

SENATE DISTRICT 19 CORONAVIRUS RESOURCE GUIDE



**New York State Senator
ROXANNE J. PERSAUD**

*We're
open*



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday from 9 AM - 5 PM

By calling (718) 649-7653

or emailing

senatorpersaud@gmail.com

**In order to maintain proper social distancing
protocols, all in-person constituent
meetings are by appointment only.
FACIAL COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED.**

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CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE

REOPENING: As of June 22, 2020, NYC has entered Phase Two of Re-opening. For more details on what this entails, check out this informative [Spectrum Article](#).

Travel Advisory. The Governor announced that the President and the Center for Disease Control issued a travel advisory for New York, New Jersey and Connecticut on March 28. The advisory urges residents of those states to refrain from non-essential domestic travel for 14 days and is effective immediately. The Governor stated that the advisory is consistent with measures that New York already has in place.

Citywide Social Distancing Enforcement Blitz

As the weather gets nicer, remember to stay home and do your part. NYPD and Parks stepped up enforcement citywide, targeting hotspots for complaints and non-compliance. Fines will be up to \$1,000. **Text photos to 311-692 or use the 311 app to report social distancing complaints**

Public health experts from the city and state advise that **everyone behave as if you have already contracted the novel coronavirus**. This means:

- Only leave your home for essential tasks like grocery shopping, picking up medicine, or work (only if you cannot work from home).
- You can leave the house for a walk or exercise outside, but practice “social distancing,” meaning stay at least six feet apart from others.
- If you have symptoms, stay home and only seek medical attention if your symptoms do not get better for 3-4 days or if you are very sick. This will help ensure that those most in need can get medical attention.

For more guidance from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, [click here](#).

Learn more about COVID-19, or coronavirus, in American Sign Language.

<https://twitter.com/nycemergencymgt/status/1245797559572062210?s=20>

[What You Need to Know Now About COVID-19](#) (PDF, April 4)

Other Languages: [Español](#) | [Русский](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Kreyòl ayisyen](#) | [한국어](#) | [বাংলা](#) | [Italiano](#) | [Polski](#) | [العربية](#) | [Français](#) | [فارسی](#) | [اردو](#) | ["ידיש"](#) | [ελληνικά](#) |

[עברית](#) | [हिन्दी](#) | [日本語](#) | [नेपाली](#) | [Português](#) | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ\(India\)](#) | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ\(Pakistan\)](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [ไทย](#) | [ភាសាខ្មែរ](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#)

At any time, **text COVID to 692-692** to receive daily updates from the city or call the state's dedicated hotline at **1-888-364-3065**.

You can always find the latest updates and guidance online from the departments of health of the city [here](#) and the state [here](#).

311 Call Volume: 311 is experiencing high call volume. We want to make sure the highest priority calls are answered as quickly as possible. We urge you to please submit a service request online by visiting [NYC.gov/311](https://nyc.gov/311) or by using the 311 app. Or, if they cannot submit a request online, to consider calling after 7PM or during weekend hours.

Hotel Isolation Program: Community healthcare providers can now refer clients who are COVID positive or COVID-symptomatic and unable to isolate where they live to the hotel isolation program. To learn about the program, visit nyc.gov/covid19hotel.

The City will also enforce the following rules for non-vulnerable individuals with fines and mandatory closures:

- Practice social distancing in public (6 feet or more)
- Limit use of public transportation to only when absolutely necessary.
- Sick individuals should not leave home except to receive medical care.

***** WE MUST SEPARATE FACTS FROM FEAR AND GUARD AGAINST STIGMA *****

- A lot of information circulating about coronavirus on social media and even in some news reporting is not based on the facts.
- Support your friends, neighbors and colleagues by proactively sharing this message and countering misinformation.
- Obtain information about COVID-19 from trusted sources like the NYC Health Department, the CDC, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHAT IS THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS?

The CDC states that “a novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not

the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.”

Coronavirus is spread the following ways:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- Contact with infected surfaces or objects. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

The common symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, and muscle aches , and can include other symptoms listed below. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

MANDATORY FACE MASK USE

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced he will issue an Executive Order requiring all people in New York to wear a mask or a face covering when out in public and in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained, such as on public transportation. The Executive Order will go into effect on Friday, April 17th. Visit this [CDC website](#) for questions about facemask use, tips on how to make your own at home, and much more.

TESTING

To find a testing site near you, go to [this link!](#)

The Governor is also asking all New Yorkers who have recovered from COVID-19 to 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](#).

Northwell Health has partnered with churches throughout New York to provide COVID-19 testing. Testing is by appointment. You can Call (833) 422-7369 to make an appointment through Northwell Health.

NYC Health + Hospitals will offer COVID-19 testing on a walk-in basis, with a priority for those over the age of 65 with pre-existing conditions that put them at risk for serious illness.

[NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, East New York](#)

2094 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11207 718-388-5889 Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Brightpoint Health and UJA Federation NY, will be offering free COVID-19 testing by appointment only at the Alpha School. Please call 718-208-2802 to inquire about an appointment.

IN YOUR TIME OF LOSS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

From my staff and I, we offer the humblest of condolences. We must stay NY Strong. In [this link](#), you will find a resource guide that will answer questions you may have about funerals, memorials and burials, as well as tips on handling grief in this time of social distancing.

RESOURCES FOR CONSTITUENTS

FEDERAL CARES ACT/STIMULUS CHECK LEGISLATION

President Trump signed the federal CARES Act into law on Friday, March 27th. The CARES act is a roughly [\\$2 trillion coronavirus response bill](#) intended to speed relief across the American economy. This is the third aid package from Congress and is meant to keep businesses and individuals afloat during an unprecedented freeze on the majority of American life. Check out the hyperlinks below, which link to an informative NPR article explaining the details of the law.

There are seven main groups that would see the widest-reaching impacts: [individuals](#), [small businesses](#), [big corporations](#), [hospitals and public health](#), [federal safety net](#), [state and local governments](#), and [education](#). (Please click on each hyper-link for more details)

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service announced that distribution of economic impact payments has begun and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment.

- **How will the IRS know where to send my payment?**

The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible.

For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.

The IRS has created a new hotline to check the status of coronavirus relief payments.

Please call 1-800-919-9835 to inquire about your checks or visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>

- **The IRS does not have my direct deposit information. What can I do?**

As of April 15th, the IRS has unveiled the tool needed to provide your direct deposit information. See this [link](#) for details if you filed a tax return in 2018/2019, but didn't sign up for direct deposit. If you do not, your check will be delayed and sent via mail.

- **I am not typically required to file a tax return. Can I still receive my payment?**

Yes. People who typically do not file a tax return will need to file a simple tax return to receive an economic impact payment. Low-income taxpayers, senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans and individuals with disabilities who are otherwise not required to file a tax return will not owe tax. Click on this link to get started.

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>

- **How can I file the tax return needed to receive my economic impact payment?**

[IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) will soon provide information instructing people in these groups on how to file a 2019 tax return with simple, but necessary, information including their filing status, number of dependents and direct deposit bank account information.

Pagos de alivio por el impacto económico: lo que debes saber

www.irs.gov/es/coronavirus

經濟影響付款：您需要瞭解的內容 www.irs.gov/coronavirus

경제 충격 지원 지불금 : 알아야 할 사항 www.irs.gov/coronavirus

Платежи в связи с экономическими последствиями : что Вам необходимо знать www.irs.gov/coronavirus

Khoản thanh toán tác động kinh tế : Những gì quý vị cần biết.

www.irs.gov/coronavirus

HEALTHCARE/HEALTHCARE COSTS

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

Paid Sick Leave: New Yorkers can call the City's Call Center at 855-491-2667 or call 311 to facilitate claiming paid sick leave. For questions about how to obtain the

necessary medical documentation, see Health Department's [FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Special Enrollment Period for uninsured New Yorkers is extended through 6/15 with all coverage effective as of 4/1: [NYC.gov/GetCoveredNYC](https://nyc.gov/GetCoveredNYC)

Notify NYC alerts in العربية, বাংলা, 中文, Français, Kreyòl Ayisyen, Italiano, 한국어, Polski, Русский, Español, اردو or עברית: <https://on.nyc.gov/change-language>.

To refer your friends and family to this service please visit <https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/Home/ReferAFriend>.

Please contact NotifyNYC@oem.nyc.gov with questions or concerns.

Eligible New Yorkers and their families currently not insured, can visit [NY State of Health](#), or call (855) 355-5777, to find affordable health plans that suit their needs. Plan enrollments completed during the special enrollment period will be effective April 1, 2020.

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.

As a reminder, if you are experiencing symptoms that may be the novel coronavirus, call your doctor first, and if you do not have a doctor, call the state hotline at **1-888-364-3065**.

On March 13, 2020, USCIS posted an [alert](#) clarifying that seeking or using medical treatment or preventive healthcare services related to COVID-19 will NOT be considered under the public charge rule, even if the services are Medicaid-funded.

Anyone who needs help during the COVID-19 crisis should seek care without fear, regardless of immigration status or ability to pay for health services. If you are experiencing MILD symptoms STAY HOME FOR THREE TO FOUR DAYS. IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST OR INTENSIFY AND YOU NEED HELP GETTING MEDICAL CARE, call 311 and get connected to a doctor.

Many health-care providers are offering virtual visits, either by phone or by video technology.

- Brownsville Multi-Service Center, 718-345-5000; some in-person visits are also available.
- HealthCare Choices, 718-234-0073, Monday-Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm

SEXUAL/REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Planned Parenthood's Project Street Beat Mobile Health Center Team is continuing to provide sexual and reproductive health care during COVID, **and they will be in Senate District 19 soon!** Please refer to their full schedule provided [here](#).

Project Street Beat of PPGNY is following CDC guidelines to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. They are offering *remote telehealth visits* for non-urgent visits, as well as *on-site Mobile Health Center* visits for urgent needs.

They offer the following services:

- Birth Control- IUD, Implant, Injection, Pill, Patch, Ring
- Emergency Contraception
- Pregnancy Testing
- Medication Abortion (starting 4/6/20)
- STI Testing and Treatment
- UTI Treatment
- HIV Testing and Linkage to Care
- PrEP/PEP- HIV Prevention Medication
- Gynecologic Services
- Pap Smears
- Breast Exams
- Narcan
- Syringes and Safe Injection Supplies

For non-urgent visits:

Clients should call **1-855-778-2328** between **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-F** to schedule a remote telehealth visit. Nurses Alice and Sarah will address all non-urgent needs over the phone.

For urgent visits:

We will direct patients with urgent needs to our Mobile Health Center. People who do not have access to a phone can come directly to our Mobile Health Center.

The Alzheimer Foundation of America is offering assistance to families with a member who has dementia issues.

They are able assist callers with topics/questions about combating isolation, keeping engaged, washing tips, caregiver stress, whether family members should visit during this time, items to have in the home, etc.

Families can connect with the AFA Helpline in any of the following ways:

- Via phone by calling 866-232-8484
- Web chat by visiting www.alzfdn.org and clicking on the blue and white chat icon on the lower right hand corner of the page
- Sending a text message to 646-586-5283

HOUSING / TENANT ISSUES / BUILDINGS

New York State is placing a moratorium on housing evictions indefinitely. Governor Cuomo Announces Moratorium on COVID-Related Evictions Will Be Extended Until August 20, 2020.

The Governor additionally announced that landlords would be barred from imposing fees for COVID-related late payments, and tenants would be permitted to use security deposit funds to pay rent. Tenants would be required to replenish these security deposits over time.

If you're having an issue with your landlord, call the Met Council's tenant support hotline at 212-979-0611. Monday & Wednesday, 1:30-8pm; Tues 5:30-8pm; Fri 1:30-5pm. Available en espanol.

COVID-19 Resources for NYCHA residents, go to <http://on.nyc.gov/nycha-covid-19-resources>

On April 20, the Governor announced that New York will partner with Ready Responders, a national organization that provides in-home healthcare, and elected officials to provide on-site health services and COVID-19 testing to residents of New York City public housing. The elected officials participating are Rep. Greg Meeks, Rep.

Hakeem Jeffries, Attorney General Letitia James, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. The Governor also stated that the State will provide 500,000 cloth face masks and 10,000 gallons of hand sanitizer to public housing communities.

Please Note

NYS Homes and Community Renewal's Office of Rent Administration RentInfo Line Has Changed To: (833) 499-0343

Important Notice for Section 8 Applicants, Participants, and Participating Owners:

In order to ensure New Yorkers who use Section 8 rental assistance vouchers have uninterrupted access to housing, NYC is taking the following steps to strengthen housing stability:

- The City will automatically extend any Section 8 voucher set to expire. Voucher holders do not need to reach out to the City for an extension.
- All subsidy terminations that are in process are suspended until further notice.
- Any HPD Section 8 voucher holders facing rent hardships due to decreases in income should contact [HPD](#).
- NYCHA encourages households experiencing a loss of income to visit the NYCHA Self-Service Portal.

Many people are asking about the 90 day mortgage relief period, so here is a break-down. "Suspended" and "postponed" means that no payment is due at this time for those facing financial hardships. However, you will still have to pay back the mortgage after the 90 day period with no penalties.

Here is what the directive included:

- 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.

Additionally, the Governor has asked DFS to instruct state chartered banks to waive ATM fees, late fees, overdraft fees and fees for credit cards to help lessen the financial hardship".

NYC Department of Buildings

As part of the citywide response to the Coronavirus, DOB is instituting temporary rules to drastically reduce walk-in traffic to its offices. The following mandatory operational changes have been implemented:

- [COVID-19 Response: Appointments for Standard Plan Review BIS Job Filings](#)
- [COVID-19 Response: Administrative Enforcement \(AEU\) and Licensing Units Updates](#)
- [COVID-19 Response – Application Processing](#)
- [COVID-19 Response: Enforcement](#)
- [COVID-19 Response: Full Demolition and Site Safety Plans](#)
- [COVID-19 Response: Appointments for Standard Plan Review BIS Job Filings](#)
- DOB's weekly [Customer Service Night](#) is cancelled until further notice.
- [Preventing and Remediating the Contamination of Germs on Construction Site](#)
- [Recommended Best Practices for Dust Mitigation/Control in Occupied Buildings with Active Construction](#)

FOOD & SUPPLIES

- While schools are closed, three daily grab-and-go meals are available at ALL schools for ALL students. You do NOT need to go to the school you attend; just go to the nearest school between 7:30am and 1:30pm.
- For urgent food and hunger needs, call the Emergency Food Hotline at [866-888-8777](tel:866-888-8777) or [311](tel:311). You'll be provided with hours of operation and directions to the nearest food pantries and community kitchens.
- Click [here](#) for info on the city's emergency food services.
- [FoodHelp NYC](#)
- [One Week of Free Groceries](#): The Department of Probation, Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Nutrition Kitchens, in partnership with the Food Bank of NYC and the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) have opened five kitchens – one in each borough – to distribute free food, available to any New Yorker who needs it, visit [here](#).
- City Harvest and Food Bank: We are distributing fresh food and household products at NYCHA developments throughout the city. Please click [here](#) for more information on times and locations.
- Want to order out? Check out [this map](#) of restaurants across Brooklyn that are still serving take-out, delivery, or pick-up!
- To access SNAP online ordering

- Go to <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/snap-online-shopping.page>

GROCERY SHOPPING/SHOPPING

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is especially important to practice social distancing when going out for groceries/supplies. To learn more about what you can do to protect yourself and other customers, check out this [informative article](#) from Time Magazine. The article provides detailed answers to the following questions:

- **Is it better to order groceries online or go to the store?**
- **What are the best ways to practice social distancing at the store?**
- **What are the best ways to safely touch things in the store?**
- **Should you wear a mask or gloves to the store?**
- **How can you pay safely?**
- **Should you wipe down all the items when you get home?**
- **When is the best time to visit the grocery store?**
- **How often should you go grocery shopping?**
- **Shop for Groceries Online with your SNAP Benefits:**
<https://on.nyc.gov/2K0tQSh>

Have questions about where your local grocery store might be? Wondering if they may be providing delivery options? We have collected grocery stores phone numbers and addresses and separated them by neighborhood! Click the link for your neighborhood for a list of local grocery stores.

- [Canarsie Grocery Stores](#)
- [Brownsville/East NY Grocery Stores](#)
- [Georgetown Grocery Stores](#)
- [Mill Basin/Bergen Beach Grocery Stores](#)
- [Sheepshead Bay Grocery Stores](#)
- [Marine Park Grocery Stores](#)
- [Ocean Hill Grocery Stores](#)
- [Starrett City Grocery Stores](#)

FREE MEALS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

The New York City Department of Education is committed to making **three free meals** available daily for any New Yorker. Any New Yorker who wants one can get three free meals a day at more than 400 Meal Hubs across the city.

- Meals can be picked up at all Meal Hubs 7:30 am to 1:30 pm, Monday through Friday
- Meals Hubs will operate for children and families from 7:30 am to 11:30 am, and for adults from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
 - No one will be turned away at any time
 - All adults and children can pick up three meals at one time
 - Vegetarian and halal options available at all sites
- No dining space is available, so meals must be eaten off premises
- Parents and guardians may pick up meals for their children
- No registration or ID required

Use our Meal Hub lookup tool to find a location near you!

[Click here to find a location!](#)

What's on the Menu

- See what is on the menu for free [breakfast](#) and [lunch](#) this month.
- Dates, locations, and menus are subject to change.

SNAP BENEFIT RECIPIENTS/HUMAN RESOURCES

HRA Center Locations

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, the City has consolidated HRA Job, SNAP, and Medicaid Center locations, effective **12:00pm, Tuesday, March 24**. The City also secured permission to accept Cash Assistance (CA) applications online, which, as you know, began on **Friday, March 20**. The interview portion of the CA application process is being conducted by telephone. Please note that SNAP applications, and those for emergency benefits such as utility or rent arrears, were already available through ACCESS HRA.

As a result of these consolidations, we are advising New Yorkers to apply for public benefits online at ACCESS HRA in order to prevent unnecessary visits to an HRA center. For clients who cannot or do not want to apply online, a list of Job, SNAP, and

Medicaid center locations that will remain open can be found here: [Job,SNAP, Medicaid](#).

Clients are being informed of this change via ACCESS HRA, email, robocalls, text messages, flyers, and signage in our offices as well as social media. For the most recent information about this and other changes, however, please visit their [website](#).

However, we understand the current situation and for individuals unable or unwilling to come to our offices for scheduled appointments, **NO NEGATIVE CASE ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN.**

This includes, but is not limited to, appointments for services such as with the Office of Child Support Services as well as appointments or assigned activities with Career Service providers. For clients who are seeking benefits or services but do not wish to report to their assigned center, HRA Centers will assist clients no matter which center they report to.

During these difficult times, ACCESS HRA remains a vital tool for clients and is a great way to skip the trip! For those seeking SNAP benefits or those already in receipt but with a recertification coming due, ACCESS HRA can be used to submit the application/recertification form and to upload pictures of documents needed for eligibility determinations. After submitting, clients can call anytime Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5pm for a telephone interview. For those in receipt of cash assistance benefits, ACCESS HRA can be used to submit requests for special grants and emergency assistance without having to come to your Job Center! ACCESS HRA can also be used by those with a scheduled recertification appointment to submit your recertification form. For all clients, ACCESS HRA can also be used to update your contact information. It is important during these times that HRA has a way to contact you and this is the fastest and easiest way to keep us updated.

<https://access.nyc.gov/>

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Unemployment Insurance is temporary income for eligible workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. To qualify, you must have worked and earned enough wages in covered employment. In New York State, employers pay contributions that fund unemployment insurance. It is not deducted from your paycheck. The best way to file a new claim for unemployment insurance is through

our improved online filing system.

PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION READY **BEFORE** FILING YOUR UI CLAIM:

- **NAME**
- **CONTACT INFORMATION**
- **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**
- **DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION**
- **YOUR LAST W-2**
(FOR EMPLOYER INFORMATION, EMPLOYER NUMBER AND WAGE)
- **BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER AND ROUTING NUMBER**
(IF YOU WANT DIRECT DEPOSIT)

WE ARE YOUR DOL



IF YOU ARE FILING AS **SELF-EMPLOYED** OR **AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**, PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION READY **BEFORE** FILING YOUR CLAIM:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER • DRIVER'S LICENSE OR MOTOR VEHICLE ID CARD NUMBER
(IF YOU HAVE EITHER ONE) • MAILING ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE • PHONE NUMBER
(WHERE WE CAN REACH YOU FROM 7:30AM – 8PM, MONDAY – SATURDAY) • ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD NUMBER
(IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAMES AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF YOUR SELF-EMPLOYMENT • EMPLOYER REGISTRATION NUMBER OR FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (FEIN) • NET ANNUAL INCOME FROM YOUR MOST RECENT FILED TAX YEAR
(LINE 31 OF SCHEDULE C OF YOUR 1040 TAX FORM) |
|--|--|

WE ARE YOUR DOL



[File a new claim here.](#) This is only for new claims. If you already have a claim, please go to labor.ny.gov/signin to make weekly certifications or to view your claim information.

This information was obtained from external sources for your guidance only. It is not an endorsement of any organization nor are we responsible for your use or any change of information.

The 7-day waiting period to obtain unemployment insurance will be waived for people who are laid off due to economic impacts of the coronavirus.

The Department of Labor is implementing a special system to handle thousands of calls about unemployment insurance as coronavirus shakes the job market around the state.

The state waived the seven-day waiting period for unemployment insurance and is implementing a filing system that spreads out filings over multiple days of the week, based on the first letter of a filer's last name. The system is as follows:

1. A - F : Monday
2. G - N : Tuesday
3. - Z : Wednesday

Missed your day? File on Thurs-Fri-Sat-Sun.

Any claim you file will be backdated to the date you became unemployed. If you are eligible, you will be paid for all benefits due. Here is a [step-by-step process to enter online services to file a claim](#). This is the best way to file a claim. If you have to call the telephone claims center regarding your claim, call 1-888-209-8124 during the hours of operation:

Monday through Friday, 8 am to 7:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 am to 8:00 pm.

Please note that the telephone claims center cannot help you with issues related to your NY.gov account, such as difficulty logging in, changing your personal information or resetting your password.

For NY.gov assistance, please call 800-833-3000.

The department is adding staff and expanding hours to handle the influx, but the state warned the deluge will cause intermittent interruptions in their service.

If you are self-employed, you may now file for Unemployment Insurance benefits online. See the [Guidance for Self-Employed Individuals](#).

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Wednesday, April 8th, that New York State will make an additional \$600 payment to all who filed for unemployment, which will be reimbursed by the federal government.

Under the [Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation](#) (FPUC), states will administer the additional \$600 weekly payment to certain eligible individuals who are receiving unemployment benefits.

The state will also extend the period covered by unemployment benefits for another thirteen weeks, for a total of 39 weeks.

Workforce1 has a number of job opportunities, including residential aide, security guard, call center representative, maintenance worker, and van driver. Fill out their form [here](#)

(https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bFPjqL_xgUqOkiDp62EqGSWcqK4PqAxJlfLJ13I3yTdUQVBJSzdcQ1hGVIRKTU5HQ0FHskRVUzRWUy4u).

Note that all recruiting services are conducted virtually.

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PUA)

WHAT IS PUA?

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

For more information about this program, and information on how to apply, visit this link <https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/pua-factsheet.pdf>.

FINANCES/EMERGENCY LOANS

The city's Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan Program provides interest-free loans of \$2,000-\$5,000 to residents of NYC who are facing financial challenges caused by the Coronavirus outbreak; [More info here](#).

Governor Cuomo and Attorney General James temporarily suspended state debt collection in response to coronavirus. The state will temporarily halt the collection of medical and student debt owed to the State of New York and referred to the Office of the Attorney General for collection, for at least a 30-day period, in response to growing financial impairments resulting from the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Debt suspension applications can be accessed [here](#).

Visit this link for information from the Federal Small Business Administration <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>.

The programs and initiatives in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* that was just passed by Congress are intended to assist business owners with whatever needs they have right now. When implemented, there will be many new resources available for small businesses, as well as certain non-profits and other employers.

This guide provides information about the major programs and initiatives that will soon be available from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to address these needs, as well as some additional tax provisions that are outside the scope of SBA.

NYC Financial Empowerment Center counselors are available to support you over the phone with free financial counseling – it's secure and confidential. Book an appointment at <http://nyc.gov/TalkMoney>

Struggling to get started understanding the CARES Act? The following questions might help point you to the program that will meet your needs. Specific details for each of the programs are in this [guide](#)

Do you need:

- **Capital to cover the cost of retaining employees?** Then the Paycheck Protection Program might be right for you.

This information was obtained from external sources for your guidance only. It is not an endorsement of any organization nor are we responsible for your use or any change of information.

- **A quick infusion of a smaller amount of cash to cover you right now?** You might want to look into an Emergency Economic Injury Grant.
- **To ease your fears about keeping up with payments on your current or potential SBA loan?** The Small Business Debt Relief Program could help.
- **Just some quality, free counseling to help you navigate this uncertain economic time?** The resource partners might be your best bet.

Financial Empowerment Center counselors are available to support those experiencing financial challenges. Book an appointment [here](#).

Peruse some other options for potential grants/loans below!

- Facebook has also recently announced a grant program aimed at small businesses. For more information, [click here](#).
<https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/grant>
- Verizon Wireless, through a \$2.5 million investment, is launching a Small Business Recovery Fund, that awards up to \$10k per qualifying applicant. [Click here for more details and to register](#).
- The Spanx Sara Blakely Foundation Red Backpack Fund is making 1,000 grants of \$5,000 each to female entrepreneurs to help alleviate the immediate needs and support the long-term recovery of those impacted by COVID-19. Visit [here](#) for more information.
- Grantspace updates their list of organizations making hardship grants to small businesses, nonprofits, individuals and artists daily [here](#).
- Hello Alice is offering \$10,000 grants being distributed immediately to small business owners impacted by the coronavirus. For Alice Emergency Grants, visit [here](#).
- Thryv Foundation is offering hardship grants to help small and medium businesses through the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. For information, visit [here](#).
- KIVA is offering up to \$15,000 in zero-interest loans for small businesses. Apply [here](#).
- GoFundMe.org Small Business Relief Fund will provide micro-grants to qualifying small businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For information, visit [here](#).
- Salesforce Care Small Business Grants will be offering \$10,000 grants to U.S. small businesses. For information, click [here](#).

- Small Business Owners may qualify for a \$5,000 grant from the Save Small Business Fund, created by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. For information, click [here](#).

UTILITY BILLS/UTILITIES

- The Department of Public Service will suspend utilities from cutting off service as a result of the coronavirus.
- National Grid is temporarily suspending collection related activities including disconnections. These policies are effective immediately and will be in place through the end of April. Visit ngrid.com/covid-19 for the latest.
- On March 25, the Public Service Commission postponed both the National Grid and the New York American Water rate hikes. National Grid implemented a three month delay to Service to prohibit public utilities from cutting off service, including power and heat, to prevent electricity and gas delivery prices from increasing until July 1st. The New York American Water rate hike was moved to September 1st instead of its planned April 1st change. In 2016, the Public Service Commission agreed to a four-year rate hike that would have increased this year's bills from \$3.89 to over \$10 per month. The Governor has also directed the Department of Public Service to prohibit public utilities from cutting off service, including power and heat, to customers affected by coronavirus.
- Con Ed has temporarily suspended service shut offs involving customers having payment difficulties. Most customers can arrange for payment extensions and agreements online through My Account. If you have an appointment, please notify them at 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633).

Some internet providers are offering free WIFI for the duration of the coronavirus outbreak. See below for more details:

- [Free WIFI from Comcast](#)
- [Free WIFI from Optimum](#)
- [Free WIFI from Spectrum](#)

NYC Department of Sanitation

Due to concerns over public gatherings, ALL Special Waste Drop-Off Sites are closed until further notice. Additionally, DSNY SAFE Disposal Events scheduled to take place in April have been cancelled and our Curbside E-Waste program has been suspended until further notice.

CON EDISON CUSTOMERS

Interacting with Con Edison employees

If utility workers knock on your door, they will carry proper identification. They will explain that they are following U.S. Centers for Disease Control and New York State and City health and safety guidelines to reduce the transmission of the virus.

They'll ask if anyone in the household is ill and discuss how they may carry out their tasks with everyone's safety and comfort in mind. If you have an appointment with us, please let us know if you or anyone in your premises is quarantined by calling 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633). All company employees and contractors are advised to follow social distancing guidelines.

Bills

Con Edison will not shut off any service due to payment difficulties resulting from the health crisis. And they will waive new late-payment charges for all customers. They are also suspending the fee charged to a customer who is unable to grant access to their property. Service may be shut off when there is a safety issue.

Con Edison Customer Service Centers remain open, but it is better for customers to pay bills online.

Meter readings and program visits to your home

Meter readers will not enter customers' homes to read meters. Customers with indoor meters can report their usage online. The company has paused energy efficiency service visits to all residential customers' homes in both New York City and Westchester County. In addition, energy efficiency visits also have been suspended to businesses in Westchester County.

SMALL BUSINESSES

- The NYC Department of Small Business (SBS) is offering zero-interest loans up to \$75,000 for businesses with fewer than 100 employees that have experienced at least a 25% decrease in revenue due to coronavirus. Additionally, the City is offering to cover up to 40% of payroll costs for two months for businesses with fewer than 5 employees to help retain employees. For more info and to apply, [click here](#).
- Beginning 3/17, small businesses will be able to apply online for an employee retention grant. For more info and to apply, [click here](#).
- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering up to \$2 million in Disaster Assistance Loans to small businesses negatively affected by coronavirus. For more info, call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

The New York State Department of Labor is waiving the 7-day wait period for those laid off due to coronavirus closures or quarantines. For more information, [click here](#).

- Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce – Impact on Small Businesses
<https://mailchi.mp/brooklynchamber/xnqdjok2hx?e=e12800e333>
- U.S. Small Business Administration - SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Check out the FINANCES/EMERGENCY LOANS section for more information on loan assistance for small businesses.

The New York City Small Business Administration, SBA, has resumed accepting Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) applications from participating lenders. I would like to urge all who have been impacted to consider applying for this COVID-19 relief as soon as possible, as \$60 billion in funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To prepare for the application, start collecting the following right away:

- Payroll reports for 2019 and 2020 YTD with corresponding bank statements
- Breakdown of payroll benefits (healthcare benefits, retirement benefits, vacation)
- State and local taxes (form 940, 941, or 944)
- 1099s for independent contractors (if applicable)

Please refer to the following online [SURVEY](#) and [FACT SHEET](#) for applications or by calling 212-312-3915 or email sbasupport@edc.nyc.

MENTAL HEALTH

NYC Well offers free confidential counseling in more than 200 languages:

<https://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us/en/>

You can practice social distancing and still get the help you need.

If you're feeling stressed, scared, anxious, or depressed, NYC Well is your connection to free, confidential mental health support. Call 1-888-NYC-WELL or Text "WELL" to 65173. Also check this helpful guide [Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#).

Free and confidential support for people in distress, 24/7, [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#), 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Find treatment facilities confidentially and anonymously, 24/7 [Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator](#). Treatment referral and information, 24/7 [National Helpline](#) - 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

Crisis Text Line is free, 24/7 support for those in crisis. Text 741741 from anywhere in the US to text with a trained Crisis Counselor. Crisis Text Line trains volunteers to support people in crisis. <https://www.crisistextline.org/faq>

Here are some other mental health resources to check out as well:

- [PBS Kids](#): a list of suggestions for talking to children about Coronavirus, as well as a list of videos, games, and activities about hand washing and staying healthy.
- [National Public Radio](#): created a Coronavirus Comicstrip for children with a three minute podcast that answers common questions that children may have.
- [How to Explain Coronavirus to a Child with Anxiety](#).
- [LittlePuddinsBlog: The Autism Educator](#)
- [Coronavirus: What Kids Can Do](#) Health information on COVID-19 for Children
- [Emotional Well-being During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- https://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us/mental_health_support_while_home
- [Psychological First Aid Training \(link\)](#)

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

We may be stuck at home, but we should still be able to enjoy art and have fun.

Here are some available resources:

- The Brooklyn public library is offering virtual programming [here](#).
- Actors are doing live storytimes for kids [on Facebook here](#).
- Virtual tours of museum collections are available at [The Met](#), [the Guggenheim](#), and [the Frick Collection](#).
- The Met Opera is streaming recordings of performances every night [here](#).
- The Museum of the City of New York has [freely available online archives](#) where you can learn about the city.
- The Whitney has documentary-style videos of their collections [on Youtube here](#).
- MOMA has [a free online course](#).
- Activity Book for Kids: City Planning has put out an activity book you cause to teach kids about social distancing and the public realm. Check it out and share with your constituents (and kids!): [Animals of NYC - Physical Distancing Activity Book](#).

The Lincoln Center for Performing Arts is launching ***Lincoln Center at Home***, a new initiative to help people stay creative and connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their halls may be closed, but their digital campus is open! The Lincoln Center's offerings have been developed to meet the specific needs of students, families, and arts lovers locally and throughout the world.

- Lincoln Center Pop-up Classroom: a daily dose of creativity designed and led by some of world's best artists and educators. Each daily digital live class will utilize simple materials found at home to help families with children explore a variety of art forms. (Tune in every weekday at 10AM or watch anytime at facebook.com/LincolnCenterNYC)
- #ConcertsForKids: a new performance series for families featuring a remarkable group of artists who will share their world-class artistry and diverse musical perspectives straight from their homes. We have four concerts lined up, featuring a remarkable group of diverse artists, and many more on the way. Events will be listed at LincolnCenter.org/AtHome.

- From the archives of Lincoln Center’s resident organizations comes a trove of video, including rarely seen footage from decades of Live From Lincoln Center, more recent performances from across campus, and live streams from wherever performances are still happening – empty halls, living rooms, and more.

More Educational/Entertainment Options for Families

- [101 Ideas to Keep Your Kids Busy During Coronavirus Closure](#)
- [Education Companies Offering Free Subscriptions Due to School Closings](#)
- <https://www.schools.nyc.gov>
- Digital Girl, Inc. is responding to this crisis by offering online programming. Here is the link to the schedule:
[https://www.digitalgirlinc.org/dgi-virtual-hangout.](https://www.digitalgirlinc.org/dgi-virtual-hangout)

Parks

Facility Re-Openings

As our facilities re-open, we ask that patrons wear a face covering and maintain at least six feet of social distance between each household. Wash your hands frequently and wipe down equipment. Cover your coughs and sneezes, do not touch your face, and stay home if you feel sick.

- City [playgrounds](#) began opening as of June 22.
- [Golf courses and driving ranges](#) are re-open as of June 22.

Please visit [this website](#) for up to the minute changes and reopening news.

Boating

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced marinas, boatyards and marine manufacturers will be allowed to open for personal use as long as strict social distancing and sanitization protocols are followed. Chartered watercraft services or rentals will not be allowed, and restaurant activity at these sites must be limited to take-out or delivery only, like anywhere else in the state.

Beaches

The Governor also announced a multi-state agreement with New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware to reopen beaches for Memorial Day Weekend. The Governor outlined specific conditions New York beaches must meet to reopen. State and local beaches and lakeshores in New York State may open the Friday before Memorial Day Weekend on the following minimum conditions:

- Mandating no more than 50 percent capacity by ensuring controlled exits/entrances and limiting parking
- Prohibiting group contact activities, including sports (e.g. volleyball, football)
- Keeping areas of social gathering closed (e.g. designated picnic areas, playgrounds, pavilions, arcades, amusement rides)
- Enforcing social distancing measures for both employees and visitors
- Requiring masks to be worn by all employees and visitors when social distancing is not possible
- Closing concessions
- Ensuring staff levels are adequate to achieve these measures and enforce crowd control.

City, town and county beaches may open on the same conditions subject to local government home rule:

- Local government must fully enforce minimum rules and may impose additional conditions
- If local governments do not enforce minimum rules, the beach will be closed
- Locals must notify the public by Wednesday, May 20 of their intention to open
- Beaches can open on Friday before Memorial Day Weekend, May 22, 2020

EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Unfortunately, given the current state of the ongoing public health crisis, all non-essential events in June (parades, concerts, rallies, etc.) are cancelled. The City has been coordinating with organizers of the Pride March, Puerto Rican Day Parade, and Celebrate Israel parades.

NYC Beaches

The [City's public beaches](#) will open for swimming on July 1. You should only swim when lifeguards are present, and continue using social distancing while in and out of the water.

Until July 1, you can use beach sand and boardwalks for exercise during regular park hours. Be sure to wear a face covering. Restrooms will remain open during regular hours.

EDUCATION/EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Mayor DeBlasio has announced NYC Schools will be closed for the remainder of the term year. This does not mean the end of learning. Remote instruction is in place.

Here's a link that lists free resources for use while the children are at home from school. This is shared for informational purposes only, not as an endorsement of any product.

- <https://funinfirst.com/free-online-learning-at-home/>
- [Education Companies Offering Free Subscriptions Due to School Closings](#)
- <https://www.schools.nyc.gov>

The Brooklyn Public Library system is closed until further notice; however, a huge selection of ebooks are available [here](#).

Free Online Tutoring for Students

Through the [New York Public Library](#), students can receive one-on-one free online homework help from one-on-one tutors, daily from 2–11 PM. Tutors are available in English and Spanish, from early elementary through high school grades, in core subject areas. Video content and other resources are also available 24 hours a day. Families will need a New York Library card to access this service, and can apply for a card [here](#).

Activity Packets (Hard Copy)

- These packets include 10-days' worth of lessons in different subjects. These families should expect to receive the packets via mail in April.
- Parents can access material for all grades, for students who need Specialized Instruction, and for multilingual learning students on the [Activities for Students](#) section of our website.

Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs)

This information was obtained from external sources for your guidance only. It is not an endorsement of any organization nor are we responsible for your use or any change of information.

- We launched Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs) March 16 prioritizing enrollment for children of our first responders, transit, healthcare workers.
- We have now expanded enrollment to the following categories of employees: DOHMH, DEP, NYCHA, Parks, Probation, Grocery stores, Pharmacies.
- We are consolidating a number of REC sites, and have already informed impacted families and presented them with the nearest alternative site.
- At this time, we are not publicizing the location of the REC sites, as there is no on-site enrollment and we don't want to encourage families to "drop in" without pre-registering (we are practicing social distancing and need to closely monitor capacity).
- That said, we encourage families to apply to enroll their child in a REC by filing out this [online form](#) and answers to general questions about RECs can be [found here](#).

We know that many of our families are facing incredible challenges and are here to support in any way we can. If you have questions or concerns, please email me and our team will follow-up.

Special Education

- Schools contacted families to begin making arrangements for special education programs and related services.
- Families of students with IEPs were presented with a Special Education Remote Learning Plan, developed by the student's special education teacher and other school-based staff with knowledge of the student.
- IEP meetings will be conducted over the phone, and parents can make a referral by emailing the principal or specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov, or by calling 311.
- Assessments may be conducted remotely.
- Related services will be provided via teletherapy, or video-conferencing where clinically appropriate. Providers and schools will contact families to discuss the service plan for each student. Providers will also give families information about activities that can be done at home to reinforce the related services work.

- Schools will work with families to ensure that devices are provided to families of students recommended for Assistive Technology, and will contact families to make those arrangements.

NYS Testing

The administrations of the 2020 elementary and intermediate-level State assessments have been suspended for the remainder of the school year.

This suspension applies to the following New York State testing programs:

- NYS Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Test
- NYS Grades 3-8 Mathematics Test
- NYS Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test
- NYS Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test
- NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Testing Grades K-12
- NYS Alternate Assessment for students with severe cognitive disabilities in Grades 3-8 and high school

State Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa announced that the **high school Regents exams** that were scheduled for June have been **canceled** amid the coronavirus shutdown.

Regents Exams and Diploma Requirements

The COVID-19 emergency has evolved rapidly, leading to uncertainty as to when regular in-school classroom instruction will be able to resume throughout the state and whether students will be adequately prepared to take the Regents examinations. As a result, the Board of Regents and Department have cancelled the June 2020 administration of the NYS High School Regents Examination Program.

Because of this, the Department has modified the requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements. These modifications apply to all students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-20 school year who were intending to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents Examinations.

Students who, during the June 2020 examination period would have taken one or more Regents examinations, will be exempted from passing the assessments in order

to be issued a diploma. To qualify for the exemption, students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and will have earned credit in such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year; or
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and will have passed such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year; or
- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and has failed to earn credit by the end of the school year. Such student returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course and earn the course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August 2020; or
- The student was previously enrolled in the course of study leading to an applicable Regents examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents examination but intended to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

Attendance

Schools have a system for monitoring student attendance. If your student's school includes attendance in grade calculations, they will not include absences due to COVID-19 in their grade calculations. Moving forward, schools will not include attendance in any grade calculations for the rest of the year. Schools must base students' grades primarily on their academic performance. Students cannot fail their courses because of absence.

Remote Learning Concerns

Need help getting a device for your child to enable remote learning? View the next graphic explaining what you can do to secure the necessary technology so your children can access remote learning capabilities.

A [Remote Learning Survey](#) is available in nine languages. Please fill it out so the city can improve the program!

Grading Policy for Remote Learning: The adjusted K-12 citywide grading policy will maintain a high bar for student achievement and give flexibility and support for

students grappling with COVID-19. More information available here: [Message for Families](#).

I would like to remind all parents of school age children to make sure you have registered a tablet from the NYC Department of Education. School is still in session and remote learning is new for a lot of people, but we will adapt and achieve even higher. To check if a tablet was assigned to you please click [HERE](#).

NYC DOE are distributing 300,000 internet-ready Apple iPads to students in need of electronic devices to access remote learning. We received the first shipment of 25,000 iPads, and we have been distributing them to students living in temporary housing, emergency shelters, youth shelters and foster care. Families can sign up to request an iPad [here](#), and the delivery plan is outlined below. Basic set-up information for those iPads can be found [here](#).

- **The week of March 23:** the first shipment of iPads will make their way to students across New York City, prioritizing students living in shelters. iPads are being delivered in bulk to shelters, and a shelter employee will distribute them to individual students.
- **The week of March 30:** we will continue to prepare, pack and deliver the iPads that arrive from Apple to students in temporary housing, emergency shelters, youth shelters, and foster care, as well as high school students (see below).
- **The week of April 6:** we will focus on delivery to high school students, focusing on multilingual learner students, students with disabilities, and students who live in public housing. iPads will be distributed on a rolling basis with new shipments arriving and being staged each week.

Students who have requested an iPad, but are not in the above groups, will be eligible to receive iPads after deliveries have been made to the above groups.



The New York City Department of Education wants every student who needs a device for remote learning to have one, even if the student does not have internet access at home. Simply call **718-935-5100** and choose Option 5 on the menu. Someone will help you get a device with internet connection.



ترغب إدارة التعليم لمدينة نيويورك في توفير جهاز للتعليم عن بعد لكل تلميذ(ة) يحتاج لذلك، حتى ولو لم يكن لدى التلميذ(ة) إمكانية الوصول إلى شبكة الإنترنت في المنزل. اتصلوا ببساطة برقم الهاتف 718-935-5100 واختاروا الخيار رقم 5 من القائمة. سوف يقوم شخص ما بمساعدتكم في الحصول على جهاز متصل بشبكة الإنترنت.

نیو یارک سٹیٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ آف ایجوکیشن دूर থেকে शिक्षा वा रिमोट लर्निंग-एर जेनो बेसब शिक्षाथीर एकाटि डिवाइस प्रयोजन तारा प्रत्येके येन एकाटि डिवाइस पाय ता निश्चित करते चाय, एमनकि यदि शिक्षाथीर बाडिते ईन्टरनेटेर सुविधा ना থাকे तबुओ। 718-935-5100 नाबारे होन करन एवं मेनु थेके अपशन 5 बेहे दिन। ईन्टरनेट योगामोष सह एकाटि डिवाइस पेते केडि एकाजन आपनाके सहायता करबेन।

紐約市教育局希望每一位需要遠程學習設備的學生都獲得該設備，即使該生在家裡無法上網。您只需致電718-935-5100，然後在菜單上選擇選項5即可。有人將幫您獲得一個可連接互聯網的設備。

Le Département de l'Éducation de la Ville de New York veut que chaque élève ayant besoin d'un outil d'enseignement à distance en ait un, même si l'élève n'a pas d'accès Internet à la maison. Veuillez appeler le 718-935-5100 et choisissez l'option 5 du menu. Quelqu'un vous aidera à obtenir un outil avec connexion Internet.

Depatman Edikasyon Vil Nouyok (NYCDOE) vle pou chak timoun ki bezwen yon aparèy pou yo aprann adistans (remote) gen yonn, menmsi elèv la pa gen aksè entènèt lakay li. Jis rele nan 718-935-5100 epi chwazi opsyon 5 nan meni an. Gen yon moun k ap ede w jwenn yon aparèy ki gen koneksyon entènèt.

뉴욕시 교육청은 원격 학습을 위한 기기를 필요로 하는 모든 학생에게 기기를 제공하며 가정에서 인터넷 사용할 수 없는 경우도 해당됩니다. 718-935-5100로 전화하여 메뉴에서 옵션 5를 선택하십시오. 인터넷 연결이 가능한 기기를 받을 수 있도록 도와드릴 것입니다.

Департамент образования г. Нью-Йорка стремится, чтобы у каждого ребенка, которому необходимо устройство для дистанционного обучения, оно было, даже если у этого ребенка дома нет доступа в Интернет. Позвоните по телефону 718-935-5100 и выберите Опцию 5 в меню. Вам помогут получить устройство с выходом в Интернет.

El Departamento de Educación de la Ciudad de Nueva York quiere que todos los estudiantes que necesiten un dispositivo para aprender a distancia obtengan uno, incluso si el estudiante no tiene acceso a internet en su casa. Simplemente llame al 718-935-5100 y elija la opción 5 del menú. Alguien le ayudará a conseguir un dispositivo con conexión a internet.

نیو یارک سٹیٹ محکمہ تعلیم چاہتا ہے کہ ایسا ہر طالب علم جس کو گھر سے تعلیم حاصل کرنے (ریموت لرننگ) کے لیے ایک آلے کی ضرورت ہے، اس کو ایک آلہ مہیا جائے، حتیٰ کہ اگر طالب علم کے پاس گھر پر انٹرنیٹ نہ ہو۔ محض 718-935-5100 پر رابطہ کریں اور مینو میں انتخاب 5 کو منتخب کریں۔ کوئی فرد آپ کی انٹرنیٹ رابطے (کنیکشن) کے ساتھ ایک آلہ حاصل کرنے میں آپ کی مدد کرے گا۔

T&I 31187



Are you looking for ways to help your children learn while schools are closed? WNET is here to help!

New, special broadcasting schedules to better serve homebound families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Available for free on over-the-air broadcasts, streaming, and through cable television providers.

WLIW21

GRADES K - 12

WEEKDAYS
6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Focus on major K-12 subjects, drawing from WNET's archive of PBS programs, Regents Review and instructional content from WCNY's TV Classroom series.

WHERE TO FIND

Channel 21 on antenna and cable and streaming live at WLIW.ORG

WLIW WORLD

GRADES 6 - 12

WEEKDAYS
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Educational lineup for grades 6-12 – "WORLD At Home Learning" – features the best in public media science, history and English language arts shows.

WHERE TO FIND

Channel 21.3 on antenna, Optimum 132, Comcast 135/244/267, Spectrum 1278, Fios 473.

THIRTEEN



Pre K - 3rd

24 hours a day
7 days a week

PBS KIDS is the place for trusted educational content for early learning in reading, science, social emotional learning, and more!

WHERE TO FIND

PBS KIDS 24/7: Channel 13.2 antenna, Spectrum 1275, Cablevision 131, Fios 472, RCN 253 and PBSKids.org

PBS KIDS also on Channel 13 from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Weekdays)



LOOKING FOR ONLINE RESOURCES?

Visit our website wnet.org/education to find more resources from WNET and PBS, including detailed television schedules, tips for turning TV time into learning time, and online learning resources, games and activities.

STUDENT LOANS

On March 27, 2020, the President signed the CARES Act into law, which, among other things, provides broad relief for federal student loan borrowers. Below we have answered questions about several provisions of the Act. Questions that have been added or updated are identified with “NEW” or “UPDATED” before each question.

If you’re concerned about your studies or loan repayment, we can help you understand what to do in certain circumstances. We’ll be adding information for students, borrowers, and parents to [this page](#) on a regular basis, so please check back frequently. Your payments will automatically stop from March 13, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2020.

To provide relief to student loan borrowers during the COVID-19 national emergency, federal student loan borrowers are automatically being placed in an administrative forbearance, which allows you to temporarily stop making your monthly loan payment. This suspension of payments will last until Sept. 30, 2020, but you can still make payments if you choose. Read the [borrower Q&As](#) below to learn more.

Here are some other helpful links regarding student loans:

- [Instructions for Sending a Cease Debt Collection Communication Letter](#)
- [How to Avoid Student Loan Debt Distress](#)
- [Student Loan Debt Tips During COVID-19](#)

NALOXONE & HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES

VOCAL-NY is distributing Naloxone and other harm-reduction supplies at their office: 80 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY between 10AM - 6PM, M-F.

Millions of Americans have a substance use disorder. Find a treatment facility near you [FindTreatment.gov](#).

LEGAL CONCERNS

If you are being harassed due to your race, nation of origin or other identities, call 311 or [file a complaint online](#).

- [NYC Protections Based on Immigration Status and National Origin](#) (PDF)

Other Languages: [Español](#)

Family Justice Centers: While the centers are physically closed, anyone can call any of our borough centers for help with safety planning, mental health and planning, legal help, or help in connecting to law enforcement agencies. For more information please visit the website [here](#) or call our 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-4673.

If you believe an employer is violating either existing labor laws or recently issued executive orders:

Contact 311 or the New York State Attorney General at (212) 416-8700 or Labor.Bureau@ag.ny.gov to report them.

Learn more: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/workers/worker-rights.page>

NY COVID-19 Legal Resource Hotline T: 929-356-9582

Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm

When leaving a message, please leave your name, the best number to call you back, and a description of your issue. We will call you back within two business days.

NYLAG's COVID-19 hotline can offer advice on the following:

- **Advanced Planning** (Standby Guardianship, Power of Attorney, Healthcare Proxy, Wills)
- **Consumer Debt** (Debt Collection, Wage Garnishment)
- **Employees' Rights** (Paid Leave, FMLA, Working Conditions)
- **Housing** (Eviction, Rent Arrears, Foreclosure, Mortgage Relief Options,)
- **Unemployment Benefits**
- **Public Benefits**
- **Special Education** issues (K-12)
- **Stimulus Payment** questions

NYC OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS

OATH offices are currently closed and OATH will not be holding in-person hearings until the state's "stay-at-home" order has been lifted. OATH is still holding remote hearings, trials, conferences and Help Center sessions.

For Respondents Who Have Upcoming OATH Hearings:

- o OATH is accommodating all requests to reschedule hearings. OATH is not penalizing Respondents for not responding to their summons during this time. If a Respondent does not respond to a summons during this time, they will have their case automatically rescheduled

If a Respondent would like to respond to their summons, they can do so by mail or online, or by requesting a Hearing by Phone. For Hearings by Phone, OATH offers free, over-the-phone language interpretation. To schedule a Hearing by Phone, Respondents should email the OATH office in the borough listed on their summons:

- o BRONX: RemoteBronx@oath.nyc.gov
- o BROOKLYN: RemoteBKLYN@oath.nyc.gov
- o MANHATTAN: RemoteManhattan@oath.nyc.gov
- o QUEENS: RemoteLIC@oath.nyc.gov
- o STATEN ISLAND: RemoteSI@oath.nyc.gov

For Respondents Who Want to Appeal a Hearing Decision:

- o The time for a Respondent to file an appeal of an OATH hearing decision issued on or after February 19, 2020, has been temporarily increased to 60 days from the date of the hearing decision, or 65 days if the hearing decision was mailed.
- o The time for a Respondent to respond to an appeal served by an enforcement agency after February 19, 2020, has also been temporarily increased to 60 days from the date the appeal was served on the Respondent, or 65 days if the appeal was served by mail.

Help for Respondents Who Do Not Have a Lawyer or a Paid, Professional, Registered Representative:

o The OATH Help Center provides Respondents with the opportunity to speak with an OATH Procedural Justice Coordinator who can provide information about the hearing process, describe the options available to them, and answer Respondents' questions. OATH Procedural Justice Coordinators do not provide legal advice or represent Respondents at their hearings.

To request assistance, Respondents can email the Help Center in the borough listed on their summons:

- o BRONX: BXhelpcenter@oath.nyc.gov
- o BROOKLYN: BKhelpcenter@oath.nyc.gov
- o MANHATTAN: Manhhelpcenter@oath.nyc.gov
- o QUEENS: LIChelpcenter@oath.nyc.gov
- o STATEN ISLAND: SIhelpcenter@oath.nyc.gov

OATH offers free, over-the-phone language interpretation. All appointments with the OATH Help Center must be conducted prior to the day of the hearing.

For more information and updates visit OATH online at nyc.gov/oath

New York State Unified Court System

To obtain information about court closings and Coronavirus and the New York State Courts. Please note that Effective 5 p.m. on Monday, March 16, all nonessential functions of the courts are postponed until further notice. To find out what essential functions which will continue click on the following link

<https://www.nycourts.gov/whatsnew/pdf/Updated-Protocol-AttachmentA3.pdf>

Jury Duty - In light of public health concerns arising over the coronavirus, please note the following:

(1) If you have been summoned for jury duty, beginning on March 16 and continuing until further notice:

- **Please do not appear** at the courthouse. Your service has been suspended at this time. You will hear from us in the future with another date for service.

(2) If you have been **summoned for a Grand Jury**, check your county information page to see if you are required to appear. Instructions below.

(3) If you are a **juror currently serving** on a criminal trial, on a grand jury or on a civil trial where opening statements have been made:

- **You are required to appear** to continue your service.

Please, call or email your local Commissioner of Jurors Office with further questions. The phone number and email address can be found on their county information page. To visit your county information page, select your county from the drop down on www.nyjuror.gov.

NYC Department Of Correction Is Suspending In-Person Visits Effective Wednesday March 18th, 2020.

- In light of the ongoing spread of COVID-19, out of an abundance of caution, and in an effort to protect the health and safety of those who live and work on Rikers Island and other city jail facilities, DOC is suspending in-person visits beginning Wednesday, March 18.

- The City is continuing its policies of providing all persons in custody with domestic phone calls - free of charge, to help people in custody stay in contact with their families and communities.

- The Department is also working to implement a televisit initiative that will allow family and chosen family of people in custody the ability to remain in contact using their own personal PC or mobile device.

Stay tuned to this website for up-to-date information
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doc/inmate-info/visit-inmate.page>

MARRIAGE

The Governor has 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

TRAVEL INFORMATION/TRANSIT

MTA Closures: The MTA announced an unprecedented plan to close stations nightly (1am-5am) for deep cleaning. This will help keep out essential workers safe and allow us to better help homeless individuals into our shelter system.

Border Closings. President Trump has announced agreements with Mexican President Lopez Obrador and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to close the borders for non-essential travel, excluding trade. Both borders will also stop accepting asylum seekers and refugees.

The CDC does not generally issue advisories or restrictions for travel within the United States. However, cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) have been reported in every state, and some areas are experiencing community spread of the disease. Crowded travel settings, like airports, may increase chances of getting COVID-19, if there are other travelers with coronavirus infection. There are several things you should consider when deciding whether it is safe for you to travel.

Things to consider before travel:

- Is COVID-19 spreading in the area where you're going?

If COVID-19 is spreading at your destination, but not where you live, you may be more likely to get infected if you travel there than if you stay home. If you have questions about your destination, you should check your destination's local health department website for more information

- Will you or your travel companion(s) be in close contact with others during your trip?

Your risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like coronavirus may increase in crowded settings, particularly closed-in settings with little air circulation. This may include settings such as conferences, public events (like concerts and sporting events), religious gatherings, public spaces (like movie theatres and shopping malls), and public transportation (like buses, metro, trains).

- Are you or your travel companion(s) more likely to get severe illness if you get COVID-19?

People at higher risk for severe disease are [older adults and people of any age with serious chronic medical conditions](#) (such as heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes). CDC recommends that [travelers at higher risk for COVID-19 complications](#) avoid all cruise travel and nonessential air travel.

- Do you have a plan for taking time off from work or school, in case you are told to stay home for 14 days for self-monitoring or if you get sick with COVID-19?

If you have close contact with someone with COVID-19 during travel, you may be asked to stay home to self-monitor and avoid contact with others for up to 14 days after travel. If you become sick with COVID-19, you may be unable to go to work or school until you're considered noninfectious. You will be asked to avoid contact with others (including being in public places) during this period of infectiousness.

- Do you live with someone who is older or has a serious, chronic medical condition?

If you get sick with COVID-19 upon your return from travel, your household contacts may be at risk of infection. Household contacts who are [older adults or persons of any age with severe chronic medical conditions](#) are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

- Do you have a plan for taking time off from work or school, in case you are told to stay home for 14 days for self-monitoring or if you get sick with COVID-19?

If you have close contact with someone with COVID-19 during travel, you may be asked to stay home to self-monitor and avoid contact with others for up to 14 days after travel. If you become sick with COVID-19, you may be unable to go to work or school until you're considered noninfectious. You will be asked to avoid contact with others (including being in public places) during this period of infectiousness.

- Do you live with someone who is older or has a serious, chronic medical condition?

If you get sick with COVID-19 upon your return from travel, your household contacts may be at risk of infection. Household contacts who are [older adults or persons of](#)

[any age with severe chronic medical conditions](#) are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

- Is COVID-19 spreading where I live when I return from travel?

Consider the risk of passing COVID-19 to others during travel, particularly if you will be in close contact with people who are [older adults or have severe chronic health condition](#). These people are at higher risk of getting very sick. If your symptoms are mild or you don't have a fever, you may not realize you are infectious. Depending on your unique circumstances, you may choose to delay or cancel your plans. If you do decide to travel, be sure to [take steps](#) to help prevent getting and spreading COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases during travel. For the most up-to-date COVID-19 travel information, visit [CDC COVID-19 Travel page](#).

US Department of Homeland Security

- <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/notices-arrival-restrictions-coronavirus> - Information about flights into the United States and Arrival Restrictions

US Travel Security Administration -

<https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus>

TSA is allowing passengers to bring liquid hand sanitizer containers up to 12 ounces to be permitted in carry-on bags until further notice. Passengers can expect that these containers larger than the standard allowance of 3.4 ounces of liquids permitted through a checkpoint will need to be screened separately, which will add some time to their checkpoint screening experience.

Please keep in mind that all other liquids, gels and aerosols brought to a checkpoint continue to be allowed at the limit of 3.4 ounces or 100 milliliters carried in a one quart-size bag.

Travelers with a state driver's license that expired beginning on March 1, 2020, and who are not able to renew at their state driver's license agency may still use it as acceptable identification at the checkpoint. TSA will accept expired driver's licenses a year after the expiration date, plus 60 days after the duration of the COVID-19 national emergency.

NYC Ferry

- For up-to-the minute updates, please refer to the NYC Ferry twitter page

Access-A-Ride

Starting March 19, Access-A-Ride will no longer be scheduling shared rides. You'll still be able to travel with a personal care attendant or guest.

DRIVERS/VEHICLE OWNERS

Parking Permits for Healthcare Workers

To protect frontline workers who are at risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, the City will issue citywide parking permits to healthcare personnel. The City can make up to 10,000 permits available to hospitals across the City, by Monday March 23rd. Each hospital will receive a set number of permits based on the number of employees who require a permit, and the City will work with hospitals to provide more on an as-needed basis. Hospitals will be responsible for distributing them to their respective workforces and will fill in the make, model, and license plate number. Discuss with your hospital administrator.

NYS Inspection Stickers

Vehicle safety and emission inspections set to expire on March 31, 2020 or later will be extended until further notice during the Covid-19 emergency.

For Hire Drivers

NYC Food Delivery Driver Portal

The City of New York is hiring licensed TLC drivers to deliver food to New Yorkers in need during the COVID-19 crisis. Learn more or Sign up:

<https://cv19engagementportal.cityofnewyork.us/#/display/5e7634997ad67502161607c2>

TLC-licensed drivers, vehicle owners and operators should go about their daily lives, but take certain precautions:

- IF YOU FEEL SICK, STAY HOME.
- TLC-licensed drivers, vehicle owners and operators are encouraged to clean their vehicles at least daily.

- Standard cleaning and disinfection products are recommended (e.g. Clorox, Purell, Peroxide multi-purpose cleaner).
- Pay special attention to disinfecting surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as door handles, arm rests, and seatbelts, as appropriate.
- COVID-19 is not known to transmit through the air or casual contact, such as riding in the same elevator or car. While not necessary to reduce transmission risk, drivers can consider setting vehicle ventilation to non-recirculated air or opening windows.

AT THIS TIME, TLC-LICENSED DRIVERS, VEHICLE OWNERS AND OPERATORS DO NOT NEED TO:

- Limit travel within the city.
- Avoid public gatherings and public transportation.
- Change anything about where you get your food or how you prepare it.
- Wear a face mask if you are not sick. Face masks are only recommended if directed by a health care provider.
- People wear protective face masks for many reasons, including seasonal allergies, pollution or protecting those around them from a common cold. They should **not** be harassed or targeted for wearing one.

REAL ID DEADLINE EXTENSION

Due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the national emergency declaration, the Department of Homeland Security, as directed by President Donald J. Trump, is extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline beyond the current October 1, 2020 deadline. The new deadline for REAL ID enforcement is October 1, 2021. For more information on what REAL ID is, and how to get yours, click this [link](#), and view the “For the Public” section.

ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING

Mayor DeBlasio has announced that alternate side parking will be suspended through Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Meter rules remain in effect.

VETERANS

The VA has implemented an aggressive public health response to protect and care for Veterans in the face of this emerging health risk. They are working directly with the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to monitor the outbreak of the virus.

These measures include outreach to Veterans and staff, [clinical screening at VA health care facilities](#), and [protective procedures](#) for patients admitted to community living centers and spinal cord injury units.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Offices will be closed to the public starting March 19.

Regional offices will remain open, but will no longer accept walk-ins for claims assistance, scheduled appointments, counseling and other in-person services. This decision protects our older Veterans and those with underlying conditions as well as our employees.

Veterans can continue to get information about benefits or file a claim for benefits by visiting our website at www.va.gov. Veterans with claims specific or other questions may request information via [Inquiry Routing & Information System \(IRIS\)](#) or telephone at 1-800-827-1000.

VBA benefits and services provided to Veterans, families, and survivors will continue to be delivered throughout the duration of COVID-19 impacts.

Please continue to check www.va.gov for updates. You also may follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

What should Veterans do?

Any Veteran with symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should immediately contact their local VA facility. VA urges Veterans to call before visiting – you can find contact information for your [closest VA facility](#).

Alternatively, Veterans can sign into [My HealtheVet](#) to send a secure message to VA or use [telehealth options](#) to explain their condition and receive a prompt diagnosis.

Upon arriving at VA, all patients will be screened for flu-like symptoms before they enter in order to protect other patients and staff.

At this time, VA is urging all visitors who do not feel well to please postpone their visits to VA facilities.

We urge veterans to learn to use VA Video Connect through the [VA mobile app store](#) or by contacting your VA care team, before any urgent problems arise.

SENIORS

Older people are more likely to have serious COVID-19 illness. This may be because immune systems change with age, making it harder to fight off diseases and infection. Older adults also are more likely to have underlying health conditions that make it harder to cope with and recover from illness.

In addition, people of all ages, with or without disabilities, are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19 if they have serious chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease.

For guidance regarding how older Americans can safeguard themselves, watch this informative video from the CDC:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjcoN9Aek24&feature=emb_title

SENIOR CENTERS/FOOD DELIVERY

Senior centers are currently closed for congregate programming and **all meals are being delivered. Call your local senior center with questions about how to receive delivered meals.** You can also call Aging Connect at 212-Aging-NYC (212-244-6469) or 311.

ABE STARK NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CENTER *10315 Farragut Rd. 718-272-9515*

BAYVIEW MILL DEV. *5955 Shore Pkwy. 718-968-9621*

BOULEVARD SENIOR CENTER *726 Stanley Ave. 718-345-5665*

CANARSIE ADULT LIVING CENTER *1880 Rockaway Pkwy 718-513-0776*

CCNS RIVERWAY INNOVATIVE SENIOR CENTER *230 Riverdale Ave. 718-942-5345*

CCNS THE BAY NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CENTER (Kings Bay) *3643 Nostrand Ave. 718-648-2053*

NYCHA CYPRESS HILLS SENIOR CENTER *3208 Fulton St. 718-235-0064*

NYCHA GLENMORE PLAZA SENIOR CENTER *1777 Pitkin Ave (718) 498-4313*

HES NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CENTER *9502 Seaview Ave. 718-251-3700*

JASA STARRETT CITY NEIGHBORHOOD SR CTR *1540 Van Siclen Ave. 718-642-1010*

JAY-HARAMA NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CENTER *2600 Ocean Ave. 718-891-1110*

MARINE PARK ACTIVE ADULTS NEIGHBORHOOD *3000 Fillmore Ave. 718-336-0275*

MILL BASIN SENIOR CENTER *2075 E 68th St 718-444-3850*

PENN WORTMAN NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CENTER *895 Granville Payne Ave.
718-649-1371*

ROSETTA GASTON NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CTR/WOODSON *460 Dumont Ave.
718-345-5665*

SPRING CREEK GARDENS SENIOR CENTER *902 Drew St 718-869-1711*

TERESA MOORE NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CENTER (Pink) *2702 Linden Blvd.
347-663-7770*

VANDALIA NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CENTER *47 Vandalia Ave. 718-272-3905*

VAN DYKE NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR CENTER *430 Dumont Ave. 718-385-1110*

For emergency food needs, visit the city meals on wheels website, where you can be directed to the nearest location by inputting your zip code

<https://www.citymeals.org>.

MEDICARE

Medicare.gov's [COVID-19 page](#) includes information for beneficiaries. A few key things:

- Medicare covers the [lab tests for COVID-19](#). You pay no [out-of-pocket costs](#).
- Medicare covers all [medically necessary hospitalizations](#). This includes if you're diagnosed with COVID-19 and might otherwise have been discharged from the hospital after an inpatient stay, but instead you need to stay in the hospital under quarantine.
- At this time, there's no vaccine for COVID-19. However, if one becomes available, it will be covered by all [Medicare Prescription Drug Plans \(Part D\)](#).

If you have a [Medicare Advantage Plan](#), you have access to these same benefits.

This information was obtained from external sources for your guidance only. It is not an endorsement of any organization nor are we responsible for your use or any change of information.

Medicare allows these plans to waive cost-sharing for COVID-19 lab tests. Many plans offer additional telehealth benefits beyond the ones described below. Check with your plan about your coverage and costs.

For all your questions regarding the impact of Coronavirus on Social Security, visit the Social Security Administration's website here for all your questions:

<https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>

In need of groceries? Many grocers across the nation have begun holding "Senior Shopping Hours", where older Americans can shop with other seniors, before the supplies have been wiped out and before other customers have entered the store. Call your local store to inquire whether they have implemented their own version of "Senior Shopping Hours".

SCAMS

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding COVID-19.

Tips to help keep them at bay

- [Don't click on links from sources you don't know](#). They could download viruses onto your computer or device. Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying that have information about the virus.
- For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO).
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores.
- Ignore phone calls promising access to testing kits/vaccines in exchange for social security numbers. These scammers are only out to secure your personal identifying information, and cannot provide what they are offering. Contact your doctor if you believe you are in need of a test, as they are one of the only people capable of helping you get tested.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through [charities](#)

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or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

Be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping your Social Security payments but that is not true. Don't be fooled. To protect yourself and help stop the spread of this coronavirus, Social Security offices cannot accept visitors at this time. There are several other ways you can get help. Many services are available online at www.socialsecurity.gov. If you have a critical need that you cannot address online, they can help you over the phone.

Please visit the Social Security COVID-19 web page at www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/ to find out what services are continuing and which ones are suspended; and important information about deadlines they are extending to ease the burden on you and medical providers during this pandemic.

IRS issues warning about Coronavirus-related scams; watch out for schemes tied to economic impact payments: The IRS is urging taxpayers to be on the lookout for an increase of calls and email phishing attempts about the Coronavirus, or COVID-19. Watch for scammers who may:

- Emphasize the words “Stimulus Check” or “Stimulus Payment.” The official term is economic impact payment.
- Ask the taxpayer to sign over their economic impact payment check to them.
- Ask by phone, email, text or social media for verification of personal and/or banking information saying that the information is needed to receive or speed up their economic impact payment.

TAXES

New York

The New York State Tax Department, along with the Governor's office and other agencies throughout the state, is responding to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) with information for those affected. We will update this page (<https://www.tax.ny.gov/press/alerts/nys-tax-response-to-covid-19.htm>) as new

information becomes available.

*****New York's tax filing deadline has been extended to July 15th, 2020*****

We also understand many of you have concerns about your income tax or other tax returns. We're listening and taking steps to help. Other agencies are also providing assistance and we're linking to those at the bottom of this page.

Income Tax Deadline Extension

On March 28, the Governor announced that the state income tax filing deadline had been extended to July 15. This extension is consistent with the federal income filing deadline.

These are the questions we're hearing from you together with our response. If you don't see your question below, please ask us using our [Taxpayer Experience survey](#). We will add general questions and answers here. As always, if you need immediate assistance with a tax question, please [contact us](#).

Federal

The IRS has established a special section focused on steps to help taxpayers, businesses and others affected by the coronavirus. This page will be updated as new information is available. (<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>)

In response to the national emergency and to protect our employees, America's taxpayers, communities and our partners, the IRS has temporarily closed all Taxpayer Assistance Centers and discontinued face-to-face service throughout the country until further notice. The IRS is continuing to process tax returns, issue refunds and help taxpayers to the greatest extent possible. [Click here](#) for more info on taxpayer assistance center closures.

News Releases

- [IR-2020-58](#), Tax Day now July 15: Treasury, IRS extend filing deadline and federal tax payments regardless of amount.
- [IR-2020-57](#), Treasury, IRS and Labor announce plan to implement Coronavirus-related paid leave for workers and tax credits for small and midsize businesses to swiftly recover the cost of providing Coronavirus-related leave
- Treasury News Release: [Treasury and IRS Issue Guidance on Deferring Tax](#)

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[Payments Due to COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

- [IR-2020-54](#), IRS: High-deductible health plans can cover coronavirus costs
- The deadline for filing an IRS income tax return and making a payment is now July 15. Taxpayers who need more time to file can request an extension until Oct. 15, 2020. www.irs.gov/extensions

Statements

- [Taxpayer Assistance Center Closure Statement](#)
- [Filing and Payment Deadline Extended to July 15, 2020 - Updated Statement](#)

Guidance

- [Notice 2020-18 \(PDF\)](#), Relief for Taxpayers Affected by Ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic
- [Notice 2020-17 \(PDF\)](#), Relief for Taxpayers Affected by Ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic
- [Notice 2020-15 \(PDF\)](#), High deductible health plans and expenses related to COVID-19

Tax Help

The IRS has several online resources to help taxpayers.

- [Free File](#) - prepare and file your federal income tax return for free using tax preparation and filing software.
- [Where's My Refund?](#) - is an online tool that will track your tax refund. You will need your Social security number or ITIN, your filing status and your exact refund amount to use the tool.
- [Online Payment Agreements](#) - you can apply for a payment plan online to pay off your balance over time.
- [IRS2Go mobile app](#) - Check your refund status, make a payment, find free tax preparation assistance, sign up for helpful tax tips, and more.
- [Online Account](#) – use this tool to view: Your payoff amount, updated for the current calendar day, the balance for each tax year for which you owe, up to 24 months of your payment history and key information from your current tax year return as originally filed.

CHILDCARE

OCFS has provided a listing of resources to assist parents who are looking for childcare during the COVID-19 outbreak. For a full listing of facilities and referral services, you can click [here](#). Please note: if you or your child are instructed to quarantine, your child may not attend a child care program during the specified timeframe.

Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs)

- We launched Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs) March 16 prioritizing enrollment for children of our first responders, transit, healthcare workers.
- We have now expanded enrollment to the following categories of employees: DOHMH, DEP, NYCHA, Parks, Probation, Grocery stores, Pharmacies.
- We are consolidating a number of REC sites, and have already informed impacted families and presented them with the nearest alternative site.
- At this time, we are not publicizing the location of the REC sites, as there is no on-site enrollment and we don't want to encourage families to "drop in" without pre-registering (we are practicing social distancing and need to closely monitor capacity).
- That said, we encourage families to apply to enroll their child in a REC by filing out this [online form](#) and answers to general questions about RECs can be [found here](#).
- [Emergency Preparedness For Kids \(link\)](#)

IMMIGRATION

All USCIS field offices, asylum offices and Application Support Centers (ASCs) will not provide in-person services until at least April 1. This includes interviews, naturalization ceremonies and biometric collection appointments. However, we will continue to provide emergency services during this time. If you have an emergency service request, please contact the [USCIS Contact Center](#).

USCIS field offices will send de-scheduling notices to applicants and petitioners with scheduled appointments impacted by this closure. We will send de-scheduling notices to naturalization applicants scheduled for naturalization ceremonies. All applicants will be rescheduled when USCIS resumes normal operations.

USCIS asylum offices will send interview cancellation notices and automatically reschedule asylum interviews. When the interview is rescheduled, asylum applicants

will receive a new interview notice with the new time, date and location of the interview.

USCIS will also automatically reschedule ASC appointments due to the office closure. Those impacted will receive a new appointment letter in the mail. Individuals who had InfoPass or other appointments at the field office must reschedule through the [USCIS Contact Center](#) once field offices are open to the public again. Please check to see if your [field office](#) has been reopened before reaching out to the [USCIS Contact Center](#).

COVID-19 Resource Guide for Immigrants: A resource guide specifically for immigrant communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit [here](#).

For DACA Recipients: For help renewing your application call ActionNYC at 1-800-354-036

ELECTIONS

On March 28, Governor Cuomo announced New York State would postpone its April 28 Presidential Primary until June 23, and consequently that most of the State's primaries, including those for legislative and congressional races, will be held on the same day. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, all New York State residents will be allowed to vote via absentee ballot for the primaries. At this time, absentee voting is an option for any resident that does not feel comfortable entering a polling location.

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced he will issue an Executive Order mandating that the New York State Board of Elections automatically mail every New Yorker a postage-paid application for an absentee ballot. Earlier this month, the Governor issued an Executive Order allowing all New Yorkers to vote absentee in the June 23rd primary election.

Friday, May 29th is the LAST DAY to register to vote in the June 23, 2020 primary election. Request your mail-in ballot by June 16; Early Voting: June 13-21

Register online at <http://voting.nyc/> NYC Vote

COVID-19 Voting Update

By Executive Order, all New Yorkers eligible to vote in the June 23 Primary Elections can now apply for an absentee ballot. Here's how:

APPLY BY MAIL

All eligible voters will receive a postmarked absentee application in the mail. To apply for your absentee ballot, simply return the completed application to the Board of Elections. Voters opting to vote by absentee ballot due to the pandemic should check the box for "Temporary illness or physical disability."

If you don't want to wait, download the application at vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting and mail it to the Brooklyn Board of Elections at: 345 Adams Street, 4 Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11201.



APPLY ONLINE

Fill out your absentee application at nycabsentee.com or download the application at vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting and email it to AbsenteeJune2020@boe.nyc.

APPLY BY PHONE

Call 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692) to apply for a ballot.

For more information, contact the NYC Board of Elections by calling 1-866-VOTE-NYC. You can also always call my office at (718) 649-7653 or email me at persaud@nysenate.gov for assistance with this or any other issue.

You can still vote in person on Election Day if you choose.

"Participating in our democracy is our most sacred right and we all deserve the chance to do so safely. Amid the coronavirus pandemic, New York is ensuring all can vote without risking the health of themselves or their families."

-Senator Persaud

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Anyone whose life is in immediate danger should call 911.
- The [National Domestic Violence](#) 24-hour hotline is: **1-800-799-7233**, or for TTY: **1-800-787-3224**.
- The [New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) 24-hour hotline is: **1-800-942-6906**, or for the deaf or hard of hearing: **711**.
- The 24-hour hotline for [Safe Horizon](#), a non-profit serving individuals in New York City is: **1-800-621-4673**.
- The 24-hour live-operated bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline for the [Violence Intervention Program](#) is: **1-800-664-5580**.
- The [New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) provides a directory of available programs by county.
- New Yorkers in Need of Help or Assistance Can Text 844-997-2121 or Can Go to the New Confidential Online Site to Reach a Professional on www.opdv.ny.gov

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Stopping the spread of Coronavirus is one of the most important ways you can help during the outbreak. Avoiding crowds and practicing social distancing are vital to

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these efforts. Some suggestions include:

- Private employers should allow staff to work at home or stagger work hours.
- Walk or bike to work, if possible.
- If the train or bus is too crowded, wait for the next one.
- Provide for at least 6 feet between you and other people when in public
- Avoid crowded spaces including businesses that don't follow the guidance above.

Other ways to help include:

- There is a severe blood shortage and the Red Cross is taking blood donations. [You can make an appointment online](#). NYC has an alarming shortage of donated blood. Give blood and help your city. Visit nybc.org or call 1-800-933-2566.
- The Met Council on Housing is seeking volunteers to help with their tenant support hotline: 212-979-0611.
- You can run errands for at-risk neighbors who may be more home-bound. [You can sign up here](#).
- The city is mobilizing a Medical Reserve Corps of 9,000 retired and licensed medical workers, and is also seeking help from all healthcare workers right now at <http://nyc.gov/helpnownyc>.
- The state is also seeking help from retired and otherwise available healthcare workers. More info: <http://health.ny.gov/assistance>.
- [Coronavirus: What Kids Can Do](#) Health information and tips on COVID-19 for Children
- Find out how you can help New Yorkers affected by COVID-19 and how you can receive COVID-19-related assistance: [NYC.gov/helpnownyc](http://nyc.gov/helpnownyc)
- Friendly Visiting Program: We're also connecting older New Yorkers who are feeling isolated with friendly volunteers to talk with over the phone. Call 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469).

United for Brownsville has created a web page where you can ask for help and/or offer help: <https://www.unitedforbrownsville.org/coronavirus>. Topics include food and job assistance, home activities for families, mental health resources, ways to volunteer, help for small businesses, money and finance, free wi-fi, and much more.

Give Blood!

<https://www.nybc.org/donate-blood/covid-19-and-blood-donation-copy>

New York Blood Center and H+H Needs YOUR Help

Plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 has been used by H+H to successfully help patients recover. H+H is participating in trials using plasma to improve COVID-19 care. Please visit [New York Blood Center](#) to schedule an appointment and donate today

Job Opportunities at H+H: NYC Health and Hospitals needs workers to help transport patients, clerical staff and cleaning staff. You can apply today at <http://nyc.gov/coronavirus>.

DONATING SUPPLIES

- Individuals, Organizations or Companies offering to [DONATE PPE](#).
- Companies with stock on hand [offering to DONATE or SELL](#) medical supplies and equipment, or Local manufacturers looking to [begin producing supplies](#) (e.g. gowns, masks, ventilators, face shields). Those offers will be vetted and we will follow up if there is interest.
- Food and other non-medical donations should go through [donateNYC](#) Note: We are not accepting food donations directly to the City but this site provides a platform to connect with organizations in need of food.
- You can also refer anyone who wants to donate to call: 1-833-NYC-0040.
- Information about space: We are still identifying and standing up new hospital capacity. We are particularly interested in private spaces that may not be yet on our radar. For those you know who have space they want to offer, please have them fill out this space survey here: [Share Your Space Survey](#).

WHAT TO DO IF...

YOU FEEL SICK

Before you do anything else, call your doctor or local health clinic to determine your next steps. New York State has ordered the elimination of all co-pays for telehealth consultations. If you don't have a primary care doctor, call the state hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or 311 for more help. It is critical that you do this before you go to any doctor's office, Urgent Care, or the ER. It will help manage the patient load at our healthcare facilities and keep all of us safer by reducing the risk of spreading the virus.

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For more info on evaluating any symptoms you may have, [read this article](#).

NYC COVID-19 Engagement Portal: DOITT has developed a [portal](#), to help guide the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The portal is available in 11 languages and allows New Yorkers to self-report COVID-19 information and will help New York City both better communicate with affected people and identify areas that may need enhanced response. Inputs are confidential. People without internet access or who need help, can call 311.

YOU WITNESS PRICE GOUGING

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) announced an emergency Rule under the City's Consumer Protection Law that makes price gouging illegal for any personal or household good or any service that is needed to prevent or limit the spread of or treat new coronavirus (COVID-19). New Yorkers are urged to call 1-800-697-1220 to report unfair price increases of products such as household cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer or toilet paper amid the coronavirus outbreak.



Thank You SD-19 for Staying at Home and Saving the Lives of our

Health Care Workers	Cashiers
Grocery Store Workers	Food Service Workers
Law Enforcement	Delivery Workers
Pharmacists	Transit Workers
First Responders	Teachers



TOGETHER WE CAN
FLATTEN THE CURVE

*****DISCLAIMER*****

The office of Senator Roxanne J. Persaud is not responsible for financial or medical advice given in this resource guide. Constituents should always use the trusted advice of their own personal doctors or financial advisors.

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