



Assemblymember  
**RODNEYSE BICHOTTE**  
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader



## COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: iStock

**APRIL 28, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NYC Mayor Announces New Grading Policy For Students**

## *Amid Coronavirus Pandemic*

NYC To Plan Citywide Virtual Graduation; Governor Launches New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board; President Announces Executive Order For Meat Processing Facilities; And More!

**NYS Confirmed: 295,106**  
**NYS Deaths: 17,638**  
**NYC Confirmed: 162,338**  
**Brooklyn Confirmed: 43,587**

**NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO**



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo

- Today, the Governor announced the creation of the **New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board** to help guide the state's re-opening strategy.
  - The advisory board will be chaired by Former Secretaries to the Governor, Steve Cohen and Bill Mulrow, and will include over **100** business, community and civic leaders from NYS.
- Elective surgeries to resume in parts of NYS.
  - At least **30%** of hospital beds must be available after elective surgeries resume.
  - Hospitals with capacity issues cannot resume elective surgeries.
- Decision on school reopening across NYS will come at the end of the week.

## NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



## **Department of Education:**

### **Grading Policy:**

Today, the Mayor and the DOE Chancellor announced updates to the grading policy for students **grades K through 12**.

- **Grades K through 5:** Students will receive "**meets standards**" or "**needs improvement**" grade.
  - Basic evaluation: Existing course requirements such as submitted assignments, projects and writing samples. "Students who do not meet standards will be enrolled in summer programming to develop skills."
- **Grades 6 through 8:** Students will receive "**Meets standards,**" "**Need improvement,**" or "**Course in progress**" grade.
  - Basic for Evaluation: remote class coursework and discussion."Students who do not meet standards will be enrolled in summer programming to develop skills."
- **High School:** Will use **existing scales**. Students who need more time will receive a **course in progress** grade and will enroll in summer or fall support programs. Students will have until **January 2021** to complete outstanding coursework.
  - Basic Evaluation: Remote learning coursework including term papers, exams, presentations etc. Students have option after receiving passing letter grade to covert to "pass" rating, GPA will not be affected.

### **Remote Learning Devices:**

The Mayor announced that it is the DOE's goal to ensure that students who need a remote learning device, receive one.

- **247,000** IpadS will have been distributed by **April 30th**
- Families who need a device and have not yet requested one, can do so [here](#) or by calling **311**.

### **Virtual Citywide Graduation:**

The Mayor announced a plan to host a virtual citywide graduation for all **NYC high school seniors**. This celebration will bring together special guests to celebrate seniors Details to be announced in weeks ahead.

### **Small Businesses**

The Mayor urged small businesses to apply for the federal **Payment Protection Program**. The Application is first come, first served and you can apply [here](#).

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**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**



Photo Credit: David Dee Delgado/Getty Images

- President Trump plans to sign an **executive order** to keep **meat processing facilities open**, to prevent meat shortages. The president plans to categorize the facilities as “critical infrastructure under the Defense Production Act” to keep them open.
  - There has been push back by unions and labor advocates because they believe the federal government has to do more to protect the plant workers who usually work "shoulder to shoulder in refrigerated assembly lines." According to the **United Food and Commercial Workers International Union**, "thousands of meatpacking

workers have been infected by COVID-19 and at least 20 have died." For more information visit [here](#).

## LEGAL RESOURCE HOTLINE

# FREE NY COVID-19 LEGAL RESOURCE HOTLINE

If you or someone you know has been impacted by COVID-19 & have legal questions, call

**929-356-9582**

Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm

- Advanced Planning
- Consumer Debt
- Employee Rights
- Housing
- Unemployment Benefits
- Public Benefits
- Special Education Issues
- Stimulus Payment Questions

**NYLAG**

New York Legal Assistance Group



**New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)** launched a **COVID-19 Legal Resource Hotline** to help NYC residents impacted by COVID-19 get answers to their legal questions. You can call **929-356-9582** Monday to Friday from 10 a.m to 1 p.m. For more information, [visit here](#).

## HOUSING COURT ANSWERS



# Housing Court Answers



The Housing Court Answers hotline is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m to 5 p.m to answer housing related questions, if you need assistance please call **(212) 962-4795** . Housing Court Answers is also hosting a series of webinars for tenants, to view calendar of events visit [here](#).

**COVID-19 TESTING IN FLATBUSH**



Assemblymember  
**Rodneyse Bichotte**  
*42nd Assembly District*



# **FLATBUSH AVENUE WALK-IN COVID-19 TESTING SITE**

*This testing site is **by appointment only**.*

You **must** contact the  
**NYS Department of Health**  
at **1-888-364-3065** to  
schedule an appointment.

**Brookdale Family Care Center**

1095 Flatbush Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11226

For more information about this or any community concern,  
contact Assemblymember Bichotte's district office

718-940-0428 | [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov) | [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte)

We have a new **walk-in** COVID-19 testing site in the **42nd Assembly District** . To make an appointment you **must** contact the NYS Department of Health at **888-364-3065**.

**HAITIAN ROUND TABLE: COVID-19 IMPACT ON  
HAITIAN BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE U.S**



**THE HAITIAN  
ROUNDTABLE**  
RECOGNIZING HAITIAN-AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT

**KREYÒL ESSENCE®**  
100% NATURAL + ETHICAL  
BEAUTY PRODUCTS FROM HAITI

**VETIVER**  
Les Cayes®

## THE HAITI DIALOGUE TELE-SERIES PART IV THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HAITIAN BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE U.S.

Join legislators, government and industry leaders for a tele-discussion (via Zoom) regarding the impact of COVID-19 on Haitian small business owners in the U.S. and learn more about available resources and best practices.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020**

**1:00PM - 2:00PM**

### SPEAKERS



**HON. RODNEYSE BICHOTTE**  
NYS Assemblymember and  
Brooklyn Dem. Party Leader



**CASSANDRE DAVILMAR**  
Owner and Manager



**HON. WENDY GARCIA**  
Chief Diversity Officer  
NYC Comptroller's Office



**YVE-CAR MOMPEROUSSE**  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Kreyol Essence (KE)

**RSVP REQUIRED**  
[INFO@THEHAITIANROUNDTABLE.ORG](mailto:INFO@THEHAITIANROUNDTABLE.ORG)

*ZOOM DIAL INFO PROVIDED  
UPON REGISTRATION*

### COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORS



Join **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte** on **Thursday, April 30th** from 1:00 p.m to 2 p.m for a **Haitian Round Table Dialogue Tele-Series** on the impact of COVID-19 on Haitian business owners in the U.S. To

attend you must RSVP  
at [Info@thehaitianroundtable.org](mailto:Info@thehaitianroundtable.org).

## PET OWNERS



Photo Credit: eightieskids

Today, the **New York City Emergency Management Department** and the **Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare** announced the launch of the **NYC COVID-19 Pet Hotline**. Pet owners can call the hotline at [1-877-204-8821](tel:1-877-204-8821) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.

**THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

*You keep our  
shelves stocked and  
families healthy.*

Thank you grocery store workers.



During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **Grocery store workers** for keeping our shelves stocked and families healthy.

**AVOID SCAMS**

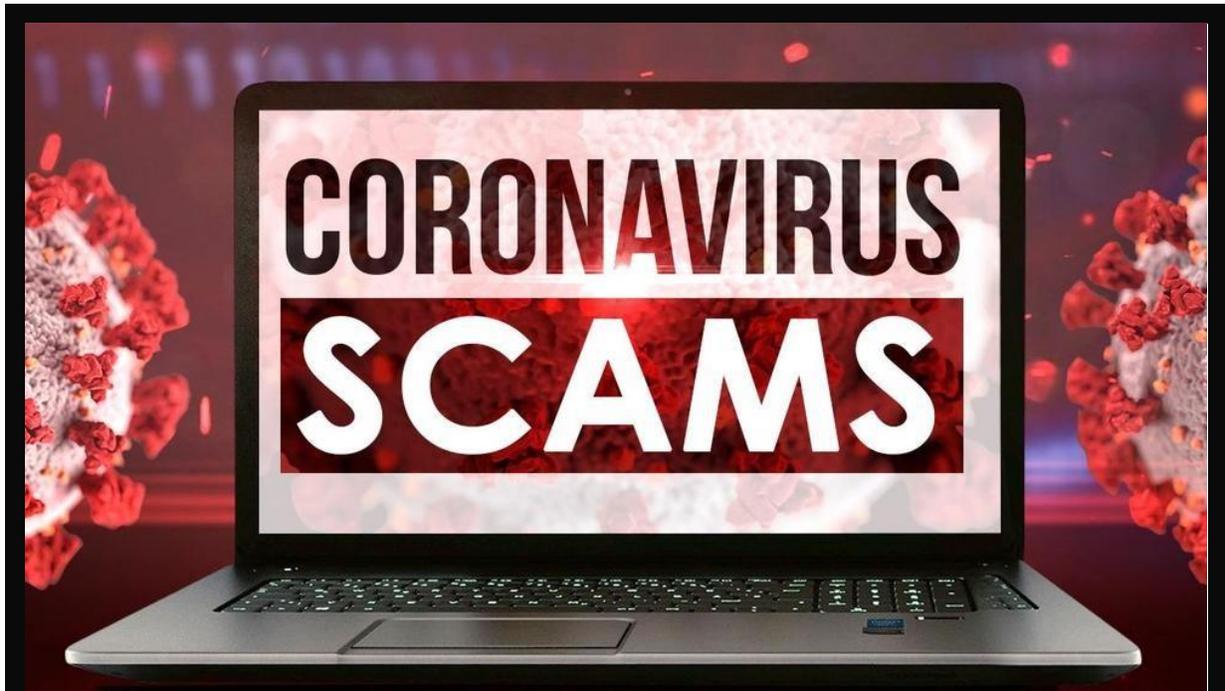


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- 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 websites:  
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>  
and [www.rodneysebichotte.net](http://www.rodneysebichotte.net)

STAY CONNECTED

