



Assemblymember
RODNEYSE BICHOTTE
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader



COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: eSchool News

MAY 1, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYS Schools To Remain Closed For The Rest Of School Year

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

Over 7 Miles of Open Streets Starting Monday; Sick Paid Leave Hotline; Javits Center Hospital Closes; School Board Elections Delayed; August Regents Canceled; Certain Pregnant Inmates Released; And More!

NYS Confirmed: 308,314
NYS Deaths: 18,610
NYC Confirmed: 169,690
Brooklyn Confirmed: 45,519

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo

- **Department of Education**
 - Today, Governor Cuomo announced that **K-12 schools** and **college facilities** will remain **closed** for the rest of the academic year and

will continue to provide remote learning for the remainder of the academic year.

- Decision on summer school programming will be announced at the end of **May**.
- Meal programs and essential worker's childcare programs will continue.
- State will approve plans to reopen schools and colleges.

- **Mental health Services**

- According to the Governor many New Yorkers are in need of mental health support.
 - There is an increase of alcohol/drug consumption and nearly half of Americans say their mental health has been impacted due to COVID-19.
 - Three in four people say their sleep has been affected.
 - The Governor urged New Yorkers to utilize **NYS emotional support hotline at (844) 863-9314**.
 - Additional mental health resources is available [here](#).
- The Governor announced that NYS is expanding efforts to provide **mental health services** to front line workers.
- NYS partnering with **Kate Spade New York Foundation** and **Crisis Text Line** on a 24/7 emotional support service for front line healthcare heroes.
 - Front line healthcare workers can text **NYFRONTLINE** to **741-741** for services.
- NYS is directing insurers to **waive** all cost sharing, copays and deductibles for mental health services for essential workers through COVID-19 crisis.

- **Domestic Violence:**

- The Governor mentioned that there is a disturbing rise in Domestic Violence cases.
- Domestic Violence reports in New York were up **15% in March** and **30% in April.**
- NYS Domestic Violence Helpline: **(844) 997-2121**

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



Photo Credit: NYC DOT

Today, the Mayor announced that starting Monday there will be over seven miles of open streets each day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Streets will be open to pedestrians and cyclists, with limited vehicle traffic.

- There will be **4.5 miles** of open streets in the following parks:

- Fort Tryon Park
- Flushing Meadows Corona Park
- Forest Hills Park
- Callahan-Kelly Park
- Grant Park
- Silver Lake Park
- There will be an additional **2.7 miles** of open streets adjacent to parks available at:
 - Williamsburg Oval
 - Court Square
 - Carl Schurz Park
 - Highbridge Park
 - Prospect Park
 - Stapleton Waterfront Park
 - Lt. William Tighe Triangle

The Mayor and the NYC Council announced that **40 miles** of streets will be open citywide in May to allow "greater social distancing." The goal is to open **100 miles** in the weeks ahead.

MAY DAY 2020



Happy **International Workers' Day** .
Today, **Assemblymember Rodneyse** joined **Senator Sanders Jr.** and her colleagues in government and leaders of distinguished labor unions to celebrate the contributions of workers and unions across the world. " We have workers who are risking their lives daily to keep our country afloat," said **Assemblymember Bichotte**. "I salute all of the workers for keeping us alive."

PAID SICK LEAVE HOTLINE



Photo Credit: Getty Images

NYC's Health Department developed a **hotline** to assist New Yorkers file for sick paid leave. People who missed work due to COVID-19 can use the **City's Call Center** to obtain necessary medical documentation to file a claim. New Yorkers can call **855-491-2667** for assistance. For more information

about Sick Paid Leave, visit the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's FAQ page [here](#).

JAVITS CENTER HOSPITAL UPDATE



Photo Credit: NYPost; Healthcare workers speaking inside of the Javits Center

The **Jacob K. Javits Center** temporary hospital will close today after treating almost **1,100** COVID-19 patients.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS DELAYED

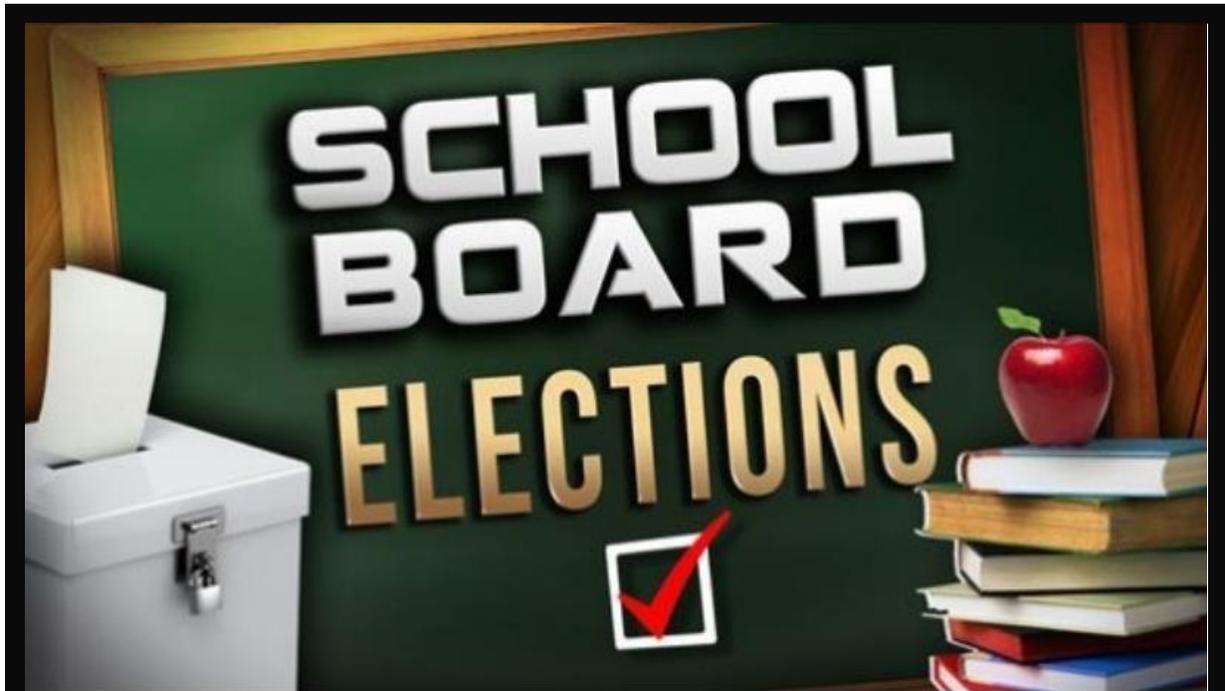


Photo Credit: kingsvilleisd.com

Today, Governor Cuomo issued an **Executive Order** to delay school board elections and budget votes statewide until **June 9, 2020**. The budget votes and elections will be done by mail and qualified voters will be sent an absentee ballot with return postage paid. "The Executive Order also delays local special district and village elections until September 15, 2020." For more information [visit here](#).

AUGUST REGENTS CANCELED

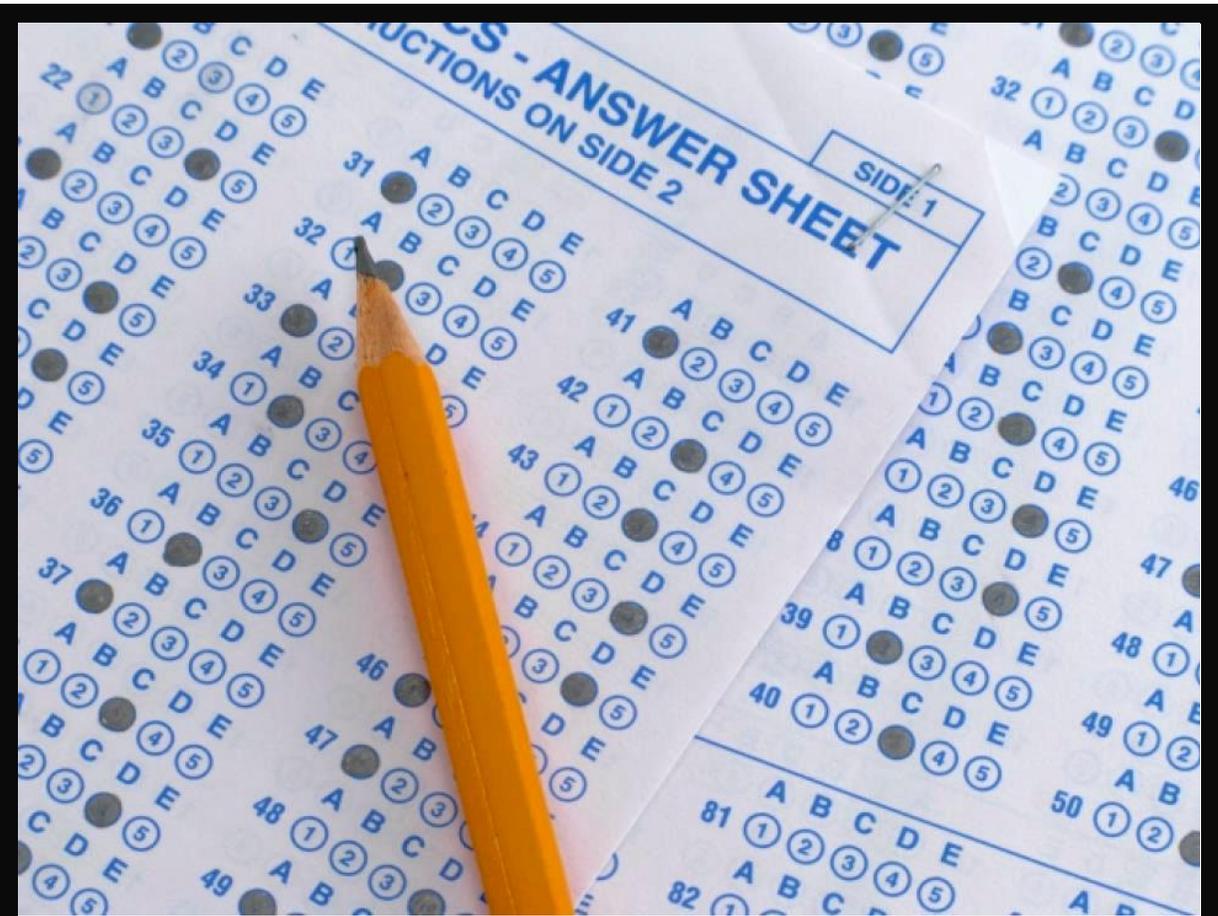


Photo Credit: LIHerald

Interim New York State Education Commissioner Shannon Tahoe announced that in addition to June regents exams being cancelled, that **August** exams are also canceled.

CERTAIN PREGNANT INMATES RELEASED



Photo Credit: Governing

Melissa DeRosa, secretary to Governor Cuomo, announced that certain pregnant women with nonviolent convictions and less than six months left to serve will be **released** from prisons.

COVID-19 TESTING IN FLATBUSH



Assemblymember
Rodneyse Bichotte
42nd Assembly District



FLATBUSH AVENUE WALK-IN COVID-19 TESTING SITE

*This testing site is **by appointment only**.*

You **must** contact the
NYS Department of Health
at **1-888-364-3065** to
schedule an appointment.

Brookdale Family Care Center

1095 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11226

For more information about this or any community concern,
contact Assemblymember Bichotte's district office

718-940-0428 | bichotter@nyassembly.gov | www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte

We have a **drive through** and **walk-in** COVID-19 testing site in the **42nd Assembly District**. **You must make an appointment before visiting the center or you will be turned away.** To make an appointment you **must** contact the NYS Department of Health at **888-364-3065**.

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

You keep New Yorkers fed during these difficult times.



Thank You Cafeteria Workers

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **Cafeteria workers** for feeding all New Yorkers during this difficult time.

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 specturm 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](#).

Immigration:

If you or a loved one is in need of free Immigration assistance, please call **CUNY Citizenship Now** at 646-664-9400 or text at 929-334-3784, Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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

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