

Dear Neighbors,

On Tuesday, Kathy Hochul was sworn in as the 57th and first female Governor of New York. Like many of you, I know Governor Hochul to be a steadfast leader and strong advocate for Upstate New York and I am confident that she will usher in a culture of transparency and accountability to our state government. I look forward to working with Governor Hochul and her team as we fight to combat the spread of the Delta varient, rebuild and recover from this pandemic, and combat the climate crisis.



Covid-19 Vaccine News

This week, the <u>FDA issued full approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19</u> vaccine for everyone 16 and older. This vaccine has been available since December 11, 2020 under emergency approval and is widely known to be safe and effective at preventing serious disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. All FDA-approved vaccines undergo the agency's rigorous process for reviewing quality, safety, and effectiveness.

What about booster shots? Individuals who meet the CDC criteria for immunocompromised and are fully vaccinated are eligible to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) at any upcoming clinics. Learn more about third doses here.

Upcoming Vaccination Clinics:

- Sept. 1: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) (ages 12+)
- Sept. 2: Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) (ages 12+)
- Sept. 10: Ithaca Free Clinic, with REACH Medical (ages 18+)
- Sept. 13: Groton American Legion (ages 12+)
- •Sept. 16: Center Ithaca (ages 18+)
- •Sept 18: Lansing Town Hall (ages 18+)

Getting vaccinated is the best way we can protect ourselves, our families, and our community against COVID-19 and the surging Delta variant. Let's all do our part to stay healthy and safe by continuing to wear masks, social distancing, washing our hands, and encouraging our friends and neighbors to get vaccinated.

Important Reminder!

Federal Unemployment Pandemic Benefits expire next week on September 5th. This includes the following programs: The Extended Benefits program, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. If you are unsure which program(s) you are currently enrolled in, visit the New York Department of Labor's website and check under the Unemployment Insurance Dashboard to view your status. As always, if you have any questions about these changes, do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Visit to the New York State Fair

On Wednesday, I was honored to celebrate Women's Equality Day with Speaker Heastie and my Assembly colleagues at the New York State Fair in Syracuse. Thank you to Agricultural Commissioner Richard Ball for the warm welcome to the fairgrounds. A few highlights of our visit included watching the thrilling and amazing women of the Highlight Pro Skydiving Team's incredible demonstration, speaking with some of our local veterans, visiting the Dairy Center to view the famous Butter Sculpture, and enjoying some delicious Byrne Dairy ice cream. It was a fabulous day!



In good health,

Dunc R Kelles

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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