



Assemblymember
RODNEYSE BICHOTTE
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader

COVID-19 Updates

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REOPENING PHASE 4

The following categories of businesses in our region can resume operations to the public:

- **Higher Education** (In-person instruction)
- **Low-Risk Outdoor Arts and Entertainment**
(Nature parks, historical sites, zoos, botanical gardens)
- **Media Production** (Movies, music, television, streaming)

Indoor dining remains prohibited, and social distancing and face mask guidelines are still in effect.

Photo Credit: Erik McGregor/Sipa USA/Reuters

July 20, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York City Enters Phase 4

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

A New Federal Stimulus Bill Could Be on the Horizon; New York State Partners with Savannah, Georgia; MTA Launches Operation Respect; and more!

NYS Confirmed: 407,326
NYS Deaths: 25,056
NYC Confirmed: 221,703
Brooklyn Confirmed: 61,488

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO



Photo Credit: WTOG; Governor Cuomo with Savannah Mayor Van Johnson.

- **Governor Cuomo** has cleared **New York City** for **Phase 4** of reopening.
 - Every region in the state will now be in Phase 4 of reopening.
- The governor announced that **hospitalizations** are **down** to **716**, a new low for the state since **March 18**.
- The governor also announced the grand reopening of the historic **Roosevelt II Bathhouse** at **Saratoga Spa State Park**. The historic facility, first opened in **1935** by former governor and president **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, has been closed to the public since the late **1980's**.
 - The building will serve as a center for arts and wellness, after receiving a **\$2.3 million** renovation.
- **Governor Cuomo** announced at a press conference today in **Savannah, Georgia**, that New York State will be helping the southern city in its fight against COVID-19. This support includes expertise, methodology, and resources.
 - Governor Cuomo teamed up with **SOMOS Community Care** and **Northwell Health** to provide two testing sites in Savannah.
 - PPE provided by New York State include:
 - **124,000** Face Masks
 - **7,500** Test Kits
 - **7,500** Gowns
 - **1,200** Gallons of Hand Sanitizers
 - **7,500** N95 Masks
 - **7,500** Face Shields of Styrofoam Coolers
 - For additional information visit [here](#).
- Nonprofits and private organizations providing **social services** ranging from mental health care to substance

abuse support, are among the first to be impacted by the state withholding funds.

- Roughly **20%** of funds that would go into providing support to these organizations is being withheld, even as the need for these services increases.
- The cuts are part of the state's effort to close the budget deficit.

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



Photo Credit: Mark Kauzlarich/Bloomberg via Getty Images

- **Mayor de Blasio** announced that in **phase 4** of the city's reopening, which began today, **zoos** and **botanical gardens** can reopen with outdoor activities at **33%** of their capacity.
 - **New York Botanical Garden** will open on **July 28th**
 - **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** will open to the general public by **August 7th**.
- **Professional sports** are back but will not include fans to lessen the spread of the virus.
- The production of **tv shows**, **movies**, and **music** will now resume bringing some of our favorite entertainment back to the living room.
- Activities that currently remain **excluded** from this final phase of reopening include:
 - indoor dining;
 - indoor bars;
 - serving alcohol without purchase of food;

- gyms;
- malls;
- movie theaters; and
- museums.
- Additional information can be found [here](#).
- The mayor also announced that he will not allow **President Trump** to send **federal law enforcement agents** to NYC to deal with "unrest". The presence (and actions) of federal agents in Portland, Oregon, has been widely criticized. Read the story [here](#).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Photo Credit: Doug Mills/The New York Times

- **President Trump** announced that he will bring back the daily coronavirus briefing that he ended back in April, more information can be found [here](#).
 - The briefings are set to start at **5 PM on Tuesday**.
- On **July 31**, about **25 million** Americans will stop receiving the **\$600** federal weekly **unemployment checks** that have helped keep them afloat.
 - Representatives came together in Washington, D.C. to discuss another **federal stimulus bill**. The package might be upward of **\$1 trillion**. U.S. **Senator Mitch McConnell** plans to release more information this week, but President Trump has already said that he plans to add a payroll tax holiday and tie funding to schools reopening in the fall.

- House Democrats passed a **\$3 trillion** proposal in May to help those impacted by COVID-19, but it was not approved by Senate Republicans.
- Read more [here](#).

**NYC DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION
& DEVELOPMENT HOMEOWNER AND SMALL
LANDLORD RESOURCE FAIR**



**HOMEOWNER AND
SMALL LANDLORD RESOURCE FAIR**

July 21, 2020, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Register for the Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/2NmZVpc>

Presented by:

NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development and
Neighbors Helping Neighbors / Fifth Avenue Committee

Learn about:

- Property tax exemptions
- Water charges
- Free foreclosure prevention services
- Code violation removal






 @nychousing
nyc.gov/outreach-education

Video Credit: NYS Housing and Community Renewal

- To register for the Small Landlord Resource Fair, click [here](#).

MTA LAUNCHES 'OPERATION RESPECT'



Photo Credit: Twitter/@NYCTSubway

- MTA launches "**Operation Respect**", a multi-layered strategy to promote and encourage universal mask compliance throughout its system of trains, buses, and commuter rails.
- This initiative consists of several parts:
 1. Hundreds of volunteers under the designation of the **Mask Force** will distribute masks directly to customers.
 2. An additional **1 million masks** have been added for **Phase 4** distribution, making a total of **3 million masks** provided to the MTA to date.

3. Actor and activist **Rosie Perez** will be displaying her talents in support of the new public announcements.
 4. A new **mask dispenser initiative** on buses is also being launched to add more support to the current PPE vending machines rollout.
 5. **160 Bridge and Tunnel Officers** are being deployed in order to do spot checks on buses.
 6. MTA will be joined by regional agencies **The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; and NJ Transit** for its Operation Respect.
- For more information on this news click [here](#).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BRING YOUR OWN HAND SANITIZER REFILL EVENT



Senator Kevin Parker, Council Member Farah N. Louis, Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte and others at BYOB Hand Sanitizer Refill at the GROWN NYC Farmstand at Flatbush Junction.

COMMUNITY PPE DISTRIBUTION



Assemblymember Bichotte giving out PPEs to constituents on Farragut Rd between East 31st & 32nd.

ELITE LEARNERS DOUBLE DUTCH ACADEMY



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte with youth from Elite Learners, Inc., and parents during a double dutch event.

NY1 VIDEO OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER RODNEYSE BICHOTTE JUMPING DOUBLE DUTCH



ALTERNATE-SIDE PARKING



Photo Credit: NYC DOT

As of **today, July 20**, NYC Alternate Side Parking (ASP) is **in effect** .

Residential street sides will only be cleaned on the **last day indicated on an ASP sign** . See the details and calendar [here](#) . In addition parking meters remain in effect.

COVID-19 TESTING IN FLATBUSH



Assemblymember
Rodneyse Bichotte
42nd Assembly District



FLATBUSH AVENUE WALK-IN COVID-19 TESTING SITE

This testing site is by appointment only.

You **must** contact the
NYS Department of Health
at **1-888-364-3065** to
schedule an appointment.

Brookdale Family Care Center

1095 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11226

For more information about this or any community concern,
contact Assemblymember Bichotte's district office
718-940-0428 | bichotter@nyassembly.gov | www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte

We have a COVID-19 testing site in the **42nd Assembly District**. **You must make an appointment before visiting the center or you will be turned away.** To make an appointment you **must** contact the NYS Department of Health at **888-364-3065**.

**MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME IN
CHILDREN (MIS-C)**



Photo Credit: Norton Children's

Governor Cuomo announced that a new investigation is underway regarding potential COVID-19 related **cases in children**. Symptoms can be compared to Kawasaki disease and toxic shock-like syndrome. The Department of Health issued an advisory of what's called the Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, or MIS-C, and now **requires** health care providers to **immediately report** all related cases. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene released a [health advisory](#) detailing current findings.

- New Yorkers should **seek immediate** care if a child has:
 - Prolonged fever (more than five days)
 - Difficulty feeding (infants) or is too sick to drink fluids
 - Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
 - Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
 - Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
 - Racing heart or chest pain
 - Decreased amount of frequency in urine
 - Lethargy, irritability or confusion

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS



Thank You Nursing Home Attendants...

*... for assisting
our elders with care*

During these unprecedented and difficult times, we thank our **essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **nursing home attendants** for providing the special care to our elders.

COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS



As we face unprecedented challenges in the fight against COVID-19, we must remember to complete the **2020 Census** . The census asks just 10 simple questions that can be answered in just a few minutes online by visiting [here](#) or by calling [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020).

AVOID SCAMS

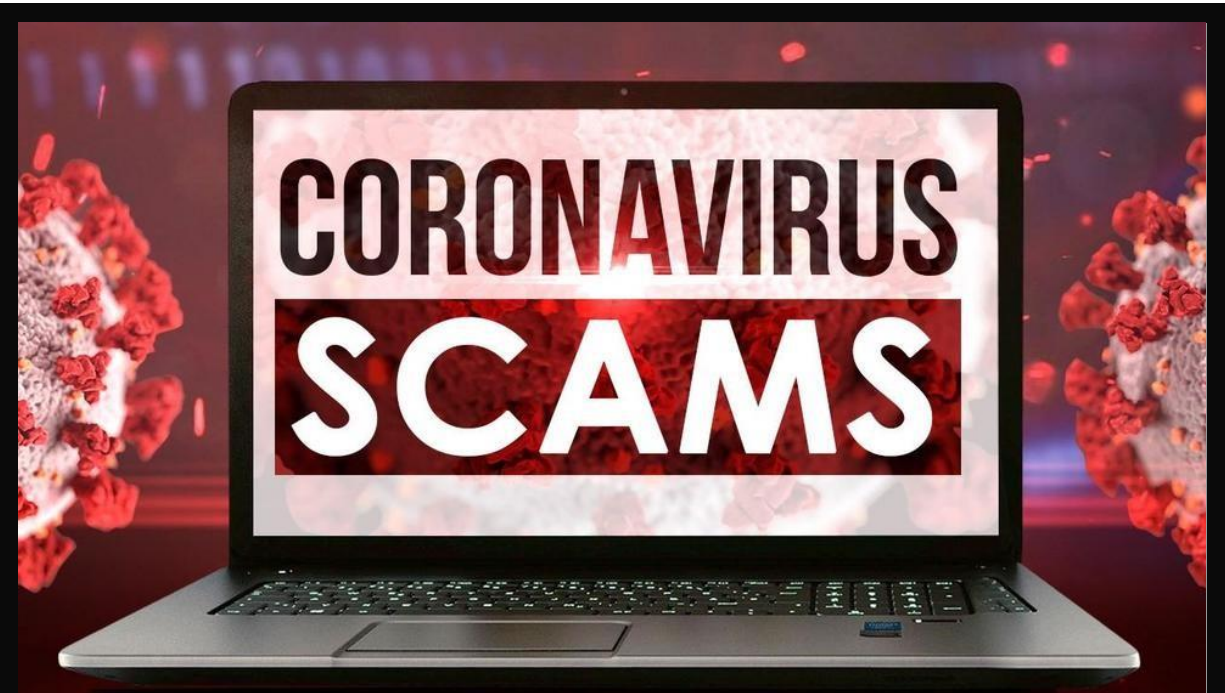


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID-19 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 by filling 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](tel: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](#).

FreshDirect meals:

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams in partnership with **FreshDirect** is providing free food packages. Each box contains the following:

- Rice, 2 bags, 16oz
- Pasta, 2 boxes, 16oz
- Canned beans, 2 cans, 10-16oz
- Canned Meat/Fish, 2 cans, 3 to 5 oz
- Canned Vegetable, 2 cans, 8 to 15 oz
- Raisins / Dry Fruit, 4 boxes, 2 oz per box
- Cereal/Oatmeal, 1 Box, 10 to 20 oz
- Milk / Milk Substitute, 1 container, 32 oz
- Corn, 2 ears
- 2 Potatoes
- 1 Onion
- 1 Carrot
- Orange / Apple, 2 in total

The packages will arrive by FreshDirect vehicles to locations listed [here](#) . If you have any questions, call (718) 802-3700.

Adult Education: Access to free adult education programs are accessible starting July 6th to August 14th. Register by calling 917-612-7831 or emailing [here](#).

Don't Go Hungry!



Brooklyn Museum

Hello neighbors!

Help is on the way as the **Brooklyn Museum** launches a partnership with **The Campaign Against Hunger** to offer food distribution starting on **Monday, June 1, 3–5 pm**.

To ensure we have the right amount of food, **sign-up by emailing is required:** healthymeals@brooklynmuseum.org

The Campaign Against Hunger (TCAH) is one of the most trusted nonprofits working to end hunger and build health in our local communities. As we witness the vastly disproportionate economic and social impacts of COVID-19 on already-struggling New Yorkers, we know many of our neighbors are in need of emergency food for their families. Learn more at <https://www.tcahnyc.org>.

Where

Brooklyn Museum
Biergarten (in the parking
lot behind the Museum)
200 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11238

When

Weekly starting
Monday, June 1,
3–5 pm

Spread the word!

healthymeals@brooklynmuseum.org
healthymeals@brooklynmuseum.org
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IMMIGRATION

- If you or a loved one is in need of free immigration assistance, please call **CUNY Citizenship Now** at 646-664-9400 or text at 929-334-3784, Monday to Friday

from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

- **Open Society Foundation** has established the **Immigrant Emergency Relief Program** which is a \$20 million fund that will provide 20,000 undocumented immigrants with a one-time monetary emergency relief.
 - \$400/individual
 - \$800/couple or single parent with children
 - \$1,000/family with multiple adults and children
 - for more information, click [here](#).

SMALL BUSINESS

- The Federal Government is offering programs to support small businesses:
 - **Paycheck Protection Program** provides a loan that will be forgiven if employees are retained on payroll for a period of time. For more information, click [here](#).
 - **Economic Injury Disaster Loan** is a low interest loan to cover expense beyond payroll costs. For more information, click [here](#).
- New York City Small Business Services has a host of other services for small businesses including grant and loan opportunities. For more information, click [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 list 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

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](#)

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 (MWBs)** , 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

STAY CONNECTED

