

Assemblymember
Patricia Fahy
Assembly District 109

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New York State and Albany County have seen a reported rise in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases over the past several days. The Governor, state Legislature, and NYS Department of Health have acted quickly to prevent and contain the spread of the virus, and the President has declared a national state of emergency. The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), as well as the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), have promulgated guidelines to how best avoid infection and what actions to take if you suspect that you are infected or are experiencing all symptoms of COVID-19, which you can read below.



**COVID-19
UPDATE**

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER
PATRICIA FAHY**

It is important to note that the overall risk of exposure to individual New Yorkers remains relatively low. Here are some things you need to know:

- New York State now has **524** confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Charter will offer free access to Spectrum broadband and wifi for 60-days for K-12 and college student households. To enroll call 1-844-488-8395. For K-12 students and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service level up to 100 Mbps. Installation fees will be waived for new student households. Charter will partner with school districts to ensure local communities are aware of these tools to help students learn remotely. For eligible low-income households without school-aged children, Charter continues to offer

Spectrum Internet Assist, a low-cost broadband program delivering speeds of 30 Mbps. Charter will open its Wi-Fi hotspots across our footprint for public use

- [Capital Region hospitals have erected makeshift tents, repurposed space](#) and established drive-thru lanes where people can come to have swabs taken for #COVID19 testing. No walk-ins allowed. They will only test on a doctor's order in order to prioritize those at high-risk.
- Verizon will help customers and small businesses disrupted by impact of coronavirus and will waive late fees and keep residential and small business customers connected if negatively impacted by COVID-19.
- The Federal government has declared a national state of emergency and will release up to \$50 billion in aid to states hit worst-hit by COVID-19.
- [Owners representing more than 150,000 rental units in the City, and the Real Estate Board of New York \(REBNY\)](#), the City's leading real estate trade association, pledged not to execute any warrant of eviction for the next 90 days in response to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.
- National Grid has temporarily suspended collections-related activities, including service disconnections, to lessen any financial hardship the COVID-19 pandemic may cause.
- Albany City Schools will close for two weeks and will reopen on Monday, March 30th. [More information here from ACS.](#)
- Guilderland Central School District will close Farnsworth Middle School March 16-27, 2020. All elementary schools and the high school will be closed March 16-20, 2020 (unless extended under the guidance of health officials). All school activities are canceled as well. The March 14 SATs are canceled. [Stay apprised of updates from GCSD here.](#)
- The 180-day rule for K-12 public schools to receive state funding will be waived, and localities have the final decision on whether or not to close.
- The state will waive the 7-day waiting period for unemployment benefits for those laid off due to the virus.
- The state's PSC will prohibit service cut-off to utility customers unable to pay due to the virus.
- [Albany Med](#), Ellis Hospital, St. Peter's hospital, and affiliated hospitals have suspended routine hospital visits.
- Starting Friday at 5 p.m. EST, public gatherings over 500 people in congregate spaces/venues hosting events with occupancy limits of 500+ in congregate spaces are prohibited in New York State, with the exception of schools, hospitals, mass transit, grocery stores, pharmacies, and nursing homes, or face penalties. This includes places of worship.
- Starting Friday at 5 p.m. EST, facilities with a listed maximum occupancy of 0-500 will be legally required to reduce that capacity by at least 50% or face penalties.
- The Governor's Executive Order clarifying these restrictions can be found here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2021-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>
- Primary care providers and practices should call (518) 447-4580 to request a test from the [NYSDOH - New York State Health Department](#).

- Visitation to Nursing Homes AND Senior Assisted Living Facilities is **prohibited**, excluding necessary medical personnel and individual visitors who dress in **full, protective-garb**. Please check with your individual facility if you have any questions.
- Next week, the state Legislature will vote on a **Paid Sick Leave** proposal for most **private-sector** employees in New York State. The state will guarantee two full weeks of paid leave for all **state workers** who are subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine as a result of the novel coronavirus. Stay home if you are sick.
- **Are you experiencing all symptoms of COVID19?** Call ahead to your doctor to discuss your symptoms, let them guide you in the right direction, and/or **call NYS DOH at 1-888-364-3065**.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you have any questions relating to COVID-19 at (518) 455-4178, or e-mail us at fahyp@nyassembly.gov.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness and Information

Center for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19

website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) COVID-19 website:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

The **Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the NYSDOH** recommends that individuals should follow these guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus:

1. Wash your hands regularly, 2. cover your cough or sneeze, 3. avoid touching your face, 4. avoid close contact with others and large public gatherings if possible, and 5. stay home if you are sick. Individuals who are experiencing symptoms and may have traveled to areas of concern or have been in contact with somebody who has traveled to these areas should **call ahead to their health care provider before seeking treatment in person**. Even if you have not been in contact with an infected person or an affected area, but are experiencing **all** symptoms of COVID-19, **you should call NYSDOH at 1-888-364-3065 to receive guidance on what to do and how to self-quarantine**.

Higher Risk Population Related Information

- Populations such as; **older adults, people living with cardiovascular issues, diabetes, lung disease, and other immuno-compromised people** are at higher risk of experiencing severe symptoms and hospitalization.
- **Please read the CDC's guidelines and advice linked here** for those populations considered 'high-risk' and best practices to prevent infection.

Higher Education (SUNY/CUNY) Related Information

- SUNY and CUNY campuses will move to distance-based learning with **all in-person classes cancelled beginning on Wednesday, March 19th**. Students are encouraged to return home for the semester.
- **Students facing hardship(s)** will be allowed to remain in dormitories through contacting their individual university/college campus administration.
- Individual SUNY university/college campuses may promulgate different guidelines and requirements for students. **Please make sure to keep yourself apprised of individual university/college announcements and updates.**
- UAlbany has launched a COVID-19 website for students and parents alike: <https://www.albany.edu/risk-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information>

Health-Insurance Related Information

- Testing for COVID19 in New York State is at **no cost to the patient, regardless of health insurance provider**, thanks to an initiative spearheaded by Governor Cuomo, in the interest of removing financial barriers to testing and care.

K - 12 Education Related Information

- [Public and private schools in New York State have received guidance from the New York State Department of Education \(NYSED\)](#) on what to do should an outbreak occur within a school district.
- School districts will be required to provide for **continuity of school meals, special education services, and other support programs in the event of any closure.**
- **Please stay apprised of updates and announcements from your individual school district(s).**

Paid Sick Leave Related Information

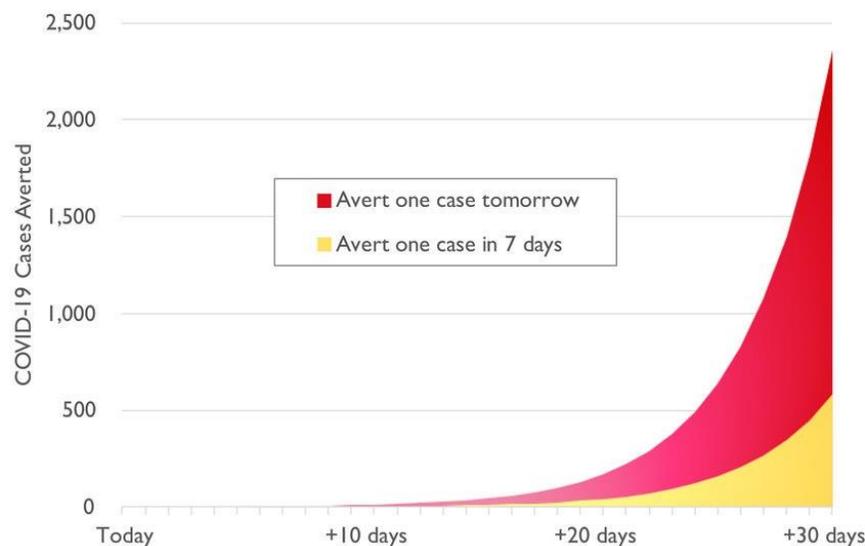
- The state will guarantee **two full weeks of paid leave for all state workers** who are subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine as a result of the novel coronavirus. Employees will not have to charge accruals during the time taken off work for quarantine. This will apply to all state employees, regardless of civil service classification, bargaining unit, and regardless of part time or accrual status.
- **Next week**, the state Legislature will vote on a **Paid Sick Leave proposal for most private sector employees** in New York State.

Nursing Home and Healthcare Settings-Related Information

- **Please check with your individual Nursing Home or Assisted Living facility** to see what restrictions or other guidelines that may have been implemented as a response to COVID-19.
- The CDC has posted guidelines for visitors concerned about visiting family members or friends in these facilities [which can be found here.](#)
- NYSDOH has posted similar guidelines and how nursing homes and similar facilities should prepare, [which can be found here.](#)

How to Remain Calm and Stress-Related Information

1. **Check the news once per day.**
2. **Follow recommendations, but don't panic.**
3. **Focus on the evidence.**
4. **Think of common-sense precautions to take.**
5. **Focus on helping others.**



Other Steps New York State Has Taken

The state Legislature has authorized \$40 million in funding to combat and contain the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID19) in New York State. These resources are critical to adequately and aggressively prepare our state public health system and statewide response. These resources will help coordinate the state's response as it relates to the needs of the way of medical supplies, trained medical personnel, is key to ensuring our success in limiting the virus' spread as much as possible. Rapid turnaround in testing of possible new cases at the **Wadsworth Labs** right here in the Capital Region instead of sending samples to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta will help contain and identify new outbreaks in real-time thanks to the efforts of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Governor Cuomo. As of this communication; New York will begin contracting with private labs within the state to significantly expand testing capability.

CDC Guidance on Avoiding Exposure:

COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Public Health
Hudson County
Public Health Services

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.** (Illustration: Two people shaking hands, one with a fever icon)
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.** (Illustration: Person coughing into a tissue)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.** (Illustration: Person touching their face with a red prohibition sign)
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.** (Illustration: Hands being cleaned with a spray nozzle)
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.** (Illustration: A house with a person inside)
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** (Illustration: Hands being washed with soap and water)

For more information, call the
NYS Novel Coronavirus Hotline
1-888-364-3065

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

11/18/2019

Stay informed about the CORONAVIRUS



Information from the
New York State Assembly



How can I protect myself?

You should take steps
commonly used to prevent
the spread of illnesses,
such as:

- frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue
- staying home when you're sick
- avoiding contact with someone who is sick
- disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces at home and at work

For updates and more information, visit the New York State Department of Health website at www.ny.gov/coronavirus or call 888-364-3065.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Residences Begin Receiving U.S. Census Forms. [The 2020 United States Census launched on March 12th with forms being mailed out to residences across the country](#), including Albany and the Capital Region. It's 12 questions and can be done online, via mail, or on the phone. Linked in the beginning of this section is a helpful FAQ that New Yorkers can use to complete the Census this year. No social security numbers are required and there are no citizenship questions. Let's help everyone in the Capital Region #BeCounted!

Museum Education Act Press Conference. [This week, I was joined by Senator sponsor New York State Senator Jose M. Serrano and the Museum Association of New York](#) to call for the passage of the #MuseumEducationAct (MEA) and its inclusion in the state's final budget for FY2020 -- to provide leading New York State cultural and historical institutions with financial assistance to develop and expand existing curriculum-based programs for students. A competitive grant program would help remove transportation-related cost barriers that prevent many school districts from connecting students with these institutions as part of their regular curriculum(s). 🚌🗺️📖

States Push Back Against Federal NEPA Rollback. [I joined several of my New York State colleagues and state legislators from around the country](#) in opposition to proposed rollbacks of review requirements for certain projects by this federal administration under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). ☐☐ 🗣️

International Women's Month and Albany's Kate Stoneman. [As part of the Legislative Women's Caucus' celebration of International Women's Month](#), I chose to highlight Albany native and 'champion' Kate Stoneman, who became the first woman admitted to the bar in New York State and subsequently became the state's first female lawyer. More than that, Kate Stoneman was a founding member of the Women's Suffrage Society of Albany and was the first woman to graduate from Albany Law School. As the first woman to hold the Capital District Assembly seat -- I am particularly moved by Kate's bravery and perseverance. #NYWomenLead

Push For A Bigger Environmental Bond Act. [Let's invest in our state's environmental future and build on Governor Cuomo's Environmental Bond Act](#) -- my Climate Action and Resilient Environment (C.A.R.E.) Bond Act adds an additional \$2B for energy-efficiency projects in existing building stock + the transportation sector, and \$500M more for water infrastructure upgrades. 🏠 🏢 ☐☐ [Read more about my \\$5.5B CARE Bond Act proposal here.](#)

How the Boys & Girls Club and Music are Changing Lives. [Read more about how music and one teen's love for Superman](#) helped create a new passion at the Albany Boys & Girls Club.

OTHER COMMUNITY AND 109TH DISTRICT UPDATES

Plastic Bag Ban -- In Effect. New York State's plastic bag ban took effect on March 1. Consumers now need to 'BYOBag' -- and not just to the grocery store; but anywhere that uses plastic bags such as clothing stores, home improvement stores, and more. For all you need to know about the ban to help you adjust as a consumer or business owner, please visit ➡ ☐ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html>



In New York, 23 billion plastic bags are used each year and end up in our waterways, neighborhoods, and ecosystems.

CDTA Launches Flex(ible) Transit Option. [The Capital District Transportation Authority is launching a flexible transit option with a pilot program](#) covering an area that includes the Capital Region's major shopping malls, the Albany International Airport, Wolf Road, and Corporate Woods. Flex On Demand Transit will use two passenger vans operated by CDTA employees.

Rides, which are free during the introductory period, can be requested using the TransLoc® app, which can be downloaded on your smartphone.

Become An Organ Donor Today. [10,000 New Yorkers are in current need of a live-saving organ transplant.](#) To learn more about becoming an organ donor and what your donation could mean for someone, please visit this link.

League of Women Voters Albany County GOTV Event! Voter Education and Registration Table, Where: Crossgates Mall, Albany, When: Thursday, March 19, 2020, 2:00-4:30 and 4:30-7:00 pm. Our major Get Out the Vote (GOTV) push has begun and continues until November! As a GOTV volunteer, you offer informational materials about voting, voting rights and dates, and you help people who haven't registered fill out the paperwork to do so. There will be an experienced League member on hand to work with anyone who is new to "tabling," to show you the ins-and-outs. The Voter Services Committee is looking for new people, as well as those who are experienced, to keep a strong push on getting out the vote from now until November. To volunteer for a two-and-a-half-hour shift (or all five hours) on March 19, please contact Lynn Nugent, mnugent@nycap.rr.com.

Petticoats of Steel Coming to The Rep! [Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment – Women's Right to Vote!](#) This powerful production allows students to experience the battles fought – and ultimately won – for women's suffrage told in the voices of the brave warriors who fought them as well as those who fought – and still are fighting – for civil rights for all. Petticoats of Steel uses primary sources to tell the true stories of the women, specifically those of the State of New York – Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (among others) – and the roles they played in gaining voting rights for all women of the United States of America. Recommended for grades 5 and up.

Albany Damien Center's New 'MPower Program. The Albany Damien Center's new MPower for the LGB&TGNC Community program has recently launched, which provides a safe and affirming drop-in space where community members can meet with staff to help address on-going or emergent needs such as linkage to emergency housing, on-site HIV testing, and linkage to STI and Hepatitis C testing, PREP providers, general practitioners, and more. If you are in need of Care Coordination, assistance with food security, housing, employment, or other emergent needs, **stop by at 77 Central Ave, FL. 2, Albany, NY 12206 or call Ryan or Teri at (518) 694-2099.**

Albany Institute of History & Art: *Telling Her Story.* Beginning on Saturday, February 8, to June 7, the "Telling Her Story" exhibit will feature objects and pieces of artwork from women who lived in Upstate New York and the larger Hudson Valley in honor of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States.

Pat