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

June 9, 2020

Dear Friends,

Today Phase II of reopening begins for Westchester County allowing for curbside pickup of retail stores, hair salons and barbershops, office based work, commercial building management, real estate and vehicle sales and leases. Indoor dining, large retail establishments like malls, gyms and fitness centers, amusement parks and other large gatherings and event venues remain closed. For additional industry specific guidance on Phase II please click [HERE](#).

The state continues to carefully monitor specific metrics to ensure public safety and balance our collective need to reopen society. New Yorkers should be proud of the progress they have made to "bend the curve" in the Covid-19 health crises, drastically reducing the number of new infections. I want to encourage you to practice social distancing, wear masks in public and frequently wash hands. Ensuring this trend continues is our collective responsibility.

**Other announcements:**

**Graduation Ceremonies:** The Governor announced that in person graduations may take place with 150 persons or less after June 26th. Details can be found [HERE](#).

**Houses of Worship:** The Governor announced that houses of worship may increase their attendance to 25% capacity in Phase II, while adhering to social distancing protocols.

**School Board and budget vote:** To allow more time for mail-in school ballots to be received by school districts the Governor extended the date mailed ballots can be received at district offices to **June 16th**. *In person drop off of ballots is still due today, June 9th by 5pm.*

I was concerned about the timetable for ballots to be returned in early May as soon as the original school election date was moved to June. At that time I provided language to the Governor's office to extend the date for mail-in ballots to be returned to school districts. I am pleased the Governor chose this solution in his executive order.

**Recreation:** New guidance has been issued to allow specified outdoor, low risk recreation activities that follow social distancing and disinfecting protocols. This update includes the story of one small business I have helped through this process and can now open thanks to the new recreation guidance issued on June 8. Click [HERE](#) to view the full list.

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. We continue to assist residents who call our office with issues accessing and getting through the online system. Please contact my office at 914-939-7028 or [Sto5S@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Sto5S@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
- 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](mailto: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.](#)

**Support for Small Businesses and Additional Recreation Options**

Throughout the Covid-19 crisis I have been working on issues for individual businesses seeking assistance with the problems that are often unique to a certain business.

On Monday we received good news in revisions to the rules for recreation activities under the pandemic. The Governor, through executive order, had previously identified "outdoor, low risk recreation" as a category that could open as long as they practiced social distancing and cleaning/disinfecting measures.

Tennis, golf and some boating activities were previously granted to open, but a number of other recreation activities needed to make their case.

Since mid-April I have been trying to help a small business, Boundless Adventures, which operates an aerial rope course program on the campus of SUNY Purchase. At least three other similar businesses operate in New York State in providing a confidence building challenge course experience on platforms and rope lines in a wooded area. Individuals move through the course well distanced from each other, and the companies have all adjusted their procedures to be safe during the pandemic. Senator Shelley Mayer and I worked closely together to help this activity get approved and help these businesses survive.

The new revised list released on Monday includes these outdoor aerial rope course businesses, as well as racket games, such as badminton, pickleball, racquetball, and toss/bowl games, such as horseshoes, bocce, bean bag toss, croquet and; flying disc games, such as disc golf and Frisbee, shuffleboard, zip lining, batting cages, shooting ranges, swim classes and swim instruction.

Special thanks go to the Governor's office, NYS Economic Development and the NYS Department of Health for working with us to approve these activities as safe and ready to open.

My role has been to make the case for local businesses as issues arise. I have been able to do that for many businesses, including retailers, restaurants, landscapers, nursery owners and a variety of recreation activities.

**Support for Small Businesses: New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF)**

I am pleased the Governor has established a new \$100 million loan program for small businesses and small not-for-profits to assist in this crisis. The goal of the New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) program is to provide assistance to smaller businesses, MWBEs and not-for-profits that were left out of the federal Covid-19 business relief programs.

The focus of the program is aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, not-for-profits and small landlords as they reopen after the Covid-19 outbreak and NYS on PAUSE. The NYFLF targets the state's small businesses with 20 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (90% of all businesses), not-for-profits and small landlords that have seen a loss of rental income. The NYFLF is specifically timed to support businesses and organizations as they proceed to reopen and have upfront expenses to comply with guidelines (e.g., inventory, marketing, retrofitting for new social distancing guidelines) under the New York Forward Plan.

For application information on the New York Forward Loan program, please visit [click NY Loan Fund HERE](#). This is not a first-come, first-served loan program. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as regions and industries reopen. Requirements include:

- Small businesses and not-for-profits must employ 20 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.
- Small businesses must have gross revenues of less than \$3M per year.
- Not-for-profits must provide direct services and have an annual operating budget of less than \$3M per year and have not received a loan from either SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) for Covid-19 in 2020.

In March I introduced legislation to establish an emergency loan assistance program for small businesses and not-for-profits. The Governor has now begun such a program through Executive Order. For small businesses the program applies to those with twenty or fewer employees and less than \$3 million in gross revenues.

**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.

For more information on New York Forward Phase II guidance, please click [HERE](#).

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

**Extensive Covid-19 Legislative Package Adopted.**

On May 27th and 28<sup>th</sup>, the Assembly and Senate passed a package of bills to address a number of pressing issues created by the Covid-19 crisis. Following weeks of discussion, the bill package added protections for homeowners and renters, assisted workers and businesses, strengthened health care and maintains services and protects the rights of consumers, workers and voters during the pandemic.

Highlights include added protections against price gouging, extending protections for tenants and holders of mortgages, extending the use of telehealth, providing death benefits for survivors of government workers who died from Covid-19 illness due to workplace exposure and protections for school districts, local governments and public libraries. We also took steps to learn from this crisis and improve health services to minority communities, include the Office of Addiction Services in future disaster planning and to require annual pandemic emergency plans from residential health care facilities.

**2020 Elections Update**

**School Board and Budget Elections**  
Mail-in ballots must be received at school district by June 16th  
*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](#).

**2020 Census - Stand Up and Be Counted**

April 1st was Census Day and the 2020 Census is now well underway and households across NYS are responding every day. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau is adjusting 2020 Census operations in order to protect the health and safety of the public and Census Bureau employees and to ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities. Steps are being taken to reactivate field offices in June and to extend the window for field data collection and self-response to October 31, 2020.

In order to ensure everyone is counted, the 2019-20 New York State budget includes \$20 million to promote the 2020 Census and assist local Complete Count Committees to raise awareness of the importance to be counted. Information collected from the Census determines New York State's representation in Congress, legislative redistricting and the allocation of federal funding.

By now, residents have received invitations in the mail to complete the 2020 Census either online, by phone or by mailing in a paper questionnaire. Now more than ever it is vitally important that everyone be counted. New York State receives \$53 billion each year from the federal government to fund hospitals, public schools, emergency services transportation and infrastructure projects. Each person NOT counted costs the state over \$2,600 in federal aid each year.

Please do your part and complete the 2020 Census. 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.

You can also contact the Westchester County Complete Count Committee at [www.westchestergov.com/census2020](http://www.westchestergov.com/census2020) or your local municipality to find information about your local Complete Count Committee.

This is our chance to shape a brighter future. New York wins when everyone gets counted.

**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.Quatella@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Margaret.Quatella@uss.salvationarmy.org). All contributions go to the Salvation Army COVID-19 campaign in Port Chester and Rye Brook.
- 3K the Pandemic** - started by a Mamaroneck High School student, is 3K 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.

