



Assemblymember
RODNEYSE BICHOTTE
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader



COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: NY Daily News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYS Face Covering Mandate Effective Today
(Face covering mandate takes effect at 8 p.m this evening.)

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

NYC Mayor cancels non-essential events in May; additional testing sites in NYC; funding for undocumented and immigrant populations; relief for farmers and ranchers; black maternal health week; and more!

NYS Confirmed: 229,642
NYS deaths: 12,192
NYC confirmed: 122,148
Brooklyn confirmed: 32,499

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO



Photo Credit: Boston Globe

- Today, Governor Cuomo announced an **Executive Order** to direct all **public and private labs** in New York State to **coordinate with Department of Health** "to ensure they prioritize diagnostic testing to help restart the economy and public health."
- Governor Cuomo's Executive Order **requiring** individuals to wear **masks or face coverings** in **public** areas where they can not practice social distancing including in public transportation and for-hire vehicles **begins today at 8 p.m.** For more information visit [here](#).
- Governor Cuomo **called** for **federal partnership** and the need for the government to provide "**unrestricted funding**" to states to help stabilize the economy and "offset drastic state revenue shortfalls." For more information visit [here](#).

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



Photo Credit: Google Play

Testing Updates:

Today the Mayor announced the opening of **5 new COVID-19 walk-in testing sites** to serve at risk patients.

- **Open today:**
 - **Brooklyn:** NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health in **East New York.**
 - **Bronx:** NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health in **Morrisania.**
 - **Staten Island:** Vanderbilt Health Center in **Clifton.**
- **Opening Monday:**
 - **Manhattan:** Syendham Family Health Center in **Harlem.**
 - **Queens:** NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens Hospital in **Jamaica.**
- Testing sites will focus on **residents from surrounding communities** and individuals who are **65 and older with preexisting conditions.**
- For more information on community testing, Call **311.**
- Today, the Mayor announced a **new partnership with One Medical** to open **5** additional new testing sites in NYC. This would include a site in each borough. They will conduct **3,500** tests a week. All 5 sites will open by Monday. The **Brooklyn** site at **Medger Evers College** and the **Queens** site at **York College** opened today.
 - Who is eligible for testing:
 - NYC residents who are **65 and older** with preexisting conditions.
 - **Frontline SEIU workers.**
 - **Essential workers and vulnerable populations**, including adult care employees or those who work with people with disabilities.
 - For more information visit [here.](#)

Event Cancellations:

Today, the Mayor announced that the City is not issuing event permits for the month of May for **non-essential events**.

- Cancelled events includes:
 - Parades
 - Concerts
 - Rallies
 - Large gatherings
- Essential Permits **not affected**:
 - Medical sites
 - Hygiene stations.
 - Food provision: farmer's market and meal delivery.
- The Mayor is in the processing of discussing a **potential cancellation of June events** with Organizers and Communities.

Increasing 311 Capacity:

Today, the Mayor announced that 311 calls have increased from an average of **55,000** calls daily to up to **200,000** a day. Therefore, the City is **prioritizing COVID-19 calls**.

- The goal is to provide **immediate response** and help people sign up for [GetFood NYC program](#).
- 311 has a new ability to **receive photos of social distancing complaints**. You can submit photos by **texting 311-692** or through the **311 app**.
- The City is hiring **120** additional call center staff.
- In efforts to prioritize COVID-19 related calls, the Mayor asked New Yorkers to report non covid-19 issues using the 311 app or website or to call 311 after 7 p.m. and on weekends.

Gratitude:

The Mayor Provided Thanks to the Following:

- **Delta and Southwest Airlines** for providing **free flights to healthcare workers** coming to NYC to help our hospitals.
- **Harry's** for donating **\$500,000 of goods** such as razors and lotions to all **11 NYC Health + Hospitals**.
- **Target** for donating **\$50,000** to the Fund for Public Health in NYC's Epidemics Fund.
- **Peloton** for donating **90,000 N95 Masks**.
- **Americares** for donating **300,000 KN95 Masks**.
- **inMotion Entertainment** for donating **6,400 in-ear headphones** for students living in temporary housing participating in remote learning.
- **Open Society Foundation** for donating **\$35 million** to NYC.
 - Within the donation, **\$20 million** will create an **Immigrant Emergency Relief Fund** within the Mayor's Fund. This will provide funding to community based organizations for **immigrant and undocumented New Yorkers** who are not eligible for federal stimulus.
 - Additionally, within the donation **\$15 million** will go towards the Fund for **Public Schools**.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Photo Credit: Civil Eats

Today, the President and **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program** which is a \$19 billion relief effort for farmers and ranchers. The program includes:

- **\$16 billion** worth of **direct payments** to farmers and ranchers experiencing financial loss due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- USDA purchasing **\$3 billion** worth of produce, dairy and meat products to distribute to families in need and faith based institutions.

For more information visit [here](#).

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK



Photo Credit: Mama Glow

Today, on the last day of **Black Maternal Health week**, **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte** re-introduced her **Jonah Bichotte Cowan bill** in honor of her late son. "No pregnant woman experiencing pre-term labor should be forced out of a hospital," said **Assemblymember Bichotte**. "After being forced out of a hospital, I became a statistic and almost died."

Jonah Bichotte Cowan Bill ([A2770B](#)):

- This bill **requires** hospitals and birthing centers to "**inform and care** for mothers who are experiencing **pre-term labor**."

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



Photo Credit:WTVC

The NYC Department of Social Services (DSS) **received a federal waiver** that allows them to issue **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** benefits to individuals **without an interview**, if they meet the follow criteria:

- Both the applicant's identity has been verified; and all other **mandatory information and verification has been provided and is valid including:**
 - Identity
 - Social Security number (as already required by federal law)
 - Residency
 - Gross non-exempt income (earned and unearned)
 - Disability
 - Immigrant status (required by federal law)
- If criteria is not met, an interview will be required. To apply for SNAP, visit [here](#).

- Clients do **not need to recertify** their SNAP or Cash Assistance (CA) cases at this time. DSS will notify clients when recertification process resumes.

Medicaid:

- All active medicaid cases in NYC will be **extended**. "No Medicaid case will be closed for failure to renew or failure to provide documentation."

CityFHEPS Renewals:

- City rental assistance (CityFHEPS) is "being **automatically renewed** for all those eligible New Yorkers receiving it, no one has to worry about reapplying."

STRESS MANAGEMENT



Stress Management Support Group

Stress and anxiety are normal, but even more so during this time. Join or more of our weekly virtual psycho-education groups with Tracey LCSW and partner from The Family Center.

Tuesdays @ 2 pm - Parenting in Social Distancing

- Join Zoom Meeting
- <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4380756268>
- Meeting ID: 438 075 6268
- Call to Join: 6465588656 | Access Code: 4380756268# US (New York)

Fridays @ 2 pm - Anxiety Support Group

- Join Zoom Meeting
- <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/694500058>
- Meeting ID: 694 500 058
- Call to Join: 646.558.8656 | Access Code: 694500058# US (New York)

RSVP by emailing: tlittle@thefamilycenter.org

IN DISTRICT INITIATIVES



Photo Credit: Meals For East Flatbush First Responders

A group of community neighbors have banded together to organize support for our first responders and our restaurants. **Meals For East Flatbush First Responders** is using the GoFundMe tool to rally neighbors to help provide meals for **first responders** at **SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Kings County Hospital** and soon to be **Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center**.

With this effort they are also **supporting local restaurants** in the **Flatbush, East Flatbush, Ditmas Park, and Prospect Lefferts Garden** area who are able to deliver meals directly to hospitals. Their goal is to

provide **100 meals** per delivery which includes plant-based, vegetarian/vegan meals.

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS



*You help us travel
safely and efficiently
during this crisis.*



**THANK YOU PUBLIC
TRANSIT DRIVERS.**

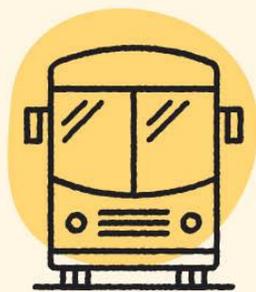


Photo Credit: ministryofsport.com

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines.

Today, we thank our **Public Transit drivers** for safely and efficiently helping us reach our destination.

AVOID SCAMS

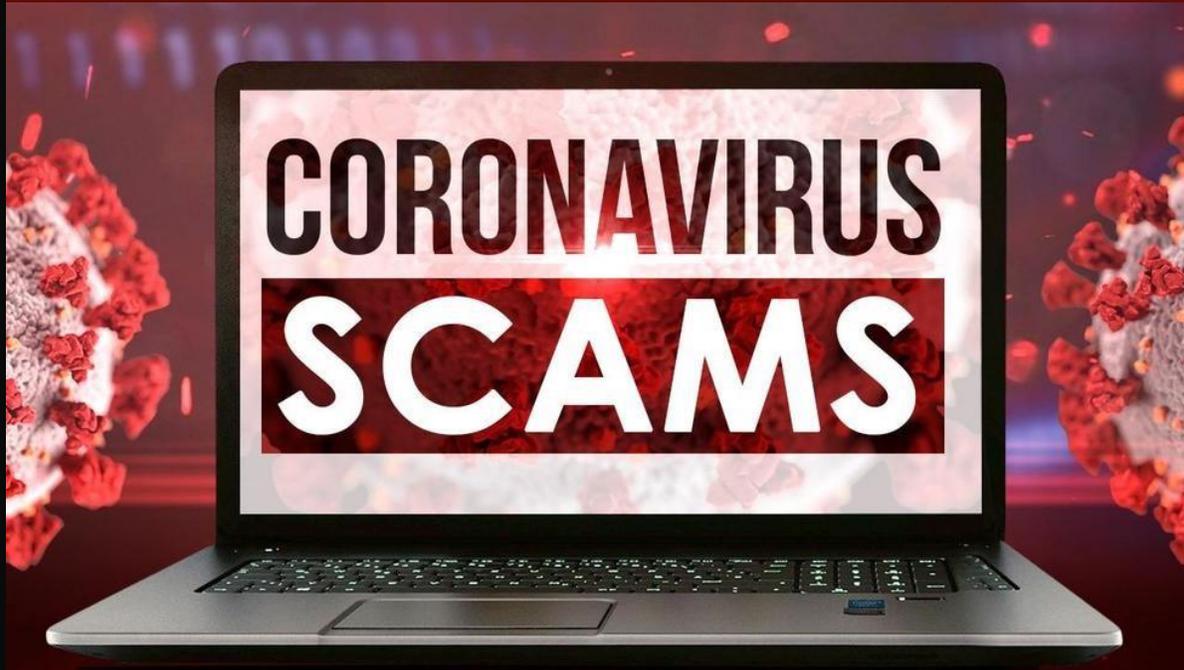


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dcwp](https://www.nyc.gov/dcwp). You can also file a complaint to the Attorney General's office, fill out a [complaint form](#).
- **NYS Price Gouging Hotline:** 800-697-1220.
- CDC staff will **NOT** go door-to-door. If you experience this, call 911.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES



Photo Credit: Ansi.org

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.

NYS Department of Health Hotline for people who want to be assessed and get appointment for test ([888-364-3065](tel:888-364-3065)). NYC residents should call ([844-692-4692](tel:844-692-4692)).

Volunteer to Support

Others: https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare_workers.

Free Internet Services:

Charter is offering free spectrum broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to household with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have Spectrum broadband subscription. To enroll, **call 844-488-8395**. Until further notice, all Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots are now open to everyone on the "xfinitywifi" SSID. For more information visit [here](#).

In-District Businesses open/closed : Provided by **Flatbush Avenue BID and Church Avenue BID** : Visit Flatbush Avenue Business Directory [here](#) and Church Avenue Business directory [here](#). Businesses open/closed: Provided by **Flatbush Development Corporation** : Visit Flatbush Business Corridor Directory [here](#). Includes businesses located in:

- Cortelyou Road (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Coney Island Avenue (Cortelyou Road - Foster Ave)
- Newkirk Plaza
- Newkirk Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Foster Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Ditmas Park

Small Businesses:

For resources on **business** grants and loans, [visit here](#).

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

STAY INFORMED

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.

New Yorkers Can Sign Up for Email Updates [Here](#) and Ask Questions About COVID-19 [Here](#)

New Yorkers Can Find More Information About the New COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Law [Here](#)

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

