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MARCH 24, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYS EXPERIMENTAL DRUG TRIAL STARTS TODAY

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

alternate side parking suspension extended, U.S Census Bureau deadline extended, prison inmates released, K-12 standardized tests canceled and more!

NYS Confirmed: 25,665
NYS deaths: 210
NYC confirmed: 14,904
Brooklyn confirmed: 4,237

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO

Governor Cuomo Announces:

- Seeking to create hospital beds at colleges and hotels.
- Ventilators **procured 7,000**, ventilators **needed 30,000**. Implores federal government to send ventilators.

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO

Mayor de Blasio Announces:

- **2,000 more ventilators** are on its way to NYC.
- Initiates Program to Eliminate the Gap (**PEG**) that will require city agencies to cut spending amid a gloomy financial outlook for New York due to the virus.
- **Alternate Side Parking Suspension** extended until **March 31st**.
- Pregnant mothers giving birth are allowed to have their partner in the delivery room under the following conditions:
 - Must wear surgical mask
 - Must not be symptomatic of coronavirus
 - Must not have been tested positive for COVID-19
- City Bike offering **free 30 day membership** to essential workers.
- Move to **release from prison** those over the age of 70 years old with pre-existing conditions and 300 city inmates. All are inmates convicted of misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- The **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** provides updated regulations for American Truckers following an Emergency Declaration which addresses a number of issues faced by American Trucker who are critical to ensuring that health supplies, food, and other materials are delivered. Relaxed restrictions include driving hours, license renewal, testing, etc. They are cleared to "Keep Rolling." ^[1]
- 2020 Olympics have been **postponed** for one year until 2021. ^[2]
- President Trump activated the **Defense Production Act** today to help in the production of urgently needed healthcare supplies. ^[3]

MTA



Photo Credit: BKLYNER

In an effort to reduce person to person contact at station service booths, the MTA and Transport Workers Union Local 100 (TWU) announced that starting today **all cash transactions, will be conducted using MetroCard Vending Machines** until further notice. ^[4] Reduced-fare purchases, available to senior citizens and ADA customers, are still permitted at the service booth under the new measure.

MTA Essential Service Plan

- Key changes; B,W,Z train lines will not run on weekdays; reduction in various services ^[5]

NEW YORK STATE DRUG TRIAL



Photo Credit: Nbsnews.com

Starting today, **New York will be the first State to test COVID-19 treatment using blood from recovered patients.** The test will involve antibodies from COVID-19 patients who have already recovered. Blood plasma is taken from a person who has been infected with the virus. It's processed, and then the antibodies are injected into a person who is sick. ^[6]

According to Governor Cuomo, "**There have been tests that show when a person is injected with the antibodies, that then stimulates and promotes their immune system against that disease,**" Cuomo said. "It's only a trial. It's a trial for people who are in serious condition, but the New York State Department of Health has been working on this with

some of New York's best health care agencies, and we think it shows promise, and we're going to be starting that this week." [7]

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

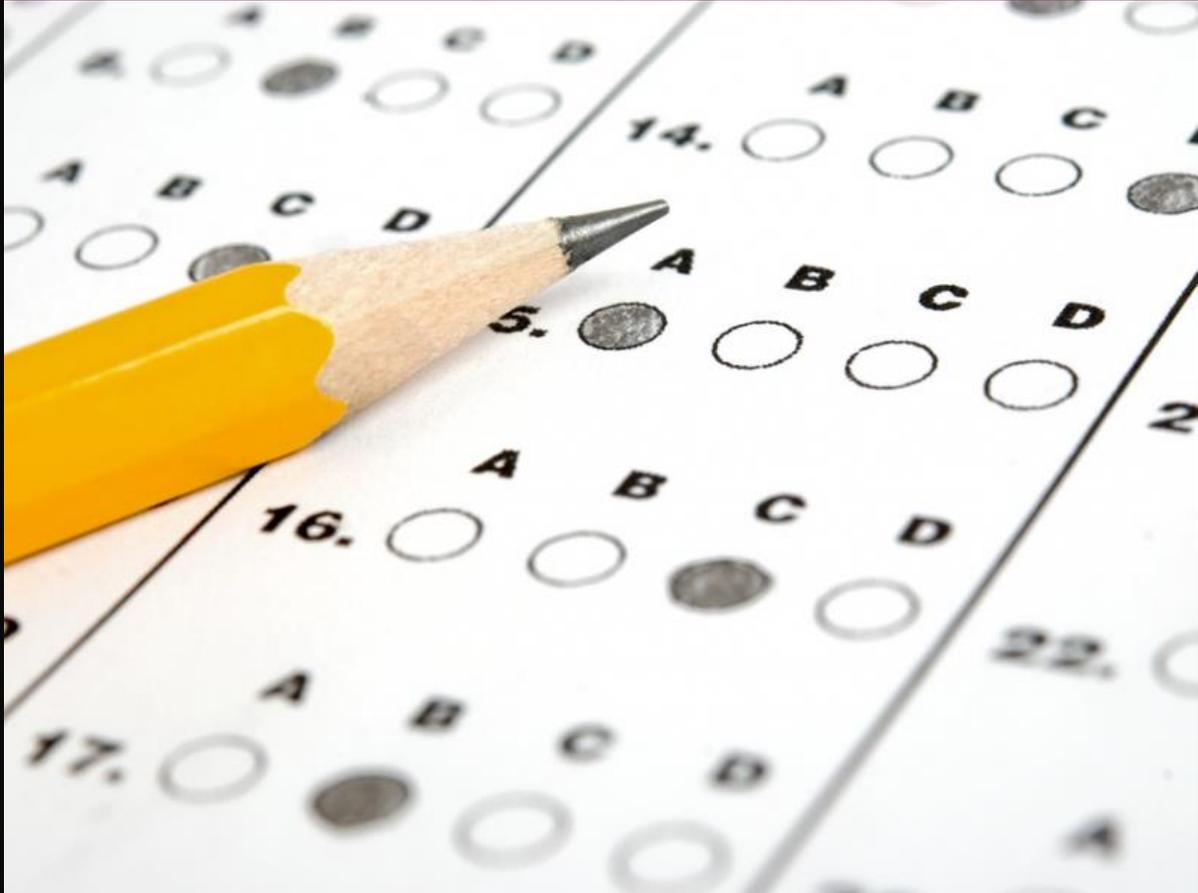


Photo Credit: Patch.com

New York state has **canceled its standardized tests** for the rest of the academic year due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

BUSINESS

SBA Loan Program

Basic Overview of SBA loans:

- Can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, other bills that cannot be paid, and refinance other long-term debts
- Maximum interest rate for small businesses is 3.75%
- Maximum interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%
- Loan terms – maximum of 30 years
- Loan Amount limit - \$2,000,000.00 (loan limit will be waived if business is a major source of employment)

For more information visit [here](#).

Empire State Development (ESD) has created a FAQ page to offer information to businesses regarding State regulations and general guidance related to the coronavirus. Please access page [here](#).

FOOD ASSISTANCE



Photo Credit: Triveglobal.com

Food Help NYC:

You can get food today from New York City's food pantries, which provide groceries you can cook at home, and community kitchens, which provide hot meals. Food pantries and community kitchens are located throughout the five boroughs. If you need food immediately, find locations near you by using our [Food Map](#).

Invisible Hand Deliver:

Free deliveries for the most at-risk community members facing COVID-19. Request a delivery of supplies, groceries or whatever else you may need. A volunteer will bring it to your

doorstep. It's free, easy, and safe. To request a delivery visit [here](#).

SNAP:

Apply for SNAP [online](#) or by smart phone with the ACCESS HRA app. After you submit your application, complete your eligibility interview by calling SNAP at 718-762-7669, anytime between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

SUSPENSION OF DEBT COLLECTION ACTIVITY

This application is for persons or businesses that owe (non-medical and non-student*) debts to the State of New York that have been referred to the Office of the Attorney General for collection and litigation. Any such person or business, or their dependents, that have been financially impacted by COVID-19, or the international, national, and state responses designed to prevent its spread, may complete and submit this application to be considered for certain forms of relief, including relief from collection activity, interest accrual, and the assessment of collection fees. Apply [here](#).

2020 CENSUS

U.S. Census Bureau has extended the census deadline from July 31st to **August 14th**. All door-to-door outreach campaigns postponed until May.

Census can be completed [online](#).

SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on New York City's workforce, the City of New York has developed a list of resources for those

who may be unemployed due to COVID-19 or are seeking additional assistance. The list below will be updated frequently.

It has information on the following categories:

Employment Resources

Food Assistance

Health & Medical Assistance

Financial Assistance

Rent Arrears and Public Assistance

Emotional Support & Spiritual Care

Other Assistance

Visit this [website](#) for resources.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19



What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, immediately clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., shortness of breath or difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>.

Discontinuing home isolation

Patients confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments. Current information on COVID-19 is limited; home precautions are conservative and based on general recommendations for other diseases, like Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

STAY INFORMED

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about
coronavirus



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

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

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

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

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

New Yorkers Can Sign Up for Email Updates [Here](#) and Ask

Questions About COVID-19 [Here](#)

New Yorkers Can Find More Information About the New
COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Law [Here](#)

Resources:

[1] <https://www.trucking.org/news-insights/keep-rolling>

[2] <https://www.wsj.com/articles/japans-abe-agreed-with-ioc-to-delay-tokyo-olympics-by-about-one-year-11585052548>

[3] <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/24/trump-administration-defense-production-act-146070>

[4] <https://www.silive.com/coronavirus/2020/03/mta-limits-cash-transactions-to-metrocard-machines.html>

[5] <https://new.mta.info/precautions-against-coronavirus>

[6] <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/coronavirus/ny-will-be-1st-state-to-test-coronavirus-treatment-using-blood-from-recovered-patients/2341255/>

[7] <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-care/new-york-will-be-first-state-test-treatment-coronavirus-blood-n1167136>

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



