



Assemblymember
RODNEYSE BICHOTTE
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader



COVID-19 Updates

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Photo Credit: Scott Heins / Gothamist

August 20, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Cuomo Expands Absentee Voting

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

MTA Buses to Resume Fare Collection by End of Month; NYC Census 2020
Launches Census Contest; and More!

NYS Confirmed: 427,803
NYS Deaths: 25,275
NYC Confirmed: 231,288
Brooklyn Confirmed: 64,162

ABSENTEE VOTING IN NYS HAS BEEN EXPANDED FOR THE 2020 ELECTION

All New York State voters can now:

- Apply to vote by absentee ballot using the "temporary illness" cause;
- Apply to vote by absentee ballot more than 30 days ahead of the election; and;
- Boards of elections will now process absentee ballots received the day after the election that do not have a visible postmark date.

Photo Credit: League of Women Voters

- **Governor Cuomo** announced that **Alaska and Delaware** met the metrics to qualify for the travel advisory.
 - Individuals traveling to New York from those regions must quarantine for 14 days.
 - View full list of restricted states [here](#).
- Today, the governor signed the following laws to expand absentee voting:
 - **A10833/S8015-D**: Authorizes voters to request an absentee ballot due to risk of illness, including COVID;
 - **A10807/S8783A**: Authorizes voters to request an absentee ballot starting today; and
 - **A10808-A/S8799A**: **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte's** bill which allows non postmarked ballots to be counted up to the day after an election.
- The Board of Elections will have an online absentee ballot request form available soon. In the meantime, you can find the **print-at-home** absentee ballot application form [here](#). Currently there are 3 ways to request an absentee ballot:

- Mail the application to [your local borough office](#)
- Call 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692)
- Fax the application to 212-487-534
- The governor signed an executive order to extend the state's moratorium on COVID-related **commercial evictions** and foreclosures until **September 20th**. Read more [here](#).
- Governor Cuomo announced that New York State's COVID-19 hospitalizations dropped to **518**—the lowest number since **March 18**.
- The **New York City Hospitality Alliance** is pushing to restart indoor dining, but the governor has not yet indicated when it will be safe to resume. Read more [here](#).

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO

ADVANCING BLACK ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN NEW YORK CITY

August 2020



BE NYC
ADVANCING BLACK ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NYC | careers
Small Business | businesses
Services | neighborhoods

Photo Credit: Mayor's office

- **Mayor de Blasio** issued a **new executive order** requiring hotels and short-term rental companies to have travelers from restricted states fill out quarantine forms before giving them room access.
 - Fines will be issued starting this week for refusal to comply.
- The Mayor and the Commissioner for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dave A. Chokshi, announced that there will be changes to the COVID-19 data indicators.
 - There will be a removal of Health +Hospitals ICU capacity;
 - COVID-suspected hospitalizations will now include percent confirmed positive;
 - Will now include 7-day rolling average of new reported cases;
 - COVID-confirmed percent positive to include 2 decimal points;
 - Lowering threshold of positivity percentage from 15% to 5% (the new lower milestone will allow the city to monitor any concerns); and
 - Will present antibody data by zip code.
- NYC Small Business Services (SBS) has issued a blue print to invest in Black-owned Businesses. This blue print is called ***Advancing Black Entrepreneurship in NYC***.
 - The report highlights the challenges Black entrepreneurs face when starting and growing their businesses and offers recommendations.
 - Read more [here](#).
- The Young Men's Initiative, and SBS will launch a **BE NYC** accelerator initiative to help cultivate businesses for the economy of tomorrow.
 - The Brooklyn Navy Yard will identify partners to build out the space, curate an active community and product programming for participants.
 - Read more [here](#).
- The NYPD created the **Asian Hate Crimes Task Force**, a first-ever, in the wake of Asian targeted crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more [here](#).
- The mayor issued a formal **[Back to School Pledge](#)** to parents and teachers. He also called on teachers to "show up" like other essential workers have throughout the pandemic.
- Gyms in NYC will not be able to open before **September 2** according to the mayor. Read more [here](#).



Photo Credit: Chandan Khanna/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

- Today CNN reported that another **1.1 million** Americans filed for unemployment claims last week. Read more [here](#).
- The **U.S. Federal Drug and Food Administration's** emergency blood plasma approval is now on hold due to concerns over weak data. To read more, visit [here](#).
- Researchers are testing an experimental drug, a **monoclonal antibody**, to address the surge of nursing home COVID-19 updates. Read more [here](#).
- The FDA granted emergency use authorization to a coronavirus antigen test that gives results in about **12 minutes**. Read more [here](#).
- The **U.S. Virgin Islands** is "halting tourist visits for a month, shutting nonessential businesses and restoring stay-at-home orders," as coronavirus cases increase. Read more [here](#).

NYCLU REPORT

JUST RELEASED

**Over 300,000 Complaints
About NYPD Misconduct**



The NYCLU published hundreds of thousands of **NYPD misconduct complaints** online in a searchable database. You can view the report [here](#).

NYC ANTIBODY TEST DATA

Percent of people tested with Covid-19 antibodies in New York City, by ZIP code

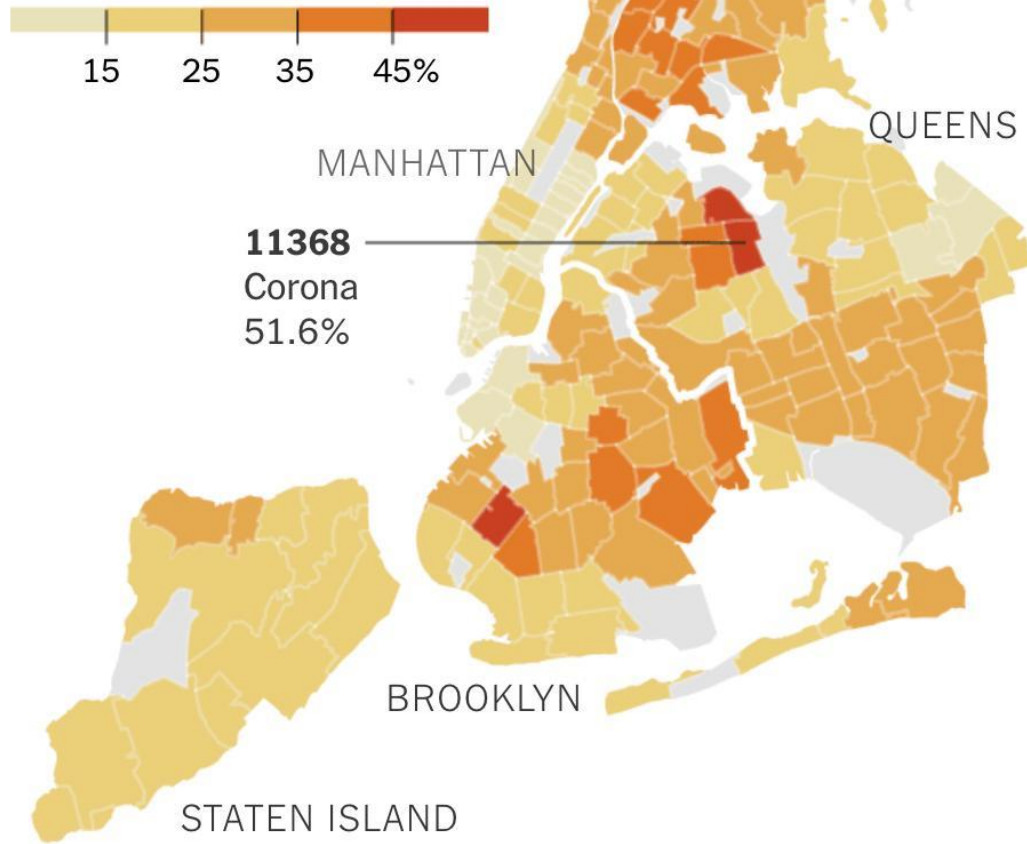


Photo Credit: NYC Department of Health

NYC Antibody tests data released on Tuesday showed which parts of the city were hit the hardest by COVID-19. To read the full findings of the data, visit [here](#).

FEED THE COMMUNITY EVENT



FEED THE COMMUNITY



Free hot meals and Back-to-School Supplies

Saturday, August 22, 2020

12pm-2pm

2313 Tilden Avenue
Brooklyn, NY

 (929)382-4677

 Zipcodeloungebk

Special thank you to the following supporters

**Senator
Kevin Parker**



**Assembly Member
Rodneyse Bichotte**

SPECIAL OPEN ENROLLMENT EXTENDED

NY State of Health

is extending a

SPECIAL OPEN ENROLLMENT

through September 15.

MTA UPDATES

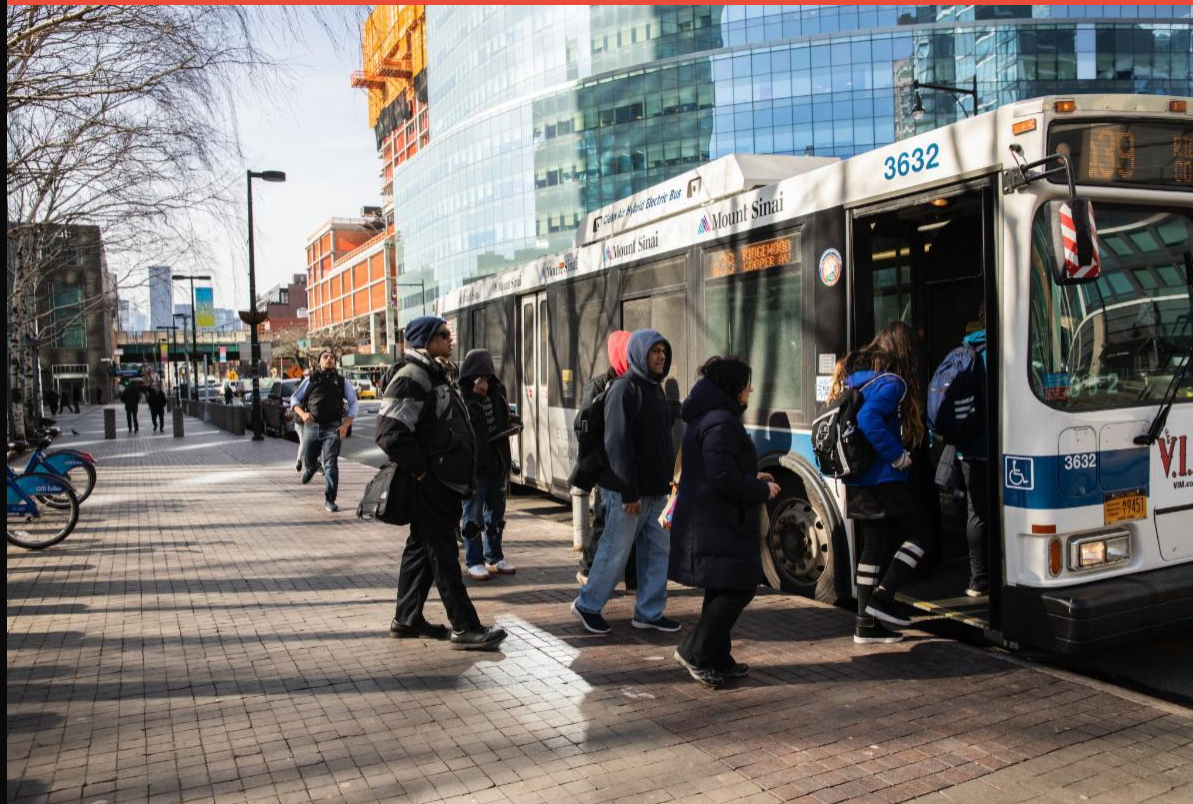


Photo Credit: Benjamin Norman for The New York Times

Starting **August 31st**, the MTA will resume front door boarding and fare collection on NYC buses. Read more [here](#).

COMPLETE THE CENSUS

NYC
CENSUS
2020

FILL OUT THE 2020 CENSUS
AND ENTER TO WIN

seamless

\$1000

Meals from Seamless
(6 winners)

MoMA

MoMA
PS1

Membership

Annual Membership to MoMA
(25 winners)

citi bike
provided by lyft

lyft

Membership + Credit

Year-Long Citi Bike Membership
+ \$50 Lyft Credit (100 winners)

Contest Ends **September 21st**

Register now at **NYC.gov/CensusContest**

The deadline to complete the census is **September 30th!** To complete the census, visit [here](#) or call 844-330-2020. NYC Census 2020 is hosting a **Census contest!** To enter to win, register [here](#).

CENSUS RALLY EVENT

COMPLETE THE CENSUS GET YOUR SHARE



**Featuring
Kathleen Daniel**



**Assemblymember
Rodneyse Bichotte**



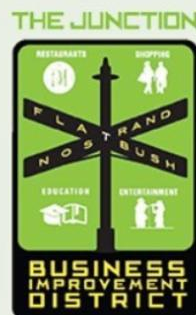
**Councilmember
Farah Louis**

Why is the Census important?

- *Your* count ensures that your community has the funds for schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other programs
- Businesses use *your* count to create jobs by expanding operations in your area
- *Your* count will increase the number of seats in Congress NYS will have to represent you

Join our Virtual Census rally on: **THE JUNCTION**
Friday, August 21st at 7PM
LittleHaitiBK.org/census

Telephone: 646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 965 7043 4250



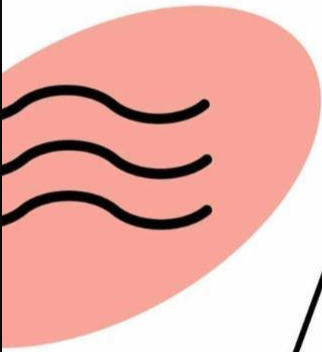
To attend, visit [here](https://LittleHaitiBK.org/census).

AMPLIFY YOUTH VOICES ART EXHIBIT



AMPLIFY YOUTH VOICES

A Human Rights Art Exhibit



The Commission invites young people ages 13-18 to submit existing original work or develop new work that explore social issues in their communities. Submissions may include still images of visual art such as drawings, paintings, and photography. Audio recording of music or video of performance art such as dance or spoken word will also be considered.

Accepted artworks will be displayed online in a virtual art exhibit in Fall 2020.

Submissions are due by **August 26, 2020**. Visit our website at bit.ly/AmplifyYouthVoices to learn more about the submission guidelines and how to submit your artworks.

NYC Commission on
Human Rights

[NYC.gov/HumanRights](https://nyc.gov/humanrights)



Visit [here](#) to learn more about submission guidelines.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
SCOTT M. STRINGER



New York City Comptroller's Fellowship Program

In collaboration with CUNY, the Office of New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer is launching a new fellowship program designed to give recent college graduates hands-on work experience, professional training, and enrichment programming. This unique opportunity will provide up-close experience in government auditing, accounting, policy making, financial management, and more, helping to build the next generation of New York City government professionals.

Start your post-college career in the Comptroller's Office. Start here, and then go anywhere!

POSITIONS

Fellowship opportunities include positions in the following Bureaus of the Comptroller's Office:

- Audit
- Public Policy, Press & Diversity
- Asset Management
- Accountancy
- Engineering
- Law and Adjustment & General Counsel's Office
- Contract Administration
- Administration

PROGRAM TERM

Fellows will work 4 days a week (28 hours) at a rate of \$21/hour.

Fellowship dates run from
Oct. 5, 2020 - April 1, 2021.

Apply today at: www.cuny.edu/cipportal

Apply [here](#).

LISC NYC NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS GRANTS

LISC NYC
NEIGHBORHOOD
BUSINESS GRANTS

generously funded by



Apply
August 18-23,
2020



LISC NYC is accepting small business grant applications between **August 18th-23rd!** This program is separate from previous small business grant applications from LISC. You must submit a new application to be considered for a Neighborhood Business Grant. Application deadline is Sunday, August 23rd at 11:59 PM ET. To apply, visit [here](#).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMUNITY MASK DISTRIBUTION AT THE BRIDGE MULTICULTURAL AND ADVOCACY PROJECT



Assemblymember Bichotte staff distributing boxed food.



Assemblymember Bichotte staff distributing boxed food and masks to community member.



Left to right: Vladimir Sterlin (Special Assistant to Assemblymember Bichotte), Mark Meyer Appel (Founder, The Bridge MCP), and volunteers distributing boxed food and masks to the community.

ALTERNATE-SIDE PARKING



Photo Credit: NYC DOT

- NYC Alternate Side Parking (ASP) is in effect from **Monday, August 17 - Saturday, September 5**.
- **Monday, September 7**: ASP is suspended for Labor Day.
- For more information visit [here](#).

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

You work hard every day
to put food on our tables.

**Thank you
farmers.**



During these unprecedented and difficult times, we thank our **essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **farmers** for their daily effort in keeping us fed.

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

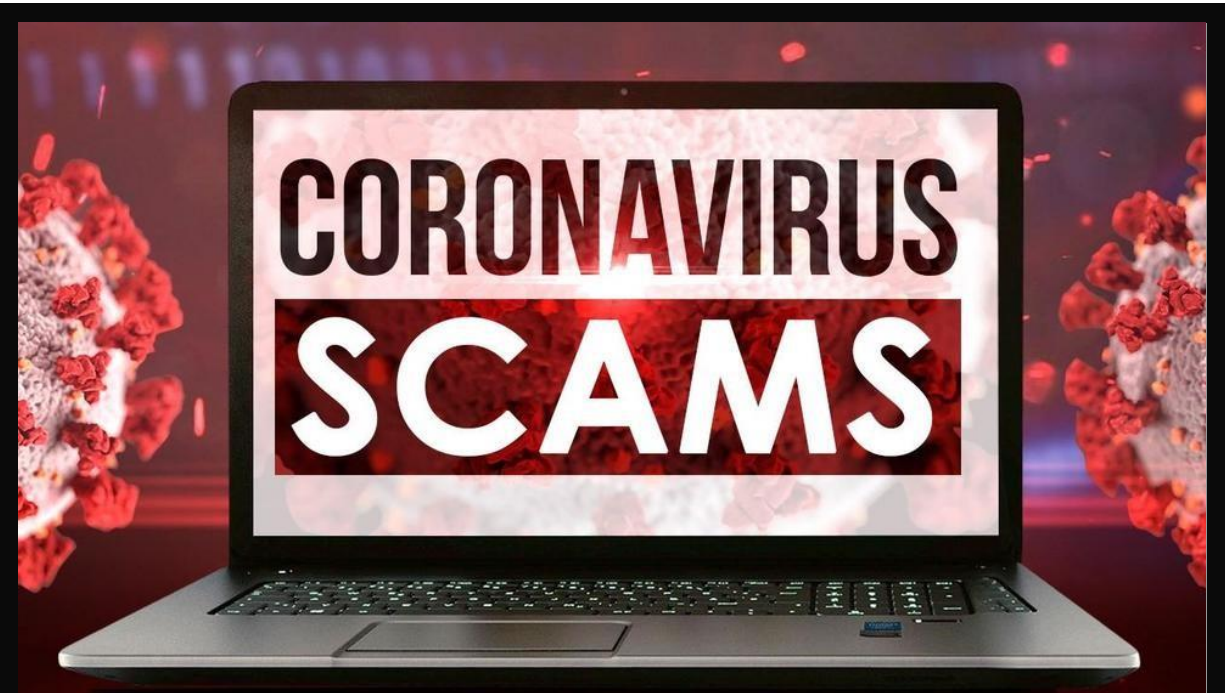


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- 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**. 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

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 (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

STAY CONNECTED

