



Assemblymember
RODNEYSE BICHOTTE
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader



COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: Soothing Scents

APRIL 19, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lisa Derrick: derrickl@nyassembly.gov

718-940-0428

First Responder Healthcare Workers Begin to Get Relief

(Volunteer workers to step in and provide much need relief)

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

First responders getting relief; Independent hospitals to get support; Monday's with Michelle Obama; Face cloth coverings; and more!

NYS Confirmed: 242,786

NYS deaths: 13,869

NYC confirmed: 134,436

Brooklyn confirmed: 36,482

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO



Photo Credit: Northwell Health. Ka Wai Chan, a Northwell Labs medical technician, demonstrates a COVID-19 test.

- Governor Cuomo announced that **antibody testing survey**, approved by the FDA, is scheduled to begin this week. Selection of those to be tested will be on a **random sampling** of 3000 people out of a population of 19 million, based on known infections and where they occurred.
- Announced that any plan to un-pause New York has to be based on testing.
- Indicated that funding for the three stimulus packages passed by the federal government **included no funding** for the states to offset drastic revenue shortfalls. This has an impact on the funding available for necessary operations including:
 - **Schools:** the budget may have to be **cut by 50%**
 - **Hospitals:** may require cuts as well

- **Executive Order** was issued to temporarily extend the group of those allowed to administer remote **marriages**. Now anyone who is authorized to administer marriages can do so remotely, not just clerks.
- Acknowledged and thanked some key supporters in the fight against COVID-19:
 - **Northwell Health** for their partnership and support regarding testing;
 - Over **95,000 volunteers** who have stepped up to need;
 - Other **first responders** and **services providers**.
- Reports that hospitalization rate continues to decline.
- For more information visit [here](#).

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



Photo Credit: Newsday

- Mayor de Blasio announced that he will be providing **1400 additional volunteer healthcare workers** to relieve those dedicated workers in need of rest. Volunteers, who come

from local and out of state areas, will be assigned to **40 hospitals** and **40 nursing homes**. Volunteers are being paid for their services.

- Announced that **600 medical personnel** will be assigned to **11 independent hospitals** who have had a lack of financial resources to maintain operations under COVID-19. Medical personnel will be from the **NYC Medical Reserve Corps**.
- Acknowledged the huge increase of unemployed individuals and noted that the current distribution of **10 million meals**, may have to be increased to **15 million meals** in May.
- Emphasized the need for those who have survived COVID-19 to **give blood**. There is still a high need for plasma to treat existing patients. Go to nybc.org/covidplasma.
- NYPD and other city agencies are regaining their strength as workers are recovering and returning to work.
- Re-enforced the regulation that **large gatherings are forbidden**, and encourages anyone witnessing a violation of this regulation to report it to **311-692**, [NYC.gov](http://nyc.gov), or through the **311 app**.
- The reinforcement of the 311 system will allow for a better experience by individuals calling in.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Photo Credit: Frieght Broker Live. Image of UPS as part of FEMA's Project Airbridge

- **President Trump** announced that Congress is still negotiating the next **stimulus package** to include support for **small businesses**, and **hospitals**. Could possibly announce decision by tomorrow.
- **Vice President Pence** will lead a call on Monday with **FEMA** on developing locally tailored testing strategies.
- Encourages states to tap into other sources for testing such as **large laboratories** who have not reached their testing capacity, such as **Quest** and **LabCorp**, and **college labs**.
- Close to finalizing partnership with U.S. manufacturer to produce **10 million swabs/month**
 - Implemented the **Defense Production Act** to increase production of swabs by an **additional 20 million/month**.
- Encourages governors to **share successful strategies** with other governors to help the country get back to work.

- The robust capacity brought online by the federal government will empower governors to deploy sophisticated testing strategies to open their states.
- Emphasized that testing should be done on a state level.
- **Project Airbridge** has completed **64 flights** carrying over 600 million PPE products. There are an **additional 50 more flights** scheduled for the near future.

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER RODNEYSE BICHOTTE'S
COVID-19 INFORMATION CONFERENCE CALL**



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte COVID-19 Information Conference Call

*On Federal Stimulus Package,
NYS Unemployment Insurance Benefits,
& New York State Fiscal Budget 2020-21*



**Tuesday April 21, 2020
7:15 PM – 8:15 PM**

**Conference Number: 515-606-5443
Access Code: 168720**

Invited Guests



Brenda Stuart-Luke
Tax Specialist & Communications Liaison
Internal Revenue Service



Blake Washington
Secretary, Assembly Ways & Means Committee
New York State Assembly



Bryan J. de la Bruyere
Managing Director
Employment Tax Advisory Services
Ernst & Young LLP

Join our call to hear experts talk about details relating to the **New York State Budget**, the **Federal Stimulus Package**, and **Unemployment Insurance Benefits**.

Questions maybe submitted in advance of conference call
to events.bichotte@gmail.com.

Space is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

A recording of the call will be posted on the following website:
www.nyassembly.gov/mem/rodneyse-bichotte

For unemployment insurance benefit call New York State Department of Labor at 1-888-209-8124.

For any questions related to COVID-19, call the New York State Department of Health's Novel Coronavirus 24-hour hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or text COVID to 692-692 for New York City's daily updates.

Call 311 for non-emergency assistance.

For information on this, or any other matter, please call my district office at 718-940-0428

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte

hosts a

**COVID-19 Information Conference Call on the
New York State FY 2020-21 Budget , the Stimulus
Package , and Unemployment .**

Guest speakers will include:

**Brenda Stuart-Luke of Internal Revenue Service
Blake Washington of New York State Assembly
Bryan J. de la Bruyere of Ernst & Young LLP**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

7:15pm to 8:15pm

Conference Number: 515-606-5443

Access Code: 168720

Questions may be submitted in advance of call

[Submit Your Question](#)

MICHELLE OBAMA

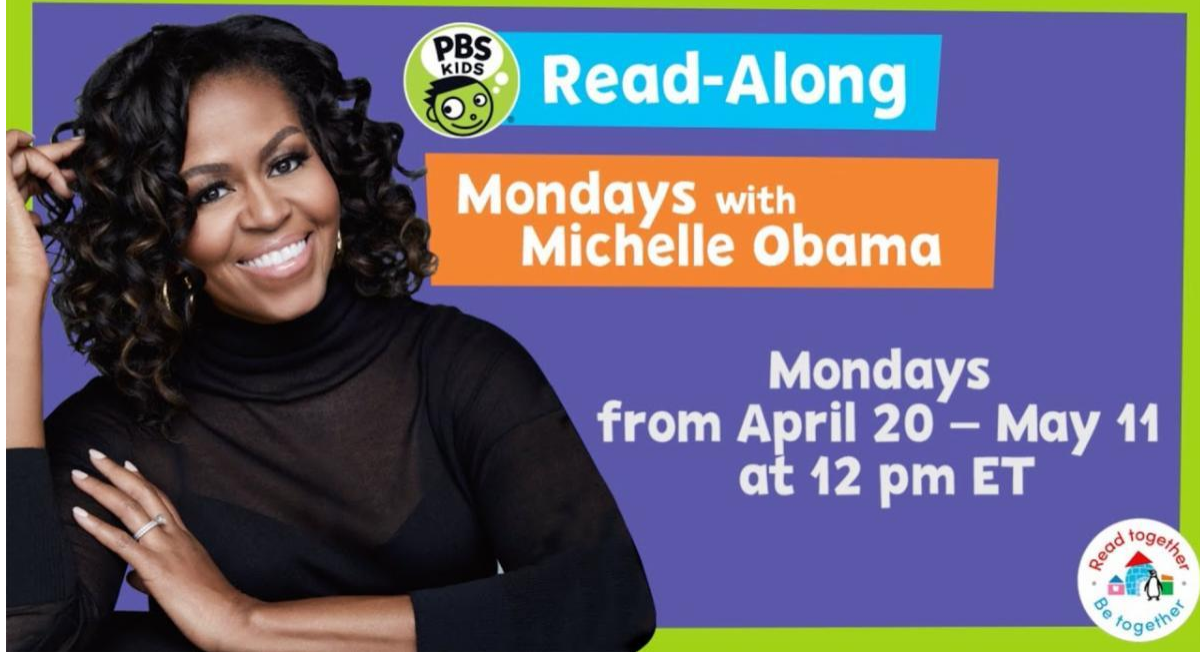


Photo Credit: PBS

Former First Lady of the United States **Michelle Obama** has teamed up with PBS KIDS, Penguin Young Readers and Random Hours Children's Books to collaborate on a project series called "**Monday's with Michelle Obama**", in support of the recently announced "Read Together, Be Together" initiative. Below is a schedule of 4 of Michelle Obama's favorite books to be read. The read-along will be seen on [PBS KIDS' Facebook](#) page and [YouTube channel](#).

- **April 20, 12 noon ET:**
 - **THE GRUFFALO**
 - Written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler
- **April 27, 12 noon ET:**
 - **THERE'S A DRAGON IN YOUR BOOK**
 - Written by Tom Fletcher and illustrated by Greg Abbott
- **May 4, 12 noon ET:**

- **MISS MAPLE'S SEEDS**
- Story and pictures by Eliza Wheeler
- **May 11, 12 noon ET:**
 - **THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR**
 - By Eric Carle

FACE MASK COVERING



**Don't wear
Under Nose**



**Don't wear
Above Chin**



**Don't wear
Loosely**



**Don't wear
at Tip of Nose**



**Don't wear
Under Chin**



**Do wear
from Top of Nose to
under Chin with a snug
fit**

Illustration credit: Eleni Kalorkoti; New York Times article

The CDC provides guidance to have all individuals wear cloth face covering when in public where social distancing guidelines are

challenging to maintain. In order for the face coverings to be effective, they have to be worn properly. Above are illustrations provided in a [New York Times](#) article on the **does and don'ts** to wearing a cloth face covering .
For more information from the CDC click [here](#).

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

You continue to
help our children
learn during this
difficult time.

*Thank you
teachers.*



Photo Credit: ministryofsport.com

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **Teachers** who continue to stimulate the minds of our youth, our future.

AVOID SCAMS

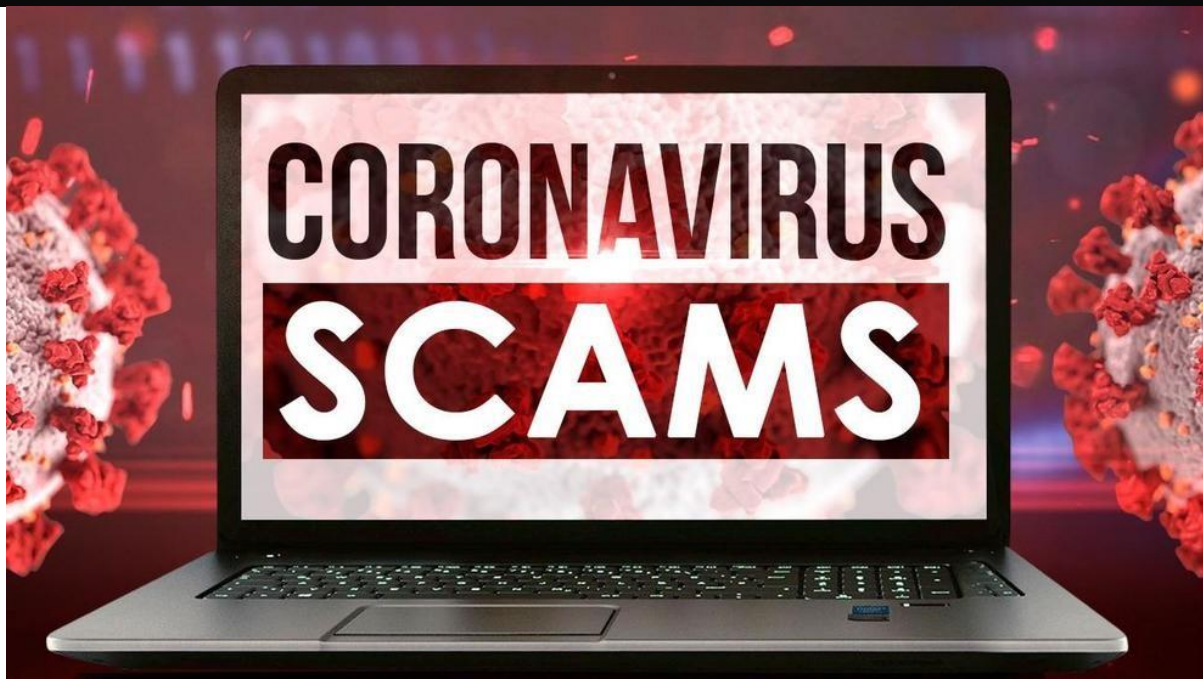


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dewp](https://www.nyc.gov/dewp). 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.

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

Small Businesses:

For resources on **business** grants and loans, [visit here](#).

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>.

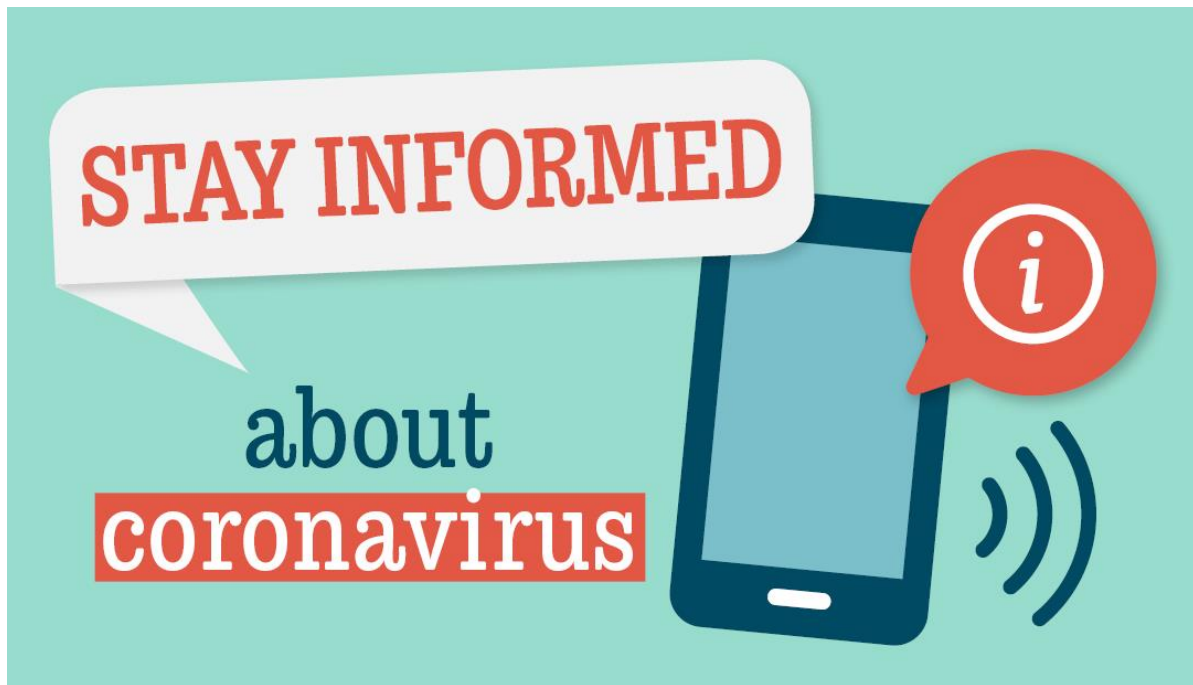
Discontinuing home isolation

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

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](#)

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

