



Assemblymember  
**RODNEYSE BICHOTTE**  
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader



## **COVID-19 Updates**



Photo Credit: (Courtesy photo)

**APRIL 21, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Lisa Derrick: [derrickl@nyassembly.gov](mailto:derrickl@nyassembly.gov)  
718-940-0428

**U.S. Senate Passes \$484 Billion Relief Package**

(Today, the Senate approved additional aid for small businesses)

### *Amid Coronavirus Pandemic*

President issues Immigration Suspension; NYC creates Spiro Wave Bridge ventilators; Non-profit grants; Free financial counseling; and more!

**NYS Confirmed: 251,690**  
**NYS deaths: 14,828**  
**NYC confirmed: 139,325**  
**Brooklyn confirmed: 37,694**

### **NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO**



#### 2 Rules

- 1 Do No Harm
- 2 Plan Reopening

**STAY HOME. STOP THE SPREAD. SAVE LIVES.**

Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo

- NYS will allow **elective outpatient treatment** in counties and hospitals that do not have high risk of COVID-19 surge in the near term.

- Restrictions on elective surgery will remain in place in Bronx, Queens, Rockland, Nassau, Clinton, Yates, Westchester, Albany, Richmond, Schuyler, Kings, Suffolk, New York, Dutchess, Sullivan, Ulster, Erie, Orange and Rensselaer Counties as the state continues to monitor the rate of new COVID-19 infections in the region.
- The Governor announced that today he will meet with President Trump at the White House to discuss testing.
- Lieutenant Governor **Kathy Hochul** will be in charge of **Western New York region** to monitor public health and reopening strategy.
- Former Lieutenant Governor **Robert Duffy** will serve as the Volunteer Special Advisor to coordinate **Finger Lakes** region and monitor public health and reopening strategy.

**NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO**

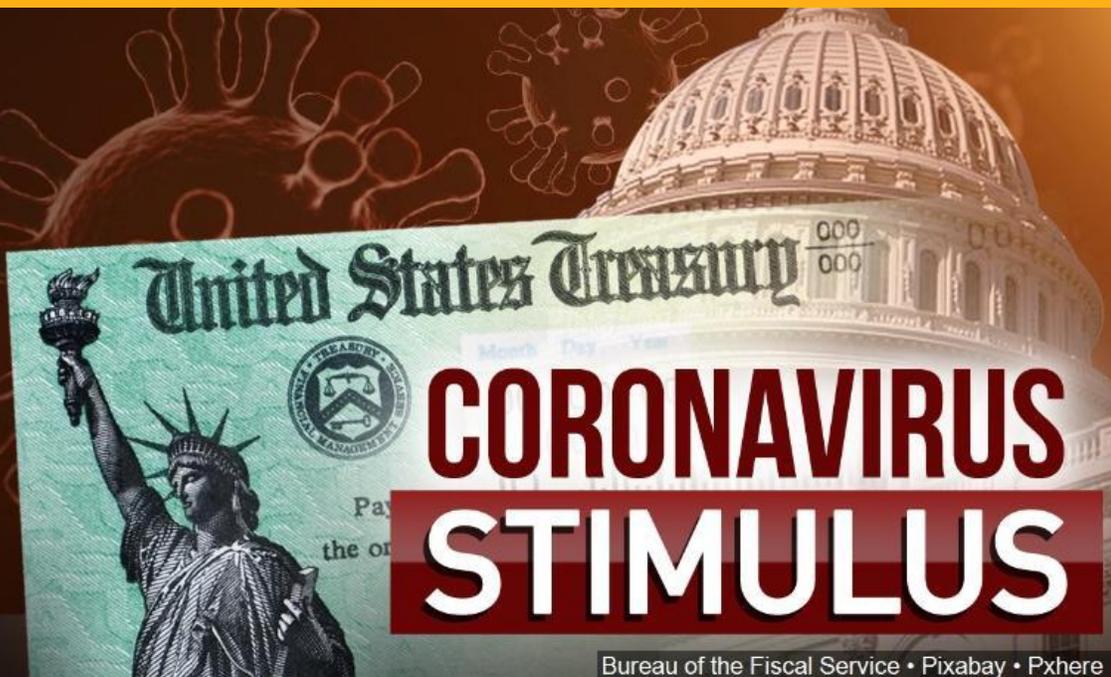


Photo Credit: James Messerschmidt

- The Mayor announced a new FDA approved **Spiro Wave "Bridge" Ventilator** created to help patients with "less severe respiratory symptoms."
  - The City is purchasing first **3,000** ventilator units for **\$10 million**.
  - Ventilator is made by **Boyce Technologies** in Long Island City, Queens.
  - The ventilator cost is significantly less than full feature ventilators, costing **\$3,333 each** versus usual \$50,000 each.
- NYC is building a **strategic reserve of vital medical equipment and supplies** to ensure that we are prepared for any future need.
  - This includes face shields, surgical gowns, tests kits, bridge ventilators.

- Mayor thanked **Owens-Minor and UPS** for donating **1 million** square yards of American-made fabric to create **400,000** surgical gowns.
- NYC will host a parade to celebrate healthcare workers once reopen.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Bureau of the Fiscal Service • Pixabay • Pxhere

Photo Credit: Bureau of the Fiscal Service / Photo: Pixabay / Photo: Pxhere

- **20** states are preparing to safely restart their economy.
- The President and Senate negotiated a **\$484 Billion package**. House will vote on the package tomorrow.
  - **Over \$300 Billion** will be provided to Small Businesses and Paycheck Protection Program, **\$75 billion** aid to hospitals, **\$25 billion** to COVID-19 testing efforts. Federal government will put guidelines on who is eligible for small business loans to ensure that small businesses receive loans. For more information visit [here](#).

- President announced an Executive Order to **Temporarily suspend immigration** in the U.S. for **60 days**.
- **USNS Comfort Ship** will return to Virginia from New York to go to next state in need.

## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE UPDATE

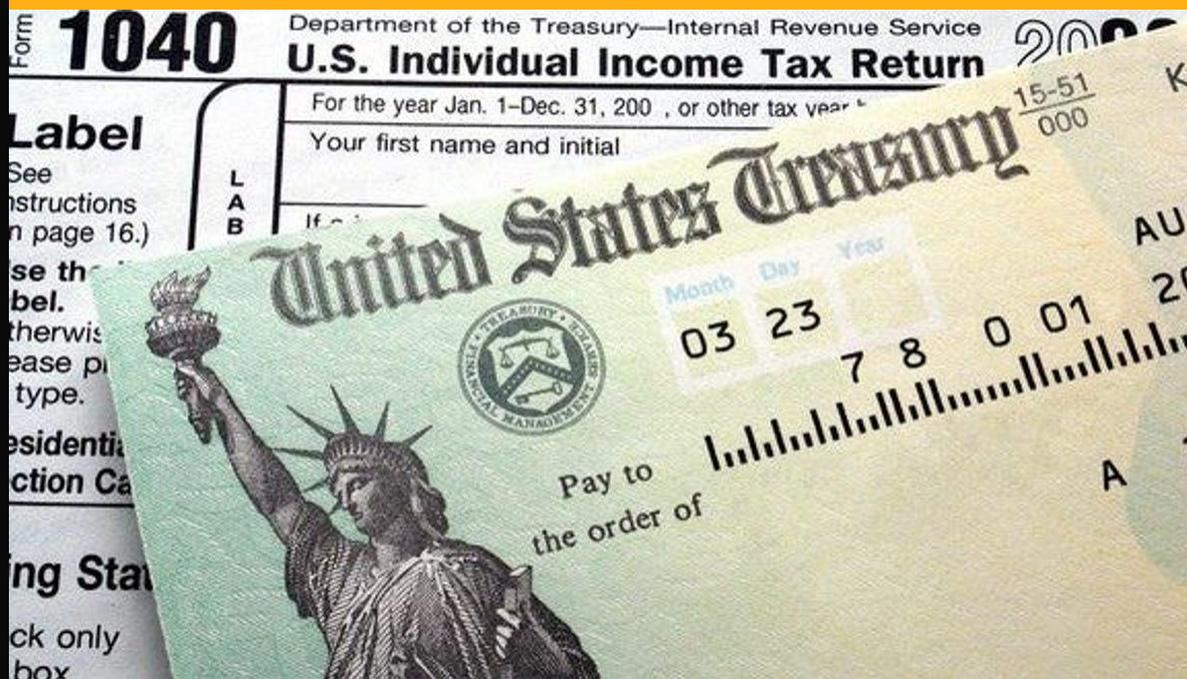


Photo Credit: USA Today

If you have a child and did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return, you **must register your child on the IRS non-filer form by noon tomorrow, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, to receive the additional **\$500** per child in your stimulus payment. If this is not completed you will only receive **\$1,200** and, by law, "the additional **\$500** per eligible child amount would be paid in association with a return filing for tax year 2020."

Furthermore, if you are a **Social Security or Railroad Retirement Benefit Recipients with children** you must

also register your child on the IRS website **by noon tomorrow** to receive the additional **\$500** per child.

The form can be completed [here](#).

## NON PROFIT GRANTS



Photo Credit: Chattanooga.com

Due to funding from the Cares Act, **The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** will award funds to **nonprofit arts organizations** facing economic hardships due to COVID-19. If a nonprofit cultural organization received support from the NEA in the last four fiscal years, they are eligible to apply for a direct grant. The deadline to apply for the grant is tomorrow, **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** . [Apply here](#).

## FREE FINANCIAL COUNSELING

**Financial  
Counseling**



Photo Credit: Firstpeoples.com

**New York City Financial Empowerment Center** counselors are providing free financial counseling to those experiencing financial challenges. Schedule an appointment [here](#).

## BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

## Burglary Prevention Tips

- Test your alarm** with your central station provider and update emergency contact lists.
- Make sure all **cameras are functioning**, are well positioned and views are unobstructed.
- Check that the time is accurate on your DVR and it can **record for at least 30-60 days**.
- Change the combination of any safes**, especially if employees have moved on.
- Ensure all **entrances are well-lit** and there is adequate interior lighting.
- Protect accessible windows** with locks, security films, grilles, or bars.
- Roof openings** (skylights, ventilators) should be secured and alarmed.
- Climbing aids**, such as ladders, should be locked up or removed.
- Cash registers** should be empty, and left open to prevent unnecessary damage.
- Sidewalk openings** and their frames should be secured and properly locked.
- Make sure **doors and door frames are of adequate construction**, commercial grade locks are installed, functioning properly, and have edge guards to prevent prying.
- Exposed hinges** require non-removable pins.

*Please ensure compliance with local, state, and national fire and life safety codes.*

**NYPD**

**Crime Prevention Division**

**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. Today, we thank our **Sanitation workers** for keeping our communities clean.

## AVOID SCAMS

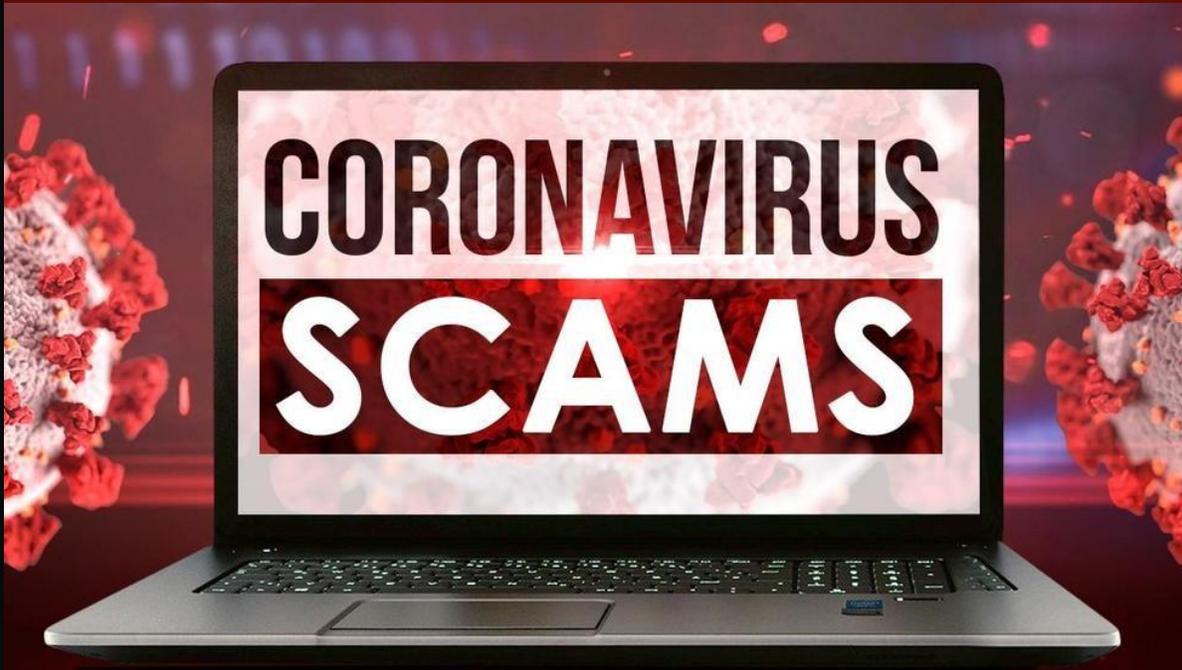


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- 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 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

**Small Businesses:**

For resources on **business** grants and loans, [visit here](#).

**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

