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

April 22, 2020

Dear Friends,

This newsletter contains policy updates on the COVID-19 response that have been announced in the last few days. Seven days a week I participate in a conference with the Governor's office and my Assembly and Senate colleagues from Westchester. The COVID-19 issues you bring to my attention become part of the discussion and help frame changes in state policies as we move through this crisis.

That has certainly been the case with the frustrating process for submitting unemployment insurance applications. The Department of Labor added staff, made changes to the online process, reduced the number of questions and worked to address the complaints we shared. The latest change came on Monday with a simplified process for self-employed individuals under the [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#) program. If you already applied, do not reapply under the new form. If you are not sure you are sufficiently registered in the system, please call my office and we will help get your case resolved.

Other policy modifications include new requirements governing nursing home communication with family members of residents and modified rules for golf courses and marinas.

I hope this and the other resource information included here is helpful. 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
212-903-3100 - Eric Gertler, Empire State Development, Business Funding
646-522-8477- Simondia Subotic, Executive Chamber

To request supplies email Emergency Operations Center
wcoec@westchestergov.com

Governor Cuomo daily press conferences can be accessed live or on file at:
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news>



Unemployment Benefits

Last week the Department of Labor [streamlined their application process](#). If you receive a call from a private number or [518-704-2704](tel:518-704-2704), please respond. This is the outgoing number from the Department of Labor attempting to reach you to complete your application.

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*

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which was included in the Federal CARES Act, provides unemployment benefits for individuals who are ineligible for traditional unemployment insurance. Examples of those covered by PUA include:

- Self-employed New Yorkers;
- Independent contractors;
- New Yorkers who worked for an app-based company (i.e. "gig workers"); and others.

* [New Fact Sheet on PUA Released April 20th](#) *

Expanded Unemployment Benefits

- New Yorkers who receive unemployment benefits will start getting an additional \$600 per week
- Benefits are retroactive to an individual's last date of employment
- The benefit period will be extended by thirteen weeks

Best Practices for Communication from Adult Care Facilities and Nursing Homes

On Sunday the NYS Department of Health released a [best practices memo](#) for Adult Care Facility and Nursing Home Communication with residents and family members. In this crisis it is important that residents and their family have access to the information they need. To learn more click [HERE](#)

NY State on PAUSE

Governor Cuomo has directed all non-essential workers to work from home, & everyone is required to maintain a 6-foot distance.

GET THE FACTS

Governor Cuomo extended NY State on PAUSE until May 15th. School and non-essential businesses will remain closed until then.

Click [HERE](#) for updated guidance on workforce reduction and essential services.

Guidance for [Essential Services](#) including grocery stores, employers, childcare workers, [voting](#), [cleaning](#) recommendations and several other areas, and recent Executive Orders are constantly being updated. Please visit [What You Need to Know](#) for the latest guidance.

NYS Attorney General: Stimulus Payments Will Be Off Limits to Debt Collectors

The NYS Attorney General issued official guidance to protect million of New Yorkers and block debt collectors from seizing emergency stimulus payments authorized by the CARES Act. Specifically the guidance makes it clear that financial relief provided through stimulus payments are exempt from garnishment under New York law by banking institutions, creditors, and debt collectors. To learn more please click [HERE](#)

IRS Alert for Benefit Recipients Who Don't File Tax Returns

The Internal Revenue Service today issued a special alert for several groups of federal benefit recipients to act by this Wednesday, April 22, if they didn't file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 and have dependents so they can quickly receive the full amount of their Economic Impact Payment. To learn more please click [HERE](#).

How to Help

- [Community Resource Center](#) - in Mamaroneck is helping some of the most vulnerable families in our area. To donate supplies or funds please visit their website.
- [Area Food Pantries](#) - need our support. Please visit their websites to see how you can help:
 - [Larchmont/Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force](#)
 - [Don Bosco Community Center](#) Port Chester
 - [Meals on Wheels](#) of New Rochelle
 - [Meals on Wheels](#) of Rye and Rye Brook
 - [Feeding Westchester](#)
 - [The Carver Center](#) in Port Chester
 - [Bread of Life](#) in Rye
- [Hack the Pandemic](#) - started by a Mamaroneck High School student, is 3D printing face shields for healthcare workers. To support their efforts with monetary donations or volunteer your time to distribute supplies, please visit their website.
- [Sew for NY](#) - Connecting volunteers who can sew with area hospitals who needs supplies including masks.

Support Local Businesses

Small businesses are the heart of our communities and many are offering curbside pickup and delivery. Shop small:

- [Rye](#)
- [New Rochelle](#)
- [Larchmont/ Mamaroneck](#)
- [Port Chester / Rye Brook / Rye Town](#)
- [List of Restaurants by Municipality](#)

State Rules for Recreation Modified: More Flexibility for Golf Courses and Marinas

Rules for recreation were modified based upon suggestions shared with the Governor's office. NYS Empire State Development amended their [guidance](#) as follows:

- Parks and other open public spaces, except playgrounds and other areas of congregation where social distancing cannot be abided by;
- However, golf courses are not essential and cannot have employees working on-premise; notwithstanding this restriction, essential services, such as groundskeeping to avoid hazardous conditions and security, provided by employees, contractors, or vendors are permitted and private operators may permit individuals access to the property so long as there are no gatherings of any kind and appropriate social distancing of six feet between individuals is strictly abided;
- Marinas, boatyards, and recreational/marine manufacturers, for ongoing marina operations and boat repair/maintenance, where such facilities adhere to strict social distancing and sanitization protocols. Use of such sites for the purposes of personal use or operation of boats or other watercraft is permissible, provided that no establishment offer chartered watercraft services or rentals. Restaurant activity at such sites are limited to take-out or delivery only.

Based on these rules some public and private golf courses are providing access to play consistent with the public health precautions that remain in effect. Marinas, boatyards and boat launches can also operate on a limited basis consistent with safety rules. Please check with your local golf course or marina to see whether they will open under the new rules.

