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APRIL 23, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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718-940-0428

NYS Department Of Health Partners With Attorney General To Investigate Nursing Home Violations

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

NYC Mayor Launches Free Halal Meals Initiative; Antibody Sample Results; U.S. House Approves Relief Package; COVID-19 Testing; And More!

NYS Confirmed: 263,460
NYS Deaths: 15,740
NYC Confirmed: 145,855
Brooklyn Confirmed: 39,354

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO

Photo Credit: dailymail.co.uk

- Today, the Governor announced that **nursing homes** must:
    - Require staff to wear PPE and have temperature checks.
    - Isolate COVID-19 residents.
    - Separate COVID-19 seniors to another long term facility or non certified location.
    - Notify all residents and family members within 24 hours if a resident tests positive or dies due to COVID-19.

- Re-admit COVID-19 positive residents only if they have the ability to "provide adequate level of care under DOH and CDC guidelines."
- **NYS Department of Health** and **Attorney General Letitia James** will **investigate violations** of the executive order that requires nursing homes to communicate with families about COVID-19 test results and deaths.
  - If DOH determines that a nursing home facility fails to comply with the order, DOH will immediately require the facility to submit an action plan. Furthermore, facilities could be fined **$10,000 per violation** and potentially lose the operating license.
- The Governor announced the results of the **preliminary phase 1 results** of the **Antibody study**. Out of a 3,000 total study, **13.9 %** of people tested positive for developing antibodies.
  - Sample was collected over 2 days in 19 counties and 40 localities across NYS at grocery stores and other box stores.
- Another **207,000** New Yorkers have applied for New York State Unemployment Insurance.
  - The current total number of NYS residents who filed claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits is **1.4 million.**

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO

Photo Credit: Mayor De Blasio

- NYC is prepared to serve **500,000** free halal meals during Ramadan at Department of Education Grab and Go sites and community based organizations.
- **Halal meals** will be expanded at over **32** Department of Education sites in neighborhoods with high needs during Ramadan.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Today, the House of Representatives voted in favor of the new **$484 billion** COVID-19 relief package to aid small businesses and hospitals. The President hopes to sign the package tonight.
- Bill Bryan, head of the science and technology directorate at the Department of Homeland Security stated that experiments with covid-19 samples indicate that the **virus weakens** under "**sunlight**, in warm temperatures or in humid conditions."
- The President announced today that social distancing guidelines may extend into the summer.

HOSPITALS

- The **New York State Department of Financial Services** will direct health insurers to provide **cash flow relief** to New York State **hospitals** impacted by COVID-19. For more information visit here.

COVID-19 TESTING

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte
42nd Assembly District

COVID-19 DRIVE THROUGH TESTING SITE

Sears Parking Lot
2307 Beverley Road
Brooklyn, NY 11226

Testing site is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
For appointment call 888-364-3065

If you experience symptoms or have been exposed to someone with the virus, call your doctor

For information on this, or any other matter, please call Assemblymember Bichotte's district office at
718-940-0428 | bichotter@nyassembly.gov | www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte

There is a drive-through mobile testing site in the **42nd Assembly District** . The testing site is at the **Sears Parking Lot** in **Flatbush.** Additionally, there is also a walk-in site in Flatbush. To make an appointment for the walk-in and drive through testing sites you **must** contact the NYS Department of Health at **888-364-3065.**

AIRLINES
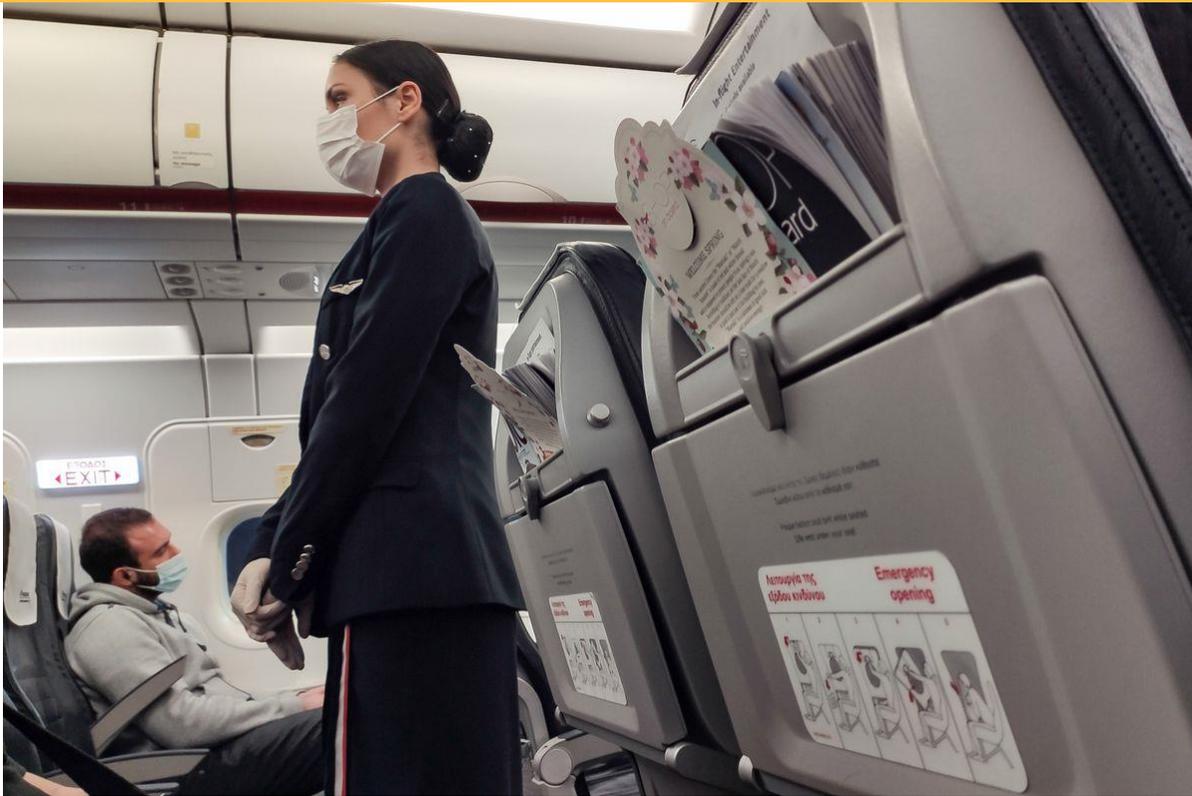
Photo Credit: Vox

- **United Airline** flight attendants will be **required** to wear cloth face coverings or **masks** starting **April 24.**

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Working hard to provide the medication we need.

Thank you pharmacy workers.

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **Pharmacy workers** for providing us with the medicine that we need.

AVOID SCAMS
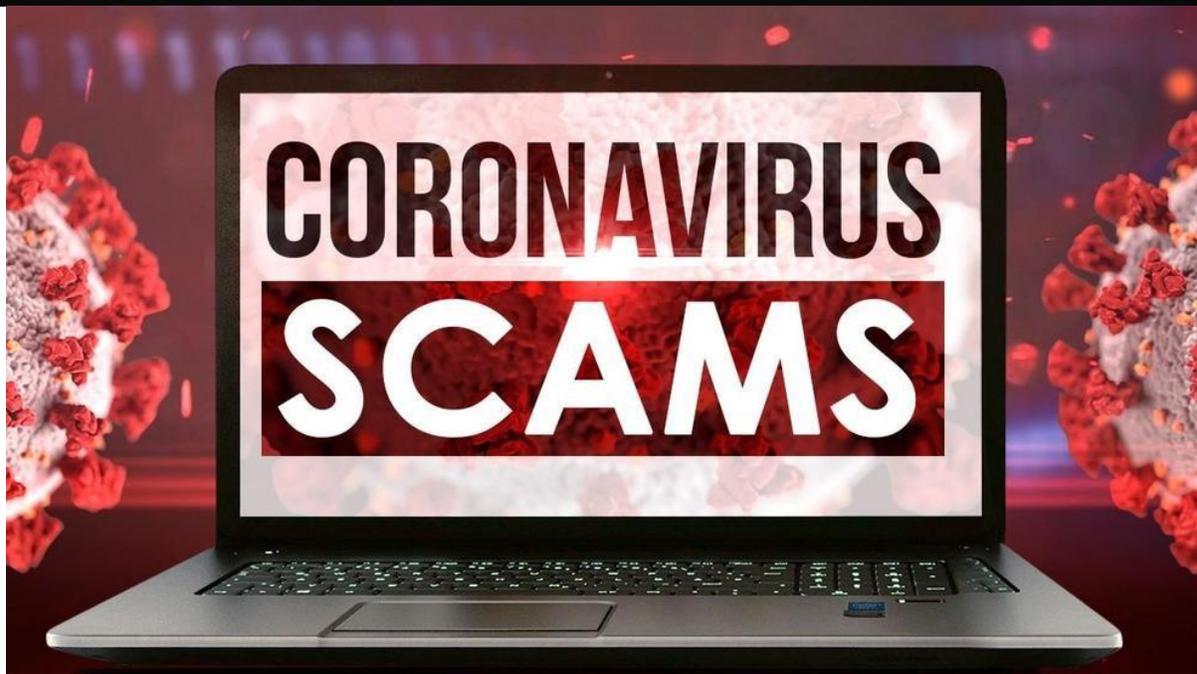
Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- 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

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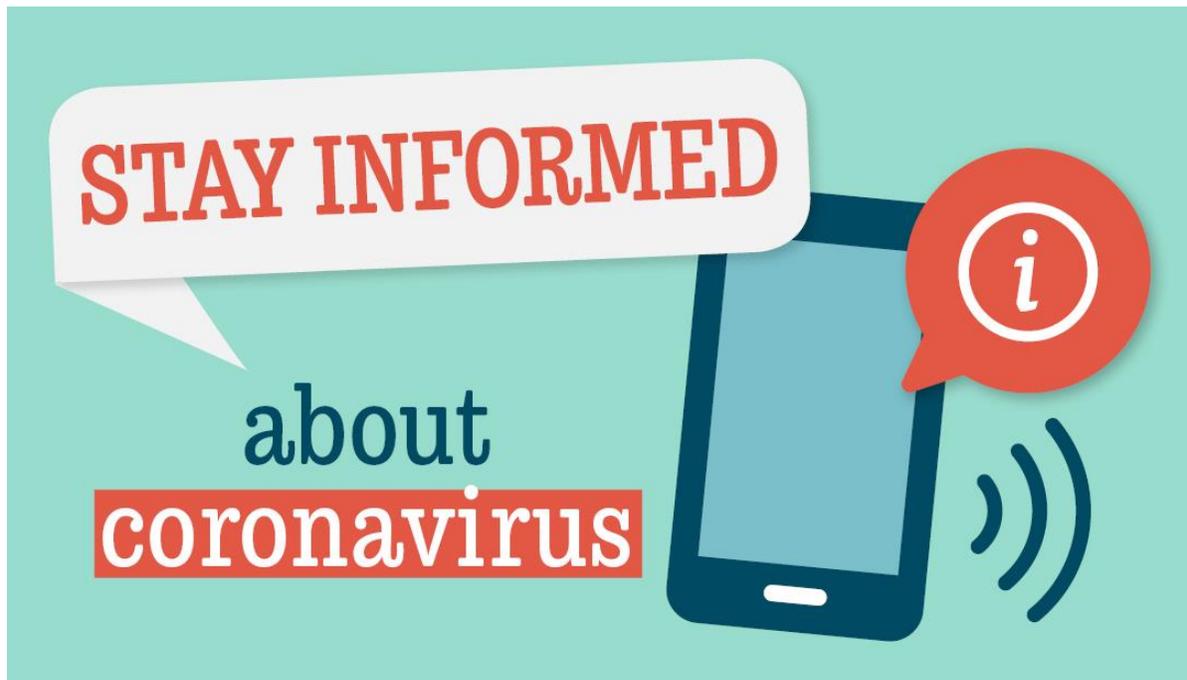
Health officials are working tirelessly to protect public health and contain this virus. And, as your representative in Albany, I am working to ensure that our state is putting the health and safety of our families first.

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 websites:
http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte
and www.rodneysebichotte.net