

Dear Friends,

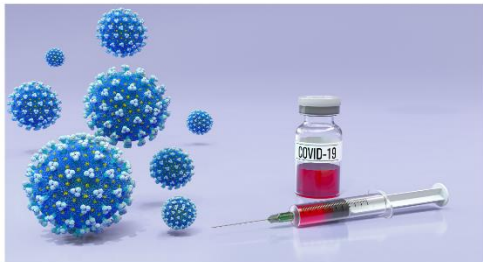
First off, I hope this week's newsletter finds you well.

I am sure most of you have heard about the recent claims made against Governor Cuomo. I would be remiss in not addressing them here.

The allegations of sexual harassment on the part of Governor Cuomo are deeply disturbing. A truly independent investigation with full subpoena power is essential and must be undertaken immediately. I am pleased that the investigation will be performed under the oversight of New York Attorney General Letitia James. She has shown her independence, thoroughness and impartiality, as evidenced by her recent report on deaths in nursing homes during the pandemic.

While on the subject of nursing homes, **COVID-19 has uncovered many concerning issues with the state's residential health care facilities**, revealing serious inequities. At the same time, there were glaring deficiencies in New York's pandemic response to these issues. To help deal with problems of transparency, oversight and patient care, the Assembly has begun to pass [a sweeping nursing home legislative package](#). It is long overdue and I am proud to support it.

COVID-19 Vaccination Update



The number of people now eligible to receive the vaccine in New York stands at over 12 million, with approximately 400,000 doses being delivered each week. This is an increase in the number of doses available – and that number will continue to rise – but it still leaves a significant shortage.

We understand how incredibly frustrating and complicated the process of obtaining an appointment can be and we

are here to help.

Adults 65+ Who Are Having Problems Getting An Appointment

We have been working hard with the county, our municipalities, and volunteers to make it easier for seniors to get vaccination appointments. If you are 65 or over and having trouble securing an appointment, please reach out to my office at (914) 244-4450 or e-mail me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov and we will do our best to assist you.

Tips for Securing An Appointment

Securing an appointment often takes patience and perseverance. **We have put together some helpful tips for all those who are seeking appointments.**

- Click [here](#) for COVID-19 Vaccination locations on Vaccine Finder. This is a new site so it might not have the complete data for New York but it's a great resource.
- Click [here](#) for a video that walks you through the online appointment process step by step.
- Click [here](#) for a video that gives you some tricks for saving time.
- Many people have had the best luck by simply refreshing their browsers over and over. Sometimes there are cancellations and appointments open up.



Again, if you still are having trouble, please call us at (914) 244-4450 or e-mail at burdickc@nyassembly.gov and we will do what we can to help. Please also check back on [our website](#) for the most up-to-date resources and tips.

[Additional COVID-19 Reopening & Related Information](#)

The Governor's Office [announced several updates](#) this week as the state continues to slowly reopen:

- **Beginning March 22nd, residential gathering limits will be raised from 10 to 25 people outdoors.** Indoor residential gatherings will remain limited to 10. The numbers for social gatherings will also increase from 50 to 100 indoors and 200 outdoors.
- **Beginning April 2nd, event, arts and entertainment venues can reopen at 33 percent capacity,** up to 100 people indoors and up to 200 people outdoors. If all attendees present proof of a negative test prior to entry, capacity can increase up to 150 people indoors and up to 500 people outdoors
- **Domestic travelers to New York State who have been vaccinated no longer have to quarantine or test out within 90 days of their full vaccination.** International travelers still must adhere to CDC quarantine guidelines.

Additionally, [Westchester County has issued guidelines regarding spectators at school and recreational sports](#). Student athletes are allowed to have two spectators at sporting events, as long as social distancing can be accomplished and occupancy does not exceed 50% (previously only the home team was allowed spectators). Schools and recreation centers may reserve the right to have stricter guidelines.



Finally, a reminder that due to the ongoing health emergency, **New York's health insurance Open Enrollment Period** will be further extended to May 15, 2021. Enrollment can be made through [New York's health insurance Marketplace](#), or directly through insurers.



The advertisement features a photograph of a man and a woman wearing face masks and talking in a modern office setting. Below the photo is a yellow banner with the text: "The deadline to get 2021 health coverage has been extended. Find your low-cost health plan today." At the bottom is the logo for "nystateofhealth The Official Health Plan Marketplace".

Unemployment Insurance Fraud & DMV Phishing Scams



As we mentioned last week, we are seeing an increasing number of cases of unemployment insurance fraud – people receiving mail from the Department of Labor about a claim in their name that they did not file. Sometimes they are receiving debit cards for the claims. **If you suspect you are the victim of unemployment insurance fraud, please go to <https://www.labor.ny.gov/agencyinfo/report-fraud.shtm> to learn how you can report the fraud with the NYS Labor Department.**

We also are happy to help in any way we can, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Also, **beware of text message phishing scams targeting DMV customers.** Don't fall for them.



DMV PHISHING SCAMS

Recently, many New Yorkers have received text messages and other communications from senders claiming to represent the New York State DMV.

- DO NOT** respond to unsolicited texts or emails or access links, files or attachments from unverified sources.
- DO NOT** give out personal information by phone or email, or enter your information in a pop-up screen.

HELPFUL TIPS

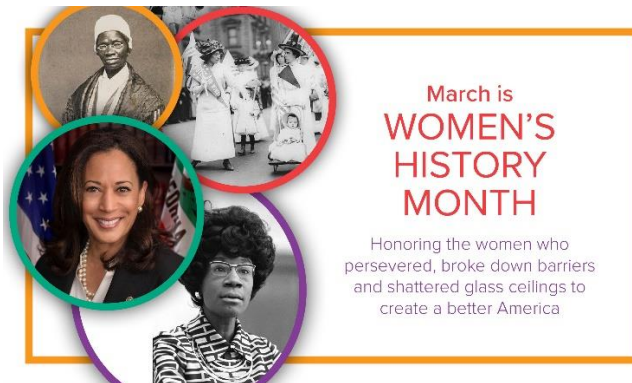
- Be cautious of all communications you receive, even those that appear to be from a trusted or verified source.
- Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software on all your devices and consider adding phishing filters on your email and web browser.
- If you believe you've been scammed, change your passwords, check your devices for viruses and notify your bank, credit card company and credit reporting agencies.

Excited to Announce...

I am thrilled and honored to have been named **Chair of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities**. This subcommittee falls under the Assembly's newly-created Committee on People with Disabilities. Since taking office, I have met with many people and groups advocating for people with disabilities. Among them are parents, educators, caregivers, and people with disabilities themselves. One thing has become clear to me, more needs to be done across the board. Increasing job opportunities in New York for people with disabilities is crucial, and I look forward to doing all I can to help make that happen.



Celebrating HERstory



Throughout our history, women have made tremendous and often groundbreaking contributions in areas such as science, business, government, politics and the arts... all too often without the credit and acknowledgement they deserve. **March is Women's History Month, an opportunity to look to our past – as well as our present – and to honor these pioneers and heroes for all they have achieved.**

As I mentioned last week, if there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov (or simply reply to this email). **As a reminder, please follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burdick".