



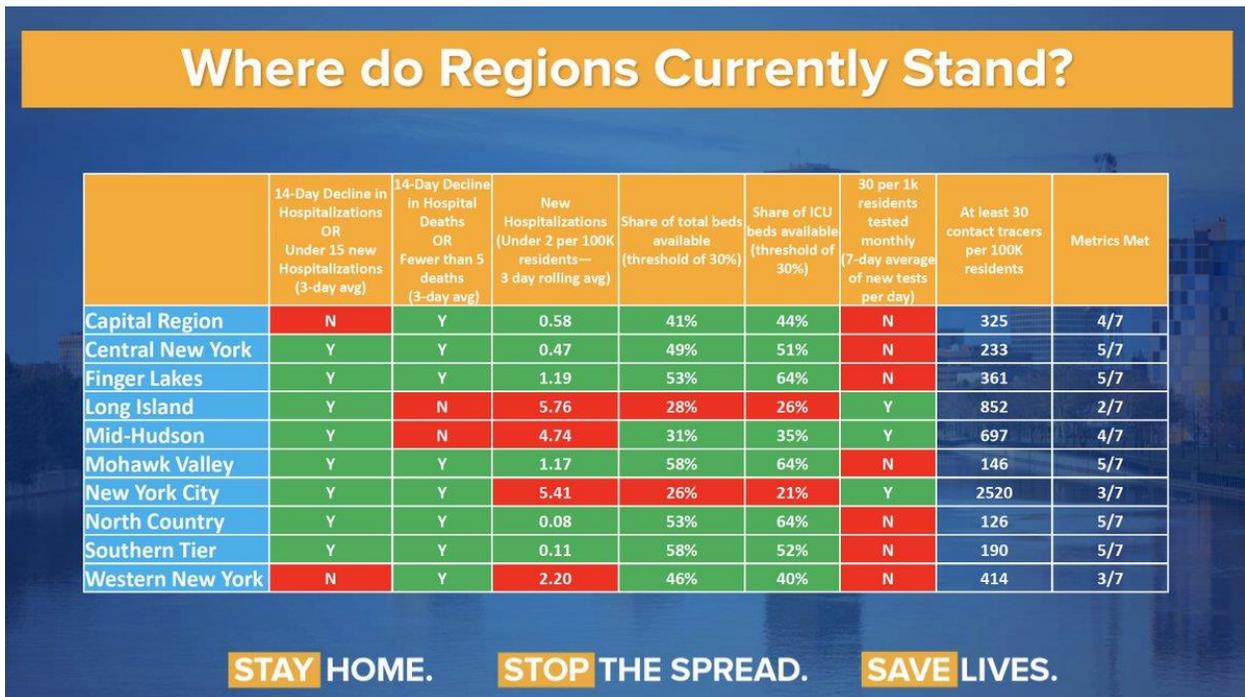
Dear neighbor,

On Monday, Governor Cuomo announced a major milestone – over 1 million New Yorkers have now been tested for COVID-19. New York has administered more tests than any other state in the country, with an eventual goal of testing 40,000 people daily.

To achieve this, the Governor issued an Executive Order allowing pharmacies to begin offering tests to first responders, frontline health care workers, and essential employees. In time, the hope is that anyone and everyone who wants a test will be able to get one.

This is crucial to reopening because widespread testing will allow for early identification. The sooner a person knows they have COVID-19, the sooner they can isolate, and prevent the spread of the virus onto others.

With most new cases and hospitalizations occurring in the downstate are, it remains unclear when New York City will begin a phased reopening.



This helpful chart demonstrates which regions have met the necessary requirements. As you see, not a single region has met all the CDC-recommended guidelines for a safe reopening, though some are closer than others.

The number of new cases and hospitalizations in New York City continues to grow, signaling we still have some time before we can consider reopening. With the weather growing nicer, I understand the urge to be outside, however I encourage everyone to do so at a safe distance from others and with a face covering.

I will be giving out face coverings next week for anyone who doesn't have one. Come pick up your mask, and say a socially distanced hello!

- Wednesday, May 13 at Dag Hammerskjold Plaza from 9am-10am
- Friday, May 15 at Carl Schurz Park from 9am-10am

Lenox Hill Hospital

And now... some good news! Last week, Lenox Hill Hospital discharged its 1,000th COVID-19 patient. This milestone speaks to the resilience of New Yorkers and the high level of care provided by our dedicated health care workers. The New York Times profiled one of the hospital's heroes – Marina DiMattia, who works as a triage nurse.

You can read about her Sunday routine here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/24/nyregion/coronavirus-triage-nurse-lenox-hill-nyc.html>

Unemployment Insurance Update

The New York State Department of Labor hired over 3,000 people to manage increased traffic via phone and web. Its backlog has decreased but systemwide problems persist.

Many constituents have reported that their claims have remained pending for weeks. We have been working with the Department of Labor and the Governor's office to fix the structural problems with the claims process. In the meantime, if you have any problems with your unemployment claim, you can reach out to my office and my staff will work with you.

Resources and Volunteer Opportunities

NYC Civic Impact Funding: NYC Service is providing one-time funding of up to \$10,000 to support nonprofits engaging volunteers to deliver essential services, particularly meals and food, to residents throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Applications are due May 11th at 5pm.

View all eligibility and funding details online here: <https://www.nycservice.org/pages/pages/218>

Request Volunteer Support: NYC Service is connecting nonprofits with New York Cares to begin the community partner in-take process and place volunteers at projects. Current volunteer projects include in-person food distribution support, virtual volunteer phone-banking to provide social engagement for seniors and those serving immigrant and other vulnerable New Yorkers, virtual remote learning support, and other activities. There are over 12,000 volunteers trained and ready to serve across all five boroughs.

You can request volunteer support here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/get-help/organizations.page>

Face masks: Every New Yorker is required to wear a face mask or covering in public when social distancing is not possible. According to the Center for Disease Control, wearing even a simple cloth face covering can slow the transmission of the virus and prevent its spread from an unknowing person to the next.

Read the CDC's guidance on face masks and learn how to make your own here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Health insurance: New York State is extending the open enrollment period for uninsured New Yorkers until May 15. To sign up for health insurance, visit: nystateofhealth.ny.gov

Mental health hotline: COVID-19 has left many of us feeling stressed, depressed, anxious, and isolated. A free and confidential mental health hotline is available for all New Yorkers, from 8am – 10pm, 7 days a week. If you are in need of emotional support, a consultation, or a referral to a provider please call 1-844-863-9314.

Support local business: Community Board 8 has compiled a list of local businesses that have remained open. You can add a business to the list or see what's open here: <https://www.cb8m.com/2020/03/local-businesses-coronavirus/>

Donate blood: Due to COVID-19, New York is experiencing a blood shortage. If you are able to donate blood, please call 800-933-2566 or go to www.nybc.org.

Donate supplies: If you or your business have supplies you'd like to donate such as PPE, including face masks or gloves, medical equipment, or cleaning supplies, please contact my office at quartd@nyassembly.gov.

Stay safe and healthy,
Dan