



Photo Credit: Twitter.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Request for Licensed Healthcare Workers

Today, Mayor De Blasio sent out a citywide text alert seeking healthcare workers in NYC.

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

New state domestic violence hotline; over 1,000 inmates released; executive order to acquire PPE and ventilators; iPad delivery timeline; SNAP update; remote learning during spring break; NYPD update and more!

NYS Confirmed: 102,863

NYS deaths: 2,935
NYC confirmed: 57,159
Brooklyn confirmed: 15,327

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo

- Governor Cuomo announced an **Executive Order** to allow the State to **take ventilators and PPE** from facilities that are not using them. Items will be returned or reimbursed .
- The Federal Government **approved** New York State's request to use the **Javits Center** for **COVID-19 patients**. The initial purpose of the center was to serve

non-COVID-19 patients. "The center adds **2,500** to the city's capacity."

- Current **non COVID-19** hospital patients will be transported to the **USNS Comfort ship**. This will help "alleviate the pressure for hospitals facing an influx of patients."
- Today, Governor Cuomo announced a New York State **Domestic Violence Hotline** due to the **increase** of Domestic Violence cases. The phone number is **(800) 942-6906**.

For more information visit [here](#).

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



Photo Credit: Nbc news

- Today, Mayor De Blasio **authorized** the NYPD, FDNY and the Sheriff's Office to support the Governor's effort to **take PPE and Ventilator items** from facilities that do not need them and to bring them to hospitals in need.
- Over **1,000 inmates** have been released.
- Today, the Mayor sent out an **extreme text alert** to New Yorkers **calling for licensed healthcare workers** to come and help hospitals in need.
- To view **COVID-19 related data** from the NYC Department of Health, [visit here](#).

BUSINESS



Video Credit: The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

- Please see the above video by **Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President, Randy Peers**. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce has created a **COVID-19 Assistance and Resources page for businesses**. You can visit the page [here](#).
- **OPEN TODAY: 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](#).

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Photo Credit: Learning Liff

- This evening, the Department of Education announced that **remote learning will continue during the week of April 9th - April 17th**, the original Spring Break period. Students and staff observing religious holidays can do so on April 9th and April 10th, however, remote learning will still continue on those days. The majority of Regional Enrichment Centers will also remain open. For more information visit [here](#).
- **Elementary students** will receive their **Middle school offers** early next week. Families can view offers the following ways:
 - Log into myschools.nyc
 - In the mail
 - Calling 311
 - Emailing [Family Welcome Centers](#)
- **iPad Delivery Schedule**
 - The week of **March 23**: first shipment of iPads to students across New York City, priority to students living in shelters.
 - The week of **March 30**: iPads delivered to students in temporary housing, emergency shelters, youth shelters, and foster care, as well as high school students.
 - The week of **April 6**: 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."

According to the Department of Education, "students who requested an iPad, but are not in the above groups, will receive

their iPads after deliveries are made to the above groups." For more information visit [here](#).

NYC COVID-19 ENGAGEMENT PORTAL

EXPERIENCING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS?

Register your status today.

[NYC.Gov/cv19engagementportal](https://nyc.gov/cv19engagementportal)

NYC

Photo Credit: NYC Planning

- New Yorkers can now **self report** on COVID-19 using a new online **COVID-19 portal**. The Portal is available in the following languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Individuals will be able to self report:
 - Individual COVID-19 status
 - Symptoms and date of onset
 - Quarantine status
 - Contact information

People without internet access can call 311.

SNAP UPDATE



Photo Credit: wrdw.com

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits recipients can now use their EBT card to shop for groceries **online** . Participating stores in include:

- **Amazon**
- **Shop Rite**
- **Walmart**

For more information visit [here](#).

NYPD UPDATE



Photo Credit: NY Post

NYPD plans to **stop sending police officers to the scene of minor car crash accidents.** This will redirect the focus of officers to more “critical safety-related calls” due to COVID-19. For more information visit [here](#).

DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE

According to the District Attorney's office here are common COVID-19 scams to be aware of:

- **Calls that request money or personal information about Stimulus check.** "The IRS issued an advisory for taxpayers to be on the lookout for a surge of calls and email phishing, including scams related to the distribution of government issued economic impact payments." **If you filed your 2018 and/or 2019 tax**

returns, you do not need to do anything. The federal government has your information. For more information visit [here](#). To view the IRS advisory, visit [here](#).

- If you are attempting to get a refund from an airline for a flight, the NYPD Crime Prevention Division detected "several instances where people have been **scammed attempting to get refunds for flights** cancelled due to COVID-19," make sure you are speaking to the proper individuals regarding flight refunds.
- Beware of scammers "visiting, emailing or calling about disconnecting Con Edison service." **Con Edison will not turn off service due to COVID-19.**
- The **Social Security Administration (SSA)** warned the public about "fraudulent letters threatening suspension of Social Security benefits" due to COVID-19 related office closures. For more information visit [here](#).
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) alerted consumers to "**investigate online sellers before purchasing in-demand products**, such as cleaning, health and medical supplies and to **research Coronavirus relief charities before donating money**. The FTC also advised consumers to update their computer and email security settings to avoid emails containing ransomware or malware and hang up on robocalls immediately." For more information visit [here](#).

If you are a victim of a crime, call the District Attorney Action Center Hotline at [\(718\) 250-2340](tel:7182502340) to speak with a specialist and file a report.

VIDEO CHAT PRECAUTIONS



Photo Credit: Zoom

According to today.com, to avoid **video chat hackers** :

- Set meetings to private.
- Require attendees to enter with password.
- Do not share links publicly.
- Share screen to "host only."
- Update software.

For more tips on how to prevent video chat hackers, visit [here](#).

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS



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

**Thank you
sanitation workers.**

Photo Credit: 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.

Free Internet Services:

Charter is offering free spectrum 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

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](#)

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

