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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW YORK STATE ON P.A.U.S.E
(POLICIES THAT ASSURE UNIFORM SAFETY FOR EVERYONE)**

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

barber shops, nail & hair salons, tattoo shops temporary closure
effective tomorrow, 100 % of non-essential employees must stay
home starting Sunday, health supplies needed, COVID-19 testing
update, travel restrictions and more

NYS Co nfirm ed: 8,299
NYC confirmed: 5,151
NYC deaths: 29
Brooklyn confirmed: 1,518

GOVERNOR CUOMO EXECUTIVE ORDER

Governor Cuomo Executive Order:

- **NY, CT, NJ, and PA will temporarily close all barber shops, nail & hair salons, tattoo shops, & similar services in our four states effective tomorrow at 8PM.** These temporary closures are not going to be easy, but they are necessary to protect the public health.
- Non-essential gatherings are banned.

COVID-19 TESTING UPDATE



Photo Credit: nwtimes.com

New York City: Mayor Bill de Blasio

"We are greatly increasing Health and Hospitals capacities for testing sites":

- **There will be 10** new sites at hospitals each serving 150 people per day. **8** already opened in Bellevue, Elmhurst, Harlem, Jacobi, Kings, Lincoln, Woodhull, Queens. **2** more will open next week at Coney Island and Jacobi.
- There will be **7** new sites at Gotham clinics, Each serving 50-75 people per day and all will open this week at Belvis, Cumberland, East New York, Gouverneur, Morrisania, Sydenham, Vanderbilt.
- There will be **4** new drive-thru areas each serving 100 people per day. **2** are open at Coney Island and Jacobi and **2** are coming up in Kings County & Queens.
- In addition State-operated drive-thru on Staten Island is already running and 5 in coordination with FEMA.

These are appointment-only to prioritize the sickest and most vulnerable.

HEALTH SUPPLIES NEEDED!



Photo Credit: PBAHealth.com

New York State has a critical need for personal protective equipment including gloves, gowns & masks.

We need companies to be creative to supply the crucial gear our healthcare workers need. New York will pay a premium and offer funding.

Need Funding? 212-803-3100
Have Unused Supplies? 646-522-8477

HOSPITALS



Photo Credit: healthcareitnews.com

Governor Cuomo Executive Order:

The Governor announced an **executive order allowing the State Department of Health to identify space within existing hospitals to increase bed capacity**. This builds on the Governor's efforts to increase the state's hospital surge capacity and help ensure our healthcare system can handle an influx of patients due to COVID-19. Army Corp will begin bed building. Javitz Center, CUNY/SUNY and other sites are being considered for facilities to house hospital bedding and services Ventilators are urgently needed.

The Governor also announced new measures to free up staff and speed up the admission and discharge process at hospitals for 90 days. The **Department of Financial Services will issue a directive to health insurers allowing scheduled surgeries and admissions without insurer preapproval and allowing inpatient hospital services without insurer approval**. Under the measure, insurers will pay inpatient hospital services and emergency services without waiting to review for medical necessity. It will also allow the discharge of patients to a rehabilitation center or nursing after an inpatient hospital stay without insurer preapproval, and encourage self-funded plans to adopt these same provisions.

Doctors Needed: On [Tuesday](#) we asked retired & private health care workers a and as of [today](#) **1,746 have stepped forward**. We are grateful to those doctors and nurses who are protecting us. If you can help volunteer, please go to nyc.gov/HelpNowNYC.

PRISONS

To ensure health and safety of the City's jail population, the City will be identifying detainees who are high risk for COVID-19 and low risk for re-offending on an ongoing basis, and working with the NYPD and Mayor's Office for Criminal Justice to pursue their release.

WORKERS

Governor Cuomo Executive Order:

Governor Cuomo issued a new mandate stating **that 100% of workforce must stay home effective Sunday, March**

22nd at 8 pm, excluding essential services. Essential workers that are 'exempt' from this include, but are not limited to: grocery stores, liquor stores, pharmacies, banks, laundry/dry cleaning; utilities including power generation; child care; elder care; agriculture/farms, Food banks, homeless shelters, law enforcement, fire prevention and response, animal shelter/management, telecommunication/data centers, etc.

The governor will penalize any business who doesn't close if they can close during this time. This is to stop the spread of the virus. He is only allowing essential personnel such as: utilities company, health workers, pharmacists, food market companies to stay open. This rule will be enforced for businesses and civil fines will be issues for violators.

If you run into problems with your employer, call 3-1-1. They will refer you to Department of Consumer & Worker Protection or Commission on Human Rights.

For the City workforce:

- By **Sunday** – all non-essential personnel across all our agencies will be working from home.
- For those with COVID symptoms, your sick days will not be docked.

For more information visit: <https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026> .

SNAP BENEFITS



Photo Credit: brownsvilleherald.com

Pxhere

There will be **NO more in-person interviews**. All interviews will be converted to online and phone interviews and processes.

SENIORS

Governor Cuomo announced **Matilda's Law** to protect New Yorkers **age 70+ and those with compromised immune systems**. **These groups must:**

- Remain indoors
- Pre-screen visitors by taking temperature
- Visitors should wear masks
- Stay 6 feet away from others

HOUSING



Photo Credit: Thrillist.com

New York State will implement a **90-day moratorium on evictions** for residential and commercial tenants.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Federal Government is working with Canada and Mexico governments to cooperate on minimizing the spread of COVID-19 by eliminating cross boarder travel. Both borders are being treated the same.

- Individuals arriving at the boarder without proper paperwork will be denied access. Trying to minimize the volume immigration holding facilities.
- This includes other countries in the triangle including, Cuba, Haiti, etc.

- CDC instructed Department to suspend all travel into US without proper documentation effective **tonight** at midnight. Does not apply to US citizens.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Photo Credit: saisd.org

- **439 Grab-and-Go breakfast, lunch and dinner sites will be open to students starting Monday.** ID is not required. To find a meal site near you, call 311, visit www.schools.nyc.gov or text "food" or "comida" to the number 877877.
- **93 Enrichment centers** to help care for children of first responders and essential employees will open on Monday. Of the 93 center, 76 will be for k-12 and 17 will be for early childhood. More centers will be added as needed.
- **Remote Learning for students K-12 will begin on Monday.** The Department of Education is lending internet-enabled iPads to students in support of remote learning. To request a device, **complete a Remote Learning Device Request Form by TODAY, March 20th.** Following submission, DOE will contact you to discuss pick-up arrangements. Priority will be given to students most in need. ***All devices are granted on a temporary basis.*** Form is here or or call 718-935-5100 and choose option 5 to request one of these devices.

Continue to stay updated with information on the DOE Website page <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/coronavirus-update>

TAX

Tax filing date extended to **July 15th.**

BUSINESS

Programs being offered to small businesses:

- **Employee Retention Grant Program:** grants provided to allow small business to keep their staff
 - micro businesses of 1-4 employees may apply for a grant between \$6k to \$27k.
 - Grant are based on payroll and will eligible for up to 40% of payroll
 - for a period of 2 months
 - more info and applications live on SBS website
- **Small Business Continuity Fund:** provides zero interest loans to small businesses to help mitigate profit loss
 - businesses less than 100 employees
 - 25% or more decrease in business sales
 - loans up to \$75,000

Applications for small business grants of businesses with **5 or fewer employees who lost 25% or more of revenue will be processed on Monday and money will be put into bank accounts on Monday.** There has been 466 applications this far. To learn more visit this [website](#).

The **Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce** is convening a **task force** of ten small businesses that represent different sectors of the borough's economy to understand how COVID-19 is affecting them and determine what support and information they need to navigate the unique challenges related to the outbreak. **According to the Brooklyn Chamber restaurants, bars and the hospitality sector in general, including hotels and entertainment venues, have suffered the most so far due to COVID-19.** The Brooklyn Chamber will document their experiences by facilitating a twice-weekly call with the task force members, asking the same five questions related to business conditions and challenges they are facing. The businesses on the task force are: Enoteca and Marco Polo Restaurants (Restaurant), Mama O's Premium Kimchi (Manufacturing), Hampton Inn Brooklyn Downtown (Hospitality/Hotels), Kings Theatre (Entertainment), CPEX (Real Estate), Campaign Against Hunger (Non-profit), Simple Sense (Tech), Kings Plaza Shopping Center (Retail/Mall),

Brooklyn Running Company (Retail/Small) and Glenwood Mason Supply. (Wholesale Construction Supply)

SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on New York City's workforce, the City of New York has developed a list of resources for those who may be unemployed due to COVID-19 or are seeking additional assistance. The list below will be updated frequently.

It has information on the following categories:

Employment Resources

Food Assistance

Health & Medical Assistance

Financial Assistance

Rent Arrears and Public Assistance

Emotional Support & Spiritual Care

Other Assistance

Visit this [website](#) for resources.

PLASTIC BAG BAN



Photo Credit: cnn.com

New York State's Plastic Bag Ban Enforcement Pushed Back to **May 15** Amid Coronavirus. This does not affect the local laws in New York City, Suffolk County and Tompkins County requiring that the 5-cent paper carryout bag reduction fee must be charged on paper carryout bags .

TRANSPORTATION

Mass transit will continue to run as usual. However, people should not use it unless they absolutely must. Roads will remain open.

Starting Monday, bus riders on local and Select Bus Service routes must enter and exit through rear doors. Passengers on local buses will be riding for free, as part of the MTA's effort to safeguard riders and bus drivers from the outbreak of coronavirus.

New York City: Mayor Bill de Blasio Order:

- Temporary bike lanes will be added.
- Ferry rides will be reduced to 4 - 3 boats during rush hours effective next week. This is due to ride reduction, Ferry rides have been down 70 % in Staten Island.

PARKS AND RECREATION



Photo Credit: Twitter.com

New York City: Mayor Bill de Blasio Order:

All field permits are canceled. There will be no events or team sports. Mayor encourages all New Yorkers to exercise on their own and practice social distancing.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19



What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, immediately clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., shortness of breath or difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>.

Discontinuing home isolation

Patients confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments. Current information on COVID-19 is limited; home precautions are conservative and based on general recommendations for other diseases, like Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

You can stop the spread of coronavirus

- Wash your hands regularly
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your face

The best preventative steps you can take are the tried and true ones:

- frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow^[10]
- try to avoid coming in contact with someone who is sick
- disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces at work and at home.^[11]

If you can't wash your hands with soap and water, be sure to **use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**.^[12] If you're at a **higher risk** of getting seriously ill from COVID-19, such as the **elderly** or those with **underlying medical problems**, you should also try to avoid crowds and touching high-touched surfaces such as door handles, hand rails and elevator buttons.^[13] In order to better protect yourself, those who smoke should cut back or try to quit as smokers are at higher risk of getting respiratory infections and twice as likely to develop pneumonia than a non-smoker.^[14] It's also important that you stay home if you're feeling sick to prevent germs from spreading.

New York City officials are asking that anyone who is able to avoid public transportation do so, or if a bus or subway car is packed, wait for one that has more room.^[15]

Experts have recommended ensuring you have basic home supplies – food staples, laundry detergent, over-the-counter medicine and pet food. You should also try to have at least a 30-

day supply of any prescription medication. Go over any emergency plans you may have with every member of your household and make sure you keep up-to-date with any information from your child's school district.

Meanwhile, the governor has said the state would institute new cleaning protocols in heavily used public areas, such as bleaching surfaces on public transportation and in schools. ^[16] Local health departments will notify school districts if and when they need to close and when they can reopen. ^[17]

STAY INFORMED

about
coronavirus



Health officials are working tirelessly to protect public health and contain this virus. And, as your representative in Albany, I am working to ensure that our state is putting the health and safety of our families first.

Remember COVID-19 can affect any community and we must stand by one another during this time, not alienate, threaten or discriminate against others.

For questions you can also reach out to the New York State's novel coronavirus hotline at **1-888-364-3065**. For continuous updates, you can visit the following websites:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

The CDC also now has the option for you to sign up for weekly updates on COVID-19.

RECAP

CORONAVIRUS: Q & A

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms range from mild to severe and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms often appear two to 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.

When should I see a doctor?

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness such as a cough or shortness of breath, call your health care provider before seeking treatment in person and tell them you may have the novel coronavirus so they can take proper precaution

Resources:

- [10] [who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses)
- [11] [health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus)
- [12] [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html)
- [13] [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk)
- [14] [bbc.com/news/health-51703892](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51703892)
- [15] [nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nyc-issues-new-commuter-guidelines-to-combat-coronavirus-spread/2317584](https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nyc-issues-new-commuter-guidelines-to-combat-coronavirus-spread/2317584)
- [16] [nytimes.com/2020/03/02/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/02/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york.html)
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- [21] [nytimes.com/2020/03/10/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-update.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/10/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-update.html)

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the **Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs)** , and serves on the following committees: **Housing, Government Operations, Education , Banks, Health, and Higher Education** . She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on **Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force.**

As a current Assemblymember, District Leader, and Chair of Brooklyn Democratic Party, Rodneyse Bichotte has been an outspoken advocate on issues concerning **immigration, education, economic development, unemployment, education reform, health care access, senior citizen**

centers, affordable housing, school safety, women's and LGBTQ rights , as well as other issues affecting the quality of life in the community.

Learn more about
Rodneyse Bichotte by visiting her website:
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>

STAY CONNECTED

