



Assemblymember
RODNEYSE BICHOTTE
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader



COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: (NY Times/Getty Images)

APRIL 20, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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718-940-0428

NYS Launches Maternity Task Force

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

Non-essential June events canceled; Koshers Grab and Go meals available;
Pandemic unemployment assistance new website; and more!

NYS Confirmed: 247,512
NYS deaths: 14,357
NYC confirmed: 136,806
Brooklyn confirmed: 37,030

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo

- Today, the Governor asked New Yorkers to re-imagine what they want society to look like after this pandemic.
 - The Governor assembled a "**Re-imagine NY Task Force**" that will consist of Downstate NY local representatives and experts.

- Governor Cuomo is calling on the federal government to provide a **50 % bonus** as **hazard pay** to **frontline workers**.
 - According to the Governor, **41%** of frontline workers are people of color. This includes: **45%** of public transit workers, **57%** of building cleaning service workers and **40 %** of healthcare workers.
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ of frontline workers are women and $\frac{1}{3}$ of frontline workers are members of a low-income household.
 - People of color are also disproportionately represented in delivery services and childcare services.
- Governor Cuomo announced a **new partnership** with **Ready Responders** to expand healthcare and testing in public housing communities. This include providing NYCHA residents with PPE supplies in addition to COVID-19 testing.
 - Initial pilot program is starting this week.
 - Will deliver more than **500,000 cloth masks**, will provide at least one mask to each resident.
 - Will deliver **10,000 gallons** of **hand sanitizer** to residents.
- In effort to help students complete their Spring semester coursework, SUNY is distributing more than **8,800** laptops and Chromebooks to students in need.

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



Photo Credit: NY Daily News

Personal Protective Equipment and Supply Update:

- The Mayor announced that NYC has a **sufficient** number of **face shields, N95 and surgical masks, gloves, ventilators** for this week.
- The Mayor emphasized that there is a **need for surgical gowns**. Struggling to fulfill current week's need. The **Federal Government** provided NYC with fabric to manufacture **400,000** gowns by **May 23**.
 - **40,000** surgical gowns will be done this week.
 - **265,000** Tyvek suits will be delivered over the weekend.
 - Mayor is urging the federal government to provide more.
 - Mayor is urging states with stockpiles of gowns or fabric to support NYC.

Emergency Medical Services:

- EMS rate went down from **6,527** on March 30th to **3,485** on April 18th.
- Response time went down from **10 minutes and 8 seconds** in March, to **6 minutes and 43 seconds** on April 18th. The average April response time is 8 minutes and 46 seconds.
- **1,446 FDNY** workers who were out on sick leave have returned to work.
- **928 EMS** workers who were out on sick leave have returned to work.

FEMA Ambulances:

- The Mayor thanked FEMA for providing NYC with **350** Ambulances from across the country.
- A total of **790** EMTs and paramedics from 19 states are now in NYC.
- This will help NYC until the end of May.

Event Cancellations:

- The Mayor canceled **all non-essential** event permits for the month of **June**. This includes parades, concerts, rallies, large gatherings.
- The Mayor is working with organizers of the Pride March, Puerto Rican Day and Celebrate Israel Parades to cancel events and potentially postpone for a later date.

KOSHER GRAB AND GO MEALS



Photo Credit: Department of Education

The Department of Education's Free Grab and Go meal program will now offer **certified Kosher meal options**. According to the Department of Education, "Three Kosher meals a day will be available to any New Yorker who wants one. Kosher meals follow the USDA meal nutrition guidelines and are produced in partnership with a certified kosher distributor." For more information, visit [here](#).

Below are the Kosher meals sites opening tomorrow, **Tuesday, April 21st** :

Williamsburg

- **PS 132** The Conselyea School – 320 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn 11211

Flushing/Kew Gardens

- **P.S. 154 Queens** - 7502 162 Street, Queens 11366
- **P.S. 215** - 535 Briar Place, Queens 11691

Crown Heights

- **P.S. 289** George V. Brower - 900 St Marks Avenue, Brooklyn 11213
- **I.S. 2 - 655** Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn 11226

- **PS 257** John F Hylan
– 60 Cook Street,
Brooklyn 11206

Kosher Meal Sites Opening
Thursday, April 23rd :

Far Rockaway

- **P.S. 197** The Ocean School - 825 Hicksville Road, Queens 11691
- **P.S. 253** - 1307 Central Avenue, Queens 11691

Boro Park

- **P.S. 192** - The Magnet School For Math And Science - 4715 18th Avenue, Brooklyn 11204

Midwood

- **P.S. 197** - The Kings Highway Academy - 1599 East 22 Street, Brooklyn 11210

NYS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

WHAT IS PUA?

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is a new Federal program that is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. PUA provides financial assistance for Americans who are unable to work due to the coronavirus pandemic but do not qualify for traditional unemployment insurance (UI).

WHAT WILL I RECEIVE?

If you qualify for PUA, your benefit rate will be based on your recent earnings. You will also receive an additional \$600 per week until 7/31/2020.

Photo Credit: NYS Department of Labor

Today, the **NYS Department of Labor** announced a new website that allows individuals to apply for the new **COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits**. Prior to today, federal guidelines required that an individual apply for PUA only after having their regular unemployment insurance application rejected. This new application will allow those who are eligible for PUA to apply for it directly. For more information about this new application, visit [here](#). To see if you are eligible for benefits, visit [here](#).

COVID-19 MATERNITY TASK FORCE



Photo Credit: Baby Center

Today, New York State announced the launching of the new **COVID-19 Maternity Task Force** led by **Melissa DeRosa**, Secretary to Governor Cuomo, and the **New York State Council on Women and Girls**. This task force will examine the best approach to provide **additional birthing centers** to grant those who are in labor, a "safe alternative to already stressed hospitals". The task force will also make recommendations to Governor Cuomo and will work with the Regional Perinatal Centers. For more information about this task force, [visit here](#).

COVID-19 INFORMATION CONFERENCE CALL



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte COVID-19 Information Conference Call



*On Federal Stimulus Package,
NYS Unemployment Insurance Benefits,
& New York State Fiscal Budget 2020-21*

**Tuesday April 21, 2020
7:15 PM – 8:15 PM**

**Conference Number: 515-606-5443
Access Code: 168720**

Invited Guests



Brenda Stuart-Luke
Tax Specialist & Communications Liaison
Internal Revenue Service



Blake Washington
Secretary, Assembly Ways & Means Committee
New York State Assembly



Bryan J. de la Bruyere
Managing Director
Employment Tax Advisory Services
Ernst & Young LLP

Join our call to hear experts talk about details relating to the **New York State Budget**, the **Federal Stimulus Package**, and **Unemployment Insurance Benefits**.

Questions maybe submitted in advance of conference call
to events.bichotte@gmail.com.

Space is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

A recording of the call will be posted on the following website:
www.nyassembly.gov/mem/rodneyse-bichotte

For unemployment insurance benefit call New York State Department of Labor at 1-888-209-8124.

For any questions related to COVID-19, call the New York State Department of Health's Novel Coronavirus 24-hour hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or text COVID to 692-692 for New York City's daily updates.
Call 311 for non-emergency assistance.

For information on this, or any other matter, please call my district office at 718-940-0428

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte
hosts a
**COVID-19 Information Conference Call on the
New York State FY 2020-21 Budget , the Stimulus
Package , and Unemployment .**

Guest speakers will include:

**Brenda Stuart-Luke of Internal Revenue Service
Blake Washington of New York State Assembly
Bryan J. de la Bruyere of Ernst & Young LLP**

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020
7:15pm to 8:15pm**

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Questions may be submitted in advance of call

[Submit Your Question](#)

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

You work hard every day
to put food on our tables.

*Thank you
farmers.*

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 **Farmers** for providing us with produce to ensure food on our tables.

AVOID SCAMS



Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dewp](https://www.nyc.gov/dewp). 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>.

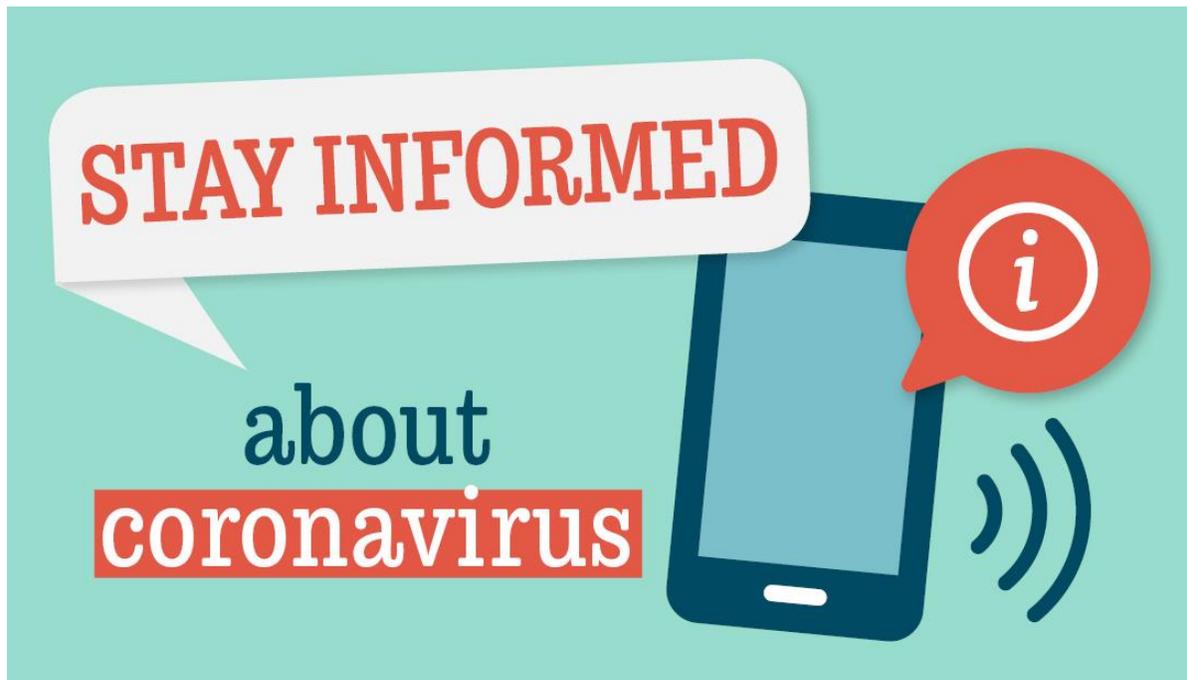
Discontinuing home isolation

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



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

