus Pandemic's impact on NYS. These hearings will inform the legislature's work in responding to the pandemic's effects in our communities. The joint legislative hearings will be live streamed [HERE](#) and include:

- July 28 – How COVID-19 Has Impacted Higher Education
- August 3 & August 10 – Residential Health Care Facilities and COVID-19
- August 11 – Elections in a Pandemic: A Review of the 2020 Primaries
- August 12 – Hospitals and COVID-19
- August 13 – Impact of COVID-19 on Workers
- August 14 – How COVID-19 Impacts New York's Veteran Community
- August 25 – COVID-19 and the MTA



2020 Census – Stand Up and Be Counted

April 1st was Census Day and by now residents have received invitations in the mail to complete the 2020 Census either online, by phone or by mailing in a paper questionnaire. Now more than ever it is vitally important that everyone be counted. New York State receives \$53 billion each year from the federal government to fund hospitals, public schools, emergency services transportation and infrastructure projects. Each person NOT counted costs the state over \$2,600 in federal aid each year.

Steps have been taken to reactivate field offices and to extend the window for field data collection and self-response to **October 31, 2020**.

Please do your part and complete the 2020 Census. The census form has only nine questions and is available in a dozen languages. For more information visit www.2020Census.gov or call toll free at 1-800-330-2020 to speak to a census representative who can help you complete the form.

You can also contact the Westchester County Complete Count Committee at www.westchestergov.com/census2020 or your local municipality to find information about your local Complete Count Committee.

This is our chance to shape a brighter future. New York wins when everyone gets counted.

Beware of Covid-19 Contact Tracer Scams

A new scam has been reported where people posing as Covid contact tracers try to steal the money and identify of unassuming persons. Although a contact tracer might get in touch to discuss results of a test you know you took, or because someone you've been in contact with tested positive, legitimate contact tracers may call, email, text, or visit your home to collect information. They may ask you for:

- your name and address
- health information
- the names of places and people you have visited

Scammers will ask you to do more like pay for a service, or provide additional personal information. To protect yourself from scammers:

- **DON'T** pay a contact tracer.
- **DON'T** give your Social Security number or any financial information such as bank account, or credit card number.
- **DON'T** share your immigration status. Legitimate contact tracers won't ask for — this information.
- **DON'T** click on links or download anything sent from a contact tracer. Real tracers will only send you texts or emails that say they'll be calling you.

If you think you are dealing with a fake contact tracer, hang up th phone, close the door and don't click or download anything that may be in an email or text. Be sure to report it to the state Attorney General's Office through their online [price gouging form](#) and the FTC FTC.gov/complaint.

