



Andrew Cuomo and Bill de Blasio | AP Photo/Mark Lennihan | Politico

**MARCH 16, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Largest Public School System in The World Closes *Amid Coronavirus Pandemic* *Evictions Suspended,* *Candidate Petition Process Suspended,* *Bars, Restaurant, Theatres and more to close***

**New York:** Mayor Bill De Blasio orders NYC Public schools to close and Governor Andrew Cuomo orders to suspend candidate petitioning process.

**Here are a list of updates:**

### **NYC School Closure ordered by Mayor**

- Re-evaluating over spring break to see if we can reopen April 9 – 17, may reopen Monday, April 20
- Only allowing custodians and food service in the building this week to provide grab and go meals at specific hours
- Teachers & principals report Tuesday – Thursday for training on remote learning
- Remote learning and dozens of enrichment centers opening **Monday, March 23** with special focus for transit workers, first responders, health care worker
- DOE working to make tablets available on the 23rd to start remote learning. For more information click [here](#)

The schedule, as NYC Public Schools move to remote learning, is as follows:

- **Monday, March 16:** Citywide closure. Students, teachers, and principals do not report
- **Tuesday, March 17:** Thursday, March 19: All staff reports. Teachers and principals participate in professional development on remote learning
- **Thursday, March 19-Friday, March 20:** Students who need it will be able to begin process of picking up the technology necessary for remote learning. More guidance to families will be sent this week

- **Monday, March 23:** Remote learning launches, with additional guidance provided throughout the week of the 23. Regional Enrichment Centers will be available for the children of first responders, healthcare workers, and our most vulnerable populations, with more details to follow. Additionally, remote learning will go into effect for grades K-12. DOE will support schools at all levels of readiness to deliver remote learning, and more information will be provided to families about online platforms

### **Evictions Suspended**

- Eviction proceedings and pending eviction orders will be suspended statewide, until further notice. This includes commercial evictions. For more information click [here](#)

### **Candidate Petition Process ordered by Governor**

**Andrew Cuomo** is suspended and will end Tuesday March 17, 2020. For more information click [here](#)

### **Others**

- Brooklyn Public Library Closed - Beginning **Monday, March 16**, all our locations will be closed through at least **March 31**. [www.bklynlibrary.org/coronavirus](http://www.bklynlibrary.org/coronavirus)
- All nightclubs, movie theaters, small theater houses and concert venues to close; restaurants, bars and cafes can do take-out business only. Aggressive enforcement of bar and restaurant occupancy tonight, may go further than 50% cap
- Suspend Queens special election for March 24, new date TBD
- Closing senior centers, will continue food delivery and grab and go

- Executive Order: cancelling all elective surgeries.  
Concerned about medical supplies

## You can stop the spread of coronavirus

- Wash your hands regularly
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your face

The best preventative steps you can take are the tried and true ones:

- frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow<sup>[10]</sup>
- try to avoid coming in contact with someone who is sick
- disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces at work and at home.<sup>[11]</sup>

If you can't wash your hands with soap and water, be sure to **use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**.<sup>[12]</sup> If you're at a **higher risk** of getting seriously ill from COVID-19, such as the **elderly** or those

with **underlying medical problems**, you should also try to avoid crowds and touching high-touched surfaces such as door handles, hand rails and elevator buttons.<sup>[13]</sup> In order to better protect yourself, those who smoke should cut back or try to quit as smokers are at higher risk of getting respiratory infections and twice as likely to develop pneumonia than a non-smoker.<sup>[14]</sup> It's also important that you stay home if you're feeling sick to prevent germs from spreading.

**New York City officials are asking that anyone who is able to avoid public transportation do so, or if a bus or subway car is packed, wait for one that has more room.**<sup>[15]</sup>

Experts have recommended ensuring you have basic home supplies – food staples, laundry detergent, over-the-counter medicine and pet food. You should also try to have at least a 30-day supply of any prescription medication. Go over any emergency plans you may have with every member of your household and make sure you keep up-to-date with any information from your child's school district.

Meanwhile, the governor has said the state would institute new cleaning protocols in heavily used public areas, such as bleaching surfaces on public transportation and in schools.<sup>[16]</sup> Local health departments will notify school districts if and when they need to close and when they can reopen.<sup>[17]</sup>

## SMALL BUSINESS

- **New York City will also be providing relief to small businesses that see a reduction in revenue because of COVID-19**
- **Businesses with fewer than 100 employees whose sales have decreased more than 25% will be eligible**

**for zero-interest loans of up to \$75,000 to help mitigate the losses.<sup>[18]</sup>**

- Small businesses with fewer than five employees will also be offered a grant to cover 40% of payroll costs for two months to help retain employees.<sup>[19]</sup>**
- Anyone interested in learning more about these programs should call 311 for more information**

At the state level, we continue to discuss ways to ensure employees aren't forced to choose between staying home when sick – and not getting paid – or providing for their families. This includes discussing an expanded sick leave policy and measures to help small businesses that have been adversely affected by COVID-19.

**STAY INFORMED**

**about  
coronavirus**



Health officials are working tirelessly to protect public health and contain this virus. And, as your representative in Albany, I am working to ensure that our state is putting the health and safety of our families first.

Remember COVID-19 can affect any community and we must stand by one another during this time, not alienate, threaten or discriminate against others.

For questions you can also reach out to the New York State's novel coronavirus hotline at **1-888-364-3065**. For continuous updates, you can visit the following websites:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

*The CDC also now has the option for you to sign up for weekly updates on COVID-19.*

## RECAP

# CORONAVIRUS: Q & A

### **What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms range from mild to severe and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms often appear two to 14 days after exposure.

### **How does it spread?**

Health officials are studying how the virus spreads, but it's believed to spread from person-to-person via respiratory droplets that are released when an infected person coughs. Individuals are believed to be most contagious when they're the sickest.

### **When should I see a doctor?**

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness such as a cough or shortness of breath, call your health care provider before seeking treatment in person and tell them you may have the novel coronavirus so they can take proper precaution

**Resources:**

- [10] [who.int/news-room/detail/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses)
- [11] [health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus)
- [12] [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html)
- [13] [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk)
- [14] [bbc.com/news/health-51703892](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51703892)
- [15] [nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nyc-issues-new-commuter-guidelines-to-combat-coronavirus-spread/2317584](https://nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nyc-issues-new-commuter-guidelines-to-combat-coronavirus-spread/2317584)
- [16] [nytimes.com/2020/03/02/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/02/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york.html)
- [17] [democratandchronicle.com/story/news/politics/albany/2020/03/10/schools-ny-now-required-close-when-coronavirus-diagnosed/5006842002](https://democratandchronicle.com/story/news/politics/albany/2020/03/10/schools-ny-now-required-close-when-coronavirus-diagnosed/5006842002)
- [18] [crainsnewyork.com/small-business/small-businesses-get-loans-wake-outbreak](https://crainsnewyork.com/small-business/small-businesses-get-loans-wake-outbreak)
- [19] [cnbc.com/2020/03/09/nyc-mayor-urges-new-workers-to-work-from-home.html](https://cnbc.com/2020/03/09/nyc-mayor-urges-new-workers-to-work-from-home.html)
- [20] <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/ny-cuny-suny-classes-coronavirus-20200311-f65rooi5vrflphblcun5y7yuym-story.html>
- [21] [nytimes.com/2020/03/10/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-update.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/10/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-update.html)

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Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the **Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs)**, and serves on the following committees: **Housing, Government Operations, Education , Banks, Health, and Higher Education** . She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on **Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force**.

As a current Assemblymember, District Leader, and Chair of Brooklyn Democratic Party, Rodneyse Bichotte has been an outspoken advocate on issues concerning **immigration, education, economic development, unemployment, education reform, health care access, senior citizen centers, affordable housing, school safety, women's and LGBTQ rights** , as well as other issues affecting the quality of life in the community.

Learn more about  
Rodneyse Bichotte by visiting her website:  
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>

STAY CONNECTED

