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Assemblyman
Steve Otis 91st Assembly District Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

Dear Friends,

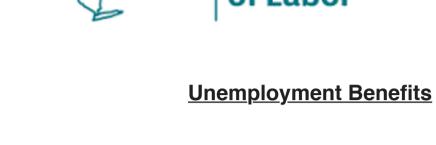
April 3, 2020

This morning we finished passage of the 2020-21 state budget, a budget process dominated by the COVID-19 crisis itself. The budget takes into account current state responses to COVID-19, some initial assistance from the federal government and the result of reduced revenues caused by the health crisis itself. I will share details on the budget's impact in upcoming reports. This update includes current resource information on COVID-19 and related

issues. My staff and I have been working on the daily issues that arise for individuals, school districts, local governments, businesses and not-for-profits. This week much of our work has been occupied with helping on the unemployment insurance processing logjam, questions on the Census participation via online, mail or phone response and the other issues you have brought to my attention. Please call my office at 914-939-7028 if I can be of assistance on new issues that arise. Warm regards,

Steve

Important Phone Numbers • Glen Island COVID-19 test results call BioReference Labs 833-469-5227 • Coronavirus (COVID-19) State Hotline: 1-888-364-3065 • People under self-quarantine or exposure to known case: 866- 588-0195 • NYS Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline: 888-364-3065 • Westchester County COVID-19 Information: Call 211 • 2020 Census help: 844-330-2020 • Domestic violence helpline 800-942-6906 Mental Health Support For FREE emotional support, consultation, and referral: 844-863-9314 Access the NYS Health Dept, County Health website or the CDC website To sell or donate goods or services to NYS, contact: COVID19supplies@esd.ny.gov 212-803-3100 - Eric Gertler, Empire State Development, Business Funding 646-522-8477- Simondia Subotic, Executive Chamber To request supplies email Emergency Operations Center wceoc@westchestergov.com Governor Cuomo daily press conferences can be accessed live or on file at: https://www.governor.ny.gov/news



that you may find helpful is posted on my Facebook page.

applications for unemployment benefits as a result of the sharp increase in claims. In a typical week, about 50,000 people call to access unemployment

We are aware of the challenges residents are facing accessing and completing

benefits. Last week it was 7.8 million. The state has a number of people and outside tech companies trying to address the problem and create the necessary capacity to deal with this challenge. Rest assured that your benefits will be backdated to the date of your online claim even if it takes longer than expected to complete the claims process. NYS is waiving the 7-Day waiting period for Unemployment Insurance benefits for people who are out of work due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

To see if you qualify for unemployment benefits and to apply, please visit the NYS Department of Labor HERE If you need assistance, please contact our office at 914-939-7028 or OtisS@nyassembly.gov

closures or quarantines. A recent FAQ's released by the Department of Labor

Federal COVID-19 Relief Package For additional information on the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as well as

details on relief and recovery resources for individuals and

businesses please click **HERE**



Metro-North Railroad is operating on a Saturday schedule on the Hudson, Harlem, and New Haven Lines until further notice. The amended schedule

provides all-day service for healthcare workers, first responders and essential employees who are on the frontlines of this public health crisis, from early in the morning until after midnight. The schedule has additional trains in the morning and afternoon peak periods, and hourly service during off-peak mid-day and evening periods. During this special schedule, off-peak fares will be in effect. The reduction in service follows a significant drop in ridership in response to federal, state and

local health precautionary directives against COVID-19. The measure is also being taken to protect the health and safety of customers and employees. **Westchester County and Liberty Lines Transit**

Westchester County is no longer collecting any fares, and riders are asked to use the rear door to ensure the safety and health of the operator. For

passengers who require use of the ramp, they will continue to follow normal practices. More information can be found HERE



Health or directly through insurers between *March 16 and April 15, 2020* will have coverage effective starting April 1, 2020. Individuals who are eligible for other NY State of Health programs - Medicaid, Essential Plan and Child Health Plus - can enroll year-round. As always, consumers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health online at <u>nystateofhealth.ny.gov</u>, by phone at 855-355-5777, and working

with enrollment assistors.

HERE.

Health. Individuals who enroll in Qualified Health Plans through NY State of



Last week, the federal government passed the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act", a stimulus plan that contains billions in Small

Support For Small Businesses and Middle Class Families

Business Administration forgivable loans and grants to assist New York's 2.2 million small businesses and tens of thousands of non-profits, including religious-affiliated entities. For more information and to apply to the federal Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, please visit: https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/ For more information on the federal COVID-19 relief package please click

Our local communities are stepping up to support their local businesses. Restaurants are open for pickup and delivery. Some online Business Directories have been created for the communities I represent:

• Larchmont/ Mamaroneck Directory of shops and restaurants <u>HERE</u> • Port Chester- Rye Brook- Rye Town Chamber of Commerce HERE City of New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce <u>HERE</u> • City of Rye Chamber of Commerce HERE

Income Tax Filing Deadline Postponed to July 15 The new New York tax filing and tax payment deadline has been extended from April 15 to July 15, 2020 consistent with new federal deadlines due to

for additional information **HERE**.

COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance



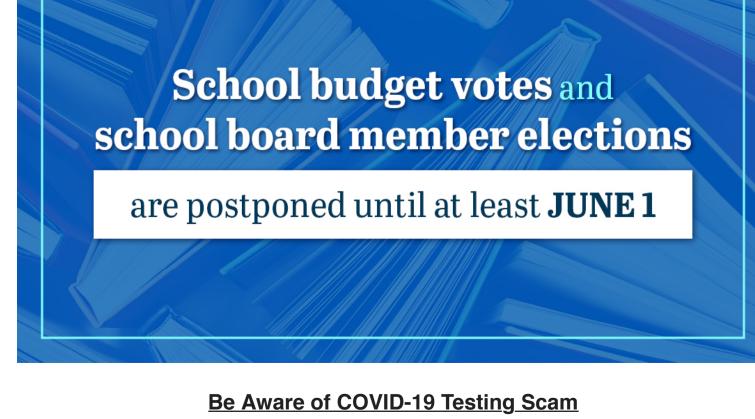


For residents who are unable to complete their 2020 Census questionnaire

online, the U.S. Census Bureau will send you a paper questionnaire by mid-

April for you to complete and mail back. You also have the option to complete

your census by phone by calling this toll-free number <u>1-844-330-2020</u>. This number can also be you used if you need any assistance in completing your census form. Additional phone numbers for every language are available <u>HERE</u>.



The New York State Attorney General's office is warning of reports of scammers knocking on doors pretending to be from CDC and offering COVID19 tests for a fee.

engage with them and please report them to the Attorney General's office.

The CDC is NOT knocking on doors. If you encounter these scammers, do not



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