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

April 29, 2020

Dear Friends,

This update again provides news of the latest changes in COVID-19 related policies and services. 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.

I participate in a conference with the Governor's office and my Assembly and Senate colleagues from Westchester seven days a week. Those calls, and similar regional calls for other parts of the state, provide a basis to discuss the countless COVID-19 issues that arise with the Governor's office.

In response, adjustments are made to the Governor's Executive Orders and guidelines from state agencies. Local issues from school districts and municipalities get the attention they deserve. As an example of disaster management best practices, this process for constantly reviewing and adapting policies is the right approach for a constantly changing situation. The Governor's daily press conferences give everyone a view into this process of evaluation and change.

I hope this and the other resource information included here is helpful. Please contact my office at 914-939-7028 or OtisS@nyassembly.gov, if I can be of assistance on new issues that arise.

Warm regards,

Steve

Important Phone Numbers

- NYS Department of Health State Hotline: 1-888-364-3065
- Glen Island COVID-19 test results call BioReference Labs 833-469-5227
- People under self-quarantine or exposure to known case: 866-588-0195
- 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>



Unemployment Benefits

The New York Department of Labor announced Saturday it has disbursed \$3.1 billion in unemployment benefits since the coronavirus began to affect New York businesses in early March and that more than 1.4 million New Yorkers have submitted applications for benefits. [There are still applicants for whom the process has not been completed or are only receiving partial benefits and my staff and I are working hard to resolve these pending claims and address any outstanding issues.](#)

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*

[My staff and I have been able to help applicants with problems in completing this process with the Department of Labor.](#)

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](#) *

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. Schools and non-essential businesses will remain closed until then while some areas may be extended further.

Preliminary antibody testing of 7,500 New Yorkers revealed a 15% statewide infection rate, with higher rates downstate.

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

Phased Re-Opening of NY State

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Cuomo outlined a phased plan to re-open New York and re-imagine a new normal for the state starting with construction and manufacturing. The plan will be implemented in phases and will be based on regional analysis and determinations.

Based on CDC recommendations, once a region experiences a 14-day decline in the hospitalization rate they may begin a phased re-opening. The State is closely monitoring the hospitalization rate, the infection rate and the number of positive antibody tests, as well as the overall public health impact, and will make adjustments to the plan and other decisions based on these indicators.

- Phase one will include opening construction and manufacturing functions with low risk.
- Phase two will open certain industries based on priority and risk level. Businesses considered "more essential" with inherent low risks of infection in the workplace and to customers will be prioritized, followed by other businesses considered "less essential" or those that present a higher risk of infection spread. As the infection rate declines, the pace of reopening businesses will be increased.
- The region must not open attractions or businesses that would draw a large number of visitors from outside the local area.
- There will be two weeks in between each phase to monitor the effects of the re-opening and ensure hospitalization and infection rates are not increasing.
- This plan will be implemented with multi-state coordination, especially in downstate New York. The plan will also coordinate the opening of transportation systems, parks, schools, beaches and businesses with special attention on summer activities for downstate, public housing and low-income communities, food banks and child care.
- The phased re-opening will also be based on individual business and industry plans that include new measures to protect employees and consumers, make the physical work space safer and implement processes that lower risk of infection in the business. The state is consulting with local leaders in each region and industry to formulate these plans.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)

Elections Update - Absentee Ballots

[Governor Cuomo announced](#) that the New York State Board of Elections will mail every registered voter a postage-paid absentee ballot application for the June 23rd primary election. The application will need to be filled out and returned in order for a ballot to be mailed to voters. Voters requesting the absentee ballot because they are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or concern about contracting the virus should check the box for "Temporary Illness."

Voters may also download applications and return them to the Westchester County Board of Elections by mail, fax, e-mail or in person. Instructions can be found [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
 - [Caritas](#) in Port Chester
 - Salvation Army in Port Chester: Text 'Portchestersa' to 41444 to donate or e-mail Margaret.Quatela@use.salvationarmy.org. All contributions go to the Salvation Army COVID-19 campaign in Port Chester and Rye Brook.
- [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](#)

