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

May 8, 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.

More than 1 million New Yorkers have been tested for Covid-19. This week, the Governor provided additional information on the phased approach to re-opening businesses and the 7 criteria that must be met while carefully tracking the rate of transmission. [Click here](#) to read more from the Governor's New York Forward plan to reopen. In addition, the [State's eviction moratorium](#) has been extended until August 20th.

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.

I hope this and the other resource information included here is helpful. My staff and I have been able to help many unemployment insurance applicants get through the process and receive benefits. Please contact my office at [914-939-7028](tel:914-939-7028) or [OtisS@nyassembly.gov](mailto:OtisS@nyassembly.gov), if I can be of assistance on any issues that arise.

Warm regards,

*Steve*

Steve

**Important Phone Numbers**

- NYS Department of Health State Hotline: 1-888-364-3065
- Open Island COVID-19 test results call BioReference Labs 833-469-6227
- 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 Gerber, Empire State Development, Business Funding  
646-922-8477 - Simoniia Subotic, Executive Chamber

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

**To help protect at-risk individuals and essential workers from exposure to COVID-19**

New Yorkers need to wear masks or face coverings in public when social distancing isn't possible.

**Department of Labor**

**Unemployment Benefits**

Many people have been able to complete their unemployment claims only to be stuck in the 'pending' status for weeks. Every person must certify every week before Saturday. You can do that by logging into your [NY.GOV.ID](#) account or [certify by text/texting](#) by calling 1-888-581-5812. For Pandemic Unemployment Insurance call 833-342-0866.

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](mailto: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](#) \*

Additional federal funding has been made available for small businesses. For more information please visit the [SBA 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. Schools and non-essential businesses will remain closed until then while some areas may be extended further.

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

New York State tested 15,000 New Yorkers randomly selected at grocery stores and community centers in the largest antibody study to date in the United States. Statewide, 12% of the sample tested positive for antibodies. In Westchester and Rockland Counties 13.8% tested positive, in New York City 19.9% tested positive, and in the Bronx 27.6% tested positive.

**Phased Re-Opening of NY State**

Governor Cuomo outlined a phased plan to re-open New York. Based on CDC recommendations, the [State's criteria](#) to re-opening must satisfy the following: a 14-day decline in the hospitalization rate, 30% available capacity in area hospitals and a 90 day PPE supply, a rate of infection is 2 positive per 100,000 people, 30 tests per 1000 people, and 30 contact tracers per 100,000. The re-opening will prioritize those businesses and industries that are most essential and lowest risk starting with construction and manufacturing.

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

**Contact Tracers Needed**

The NYS Department of Health is hiring:

**Contact Tracers**  
Reach out to the contacts of anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 to assess symptoms, ensure compliance with quarantine and determine social support needs

**Team Supervisors**  
Lead a team of 20 Contact Tracers, and one Community Support Specialist who are working remotely using digital tools

**Community Support Scientists**  
Work with the team to address the support needs of those who are contacts, especially those who are under Isolation or Quarantine

For more information and to apply please visit the DOH portal [HERE](#)

**Elections Update**

[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 by June 16th.**

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](#).

In addition, School Board and school budget votes are scheduled for June 9th and will be done entirely by mail. **All qualified voters will be sent an absentee ballot with return postage paid.** Each district will mail postcard notice with details about the date of the election, date of budget hearings, definition of qualified voter, and an absentee ballot. In this case, voters do not need to apply for the ballot.

Village elections will be delayed until September 15th. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**School budget votes and school board member elections will be held on Tuesday, June 9**

**New York State in Need of Federal Funding**

New York has been the most impacted state but the COVID-19 public health emergency. In order to avoid drastic cuts to the NYS budget, including cuts to education, hospitals and municipal governments, New York needs federal assistance to help fill in the gap that reduced revenue as a result of COVID-19 has created. I support efforts by Governor Cuomo and the legislature to call on a federal stimulus bill that includes direct funding for these purposes.

- 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 'Portchesters' to 41444 to donate or e-mail [Margaret.Quatela@usa.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Margaret.Quatela@usa.salvationarmy.org). All contributions go to the Salvation Army COVID-19 campaign in Port Chester and Rye Brook.
  - [Mask 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.
  - [Masks for New York](#) - Looking for volunteers to help make 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](#)

Although no one expected to finish out the school year remotely, we have been fortunate to have the support of the teachers, staff and administrators in our area schools.

Monday marks the beginning of Teacher Appreciation Week. While we cannot thank them in person, I want to personally thank all the teachers in the Blind Brook, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Port Chester, Rye, and Rye Neck schools, and all teachers everywhere, for going above and beyond to provide connection and support to the students in our area.

Parents have reported their appreciation to me of the time, effort and dedication that teachers have given to the challenge of remote learning during this crisis. We are grateful for what you have done and want to thank you for sharing your talent and love of learning with our children.

The 2020 Census is well underway and households across NYS are responding every day. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the US Census Bureau has delayed its field operations to June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to protect the health and safety of the public and Census Bureau employees. Now more than ever it is vitally important that everyone be counted to ensure New York receives money from the federal government to fund hospitals, public schools, emergency services transportation and infrastructure projects.

Completing the census is simple and can be done online, by phone or by mailing in a paper questionnaire. The census form has only nine questions and is available in a dozen languages. For more information visit [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov) or call toll free at 1-800-330-2020 to speak to a census representative who can help you complete the form.

*Share your good health*

**Give blood or platelets.**

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**St. Augustine Church**  
111 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont

**Friday, May 22 – 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

Schedule an appointment to donate at [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: **StAugustine**

*Donating blood is safe and easy. Because of the Coronavirus, it is critical that healthy people come to donate to ensure we have a blood supply for hospital patients.*

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-735-2751 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

