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91st Assembly District  
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

April 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

This update includes current resource information on COVID-19 and related issues. In recent days we have received an increase in complaints of price gouging and of harassment of tenants. Included here are links to information from state offices on your rights and how to file complaints.

My staff and I have been working on the daily issues that arise for individuals, school districts, local governments, businesses and not-for-profits. This week much of our work has been occupied with helping on the unemployment insurance processing logjam, questions on the Census participation via online, mail or phone response and the other issues you have brought to my attention.

Yesterday the Board of Regents cancelled the June Regents exams and issued new guidance to assist school districts in navigating these challenging times.

Please call my office at [914-939-7028](tel:914-939-7028) if I can be of assistance on new issues that arise.

Warm regards,

Steve

**Important Phone Numbers**

- Glen Island COVID-19 test results call BioReference Labs 833-469-5227
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) State Hotline: 1-888-364-3065
- People under self-quarantine or exposure to known case: 866-588-0195
- NYS Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline: 888-364-3065
- Westchester County COVID-19 Information: Call 211
- 2020 Census help: 844-330-2020
- Domestic violence helpline 800-942-6906

Mental Health Support  
For FREE emotional support, consultation, and referral: 844-863-9314

Access the NYS Health Dept, County Health website or the CDC website

To sell or donate goods or services to NYS, contact:  
COVID19supplies@esd.ny.gov  
212-803-3100 - Eric Gertler, Empire State Development, Business Funding  
646-522-8477- Simondia Subotic, Executive Chamber

To request supplies email Emergency Operations Center  
wccoc@westchestergov.com

Governor Cuomo daily press conferences can be accessed live or on file at:  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news>



**Unemployment Benefits**

We are aware of the challenges residents are facing accessing and completing applications for unemployment benefits as a result of the sharp increase in claims. In a typical week, about 50,000 people call to access unemployment benefits. Last week it was 7.8 million. The state has a number of people and outside tech companies trying to address the problem and create the necessary capacity to deal with this challenge. Rest assured that your benefits will be backdated to the date you became unemployed, even if it takes longer than expected to complete the claims process.

NYS is waiving the 7-Day waiting period for Unemployment Insurance benefits for people who are out of work due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) closures or quarantines. A recent FAQ's released by the Department of Labor that you may find helpful is posted on my [Facebook page](#).

To see if you qualify for unemployment benefits and to apply, please visit the NYS Department of Labor [HERE](#). *If you need assistance, please contact our office at 914-939-7028 or OtisS@nyassembly.gov*

**Federal COVID-19 Relief Package**

For additional information on the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as well as details on relief and recovery resources for individuals and businesses please click [HERE](#)



**Tenant and Consumer Protection Resources**

**Housing Rights and Tenant Protections**

New York State laws make it illegal for landlords to engage in any action that is intended to force tenants to leave their homes or otherwise give up their rights under law. This means that your landlord is prohibited from interfering with your privacy, comfort and quiet enjoyment of your home. For example, your Landlord may not persistently call you at all hours of the day or night asking you for the rent or suggesting that you must move out because you are behind in the rent. Your landlord may also not engage in disruptive construction or renovation projects in your building that interfere with your health and safety and use of your apartment. These actions could be considered harassment. For more information and for assistance, please visit [NY Attorney General's website](#).

**Price Gouging**

The office of the Attorney General enforces New York's price gouging statute, which prohibits unconscionably excessive pricing of necessary consumer goods and services during any abnormal disruption of the market. During this COVID-19 outbreak, this applies to necessary consumer goods such as hand sanitizers and other disinfecting products, toilet paper and basic food items.

The price gouging complaint form can be found [HERE](#)

**Be Aware of COVID-19 Testing Scam**

The [New York State Attorney General's](#) office is warning of reports of scammers knocking on doors pretending to be from CDC and offering COVID19 tests for a fee.

The CDC is NOT knocking on doors. If you encounter these scammers, do not engage with them and please report them to the [Attorney General's office](#).

**COVID-19 Application For Suspension Of NYS Debt Collection**

New York has suspended debt collection for persons or businesses that owe (non-medical and non-student) debts to the State of New York that have been referred to the Office of the Attorney General for collection and litigation. Any such person or business, that have been financially impacted by COVID-19, or the international, national, and state responses designed to prevent its spread, may complete and submit this application to be considered for certain forms of relief, including relief from collection activity, interest accrual, and the assessment of collection fees.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)

**NY State on PAUSE**

Governor Cuomo has directed all non-essential workers to work from home, & everyone is required to maintain a 6-foot distance.

[GET THE FACTS](#)

Governor Cuomo extended NY State on PAUSE until April 29th. School and non-essential businesses will remain closed until then. Click [HERE](#) for additional guidance on workforce reduction and essential services.

**State Guidance on Landscaping**

Pursuant to Governor Andrew Cuomo's revised New York State Executive Order 202.6, **landscaping for maintenance and pest control purposes, but not for cosmetic purposes, has been designated as essential**. For the latest updates and guidance on state rules regarding landscaping and other agricultural related issues please visit <https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus>.



**Reminder: Healthcare Enrollment Period Extended**

A Special Enrollment Period is being made available during which eligible individuals will be able to enroll in insurance coverage through NY State of Health. Individuals who enroll in Qualified Health Plans through NY State of Health or directly through insurers between **March 16 and April 15, 2020** will have coverage effective starting April 1, 2020. Individuals who are eligible for other NY State of Health programs – Medicaid, Essential Plan and Child Health Plus – can enroll year-round.

As always, consumers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health online at [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov), by phone at 855-355-5777, and working with [enrollment assistants](#).



**Support For Small Businesses and Middle Class Families**

Last week, the federal government passed the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act", a stimulus plan that contains billions in Small Business Administration forgivable loans and grants to assist New York's 2.2 million small businesses and tens of thousands of non-profits, including religious-affiliated entities. For more information and to apply to the federal Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, please click [HERE](#)

For more information on the federal COVID-19 relief package please click [HERE](#).

Our local communities are stepping up to support their local businesses. Restaurants are open for pickup and delivery. Some online Business Directories have been created for the communities I represent:

- Larchmont/ Mamaroneck Directory of shops and restaurants [HERE](#)
- Port Chester- Rye Brook- Rye Town Chamber of Commerce [HERE](#)
- City of New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce [HERE](#)
- City of Rye Chamber of Commerce [HERE](#)



The State Education Department announced the cancellation of the June 2020 administration of Regents Exams and released guidance on modifications to requirements for students to graduate and earn their high school diplomas, credentials and endorsements. Please visit NYSED for more information [HERE](#)

