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

May 15, 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.

The Department of Labor announced that over 330,000 PUA applications have been processed and more than $7.4 billion in benefits paid since the Covid-19 pandemic began. In addition, the Department of Labor announced emergency measures to ensure unemployed New Yorkers who have been assessed forfeiture day penalties will receive benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. These actions, which suspend forfeiture days for the duration of the pandemic emergency, will allow more unemployed New Yorkers to receive financial support during this unprecedented crisis. Click here to read more.

The Governor continues to provide additional detail on NY Forward, the state's re-opening plan. He has developed a metric system for following the progress of each region in the state available here. You will see our region has made significant progress.

In addition I continue to have discussions with the Governor's office on questions relating to specific activities and businesses. The daily conference calls with the Governor's office and my Assembly and Senate colleagues from Westchester are also very helpful. 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 or Otis39@nyassembly.gov, if I can be of assistance on any issues that arise.

Warm regards,

Steve

Important Phone Numbers

- NYS Department of Health State Hotline: 1-888-364-0065
- Glen Island COVID-19 test results call BioReference Labs 833-498-0237
- People under self-quarantine or exposure to known case: 866- 586-0185
- 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:
COVIDNeedsHelp@esd.ny.gov
212-803-3100 - Eric Gertler, Empire State Development, Business Funding
646-522-8477- Simoyofa Sutton, Executive Chamber

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

NYS is extending the open enrollment period for New Yorkers without health insurance to June 15. Please get covered if you are not already. Enroll here.

Governor Cuomo directed hospitals statewide to prioritize COVID-19 testing for children displaying symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease and toxic shock-like syndrome. NYS is currently investigating approximately 100 reported cases of children experiencing these symptoms possibly due to COVID-19.

At the request of the CDC, NYS is helping to develop the national criteria for identifying and responding to COVID-related illness. If your child has symptoms including persistent fever, rash, abdominal pain, and vomiting call your doctor immediately! More information available here.

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY 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 NYCUI ID account or certify by telephone by calling 1-888-581-5812. For Pandemic Unemployment Insurance call 833-342-0868.

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 Otis39@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. *

SBA U.S. Small Business Administration

An updated FAQ has been posted addressing how SBA will evaluate the good faith certification regarding the necessity of the PPP loan request. Please click HERE.

Updated PPP and EIDL Advance numbers:
In Round Two of the Paycheck Protection Program (April 27 - May 8, 2020), the SBA has guaranteed 2,571,167 loans. For more information on Round Two loan activity, click here.

Additional federal funding has been made available for small businesses. For more information please visit the SBA HERE

New York Forward: Re-Opening NY Phase 1

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.

Our mid-Hudson region currently meets 5 out of the 7 criteria. For more information on New York Forward, including the regional monitoring dashboard, 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 Specialists
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

2020 Elections Update

School Board and Budget Elections
June 9th (By Mail)

State and Federal Primary
June 23rd (By mail or in person)

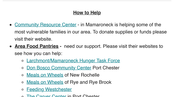
Village Elections
September 15th

General Election
November 3rd

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.



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 'Portchestersal' to 41444 to donate or e-mail Margaret.Quatela@usa.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.
- 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

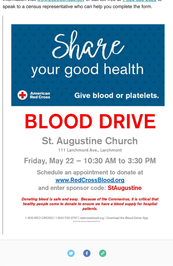
Larchmont/ Mamaroneck

Port Chester / Rye Brook / Rye Town

List of Restaurants by Municipality

NEW YORK COUNTS 2020
Participate in the Census
www.2020Census.gov

The 2020 Census is well underway and households across NYS are responding every day. 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 or call toll free at 1-800-330-2020 to speak to a census representative who can help you complete the form.



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