



Assemblyman  
**Charles D. Fall**  
Assembly District 61

## Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

April 17, 2020

As NYS prepares for several more weeks on PAUSE, I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good mental and physical health. It's on all of us to stay home to protect our community. Though we must be physically distant from one another, let's continue to lean on books and magazines, family Zoom calls, or walks around the neighborhood to remain optimistic. We are in this together and we will get through this together.

Happy Immigrant Heritage Week NYC! Join me in recognizing our city's essential workers as the superheroes they are. Of the **one million essential workers** who are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic—delivery workers, EMS staff, drivers, health care personnel, and more—**hundreds of thousands of them are immigrants.**



### Updates From Albany

I want to share with you some of the most important topics that my state colleagues and I passed earlier this month, in this year's state budget. Stay tuned each week as I highlight various topics relevant to Staten Island.

#### **What Measures Did the Legislature Include in the 2020-21 State Budget to Combat Opioids?**

##### **This year's budget:**

- Explicitly designates certain fentanyl analogs as controlled substances in New York State; similar to other illegal or illicit narcotic drugs or substances such as heroin.
- Gives law enforcement the authority to prosecute the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of these drugs to the fullest extent of the law.
- Authorizes the State Department of Health commissioner to add additional analogs to the list of controlled substances, enabling the state to stay in front of these deadly substances as they appear on the market.
- Ensures that Staten Islands' first youth Clubhouse, which is located in district 61, will receive its annual \$241,000 in funding through the Office of Addiction Services and Supports to aid the continued operation of services at this essential facility.

This is one of many steps that we are taking on the state level to address the persistent problem of addiction and overdosing that is directly affecting our state, city and borough. These measures will allow us to control and implement early prevention measures to this serious problem.

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### **District 61 News**



#### **Reopening West Brighton CityMD Urgent Care Facility**

I am glad to announce that the CityMD urgent care facility located at 812 Forest Avenue will reopen this Monday, April 20, 2020 at full-time operational hours as a result of a concerted, bipartisan effort with my Staten Island colleagues in government.

Earlier this month, the Forest Avenue site was temporarily closed to move staff to another location on the island, leaving a healthcare vacancy for the surrounding West Brighton community. CityMD is an urgent care network that offers a wide variety of medical services, including physicals, injury-related and illness diagnosis and care, pediatric care and women's wellness needs for some of the most vulnerable residents on the North Shore of Staten Island.

I penned a letter to the CEO of CityMD requesting reconsideration of the temporarily closing in light of the fact that there is no public hospital on Staten Island and that there are residents who may be elderly or lack transportation to travel to CityMD Richmond during heightened social distancing and Stay-at-Home order during the COVID-19 pandemic. This letter was signed by Borough President Oddo, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Senator Diane Savino, Assemblyman Michael Reilly, Senator Andrew Lanza, District Attorney Michael McMahon, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, NYC Council Minority Leader Steven Matteo and Councilwoman Debi Rose.

I would like to thank constituent Antoinette Donegan for reaching out to my office to initiate this inquiry. There is power in community involvement and vigilance. I also want to thank Robert Connor, President of CityMD Inc., and my colleagues for their efforts to reopen this essential urgent care facility that serves the wide and diverse community on the North Shore.

My staff and I are accessible to help with your needs. **If there are any COVID-19 questions or concerns in your neighborhood that you would like to report please submit them here and we will respond as soon as possible.**

### **Several Additional Urgent Care and Community Health Facilities on the North Shore:**

- **Progressive Urgent Care**  
Address: 455 Jersey St, Staten Island, NY 10301  
Phone: (718) 524-5611
- **Prompt Urgent Care, PLLC**  
Address: 155 Bay St Unit C-2, Staten Island, NY 10301  
Phone: (718) 675-3801
- **AdvantageCare Physicians - Clove Road Medical Office**  
Address: 1050 Clove Rd, Staten Island, NY 10301  
Phone: (718) 816-64404
- **RUMC Primary Walk-In/Immediate Care Center: Forest Avenue**  
Address: 1058 Forest Ave, Staten Island, NY 10310  
Phone: (718) 818-1058
- **Bay Street Medical Clinic**  
Address: 686 Bay St, Staten Island, NY 10304  
Phone: (718) 448-7543
- **Community Health Center of Richmond Port Richmond Health Center**  
Address: 235 Port Richmond Ave, Staten Island, NY 10302  
Phone: (718) 876-1732
- **Community Health Center of Richmond Stapleton-St George**  
Address: 135 Canal St Suite 300, Staten Island, NY 10304  
Phone: (917) 830-1200

**For any medical emergencies call 911.**

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### **Critical Updates, New Policies, and Recommendations to Protect Yourself and Your Community From Contracting and Spreading COVID-19**

1. **NYS on PAUSE has been extended through to May 15.** All non-essential gatherings remain prohibited, and non-essential businesses should remain closed; continue to practice social distancing and limit all outdoor activity.
2. **Mayor de Blasio has expanded COVID-19 testing facilities to include NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health Vanderbilt, located at 165 Vanderbilt avenue.** This new testing site will have the ability to run 2,400 tests a week with a goal of addressing disparities of COVID-19 testing in communities of color and those with the greatest need.

- Beginning today, this site will begin to prioritize residents from surrounding communities with preexisting conditions and senior citizens 65 and older.
  - The site will serve as a walk-in location but please **call 311 to request an appointment.**
3. NYC Health + Hospitals has changed its visitor policy due to COVID-19. **[Click here to find the most up-to-date information.](#)**
- **All patient visitation at NYC Health + Hospitals is suspended except:**
    - When medically necessary and the visitor is essential to the patient's care;
    - The visitor is a family member or legal representative of a patient in an imminent end-of-life situation; or
    - For a visitor of a woman in labor, an infant in the neonatal ICU, or a pediatric patient.
    - **Any visitor meeting any of the above exceptions must be screened for symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, or fever, or potential exposure to someone with COVID-19 prior to entering the hospital.**
4. **[Click here to find an FAQ page on guidance for funerals and burials in NYC.](#)** This website goes over services, religious traditions, and how to apply for a death certificate during COVID-19.
- **[The NYC Human Resources Administration is offering burial assistance](#)** for individuals in need of aid to meet funeral expenses. New York City residents may be eligible to receive up to \$900 in financial assistance to help pay for funeral expenses.
5. **[NYS Department of Labor has been alerted of several scam attempts targeting individuals that are filing for unemployment benefits.](#)** Claimants are being contacted by blocked or unknown numbers and being asked to provide information such as their full Social Security number, or other forms of information that NYS DOL agents would not request if this information was documented when the claimant completed their online application.
- If you have filed for unemployment and are waiting for a call from the state Dept. of Labor, please know that because most staff are working from home, their caller IDs may show private or restricted. First confirm your claim number with the agent.
  - If your application was filed in full online the only forms of information that an NYS Department of Labor agent will ask for are:
    - Claimant's Full Name
    - The Date of Filing their Claim
    - The Method Used to File the Claim (Online/Web vs. Telephone)
6. **[Click here for more information about coronavirus and to find a guide on how to stay safe.](#)** You can also **[text COVID to 692-692](#)** to receive regular SMS texts with the latest news and developments from Notify NYC.
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## **Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs During the COVID-19 Outbreak**

1. If you have mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19, you should **immediately isolate yourself at home**. After three to four days, if you still feel sick, contact your health care provider.

### **Ways to get tested:**

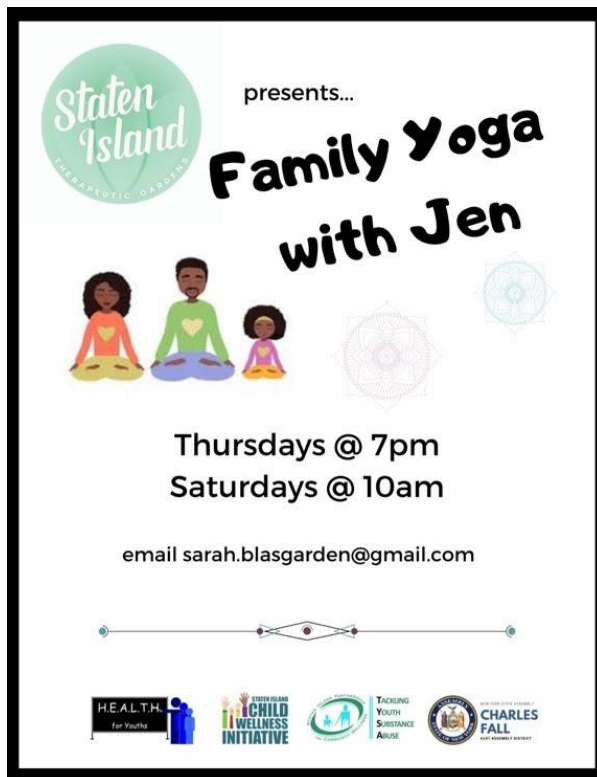
- I. To make an appointment at the **South Beach** drive-thru facility located at 777 Seaview Ave., call the **NYS Health Hotline at 888-364-3065**. Only those with an appointment can be tested at this site. Results are provided via phone, fax, or the **online patient portal**.
  - II. To make an appointment at **NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health Vanderbilt, located at 165 Vanderbilt Ave., call 311**
  - III. **Beacon Christian Community Health Center** is also offering offer services to patients and evaluating people who may have been exposed to COVID-19. **Call 718-815-6560 to speak with a professional.**
  - IV. **If you have any of the following symptoms, go to an emergency room or call 911:**
    - Trouble breathing
    - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
    - New confusion or inability to stay awake
    - Blue lips or face
2. **Grants for Cultural Organizations:** The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has issued guidance on applying for the \$75 million it was allocated in the CARES Act. If a nonprofit cultural organization has received NEA support in the last four fiscal years, they are eligible to apply for a direct grant. **Apply here by April 22!**
  3. **Job Opportunities at H+H:** NYC Health and Hospitals needs workers to help transport patients, clerical staff and cleaning staff. **Click here to apply today.**
  4. **New York Lawyers for Public Interest** is a leading civil rights advocacy organization committed to serving New Yorkers directly impacted by COVID-19. They have compiled **information and resources;** and
    - If you are an individual or family seeking assistance, **click here.**
    - If you are a nonprofit organization seeking help, **click here.**
  5. **NYS Domestic Violence Hotline: It is 1-800-942-6906.**
    - During this time of isolation at home it's important for people to know that if they're faced with a domestic violence situation, **they don't have to stay in those situations.**
    - The state will **help those in need to relocate and help find safe shelter.**
    - If there is an issue where someone is in immediate danger, call 911 immediately. Otherwise, call the hotline for help at **1-800-942-6906.**

6. **Grab and Go for All New Yorkers: Community members of all ages may pick up three meals a day at specific DOE schools. To find a location, text “NYCFOOD” or “COMIDA” to 877-877. Hours of operation:**
  - 7:30am - 11:30am for families and children
  - 11:40am - 1:30pm for adults
7. **Meals for seniors:** The Department for the Aging (DFTA) has transitioned to 100% meal delivery for senior center users. Seniors should call their local senior center for more information if they haven't already received meals. **Those in need can call DFTA's Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469) or 311.**

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### Useful Virtual Events

1. My office is collaborating with Staten Island Therapeutic Garden, H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths, Staten Island Child Wellness Initiative and TYSA to offer **free virtual family Yoga courses every Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am.** Yoga is a practice that aids with improving physical and mental health, healing body aches and pains, and helps to improve focus. **Email Sarah.Blasgarden@gmail.com to get the link to join!**



2. The Comptroller's Office has just launched **M/WBE University Webinars: Resources for Small Businesses and M/WBEs Impacted by COVID-19 every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 am to**

**12pm until Thursday, May 14.** These presentations on Zoom will cover a range of topics including financial resources from the federal, state, and City government as well as the private sector, and current business opportunities within City and State procurement.

- Interpretation services will be available in 12 different languages
- **Click here for more information and to RSVP or email any questions to [diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov).**



Comptroller's M/WBE University is a series of workshops designed to increase access to the Comptroller's Office and citywide opportunities for M/WBES.

**WEBINARS: RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND M/WBES IMPACTED BY COVID-19**  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Via Zoom

The Comptroller's Office will be providing presentations via Zoom on resources from the federal, state, and City government and the private sector available to small businesses and M/WBES impacted by COVID-19.

**Webinar Sessions:**

Tuesdays	Thursdays
• April 21, 2020	• April 16, 2020
• April 28, 2020	• April 23, 2020
• May 05, 2020	• April 30, 2020
• May 12, 2020	• May 07, 2020
	• May 14, 2020

To RSVP, visit <http://Comptrollerdiversity.eventbrite.com> or email [diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov). Interpretation will be available in American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Please request interpretation services upon RSVP at least two days before each session.

Information provided during these sessions might change as emergency laws, resources and other factors evolve during the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot advise you on such developments. Please consult US, NYS, and NYC COVID-19 websites for the latest information.

**GET HELP NAVIGATING THE CITY**

If you are a business owner and need help navigating City procurement opportunities and resources, make an appointment with the Comptroller's Office by emailing [diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov).

If you are a constituent and need assistance with complaints or inquiries about government services, please email the Comptroller's Community Action Center at [action@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:action@comptroller.nyc.gov).

## How To Help

1. Licensed health professionals that are willing and able to staff the NYS South Beach Hospital facility for COVID-19 patients, **please call 718-442-9932 or email [Agosas@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Agosas@nyassembly.gov) to submit your name, phone number and email address!**

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**HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NEEDED!**

If you are a licensed healthcare professional willing and able to staff the New York State South Beach Hospital Facility for COVID-19 patients, **please call 718-442-9932 or email [Agosas@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Agosas@nyassembly.gov) to submit your name, phone number, and email address!**

2. All New Yorkers who have recovered from COVID-19 are asked to contact the state and donate blood.
  - **Individuals who have recovered from the virus may have convalescent plasma in their blood, which has antibodies against the virus and could help with the development of a treatment for the virus.**
  - [Find more information about how to donate blood here](#)
3. **The First Responders Fund is a state initiative to assist COVID-19 health care workers and first responders with expenses and costs, including child care.** The State Department of Health is accepting donations for the fund, and Blackstone is making an anchor \$10 million contributions to the fund. **[Donations can be made electronically here.](#)**
4. **Individuals, Organizations or Companies** offering to donate Personal Protective Equipment **[click here](#)** or **[click here.](#)**
5. **[Fill out your US Census today, it is quick and easy and will determine how more than \\$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities!](#)**



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#CensusCompletedChallenge

Three Methods to Respond:

- **Online:** <https://my2020census.gov/>
- **Mail:** Mail back the paper questionnaire sent to your home.
- **Call:** 844-330-2020 to complete via phone.

Challenge 5 family members and friends!

Everyone counts, infants, the elderly and everyone in-between. [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

Wishing you all health and safety,



Charles D. Fall  
Member of Assembly

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