



Photo Credit: AP Photo: Elaine Thompson

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Five New Testing Sites In New York City To Address Racial Health Disparities**

*Amid Coronavirus Pandemic*

Upgrade to Department of Labor website; blood donations needed for development of COVID-19 treatment; more funeral directors coming to NYS; 30 grab and go sites closed tomorrow; and more!

**NYS Confirmed: 159,937**  
**NYS deaths: 7,067**  
**NYC confirmed: 87,725**  
**Brooklyn confirmed: 23,408**

**NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO**



Photo Credit: Governor

- Today, Governor Cuomo announced **five new testing facilities** in primarily minority communities in NYC to address recent data on the COVID-19 racial health

disparity. Drive-through mobile testing facilities will open at these locations and will be by **appointment only**:

- **Sears Parking Lot** (2307 Beverly Road in Brooklyn tomorrow at 12:30 p.m),
- **The Club House at Aqueduct Race Track Parking Lot**, (110-00 Rockaway Blvd, in Queens on Monday April 6th.
- **Three walk-in facilities** will open at health care centers in the South Bronx; Jamaica, Queens; and in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The facilities will open next week and will be appointment only. For more information visit [here](#).
- Governor ask New Yorkers who recovered from COVID-19 to contact the state and **donate blood**. This donation **will help with the development of a treatment for the COVID-19**. To donate blood visit [here](#).
- Governor Cuomo will issue **Executive Order** to bring **more funeral directors** to New York to help with the high death rate due to COVID-19.
- **New York love** program launched to coordinate the efforts of "foundations, philanthropies, not-for-profits, charities and other entities that want to help or donate to the state during pandemic."

For more information visit [here](#).

**NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO**



Photo Credit: New York Post

- Mayor announced a **free new digital platform** to provide fun activities to New York City's **teens and young adults** while they are home. To access this service visit [here](#) or text "Fun" to 97743 to receive updates.
- The City will add **temporary toilets** in **12** locations to ensure that "people experiencing homelessness have access to maintain basic hygiene."
- The Mayor announced a **\$1.3 Billion Program to Eliminate the Gap**, this will propose budget cuts to programs on P.A.U.S.E. due to COVID-19. The Administration did not propose cuts to "any health and safety-related spending."
- The mayor said he will decide whether or not to keep schools closed for the rest of the school year in the next few days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UPDATE**



**NEW:**

## Our call-back system for UI claims will be in place Thursday, April 9.

If you have been instructed to call our Telephone Claims Center to complete filing your claim, you no longer need to call. A representative from the NYS DOL will call you back within 72 hours.

**WE ARE YOUR DOL**



Photo Credit: NYS Department of Labor

The **Department of Labor** (DOL) announced today that they will be making **changes to their website tonight** and will reopen tomorrow at 7:30 AM to resume accepting applications. According to DOL, "When New Yorkers log in to the Department of Labor's system tomorrow, they will find a new, **improved and more user-friendly application allowing them to better access the benefits they deserve** ." The new application will contain fewer questions and applicants will no longer need to call DOL, if information is needed a representative will call the applicant within 72 hours. For more information visit [here](#).

**GRAB AND GO MEALS UPDATE**



   /nycschools

[schools.nyc.gov/freemeals](https://schools.nyc.gov/freemeals)

**NYC**  
Department of  
Education

Please note that **30** of the grab and go meals sites will be **closed** tomorrow due to religious observance. Please find the latest list [here](#). Closed sites will reopen next week.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

The NYC Department of Education Presents:

# SUMMER STEM 2020

**SUCCEED THIS SUMMER WITH STEM!**

Choose from a wide range of programs that feature:

Aeronautics - Animal Care - Chemistry in the Arts - Botany - Climatology  
Computer Science - Engineering - Geometric Design - Environmental  
Conservation - Gardening and Urban Farming - Marine Biology  
Nature Exploration - Ornithology - Prototyping - Robotics  
Space Science - Wildlife and Woodland Ecology - Zoology

STEM Summer Programs for students entering kindergarten  
through grade 12. 1-week and 5-week programs, high school  
internships, and a 4-week, 4-credit college course.



Genovesi Environmental Study Center | NYC Center for Aerospace and Applied Mathematics | Audubon New York | Bronx Zoo  
Central Park Zoo | Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum | Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum | MakerSpace NYC Futureworks  
MakerSpace | Museum of the City of New York | New-York Historical Society | New York Aquarium | Prospect Park Zoo | Queens  
Botanical Garden | Queens County Farm Museum | Queens Zoo | Rubin Museum of Art | Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical  
Garden | Staten Island Museum | Staten Island Zoo | SUNY College at Old Westbury | The Morgan Library & Museum | Wave Hill

**NYC** Department of  
Education  
Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

**STEM**  
matters-NYC

**Application deadline is Friday, April 10, 2020.**

Visit <https://spep.libguides.com/STEMprograms> for more  
information and [tinyurl.com/STEMMattersNYCSummer](https://tinyurl.com/STEMMattersNYCSummer) to apply.  
For questions, email [STEMMattersNYC@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:STEMMattersNYC@schools.nyc.gov).

Photo Credit: Department of Education

Tomorrow, April 10th, is the **deadline to apply** for the Summer STEAM 2020 Program. For more information and to apply visit [here](#).

**SMOKING, VAPING AND COVID-19**



# SMOKING VAPING & COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital that people are aware of the serious potential risks associated with smoking or vaping and COVID-19. We must act now to spread the word.



## **Smoking or vaping may put people into a higher-risk category.**

Smoking or vaping may increase the chances that a person will be infected by COVID-19 and need hospitalization and advanced life support to survive.



## **Smoking or vaping could make COVID-19 infections worse.**

If a person who smokes catches COVID-19, they are more likely to develop a severe case of the virus than those with no smoking history. Flavored tobacco products could make lung infections like COVID-19 worse.



## **Smoking and vaping damage lungs and weaken the body's immune system.**

Smoking and vaping damage the lungs, allowing viruses to more easily attach to lung cells and enter the lungs.



## **Smoking and vaping may increase the spread of COVID-19.**

The virus is easily spread from hand-to-mouth contact, common when using smoking and vaping products. Social sharing of smoking and vaping products can also facilitate the spread of the virus.



## **Encourage those who vape or smoke to make every effort to quit.**

- Share these facts with people who smoke or vape;
- Discuss with people who smoke or vape in your life the importance of frequent handwashing, social distancing, and not sharing smoking or vaping products;
- Contact your primary care physician or your child's pediatrician for medical advice.



## **Quitting Resources**

- Discuss with your doctor use of nicotine patch and gum. By using a patch and gum together, you are 4 times more likely to quit successfully.
- Pair smoking cessation medications with expert coaching and support.
- For coaching and support, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. You can also text the word "QUIT" (7848) to IQUIT (47848) for free help.

## THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS



Working hard  
to provide the  
medication  
we need.

Thank you  
pharmacy workers.

Photo Credit: ministryofsport.com

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. This week we thank our pharmacy workers for providing us with our medicine.

**AVOID SCAMS**



Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dcwp](https://www.nyc.gov/dcwp). You can also file a complaint to the Attorney General's office, fill out a [complaint form](#).
- **NYS Price Gouging Hotline: 800-697-1220.**
- CDC staff will **NOT** go door-to-door. If you experience this, call 911.

**SERVICES AND RESOURCES**



Photo Credit: Ansi.org

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on New York City's workforce, the City of New York has developed a list of resources for those who may be unemployed due to COVID-19 or are seeking additional assistance. The list below will be updated frequently.

It has information on the following categories:

- **Employment Resources**
- **Food Assistance**
- **Health & Medical Assistance**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Rent Arrears and Public Assistance**
- **Emotional Support & Spiritual Care**
- **Other Assistance**

Visit this [website](#) for resources.



**NYS Department of Health Hotline** for people who want to be assessed and get appointment for test ([888-364-3065](tel:888-364-3065)). NYC residents should call ([844-692-4692](tel:844-692-4692)).

**Volunteer to Support**

**Others:** [https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare\\_workers](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare_workers).

**Free Internet Services:**

Charter is offering free spectrum broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to household with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have Spectrum broadband subscription. To enroll, **call 844-488-8395**. Until further notice, all Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots are now open to everyone on the "xfinitywifi" SSID. For more information visit [here](#).

**In-District Businesses open/closed** : Provided by **Flatbush Avenue BID and Church Avenue BID** : Visit Flatbush Avenue Business Directory [here](#) and Church Avenue Business directory [here](#). Businesses open/closed: Provided by **Flatbush Development Corporation** : Visit Flatbush Business Corridor Directory [here](#). Includes businesses located in:

- Cortelyou Road (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Coney Island Avenue (Cortelyou Road - Foster Ave)
- Newkirk Plaza
- Newkirk Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Foster Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Ditmas Park

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19**



# What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

## Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

## Separate yourself from other people in your home

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

## Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

## Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

## Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, immediately clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

## Clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

## Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

## Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., shortness of breath or difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>.

## Discontinuing home isolation

Patients confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments. Current information on COVID-19 is limited; home precautions are conservative and based on general recommendations for other diseases, like Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

**STAY INFORMED**

**STAY INFORMED**

about  
**coronavirus**



Health officials are working tirelessly to protect public health and contain this virus. And, as your representative in Albany, I am working to ensure that our state is putting the health and safety of our families first.

Remember COVID-19 can affect any community and we must stand by one another during this time, not alienate, threaten or discriminate against others.

For questions you can also reach out to the New York State's novel coronavirus hotline at **1-888-364-3065**. For continuous updates, you can visit the following websites:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

*The CDC also now has the option for you to sign up for weekly updates on COVID-19.*

New Yorkers Can Sign Up for Email Updates [Here](#) and Ask Questions About COVID-19 [Here](#)

New Yorkers Can Find More Information About the New COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Law [Here](#)

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Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the **Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBES)** , and serves on the following committees: **Housing, Government Operations, Education , Banks, Health, and Higher Education** . She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on **Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force.**

As a current Assemblymember, District Leader, and Chair of Brooklyn Democratic Party, Rodneyse Bichotte has been an outspoken advocate on issues concerning **immigration, education, economic development, unemployment, education reform, health care access, senior citizen centers, affordable housing, school safety, women's and LGBTQ rights** , as well as other issues affecting the quality of life in the community.

Learn more about  
Rodneyse Bichotte by visiting her website:  
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>

STAY CONNECTED

