



Assemblymember  
**RODNEYSE BICHOTTE**  
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader

## COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: ABCNews

**APRIL 25, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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718-940-0428

## **NYS Expands Criteria For Diagnostic COVID-19 Testing**

*Amid Coronavirus Pandemic*

Pharmacies to become COVID-19 test collection sites; Antibody testing scheduled today for healthcare workers; We Speak NYC services; Special elections canceled; and more!

**NYS Confirmed: 282,143**  
**NYS Deaths: 16, 599**  
**NYC Confirmed: 155,113**  
**Brooklyn Confirmed: 41,660**

**NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO**



Photo Credit: Getty Images

- Today, Governor Cuomo announced that NYS is focusing on diagnostic and antibody testing.

- The Governor is signing an executive order to allow **independent pharmacist** to conduct diagnostic COVID-19 tests.
- The Governor **expanded** the diagnostic testing criteria to include **first responders, healthcare workers and essential employees** since diagnostic testing capacity is increasing.
- Testing criteria will continue to expand as capacity increases.
- The Governor announced that **today** NYS is conducting **antibody testing** for frontline **healthcare workers** at four hospitals and healthcare systems in NYC.
  - The tests will be conducted at **Elmhurt, Bellvue, Montefiore, and SUNY Downstate.**
  - Comprehensive testing will be provided to transit workers and law enforcement officers next week.

**NYC: MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO**

The New York City Department of Education wants every student who needs a device for remote learning to have one, even if the student does not have internet access at home. Please visit [schools.nyc.gov/devices](http://schools.nyc.gov/devices) to fill out a request or call 718-935-5100 and choose Option 5 on the menu for help getting a device with internet connection.



ترید ادارۃ التعلیم لمدينة نیویورک ان يحصل کل تلمیذ (5) یحتاج الی جهاز للتعلیم عن بعد علی ذلك الجهاز، حتی اذا لم یکن الی التلمیذ (5) اتصال بالانترنت فی المنزل. يرجى زیارة الرابطة [schools.nyc.gov/devices](http://schools.nyc.gov/devices) لملء طلب او اتصلوا برقم الهاتف 718-935-5100 واختاروا الخیار رقم 5 من القائمة للمساعدة فی الحصول علی جهاز متصل بالانترنت.

نیٹ ایئرک نیٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ اوب اڈوکیشن دیر থেকে শিক্ষا یا ریموٹ سارنہ-ایر جمنو یسبب شیکارڈر ایکٹ ڈیجائیس اڈروجنن آزار اڈتوکه یسبب ایکٹ ڈیجائیس پایر آ نیٹیت کرتے آاز، اڈمنڈکی یڈنی شیکارڈر باڈیتے ایڈیٹوٹیس سوبیڈا نا ڈاکے اڈتوہ! ایڈیٹوٹیس سوبیڈا سڈھ ایکٹ ڈیجائیس پوٹے، ایکٹ اڈنروڈھ پورھ کرتار جمنو اڈنروڈھ کرتے ڈیجائیت کرتار [schools.nyc.gov/devices](http://schools.nyc.gov/devices) اڈنروڈھ سڈھارڈا پوٹے **کون کون 718-935-5100** ناڈارے اڈنروڈھ 5 بھے نین!

نیویورک ڈیپارٹمنٹ آف اڈوکیشن ہر ایک ایڈیٹوٹیس سوبیڈا نا ڈاکے اڈتوہ! ایڈیٹوٹیس سوبیڈا سڈھ ایکٹ ڈیجائیس پوٹے، ایکٹ اڈنروڈھ پورھ کرتار جمنو اڈنروڈھ کرتے ڈیجائیت کرتار [schools.nyc.gov/devices](http://schools.nyc.gov/devices) اڈنروڈھ سڈھارڈا پوٹے **کون کون 718-935-5100** ناڈارے اڈنروڈھ 5 بھے نین!

Le Département de l'Éducation de la Ville de New York veut que chaque élève qui a besoin d'un appareil pour l'apprentissage à distance en ait un, même si l'élève n'a pas d'accès internet à la maison. Veuillez aller sur [schools.nyc.gov/devices](http://schools.nyc.gov/devices) pour remplir une demande ou composer le 718-935-5100 et choisir l'Option 5 sur le menu pour une demande d'aide à obtenir un appareil avec connexion internet.

Depatman edikasyon Vil Nouyòk vle pou tout elèv ki bezwen yon aparèy pou aprantisaj adistans pou yo resevwa youn, menmsi elèv la pa gen aksè entènèt lakay li. Tanpri ale sou [schools.nyc.gov/devices](http://schools.nyc.gov/devices) pou fè yon demann oswa rele 718-935-5100 epi chwazi Opsyon 5 nan meni an pou ede w jwenn yon aparèy ki gen koneksyon entènèt.

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Департамент образования г. Нью-Йорк стремится, чтобы у каждого ребенка, которому необходимо устройство для дистанционного обучения, оно было, даже если у этого ребенка дома нет доступа в Интернет. На веб-сайте [schools.nyc.gov/devices](http://schools.nyc.gov/devices) заполните запрос или звоните по тел. 718-935-5100 и выберите Опцию 5 в меню, и вам помогут получить устройство с выходом в Интернет.

El Departamento de Educación de la Ciudad de Nueva York quiere que todos los estudiantes que necesiten un dispositivo para aprender a distancia obtengan uno, incluso si no tienen acceso a internet en su casa. Visite [schools.nyc.gov/devices](http://schools.nyc.gov/devices) para solicitarlo o llame al 718-935-5100 y elija la opción 5 del menú y alguien le ayudará a conseguir un dispositivo con conexión a internet.

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Families: if your child needs a Remote Learning device, request one at <http://schools.nyc.gov/devices> or call **718-935-5100** (press 5) to receive it by the end of the month. Device distribution will continue for families who fill out a form after the 4/23 deadline.

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION UPDATE**



# World Health Organization

According to the **World Health Organization**, there is **currently no evidence** that shows that people who recovered from COVID-19 is **immune** to catching the virus again. The organization is recommending that people continue to practice social distancing even after recovering from COVID-19 until further research is conducted. For more information, [visit here](#) .

## WARNING FOR USE OF DISINFECTANTS



Photo Credit: Jeff Greenberg | Getty Images

The **NYC Poison Control Center** reported an uptick of calls inquiring about the ingestion of disinfectant product to treat COVID-19. According to former **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** Commissioner **Scott Gottlieb**, the consumption or injection of **disinfectant** products **will not treat COVID-19**, but may instead lead to **death**. Furthermore, **Lysol** issued a statement Friday saying that "disinfectant and hygiene products should only be used as intended and in line with usage guidelines."

## "WE SPEAK NYC" SERVICES



Photo Credit: We Speak NYC

Individuals can practice their **English conversation skills** at home through We Speak NYC's **free weekly online classes**. WSNYC is an English Language Learning program. To join a class, visit [here](#).

## ELECTION UPDATES



Photo Credit: Vox

There is an upcoming **Primary Election** on **June 23rd** . However, Governor Cuomo announced that **Special Elections** scheduled on June 23rd for **State Assembly, State Senate and Queens Borough President** are **canceled** and will be held during the **general election** in November. Furthermore, the City Council **District 37 Special Election** scheduled for June 23rd is also **canceled** . For more information, visit [here](#) and [here](#).

**COVID-19 TESTING IN DISTRICT**



Photo Credit: John Hopkins Medicine

There is both a **drive-through** and **walk-in** COVID-19 testing site in the **42nd Assembly District**. To make an appointment for either testing sites you **must** contact the NYS Department of Health at **888-364-3065**.

**PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM  
APPLICATION TRAINING**



*Senator James Sanders Jr. &  
Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte*

*Presents*



**PPP Application Training  
Line by Line**



**For All Faith-Based & Non-Profit Organizations  
Monday, April 27, 2020 • 12:00 p.m.**

**Learn How to Fill Out the PPP Application Line By Line  
Monday, April 27, 2020 • 4:00 p.m.**

**Facebook Live**

[Facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/](https://www.facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/)

*Speakers & Presenters*

- **Brian Gurski**, *Vice President  
TruFund Financial Services, Inc.*
- **Ricardi Calixte**, *Deputy Director,  
Queens Economic Development Corporation*
- **Ed Hummel**  
*Economic Development Representative*
- **U.S. Economic Development Administration**
- **Financial Planning Association**

*Featured Panelists*

- **Beth L. Goldberg**, *District Director  
New York District Office of  
The U.S. Small Business Administration*
- **Harry Wells**, *Director  
Small Business Development Center York College*
- **Linda MacFarlane**, *Chair  
NYS CDFI Coalition*
- **Financial Planning Association**

*Community Partners*

- Gateway JFK, Sutphin Blvd. BID • Merchant Association of Rosedale
- Laurelton & Springfield Gardens (MARLS) • REMA4US
- Blaque Resource Network • Rockaway Business Alliance

For more information about this or any state or local issue, contact  
Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte's office: 1312 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210, 718-940-0428,  
Email: [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov), [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte)

Join **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte** and **Senator James Sanders Jr.** on Monday, **April 27th** at **12:00 p.m** and **4:00 p.m** to learn how to fill out the Paycheck Protection Program application line by line. To view the training on Monday, visit [here](#).

## THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Bravely serving  
us every day.

**THANK YOU  
LAW  
ENFORCEMENT!**



During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **Law Enforcement** officers for courageously serving us daily.

**AVOID SCAMS**

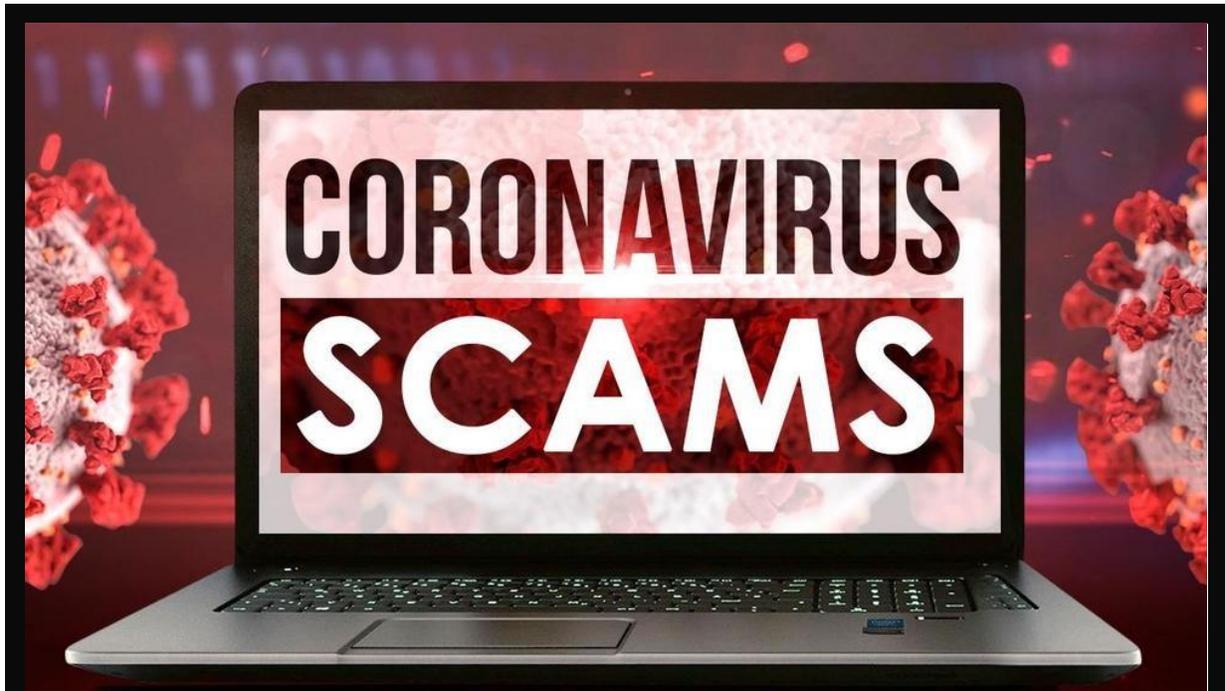


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- 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](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](http://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](#)

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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 websites:  
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>  
and [www.rodneysebichotte.net](http://www.rodneysebichotte.net)

STAY CONNECTED

