



Photo Credit: Ron Holman

**APRIL 2, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NYC to Provide Free "Grab and Go" Meals to All**

Starting tomorrow, meals will be available to both children and adults

### ***Amid Coronavirus Pandemic***

Health insurance enrollment deadline extended; safe streets program extended; tax liens sale postponed; democratic national convention postponed and more!

**NYS Confirmed: 92,381**

**NYS deaths: 2,373**  
**NYC confirmed: 51,809**  
**Brooklyn confirmed: 13,290**

**NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO**



Photo Credit: Eyewitness News

- Department of Health approved Northwell's protocol to allow **BiPAP (Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure)** machines to convert into **ventilators**.
- Purchased **3,000** BiPAP machines from Phillips out of Pittsburg, **750** machines arrived yesterday and will be distributed.
- Released **400** Ventilators to NYC Health and Hospital and **200** to Long Island and Westchester.

- Currently using anesthesia machine ventilators and splitting ventilator tubes due to lack of ventilators.
- **85,400** health professionals signed up to volunteer in Surge Healthcare Force, **21,000** are health professionals from out of state.
- Small businesses and consumers facing experiencing economic hardships can defer paying their **health insurance premiums** through **June 1, 2020**.
- **Brooklyn Cruise Terminal** expected to **open this week**. Will have **750 beds**.
- **Staten Island hospital** is being converted to accept only **COVID-19 patients**.
- New York state **will purchase supplies** from manufactures who can make medical supplies.
  - Contact Empire State Development
  - Call: 212-803-3100
  - Email: Covid19supplies@esd.ny.gov
- Total hospitalizations: **13,383**.

For more information visit [here](#).

**NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO**



Photo Credit: Boston Globe

- Many **hotels** are providing **discounted accommodations** to hospital and nursing home employees. For more information visit [here](#).
- **Extending the Safe Streets pilot** program until **Sunday, April 5th**. Streets will be closed to cars at these locations:
  - Manhattan: Park Ave, between 28th and 34th
  - Brooklyn: Bushwick Ave, Johnson to Flushing
  - Bronx: Grand Concourse, between E. Burnside and 184th
- **Annual tax lien sale** is postponed until **August**. This change is for property owners who are impacted by COVID-19.

- **Seniors** who are feeling isolated can join the **Friendly Visiting Program**. To join call 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469).
- **Surgical and N95 masks** are needed for healthcare workers, recommends people to use **scarf, bandana or piece of clothing** as masks due to lack of masks.
- To donate or sell supplies call (833) NYC-0040 or email [nyc.gov/HelpNow](mailto:nyc.gov/HelpNow).
- Will secure **2,500-3,000** ventilators by next week.
- Training staff how to use **BiPAP** to lessen the need for ventilators.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Photo Credit: The Zebra

- Starting tomorrow, **435** schools sites will provide **3 meals a day to both children and adults**. To find your school site text "**FOOD**" or "**COMIDA**" to **877-877**. **No one will be turned away**.
  - Distribution times:

- 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM: for kids
- 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM: for adults

For more information visit [here](#).

## BUSINESS



Photo Credit: Hub Spot

- **The Federal Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program** will give **two-year** loans at **0.5%** interest **first come, first served**. Here is some information about this program:
  - Businesses and nonprofits with a total of **500 or fewer employees are eligible** to apply.
  - This is a **\$350 Billion** federal loan program.
  - Loan is based on **average payroll**.
  - Maximum loan is **\$10 million**.

- Loans can be forgiven.

For more information visit [here](#).

- **The Small Business retention grant program application will officially close on Friday at 5 pm,** but the City will continue to serve small businesses through the Small Business Continuity Fund. Visit [here](#) for a list of the **programs** available to **small businesses**.

## HEALTH INSURANCE



Photo Credit: Upclose Publication

The health insurance **enrollment period** has **extended**, the new deadline is **May 15th** . If you are without health insurance, you can apply [here](#). You must apply 60 days with losing coverage.

## HOMEOWNERS



Photo Credit: American Strategic

The **Center for NYC Neighborhoods** is offering guidance to homeowners. They will provide assistance on how to **leverage mortgage relief resources and foreclosure prevention**. Please visit [here](#) for more information. They can also be reached at [646-786-0888](tel:646-786-0888) or [info@cnycn.org](mailto:info@cnycn.org) .

**DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION  
POSTPONED**



Photo Credit: Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images

The Democratic National Convention, the convention where delegates select the Democratic Presidential Nominee, has been **postponed**. The original date was July 13th to the 16th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. However, due to COVID-19 concerns, the date has been moved to the week of **August 17th**. For more information visit [here](#).

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY 2020 SPRING SEASON

NYCHA is hiring **TEMPORARY PER DIEM WORKERS** to assist with general maintenance at NYCHA properties throughout the city. Please call your local NYCHA Property Management Office for more information and to schedule an appointment to complete the required forms.

### Required documents:

Two forms of identification (originals only) to verify your identity and eligibility to work in the United States. Examples of acceptable documents include, but are not limited to:

- Driver license
- U.S. Passport
- Social Security card
- U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-197)
- Employment authorization document issued by the Department of Homeland Security
- Original or certified copy of birth certificate



- You must be:**
- At least 18 years of age
  - Able to perform heavy physical labor



### Duration of employment:

You will be called as needed during the spring season

**Wage:** \$15.00 per hour

The New York City Housing Authority is currently hiring **temporary workers** to assist with the **maintenance of properties throughout NYC**. Please see flyer above for details.

## THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS



**You do tough work that helps stop the spread of disease.**

**Thank you sanitation workers.**

Photo Credit: [ministryofsport.com](http://ministryofsport.com)

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. This week we thank our **Sanitation Workers** for keeping our communities clean.

## AVOID SCAMS

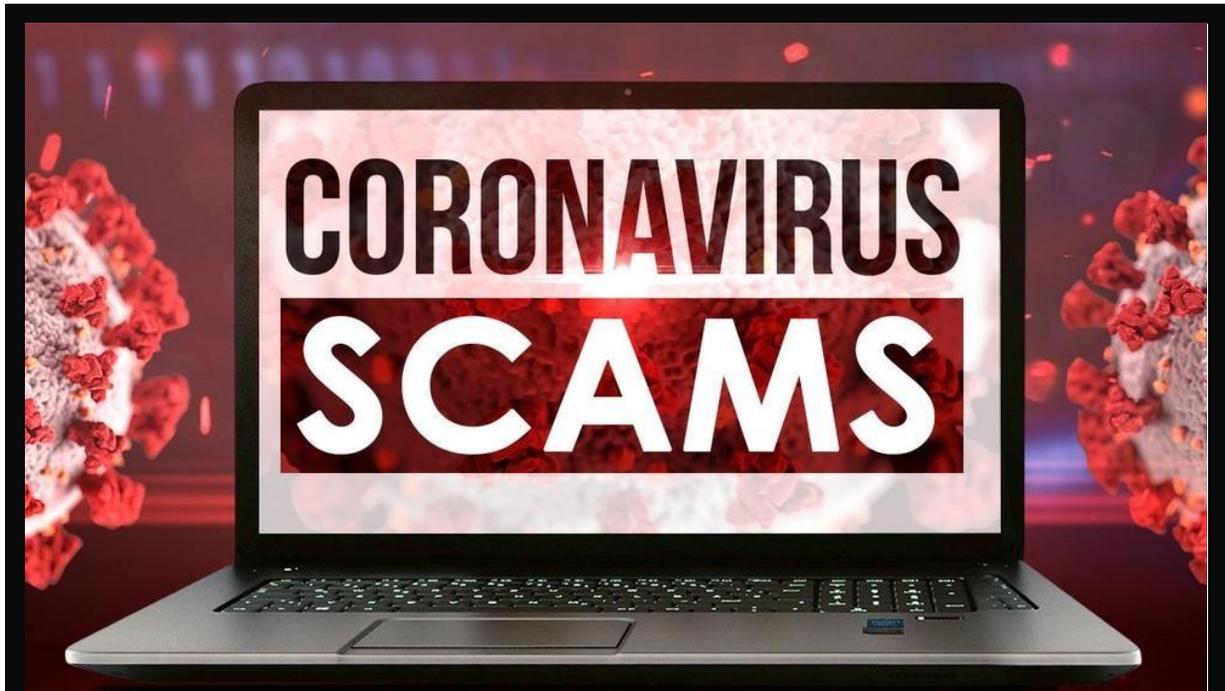


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dcwp](https://www.nyc.gov/dcwp). You can also file a complaint to the Attorney General's office, fill out a [complaint form](#).
- **NYS Price Gouging Hotline: 800-697-1220.**
- CDC staff will **NOT** go door-to-door. If you experience this, call 911.

**SERVICES AND RESOURCES**



Photo Credit: Ansi.org

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.

**NYS Department of Health Hotline** for people who want to be assessed and get appointment for test ([888-364-3065](tel:888-364-3065)). NYC residents should call ([844-692-4692](tel:844-692-4692)).

**Volunteer to Support**

**Others:** [https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare\\_workers](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare_workers).

**Free Internet Services:**

Charter is offering free specturm broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to household with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have Spectrum broadband subscription. To enroll, **call 844-488-8395**. Until further notice, all Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots are now open to everyone on the "xfinitywifi" SSID. For more information visit [here](#).

**In-District Businesses open/closed** : Provided by **Flatbush Avenue BID and Church Avenue BID** : Visit Flatbush Avenue Business Directory [here](#) and Church Avenue Business directory [here](#). Businesses open/closed: Provided by **Flatbush Development Corporation** : Visit Flatbush Business Corridor Directory [here](#). Includes businesses located in:

- Cortelyou Road (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Coney Island Avenue (Cortelyou Road - Foster Ave)
- Newkirk Plaza
- Newkirk Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Foster Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Ditmas Park

**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](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

**STAY INFORMED**

**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.*

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](#)

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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

