



Yuh-Line Niou

REPORTS TO YOU

Dear Neighbor,

In the midst of the global health pandemic, COVID-19, I wanted to provide updates to our community on what we are doing to ensure that residents have the resources they need, and we all stay as safe as possible throughout the course of this health crisis.

My team and I have been calling through our constituents to do wellness checks and provide resources. We've distributed thousands of masks and meals to NYCHA developments, local non-profits, and seniors throughout our district. Our office continues to offer assistance on common issues that residents are experiencing such as following up with the Department of Labor on unemployment insurance claims, groceries and food access, supplies for frontline crisis workers, and emergency assistance. We also send out daily updates with the latest information and resources on COVID-19 mitigation efforts. You can sign up for these by going to my website at <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Yuh-Line-Niou> and clicking join my email list or by emailing niouy@nyassembly.gov with a request to be added to our list.



Yuh-Line and her team delivers groceries to community members in her district.

Going forward, New York must continue to minimize the health risks and help our community recover from COVID-19. My priorities focus on providing our district with working families relief, small business relief, and public health relief.

- 1 For **working families** the focus needs to be on efficiently providing unemployment benefits without a waiting period, and guaranteeing that workers can return to the jobs that they have been laid off from when the crisis is over. We must look towards rent relief for our working families, and I sponsor multiple bills that would provide relief to small property owners and hard working New Yorkers. Looking forward to the future, we need to pass legislation that ensures paid sick leave for all workers, so that workers are not forced to come into work and spread an illness.
- 2 My second focus is on **small business relief**. Our businesses have been hit hard with loss of business. To support them, we need to halt all commercial evictions for small businesses now and for 6 months after the crisis is finished. We need to provide small businesses with relief in the form of grants and zero-interest loans, suspend any fines on small businesses, and cap delivery platform fees at 10 percent. Looking forward, we need to pass eviction protections for small businesses and a vacancy tax for long-vacated storefronts.
- 3 Finally, our focus needs to be on **public health relief**. Within the city there should be access to free hand sanitizer, soap, rubber gloves, and face masks. We must also ensure immediately that NYCHA buildings are cleaned and disinfected to ensure that our NYCHA residents are safe in their common spaces. We must work to distribute at-home testing kits which would expedite testing as well as protect healthcare workers and other patients from risk of exposure. Finally, I am encouraging 9/11 healthcare programs to process their waitlist quickly and ensure that survivors have the coverage that they need — respiratory illnesses are often pre-existing conditions in survivors and also a risk factor for COVID-19.

It is important to continue to work on these short-term and long-term relief and restoration measures to help New York recover. Now more than ever, we need to do our best to protect each other, it is vital we continue to focus on the people who are most at risk economically and medically from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,


Yuh-Line Niou
Assemblymember, 65th District



Urging for At-Home Testing Kits for COVID-19

At the beginning of the breakout of COVID-19 in our community, I wrote a letter to Governor Cuomo to request at-home testing kits which would allow for more rapid testing, lighten the load on healthcare workers, and allow vulnerable community members or individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to stay inside to get tested. While the State is increasing capacity for testing through drive-thru testing, at-home tests would still be the most efficient and safe method.

Calling on NYCHA to Improve Cleaning Protocols to Protect Residents

I sent a letter to NYCHA CEO and Chair Gregory Russ urging NYCHA to release their plan for heightened cleaning and disinfecting protocols to protect our NYCHA residents from COVID-19. Residents have reported they had not seen an increase in cleaning and disinfecting in their buildings. I demanded NYCHA follow cleaning protocols set forth by the State which are similarly followed on other high traffic public facilities including the MTA.

Fighting for 9/11 Responders and Survivors

In protecting our community from the dire potential effects of COVID-19, I sent a letter to Governor Cuomo asking him to give priority testing to 9/11 responders and survivors — most of whom suffer from respiratory illnesses and cancer.



New York needs a complete census count so we get our fair share of federal funding for everything from hospitals to public schools.

Visit my2020census.gov to fill out the questionnaire online or learn more.

These diagnoses make people more susceptible to the most dangerous symptoms of COVID-19. Additionally, I called for reduction of the waitlist for 9/11 healthcare programs to ensure that everyone was able to have health coverage in the wake of COVID-19.

Speaking out Against COVID-19 Racism

I have been speaking out on the racist rhetoric that has arisen through the spread of the virus. Our businesses were losing customers months before the first case of COVID-19 came to the U.S., despite the fact that local shops and restaurants undergo the same food and safety inspections, handling standards and health codes, as anyone else. Our community must stand together and remain educated on the growing emergency to fight it together. We must stop the spread of the unfounded harmful stereotypes and hateful words that people are using to demonize our community through thoughtful and reasonable discussions.



FOOD RESOURCES FOR DISTRICT 65



FREE GRAB-TO-GO MEALS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

Open Monday to Friday, from 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM
 7:30 - 11:30 : Children & Families | 11:30 - 1:30 : Adults

- Parents and guardians may pick up meals for their children
- All adults and children can pick up three meals at one time
- No dining space available
- No one will be turned away at any time
- No registration or ID required
- Vegetarian/halal options available at all sites

CHINATOWN

PS 126 JACOB AUGUST RIIS 80 CATHERINE STREET	PS 001 ALFRED E. SMITH 8 HENRY STREET	PS 042 BENJAMIN ALTMAN 71 HESTER STREET
PS 130 HERNANDO DE SOTO 143 BAXTER STREET	PS 002 MEYER LONDON 122 HENRY STREET	MS 131 100 HESTER STREET

<h4 style="text-align: center;">LOWER EAST SIDE</h4> NEW DESIGN HIGH SCHOOL 350 GRAND STREET PS 184 SHUANG WEN 327 CHERRY STREET	<h4 style="text-align: center;">BATTERY PARK</h4> PS 126 JACOB RIIS 55 BATTERY PLACE <i>Note: Dates, locations, and menus are subject to change. Please confirm prior on: www.schools.nyc.gov/freemeals</i>
---	---

<h4 style="text-align: center;">OTHER OPTIONS</h4> NYC FOOD DELIVERY ASSISTANCE (Please note criteria) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No members of the household can go out and get food because they are at increased medical risk or homebound • No neighbors or family members can go out and get food for you • Do not receive meal assistance from other providers • You are unable to afford meal delivery or grocery delivery Sign-Up for Delivery: https://tinyurl.com/NYCFoodDelivery	<h4 style="text-align: center;">SENIORS-SPECIFIC</h4> NYC DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior centers are currently closed for congregate programming and meals are being delivered • Please call your local senior center to learn how to receive delivered meals • Or call Aging Connect at 212-244-6469 or 311 24/7 Emergency Food Hotline 866-888-8777 or 311
---	--

BOWERY MISSION 273 BOWERY (212-674-3456)	VISION URBANA 66 ESSEX STREET (646-626-9748)
--	--

Food Map for Citywide Locations: <https://tinyurl.com/NYCGetFoodMap>

Office of State Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou
 212-312-1420 | niou@nyassembly.gov

Introduction on Legislation to Suspend Rent and Provide Small Property Owner Relief

Introduced three pieces of legislation to better support New Yorkers, New York businesses, and small property owners who have lost income during this time. The first bill **A10224/S8125** would suspend payments for residential tenants, small business commercial tenants, and mortgage payments. Any tenant or small business commercial tenant in the state that has lost earned income, been forced to close their place of business, or whose business has lost income as a result of government ordered restrictions in response to COVID-19 would be supported by this bill.

The second bill **A10247/S8139** would suspend rent payments for tenants in response to the outbreak of coronavirus and establish a COVID-19 rental assistance

fund that will provide relief to property owners from reduced rental income caused by COVID-19. Any tenant in the state that has lost earned income, been forced to close their place of business, or whose business has lost income as a result of government ordered restrictions in response to COVID-19 would be supported by this bill.

The final bill, **A10255** would create a 'COVID-19 emergency small landlord assistance fund' to provide assistance to owners of a real property portfolio whose tenants have had their rent payments suspended due to COVID-19 related government actions. This would provide funding for small property owners who have experienced losses.

Providing Direct Aid to District 65

As an on-the-grounds response to the pandemic, my team and I have provided tens of thousands of meals, wellness calls, personal protection equipment like masks and gloves, kosher food items, groceries, and crucial assistance to our community. We continue to organize and partner with organizations and community volunteers to provide direct resources to our seniors and high-risk individuals, public housing and

low-income residents in need, other local organizations working on the front lines of the pandemic response, essential workers, and small businesses.

We continue to offer our regular constituent services and encourage you to reach out to us if you need any assistance with any issues you encounter. Our most common cases include housing, unemployment insurance assistance, price gouging, and food security.



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE RESOURCES



OVERVIEW: FILING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

ELIGIBILITY

- You must have worked and earned enough wages in covered employment.
- You must file an Unemployment Insurance claim to find out if you are eligible and learn your actual benefit amount.
- You must be ready, willing, and able to work, and actively looking for work during each week in which you are claiming benefits.

FOR FILING A NEW CLAIM:

- A - F file on Monday
- G - N file on Tuesday
- O - Z file on Wednesday
- Anyone can file Thursday to Sunday

NOTE: Unemployment Insurance is available for workers who lost their job through no fault of their own

HOW TO FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

SIGN IN or CREATE a NY.GOV ID account

and follow these instructions to file a claim:

APPLY ONLINE:

<https://unemployment.labor.ny.gov/login>
or

BY PHONE at 1-888-209-8124

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 7:30 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 am to 8:00 pm

- Once approved, you will receive your benefits
- You should certify for benefits for each week you remain unemployed, as soon as you receive notification from the DOL to do so
 - online: www.labor.ny.gov/signin
 - phone: 1-888-581-5812

MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE AVAILABLE:

(if applicable)

- Your Social Security number
- Your driver license or Motor Vehicle ID card number (if you have either one)
- Your complete mailing address and zip code
- A phone number where we can reach you from 8 am - 5 pm, Monday-Friday
- Your Alien Registration card number (if you are not a U.S. Citizen and have a card)
- Names and addresses of all your employers for the last 18 months, including those in other states
- Employer Registration number or Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) of your most recent employer (FEIN is on your W-2 forms)
- Your copies of forms SF8 and SF50, if you were a federal employee
- Your most recent separation form (DD 214), for military service

Please feel free to reach out to Office of State Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou
for any questions and assistance:
212-312-1420 | niou@nyassembly.gov



Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou:

“As we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19, **it’s essential that our democracy continues to function.** These necessary changes will help ensure no one has to put their well-being at risk to cast their ballot.”



Important COVID-19 Voting Changes

All eligible voters can vote by absentee ballot for the June 23 elections

To ensure no one has to risk their health to make their voice heard, **New York is sending postage-paid absentee ballot applications to all eligible voters to vote by mail in the June 23 primaries.** When filling out the application, simply check the box for “temporary illness or physical disability.”

Voters will receive ballots and postage-paid envelopes to send their completed ballots back.

To apply online, please visit <https://nycabsentee.com/absentee>

Call for Ballots to be Sent to Every Voter and Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order

I have been advocating for all New Yorkers to be sent a pre-paid ballot in the mail following the Governor’s announcement that anyone could vote absentee on the June 23rd election. Following my proposal, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order to automatically send a postage-paid application for an absentee ballot to all eligible voters in New York state for the upcoming election.



<https://nycabsentee.com/absentee>

Important Dates:

Mid-May: Absentee ballot applications will be sent to all eligible voters with postage-paid envelopes to return.

June 16: Last day to mail in an absentee ballot application.

June 22: Deadline to postmark absentee ballots.

Questions? Concerns? My office is here to help. Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou

64 Fulton Street, Room 302 • New York, NY 10038 • 212-312-1420 • niouy@nyassembly.gov

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou REPORTS TO YOU

Spring 2020

PRSR STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75



Yuh-Line provides PPE to public housing residents and local organizations involved in the pandemic response.



Yuh-Line organizes and provides hot grab and go meals daily in partnership with a local small business in addition to delivery to homebound and high-risk individuals.