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

May 22, 2020

Dear Friends,

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

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Cuomo announced that the Capital Region joins seven other regions, which have met the state's regional phased reopening timetable and the required metrics to open. Westchester is now eligible to resume elective surgeries and ambulatory care with the hope that the criteria required for phased reopening will be satisfied in the near future.

The reality is that phased reopening does not mean we can return to pre-Covid-19 normal behavior. Continued care, social distancing and steps to minimize the risk of coronavirus spread will continue to be all of our responsibility. There is still much the medical community does not know about the virus and the danger remains. While we have reduced the spread of the disease in New York, continued progress depends upon continued vigilance. As Governor Cuomo said this week, "It literally depends on what we do and everyone has a role to play as we go forward." Please follow appropriate safety practices.

**Other announcements:**

The state has begun its contact-tracing program to notify others of possible exposure. If you receive a call from **NYS Contact Tracing**, please respond. This could be important information for you and your family.

A two-week pilot program was announced across the State to allow increased hospital visitations for family members and loved ones. Visits will be time limited and visitors will be provided with and must wear PPE and are subject to symptom and temperature checks.

To assist businesses in dealing with financial hardships caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the State has delayed the **Sales Tax** reporting deadline until June 22nd.

The State will allow Memorial Day ceremonies with 10 people or less. Several area beaches are opening but with restricted access and at 50% capacity with social distance measures being enforced. I hope you enjoy the holiday weekend with your families and take recommended precautions to remain safe.

I hope the information included here is helpful. The issues you bring to my attention help frame changes in state policies as we move through this crisis. My staff and I have been able to help many unemployment insurance applicants process their claims. Please contact my office at 914-939-7028 or OtisS@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: 1-888-364-3065
- 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

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 Health*  
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.](#)

**New CARES Act Child Care Scholarship Program For Income-Eligible Essential Workers**

The Child Care Council of Westchester has prepared some important information about child care scholarships that essential workers may qualify for. Please see the information below:

To be eligible, a worker must be employed outside the home in an essential occupation, have income under 300% of the Federal Poverty Level, and either has or would like to enroll a child or children in a child care program regulated by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

Family Size	Gross Household Income Eligibility (Maximum)
2	\$51,720
3	\$65,160
4	\$78,600
5	\$92,040
6	\$105,480

The CARES Act scholarships have been extended to cover the period from April 20 to May 3, so please apply today. Learn more and complete the CARES application. [Click Here.](#)



**Unemployment Benefits**

New York State Department of Labor announced that over \$10 Billion in unemployment benefits was paid to over 2 million New Yorkers to date. The backlog that pre-dated the 4/22 application has been reduced to 7,580, with many of those applications missing critical information that cannot be processed, are duplicates and abandoned claims. An additional 20,801 New Yorkers' claims from before April 22nd have been processed, but cannot be paid until federally mandated weekly certifications are submitted. Additionally, since the passage of the Federal CARES Act, 562,766 PUA applicants have received unemployment benefits.

The Department of Labor has also [launched](#) a new system that proactively and directly communicates the status of an individual's unemployment insurance application via text and email. This new system will better serve the thousands of applicants and will help streamline the process.

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.

*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.*

**New York Forward**



Governor Cuomo outlined guidelines that will help regions create individual plans based on facts and data to reopen New York.

[Map of the 10 regions of the state and a list of counties within each region.](#)  
The state will monitor core factors to determine if a region can reopen.

The loosening of restrictions in New York will be considered on a regional basis, based on the following criteria. These criteria are designed to allow phased reopenings to begin in each region only if:

- The infection rate is sufficiently low;
- The health care system has the capacity to absorb a potential resurgence in new cases;
- Diagnostic testing capacity is sufficiently high to detect and isolate new cases; and
- Robust contact-tracing capacity is in place to help prevent the spread of the virus.

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](#).

[Statewide Guidance](#)  
[Industry Guidance](#)

**Contact Tracers Needed**

The NYS Department of Health is hiring: [Contact Tracers](#), [Team Supervisors](#) and [Community Support Specialists](#).

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

**2020 Elections Update**

**School Board and Budget Elections**  
June 9th (By Mail)  
Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters.

**State and Federal Primary**  
June 23rd (By mail or in person)  
Applications for ballots will be mailed to all registered primary voters. Applications are due to the Board of Elections by June 16th. In person voting will also take place.

**Village Elections**  
September 15th

**General Election**  
November 3rd

The 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](#).

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

**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](mailto: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 need supplies including masks.
- Masks for New York** - Looking for volunteers to help make masks.

