Photo Credit: Newsday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mayor Orders for NYC Schools To Remain Closed For Academic Year

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

NYS courts seeking pro bono lawyers; homeless singles in NYC shelters to be moved to hotels; NYC school's five point plan; IRS non-filer form; and more!

NYS Confirmed: 180,458

NYS deaths: 8,627
NYC confirmed: 96,522
Brooklyn confirmed: 25,339

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO

Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo

- Governor calls on the **Federal Government** to **repeal** the **SALT provision** to provide State and Local Tax Relief. For more information visit here.
- The NYS Bar Association is coordinating an effort with lawyers to provide **pro-bono services.** To volunteer sign up here.

- Governor announced that the State will **study information regarding re-opening** because re-opening is a public health and economic question.
- Governor announced that **he has not yet made a decision on schools** and how long they will remained closed. He hopes to make a decision with all of New York Mayors, New Jersey and Connecticut.

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO

- Today, the Mayor and the Department of Education Chancellor announced that **NYC Public Schools will remained closed for the end of school year.** Remote learning will continue. Mayor plans to work with State.

- The Mayor launched **NYC's 5 point plan** to serve students and families:
    1. **Complete device deliveries** for remote learning to remaining students by end of April. (**66,000** devices have been distributed; need to distribute **240,000** more to students in need.)
    2. **Expand** parent helpline and tech support hours.
    3. Launch **new online** activities and programs.
    4. **Graduate seniors** with proper support.Will launch plan next week.
    5. **Develop comprehensive plan** to reopen schools in September. This includes addressing learning loss, mental health, emotional impact and more.
- **6,000** Homeless singles in NYC shelters will be moved to hotels by **Monday, April 20th.** Priority will be given to seniors, people with symptoms or who have tested COVID-19 positive, and those in shelters where it is difficult to practice social distancing.
- Will open **230** new safe haven/low barrier beds starting next week. Will work towards getting homeless people off the street, especially those who are older.
- Mayor provided thanks to:
    - NYC Parks Department for keeping parks clean.
    - NBA star John Starks for donating **3,000 sets of scrubs.**
    - IBM for donating **$500,000** in-kind **tech donations** to NYC Department of Health and **$1 million** to NYC Department of Education.
    - Apollo Global Management's Josh Harris for donating **100,000 N95 masks** to Elmhurst hospital.
    - Salesforce for donating **$500,000** to COVID-19 effort.

STIMULUS CHECK: NON-FILER FORM

Individuals who did not file their 2018 and 2019 tax return, **can still receive a stimulus check,** if eligible, by filling out a **non-filer form** on the IRS website. To be eligible an individual must:

- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Must not be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer.
- Not have a Gross income that exceed **$12,200** for singles and **$24,400** for married couples in 2019.

For more information and to apply, visit here.

Please note, according to the IRS, " **no further action is needed by taxpayers who filed tax returns in 2018 and 2019** " for stimulus payment. Payments will be sent to individual bank accounts in Mid April. For more information visit here.

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL 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. 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). NYC residents should call (844-692-4692).

Volunteer to Support Others: https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare_workers.

Free Internet Services:
Charter is offering free specturm 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

Small Businesses:
For resources on **business** grants and loans, visit here.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

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).

CDC

For more information: **www.cdc.gov/COVID19**

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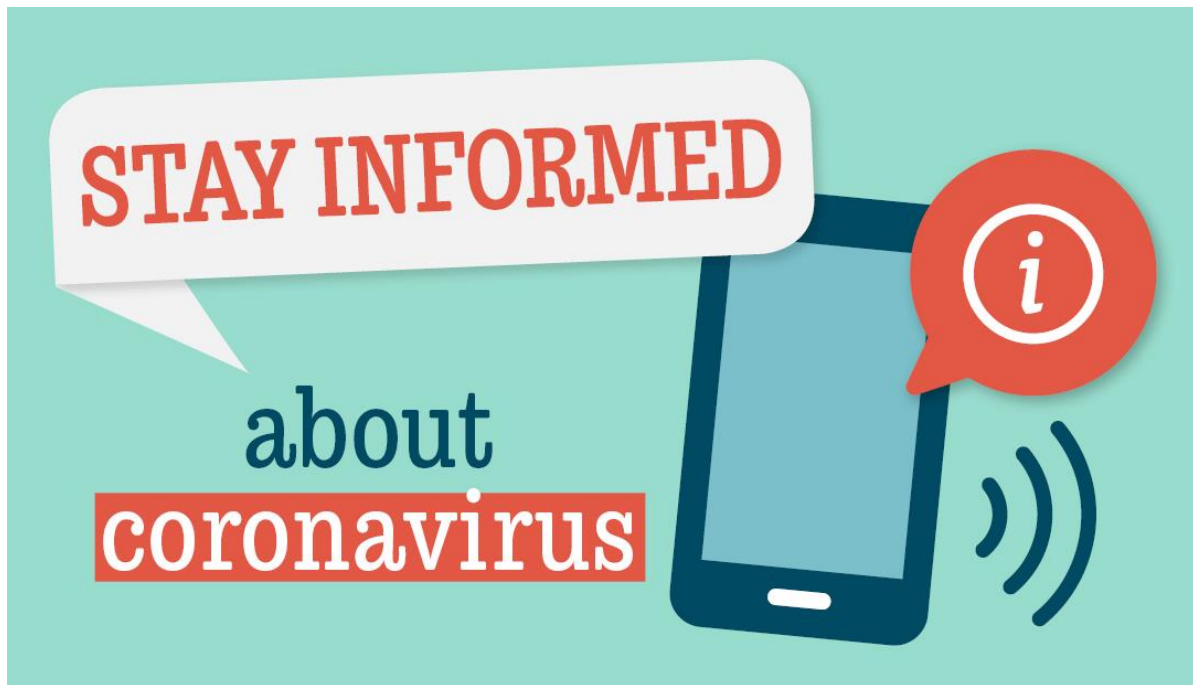
Health officials are working tirelessly to protect public health and contain this virus. And, as your representative in Albany, I am working to ensure that our state is putting the health and safety of our families first.

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