

View this email in your browser



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

December 4, 2020

Dear Friends,

As we approach winter, the increase in COVID-19 cases continues to be a challenge throughout the country and here in Westchester. Nation-wide the upcoming months are predicted to be the most dangerous to date for the spread of this dangerous and deadly disease.

To reduce the spread of the infection, I helped organize a Port Chester COVID-19 Virtual Summit with Senator Shelley Mayer, Port Chester Mayor Fritz Falanka and County Legislator Nancy Barr, which was held on December 3rd. The Virtual Summit, the first such presentation made in the state, featured presentations made by COVID-19 experts from New York State. In addition, Westchester County provided essential information to help us curb COVID-19 throughout Westchester.

The next step for Port Chester, and everywhere in the county, is to continue to share information about safe practices to prevent the spread of the virus, how to get tested, and key information about what to do if you test positive. I am continuing my efforts to help make the information known.

This week the Governor announced updated statewide strategies to address the changing challenges caused by the virus. (Spanish)

- Strategy 1: Strengthen NY's Targeted Micro-Cluster Strategy while Managing Hospital Capacity
- Strategy 2: Increase Testing Resources and Availability
- Strategy 3: Keep Schools Open Safely
- Strategy 4: Prevent Viral Spread due to Small Gatherings
- Strategy 5: Operationalize an Equitable and Safe Vaccination Program

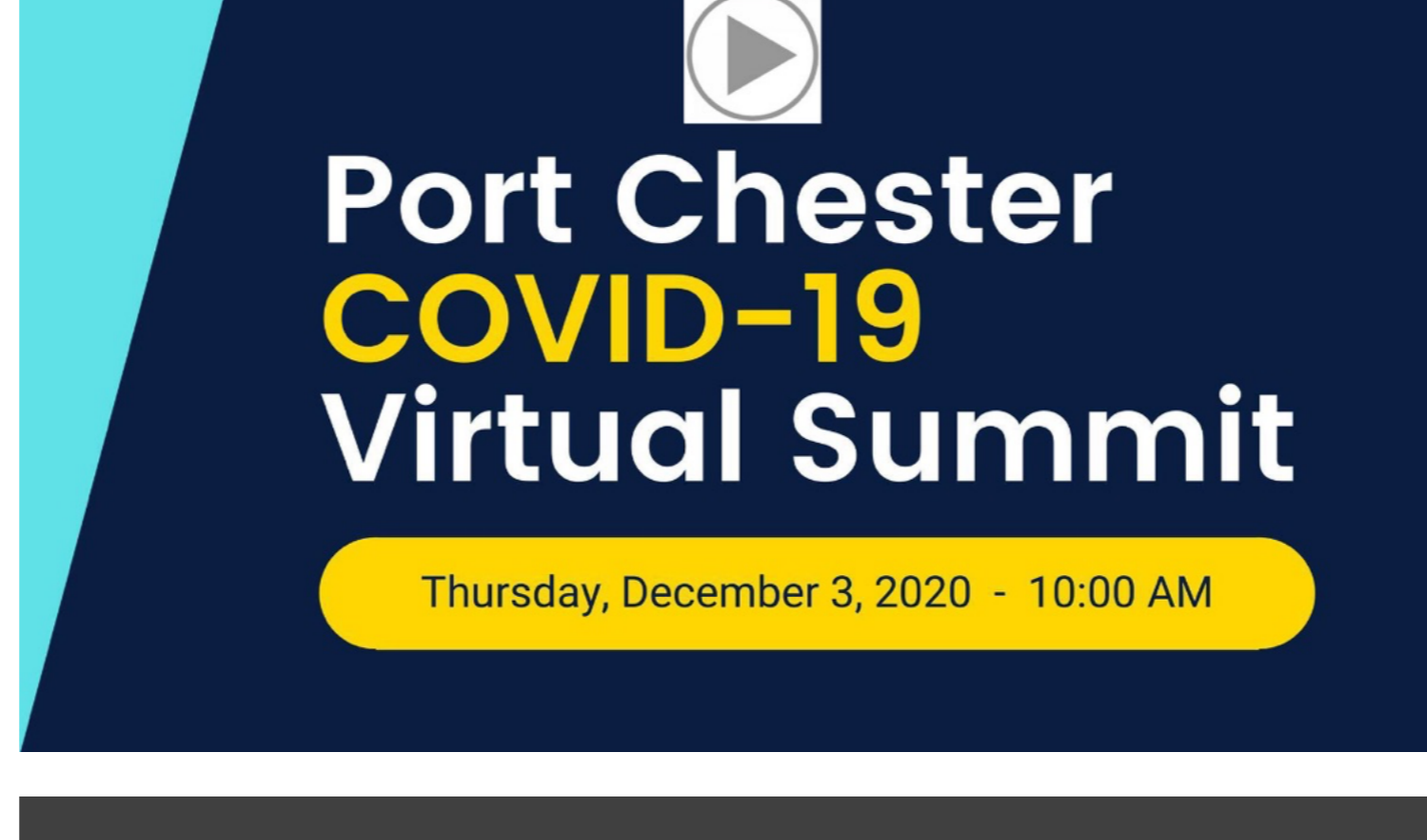
One key message revealed through the state's Contact Tracing Program is that 70% of recent infections are coming from small gatherings in homes or other small settings. The cautionary tale is clear—safe practices should be maintained even in familiar small venues, especially in indoor places. The Department of Health has released a new public service announcement on "living room spread" as a warning about this kind of exposure. Watch the PSA [here](#).

Findings also reveal that the positivity rate in school is very low and schools have shown to be safer environments than the surrounding area, especially for the younger grades. The state has modified the rules for testing by schools to make testing more feasible in districts where testing is required.

In a number of micro-cluster zones around the state practices have resulted in lowered infection rates and improved statistics. Zone restrictions are reduced or eliminated when statistics improve. Better public health practices work—wear a mask, socially distance, wash your hands, [get tested](#) and stop the spread.

Warm regards,

Steve



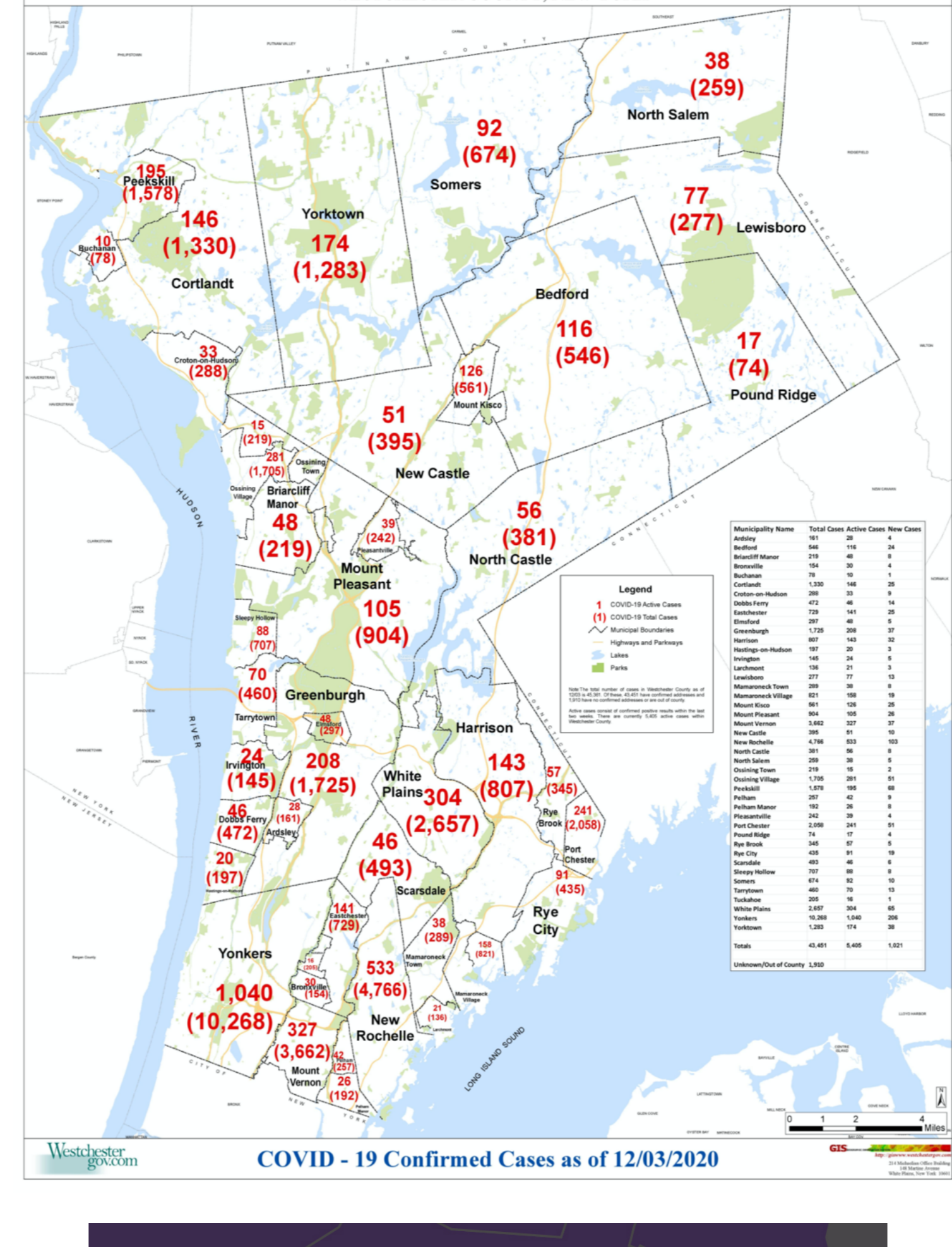
Westchester Resources

To find a testing site near you and to make an appointment please visit the [NY State Health Department](#) or call the New York State COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

Testing is free for all New Yorkers at NYS run test sites.
[Find a Test Site Near You](#)

For help with quarantine and isolation, call 866-588-0195
Covid-19 testing information 888-364-3065
Westchester County General COVID-19 Information – United Way 211
County Health Department COVID-19 Information page [HERE](#)

Free flu shots Saturday and Sunday at the County Center.
Register [HERE](#)



COVID Testing Sites in Westchester County

NYS Cluster Action Initiative

The positivity rate in Westchester continues to increase with five cluster zones currently designated in our county. New York State has 26 COVID-19 focus zones.

The NYS Department of Health established these zones based upon statistics and the zones are adjusted, grown, or reduced based upon daily tracking of infections, hospitalizations, deaths, and density statistics. With improved statistics, a number of zone areas across the state have had their zone status downgraded or removed.

The [Cluster Action Initiative](#) focuses attention on communities of concern based upon these criteria and establishes guidance and resources to reduce infection rates and downgrade zone classification. The County tracker is available [HERE](#).

[Maps of Cluster Zones](#)

School and College COVID-19 Dashboard Available Online

Governor Cuomo has required that all schools report COVID-19 cases to the NYS Department of Health on a daily basis, including private schools and colleges.

[School and University Covid-19 Statewide Tracker](#)

NYS Winter Plan to Combat COVID-19

Governor Cuomo announced this week New York's plan for combating COVID-19 this winter. Over the past week, Governor Cuomo and the state's COVID Task Force have worked in consultation with global public health experts, local governments and other stakeholders to ensure that the plan builds off the lessons learned during the past nine months to anticipate and prepare for an expected increase in COVID cases and hospitalizations over the Holiday season. Read more about the state's plan [HERE](#).

NEW YORK STATE Paid Family Leave

In response to the pandemic, Governor Cuomo has guaranteed workers job protection and financial compensation in the event they, or their minor dependent child, are subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation issued by the state of New York, the Department of Health, local board of health, or any government entity duly authorized to issue such order due to COVID-19.

Most employees will get financial compensation by using a combination of benefits, which may include new employer-provided paid sick leave (depending on the size of the employer), Paid Family Leave and disability benefits. These benefits are not available to employees who are able to work through remote access or other means.

Paid Family Leave may also be used to care for a family member who has contracted COVID-19, which may qualify as a serious health condition. If your employer does not provide the required paid sick leave, you may [file a complaint](#) with the NYS Department of Labor. For more information visit: [Guidance For Obtaining An Order For Mandatory Or Precautionary Quarantine](#).

Opportunities to Help Others During the Holidays

[Find a local food program](#)

Some local food pantries and soup kitchens include:

- [Larchmont-Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force](#)
- [Hope Community Services](#) (New Rochelle)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [Caritas of Port Chester](#)
- [Carver Center](#) (Port Chester)
- [Don Bosco](#) (Port Chester)
- [Giving Tree of Life](#) (Rye)

Clothing Drives

- [Sharing Shelf](#), Children's clothing, Port Chester
- [Community Resource Center](#), Mamaroneck

"PAULA'S PALS" 10TH Annual Coat Drive

New or clean, reusable coats (both child and adult) can be dropped off at collection boxes located at the Rye Brook Recreation Office in Village Hall or at the AJP Community Center (32 Garibaldi Pl, Rye Brook) during regular business hours until Friday, December 18th. For more information, please contact Rye Brook Recreation at [\(914\) 939-3235](#).

Salvation Army "ADOPT-A-FAMILY" Program

Anyone 18 years or older may consider participating in the Salvation Army's "Adopt a Family" program. To participate, please email Shari Melillo at the Village Administration Office at smelillo@ryebrook.org and request to receive an "Adopt a Family" form to submit to the Salvation Army of Port Chester.

Support Local Businesses

Proteja a su comunidad del COVID-19.

Todos deben cooperar.

- Quédese en casa si no se siente bien.
- Participe en controles de temperatura y evaluaciones de síntomas cuando vaya a espacios públicos.
- Use coberturas para la cara cuando no esté en casa.
- Cuando esté con personas que no sean de su grupo familiar, mantenga 6 pies entre usted y los demás.
- Lávese las manos con frecuencia con agua y jabón por 20 segundos cada vez.

Si usted o un miembro de su familia o alguien que tiene COVID-19, evite lo que sigue:

- No salga de su casa, excepto para recibir atención médica. Evite tener actividades, metros y taxis.
- Evite estar cerca de otras personas en su casa tanto como sea posible. Si es posible, permítale a otros miembros de su familia que se enfermen específicamente.
- No comparta artículos con su grupo familiar.
- Use un baño separado, si es posible. Si comparte el baño, límpielo y desinfecte después de usarlo.
- No toque a los mascotas.
- No prepare comida y/o los sirva a otras personas.
- Evite cuidar de niños y adultos mayores, si es posible.

Los síntomas pueden aparecer de 2 a 14 días después de la exposición al virus. Los síntomas con estos síntomas pueden tener COVID-19:

- Fiebre o escalofríos
- Tos
- Falta de aliento o dificultad para respirar
- Fatiga
- Dolores musculares o corporales
- Dolor de cabeza
- Nuevo pérdida de gusto u olfato
- Dolor de garganta
- Congestión o secreción nasal
- Náuseas o vómitos
- Diarrea

Manténgase actualizado www.health.ny.gov/coronavirus

