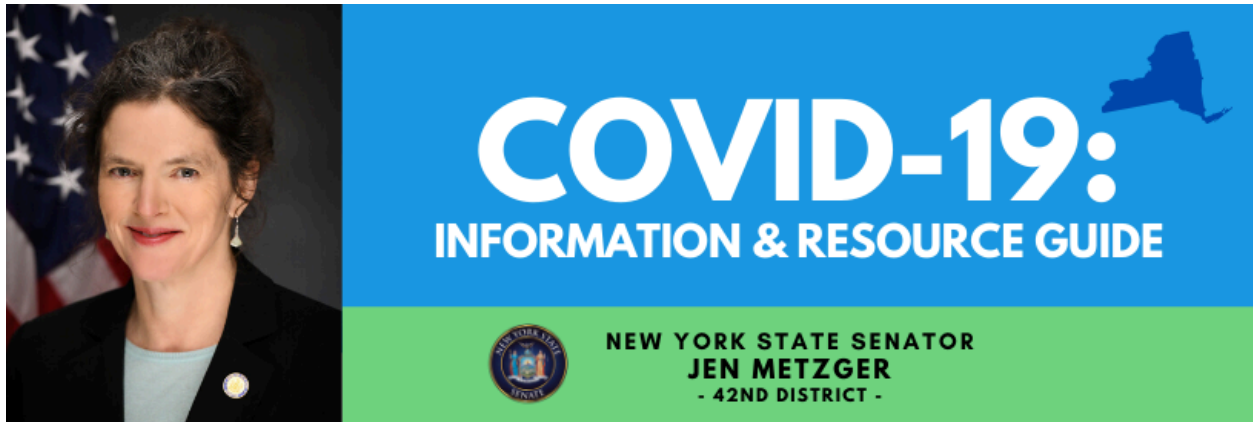


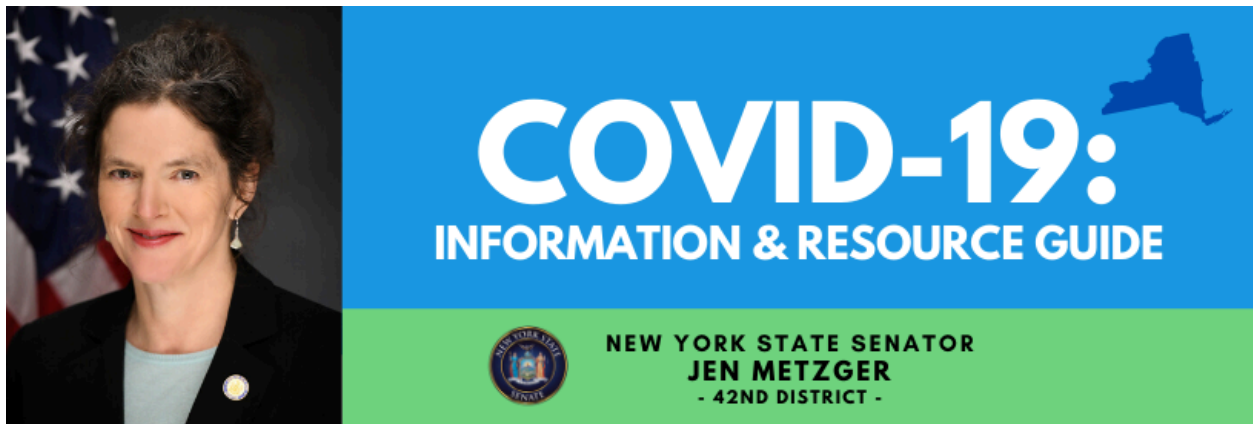


COVID-19: INFORMATION & RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SD-42 CONSTITUENTS

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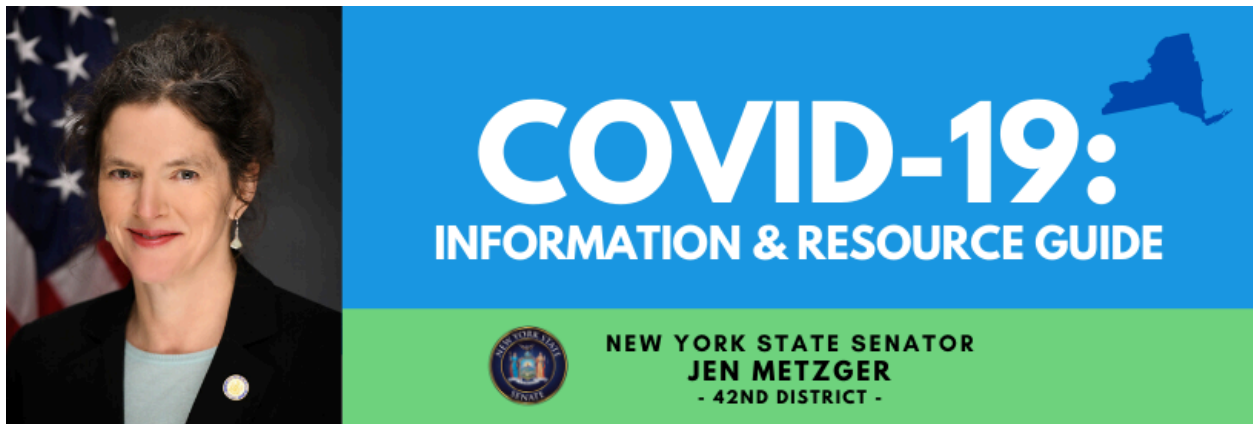


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PREPARING FOR COVID-19 AND STOPPING THE SPREAD

SYMPTOMS & PREVENTION

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new respiratory illness that is believed to be spread mainly from person to person. [Symptoms](#) can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell, although



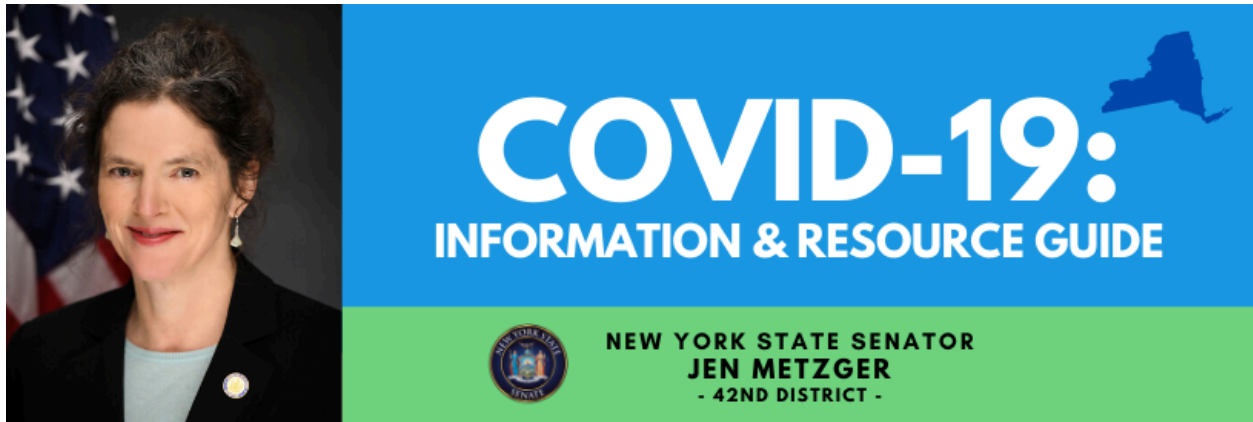
some people exhibit no symptoms at all. The World Health Organization (WHO) [reports](#) that symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually, and most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Those at highest risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 are older adults and people of any age with serious chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, lung disease or heart disease. **If you develop symptoms, and/or have been in close contact with a person known to have the virus, please call your doctor first before visiting a doctor's office or clinic.**

The State Department of Health has issued an [advisory](#) about a serious inflammatory disease, called "Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome Associated with COVID-19," to inform healthcare providers of the condition, as well as to provide guidance for testing and reporting. Health care providers, including hospitals, are required to report to the Department of Health all cases of pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome potentially associated with COVID-19 in those under 21 years of age.

New Yorkers should seek immediate care if a child has:

- Prolonged fever (more than five days)
- Difficulty feeding (infants) or is too sick to drink fluids
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Decreased amount of frequency in urine
- Lethargy, irritability or confusion

PREVENTION



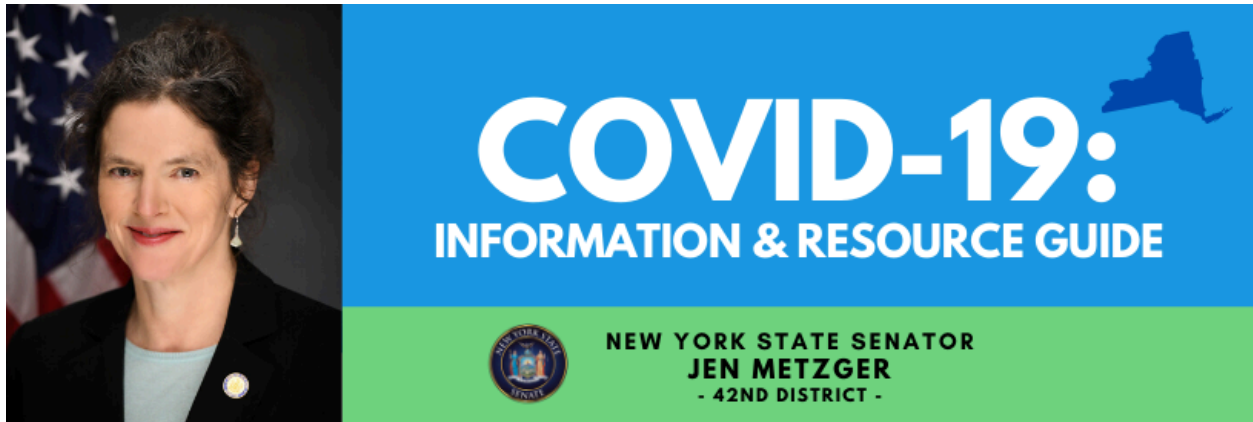
[According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the best way to prevent illness and potential transmission of this virus is to avoid being exposed to it, and avoid unknowingly transmitting it to others. Remaining six feet apart from others is recommended.

In addition to staying home as much as possible, here are some steps you can take to protect yourself, your loved ones, and our communities, as recommended by the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

REOPENING UPDATES & ROLLBACKS

Locally and statewide, we are seeing increases in active COVID-19 cases, infection rates and hospitalizations that mirror the alarming apex in April. To protect public health and contain the virus, the Governor has issued new restrictions on bars, restaurants, gyms and fitness centers, and residential gatherings, which go into effect Friday, November 13, at 10 pm.



NEW STATEWIDE UPDATES

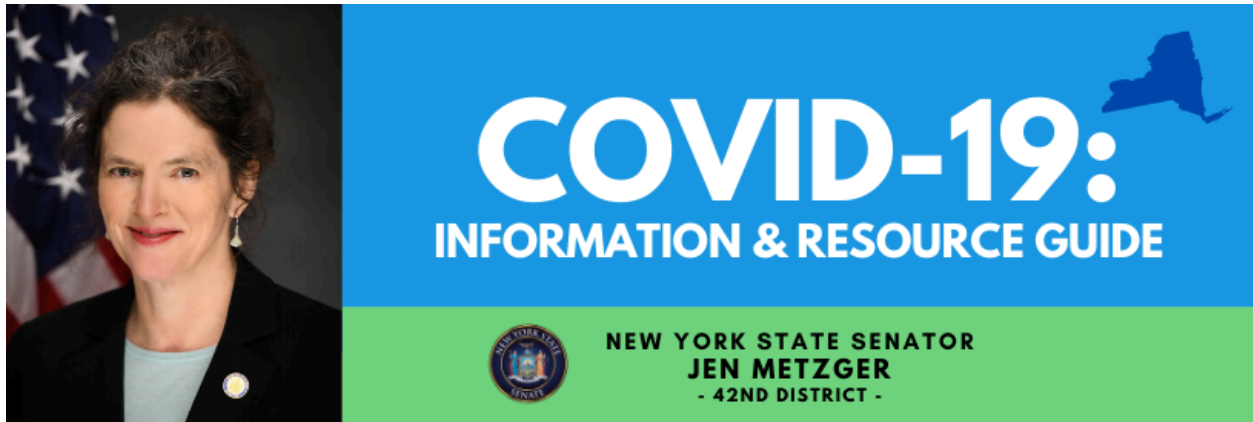
- [Bars, restaurants, gyms and fitness centers, and State Liquor Authority-licensed establishments will be required to close from 10 pm to 5 pm daily.](#) (The State Liquor Authority will soon issue guidance for licensees.) Food delivery and curbside pick-up may continue after 10 pm for restaurants.
- **Indoor and outdoor gatherings at private residences will be limited to 10 people.**
- **Rules for Traveling:** Anyone traveling to NY must provide a negative COVID-19 test within three days of arrival. Travelers must then take another COVID-19 test after a three-day quarantine. If the test comes back negative, the quarantine period can end. Those who opt out of taking a test must quarantine for 14 days. MORE: on.ny.gov/3koz4an

REGIONAL UPDATES

The state's [regional monitoring dashboard](#) was launched to analyze ten regions around the state by seven metrics. **Senate District 42 falls under the Mid-Hudson region and a portion of the Southern Tier.**

Governor Cuomo also unveiled a [daily testing results dashboard](#) to complement the [early warning dashboard](#) for New Yorkers and local governments to easily track the COVID-19 daily test results by region and county as all regions in the state are now reopening.

Currently, businesses in The Mid-Hudson Valley, Southern Tier, Central New York, Western New York, Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, the Capital Region, North Country, Long Island and New York City are now in **Phase Four** of the state's regional phased ["NY Forward Reopening" Plan](#). Again, the regional monitoring dashboard is available



[HERE](#), and more details on the phases and how businesses can prepare can all be found [HERE](#).

The Governor has issued an Executive Order allowing commercial buildings to conduct temperature checks for anyone entering the building as office workers begin to return to the workplace.

New Yorkers are encouraged to call the Coronavirus Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 if they believe their employer is not following PPE, hygiene or social distancing guidelines as more businesses begin to reopen.

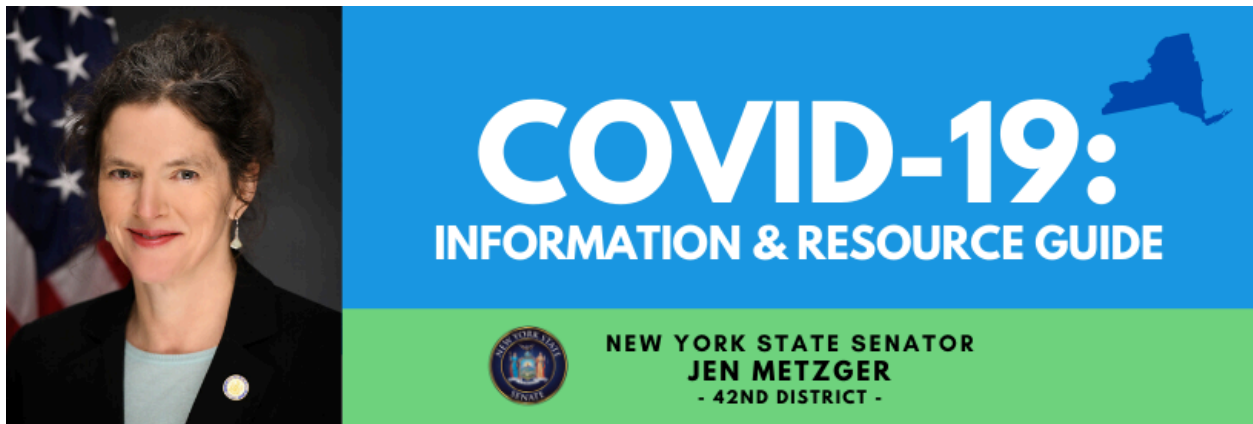
REMINDER: Most of the businesses we rely on, including grocery stores, healthcare providers, gas stations, pharmacies, banks, restaurants (take-out only), laundromats, public transportation, mail and shipping services, auto repair shops, and other industries critical to the supply chain are considered “Essential Businesses” and remain open regardless of reopening phases a region is in. View the full list and guidance [HERE](#).

FACE-COVERINGS AND MASKS

The Governor issued [an Executive Order](#) requiring any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face covering when in a public place and unable to maintain, or when not maintaining, social distance. **This went into effect on Friday, April 17, at 8 PM and more information from the NYS Department of Health is available [HERE](#).**

Examples of locations where face coverings will be required:

- at the grocery store, pharmacy, post office or gas station
- on public transportation
- while exercising in an area where you would potentially pass others



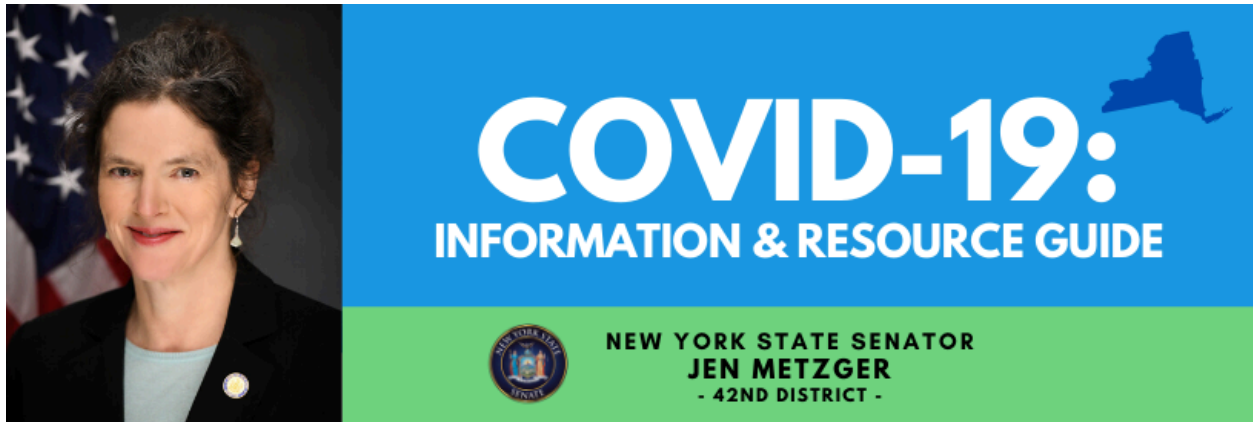
- while walking your pet in proximity to others, in the woods or on the street

The Governor also issued [an Executive Order stating: Business operators and building owners, and those authorized on their behalf shall have the discretion to ensure compliance with the directive in Executive Order 202.17 above \(requiring any individual over age two, and able to medically tolerate a face-covering, be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when in a public place\)](#). **This includes the discretion to deny admittance to individuals who fail to comply with the directive in Executive Order 202.17 or to require or compel their removal if they fail to adhere to such directive, and such owner or operator shall not be subject to a claim of violation of the covenant of quiet enjoyment, or frustration of purpose, solely due to their enforcement of such directive.** Nothing in this directive shall prohibit or limit the right of State and local enforcement authorities from imposing fines or other penalties for any violation of the directive in Executive Order 202.17.

If you have a mask, use it, but face-coverings can be made from any items around the house like bandanas, an old t-shirt sleeve, a neck warmer or scarf. The CDC has created guidance on [how to make your own mask here](#).

It is important to emphasize that maintaining social distancing, by staying at least six feet apart when in public and staying home whenever possible, is critical to slow the spread of the virus, even when wearing a face covering. [While cloth face coverings may not prevent the wearer from becoming infected, they might help slow spread from people who have the virus and are unaware.](#)

[For all essential businesses or entities, any employees who are present in the workplace shall be provided and shall wear face coverings when in direct contact with customers or members of the public.](#) Businesses must provide, at their expense, such face coverings for their employees. This provision may be enforced by local



governments or local law enforcement as if it were an order pursuant to section 12 or 12-b of the Public Health Law. This requirement is effective Wednesday, April 15 at 8 PM.

PREVENTION

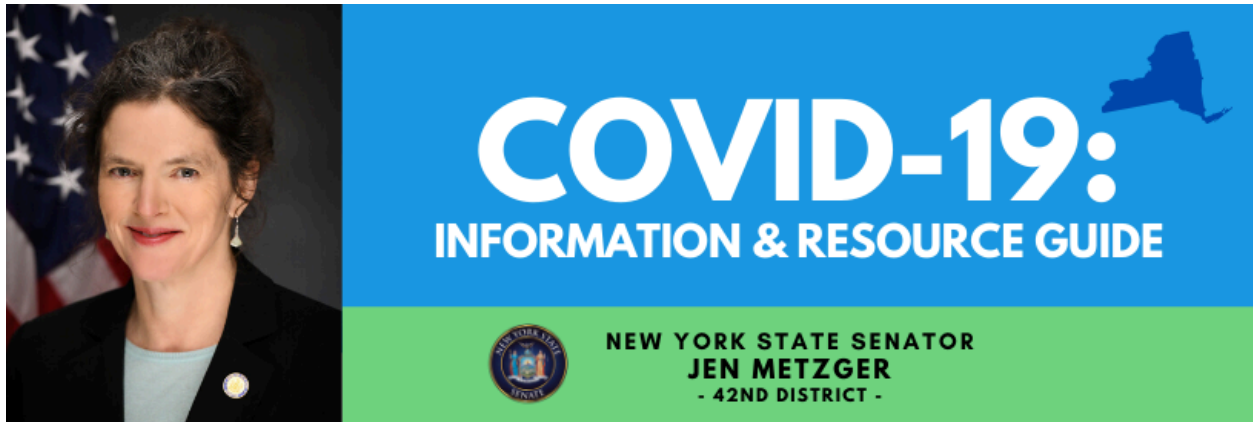
In addition to staying home as much as possible, here are some steps you can take to protect yourself, your loved ones, and our communities, as recommended by the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.



A CALL FOR PPE & ONGOING SERVICES

Businesses interested in selling crucial medical supplies or products to the State should email: COVID19supplies@esd.ny.gov or call (646) 522-8477. Any vendor wanting to sell already made products should fill out [this procurement form](#).



Businesses interested in receiving funding to produce medical supplies or products should email: COVID19supplies@esd.ny.gov or call (212) 803-3100, and NYS manufacturers wanting to retool to make PPE should go [HERE](#).

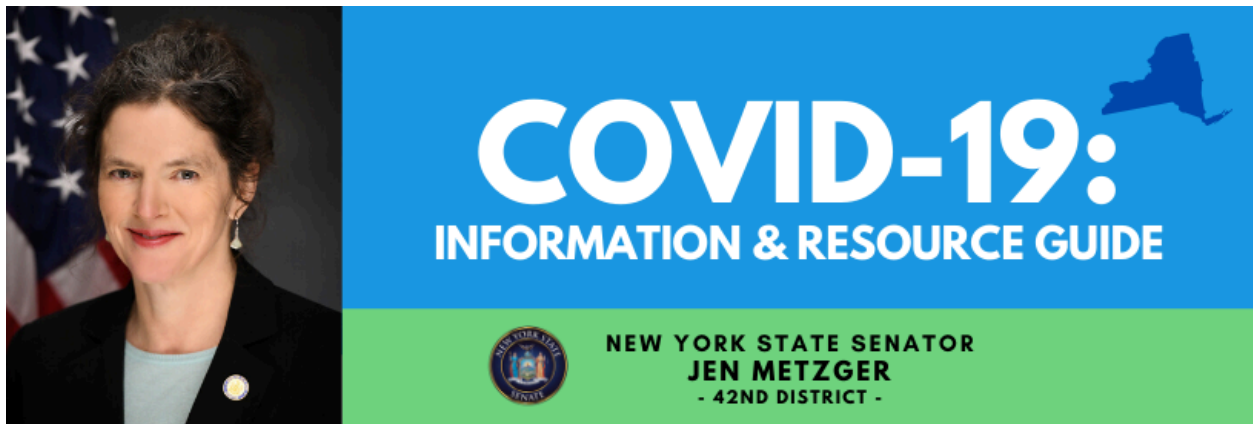
\$3 million in grants are available to businesses to manufacture emergency medical supplies and equipment. Companies interested in growing or starting a medical supply business should go to www.esd.ny.gov.

Governor Cuomo also announced the creation of the First Responders Fund to assist COVID-19 health care workers and first responders with expenses and costs, including child care. The State Department of Health is accepting donations for the fund, and Blackstone is making an anchor \$10 million contribution to the fund. Donations can be made electronically [HERE](#) or by check sent to below address. Donors should specify the donation is for "COVID-19 NYS Emergency Response."

Health Research, Inc.
150 Broadway
Suite 560
Menands, NY 12204

New York State is launching technology driven products with leading global tech companies to accelerate and amplify our response to COVID-19. **There is a particular need for professionals with experience in product management, software development / engineering, hardware deployment & end-user support, data science, operations management, design, or other similar areas. Technology companies, universities, nonprofits, research labs, and other organizations with technology expertise are invited to submit an expression of interest [HERE](#).**

Anyone willing to donate goods or services should visit [this page](#).



NEWS AND UPDATES

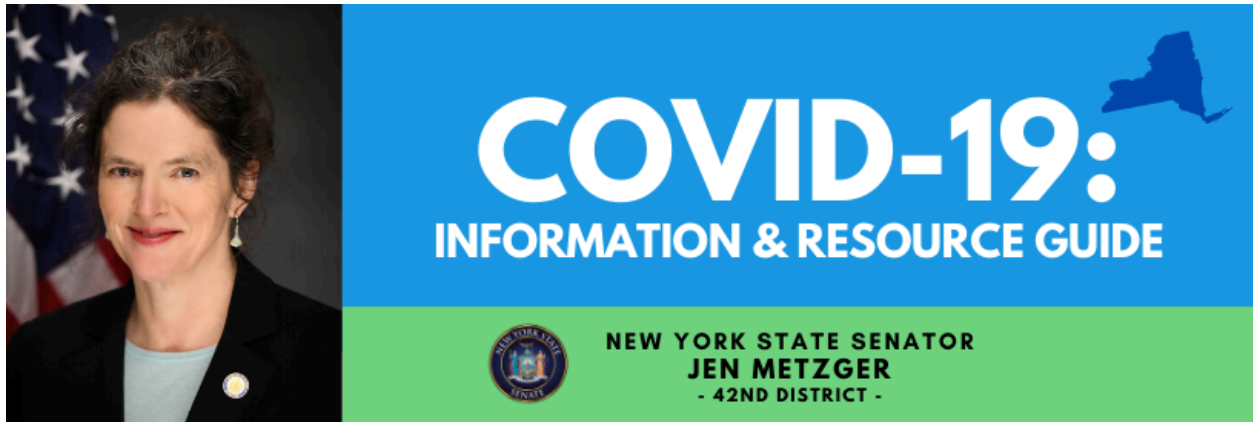
LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

The State Legislature passed a bill allocating \$40 million to fund response efforts to the coronavirus, which will allow the State to hire additional staff and obtain necessary equipment and resources. The Legislature also passed legislation ([S8091](#)) that will assure up to 14 days of paid leave for employees subject to a mandatory or precautionary quarantine or isolation for COVID-19. Learn more in the **EMPLOYMENT-RELATED ASSISTANCE** area below.

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a \$2.2 trillion stimulus bill was signed into law on March 27. The legislation includes a number of provisions to protect different industries and their workers. The provisions include \$850 billion in large and small business loans to help businesses retain their workforces, pay rent, and meet other obligations. Other workforce retention aid comes in the form of guaranteed paychecks for aviation industry and Amtrak workers.

Federal support will provide \$250 billion towards a one-time direct payment to individuals and families. **You can check the status of your stimulus check [HERE](#),** and learn more what you need to do to automatically receive a payment [HERE](#).

Additional funding will go towards increasing unemployment insurance by \$600 a week for a four-month period and allowing workers to access UI for an additional 13 weeks. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program would see an increase in funding that would bolster the allowances and waive requirements for SNAP households. Hospitals across the nation would receive funding for personal protective equipment, for testing



supplies, and to increase workforce training. Funds will also be made available to schools and transit, including approximately \$4 billion for the MTA.

This legislation also provides aid directly to states and localities (purportedly \$5 billion for New York State). The Governor has publicly objected to the amount and division of aid for states and localities, asserting that this dramatically shortchanges the most-impacted state and major city in the nation.

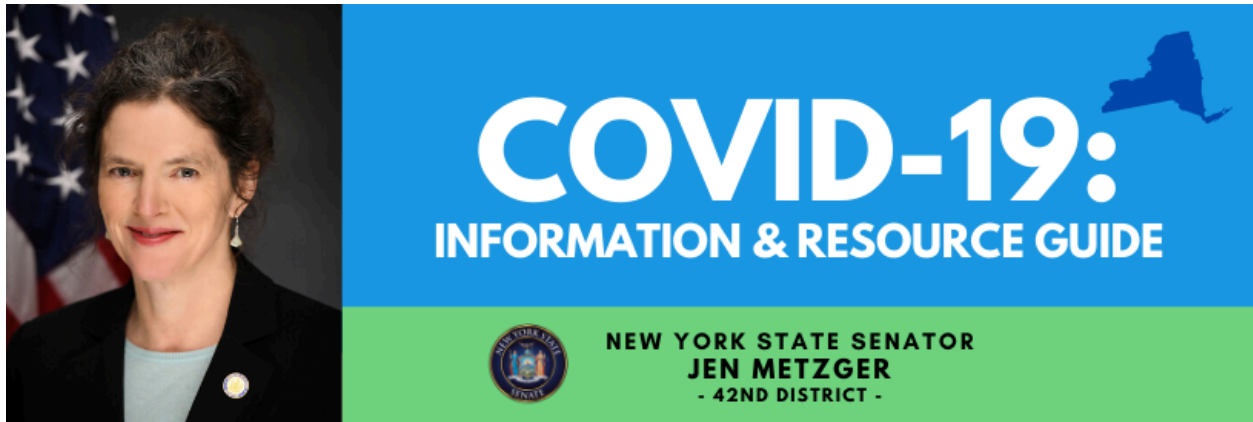
On March 18, the President signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, containing provisions ensuring free testing (including for the uninsured), emergency coronavirus-specific paid sick leave (with substantial exemptions, including a blanket exemption for employers of more than 500 workers), long-term leave provisions (limited to parents caring for children who are not in school), expanded unemployment insurance, funding for food security programs, and a temporary increase in the federal share of funding for Medicaid, to provide aid to the states.

More information on the federal bills and relief can be found in the resources below, and questions should be directed to your federal representatives:

- [Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney](#) (Orange County), Phone: (845) 561-1259
- [Congressman Antonio Delgado](#) (Ulster, Sullivan, and Delaware Counties), Phone: (845) 443-2930 (READ: [newsletter with relief information](#))
- [Senator Chuck Schumer](#), Phone: (914) 734-1532
- [Senator Kirsten Gillibrand](#), Phone: (845) 875-4585

METZGER DISTRICT OFFICE UPDATE

My Middletown and Liberty offices are once again offering in-person meetings by appointment. My staff and I will also continue to be available to constituents remotely by



phone, email, and through virtual appointments as we have been since the start of the pandemic. **We can be reached during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, by calling our Middletown office at (845) 344-3311 or our Liberty office at (845) 292-0215.** As always, you can email me at metzger@nysenate.gov.

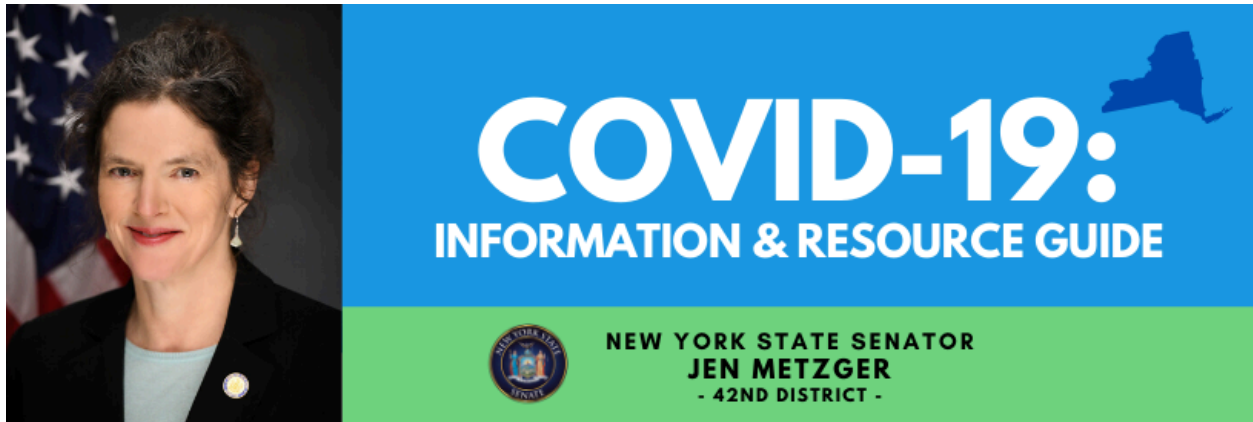
TESTING CAPACITY & DRIVE-THRU FACILITIES

Testing is available to all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a healthcare provider or by calling the NYS COVID-19 hotline at (888) 364-3065. To find your nearest COVID-19 testing sites, New Yorkers can visit the state's new Test Site Finder [HERE](#) and enter their address to view a list and a map view of the nearest testing sites.

The state has also partnered with Google Maps to display testing site results. New Yorkers can search "COVID testing near me" on Google Maps to easily find the nearest testing sites. **Visiting a testing facility, drive-thru or otherwise, is prohibited if you do not have a formal authorization to receive a test. Please read below to see if a physician would grant you authorization.**

Governor Cuomo also announced the launch of a [statewide COVID-19 tracker](#), which will provide New York State's comprehensive coronavirus testing data to the public. The website, which will be updated daily with the latest data, presents visualizations of statewide and county-level testing and results. The public can also access the testing data through Open NY at data.ny.gov, New York State's open data portal, which offers machine readable datasets in downloadable standard formats that can be sorted, searched, analyzed and applied to new uses.

WHEN SHOULD YOU GET TESTED?



After consulting with counties and providers, The Department of Health issued interim guidance authorizing testing by providers when:

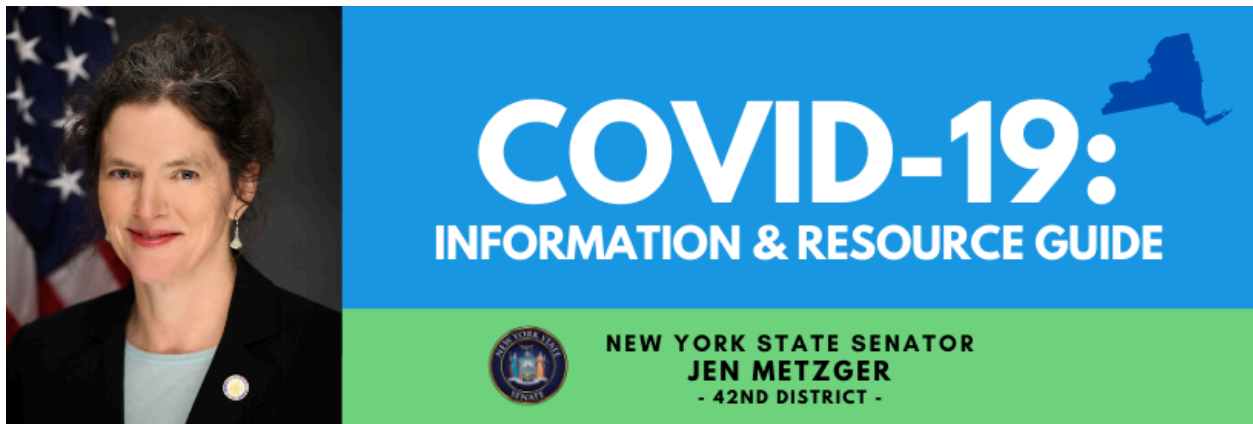
- An individual has come within proximate contact (same classroom, office, or gatherings) of another person known to be positive;
- An individual has traveled to a country that the CDC has issued a Level 2 or Level 3 Travel Health Notice, and shows symptoms of illness;
- An individual is quarantined (mandatory or precautionary) and has shown symptoms of COVID-19 illness; or
- An individual is symptomatic and has not tested positive for any other infection; or
- Other cases where the facts and circumstances warrant, as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state and local department of health officials.

To be screened for COVID-19 testing, call your doctor or the state Department of Health COVID-19 hotline, which operates 24/7, at (888) 354-3065.

TESTING FACILITIES

SULLIVAN COUNTY: Testing is limited, and [Sullivan County's Department of Public Health Services](#) requests that you do not go to the emergency room or doctor's office if you're sick with fever, cough, and have difficulty breathing. Instead, immediately call your healthcare professional or urgent care center and let them know if you have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, or if you live in or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[As of May 4, a COVID-19 testing site in South Fallsburg is operational.](#) **Pre-registration is required by completing a survey [HERE](#).** After completion, Public Health will contact respondents with an appointment time between 8:30 AM and 4 PM by phone.



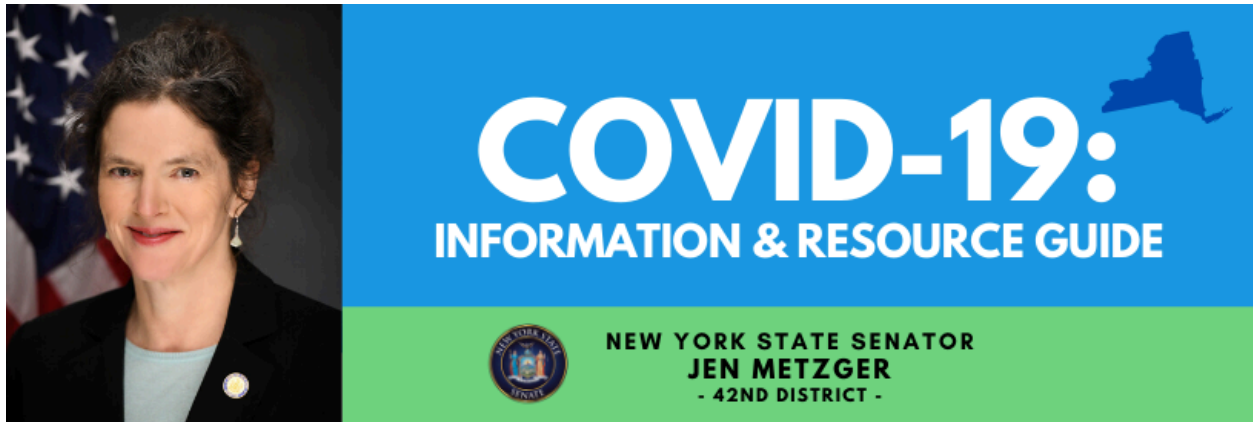
Individuals must come at their given time to avoid having to stand in line and to ensure that social distancing at the testing site is adequate. They will need to bring photo ID to the site (the parking lot next to Brian Ingber Park and Landau's supermarket, at the corner of Griff Court and Railroad Plaza Extension in South Fallsburg) and be wearing a face mask. **Bilingual advocates are available** so that individuals can be linked to a healthcare provider or health insurance once they are tested. **No walk-ins will be accepted**, but if there is enough of a demand, another testing clinic will be scheduled.

ORANGE COUNTY: A testing facility is now located at [Anthony Wayne Recreation Area](#), on the border of Orange and Rockland counties, and will be open daily from 7 AM to 7 PM. The site is located off Exit 17 on the Palisades Parkway. **Please make sure you have been authorized to receive a test and made an appointment before visiting.**

[St. Anthony Community Hospital](#) in Warwick, a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth), is providing appointment-only drive-through coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for current and former patients whose physicians are affiliated with Bon Secours Medical Group, Good Samaritan Hospital, St. Anthony Community Hospital and Bon Secours Community Hospital with a verified COVID-19 testing appointment.

A referral from one of these physicians is mandatory and specimen collection will be conducted only by appointment. Patients who are experiencing symptoms that may indicate illness need to contact their physician's office to be screened. Current and former patients who meet the current screening criteria will then be given an appointment for drive-through testing.

[Testing is also available to Middletown Medical Center.](#) **Please make sure you have been authorized to receive a test and made an appointment before visiting.**



ULSTER COUNTY: Ulster County's first drive-through mobile COVID-19 testing site at Tech City in the town of Ulster has been relocated to Vassar Diagnostic Lab at the Hudson Valley Mall in Kingston. [Ulster County's second COVID-19 testing site located at Ellenville Regional Hospital](#) has now been brought indoors. The Ellenville location will be open five days a week and will continue to increase testing capacity in Ulster County. [A third location has also opened at the WMCHealth Advanced Physician Services medical practice located at 27 Grand Street in Kingston.](#)

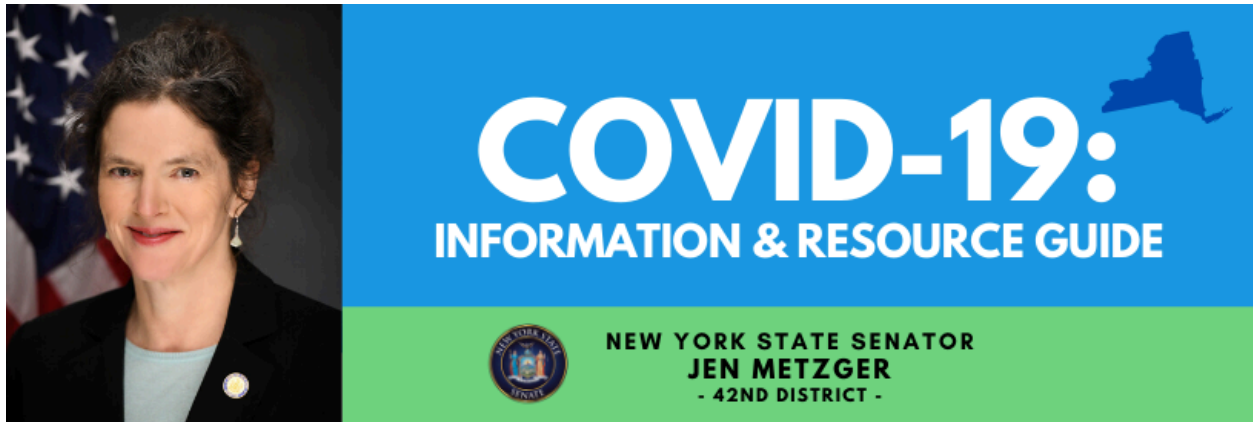
Individuals seeking a COVID-19 test at the testing sites must meet all of the following criteria:

- You called your primary care physician's office and had a phone consultation
- Based on your symptoms and other information you provided, your physician determined that you meet criteria for COVID-19 testing, and ordered a test for you
- You have a scheduled appointment at the collection site. Scheduling information will be provided by your physician.

Any individual who does not have a primary care physician, should contact the Ulster County COVID-19 Hotline at 845-443-8888. To contact Ellenville Hospital regarding a COVID-19 test, call 845-647-6400 ex. 269.

DELAWARE COUNTY: Delaware County Public Health Services have testing information available for regional hospitals, and [the most current updates are on their Facebook page](#). You can also visit their COVID-19 webpage [HERE](#).

PLASMA AND ANTIBODY TESTING



The Governor is also asking all New Yorkers who have recovered from COVID-19 to contact the state and donate blood. Individuals who have recovered from the virus may have convalescent plasma in their blood, which has antibodies against the virus and could help with the development of a treatment for the virus. More information about how to donate is available [HERE](#).

Governor Cuomo also announced [the state will begin conducting antibody tests, prioritizing frontline health care workers, first responders and other essential workers, beginning the week of April 13](#). Using a new finger prick method the state will test up to 2,000 New Yorkers per day. The state is also asking the FDA for expedited approval of a finger prick antibody test that could test up to 100,000 New Yorkers a day.

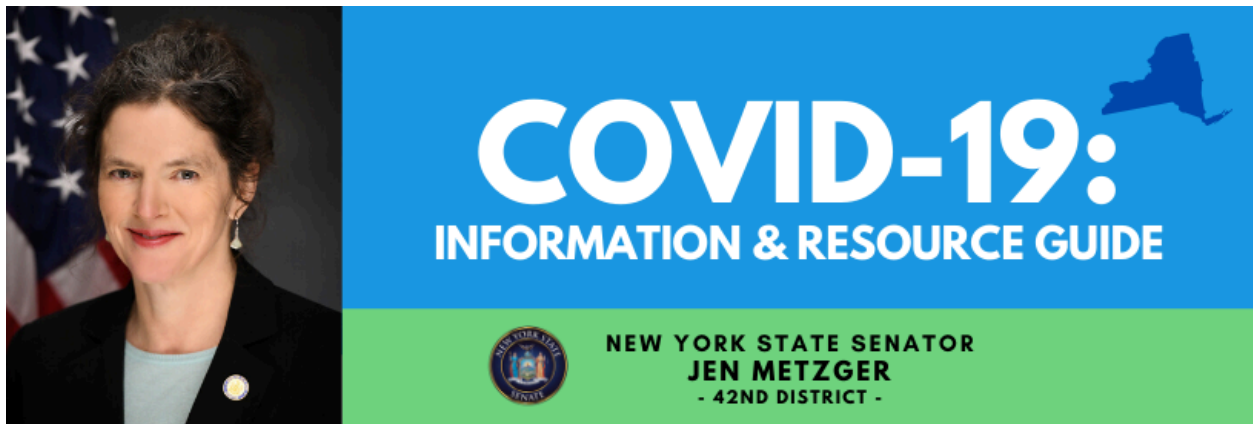
TELE-HEALTH DURING COVID-19

If your healthcare provider offers telehealth services, scheduling an online appointment instead of an in-person visit can prevent the accidental transmission of COVID-19. [The State Department of Financial Services will now require insurance companies to waive co-pays for telehealth visits](#).

PUBLIC SCHOOL / UNIVERSITY CLOSURES — MEALS BEING PROVIDED

Governor Cuomo announced that all schools in New York can reopen for in-person classes in the fall, provided that schools have developed plans consistent with [Department of Health guidance](#) and [Education Department guidance](#). If infection rates spike, planned reopenings will be revised.

Every school district is required to hold at least three public forums by August 24, exclusively for parents, which will cover reopening plans and address questions, as well



as one forum for teachers by August 21. Schools must also post their remote learning plan online as well as their plan for testing and tracing students and teachers. This information should currently appear on your district's website. Plans to reopen schools were due on July 31.

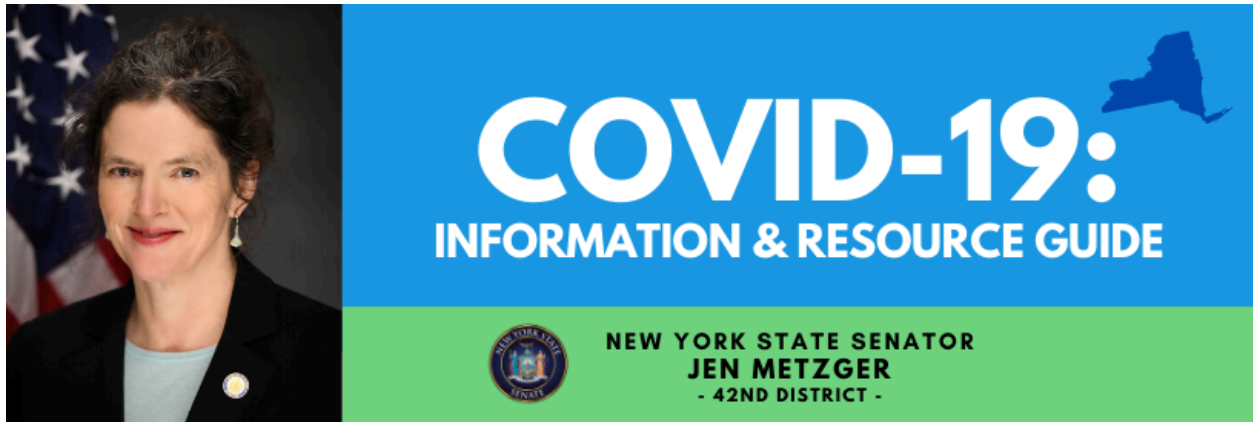
When in session but closed, schools will likely be required to continue meal programs and child care services for essential workers. **A list of food distribution plans for each SD-42 district and school are available [HERE](#).**

The Governor announced that 2020 summer school will be conducted through distance learning this year to help reduce the risk of spread. Meal programs and child care services for essential employees will continue. School districts must also develop a plan for students with disabilities who participate in extended summer school year programs over the summer to ensure they receive instruction. The state will make a determination in the fall semester and issue guidelines in June so schools and colleges can start to plan for a number of scenarios. K-12 schools and colleges will submit plans for approval to the state in July.

The New York State Education Department has announced that Regents Exams scheduled for June 2020 have been canceled, and [has issued a complete guidance](#) detailing new graduation requirements to reflect the cancellation of those exams.

Students and residents of Sullivan County who do not have internet access at home can bring their laptops, cell phones, and tablets to the SUNY Sullivan campus for free access via a WIFI hotspot in Parking Lot 2. Access more information [HERE](#).

On April 20, the Governor announced that SUNY is distributing more than 8,800 laptops and Chromebooks to students in need who are currently completing their spring



semester coursework online amid the COVID-19 health crisis. As SUNY and campuses began planning the shift to distance learning in March, SUNY System Administration surveyed all 64 campuses and colleges to gauge student technology needs, and is providing the laptops and Chromebooks based on those findings. SUNY will continue to monitor and fulfill technology needs while remote learning continues.

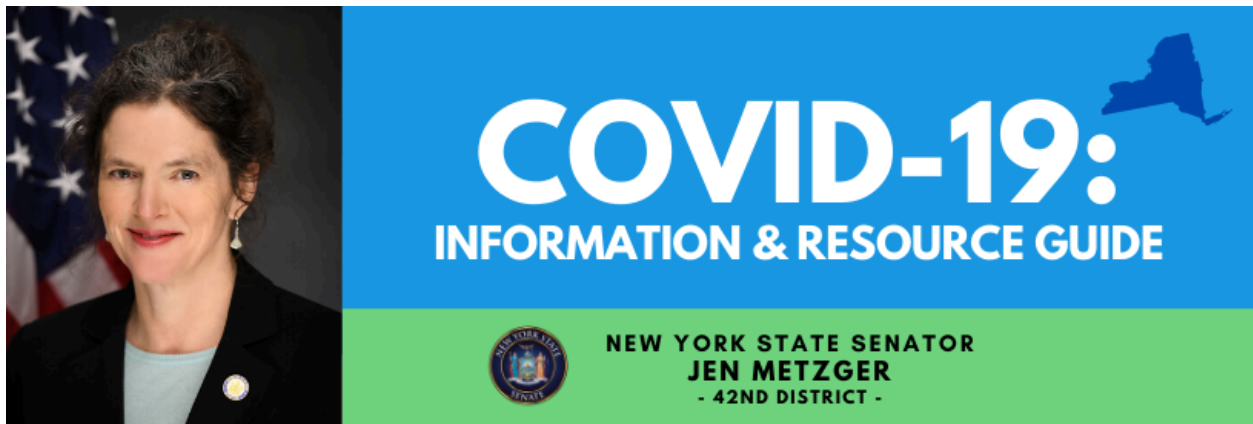
The Governor issued an Executive Order to [eliminate the aid penalty for schools directed to close by state or local officials](#) or those closed under a state or local declaration of emergency that do not meet 180-day requirements if they are unable to make up school days.

FOOD SAFETY & OPTIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY

[The U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) has put together a frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) page for food](#), and is reporting that there is currently no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19. **It is more important than ever to follow the 4 key steps of food safety—clean, separate, cook, and chill—and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, for 20 seconds, before preparing or eating food.** For more information on food safety, you can also visit Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences COVID-19 page [HERE](#).

FOOD SUPPORT

With job disruptions and school closures, many of our neighbors will turn to food banks for much-needed support. **My office has created an interactive map to help residents locate food pantries in their area, which can be accessed at bit.ly/SD-42-Food-Pantries.** Please share this widely, and if you can spare a donation to your local pantry, it can make a world of difference.



My office has also created a list of [Senior Hours at Groceries & Supermarkets](#) in the 42nd Senate District. Please use it to inform the elders in your life.

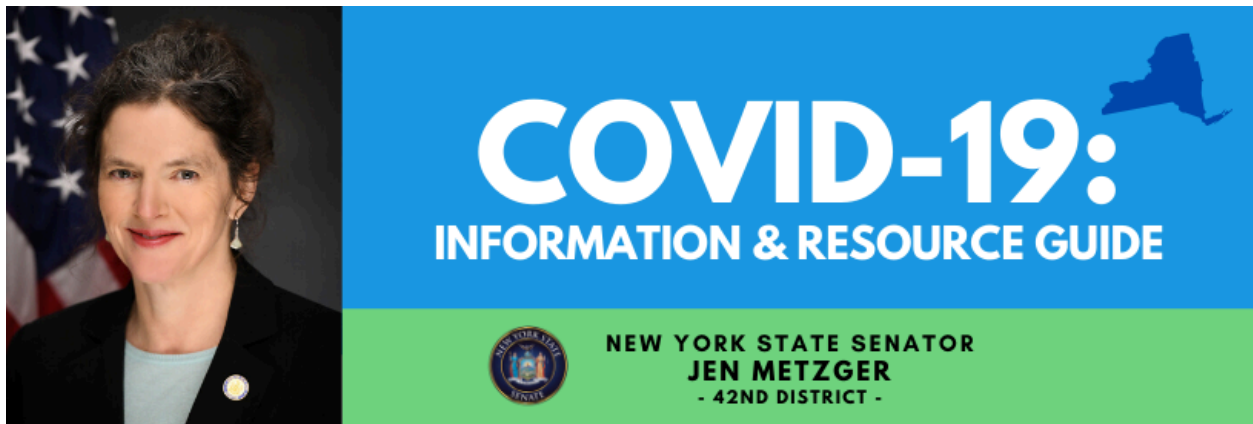
In Sullivan County, several organizations are providing meal assistance. Generally speaking, those in need of help getting food can contact the **Emergency Community Assistance Center at (845) 807-0925** who can direct you to a number of food banks and distribution throughout the county.

[Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County](#) is also working with the Monticello School District to distribute surplus meals at the end of the school run, and has produce and other food items. This is done in collaboration with [Sullivan Alliance Leading Together \(SALT\)](#). **If you or someone you know needs help you can contact the Executive Director Colleen Monaghan at cm638@cornell.edu.**

[Sullivan County Office of the Aging](#) is still delivering ready to heat meals to existing homebound meal recipients during this time. **For those who need shopping, food, pharmacy pick ups, or other emergency issues, please call the Emergency Community Assistance Center at (845) 807-0925.** Additionally, [Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless](#) is serving lunch from 12 PM to 1 PM daily, and has some food to take away.

Orange County's hotline for seniors in need of food is (845) 615-3710. Don't hesitate to call if you need assistance.

Ulster County residents in need can apply online to receive meals and other support from participating local restaurants and community groups through [Project Resilience](#). The web portal is available [HERE](#). Also in Ulster County, Family of Woodstock (which includes Family of New Paltz and Family of Ellenville) has an emergency food supply for those in need. Information for all three locations is available [HERE](#).



[United Way of Delaware and Otsego Counties](#) also has an emergency food supply for those who are in need. If you need assistance or have any questions please contact Melissa Ryberg at mryberg@unitedwaydo.org or Bryan Birdsall at bryan@neagle.bev.

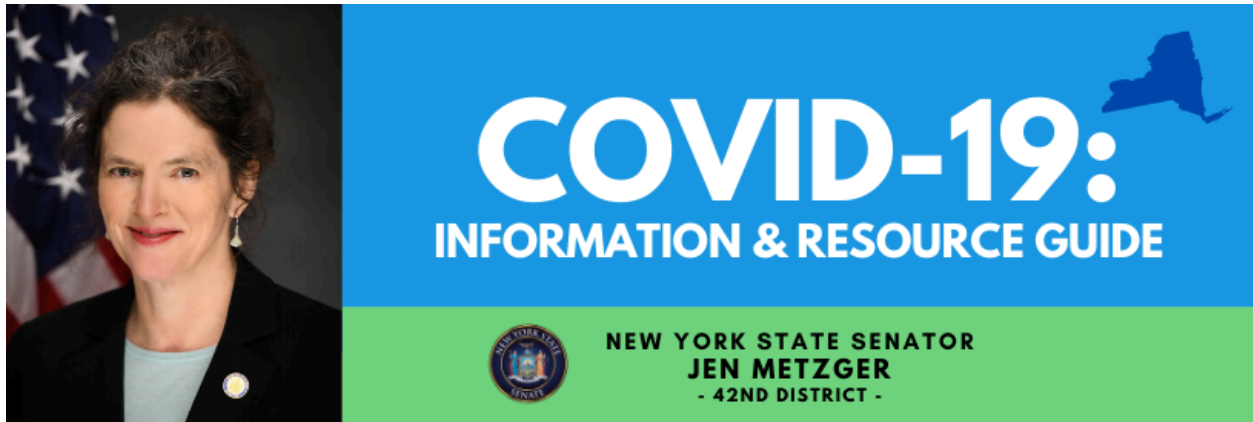
If you or people you know are having difficulty buying food, you may be eligible for programs that can help. Hunger Solutions New York is working to provide updates that can help schools, community organizations, and families mitigate the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on the food security of low-income people. Learn more [HERE](#).

Governor Cuomo also announced [an additional \\$200 million in emergency food assistance will be available for more than 700,000 low-income households enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#). Those enrolled in SNAP and not yet receiving the maximum benefit will receive an additional payment to bring them up to this amount in March and April. The supplemental benefits will be issued in April and delivered directly to recipients' existing Electronic Benefit Transfer accounts. [Households eligible for the supplement that live in counties outside of New York City will begin receiving the supplemental emergency benefit starting on April 13, and all eligible households will have received it by April 24. In New York City, the emergency benefits will be issued starting on April 14, and the issuance completed on April 25.](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYMENT-RELATED ASSISTANCE & JOBS

UNEMPLOYMENT

For any part-time or full-time employee that has been laid off for COVID-19 related reasons, [the state has waived the 7-day waiting period](#) to qualify for unemployment.



The New York State Department of Labor has also launched a new application for New Yorkers to apply for traditional Unemployment Insurance or the new COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. New Yorkers seeking to file an unemployment insurance claim should visit labor.ny.gov or call the Telephone Claim Center at (888) 209-8124.

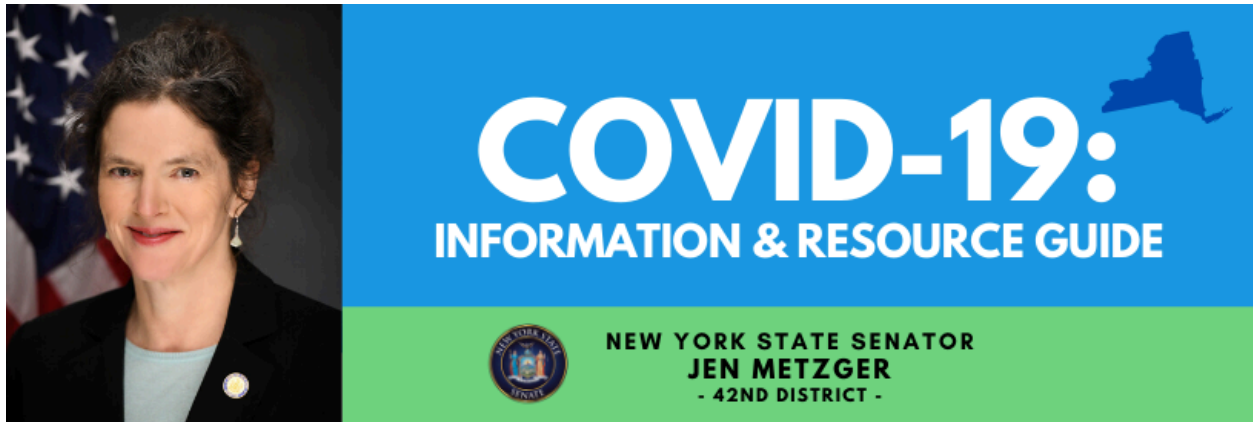
A step-by-step guide for filing for unemployment insurance can be found [HERE](#), and a fact sheet on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance is available [HERE](#).

On April 8, Governor Cuomo directed the State Department of Labor to immediately make \$600 in additional weekly unemployment benefits available to all New Yorkers. The additional benefits were included in the Federal CARES Act, but, unlike other states, New York began delivering the extra unemployment insurance to unemployed individuals before Federal funds are disbursed to the states. New York is also extending the period covered by unemployment benefits for another 13 weeks, for a total of 39 weeks.

The Governor launched a new [PSA](#) that provides information on how to apply for unemployment benefits and reassures New Yorkers if their unemployment filing is delayed, they will still receive full unemployment benefits. The PSA is also available with Spanish subtitles [HERE](#).

EMPLOYMENT-RELATED ASSISTANCE

The State Legislature passed legislation ([S8091](#)), signed by the Governor and effective immediately, that will assure up to 14 days of paid leave for employees subject to a mandatory or precautionary quarantine or isolation for COVID-19.



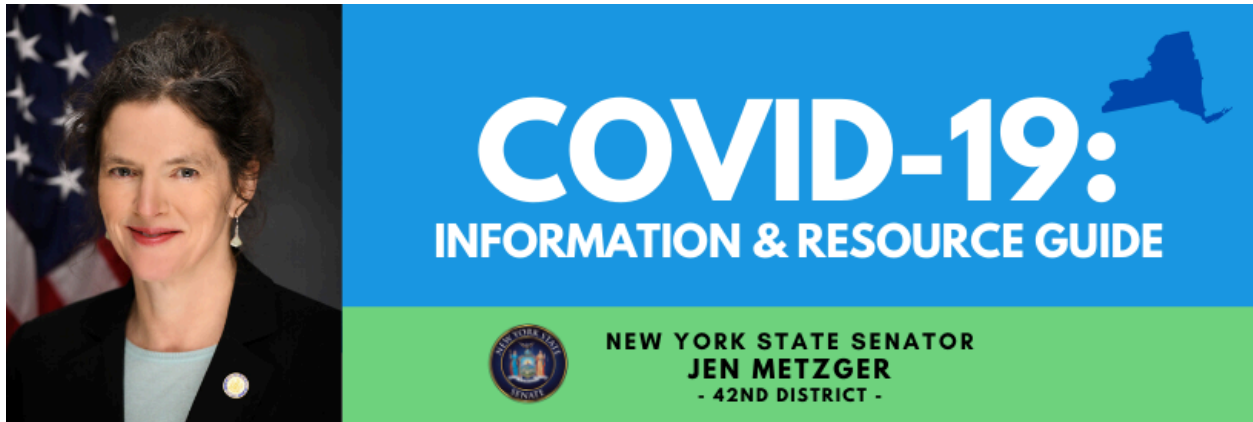
- For small businesses with ten or fewer employees, the costs of paid leave would be fully covered by the state's paid family leave and temporary disability insurance programs.
- Businesses with between 11 and 99 employees would be responsible for five days of paid leave, with the balance covered by the two state programs.
- Employers with 100 or more employees, along with government institutions, would be responsible for the cost of paid leave for the duration of the two-week required quarantine or isolation period.

New Yorkers who suspect their employer is in violation of either existing labor laws or recently issued Executive Orders can call (212) 416-8700, email Labor.Bureau@ag.ny.gov, or file a claim with the Department of Labor [HERE](#).

The Freelancers Union has created a relief fund to help freelancers impacted by COVID-19. More info can be accessed [HERE](#).

On March 18, Governor Cuomo signed emergency legislation guaranteeing [job protection and pay](#) for New Yorkers who have been quarantined as a result of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The new law enacts emergency paid sick leave to guarantee workers job protection and provide financial compensation while they are on a mandatory or precautionary quarantine due to the Coronavirus. **To learn more about paid family leave, disability benefits, and family care, go [HERE](#).**

Governor Cuomo also announced [the state will guarantee two full weeks of paid leave for all state workers who are subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine as a result of the novel coronavirus](#). Employees will not have to charge accruals during the time taken off work for quarantine. This will apply to all state employees, regardless of civil service classification, bargaining unit, and regardless of part time or accrual status.



Information on the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act as it relates to COVID-19 related closures is available [HERE](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Employment search engine Indeed.com has a list of companies hiring right now that you can access [HERE](#). The following businesses, mostly based in Orange County, are looking for job applicants:

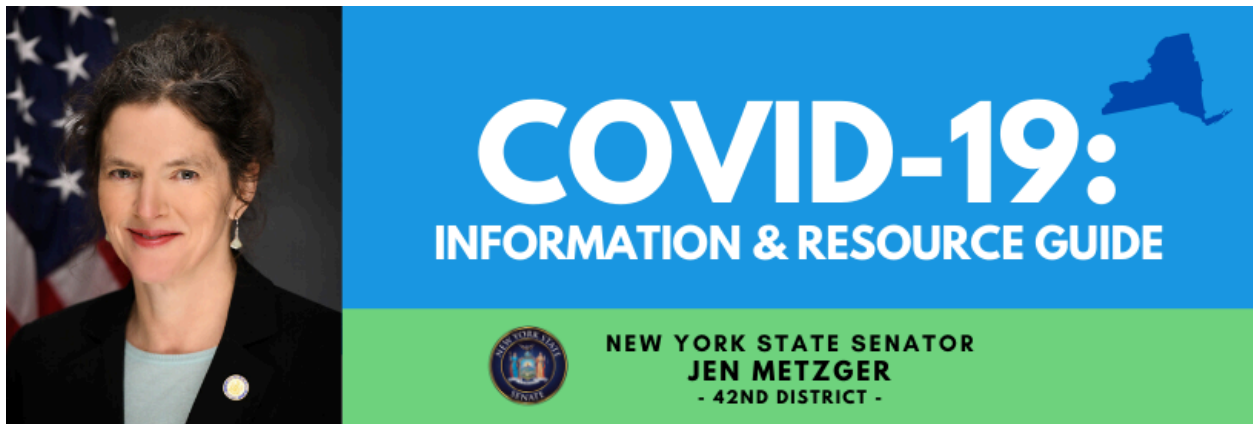
- [ACCESS: Supports for Living](#)
- [Balchem](#)
- [C&S](#)
- [Hannaford](#)
- [Premier Healthcare](#)
- [Price Chopper](#)
- [ShopRite](#)
- [Stop and Shop](#)
- [Wal-Mart](#)

If you have information about additional job openings in SD-42, please contact me at metzger@nysenate.gov. Thank you.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

IS YOUR BUSINESS ESSENTIAL?

[Empire State Development \(ESD\) has set up a guidance page](#) and a [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) page](#) to help businesses determine whether they are considered an



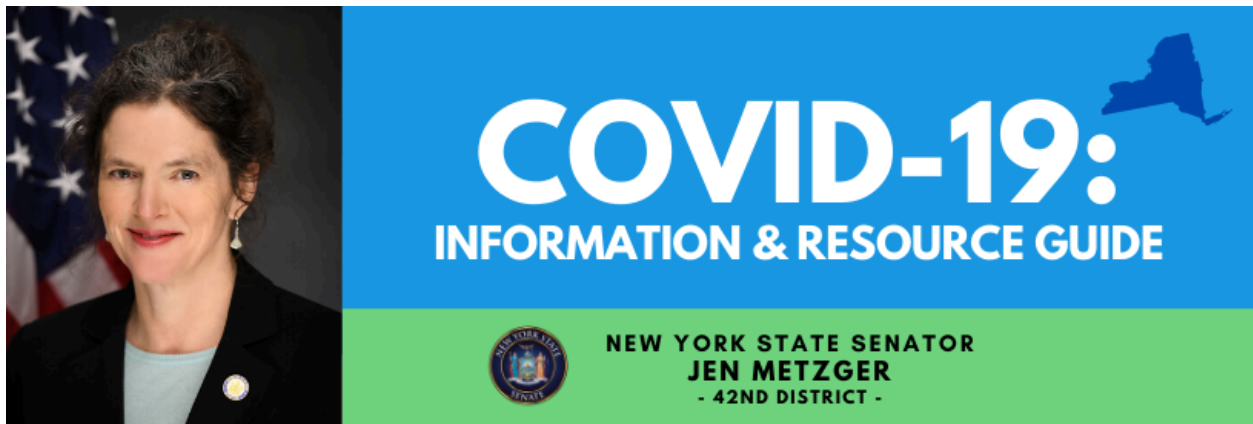
“Essential Business” and if their business is subject to the 100% workforce reduction, mandated under the Governor’s recent [New York State on PAUSE executive order](#).
View the full list [HERE](#).

If your business function is listed as essential, then there is nothing else you need to do. You do not need to contact ESD for affirmative documentation or email confirmation and, due to volume, ESD will be unable to formally confirm to essential businesses that they are, in fact, essential. Given that you are already essential, you will not receive any further communication from ESD.

With respect to business or entities that operate or provide both essential and non-essential services, supplies or support, only those lines and/or business operations that are necessary to support the essential services, supplies, or support are exempt from the restriction.

If your business, trade or industry is not on the list, then you are not an essential business. If, however, you believe it is in the best interest of the state to have your workforce continue in order to properly respond to the COVID-19 emergency, ESD has also created [this form for businesses to fill out if they would like to request essential status](#). Questions regarding the Executive Order can be emailed to COVID19BusinessWaiver@ESD.ny.gov.

[For all essential businesses or entities, any employees who are present in the workplace shall be provided and shall wear face coverings when in direct contact with customers or members of the public.](#) Businesses must provide, at their expense, such face coverings for their employees. This provision may be enforced by local governments or local law enforcement as if it were an order pursuant to section 12 or 12-b of the Public Health Law. This requirement is effective Wednesday, April 15 at 8 PM.



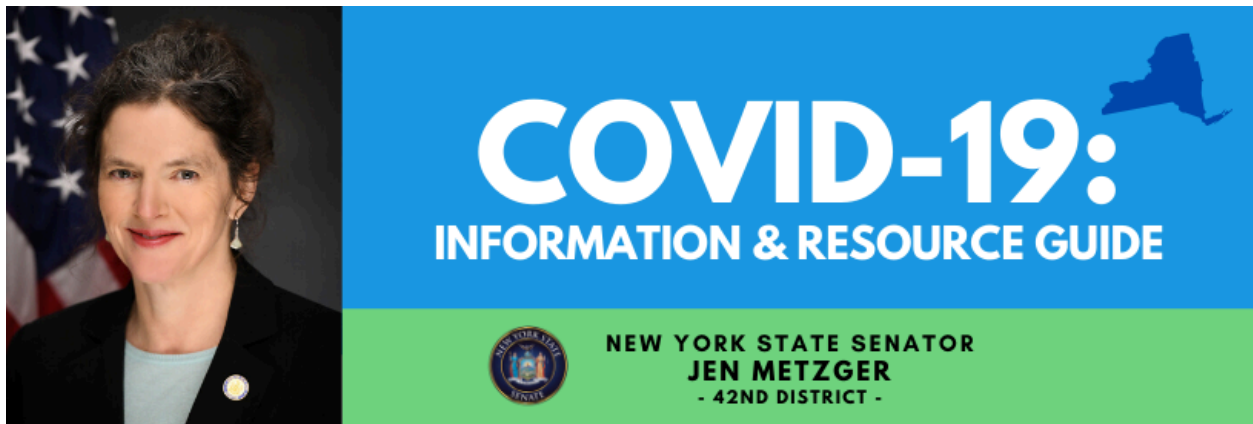
GENERAL ASSISTANCE

New York State's Department of Labor is urging employers to consider a [Shared Work Program](#), an alternative to laying off workers during business downturns by allowing them to work a reduced work schedule and collect partial Unemployment Insurance benefits for up to 26 weeks. Instead of cutting staff, you can reduce the number of hours of all employees or just a certain group. To learn more, visit [their webpage](#) or go [HERE](#).

The Federal CARES Act created two key relief programs for businesses struggling financially. **As of April 17, PPP and EIDL (explained below) stopped accepting new applications as the initial stimulus funding was exhausted, however, a new stimulus package passed April 24 to replenish the program. If you have already applied, please check with your bank to determine if you will be able to receive funding. Small businesses should be engaging with their lenders every day about reapplying for PPP now so that they are first in line now that it is again available.**

1. The [SBA Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) enables small businesses, and other eligible entities, to obtain up to \$10 million in forgivable loans, which can be used to pay workers, interest on mortgage obligations, rent, insurance, paid sick or medical leave, utilities, and payroll related costs incurred from Feb. 15, 2020 – June 30, 2020, provided that employers keep employees on the payroll or quickly rehire employees that have been laid off, among other eligibility requirements. SBA still needs to confirm certain administrative details, but **PPP loans will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, and businesses can [get started on their application now](#).**

Businesses can apply for PPP loans through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Other regulated lenders



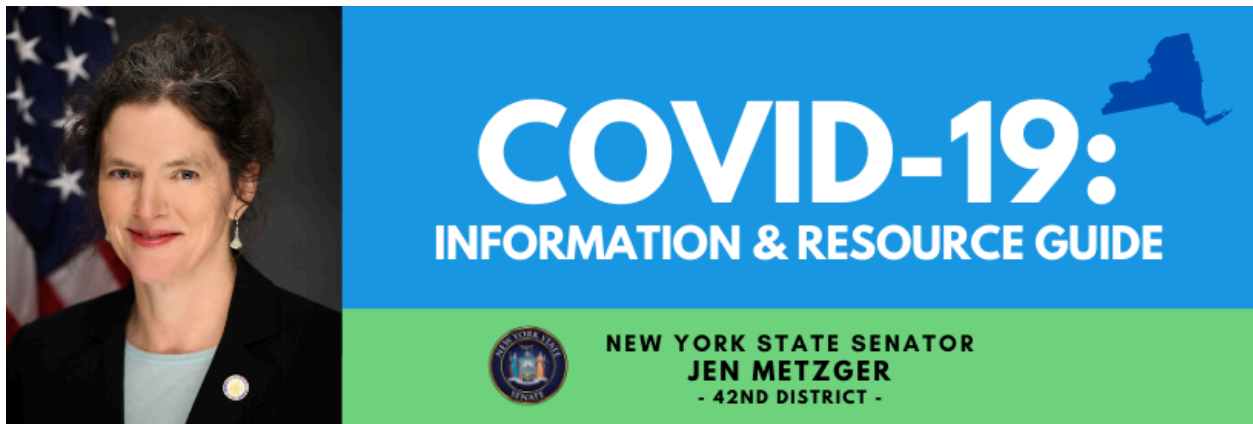
will be available to make these loans once they are approved and enrolled in the program. You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating in the program. [Please review this list](#) detailing SBA's approved lenders.

The best point of contact for questions on the PPP is the Lender Relations Specialist in your local SBA Field Office. Local SBA Field Offices may be found [HERE](#).

1. The [SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program \(EIDL\)](#) provides small businesses and nonprofits with low-interest loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to help overcome temporary loss of revenue caused by COVID-19. The EIDL loan also includes a \$10,000 grant that businesses can apply for, which they do not need to pay back. To learn more about the EIDL Program, click [HERE](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The Small Business Administration (SBA) reports that scammers targeting small business owners are on the rise, specifically with respect to the SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). I encourage you to review [SBA's guidance on scams and fraud schemes](#). **You can also report any suspected fraud to the Office of the Inspector General Hotline by calling 800-767-0385 or by [submitting a complaint online](#).**

On April 27, New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli [announced](#) that the New York State Common Retirement Fund (the Fund) is putting \$50 million toward the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Employers can secure loans that will be forgiven by the federal government if employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.



The Fund's commitment will supplement PPP loans being administered by Pursuit (formerly New York Business Development Corporation). Returns to the Fund will be consistent with U.S. Treasury securities. More information is available [HERE](#).

Additionally, my office has assembled a number of helpful documents to guide small businesses through resources available in the federal stimulus bill, and they can be accessed [HERE](#). [The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has issued this guide to help small businesses and self-employed individuals prepare to file for a loan.](#) **More information generally on the federal stimulus bill can be found in the “Federal Legislation” section below.**

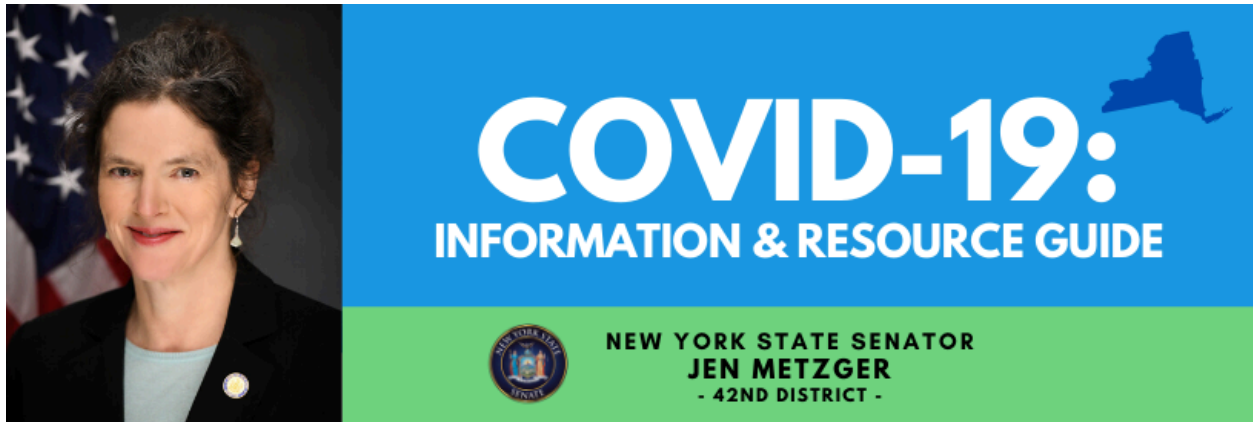
Governor Cuomo also announced the state is extending sales tax interest and penalty relief through June 22, 2020. The state previously provided relief through May 19th for returns due March 20th. This extension could provide interest and penalty relief for up to 89,000 vendors who had returns due in March. These small businesses file their taxes quarterly and annually, and have taxable receipts of less than \$300,000 in the previous quarter.

TRANSPORTATION

[Ulster County Area Transit \(UCAT\)](#) is running on its regular schedule with the exception of the [R Route](#) (Kingston / Rosendale / New Paltz), and the [W Route](#) (New Paltz / Wallkill / Plattekill), which are not running at this time.

[The Move Sullivan Bus Loop](#) is running on its regular schedule.

[Shortline / CoachUSA will run on a reduced service schedule, effective Tuesday, March 27.](#) Riders are asked to review the service advisory to learn of adjustments and service cancellations.

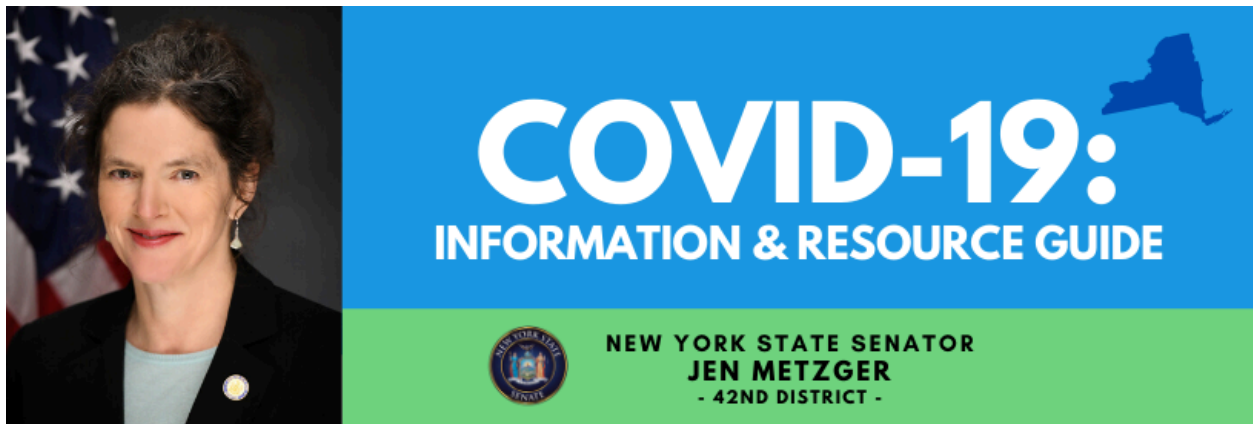


[All Trailways service throughout New York State has been discontinued effective March 30. A specific restart date has not been determined.](#) Trailways of New York will provide updates via social media ([@TrailwaysNY](#)) every Tuesday and Friday. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Trailways Customer Care Center which remains open.

HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES & SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES

As of June 16, hospitals and group homes statewide will be allowed to accept visitors at their discretion. Any facility that chooses to allow visitors must follow state guidelines, including time-limited visits and requiring visitors to wear PPE and be subject to symptom and temperature checks. Hospitals statewide will now be able to provide visitation. Group homes certified by the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities will be allowed to accept visitors beginning Friday, June 19, provided they adhere to state guidance and certify compliance to OPWDD prior to commencing visitation. **The prohibition on nursing home visitors remains in place as the state Department of Health continues to review. If you have a family member at a nursing home, you can inquire about the possibility of setting up a Skype or other type of virtual visit.**

As of April 28, hospitals are able to resume performing elective outpatient treatments if the hospital capacity is over 25 percent for the county and if there have been fewer than 10 new hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients in the county over the past 10 days. In SD-42, hospitals in Sullivan, Orange, Ulster, and Delaware Counties are now eligible to resume procedures as the state continues to monitor the rate of new COVID-19 infections in the region.



Governor Cuomo signed an Executive Order making it clear [hospitals will not be able to prevent a woman from having one companion present during childbirth at the hospital because of coronavirus concerns.](#)

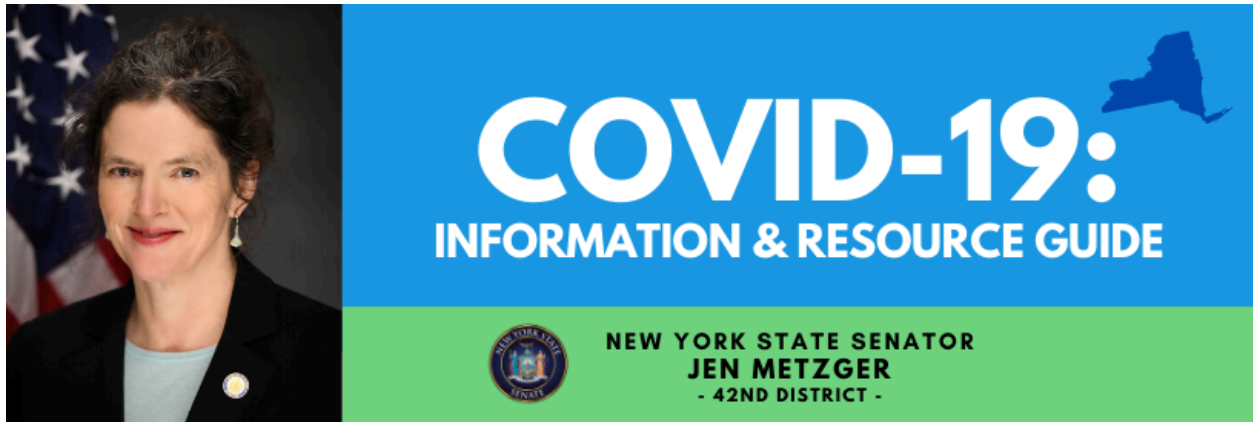
The Governor has also issued an [Executive Order](#) mandating that all nursing homes and adult care facilities test all personnel for COVID-19 two times per week and report any positive test results to the State Department of Health by the next day. The Executive Order also mandates that hospitals cannot discharge a patient to a nursing home unless that patient tests negative for COVID-19.

The Governor also announced new efforts to bring more tests to nursing home facilities to help these facilities meet new guidelines mandating that all nursing homes and adult care facilities test all personnel for COVID-19 two times per week. The state is connecting nursing home facilities with labs to get more tests to these facilities, and so far the labs have reserved at least 35,000 tests per day just for this purpose.

The Governor issued [an Executive Order](#) requiring nursing homes to report positive COVID-19 cases and deaths to the families of those who are living in the nursing home facility within 24 hours. The order will include adult home and other assisted living facilities. Previously, the State Department of Health issued guidance asking these facilities to communicate this information to families; this new order makes that guidance mandatory.

VOTING INFORMATION FOR THE NOV. 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

It is absolutely vital that New Yorkers are able to exercise their most fundamental democratic right and vote safely—**early, by mail, and in-person day-of**—in the November election, and have the assurance that their votes will be counted. For voters who prefer not to vote in person, I strongly encourage them to apply for their absentee



ballot ASAP, and vote as early as allowable before election day to help make the ballot-counting process smoother for our county Boards of Elections. Please read all of the information below and share with folks in your communities.

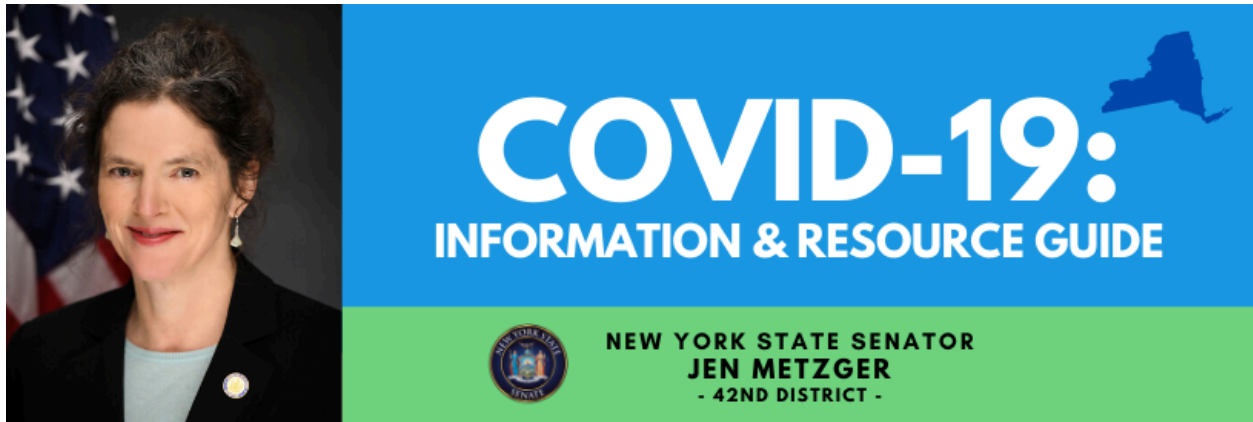
What's on the ballot in November?

- President
- Congress
- State Senate
- State Assembly
- NY Supreme Court
- Civil Courts

DEADLINES

- **Friday, October 9, 2020:** Last day to register to vote. **Look up your voter registration status [HERE](#).**
- **Wednesday, October 14, 2020:** Notices of change of address from registered voters must be received by October 14, 2020, by a county board of elections to be processed and entered in the records in time for the General Election.
- **Tuesday, October 27, 2020:** Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail.
- **Monday, November 2, 2020:** Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot in person at the Board of Elections.
- **Tuesday, November 3, 2020:** Last day to return and postmark the ballot to the Board of Elections.

GETTING REGISTERED TO VOTE



If you have a NY driver license: [Register at your current address online.](#)

OR you can print and mail a form to your county Board of Elections:

- [Voter registration/change of address form - English](#)
- [Voter registration/change of address form - Spanish](#)

OR you can go to your county Board of Elections:

- [Delaware County Board of Elections](#): 3 Gallant Ave, Delhi
- [Orange County Board of Elections](#): 75 Webster Ave, Goshen
- [Sullivan County Board of Elections](#): 100 North St, Monticello
- [Ulster County Board of Elections](#): 284 Wall St, Kingston

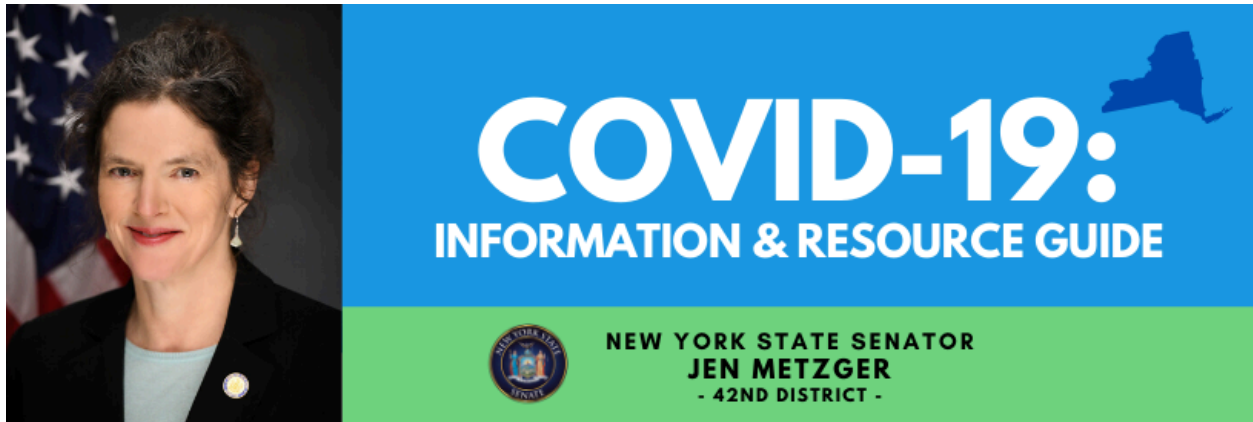
ABSENTEE VOTING

During the pandemic, all voters also have the option to vote by absentee ballot, and you can apply for your ballot [now](#). **For those who voted absentee in the June primary, you will still need to request an absentee ballot for the November 3 election as the Governor's previous Executive Order was only applicable for the June primary election.** (NOTE: Even if you request an absentee ballot, you can still choose to vote in person instead, either by way of early voting or on election day.)

All New York voters can now apply for their absentee ballot electronically through the [NYS Board of Elections Absentee Ballot Application Portal](#).

Absentee voting is a 2-step process:

Step 1. Request an absentee ballot. Concern about COVID is a perfectly valid reason to request an absentee ballot -- **make sure to check the box on the absentee ballot application for "temporary illness or physical disability" as the reason for receiving an**



absentee ballot if you are choosing to vote absentee because of the pandemic.

- [Absentee ballot application - English](#)
- [Absentee ballot application - Spanish](#)

Mail in the application **as soon as possible** but no later than **October 27**.

You can also apply in person at your county Board of Elections until **November 2**.

Step 2. Fill out and return the absentee ballot.

- [Delaware County Board of Elections](#): 3 Gallant Ave, Delhi 13753
- [Orange County Board of Elections](#): 75 Webster Ave (mail: PO Box 30), Goshen 10924
- [Sullivan County Board of Elections](#): 100 North St, Monticello 12701
- [Ulster County Board of Elections](#): 284 Wall St, Kingston 12401

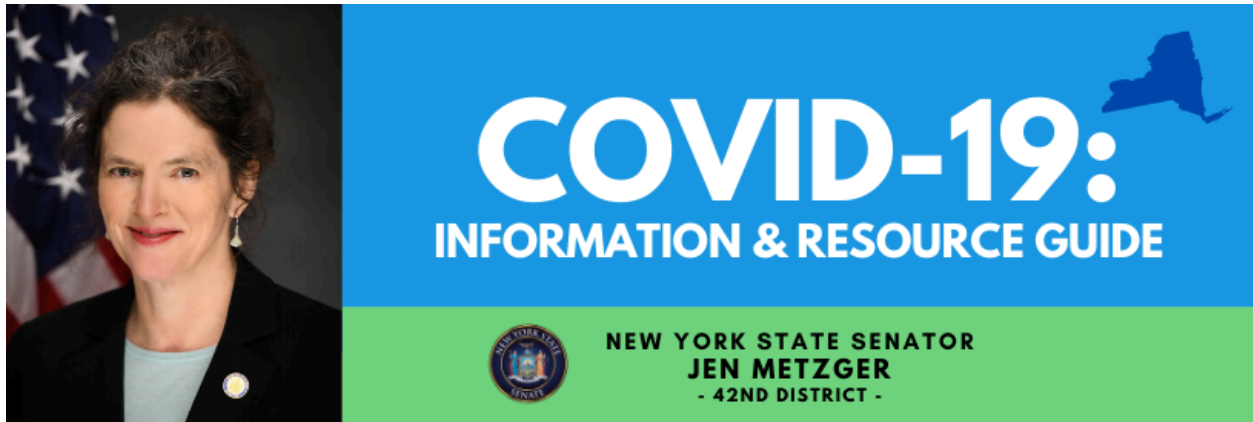
The ballot must be postmarked or handed in to your county Board of Elections by election day, November 3.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting in person will be held October 24 through November 1, 2020, at designated poll locations. **You can vote early even if you requested an absentee ballot.**

By spreading out the voting over 10 days, we can reduce crowding at the polls and enable people to exercise this fundamental democratic right safely. Visit the links below to view the dates, times, and addresses of poll sites in Delaware, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster counties.

- [Delaware County Early Voting](#): 3 Gallant Ave, Delhi



- [Orange County Early Voting](#): 7 locations
- [Sullivan County Early Voting](#): 100 North St, Monticello
- [Ulster County Early Voting](#): 5 locations

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Election day is Tuesday, November 3, from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm. **You can vote in person even if you requested an absentee ballot.** If you choose to vote on election day, you must vote at your [designated polling location](#).

STATE INFO: COURTS, DMV & MARRIAGE LICENSES

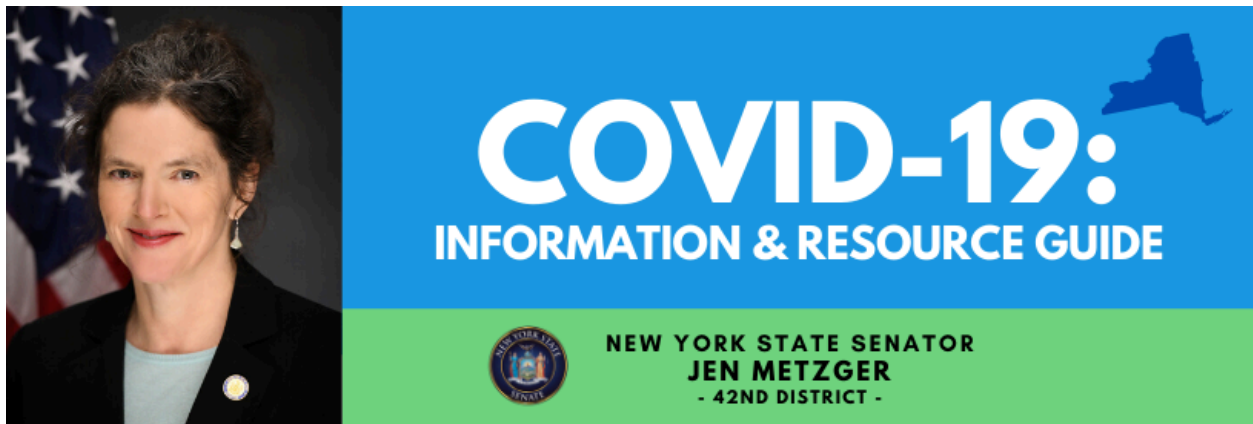
COURT SHUTDOWNS

As of Monday, March 16, the New York Unified Court system is postponing all non-essential functions of the courts until further notice. Essential matters include: Mental Hygiene Law applications, civil commitments, guardianships, child protection proceedings, support orders, and other essential applications as the court may allow. For more information, click [HERE](#) and in respective counties below.

- [Sullivan County DMV Updates](#)
- [Orange County DMV Updates](#)
- [Ulster County DMV Updates](#)
- [Delaware County DMV Updates](#)

VISITING THE DMV

Department of Motor Vehicles offices in New York State were closed for many weeks, but some are beginning to partially reopen. [Many transactions can be done online](#)



[without having to go to an office](#). Expiration dates for license and registration transactions will be extended, and the [REAL ID deadline](#) is now September 30, 2021. Please check back for information and updates [HERE](#).

MARRIAGE LICENSES

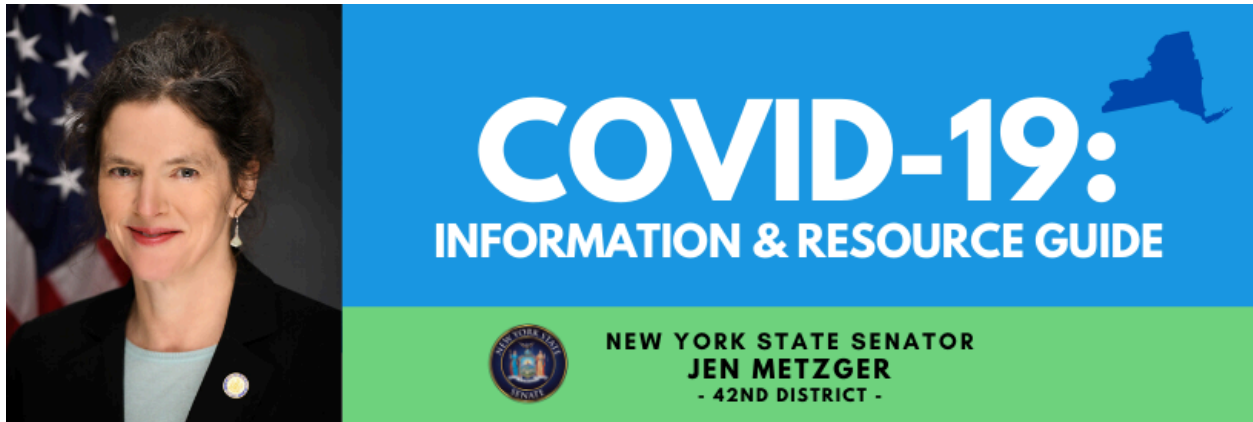
[On April 19, the Governor issued an Executive Order](#) allowing New Yorkers to obtain a marriage license remotely and allowing clerks to perform ceremonies via video conference, a practice that is banned under current law. Many marriage bureaus have temporarily closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing New Yorkers from getting a marriage license during the current health emergency; the Executive Order will temporarily suspend a provision of law that requires in-person visits.

PAYING YOUR TAXES

FEDERAL: As part of its coronavirus response, [the federal government is moving the income tax filing deadline to July 15](#), granting taxpayers and businesses an additional three months to file and make payments on up to \$1 million in tax owed.

STATE: The Governor has announced that the deadline to file personal income taxes will be extended for 90 days, until July 15, along with the federal deadline. [If you are unable to file your 2019 return by July 15, 2020, you can request an automatic extension to file your return.](#)

The Governor [signed legislation](#) authorizing local governments to extend the deadline for filing property tax abatements to July 15, 2020, to assist individuals and businesses struggling as a result of the pandemic.



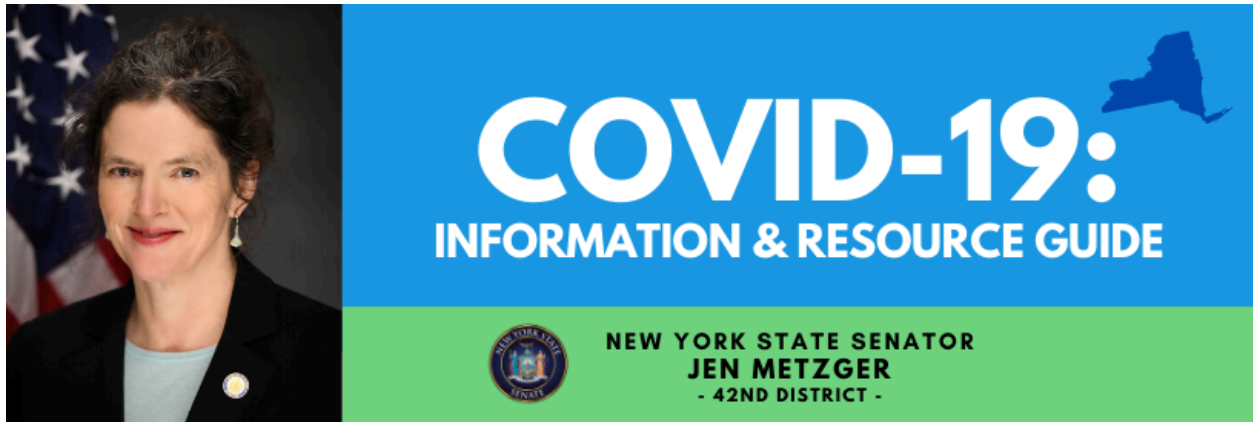
To learn more, the **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** has created a webpage with updates specific to COVID-19 that you can visit [HERE](#).

DON'T FORGET THE CENSUS

With COVID-19 interrupting our regular lives in many ways, it's a good thing that the US Census has never been easier for everybody to get counted. You can respond on your own, whether [ONLINE](#), over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker.

SD-42 COUNTY UPDATES

- **DELAWARE COUNTY** [has declared a state of emergency](#), and updates from Delaware County Public Health Services can be accessed [HERE](#). For updates on agencies and available services, visit the Delaware County website [HERE](#).
- **ORANGE COUNTY** has declared a state of emergency, and updates from the Orange County Department of Health can be accessed [HERE](#). For updates on agencies and available services, visit the Orange County website [HERE](#).
- **SULLIVAN COUNTY** [has declared a state of emergency, and has initiated countywide measures to protect public health](#). Updates from the Sullivan County Public Health Services Department can be accessed [HERE](#). For updates on agencies and available services, visit the Sullivan County website [HERE](#).
- **ULSTER COUNTY** has declared a state of emergency, and updates from the Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health can be accessed [HERE](#). For updates on agencies and available services, visit the Ulster County website [HERE](#).



RESOURCES FOR SD-42 CONSTITUENTS

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



NYS Dept. of Health's 24-hour hotline for questions about health / concerns, testing, and travel: (888) 364-3065



Issues with insurance coverage, Attorney General's Health Care Hotline: (800) 428-9071



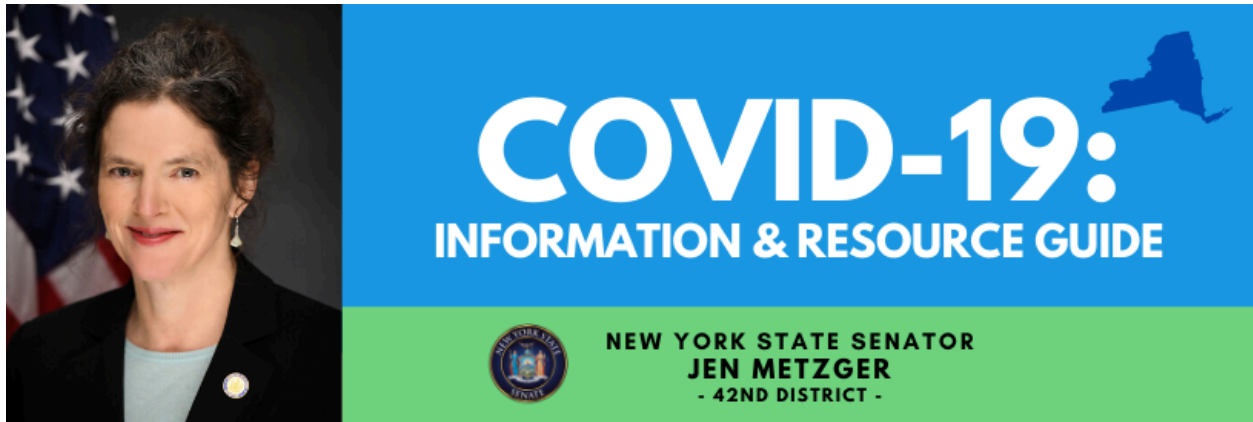
Coronavirus workplace leave issues, Attorney General's Labor Bureau: (212) 416-8700



Any business that cannot accommodate rigorous cleaning standards should contact the Empire State Development for a close order at: (212) 803-3100

HEALTHCARE COSTS & PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

For uninsured individuals, the [NY State of Health marketplace](#) (New York's Affordable Care Act web portal) has created a special enrollment period through September 15 to ease COVID-19 fears. Coverage will begin April 1, and constituents should call 800-453-4666 or visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](#). **If you lost employer coverage, you must apply within 60 days of losing that coverage.** Because of a loss of income, New Yorkers may also be eligible for Medicaid, the Essential Plan, subsidized Qualified Health Plans or Child Health Plus.



Governor Cuomo has directed health insurers to waive cost sharing associated with testing for coronavirus, including emergency room, urgent care, and office visits.

[The Governor also announced that, through June 1, 2020, consumers and businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 may defer paying premiums under individual and small group health insurance policies.](#) The NYS Department of Financial Services shall consider any liquidity or solvency concerns of the health plans. During this period, health plans will be required to continue to pay claims, not to report late payments to credit rating agencies, and to work with individuals to help them transition to new coverage, if appropriate. In addition, insurers are reminded that they cannot impose late payment fees.

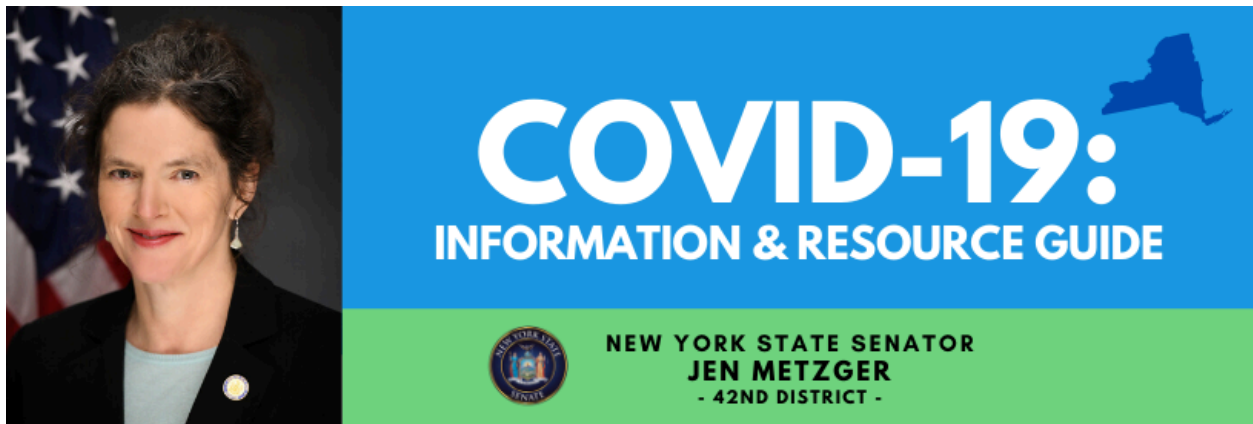
Medicare has also been directed to waive cost-sharing for testing, cost-sharing for coronavirus treatment in doctor's offices or emergency rooms and services delivered via telehealth; remove prior authorization requirements; waive prescription refill limits; relax restrictions on home or mail delivery of prescription drugs; and expand access to certain telehealth services.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

In response to supply chain concerns, the Department of Financial Services has directed insurers to provide insurance coverage for off-formulary prescription drugs if there is not a formulary drug available to treat the insured, through a formulary exceptions process as required by law.

BILLS: UTILITIES, LOAN DEBT, INSURANCE & WAIVED FEES

UTILITIES: The Governor has announced that [utility companies are barred from cutting off service, including power and heat, to customers affected by COVID-19 related illness](#)



[or layoffs](#). If you are experiencing a utility shutoff while this moratoria is in place, the Public Utility Law Project (PULP) may be able to help. Call their hotline: (877) 669-2572.

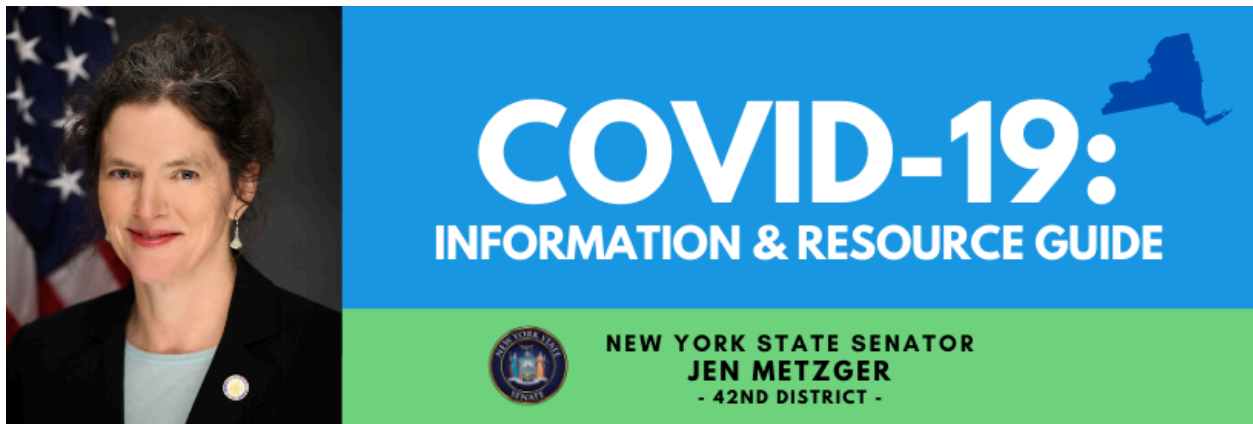
If you experience a utility service termination during the COVID-19 health pandemic, contact the Department of Public Service's emergency hotline and file a complaint by calling (800) 342-3355.

If you receive a termination notice from your energy utility during the COVID-19 health pandemic, please contact your local Department of Social Services (DSS) Office and ask to apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). HEAP is a one-time grant that helps low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes and can also, in some circumstances, pay to clean and maintain furnaces. The program has been extended until June 30. Individuals who already received HEAP this heating season may be eligible for Emergency-HEAP, which has been extended to include a third round of applications until June 30. You can apply online at: mybenefits.ny.gov/ or by calling your local DSS' office at:

- **Ulster County 845-334-5436**
- **Sullivan County (845) 807-0142**
- **Orange County (845) 291-2002**
- **Delaware County (607) 832-5300**

To learn more about HEAP/E-HEAP, including eligibility guidelines, please go [HERE](#).

STUDENT LOANS: [New York State will temporarily halt, for a 30 day period, the collection of medical and student debt owed to the State and referred to the Attorney General's office for collection.](#) These debts include: medical debts owed to state hospitals and veterans' homes, student debts owed to SUNY, and debts owed by individuals, business owners, and homeowners related to oil spill cleanup, property



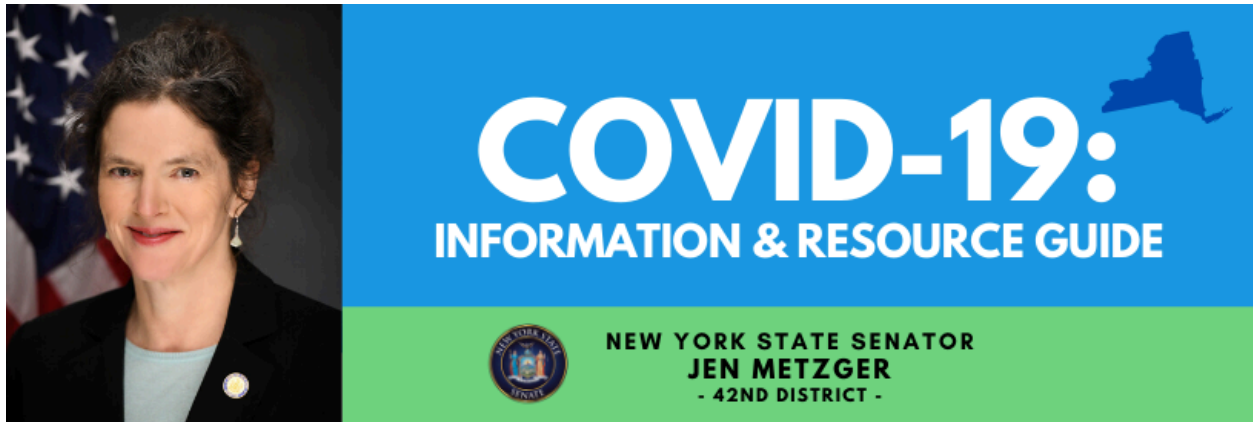
damage, breach of contract, or fees owed to state agencies. To apply for this temporary relief, [fill out this online form](#) or visit the [OAG's coronavirus website](#) to learn more about the suspension of payments. Individuals that are unable to fill out the online form can call the OAG hotline at (800) 771-7755 to learn more.

On April 7, the Governor also announced an agreement with the largest student loan servicers in New York to obtain relief for student loan borrowers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 who contact their private student loan servicer. Available relief includes 90 days of deferred monthly payments, waived late fees, no negative reporting to credit agencies, and enrolling eligible borrowers in an available long-term assistance program. The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, only provides relief to borrowers whose loans are owned by the federal government. This agreement with the student loan industry provides much-needed relief to these outstanding borrowers whose loans are privately owned.

The New York State Department of Financial Services will issue guidance that reflects and complements the State's agreement with the private student loan industry and that also directs regulated student loan servicers to quickly and appropriately implement the relief provided by the federal CARES Act for borrowers whose loans are federally owned. New York student loan borrowers should visit DFS' website for more information about available student loan relief.

For help with student loan payments, the Community Service Society's Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) is available at (888) 614-5004, Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Visit them at edcapny.org for more information about their free services.

INSURANCE: [The Governor also announced that for a 90 day period, consumers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 may defer paying life insurance](#)



[premiums](#). No late fees will be assessed and no negative data will be reported to credit bureaus during this time, and late payments will be payable over a one-year period. LICONY, or the Life Insurance Council of New York, which represents over 80 percent of the life insurance industry, has agreed to these measures.

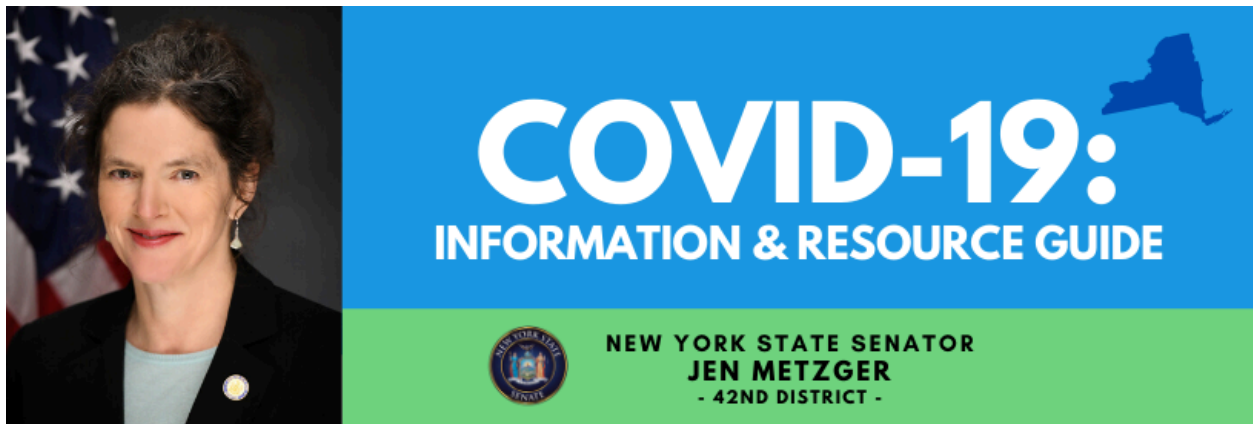
[For a 60 day period, consumers and small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 may defer paying premiums for property and casualty insurance, including auto, homeowners, renters, workers comp, medical malpractice, livery and taxi.](#) No late fees will be assessed and no negative data will be reported to credit bureaus during this time, and late payments will be payable over a one-year period.

Additionally, the Governor has asked the Department of Financial Services to instruct state chartered banks to [waive ATM fees, late fees, overdraft fees and fees for credit cards](#) to help lessen the financial hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic on New Yorkers.

HOUSING / RENTER UPDATES

On September 29, Governor Cuomo issued [an Executive Order](#), which protects residential tenants from eviction who suffered financial hardship during the COVID-19 state of emergency, including those tenants who had an outstanding warrant of eviction prior to the pandemic, **until January 1, 2021**.

On May 7, the Governor issued [an Executive Order](#) prohibiting the start of an eviction case for non-payment of rent or a foreclosure proceeding against anyone facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The order also prohibits the enforcement of any eviction or foreclosure order against anyone facing financial hardship. **This lasts until August 20. However, as [Governor Cuomo's blanket eviction moratorium \(for non-COVID hardship evictions\)](#) expires Saturday, June 20, allowing the filing of**



new evictions, Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks issued a new Administrative Order and memorandum that will automatically stay any eviction proceeding, except certain matters filed prior to March 16, until at least July 6. If the eviction petition was filed prior to March 16 and all parties are represented by counsel, the court may schedule the matter for a virtual settlement conference.

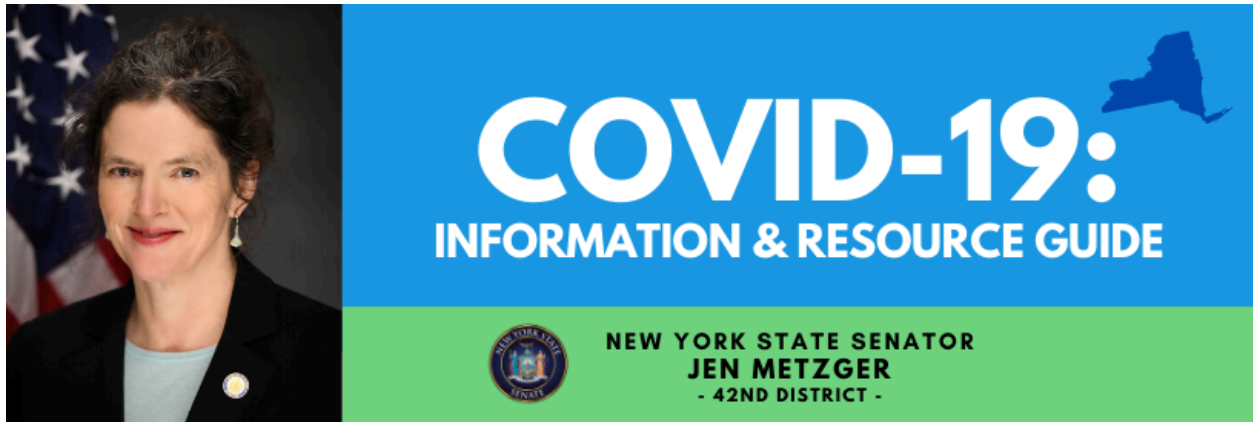
The state is also banning late payments or fees for missed rent payments during the eviction moratorium, and allowing renters facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 to use their security deposit as payment and repay their security deposit over time.

If you're having trouble with a landlord during the COVID-19 outbreak, you can contact Legal Services of the Hudson Valley by calling (877) 574-8529 (Monday to Thursday, 8 AM - 6 PM, Friday 8 AM - 4 PM), or [visiting them on the web](#).

The Department of Financial Services has issued a new directive to New York State mortgage servicers to [provide 90-day mortgage relief to mortgage borrowers impacted by the novel coronavirus](#). The directive includes:

- Waiving mortgage payments based on financial hardship;
- No negative reporting to credit bureaus;
- Grace period for loan modification;
- No late payment fees or online payment fees; and
- Postponing or suspending foreclosures.

PLEASE NOTE: The directive above only relates to NYS chartered banks. Anyone with a mortgage from a federally chartered bank is not covered by the deferral process.



For additional questions related to homelessness, renting, homeowners, rental property owners and more, the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services has a helpful frequently asked questions (FAQ) page you can access [HERE](#).

Sullivan County, [via Executive Order](#), has pushed the deadline for owners to repurchase their tax-foreclosed properties to August 31.

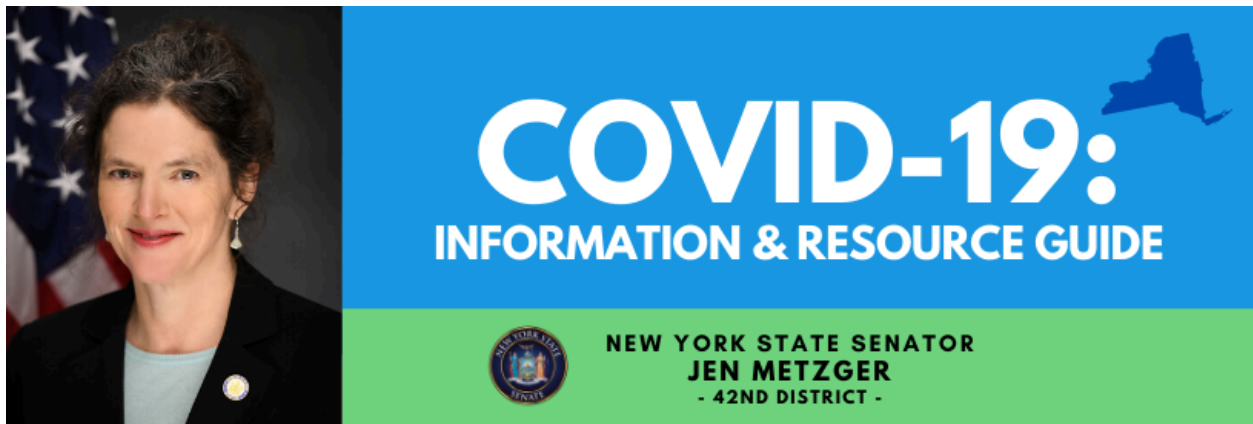
MENTAL HEALTH

More than 10,000 mental health professionals have signed up to provide **FREE** online mental health services for New Yorkers. **You can call the state's hotline at 1-844-863-9314 to schedule a free appointment.** The New York State Office of Mental Health has also put out a 4-page document on managing anxiety during the COVID-19 outbreak, available [HERE](#).

New York State is partnering with Headspace, a global leader in mindfulness and meditation, to offer free meditation and mindfulness content for all New Yorkers as a mental health resource for residents coping with the unprecedented public health crisis. **New Yorkers can access a collection of science-backed, evidence-based guided meditations, along with at-home mindful workouts, sleep and kids content to help address rising stress and anxiety [HERE](#).**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released a document, [Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health: Tips for Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation during an Infectious Disease Outbreak](#), and we highly recommend you take a look and share it with friends and loved ones.

The same goes for the [Institute of Disaster Mental Health](#) at SUNY New Paltz's helpful tip sheets:



- [COVID-19: Managing Stress in this Anxious Time](#)
- [COVID-19: Coping as the Pandemic Continues](#)
- [COVID-19: Managing Relationships Under Stay-at-Home Orders](#)

Additionally, [Access: Supports for Living Inc.](#) has launched a Virtual Mental Health and Substance Use Urgent Care. Adults and children struggling with anxiety, depression, or any other mental health or substance use concern will have access to therapists available 24/7 by phone and through telemedicine, with access to psychiatry and peer support for any person in the Hudson Valley who needs help. **The Access Virtual Urgent Care is available by calling 1-888-750-2266, option 2.**

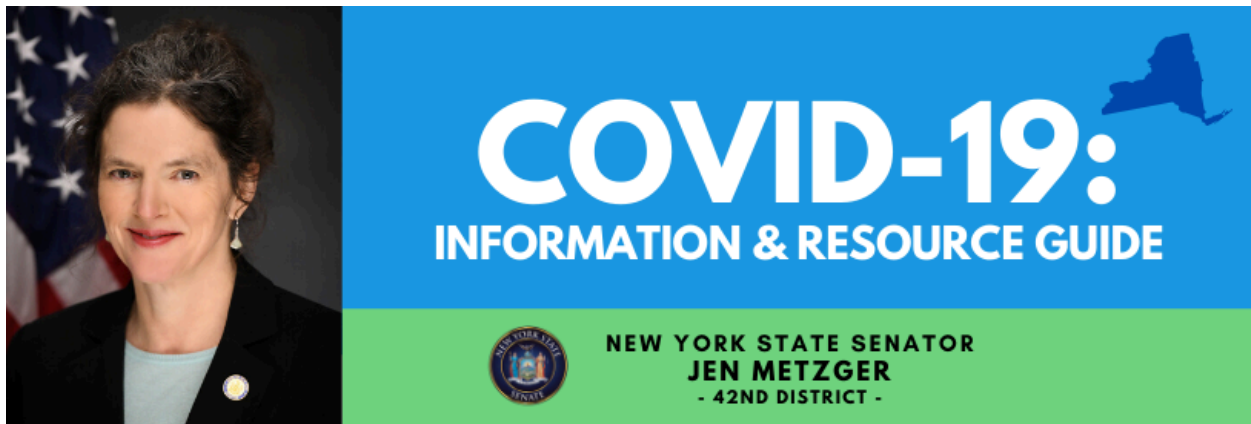
If you're doing essential work locally and need someone to talk to about what you're feeling, call Frontline Mental Health, 24/7 at 1 (844) 4-FRNTLN.

In addition to posting [medical literature from reliable sources on their website](#), the Middletown Thrall Library has made a number of mental health and wellness resources available [HERE](#).

The list below includes websites and phone numbers for mental health resources for counties in Senate District 42.

Delaware County:	Mental Health Clinic Services	(844) 732-6228 (Call 24/7)
Orange County:	Crisis Call Center	(800) 832-1200 (Call 24/7)
Sullivan County:	Mobile Mental Health Team	(845) 790-0911 (Call 24/7)
Ulster County:	FAMILY of Woodstock	(845) 679-2485 (Call 24/7 or Text)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES



Social distancing and self-isolating during the COVID-19 outbreak may be challenging for individuals who do not feel safe in their relationships, particularly if they live with a potential abuser. **New Yorkers seeking help can text 844-997-2121 or chat with a professional on the new confidential website at www.opdv.ny.gov.** The text and online services will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with OPDV staff who are experts in the area of domestic violence.

[The National Domestic Violence Hotline has a Staying Safe During COVID-19 resource page](#), and they can be reached by calling (800) 799-7233, by texting “LOVEIS” to 22522, or by visiting thehotline.org. They also have [guidance for creating a safety plan that includes ways children can stay safe](#) when violence is happening in the home.

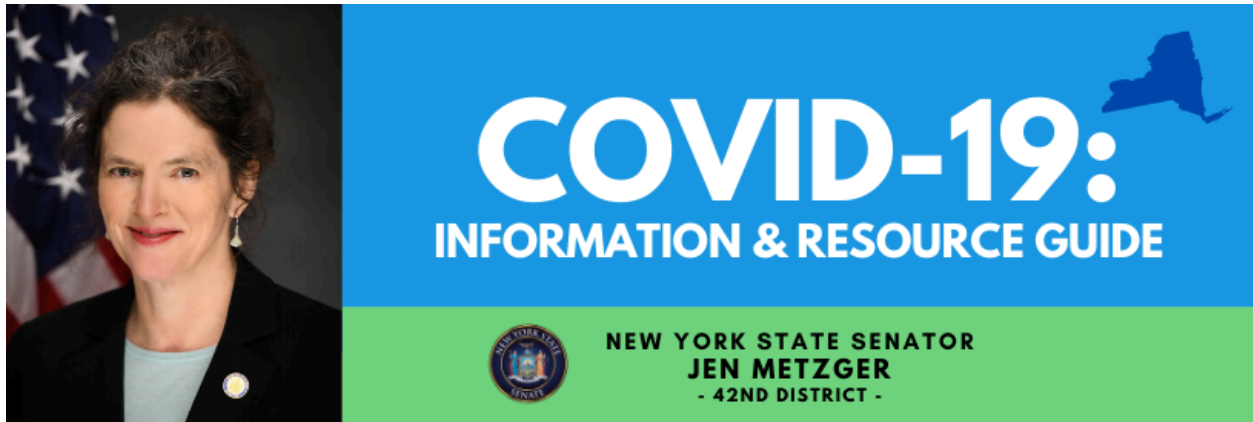
The [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#) has put out the following information:

- [Resources on the Response to the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Using Technology to Communicate with Survivors During a Public Health Crisis](#)
- [Coronavirus Guidance for Domestic Violence Programs / Shelters](#)

Local resources are also available here in Senate District 42:

ORANGE / SULLIVAN COUNTY: Fearless’ services are fully operational. Their hotline is (845) 562-5340 and they can be reached on their website [HERE](#) and on their Facebook and Instagram social media platforms.

DELAWARE COUNTY: Delaware Opportunities runs Safe Against Violence hotline 24/7, call (607) 746-6278.



ULSTER COUNTY: Family of Woodstock is available 24/7. Call or text (845) 679 2485, or visit their website [HERE](#).

ONLINE PHISHING, PHONE SCAMS & REPORTING PRICE GOUGING

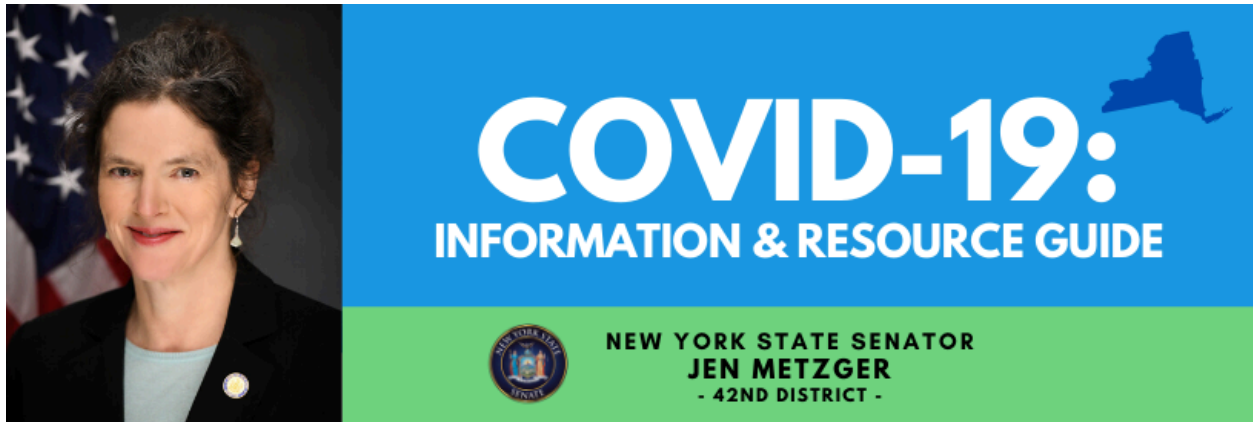
Scammers and con artists are unfortunately very common during emergencies like the COVID-19 outbreak, and we must be vigilant in making sure that our communities do not get taken advantage of.

[Norton has comprehensive guidance on how to prevent cybercriminals](#) from infiltrating your inbox that you can share, and now is a good time to urge your friends and loved ones: **do not respond to phone calls from those alleging they represent utility companies or debt collectors unless you can verify them from a legitimate source.**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) reports that scammers targeting small business owners are on the rise, specifically with respect to the SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). I encourage you to review [SBA's guidance on scams and fraud schemes](#). **You can also report any suspected fraud to the Office of the Inspector General Hotline by calling 800-767-0385 or by [submitting a complaint online](#).**

HOW TO REPORT PRICE GOUGING

At a time when the most vulnerable in our communities are at risk, hiking up prices for goods that can help prevent illness and save lives is shameful and must be stopped. I'm co-sponsoring legislation ([S7932](#)) that cracks down on raising consumer medical supply prices over 10% during COVID-19. **To report price gouging or scammers selling bogus medical equipment, you can call the New York State Attorney General's consumer hotline at (800) 428-9071 or file a complaint at ag.ny.gov.**



SUPPORTING RESTAURANTS IN YOUR AREA

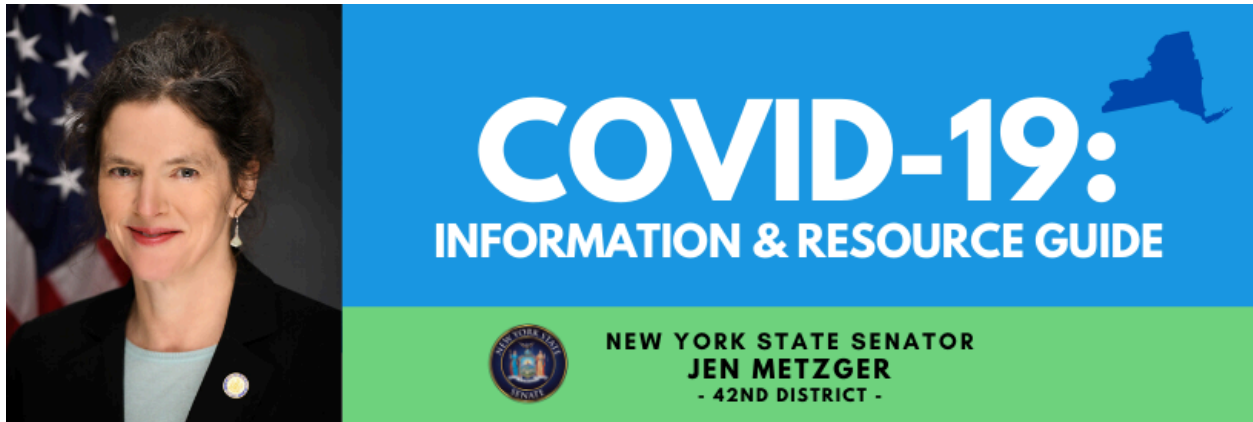
To give you a bird's-eye view of the availability of restaurants in your community, my office has created a [helpful, comprehensive list](#) of the hours, offerings, and contact information of all restaurants in SD-42 during the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of our favorite neighborhood restaurants are still open for business, providing take-out, delivery, and curb-side pick up for local residents, some with limited hours than what we're used to seeing, and they need our patronage now more than ever. **Browse the up-to-date list of all operational restaurants in Senate District 42 [HERE](#).**

Please note: We are updating the list as we get more information from businesses in Delaware, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster counties, so please feel free to **email** wojcik@nysenate.gov if you have restaurant information to share.

For another list of brick and mortar businesses that remain operational in the Hudson Valley region, you can browse [We're Still Open HV](#). You can search by business name, town, category, and county.

To further help support your favorite establishments during this challenging time, some of which are providing free lunches for children, please consider buying gift cards to use at a later date. To do so, you can check their individual websites (included in [our list](#)) and social media platforms to find other ways to help.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is curating an [interactive map of local farms, farmers' markets, and food pantries](#) so we can support our communities through alternative food sources. Our small farms and farmers are vital during this crisis, and as grocery store shelves empty, we have an opportunity to support our local producers! The map is available [HERE](#). **Please call ahead to ensure staff and products are available.



HELPING A NEIGHBOR IN NEED

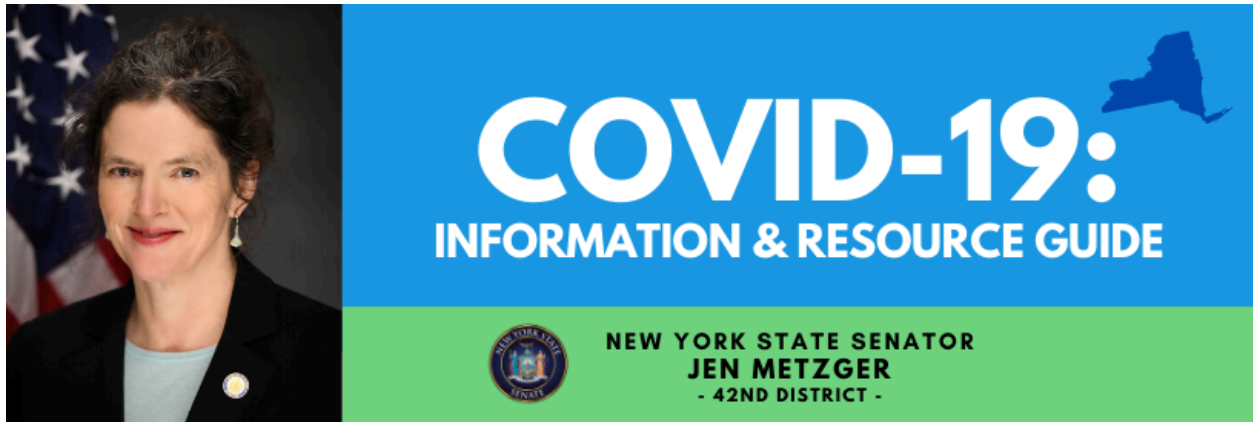
[Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County](#) is working with the Monticello School District to distribute surplus meals at the end of the school run, and has produce and other food items. This is done in collaboration with [Sullivan Alliance Leading Together \(SALT\)](#). If you'd like to volunteer, you can fill out an application [HERE](#), and you must undergo a criminal background check.

[Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless](#) is serving lunch from 12 PM to 1 PM daily, and has some food to take away. If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact Kathy Kreiter at (845) 794-2604.

Regional Economic Community Action Program, Inc. (RECAP) of Orange County has created a [Food & Aid Volunteer Delivery Form](#) to help with getting food and aid to the people in our communities who need it the most. Access the form [HERE](#) -- there is also an option to donate if volunteering isn't possible.

[The Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan launched the CFOS COVID-19 Response Fund to address immediate and longer-term needs of residents in Orange and Sullivan counties](#). This fund will issue grants to established nonprofit organizations that provide front-line services to the most vulnerable populations – food for our neediest families and essentials, such as prescription drug deliveries, to homebound senior citizens and people with compromised immune systems. To apply for a grant or to donate, go [HERE](#).

[United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region is taking donations](#) to help needy children and families have access to food, provide essential and emergency items to students in our



community, and allow 2-1-1 call specialists to continue taking Coronavirus related calls. Learn more and donate [HERE](#).

[Ulster County has announced Project Resilience](#), a community fund and local food distribution effort to support residents impacted by COVID-19. The County will utilize UCAT and partner with nonprofits and municipalities to deliver meals to local distribution centers. This new initiative will help residents in need and simultaneously provide support to small businesses. Ulster County is partnering with United Way and many other area organizations and businesses to mobilize food and services. To request food assistance or donate, go [HERE](#).

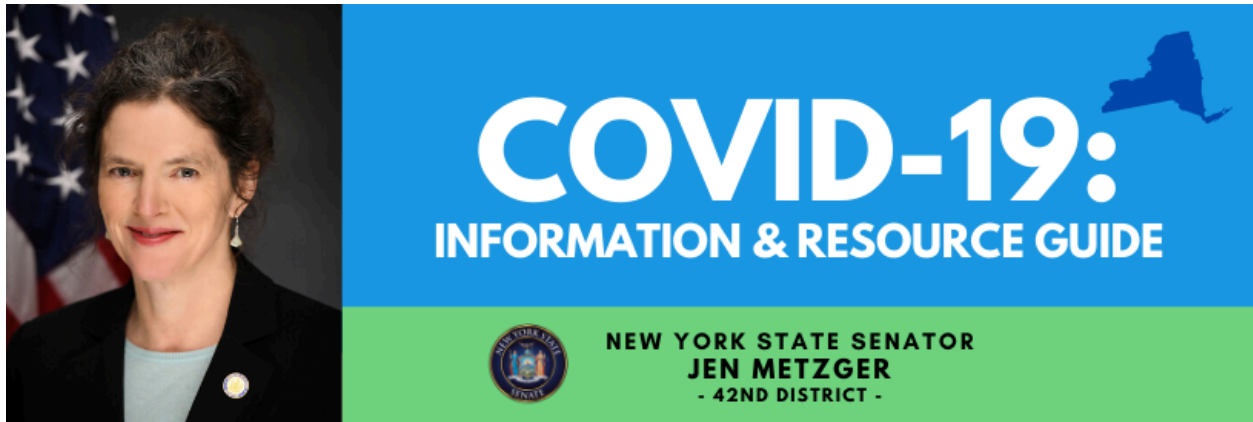
[UlsterCorps](#) is compiling a list of COVID-19 related volunteer needs from local agencies and nonprofits, and their volunteer portal can be accessed [HERE](#).

[Delaware County has an Emergency Food Pantry Network](#) supported by contributions from individuals and community organizations as well as the NYS Department of Health. [Delaware Opportunities](#) has a number of programs in place, and while they are putting a volunteer list together, they prefer folks help by donating money directly at this time. Call (607) 746-1602 and speak to Danielle Morrell if you're able to contribute.

If you can spare a donation to your local food pantry, it can make a world of difference. My office has created an interactive map to help residents locate food pantries in their area, which can be accessed at bit.ly/SD-42-Food-Pantries.

My office has also created a list of [Senior Hours at Groceries & Supermarkets](#) in the 42nd Senate District. Please use it to inform the elders in your life, and feel free to share it widely.

The governor announced a new partnership with the New York State Court System to create a pro bono network of volunteer lawyers to provide New Yorkers with free legal



assistance. Volunteers will begin to receive training and start offering assistance next week. Lawyers interested in volunteering can sign up [HERE](#).

New York State is doing all it can to keep New Yorkers safe and stop the spread of COVID-19. But we're stronger if we all work together. [Governor Cuomo is calling on health care professionals, schools of public health or medicine and PPE products providers and manufacturers to come forward to support the state's response.](#)

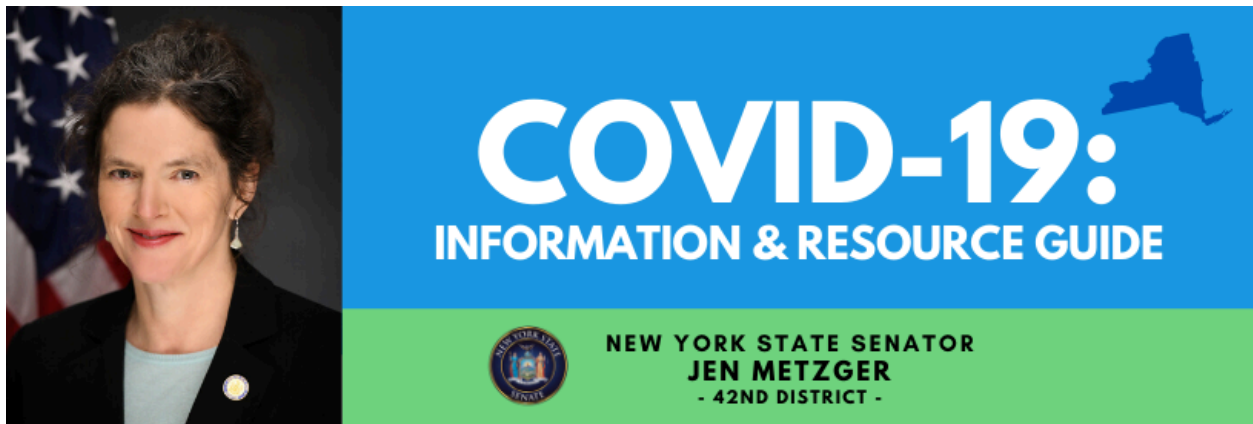
NOURISH NY

First announced on April 27, the Nourish New York Initiative provides relief by purchasing food and products from Upstate farms and directs them to the populations who need them most through New York's network of food banks. The state is also asking any philanthropies or foundations that would like to help the state's food banks to contact COVIDPhilanthropies@exec.ny.gov.

VETERAN ASSISTANCE

The [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has COVID-19 information available [HERE](#), and service-connected disabled veterans who have lost employment as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including veterans who are self-employed as contractors or small business owners, can now apply for Disabled American Veterans' COVID-19 Unemployment Relief program [HERE](#).

The Department of Defense created a new pay authority called "Hardship Duty Pay – Restriction of Movement", or HDP-ROM, that allows Services to pay up to an additional \$1500/month (prorated per day) for members and their families who are impacted during PCS or have to acquire temporary lodging that goes beyond normal TLE limit (which is 14 days) because of COVID-19. Read the memo [HERE](#).

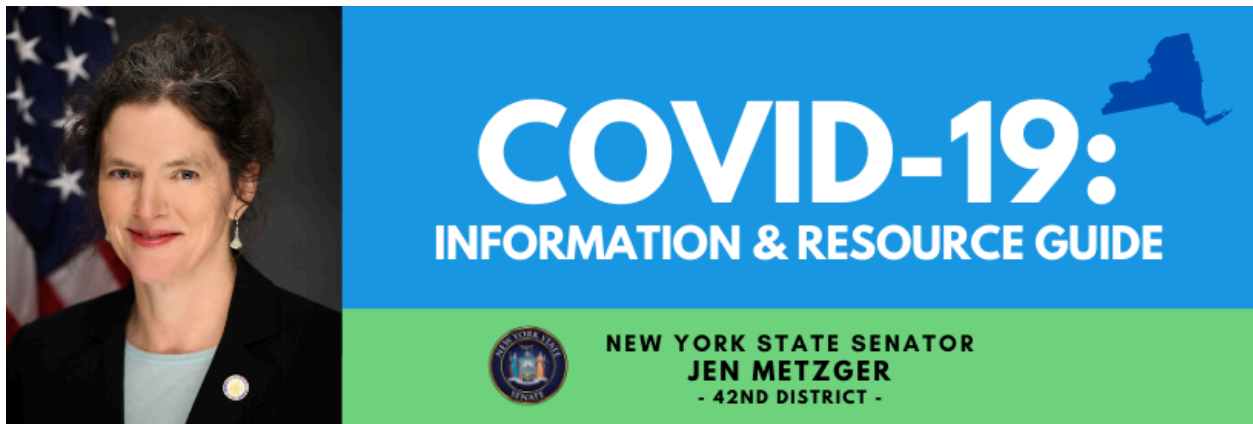


Locally, [Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency](#) can be contacted by calling (845) 807-0240, and the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Project's [Vet2Vet Program in Orange County](#) can be accessed [HERE](#).

[The Hudson Valley Center for Veteran Reintegration \(HVCVR\)](#) has a Peer Support line operational Monday Through Friday from 10 AM to 5 PM: (877) 494-5199. If you would like to engage with a specialist directly, please go [HERE](#), fill out the inquiry form, and check the "I would like to schedule a video conference link." They will arrange a secure and encrypted conference. [WestCOP](#)'s offices are also open on rotation and are continuing to serve veterans in need. If you would like to refer a veteran client, please contact Terry Bernard (845) 391-0825 or Christina Novak (845) 288-1916 to begin the intake process. If your referral is after 6 PM or on the weekend, please contact 211 and they will do an immediate screening over the phone.

[SAGE Vets](#) is a statewide program to help lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older adults who are veterans of military service improve their access to the VA and other veteran services, as well as support their overall health and wellness. Talk and be heard at the [SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline](#). We connect LGBT older people who want to talk with friendly responders who are ready to listen. If you are an LGBT elder or care for one, call the free SAGE Hotline, toll-free, at (877) 360-LGBT (5428).

[Towns4Troops.com](#) has a "Care Kits" campaign to provide comfort items to Guard troops activated across our country. These warriors are aiding front-line emergency workers, EMTs, firefighters, and law enforcement agencies, bolstering the ranks of doctors, nurses, additional hospital staff, delivery drivers, and warehouse managers during the pandemic. A \$20 donation can fill a Care Kit with a week's worth of comfort essentials. Your donations are 100% tax deductible, and you can send them online [HERE](#).



PenFed has several resources available [HERE](#) from organizations like [Army Emergency Relief](#), [Code of Support](#), [Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society](#), [Operation Home Front](#), [Semper Fi Fund](#), [USA Cares](#), [Vets4Warriors](#), [Wounded Warrior Project](#), and more.

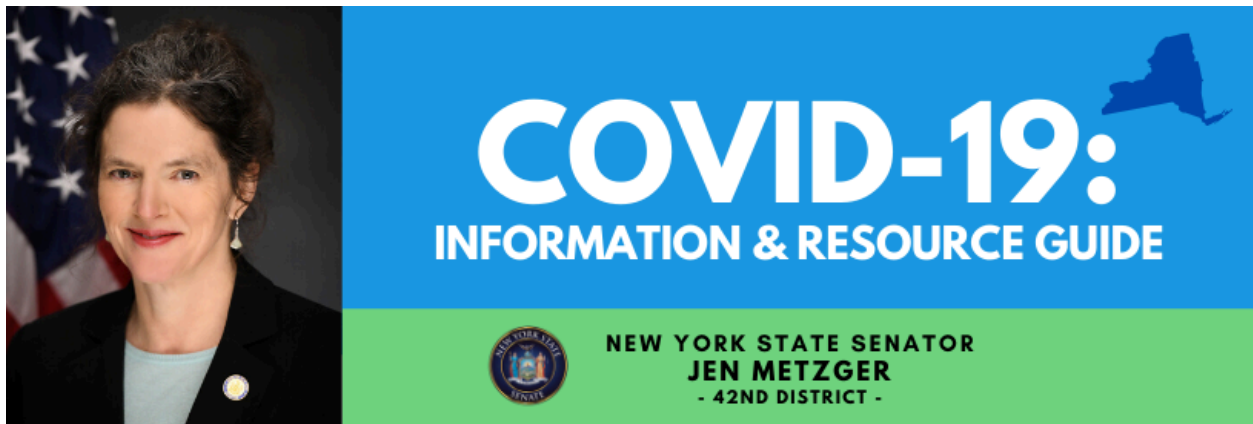
PETS: SAFETY, PREPAREDNESS & FOSTERING IN-NEED ANIMALS

[At this time, the CDC believes there is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19.](#) The ASPCA has a [tip sheet for keeping pets safe](#) during the outbreak, and has also set up a [relief fund](#) for pet shelters and pet owners experiencing financial hardship.

Beginning Tuesday, May 26, veterinarian practices were allowed to open statewide. Online distributors and pet retailers remain open, and pet owners should ensure they're well-stocked with supplies.

It is recommended that pet owners have an emergency plan in place in case they can no longer care for their animals. This can include creating a list of need-to-know information about your pet, including any medicine they take, their chip information, contact information for your veterinarian, and any habits or behavioral tendencies, and sharing it with a designated caregiver.

If you are sick or under medical attention for COVID-19, let your public health point of contact know that you have pets or other animals in your home, [and limit interaction with pets and other animals](#). Specifically, if symptomatic, try to separate yourself from pets as you would with other household members. If you must look after your pet, you should maintain good hygiene practices and wear a face mask, if possible.



Service animals are permitted to remain with their handlers.

If you don't currently have a pet and would like to foster an animal, you can contact your local shelter to see if they are in need of foster homes during this difficult time:

DELAWARE COUNTY: [Heart of the Catskills Humane Society](#)

ORANGE COUNTY: [Goshen Humane Society Inc.](#), [Grateful Doggies Rescue Family](#), [Middletown Humane Society](#), [Pets Alive](#), [Warwick Valley Humane Society](#)

SULLIVAN COUNTY: [Catskill Animal Rescue](#), [Rocky's Refuge](#), [Sullivan County SPCA](#)

ULSTER COUNTY: [Hollywood Dog Shelter](#), [Surulana Animal Rescue](#), [Wayward Ranch Animal Sanctuary](#)

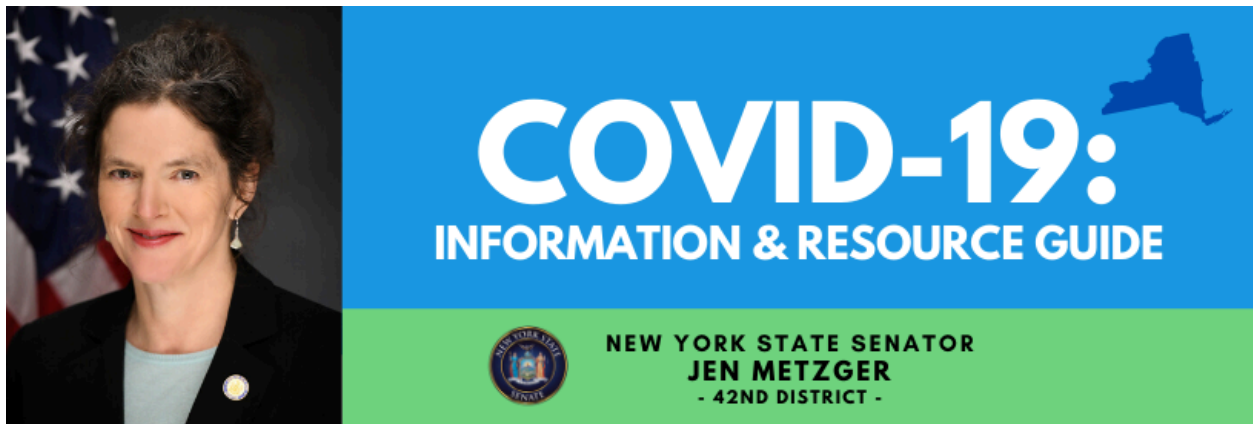
Pets Alive in Middletown is trying to help support three separate food pantries with cat and dog food for seniors and families in need through their Pet Chow Pantry.

Donations of dog and cat food can be arranged (through zero contact drop off) by emailing info@petsalive.org.

For important **information regarding essential animal care services** (for agriculture workers including those in veterinary health, livestock markets, animal medical supplies, and more) please refer to the [Interim Guidance for Animal Care Operations](#) assembled by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

THINGS TO DO: SAFE OUTDOOR ENJOYMENT & MORE

Many state parks, trails, and grounds of historic sites are open for solitary outdoor enjoyment. **If you arrive at a park and crowds are forming, choose a different park or a different trail, and worst case, exercise closer to your home and return another time/day to visit.**

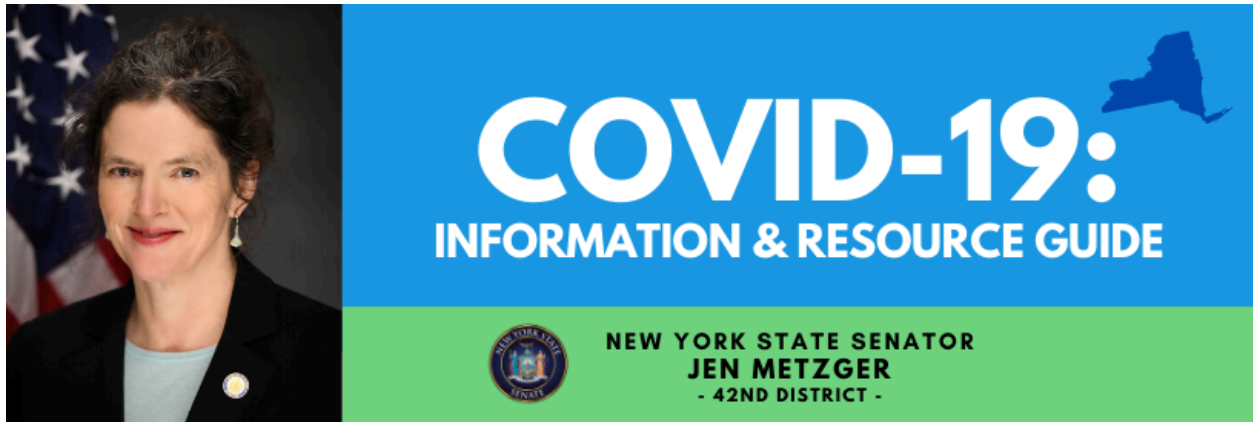


As of May 25, campgrounds and RV Parks were allowed to open statewide. Governor Cuomo is still urging New Yorkers to avoid outdoor activities where you may come in close contact with other people, but [recreation in section 13 of ESD's guidance is authorized statewide](#). **State Park beaches were permitted to open to swimming Friday, May 22, at 50 percent capacity or less and with heightened precautions. You must practice social distancing at a state beach. As of June 11, the state is allowing localities to open public pools and playgrounds at their discretion while following state guidance beginning.**

GENERAL REMINDERS: Stay local and keep visits short, and only visit in small groups limited to immediate household members; maintain distance from others while in places where people tend to congregate, such as parking lots, trailheads, and scenic overlooks; avoid games and activities that require close contact, such as basketball, football, or soccer; do not share equipment, such as bicycles, helmets, balls, or Frisbees.

To encourage social distancing during this crisis, all public programs and events are suspended until further notice. Many indoor visitor facilities, such as nature centers, visitor centers, and historic houses, will be closed to the public until further notice. **For the safety of all visitors and to reduce the community spread of COVID-19, DEC and State Parks are undertaking steps to reduce public density at State Parks, State Lands, and facilities:**

- Closing all playgrounds;
- Limiting access to athletic courts and sporting fields;
- Canceling all public programs and events at State Parks, Lands, Forests, and facilities until further notice;



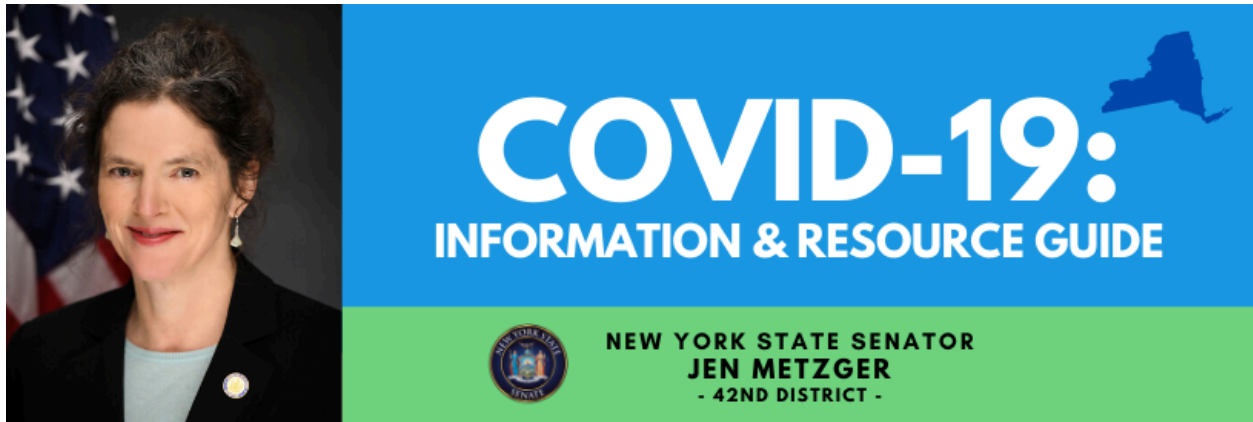
- Closing most indoor visitor facilities, such as nature centers, environmental education centers, visitor centers, and historic houses to the public until further notice, although some restrooms are now open;
- Implementing precautionary measures at golf courses at State Parks: no walkup play will be allowed and golfers must secure a tee time reservation in advance online or by phone. Also, increased intervals between tee times, removing bunker rakes and ball washers, and decreasing use of golf carts;
- DEC is closing access to DEC-controlled fire towers to the public. Trails and the summits to the towers remain open, but the towers themselves present a potential risk with multiple people climbing the stairs, in close quarters, unable to appropriately socially distance, and using the same handrails; and
- Limiting parking. If the parking lot is full, visit a different location to recreate responsibly. For visitor safety and the safety of others, do not park on roadsides and only park in designated parking areas.

State Parks will provide updates periodically on social media, and at parks.ny.gov, and will also be available to respond to questions or concerns regarding visitation opportunities at notes@parks.ny.gov. For more information, visit the COVID-19 page for New York State's Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation [HERE](#).

EDUCATION OPTIONS & DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ALL AGES

ACCESS LIBRARY RESOURCES

During the [New York Public Library's](#) period of closure, New York state residents are welcome to apply for a library card through the [SimplyE app](#)—and gain access to an array of [digital resources](#), including e-books, audiobooks, [research databases](#), and more. When the NYPL reopens, new applicants can visit their local library to obtain and validate their physical library card.



[The Mid-Hudson Valley Library System](#) has [eResources available](#), and allows you to search for your local library to see what they're offering during the COVID-19 outbreak. Included in that system is [Ulster County's library INFOPortal](#), which walks patrons through accessing their HOMEACCESS resources, including reliable online information.

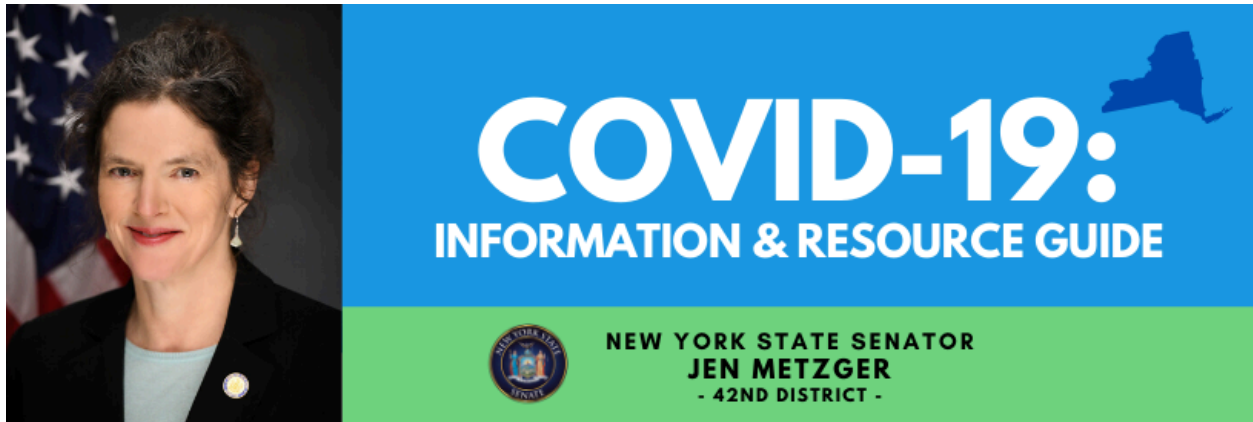
The [Ramapo Catskill Library System](#) and its member libraries offer many online resources for patrons, including [ebooks and digital audiobooks](#). Individual libraries may also offer streaming video content. They urge patrons to check the [websites of their local libraries](#) for links to all their online content and the latest news on their service disruptions.

EXPERIENCE DIGITAL TOURS: LANDMARKS, MUSEUMS & NATIONAL PARKS

[Google Arts & Culture](#) puts 360-degree tours of historical landmarks, museums, and cultural institutions from around the world at your fingertips. Discover artworks, historical information, cultural treasures, and stories from all around the world in a new way, and easily share with your friends.

Goshen Central School District is keeping an [incredible at-a-glance calendar](#) for events and activities streaming around the country. There is something for everyone, and it's available [HERE](#).

INSIDER put together a list of [32 national parks you can explore from your couch, from the Grand Canyon to Yellowstone](#), and on top of [virtual hikes through 31 national parks](#), **Google Earth** also offers [virtual treks](#) through Petra in Jordan, the Khumbu valleys at the base of Mt. Everest in Nepal, Angkor Wat in Cambodia, and the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.



LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

Apps like [Busuu](#) and [Duolingo](#) allow you to learn a new language at your own pace from your smartphone, computer or tablet. Take quizzes to assess your level, and then start learning, listening, and speaking at your own pace.

TAKE ONLINE COURSES

[Coursera](#) has partnered with universities all around the world to bring you affordable quality education offerings with over 600 courses across over 20 subject areas, available in 14 different languages.

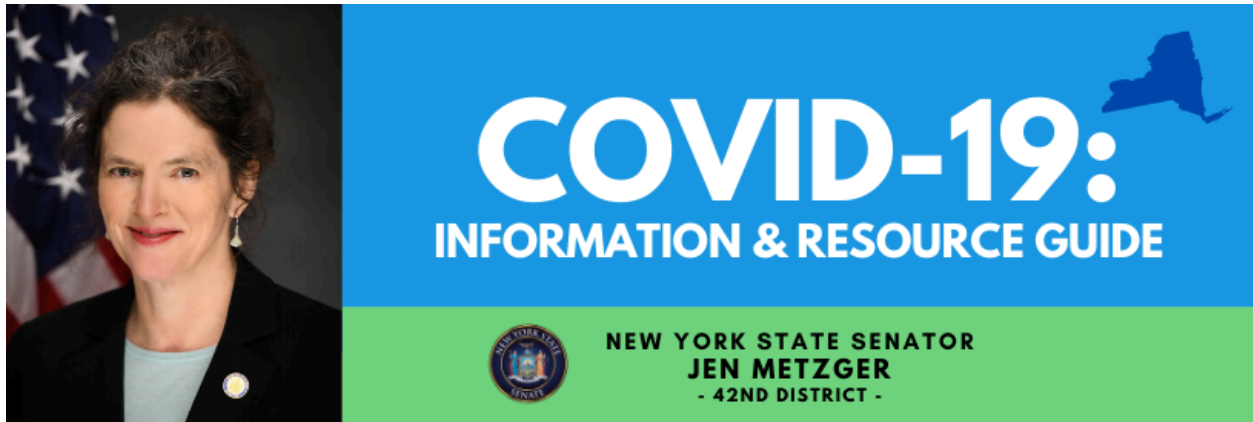
[EdX](#) gives you access to 2000 free online courses from 140 leading institutions worldwide. Gain new skills or earn a certificate of completion through a wide range of courses like Biology, Business and Management, Programming (Python, Linux, Java, C+, Scratch) and more. You can download the lectures or watch online.

[The Great Courses is running a promotion](#) that allows new users to listen to or watch courses on their TV, laptop, tablet, and smartphone -- free for a month. Topics include history, drawing, mindfulness, mathematics, and much more.

JUST FOR KIDS

The [Boston Children's Museum](#) offers a virtual field trip for kids to enjoy, and the [San Diego Zoo](#) has a wonderful kid's section with videos, activities, and games.

Non-profit [Khan Academy, a free online learning resource](#) offering lessons, exercises, and quizzes, has [daily schedules](#) for students ages 4 to 18 years to learn in an at-home setting during school closures. They also conduct daily livestreams on social media to



help parents and educators best utilize the website's tools and resources. [Oxford Owl](#) has [free e-books](#) and math games and activities for ages 3-1, and BrainPop Junior features [learning tools for STEM, social studies, reading/writing, health, and arts for grades K-3](#).

NASA recently launched its [Teachable Moments portal](#), showcasing lessons and activities for kids, grades 4 through 12, to inspire the space explorers of the future. The Space Foundation Discovery Center also has [STEM lesson plans](#) for youngsters.

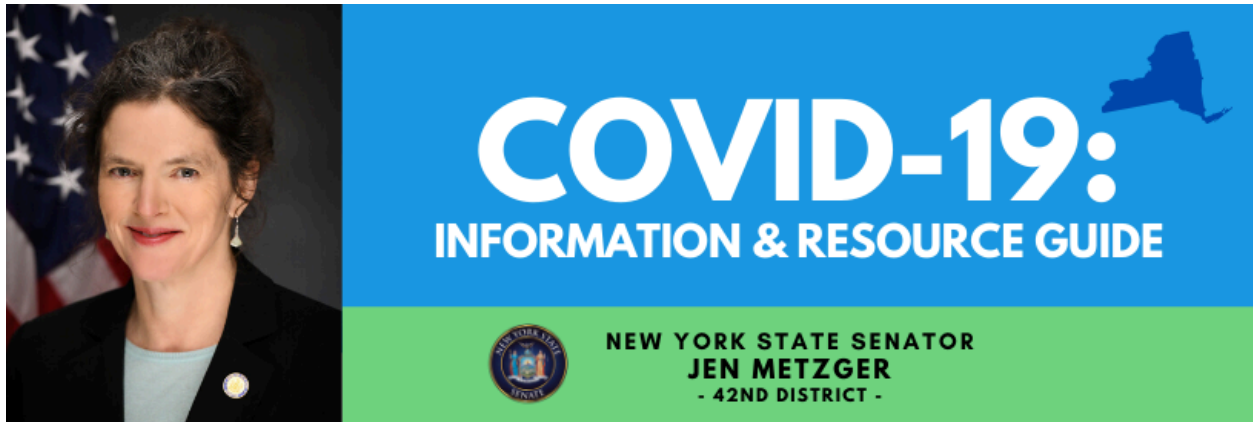
[The Monterey Bay Aquarium website](#) features [several animal live-cams](#), as does [the Houston Zoo](#). For farm-loving little ones, Canadian site [FarmFood 360](#) offers [11 virtual tours of farms](#) from pigs and cows, to apples and eggs.

[PBS KIDS](#) and [PBS LearningMedia](#) are providing engaging tools to support learning at home for all subjects K-12, including educational videos and games from favorite series, and related skill-building offline activities. They even have [PreK-12 resources for emergency closures](#).

Codecademy's data science and coding lessons for high school and college students can be found [HERE](#).

STAYING CONNECTED

[According to a press release shared with my office by Charter Communications](#), the company plans to provide free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription (where service is available), at any service level up to 100 Mbps, as well as opening up Charter WiFi Hotspots for public use. **These services**

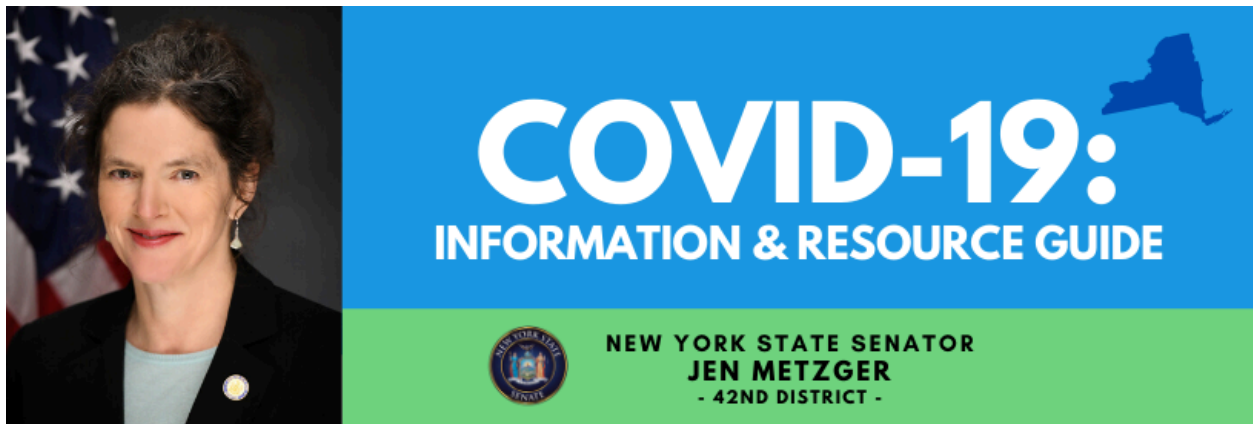


were expected to begin on Monday, March 16, and can be requested by calling (844) 488-8395 to enroll.

To ensure that AT&T customers can stay connected in the midst of disruptions caused by COVID-19, [AT&T has agreed to aid students and individuals who are out of work or school](#), pledging not to terminate service or assess late fees on customers and businesses that fall behind on their bills, and will keep public WiFi Hotspots open for public use, among other announcements.

For those residential and small business wireless customers whose economic circumstances have been impacted due to the coronavirus, Verizon is waiving overage charges in addition to their Keep Americans Connected pledge to [not terminate service and waive late fees](#). They're also offering new internet options for low-income households and adding 15GB of 4G LTE data to consumer and small business plans automatically. To help families during this time of need, Verizon announced plans for a discount program on Fios broadband plans for qualified new low-income customers and two months waived service charges for current Verizon customers that are part of the [Lifeline discount program](#). To learn more, go [HERE](#).

[Zoom](#) is a free video conferencing platform that gives users the ability to work, learn, and socialize remotely. [Review the company's guidance page](#) to learn about how they're working to support users, through virtual events, distance learning, and conferencing capabilities.



MORE INFORMATION

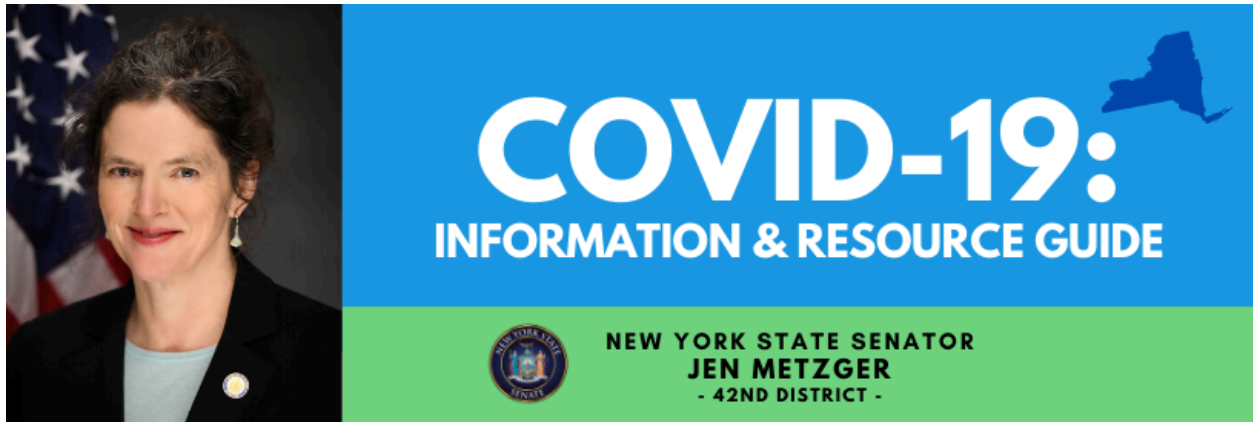
FEDERAL AND STATE LANDING PAGES FOR COVID-19 GUIDANCE

There is a great deal of misinformation on the streets and on social media about COVID-19 and efforts to contain it, so please only consult reliable sources of information. These include:

- The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).
- The [New York Department of Health](#) and the **New York State Coronavirus Hotline at 1(888) 364-3065**.
- The [New York State Department of Health has created a “Know Your Rights” website](#) with information concerning testing, insurance, unemployment, mortgages and rent, utilities, and price gouging.
- The [State Department provides a list of travel advisories](#) for those who are planning to fly outside of the United States.
- The [Governor’s website](#) for COVID-19 announcements that may affect you as a resident of New York.

FEDERAL GUIDANCE MEASURES FOR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

- [CDC Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools](#)
- [United States Department of Education Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#)
- [United States Department of Education Guidance for Interruptions of Study Related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)



- [CDC Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#)

I also encourage you to review the following best practices outlined by the CDC:

- [What we can do to protect and support older adults](#)
- [Guidance for health care professionals](#)
- [Guidance for people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#)

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES GUIDE

My office has created an information and resource guide that is specifically geared toward farmers and the agricultural community, and it can be accessed [HERE](#).