



November 17, 2021

NEW YORK FORWARD/REOPENING GUIDANCE & INFORMATION¹

FEDERAL UPDATES:

- On August 3, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an extension of the nationwide residential eviction pause in areas experiencing substantial and high levels of community transmission levels of SARS-CoV-2, which is aligned with the mask order. The moratorium order, that expires on October 3, 2021, allows additional time for rent relief to reach renters and to further increase vaccination rates. See: [Press Release](#) ; [Signed Order](#)
- On July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance for mask wearing in public indoor settings for fully vaccinated people in areas where coronavirus transmission is high, in response to the spread of the Delta Variant. The CDC also included a recommendation for fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. Further, the CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>
- The CDC on Thursday, June 24, 2021 announced a one-month extension to its nationwide pause on evictions that was executed in response to the pandemic. The moratorium that was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2021 is now extended through July 31, 2021 and this is intended to be the final extension of the moratorium. See: [Order webpage](#)

- The U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., on June 2, 2021 denied a request by a group of landlords to lift the stay on housing evictions, leaving the temporary nationwide eviction moratorium issued by the CDC in place. See: [The Hill reports](#)
- On May 13, the CDC updated its guidance on mask wearing for fully vaccinated people. Federal guidance is still recommending that masks be worn by everyone, whether they are vaccinated or not, in schools, on public transit and in homeless shelters, jails, nursing homes and other health care settings. See: [guidance](#)
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the **Emergency Broadband Benefit Program beginning May 12, 2021**. The program will end when the fund runs out, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner. The program provides a discount of up to **\$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households**. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers, if the provider contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. **Among those eligible are students who received a federal Pell Grant in the current award year and households with children in the school free-lunch program.** Individuals can get more information and apply for the program, if eligible, at: <https://getemergencybroadband.org/>.
- On April 27, 2021, the CDC issued new guidance on mask wearing for fully-vaccinated people. Fully-vaccinated individuals can conduct outdoor activities or gather in small groups without wearing a mask outdoors except in certain settings and venues. See: [Guidance for fully-vaccinated people](#)
- On April 7, 2021, the CDC issued updated on cleaning your home on a daily basis, and if someone is sick, in order to help reduce transmission of the virus at home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>
- There is updated guidance on domestic travel for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Although fully-vaccinated individuals are less likely to contract and spread the virus, the CDC recommends delaying non-essential travel for the time

being: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

- FEMA announced it will [reimburse funeral costs](#) for those lost to COVID since January 20, 2020. The agency launched a hotline, [\(844\) 684-6333](#), to apply for up to **\$9,000** in assistance per burial. This [FAQ](#) explains what documents to prepare.
- FDA's COVID-19 response guide has been updated: [FDA COVID-19 Response At-A-Glance Summary](#) (PDF) for a quick look at facts, figures and highlights of the agency's response efforts.
- The U.S. Department of Education [announced](#) on March 30, 2021 that it will expand the 0% interest rate and pause of collections activity to 1.14 million borrowers who defaulted on a privately-held FFEL Program loan. This action will protect more than 800,000 borrowers who were at risk of having their federal tax refunds seized to repay a defaulted student loan. This relief will be made retroactive to March 13, 2020, the start of the COVID-19 national emergency. The Department will work to automatically return any tax refunds seized or wages garnished over the past year. Borrowers who made voluntary payments on any of these loans during the past year will have the option to request a refund of those amounts. Further, the administration [announced relief](#) for student loan borrowers with total and permanent disabilities during the COVID emergency. According to the Department, more than 41,000 of these borrowers who had \$1.3 billion in loans reinstated will now get their discharges back, have any payments made during the COVID-19 emergency refunded, and will not be asked to resubmit earnings documentation. The other 190,000 borrowers who remain in their monitoring period will not be asked to submit earnings documentation for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.
- On March 29, 2021, the CDC extended the residential eviction moratorium through June 30, 2021. See: [Statement and Order](#)
- The Internal Revenue Service, on behalf of the Treasury Department, is working quickly to deliver the third round of Economic Impact Payments authorized by Congress in the American Rescue Plan Act in March 2021. Here are [answers](#) to some common questions about this set of stimulus payments, which differ in some ways from the first two sets of stimulus payments in 2020, referred to as EIP1 and

EIP2. Where can I get more information? For more information about Economic Impact Payments, visit [IRS.gov/eip](https://www.irs.gov/eip). Check the payment status at [IRS.gov/getmypayment](https://www.irs.gov/getmypayment). For other COVID-19-related tax relief, visit [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

- The **American Rescue Plan**, passed by Congress, was signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021. To learn more about the plan, check out this New York Times article: [What's in the Stimulus Bill? A Guide to Where the \\$1.9 Trillion Is Going](https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/03/06/business/stimulus-check-plan-details), this NY Times article details the stimulus payments, unemployment benefits, and tax rebates that are included:
<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/03/06/business/stimulus-check-plan-details>, this CNN article provides information on what is in the plan for small businesses: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/10/success/rescue-plan-small-businesses-feseries/index.html>, and this Washington Post article provides guidance on the child tax credit: [Calculate how much you would get from the expanded child tax credit](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/03/10/calculate-how-much-you-would-get-from-the-expanded-child-tax-credit/). Also see commentary from the White House: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/blog/2021/03/10/the-american-rescue-plan-passed-now-what/>
- On Tuesday, February 16, 2021, the Biden Administration announced the extension of forbearance and foreclosure relief programs, which were set to expire in March. The Administration has extended the foreclosure moratorium for federally guaranteed mortgages through June 30, 2021, extended the mortgage payment forbearance enrollment window until June 30, 2021, and provided up to six months of additional mortgage payment forbearance, in three-month increments, for borrowers who entered forbearance on or before June 30, 2020. Additionally, last week, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, which oversees Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, extended forbearance by three months for borrowers coming to the end of their forbearance period. For more information about the protections and the resources available to homeowners and renters, visit consumerfinance.gov/housing. See: [White House Fact Sheet](#)
- Effective January 26, the [Centers of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov) will require all air passengers entering the United States (including U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents) to **present a negative COVID-19 test**, taken within

three calendar days of departure or proof of recovery from the virus within the last 90 days. Airlines must confirm the negative test result or proof of recovery for all passengers two years of age and over prior to boarding. Airlines must deny boarding of passengers who do not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery. For more information, see CDC's [FAQ](#)

- On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden signed executive orders [mobilizing and organizing the US Government response to COVID](#), creating a national COVID response coordinator and restoring our membership in the World Health Organization, among other provisions. Another executive action requires social distancing, the [wearing of masks](#) on all federal property and by all federal employees, and the establishment of a testing regime for federal employees.
- President Biden announced the continuation of the [pause on the collection of federal student loan payments](#)-- due to expire Sunday (1/31)-- through 9/30, which means payments are suspended, collections on defaulted loans are stopped, and the interest rate is 0% through September. The Federal Student Aid Office's website features a detailed [FAQ](#).
- See the new Biden-Harris Administration [COVID Plan](#) [National Strategy](#) to accelerate vaccinations, promote mask wearing and expand manufacturing of critical supplies and strengthen the supply chain.
- The Presidential Inaugural Committee will be hosting a memorial to honor the lives lost to COVID-19 in cities and towns across the country on **Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** <https://bideninaugural.org/watch/>

A Washington, D.C. ceremony will feature a lighting around the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. The memorial represents one of the few public remembrances of the more than 390,000 Americans lives lost to COVID this year. Presidential Inaugural Committee is inviting cities and towns around the country to join Washington, D.C. in illuminating buildings and ringing church bells at 5:30 p.m. in a national moment of unity and remembrance.

You can get involved by:

- Encouraging your elected officials to light up city buildings in the color [AMBER](#);
- Asking your clergy or non-profit agencies to ring bells;
- Lighting a candle in your window on January 19 at 5:30 p.m. to join in the countrywide moment of remembrance.

CITY UPDATES:

- On August 2, 2021, the NYC Health Department issued a strong recommendation that everyone wear a mask when in public indoor settings in light of the Delta variant. See: [Media Transcript](#)
- [COVID-19 Recovery Center](#) : The City Comptroller has launched an online, multilingual, comprehensive guide to help New Yorkers navigate the many federal, state and city relief programs that you may qualify for. Whether you're a tenant, homeowner, parent, small business owner, or excluded worker, this online guide offers information about a range of services and financial support.
- The City is reopening IDNYC offices during the month of July after being closed for more than a year due to the pandemic, including one in Lower Manhattan. This will allow more New Yorkers to acquire a city-issued, photo identification card in-person regardless of immigration status, which can be used to access COVID-19 assistance and other benefits. The IDNYC is one way for undocumented New Yorkers to meet the residency and identification requirements needed to apply for assistance from the state's recently passed Excluded Workers Fund. The City will open new offices in the coming weeks to bring the centers to 13. Sign up at nyc.gov/IDNYC or call 311 to make an appointment for the free card. See: [Mayor's statement](#)
- As of July 6, The New York Public Library has reopened all available branch locations across the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island (except those undergoing renovations or being used by the City for vaccination). The library is offering nearly full service, including general library use and seating, unlimited browsing, laptop and computer access, and more. In-person programs and classes will also resume at some locations in over the coming months. Check out: <https://www.nypl.org/locations/directory>

- The Brooklyn Public Library system is also expanding services as of July 6, 2021. See: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/coronavirus>
- Notwithstanding CDC guidance and new guidance from the State, the mayor announced that NYC government offices will require mask wearing for all because the workplace has vaccinated and unvaccinated people and visitors. See; <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/374-21/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability>
- The Mayor announced the launch of a special car program to assist those living with long-term symptoms of COVID. The After-Care program connects Test & Trace clients with ongoing health and social needs to the full range of resources and referrals relating to Long COVID including NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 Centers of Excellence. Assistance is available in the areas of physical health, mental health, community support, and financial support such as paid sick leave. See: [Announcement](#)
Visit <https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-center-of-excellence/> to learn more about NYC Health + Hospitals' COVID Centers of Excellence, or call 844-NYC-4NYC to make an appointment.
- The NYC Health Department released a new [data report about COVID-19 virus variants](#). For the week of March 15-21, variants now represent over 70% of cases sequenced. The data suggest that the new variants are more infectious than previously circulating variants.
- The [NYC Department of Health and Hygiene](#) (DOHMH) has issued [updated guidance on face coverings](#) and is now recommending that people over the age of 2 years old wear snug fitting masks with two or three layers of material to better prevent unfiltered air from passing through. Alternatively, [New Yorkers may wear two masks](#), with a cloth face covering over a disposable mask. The guidance also suggests higher grade masks, like KN95s, for people at greater risk, including individuals 65 or older, those with an underlying medical

condition, those who care for someone who is sick, and people who are in prolonged close contact with non-household members while indoors. More information is available on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) website.

- The mayor announced **new school closure guidelines** to require **4 or more** positive COVID-19 cases to close an individual school for 10 days. Read more [here](#).
- **NYC COVID-19 Day of Remembrance** – The City is holding a virtual COVID-19 Day of Remembrance on Sunday, March 14 at 7:45 p.m. The City encourages any New Yorker who lost a loved one to COVID-19 to share the person's name and a photograph if they wish. Please click on this link for more information about how to view the memorial online and how to share names of loved ones: nyc.gov/covidmemorial
- Priority testing is now available for CUNY faculty, staff and students who
 - currently reside in a CUNY dorm; or
 - regularly work on a CUNY campus; or
 - attend or teach in-person or hybrid classes including those at clinical sites off-campus.

For a list of these sites, visit the [City's Priority Testing for School-Based Staff and Students page](#).

Eligible CUNY staff should work with their managers to schedule a 45-minute work break twice a month in order to get tested. Be sure to request and retain proof of testing at every visit as it may be required for timekeeping purposes.

Everyone must present a valid campus identification card at the testing site. Staff, faculty and students working or learning in person can request a letter from Human Resources or Student Affairs to take with them to the testing site stating eligibility for priority testing.

- If you are not eligible for CUNY's priority testing, free testing can be accessed by calling 311 or visiting a [NYC Health + Hospitals testing site](#). New Yorkers can also call the NYS COVID-19 hotline at 1-888-364-3065, or find a test site [here](#)

- **Indoor dining in New York City will increase to 50 percent** on March 19, Gov. Cuomo announced on March 10, 2021. Restaurants in the city have been able to operate at 35 percent capacity since late February. See: [Press Release](#)

- **Indoor dining in New York State and New York City will reopen at reduced capacity Friday, February 12, two days before Valentine's Day.** Strict health guidelines are in place, including a 25 percent occupancy cap. See: [Press Release](#)

- The governor announced on January 29, that **indoor dining** can resume in New York City at 25% capacity as soon as **February 14**. Read more [here](#).

- To mitigate the spread of the COVID disease, food establishments in New York City will not be permitted to offer indoor dining beginning on Monday, December 14 until further notice.
 - Outdoor dining, delivery and takeout will remain in place. Outdoor dining will be closed from 10pm – 5am.
 - This suspension will continue to be re-evaluated based on updated data over the coming weeks.

- New York City's 488 high schools will reopen on March 22 , the city's Department of Education announced on March 8, bringing nearly 55,000 students and 17,000 teachers and staff back into school buildings. About half of high schools will be able to serve all or most of their students five days a week, and the DOE anticipates that number will increase in time. See details: [Chancellor Message and Update to Families](#)

- Schools across the City are currently open for in-person and remote learning. Decisions regarding individual or specific school building closures will be made in accordance with [COVID-19 protocols](#) and with New York State guidance on restrictions in designated [COVID-19 Zones](#). You can see if your school is currently in a State-designated Orange in Red Zone using the [City's COVID-19 Zone Finder](#) .
- Daily COVID Case Map- [this Map](#) shows all known cases of COVID-19 at New York City public schools. It is updated Sunday through Friday at 6:00 PM.
- Free Meals for Students, Families, and Community Member, for more information visit: schools.nyc.gov/freemeals.
- Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on Sunday, November 29, that the City will reopen schools on Monday, December 7 for more than 200,000 students who are in 3K, pre-kindergarten and District 75 schools on December 10 (schools for students with significant disabilities). Middle and high school students will remain fully remote until January. At schools with sufficient space, the younger students will be physically in school five days a week, and students and school staff will be tested weekly. The city also said that it will no longer use the 3 percent benchmark previously set to trigger the shutdown of schools, instead relying on specific Covid-19 cases at each school. See: [Press Release](#)
 - By the time students return to buildings on December 7th, a consent form for testing will be required for all students and staff, and every school will participate in weekly random testing for 20 percent of their in-person population. Parents can complete the consent form online using a New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) at mystudent.nyc.gov or print and sign the [form](#) and bring it to school on their first day back to buildings.
 - More information on testing, consent forms, and exemptions, is available from the NYC Department of Education [here](#).
- NYC school buildings will be closed starting **November 19th**, until further

notice. Remote-learning will continue for all students. This is a **temporary closure** because the coronavirus threshold for school closing, which is an infection rate of 3%, has been reached in the City of New York.

- The mayor announced that schools will remain closed at least through Thanksgiving. School buildings will reopen once it is safe and additional testing has been implemented.
- Students who need **learning devices** for remote learning should call (718)-935-5100 and press 5 for assistance.
- Free **grab-and-go meal** services will continue between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and noon on weekdays. No identification or registration is necessary. Halal and kosher meals are available at some sites, view sites [here](#).
- **Learning Bridges**, the City's free childcare program for children in 3-K through 8th grade, will continue to serve families enrolled in blended learning. To learn more or apply, visit [here](#).
- **3-K and Pre-K** classrooms in district schools and DOE **Pre-K Centers** will be closed.
- If your child attends a program in a community-based center that is not located in a public school, or attends a family childcare program that is part of a DOE network, it will remain open. Please contact the program directly for further information.
- To view **DOE Chancellor Richard Carranza's message** to families regarding the school closure, click [here](#). See DOE COVID page: [School Safety](#)
- Charter schools and private schools are not covered under this announcement but must adhere to state health rules.

RECENT STATEWIDE UPDATES:

- The State on September 23, 2021 launched two new webpages to provide expanded COVID-19 data. [The first](#) focuses on COVID-19 variants, providing public information on how the State tracks variants, why we track variants and updated data. [The second webpage](#) includes the COVID-19 Breakthrough Data Report, which

displays COVID-19 breakthrough cases, hospitalizations and in-depth data over time.

- On September 15, 2021, the governor announced a series of **universal mask requirements** face coverings will be required at state-regulated **child care facilities for children two and up, for staff and visitors**. New masking requirements will also apply to congregate programs and facilities licensed, registered, operated, certified or approved by the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Addiction Services and Supports, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, Office of Children and Family Services and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. This includes but is not limited to certified residential and day programs, inpatient and outpatient mental health facilities, substance abuse programs, juvenile detention programs, juvenile residential facilities, congregate foster care programs, runaway and homeless youth, domestic violence and other shelter programs. Masks are required regardless of vaccination status. Read more [here](#).
- On August 24, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul directed the New York State Department of Health to institute a universal mask requirement in all schools, public and private, as determined necessary by the Commissioner. The Department of Health will issue the requirement through regulatory action established by the Public Health and Health Planning Council. The Governor is using \$335 million in federal funds to launch a new COVID-19 Testing in Schools Program in partnership with local health departments and BOCES in New York State outside of New York City. New York City has received \$225 million directly to initiate a COVID-19 Testing in Schools Program, for a total of \$585 million in federal funding. Governor Hochul also launched an additional back-to-school COVID-19 testing program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Rite Aid and BioReference to make testing more widely available for New York State public school students before the start of the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Students are required to [pre-register online](#) and schedule a time slot for testing. Students aged 17 and under must have parental or legal guardian consent and be accompanied by a guardian at time of testing in the drive-through. Digital results will be delivered to parents for students to bring to school. COVID-19 testing is

voluntary and will be provided at no cost to the student's family nor to the school district. See: [Press Release](#):

- On August 12, 2021, the New York State Education Department issued guidance for all k-12 schools reopening for the 2021-22 academic year during another critical phase of the pandemic. The department recommends universal indoor masking for all adults and children regardless of vaccination status, and at least three feet of social distancing between people in classrooms, with other public health strategies such as the use of cohorts or pods. Students should remain six feet apart from teachers and staff, and unvaccinated teachers and staff should maintain the same distance, the guidance states. Vaccinated individuals exposed to a student with Covid-19 need not quarantine if they are not exhibiting symptoms. See: [The release of the 21-page document](#)
- On Tuesday, June 15, the governor announced that all state mandates across social and commercial settings — including cleaning and disinfection protocols, health screenings, tracing and capacity restrictions among others — would be lifted for most settings. He retained the state of emergency declaration to continue to manage COVID-19. Local governments and businesses have the option to maintain restrictions but they are not mandated. Businesses are also authorized to require masks and six feet of social distancing for employees and patrons within their establishments, regardless of vaccination status. However, it does not end federal Covid-related restrictions in effect for schools, health facilities and public transportation facilities and infrastructure. See: [Press Release](#)
- On May 17, 2021, the governor announced that beginning **May 19, 2021**, New York State will adopt the CDC's "[Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)" for those who are fully vaccinated. See [Press Release](#) However, individual businesses in New York can still mandate mask-wearing in their establishments, even for fully vaccinated people. The state Department of Health still “strongly recommends” the use of masks indoors when the vaccination status of all the people present is unknown. Further, pre-K to 12 schools, public transit, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and healthcare settings are

exempt and must continue to follow the State's existing COVID-19 health guidelines until more New Yorkers are fully vaccinated.

See implementation guidance:

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS_CDCGuidance_Summary.pdf

- The governor announced on May 10, 2021, that Nassau Coliseum will have a fully vaccinated fan section for the New York Islanders playoff games which are anticipated to start on May 19. To end the Islanders' last season at the Coliseum, 50 percent of the Coliseum will be used as a fully vaccinated fan section with attendees spaced approximately 3 feet apart—an unoccupied seat between each party—in assigned, seated sections that are designated solely for fully vaccinated individuals. See: [Press Release](#)
- On May 3, Governor Cuomo announced significant [easing](#) of COVID restrictions on businesses, venues, and gatherings given progress in vaccinations and sustained reduction in COVID cases and hospitalizations.
 - Most capacity limits will be lifted on May 19, including retail, food services, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barbershops and other personal care services. Capacity limits for houses of worship will also lift.
 - Businesses will only be limited by the space available for patrons or parties of patrons to maintain the required social distance of 6 feet. This new distance-based maximum capacity will apply across commercial settings, including retail, food services, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barber shops and other personal care services, among other settings. It will also apply in houses of worship.
 - Congregate commercial and social events in New York—such as those at venues that host sports competitions, performing arts and live entertainment, and catered receptions—can exceed the social gathering limits of 500 people outdoors or 250 people indoors if all attendees over the age of four present

either proof of full vaccination status or recent negative COVID-19 test result and the required social distancing of 6ft. can be accommodated.

- Large-scale, commercial or social indoor event venues will operate at 30 percent capacity. Large-scale outdoor event venues will operate at 33 percent. Social distancing, masks, and other applicable health protocols will still apply, including the requirement that attendees have proof of full vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test result.
- Outdoor residential gathering limits of 25 people will be removed on May 19, and the indoor residential gathering limit will increase from 10 to 50 people.
- **Beginning May 17, 2021, the MTA will resume full 24-hour subway service.** The MTA will continue its disinfection and cleaning effort. The resumption of 24-hour service will coincide with the lifting of the 12am food and beverage service curfew for outdoor dining areas.
- On May 15, offices, gyms, and casinos and gaming facilities will expand capacity. Gyms and fitness centers outside of New York City will increase from 33 percent to 50 percent capacity. Casinos and gaming facilities will increase from 25 percent to 50 percent. Offices will increase from 50 percent to 75 percent capacity. See: [Press Release](#)
- On April 30, Governor Cuomo announced that [New York City indoor dining](#) will expand to 75 percent capacity beginning May 7, bringing New York City in line with the rest of New York. The Governor also announced that hair salons, barber shops and other personal care services will expand to 75 percent capacity beginning May 7. New York City gyms and fitness centers will expand to 50 percent capacity beginning May 15.
- On April 28, Governor Cuomo announced that the [food and beverage service, and catered event, curfews](#) would end this month.

- On April 19, 2021, the governor announced that movie theater capacity will increase to 33 percent and low-risk indoor and outdoor arts and entertainment—including museums, aquariums, zoos and botanical gardens—will increase to 50 percent capacity, beginning April 26, 2021. And, beginning on May 20, 2021, spectator capacity will increase to 25 percent at large-scale arenas and event venues, including professional and collegiate sports, and major performances. Social distancing, masks, health screenings and all other health and safety protocols remain in effect. See: [Press Release](#)
- On April 16, 2021, the governor announced the launch of the [Empire Pandemic Response Reimbursement Fund](#) program to assist first responders and essential workers with financial reimbursement (up to \$1,000 per household) for qualifying expenses. [Applications](#) are now being accepted by the Office of Children and Family Services for the \$26.6 million fund. Funding was made available through private donations. Awards will be made to eligible Applicants for eligible expenditures are on a first come, first served basis until funding is exhausted. See: [Press Release](#)
- Governor Cuomo announced that the state will extend the 11 p.m. curfew for food and drinks until midnight. The new guidelines go into effect on April 19. For catered events, the curfew goes from midnight to 1 a.m.
- The Governor announced on April 9, 2021, [outdoor amusement parks](#) can reopen at 33% capacity. See: [announcement](#).
- Starting April 5 ,2021 the 11 p.m. curfew in place for casinos, movie theaters, bowling alleys, billiards halls, gyms and fitness centers will be lifted. **The 11 p.m. curfew for food and beverage establishments and the 12 a.m. curfew for catered events will remain in effect.** See: [announcement](#)
- Per the governor, on April 2, 2021, [event, arts and entertainment venues](#) can reopen at 33 percent capacity, up to 100 people indoors and up to 200 people outdoors. Additional guidance can be found at the [NY Forward website](#).
- On April 1, 2021, according to the Governor, [large performing arts and sports venues can reopen](#). Outdoor venues with 2,500+ capacity are capped at 20%; indoor venues with 1,500+ capacity are capped at 10%. Proof of a negative Covid-19 test or immunization is required for all attendees. See: [announcement](#)

- Per the Governor, on March 26, 2021, [indoor family and entertainment centers and places of amusement](#) can reopen at 25% capacity. See: [announcement](#).
- On **March 22, 2021**: [indoor fitness classes and dance studios](#) can begin reopening statewide at 33% capacity. See [Governor's announcement](#).
- According to the Governor, on **March 15, 2021**: [non-residential events](#) (i.e., gatherings held outside of a household) involving attendees (e.g., receptions, celebrations, and similar private venue events, such as meetings and conferences) may exceed the state's social gathering limit **subject to extra precautions**. Occupancy of in-person and catered events is limited to the lesser of 50% for a particular area as set by the certificate of occupancy, or 150 people, exclusive of employees and event staff.
- The Governor relaxed indoor dining restrictions starting March 19: [indoor dining expanded to 50% capacity](#), subject to strict state guidance, [which can be found here](#).
- On March 22, 2021, the [social gathering limits](#) change as follows:, per the Governor's announcement:
 - o Public spaces:
 - Indoors: 100 people
 - Outdoors: 200 people
 - Private Residences:
 - Indoors: 10 people (no change)
 - Outdoors: 25 people
- The Governor announced on March 7th that restaurants outside New York City can increase indoor capacity to 75 percent starting March 19 and New York City restaurants can serve at 35 percent capacity. See: [announcement](#)
- Governor Cuomo signed an executive order on February 14, 2021 to extend the closing times for restaurants, bars, gyms and fitness centers, casinos, billiards halls, as well as other State Liquor Authority-licensed establishments, from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. Read more [here](#).

- **To protect hospital capacity, New York state will implement new metrics to determine micro-cluster zones.** Under these updated [metrics](#), announced on Dec. 11, Red, Orange and Yellow Zones will now be determined as follows:
 - A Red Zone will be implemented when a region reaches a critical hospital capacity—when 90 percent of beds are full (after measures to increase capacity have been taken).
 - An Orange Zone will be implemented if an area has a 4 percent positivity rate over the past 10 days (on a 7-day average) and is located in a region that has reached 85 percent hospital capacity.
 - A Yellow Zone will be implemented if an area has a 3 percent positivity rate over the past 10 days (on a 7-day average) and is in the top 10 percent in the state for hospital admissions per capita over the past week and is experiencing week-over-week growth in daily admissions. The basic idea behind these metrics is to ensure that hospital systems are not overloaded.

New COVID-19 Restrictions to Address the Increasing Positivity Rates in New York City and Other Parts of the State

- On Wednesday, November 11th, the Governor announced the following restrictions that will take effect on Friday, November 13th at 10:00 p.m.:
 - State Liquor Authority-licensed bars and restaurants must close from 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m.
 - Restaurants may provide curbside food-only pick-up or food delivery after 10:00 p.m., but are not permitted to serve alcohol to go.
 - Gyms and fitness centers must close from 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m.
 - No more than 10 people may attend indoor or outdoor gatherings at private residences. See: [Press Release](#)

IMPORTANT UPDATE—CLUSTER ZONES:

- The Governor announced that the remaining yellow cluster zones are to be lifted on March 22, 2021: [Press Release](#)
- All the maps of the current micro-cluster focus zones are available [here](#). Check out your address.

- On January 27, 2021, the Governor announced modifications to our micro-clusters. All Orange Zone restrictions, and some Yellow Zone restrictions, have been [lifted](#) statewide—including all cluster zones in Western New York.
 - **The Yellow Zones that remain are in Newburgh and in New York City** (two in the Bronx, one in Queens, and one in Washington Heights). Yellow Zone restrictions, which include mandatory weekly testing of a portion of students and faculty at schools, [remain](#) in place in those zones. Statewide limits remain the same—a 33 percent cap on gym occupancy, a limit on private gatherings of 10 people, a 50 percent cap of occupancy in retail establishments—and masks are still required in public when social distancing is impossible to maintain. See: [Press Release](#)
- **Gov. Cuomo announced that regions reaching "critical hospital capacity" will be designated as a Red Zone under New York's micro-cluster strategy.** Critical hospital capacity is defined as 90 percent of hospital capacity (90 percent full). Following the implementation of the State's "surge and flex" protocol, if a region's 7-day average hospitalization growth rate shows that the region will reach 90 percent hospital capacity within the next three weeks, the region will become a Red Zone. (Dec. 7) See: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/>
- Starting Monday, December 14th, gyms, fitness centers, salons and barber shops—which are currently closed in Orange Zones—will be allowed to operate at 25 percent capacity. Employees must be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis.
- On November 23, the Governor announced new and modified COVID-19 micro-cluster zones. Part of [Staten Island](#)'s Yellow Zone will become an Orange Zone. New Yellow Zones will be established in [Upper Manhattan](#) and [Nassau](#) and [Suffolk Counties](#). New Orange Zones will also be established in [Monroe County](#) (in and around Rochester) and [Onondaga County](#)(in and around Syracuse). These changes go into effect [this Wednesday, November 25](#), for businesses and [Thursday](#),

[November 26](#), for schools. All the maps of the current micro-cluster zones are available [here](#). See: [Press Release](#)

Modifications to Current Focus Zones

- **Staten Island - Parts of Staten Island Move to Orange Warning Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map:** Parts of Staten Island will transition to an orange warning zone based on increasing 7-day positivity rates, number of cases, and hospitalizations that meet the metrics for orange warning zone designation. The remainder of the borough will remain in a yellow precautionary zone.

New Focus Zones

- **Manhattan - New Yellow Precautionary Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map:** A new yellow zone will be established in the Washington Heights area, after meeting the metrics for yellow precautionary zone designation including on increasing 7-day positivity rates, number of cases, and hospitalizations.
- **Monroe County - Click [Here](#) for Map:** The City of Rochester and surrounding areas will transition to an orange zone after meeting the positivity, new cases, and hospitalizations metrics for orange zone designation. The rest of the existing yellow zone will remain a Precautionary yellow zone.
- **Nassau County - Links to Maps Below:** Yellow Precautionary zones will be established in and around [Great Neck](#) and [Massapequa Park](#), after both areas have seen sustained positivity, new case rates, and hospitalizations that meet the metrics for yellow precautionary zone designation.
- **Onondaga County - Click [Here](#) for Map:** The City of Syracuse and surrounding areas will transition to an orange precautionary zone after seeing

continued increases in positivity and number of cases, as well as hospitalizations. The existing yellow zone will remain a yellow precautionary zone, and parts of it will be expanded.

- **Suffolk County - Links to Maps Below:** Parts of Suffolk County including [Hampton Bays](#) and [Riverhead](#) will be designated as Precautionary Yellow Zones after meeting the positivity, new cases, and new hospitalization metrics for yellow zone designation.
- On November 18, the state issued an announcement that **[will modify micro-cluster focus zones in response to updated metrics.](#)**
 - There will be an expanded Yellow Zone in Queens.
 - Brooklyn cluster's Orange Zone will transition to a Yellow Zone. *These changes go into effect Friday, Nov. 20 for businesses and Monday, Nov. 23 for schools.*

New Focus Zones

- **Bronx** - New Yellow Precautionary Zone - Click [Here](#) and [Here](#) for Maps

Several communities in the Bronx have seen a rise in positive cases, and meet the metrics for a precautionary yellow zone.
- **Queens** - Expanded Yellow Precautionary Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map

The current Queens zone will be expanded to include additional communities which have seen an increase in both positivity and cases over the past ten days, and are currently over 2.5% positivity on the 7-day rolling average
- **Orange County - Links to Maps Below**

[Newburgh](#), [New Windsor](#), [Middletown](#), and [Highland Falls](#) have seen an increase in positivity rates and number of daily cases, meeting the metrics for yellow precautionary zones.

- **Westchester County - Links to Maps Below**

[New Rochelle](#), [Ossining](#), [Tarrytown](#), [Yonkers](#) and [Peekskill](#) have all seen an increase in positivity rates and number of daily cases, meeting the metrics for precautionary yellow zones in each area.

- On November 11, the state issued [Cluster Zone Updates](#)

Modifications to Current Focus Zones

- **Steuben County - Yellow Zone Removed:** Based on declining and low positivity rates, Steuben County is now eligible to have its yellow precautionary zone status removed.

- **Port Chester - Yellow Zone Changes to Orange Warning Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map:** The 7-day average positivity rate in Port Chester has been above 3 percent for 10 days, meeting the metrics for an orange warning zone declaration.

New Focus Zones

- **Staten Island - New Yellow Precautionary Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map:** Over the past ten days, parts of Staten Island have had 7-day average positivity rates above 2.5 percent, and cases per 100,000 and new daily hospital admissions have increased, meeting the metrics for a yellow zone designation.

- **Tioga County - New Yellow Precautionary Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map:** Over the past ten days, parts of Tioga County have had 7-day average positivity rates above 4 percent, and cases per 100,000 and new daily hospital admissions have increased, meeting the metrics for a yellow zone designation.

- **Governor Cuomo announced updated COVID-19 micro-cluster focus areas in New York State.** Brooklyn's Red Zone focus zone area has new boundaries to reflect a decreased positivity rate and new daily cases in certain

neighborhoods. Based on data metrics including testing results and hospitalization rates Queens - Far Rockaway's yellow zone restrictions have ended; Rockland County's red zone focus areas will change to an orange warning zone; and Orange County's orange zone will change to a yellow precautionary zone. Focus zones in Queens - Kew Gardens/Forest Hills and Broome, Steuben and Chemung counties will not change. The Governor also announced a new yellow precautionary zone focus area in Westchester County. (Nov. 9) [Press Release](#)

Modifications to Current Zones

- o **Brooklyn - Modified Red Zone and New Yellow Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map.** Since early October, Brooklyn's Red Zone has seen a positivity decline from 5.9% to 3.1% Based on case prevalence data and analysis of where positivity rates remain high and where they have declined, the Brooklyn's Red Zone was redrawn to include a smaller geographic area with a modified Yellow buffer zone area.
- o **Queens - Far Rockaway - Yellow Zone Removed.** The positivity in this zone has been consistently in 1%-2% range effectively over a ten-day period with low number of hospitalizations and new daily cases. This zone will be removed and cases continued to be monitored.
- o **Rockland County - Red Zone Changes to Orange Precautionary Zone, Yellow Buffer Zone Remains - Click [Here](#) for Map.** Since early October, Rockland's Red Zone has seen a positivity decline from 9.8% to 3.6%, meeting the metrics for transitioning from a Red Zone to an Orange Warning Zone. The Yellow buffer zone will remain.
- o **Orange County - Red Zone Changes to Yellow Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map.** Orange County's Warning focus zone has been under 3% positivity, and hospital admission rates have declined, meeting the metrics for transitioning to a Yellow Precautionary Zone. The buffer zone will be removed.

Zones Without Modifications

- o **Queens - Kew Gardens/Forest Hills - Click [Here](#) for Map:** The positivity in this zone is currently 2.69% (7-day rolling average), effectively flat over a ten-day period. No changes to zone.

o **Broome County - Click [Here](#) for Map:** Yellow Precautionary Zone is unchanged (4.05% current 7-day positivity, down from 7.44% ten days ago)

o **Steuben County - Click [Here](#) for Map:** Yellow Precautionary Zone is unchanged (4.15 current 7-day positivity, down from 6.22% ten days ago)

o **Chemung County - Click [Here](#) for Map:** Orange Warning zone is unchanged (6.84% current 7-day positivity, down from 8.02% ten days ago)

New Focus Zones

o **Westchester County - New Yellow Zone - Click [Here](#) for Map.** The Port Chester area along the Connecticut border has had a sustained average positivity rate above 2.5%, with upticks in new positive cases and hospital admissions, meeting metrics for a yellow zone designation.

- Gov. Cuomo on Friday, October 30 authorized schools to reopen in coronavirus red and orange zone hotspots with strict testing protocols. Schools will have to test all students and staff before they're permitted back into the classroom— with only those who test negative to enter the building— and then randomly test 25 percent of the school population each week. See: [Press Release](#)
 - o Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Monday, Nov. 2 that the city does not plan to immediately reopen the 45 public school sites that remain closed in hotspots, but will take a few days to evaluate the situation. See: [Media Transcript](#)
- Mass gatherings and outdoor dining **will resume** in red areas of Orange County as COVID-19 cases slow in ongoing clusters, but Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that other recently imposed restrictions will remain in place in Brooklyn, Rockland County and Broome County.(Oct. 28, 2020)
- On October 21, after 14 days of data monitoring, Gov. Cuomo announced that the state was modifying some existing cluster zones and adding new ones in Steuben and Chemung Counties and in Queens — areas that have seen recent upticks in positive cases. Another neighborhood, Ozone Park in Queens, was added to the list requiring limitations on activity. Targeted restrictions — which include attendance limitations at mass gatherings and houses of worship — remained necessary to keep isolated outbreaks from spreading in New York City and elsewhere.

- "Cluster zones" can be either Red, Orange or Yellow and each carries different [restrictions](#). The boundaries are set based on actual COVID cases using mapping software. Defined criteria [determine](#) when an area will enter or exit a zone. These changes, and the new cluster zones, take effect Thursday, October 22 for impacted businesses and houses of worship. The changes take effect on Monday, October 25 for impacted schools. See all of the cluster zone maps [here](#).
- After assessment of the infection rates, Gov. Cuomo issued a new set of standards on the state's attempts to control the spread of the coronavirus in so-called "hotspot zones. Going forward, the cluster zone maps will be reassessed over a moving 10-day period.
 - An area can exit a red zone is under 3% for 10 days
 - It can exit an orange zone if the rate is under 2% for 10 days
 - It can exit yellow if the rate is under 1.5% for 10 days

See: [Press Release](#)

- On Tuesday, October 6, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced new restrictions and guidelines aimed at curbing a surge of coronavirus clusters in parts of New York City—Brooklyn and Queens-- and in Broome, Rockland and Orange Counties, halting in-person instruction in public and private schools and nonessential businesses in certain areas where the rate of cases has remained high. See: [Press Release](#)
 - The state is establishing multi-ring zones around clusters where COVID-19 is seeing significant increases in parts of Brooklyn and in sections of Queens.
 - The governor [released precise maps](#) of the clusters that will see the new mandatory restrictions.
 - In Red zones (Cluster): houses of worship restricted to 25 percent capacity with a 10-person maximum. There will be no gatherings in or out of doors, all non-essential businesses will be closed and restaurants will be limited to take out.
 - In Orange zones (Warning): houses of worship will be allowed at 33 percent capacity with a 25-person maximum. People will be allowed to gather in groups of no more than 10 people — both inside and out — and high-risk non-

essential businesses like gyms and personal care places will be closed.

Outdoor dining will be allowed in small groups (4 people max. per table).

- In Yellow zones (Precautionary): Houses of worship will be allowed at 50 percent capacity. In and outdoor gatherings will be limited to 25 people, all businesses can open and indoor dining will be permitted but in groups no larger than four.
- Schools will be in remote learning modality only in both red and orange zones. In-person learning will be permitted in yellow zones, but there will be mandatory weekly testing for all students and staff.
- Rules will take effect in NYC on Thursday and will remain in effect for at least 14 day as officials review the new data.
- For NYC Parks, the restrictions impact public mass gatherings as follows:
 - Red Zone - No gatherings (indoor & outdoor)
 - Orange Zone - No gatherings more than 10 (indoor & outdoor)
 - Yellow Zone - No gatherings more than 25 (indoor & outdoor)
- *For information on the Zone boundaries in Brooklyn and Queens, visit: www.nyc.gov/covidzone. For more information about the Governor's Cluster Action Initiative, visit: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-cluster-action-initiative>.*
- Information from the NYS Department of Health regarding visitation to congregate care facilities in the State's red and orange zones. https://forward.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/congregate_facility_visitation_in_zones_10_23_2020.pdf
- **In accordance with these restrictions, NYC Parks is instituting the following changes:**
 - Public programming offered by NYC Parks - Canceled in red zone areas; will adhere to limits on gatherings in orange zone & yellow zone
 - "It's My Park" events - Canceled in red and orange zone areas; will adhere to limits in yellow zones

- Special Event Permits - Canceled in red zones; must adhere to limits in orange & yellow zones
- Athletic Permits - Canceled in red and orange zone areas; must adhere to limits in yellow zones
- Daycare - Canceled in red zones & orange zones
- For all updates on park service changes and closures related to COVID-19, please refer to the NYC Parks website:
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/health-and-safety-guide/coronavirus>.

Vaccine News (See additional information in separate guidance)

- **CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Information:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- **New York City DOHMH** has created a Vaccine web page to keep New Yorkers up to date. You can access it here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>
 - **Mayor de Blasio and the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity outlined the City’s Vaccine Equity Plan and launched the vaccine command center on Friday, Dec. 11.** Through targeted outreach and a network of trusted community messengers, the City will ensure equitable vaccine distribution to the 27 hardest-hit neighborhoods identified by the Task Force. The City will also open a dedicated Vaccine Command Center, led by Deputy Mayor Hartzog and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Commissioner Dave Chokshi, to coordinate vaccine distribution across the City. The center will track critical metrics on vaccine coverage, with a priority focus on the 27 neighborhoods.
 - **The City will use NYCHA space—including NYC Health + Hospitals clinics—to vaccinate priority populations,** following the successful partnership model the City established with NYCHA for COVID-19 testing. Through a broader outreach effort, the City will work with NYCHA residents,

community partners, and faith leaders to distribute accurate and trustworthy information about the vaccine and improve the distribution process.

- **Mayor de Blasio announced on December 31, 2020, an ambitious goal** for the city to administer **1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses** by the end of January 2021.
- Using the **Vaccine Command Center** in coordination with health and administering facilities, the mayor plans to double New York City's weekly vaccination, with a goal of **400,000** doses per week by the end of the month.
 - The mayor also hopes to begin vaccinating educators, schools staff, first responders (cops, firefighters, etc.,) soon. Read more [here](#).
 - To increased vaccine capacity, pop-up sites and vaccine hubs will be assembled with partnering organizations.
 - There will be two new **vaccine pop-up clinics**, five new **NYC Health + Hospitals vaccination sites** and three new **NYC Vaccine Hubs**.
 - The first three openings for Sunday, January 10, 2021) are:
 - Brooklyn - **Bushwick Educational Campus** at 400 Irving Avenue
 - Queens - **Hillcrest High School** at 160-05 Highland Avenue
 - Bronx - **South Bronx Educational Campus** at 701 St. Ann's Avenue
 - The goal is to have:
 - **250 sites** by the end of January,
 - people working **7-days** a week,
 - and having vaccination of those who are **75-year** old and above is a must;
 - If you have a question or need information click [here](#).
- **New York State Department of Health Vaccine Hub and Facts page**
<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

- **The New York State Department of Financial Services issued a [directive](#) on December 16, 2020 requiring all insurers to cover the administration of the COVID-19 vaccines at no cost-sharing by the patient. The Governor directed the Department of Financial Services to extend the [emergency regulation](#) requiring all health insurers to waive co-pays for the COVID-19 vaccine until April 30. The extension of this regulation and guidance will help to ensure there are no barriers to New Yorkers accessing the vaccine.**
- **New York State's COVID-19 Vaccination Program:**
https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_COVID_Vaccination_Program_Book_10.16.20_FINAL.pdf
 - **New York State regional vaccination hubs led by local hospital systems to coordinate administration of vaccine with State and local community networks: [Details Here](#)**
 - **The Governor announced the launch of New York's Vaccine Equity Task Force** chaired by Secretary of State Rossana Rosado, Attorney General Letitia James, National Urban League President & CEO Marc Morial, and Healthfirst President & CEO Pat Wang. The Task Force will work to ensure vulnerable and underserved communities are not left behind by breaking down the barriers to vaccination and ensuring there is equitable distribution of the vaccine across the state. The State will also develop community vaccination kits to set up sites to administer the vaccine. See: [Press Release](#)
 - **More than 2 million individuals are now eligible to be vaccinated as part of Phase 1A. On January 4, 2021**, the list of eligible New Yorkers was expanded again to include all doctors, nurses and health care staff who come in contact with the public; ambulatory centers staff; and all public health care workers who provide direct in-person care, including those who conduct COVID-19 tests and handle lab specimens. Beginning this week, eligibility will also be expanded to include home care workers, hospice workers, and nursing home and other congregate setting workers who have yet to receive a vaccine through the federal nursing home vaccination

- program. See the full list, including previously announced priority groups, [here](#).
- **A new state web application launched on January 4, 2021, will help New Yorkers determine if they are eligible to get the vaccine.** By answering a series of simple questions, New Yorkers can find out if they are eligible for the vaccine and, if so, where to make an appointment. See if you're eligible [here](#).
 - **New York State has opted into the federal government's nursing home vaccination program.** Under the federal program, employees of CVS and Walgreens will vaccinate residents and staff at these facilities, much like they do for the flu vaccine. We expect deliveries for this program to begin arriving next week and the federal administration program to begin by December 21st. New York is dedicating a portion of our initial 170,000 doses to this program. Portions of future state allocations will also be used to help complete the program and ensure all residents and staff are vaccinated.
 - **The CDC has agreed to remove requirements on vaccine reporting data that could have been used to identify immigration status.** This means that New York will not send any personally identifying information to the federal government in vaccine distribution—ensuring that no one feels dissuaded from getting vaccinated due to immigration status.

Holiday Celebrations

- **NYC DOHMH Guidance:** [Tips for a Safer Holiday Season](#) (PDF)
- **The State Department of Health released [guidance on shopping safely, this holiday season.](#)**
- The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is available for viewing in five-minute increments by timed admission at entrances at 49th and 50th Streets. at both 5th and 6th Aves. (The Rink at Rockefeller Center will be accessible on 49th St., between 5th and 6th Aves.). Virtual queuing will be activated to manage lines. Guests can

scan a QR code near Rockefeller Center to see wait time and receive a text to return to the line. The tree will be lit from 6 a.m. to midnight every day. Masks are mandated at all times, and six-foot social distancing will be enforced. Guests will be directed to delineated “pods,” spaced six feet apart, with no more than four people in one pod (groups of more than four people will be separated into multiple pods). The tree will also be available to view in its 50,000-multi-colored LED glory at [Rockefeller Center’s website](#).

New York City Region Status

- **New York City is now releasing coronavirus [positivity rates by ZIP code](#) (Nov. 9)**
- **New York City entered phase four of reopening on July 20**
 - Mayor de Blasio announced that in **phase 4** of the city's reopening, which began Monday, July 21, **zoos** and **botanical gardens** can reopen with outdoor activities at **33%** of their capacity.
 - Gov. Cuomo announced Friday, August 14 that low-risk indoor cultural activities – including museums and aquariums will reopen in New York City on Aug. 24. Admittance will be limited to 25% capacity and mask-wearing will be enforced. Food service will also be permitted with conditions.
 - Read more about New York City's cultural institution [reopening](#).
 - Museums will be required to only sell tickets with reserved, staggered entry times. The [New York Times reports](#) that the Museum of Modern Art plans to reopen on August 27, the Metropolitan Museum of Art on August 29, the Whitney on September 3, and the Museum of Natural History on September 9.
 - The 9/11 Memorial Museum is reopening exclusively for victims’ families on the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attack – and then to the general public a day later following a six-month closure amid the coronavirus pandemic, [the New York Post reports](#).
 - **The Brooklyn Museum and El Museo del Barrio** will [reopen](#) to the public on September 12th.
 - **New York Botanical Garden** has reopened with [the Garden](#) taking a phased approach to reopening and applying many safety precautions.

- **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** will open to the general public by [August 7th](#).
- **Professional sports** are back but will not include fans to lessen the spread of the virus.
- The production of **tv shows, movies, and music** will resume with safety precautions.
- Gyms and fitness centers will reopen starting August 24 with safety standards.
 - Local elected officials may choose to delay the reopening of gyms and fitness centers until September 2 to, in part, provide time for required local health department inspections, and may also choose to delay the reopening of indoor fitness classes until a date beyond September 2.
- **Mayor de Blasio stated on August 19 that the earliest that New York City gyms will reopen is September 2nd.** When gyms are able to reopen, conditions will include:
 - Gyms must be inspected by local authorities within two weeks of opening
 - Employees and patrons may only enter the facility if they wear an acceptable face covering, provided they are over the age of two and able to medically tolerate one
 - Capacity must be limited to 33% of the maximum occupancy for a particular area, inclusive of employees and patrons
- Activities that currently remain closed/**excluded** from this final phase of reopening include:
 - indoor dining (in NYC)
 - indoor bars;
 - serving alcohol without purchase of food;
 - movie theaters /concert halls
- Additional information can be found [here](#).
 - Mayor de Blasio announced on September 8 that the city sheriff will be enforcing the state's travel advisory at the Port Authority bus terminal.

The sheriff's office will pull over buses before they arrive from states with high infection rates and hand out health forms that travelers will be required to fill out. [Press Release](#)

- **Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on Wednesday, August 5 that the City will establish COVID-19 traveler registration checkpoints at key entry points into New York City to ensure compliance with New York State quarantine requirements and further the containment of COVID-19.** The new checkpoints at bridges and tunnels will stop cars and seek to enforce quarantine orders imposed by New York State, which require people coming from 34 states and Puerto Rico to self-isolate for up to 14 days to avoid spreading Covid-19. The city Sheriff's Office, in association with other law enforcement agencies, will oversee the checkpoints and stop a random sampling of cars entering the city, reminding drivers of the quarantine order and requiring them to complete a registration form if they're coming from a high-risk state. People violating the quarantine — which applies to both residents of the high-risk states and New Yorkers returning from visits — can be subject to fines up to \$10,000. Individuals who refuse to fill out the New York State Department of Health [travel form](#) are subject to a \$2,000 fine. See: [Press Release](#)

- **New York City Phase 3**

- New York City: [New York City Reopening Guide](#)
 - Phase 3 allows the reopening of nail salons, tattoo parlors, massage parlors, and spas, restricted to 50% capacity and with masks and social distancing requirements.
 - New Yorkers are also permitted to use outdoor recreational and sports facilities, including basketball courts and soccer fields, and dog parks.
 - In-door dining in restaurants is not permitted at this time.
- Phase 3 Guidance: [Here](#) and [NYC Department of Health Guidance](#)

- Progressing through the reopening phases allows for more shopping opportunities. NYC DOHMH has developed guidelines for [How to Shop Safely](#)
- With cases rising among New Yorker City residents, under the age of 40—especially for the 20-29 age demographic—the City will launch a comprehensive public outreach campaign targeting younger New Yorkers, educating about social distancing and face coverings, among other topics.
- **Face Coverings:** As the city continues to reopen and more people return to work outside the home, New Yorkers should wear a face covering as much as possible when around other people in an indoor setting that is not their home.
- Guidance for Phase 2 of Business Reopening: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-businesses-and-facilities.page>
- Guidance for Restaurant Reopening <https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-restaurant-reopening-guide>
- Regional Dashboard and metrics monitoring <https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>
- Human Services Council: [COVID-19 Resources for Human Services Providers](#)
- New York City: [Confidential 24/7 Hotline NYCWell](#)
- New York City has called off plans to allow indoor dining at restaurants in phase three in early July amid a spike in coronavirus cases in other parts of the country that is heightening fears of a resurgence in New York. (July 1)
- Reopening NYC: What Workers Need to Know [NYC Consumer Affairs](#) has created a [Business Reopening Guide](#) with information for workers. This guide contains information regarding what safety protocols your employer must follow, workplace laws, and other city resources. Additionally, the agency published a [Worker Rights Page](#). This page contains many important updates for employees in multiple languages.
- **The Office of Nightlife has launched the “It’s Up to You, New York” public awareness campaign** to encourage restaurants and bars, patrons and residents to work together to ensure that the rollout of New York City’s Open Restaurants allows people to socialize responsibly.

- **New York City Phase 2**

- Mayor de Blasio signed an executive order on Thursday, June 18 allowing expanded al fresco dining during Phase 2. Restaurants will be allowed to convert the parking spots in front of their stores into dining space. They can also set up tables on the sidewalk, even if they weren't previously authorized to have a sidewalk cafe. Restaurants will also have the option to open their own backyards and patios. However, social distancing is required, with at least 6 feet between tables, and allow enough space on the sidewalk for pedestrians to pass. Only establishments that serve food are eligible. Curbside seating is not permitted in bus stops, fire hydrants and no standing zones. Customers cannot congregate if they aren't seated at tables.
- The City has established an expedited approval processes by allowing restaurants and bars to self-certify their eligibility for curb lane and sidewalk seating using a new, streamlined application process at [NYC.Gov](https://www.nyc.gov), which will be available starting Friday, June 19th. The mayor codified the guidance by signing Executive Order 126. See: [Executive Order](#)
 - in-store shopping,
 - office jobs;
 - hair salons and barbershops;
 - the real estate industry;
 - car dealerships;
 - City playgrounds—however, team sports, including basketball, football, softball and soccer, will remain prohibited.
- As part of the City's entry into Phase 2 of the State's "NY Forward" rubric, NYC Parks began re-opening playgrounds for the public effective today, Monday, June 22.
 - Comfort stations located within these previously closed areas are being reopened for the public. NYC Parks also began reactivating drinking water fountains within these areas.

- NYC Parks staff is performing all necessary duties, including the removal of temporary fencing & barricades, to prepare the sites for safe public use and have these properties and features accessible as soon as possible.
 - The citywide enforcement effort to encourage social distancing among parkgoers remains in place, involving multiple City agencies, including NYPD, OSE, the Sheriff's Office, DEP, DSNY, DOB, and FDNY. The City will continue to monitor conditions and determine if more severe restrictions are necessary.
 - To make it easier for New Yorkers to enjoy their parks and benefit from recreational opportunities, even if they're staying indoors, NYC Parks has launched **Parks@Home**: a wide variety of online park tours, fitness classes and other fun activities. Get more information here: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/highlights/parks-at-home>
 - For all updates on park service changes and closures, please refer to the NYC Parks website: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/health-and-safety-guide/coronavirus>.
- **New York City Phase 1**
 - construction for non-essential businesses;
 - retail - curbside pickup and in-store pick up where curbside not available;
 - agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; and
 - retail trade, and wholesale trade.
 - Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that [day camps that depend on city parks will be allowed to operate](#) this summer.
 - NYC public beaches for swimming opened July 1. Lifeguards will be on duty daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Swimming is unsafe and strictly prohibited at all other times. See: [Press Release](#)
 - In addition, the city will expand the it cooling program installing air conditioners for low-income seniors, the number of outdoor cooling elements available for New Yorkers to enjoy during extreme heat. NYC Parks is adding brand new cooling elements within HVI 5/4 zones, and highlighting the existing 950 cooling elements citywide with a new [Cool It! NYC map](#). See more [Here](#)

- For [indoor religious and funeral services](#), during Phase One reopening, congregant/attendee capacity was limited to 10 people. During Phases Two (starting Monday, June 22) and Three, occupancy is up but cannot exceed 25% of the maximum occupancy as set by certificates of occupancy and fire safety regulations.
- During Phase Two, independent retail stores will once again be open to the public for browsing [while adhering to State guidelines](#). Additionally, malls must remain closed to the public, but stores based in malls with their own street entrances can reopen; those without their own external entrances may conduct curbside delivery.
- The city is launching a marketplace for reopening businesses where they can buy masks, face shields, gloves, cleaning and disinfecting products, physical barriers and portable furniture.

- **Basic rules for all sectors**
 - **Social Distancing**
 - Require 6 feet of distance unless safety or core function of the work activity requires less
 - Reduce occupancy to under 50%, limit confined spaces to 1 person (elevators, behind cash registers)
 - Limit all in-person gatherings and meetings, and only hold them in large, well-ventilated areas with social distancing

 - **PPE**
 - Provide employees with free face coverings or, if warranted, face shields or other proper protective equipment. Require face coverings if employees cannot keep 6 feet of distance due to safety or core work function
 - Hygiene
 - Ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of any shared surfaces

 - **Health Screenings**

- Implement mandatory health screenings for employees, including questionnaires, temperature checks
- **Communication**
 - Create and place distance markers, post signage throughout the workplace reminding personnel to adhere to phase 1 guidance and rules
 - The Governor signed legislation authorizing Attorney General Tish James to enforce the price gouging statute to cover PPE. Read more [here](#).
- **Training and Implementation**
 - To help enforce the guidelines, DCWP, FDNY and DSNY will conduct random visits to reopening sites to ensure compliance. Summonses will be issued only in egregious circumstances or repeat violations. Response to complaints will be coordinated by the Office of Special Enforcement with NYPD, Sheriff and other relevant agencies. People can call 311 to report a business that is violating guidelines.
- **Business Roll Out**
 - The City will require Phase 1 businesses to post reopening safety plans in the workplace. The Department of Buildings, Department of Consumer and Worker Protection and Small Business Services will educate, conduct outreach and provide support to businesses.
 - The City is training small business advocates and compliance advisors. The City will publish plain language industry guides and launch a dedicated Business Restart Hotline. In addition, Sector Advisory Councils will be available to troubleshoot additional necessary guidance or rule changes to help businesses succeed.
 - The City announced the **Restaurant Revitalization Program**, a \$3 million project to assist restaurants with “wage replacement” to retain current employees (or rehire those laid off) due to COVID-19. The program will prioritize neighborhoods hit hardest, including Washington Heights, Inwood, Hamilton Heights, Central Harlem, Morningside Heights, East Harlem, the Lower East

Side, and Chinatown. The first round of applications are due June 19. [Learn more \(PDF\)](#).

- **Six major retailers are requiring customers to wear face coverings while shopping at their stores nationwide**, including: Costco, C-Town, Gristedes and D'Agostino, Stop & Shop, Tops and Whole Foods. (July 1, 2020)
- **NYC Small Business Services** is launching three new SBS mentorship programs that will help **1,300** small business owners in the first year. (January 7, 2021)
 - **Small business mentors NYC:** a program for existing storefront business owners in underrepresented communities seeking to grow their business.
 - **BE NYC Mentors:** for black entrepreneurs with pre-startup and newly formed business.
 - **M/WBE Mentors Program:** for NYC's certified M/WBEs to expand their access to mentors, networking opportunities and contracting opportunities.
 - For more information visit [here](#).
- **NYC Resources for start-up**
 - Mayor de Blasio announced on Friday that outdoor dining program will be extended year-round and made permanent. Outdoor dining, which started in response to the coronavirus pandemic, was set to end on Oct. 31.
 - The City will allow restaurants to expand seating to the frontage of adjacent properties, as long as the adjacent property owners formally agree to the use of the space for a specified period of time and commit not to charge a fee for its use. The City will work with the State Liquor Authority on any requirements associated with extending alcohol service to the expanded seating in front of adjacent properties. In early October, the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) will issue a template agreement and provide instructions on how to file the agreements. Adjacent properties may not be used prior to the release of official instructions and formal agreements.

- Subject to restrictions, restaurants are allowed to incorporate heating elements into their outdoor dining setups. Electrical heaters will be allowed on both sidewalk and roadway. Propane and natural gas heaters will be allowed on sidewalks only; they will remain prohibited in roadway seating. Propane will require a permit from FDNY and compliance with FDNY regulations for outdoor use, handling and secure outdoor tank storage overnight. Official guidance on what will be considered approved installation and use of heating elements will be released before the end of September, and restaurants are prohibited from installing heating elements until guidelines are released and followed.
- Restaurants will also be permitted to use tent enclosures to keep diners warm. In partial tent enclosures, at least 50% of the tent's side wall surface area must remain open and electrical heaters are permitted. In full tent enclosures, the tent's side walls may be closed but occupancy limitations will be capped at 25% of capacity, and indoor dining guidelines must be followed; electrical heaters will also be allowed. Enclosed structures, such as plastic domes, will be allowed for individual parties and must have adequate ventilation to allow for air circulation.
 - Open Restaurants that use outdoor heating must follow newly released guidance from the Dept. of Buildings and the FDNY for electric, natural gas and propane heaters. (October 2020)
- As the program's duration will now continue through the winter months, and winter weather creates potential for inclement weather to impact road conditions, the City will engage the restaurant industry and other stakeholders to develop additional safety features to further strengthen roadway barriers. To ensure timely implementation, the City will require restaurant owners to comply with new safety features by November 15, 2020.

In addition, significant snow events may necessitate the temporary removal of some barriers from the roadway.

- The City will work with the City Council to make the regulatory changes necessary to make the program permanent. See: [Press Release](#)
- **Dedicated Business Restart** [888-SBS-4NYC \(888-727-4692\)](#).
- Guides for industry employers are provided [here](#).
- The **Department of Citywide Administrative Services** (DCAS) will provide 2 million free face coverings to 40 local chamber and business groups [through June 8](#).
- **Business Reopening Information and Resources:** [nyc.gov/business](#)
- **Digital Resource Fairs** -Please visit <http://nycsmallbizcourses.eventbrite.com> to sign up for this resource fair and to find all of our digital webinar offerings.
- **Face Covering Distribution:** For a list of distribution sites available, visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/free-face-coverings>
- **Financial Counseling for Businesses:** [NYC.gov/talkmoney](#)
- **311 Worker Protection Hotline** will launch on Monday, June 8, 2022. Worker rights and guidance can be found [here](#)
- **DOHMH COVID-19 Info:** [Business & Facility Guidance](#)
- **General Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-Health Care Settings:** <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/disinfection-guidance-for-businesses-covid19.pdf>
- To help restaurants rebound, the NYC Department of Transportation and Department of Consumer and Worker Protection will streamline the permitting process for outdoor sidewalk seating. Restaurants will be able to convert adjacent parking spots into more seating with self-certification -- no permit will be needed. The City will allow restaurants to create seating areas in Open Streets sites, and identify new Open Streets on commercial strips with a high volume of restaurants. **Interim Guidance For Outdoor And Take-Out/Delivery Food Services During The COVID-19 Public Health emergency:** [Guidance](#)

- **The Mayor extended the City’s overwhelmingly popular Open Restaurants program until the end of October**, giving nearly 9,000 participating restaurants two extra months to serve diners in safe, socially distant outdoor spaces. The Mayor also unveiled 26 more locations for the weekend expansion of outdoor dining options under an initiative that combines two popular programs, Open Streets and Open Restaurants. See: [Press Release](#) (July 17)

- **Construction**
 - **The New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) released new COVID-19 safety guidelines** for property owners and contractors as construction sites get back to work as part of New York City’s Phase One of New York State’s reopening plan, on June 8, 2020. These new required safety measures for construction sites were developed with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and are being implemented to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus to workers and the public during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the guidelines](#).
 - The guidelines apply to all construction activity in New York City during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, until the State rescinds or amends its Executive Order and related guidance. Stop Work Orders previously issued by the Department for noncompliance with the State’s non-essential construction ban will be lifted. The Department will not be lifting Stop Work Orders at sites that illegally continued work even after they were issued a Stop Work Order for violating the ban, and have outstanding civil penalties.
 - Employers are also required to develop a site-specific health plan that is prominently visible on the worksite. They will also be required to submit and display an affirmation to the State that they have read and understood the additional reopening requirements as required in the [NYS Interim Guidelines](#).
 - DOB inspectors will be conducting a safety inspection sweep of every permitted construction site in New York City, and following up with additional periodic checks of active work sites. Members of the public can also call 311 to report a

work site where proper COVID-19 safety measures are not being followed. During these sweeps, inspectors will be looking for the following:

- Compliance with social distancing protocols. Six feet of distance should be observed between all personnel, unless safety or work functions require shorter distance.
- Anyone on site, including workers, other construction professionals, and approved visitors, who are less than six feet apart must wear face coverings. Maintaining this practice at all times is highly encouraged.
- Readily available hygiene and hand washing stations.
- COVID-19 safety measures signage visible to workers, reminding everyone to adhere to all safety protocols while on site, including proper hand hygiene, physical distancing rules, appropriate use of personal protective equipment, and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
- Tightly confined spaces (e.g., elevators, hoists) occupied by only one individual at a time, unless all occupants are wearing a face covering and the space is kept under 50% maximum capacity.
- For elevators and hoists, 50% capacity signage must be posted within the cab and at each landing.
- A site safety monitor must be designated. The role's responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the site safety plan.
- Safety plan(s) are conspicuously posted on site and include a copy of the submitted State affirmation.
- Properly completed and updated cleaning and disinfection logs.
- A communication plan for employees, visitors, and clients is on site.
- Correctly completed and updated logs of every person who may have had close contact with others on site to ensure effective contact tracing.

- **Health/Medical Coverage**

- The Period for uninsured New Yorkers has been extended through **December 31, 2021**. New Yorkers can apply for coverage through [NY State of Health](#), New

York's Official Health Plan Marketplace, or directly through insurers. Individuals who are eligible for other NY State of Health programs - Medicaid, Essential Plan and Child Health Plus - can continue to enroll year-round. New Yorkers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health online at nystateofhealth.ny.gov, by phone at 1-855-355-5777, and by connecting with a free enrollment aide.

- **Open enrollment for uninsured New Yorkers is extended through March 31.** As part of the State's ongoing response to the pandemic, the open enrollment period for uninsured New Yorkers is extended through March 31, 2021. New Yorkers can apply for coverage through the NY State of Health, New York's Official Health Plan Marketplace, or directly through insurers. Learn more [here](#).
- Extending the Open Enrollment Period to March 31, 2021 helps to align New York with the federal Public Health Emergency which was recently extended to April 20, 2021. This extension allows individuals eligible for Qualified Health Plan insurance additional time to enroll for coverage in 2021 and means that enrollment remains open for all NY State of Health programs, which is especially important during the ongoing public health emergency.

Coverage start dates will vary:

- Enroll by February 15: Coverage starts March 1
- Enroll March 15: Coverage starts April 1
- Enroll by March 31: Coverage starts May 1

Those eligible for other NY State of Health programs - Medicaid, Essential Plan and Child Health Plus - can enroll year-round. New Yorkers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health online at nystateofhealth.ny.gov, by phone at 1-855-355-5777, and by connecting with a free enrollment assister.

- Governor Cuomo announced on Dec. 29, 2020 updated quarantine [guidelines](#) for New York which are consistent with the latest Centers for Disease Control guidance. Under the new guidelines, individuals exposed to COVID-19 can end

their quarantine after 10 days without a testing requirement as long as no symptoms have been reported during the quarantine period. After day 10 is reached, individuals must continue monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and if any develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact the local health department or their healthcare provider to report this change and determine if they should seek testing.

- **Call the City’s new COVID hotline (212-COVID-19) to speak with a clinician about COVID and discuss self-quarantine options and travel restrictions, available in English and Spanish.**
- ***ACA Marketplace Open Enrollment, November 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021.*** If you are interested in enrolling in health insurance through the individual marketplace for coverage in 2021, the Open Enrollment Period will run from November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021. Eligible policy holders will still receive cost-sharing subsidies to help make the cost of health insurance more affordable. Please note that if you already have a health insurance policy through the individual marketplace and want to make a change, you can do so on or after November 16th.
 - If you would like to consult with a trained representative at no charge prior to selecting a health insurance plan, Navigator Sites are a resource. The following is the contact information for a local Navigator Site:
Community Service Society of New York Phone: 888-614-5400
 - If you do not already have a health insurance policy through the individual marketplace, you will need to sign up for a health insurance policy by December 15th in order for it to take effect January 1, 2020.
- The New York State Department of Financial Services took action to extend emergency regulations requiring New York health insurers to [waive](#) cost-sharing associated with emergency room visits, in-network telehealth visits, in-network outpatient provider office visits, in-network urgent care center visits, and in-network laboratory tests when the purpose of the visit or test is to diagnose COVID-19, and waiving cost-sharing for in-network telehealth services for any healthcare service covered under a policy, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment until November 9, 2020.

- **The deadline for state health insurance special enrollment has been extended to through December 31, 2021.** New Yorkers without health insurance can apply for coverage through the [NY State of Health](#) Plan Marketplace.
- New York City hospitals are now eligible to resume elective surgeries and ambulatory care. (Aug. 18)
- **NYC Care will expand to Queens and Manhattan, four months ahead of schedule.** This is a Citywide effort to guarantee health care for all New Yorkers. NYC Care currently serves the Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island by providing access to low-cost and no-cost primary care for those who are ineligible or can't afford insurance, and helps fight healthcare disparities made clear by COVID-19. It is expected to reach nearly 54,000 residents; 44,000 residents in Queens and 10,000 residents in Manhattan.
- The FDA has identified [130+ hand sanitizers](#) that consumers should avoid because they lack a sufficient level of alcohol to kill germs or because they contain dangerous levels of wood alcohol. To report adverse effects from hand sanitizer, fill out an [FDA MedWatch](#) report.
- A recent [Duke University study](#) shows that almost all masks are effective at reducing the spread of COVID, but fleece masks, bandanas and neck gaiters are worse than wearing no mask at all.

Transportation

- **New York State Driver's license expiration dates have been pushed back to January 1, 2021.** If you have a New York State Driver's License or permit with an expiration date after March 1, 2020, it is still [valid](#) until January 1, 2021. This extended an Executive Order that granted people whose licenses expired during the pandemic more time to renew.
- **The State has issued updated guidance for taxis, for-hire vehicles and other transportation services.** Drivers are encouraged to transport passengers with the windows down to increase ventilation, and to implement physical barriers between rider and driver, in addition to the mandatory mask wearing requirement for both drivers and passengers. See: [Guidance](#)

- **The State Department of Motor Vehicles is expanding online services, making it easier for New Yorkers to do business with the DMV during this pandemic.** The Gov. announced on Sept. 18 that the DMV is launching a pilot program to offer the written learner permit tests for passenger cars (Class D) and motorcycles (Class M) online. It is also piloting a process to allow customers who reside in counties served by the State DMV to register their vehicles online. In-person services are available for transactions that cannot to be done online, by mail or by drop box and reservations are required for all in-person transactions. [Read more.](#)
- A [new executive order](#) was issued by the governor extending the vehicle inspection and registration deadline until Nov. 3.

Mass Transit

- **Beginning May 17, the MTA will resume full 24-hour subway service.** The MTA will continue its disinfection and cleaning effort. The resumption of 24-hour service will coincide with the lifting of the 12am food and beverage service curfew for outdoor dining areas.
- **The MTA will expand overnight service on the Subway.** Effective Monday, February 22, 2021 the MTA [will extend](#) late-night subway service by two hours, moving to a 2 a.m. - 4 a.m. closure daily. The changes will lengthen the subway's operations by two hours while enabling the MTA to continue deep cleaning and disinfecting.
- The [Port Authority will begin issuing \\$50 fines](#) to people not wearing a mask at airport terminals, PATH and AirTrain stations and trains, the Midtown bus terminal, the George Washington Bridge bus station and the Oculus. (Nov 2, 2020)
- The MTA will begin a voluntary COVID-19 screening program for frontline transit employees. Under this new initiative, free COVID testing will be offered at field locations and medical assessment and occupational health services centers to frontline NYC Transit, LIRR, Metro-North and Bridge and Tunnels employees. Up to 2,000 frontline MTA employees will be screened per week under the initial phase of the program. Read more [here.](#) (October 27)

- The [MTA's new live subway map](#) gives real-time updates about train arrivals, service changes and elevator and escalator outages. It's not yet available on the MyMTA app, only on web browsers, so bookmark it: map.mta.info.
- Governor Cuomo announced an executive order on September 10 directing the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to develop a plan to increase mask compliance throughout the mass transit system. In response to this directive, the MTA announced riders who refuse to wear a mask on public transit will be subject to a \$50 fine. The new rule takes effect on Monday, September 14. See: [Press Release](#)
- The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is ending a program that allowed essential workers affected by its overnight subway shutdown to get free rides in for-hire vehicles. Given the fiscal crisis facing the agency, the program will end August 30.
- The Long Island Railroad launched a new app to help you identify train capacity. Riders can use the [app](#) to help plan their commutes and identify which trains are the least crowded.
- The NYC Fair Fares program is now accepting applications. Eligible New Yorkers receive a 50% discount on subway and eligible bus fares. Click [here](#) to determine your eligibility and apply. Click [here](#) for more information on the Fair Fares program.
- The MTA announced they have deployed PPE vending machines stocked with masks and hand sanitizer as a pilot program at 10 stations. Eight of the vending machine locations are in Manhattan:
 - 14 St-Union Square
 - 34 St-Herald Square (two machines)
 - 34 St-Penn Station
 - 34 St-Penn Station
 - 42 St-Port Authority Bus Terminal
 - 42 St-Times Square (two machines)
 - 59 St-Columbus Circle
 - 74 St-Roosevelt Av

- Masks are mandatory when riding public transportation systems and New Yorkers should follow all guidelines and protocols when riding, including maintaining social distancing to the extent possible, using hand sanitizer and observing decal guidance.
- The city's subway and bus system has resumed service
- The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) unveiled its **13-Point Action Plan for A Safe Return**. Subways and buses were moving 1.5 million customers in advance of the re-open. For more information on the MTA's 13--Point Action Plan, visit [here](#).
- The 13-Point Action Plan includes:
 - Increased Service
 - Cleaning & Disinfecting
 - Mandatory Face Coverings
 - Enhanced Safety & Security
 - Nation-Leading Employee Safety Initiatives
 - Innovative Cleaning Solutions
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Floor Markings, Directional Arrows and New Signage
 - Staggered Business Hours
 - 2 Million Mask Contribution from State & City
 - Contactless Payments
 - New Partnership & Technology to Make System Safer and data dashboard
- **The Governor has asked that commuters unsatisfied with bus or subway service** during reopening call [511](#) with complaints.
- Mayor de Blasio announced that approximately 800 NYPD school safety agency will be deployed throughout the transit system to distribute face masks and encourage social distancing. (June 8)

Bus Service:

- The Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced on Sept 24 that it will add nearly 1,000 bus trips beginning in October to help

students travel to school. The MTA will also provide free masks to students, which are mandatory to wear on public transit in New York.

- **The myMTA app now features bus ridership information in real time.** To help avoid crowding on buses as New York City reopens, the MTA [has added](#) a feature to its myMTA app to provide the real-time number of riders on any given bus line.
- **The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced it has launched a pilot program to mount dispensers of free surgical masks inside buses to further protect customers while on board.** The MTA has already completed the installation of dispensers on 100 buses on six bus routes in three boroughs. Customers on the Bx12 SBS and Bx41 SBS routes in the Bronx, S53 Staten Island local route, and X63, X64 and X68 express routes in Queens can now easily access the free surgical masks from dispensers mounted at the rear doors of the SBS and local buses, and at the front door of express buses. The MTA plans to roll out the pilot across every borough on more than 20 routes and 400 buses by the end of August. All customers and MTA employees are required to wear a mask while riding public transit.
- **On Wednesday (8/5) the MTA will launch two new overnight express bus routes** to other boroughs: [M99](#) (Hell's Kitchen-East New York via 14th St., 1 - 6 am) and [Bx99](#) (West Village-Woodlawn, 1 - 6 am).
- With shield installation for the drivers, front-door boarding and fare collection on buses will resume on August 31.
- The city will create new five busways — where most regular cars are banned, allowing for faster and more frequent bus service — starting with Main Street in Flushing, Queens this month. Between July and October, busways will be added on Fifth Ave. in Manhattan, Jamaica Ave. in Queens, Jay Street in Brooklyn and 181st Street in Manhattan.
- There will also be four new bus lanes on E. 14th St. in Manhattan, 149th St. in the Bronx, Hylan Blvd. on Staten Island and Merrick Blvd. in Queens — for a total of 20 miles of busways and bus lanes serving 750,000 riders.

- **The Staten Island Ferry**, which had its service reduced, will begin running every 20-minutes at rush hour (6:00 am-9:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.) and 30-minute service (5:30 a.m.-6:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m./Weekends 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) Markers will be in place to demonstrate six feet of social distancing. Face coverings and hand sanitizer will be widely available and distributed.
- [Metro-North and Long Island Railroad](#): Both MTA commuter rails systems have expanded their limited-service schedules. Metro-North now runs additional city-bound trains in the morning and in the opposite direction in the evening and LIRR has increased capacity, and according to media reports will be at 90% service. Ticket counters remain closed. Passengers must use kiosks or the MTA app.
- [New Jersey Transit](#): Trains and buses are operating on full schedules. The concourse in New York's Penn Station will be closed for cleaning every night between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., but customers can still enter via the main entrance on 7th Avenue and 32nd Street. Passengers with paper tickets will be asked to tear them to minimize hand-to-hand contact with staff.

Testing and Treatment updates in NYC and State

- **New York Forward Rapid Testing Program to help businesses and events safely reopen.** Twenty-five new sites will open Thursday, April 1, and 10 sites will open within the next two weeks for a total of 70 sites statewide. The New York Forward Rapid Test Program provides affordable rapid (30 minutes or less) COVID tests at locations across the State. [Learn more.](#)
- **The State is launching 150 new rapid testing sites in partnership with Prescriptive Health.** The partnership will help expand testing capacity in areas across the State where testing access is limited. Residents can find participating sites, schedule a test, receive results and follow-up with licenses clinicians directly from their mobile device. All testing sites will be searchable on the State's COVID test [website](#) and appointments for these sites will also be available at www.prescriptive.com. (Dec. 3, 2020)

- Monitor COVID testing wait times at [NYC Health + Hospitals locations](#) by refreshing [this dashboard](#) or checking Health + Hospitals' [Twitter](#).
- **NEW: NYC's COVID-19 hotline (212-COVID19) has an expanded menu of services and multilingual services:**
 - Talk to a nurse if you are concerned you have the virus
 - Arrange for a free hotel room if you have tested positive and need to isolate from others in your household
 - Obtain guidance on restrictions for travelers
 - Get a letter for your employer or get questions answered on paid sick leave/family leave
 - Get support to safely quarantine at home
 - Find a testing site near you
- If you test positive for COVID, you can request a "[Take Care Package](#)" from a contact tracer, which includes enough PPE for two weeks, a thermometer, at-home testing kits for contacts and a pulse oximeter to monitor oxygen levels. Test and Trace will also [walk your dog](#) if you're self-isolating at no cost. Call the NYC COVID hotline at 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319) to find out more.
- NYC DOHMH Recommends That New Yorkers get tested for COVID-19 once every 2-3 Months, OR Once A Month If You Are a Health Care Provider/First Responder, Living/Working in A Group Residential Setting, An Essential Worker, or Working Outside the Home. NYC DOHMH continues to recommend that New Yorkers get tested and has issued the following testing guidance:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-testing-recommendations.pdf>.
 - If you mostly stay at home except for grocery shopping, taking walks, and going to medical appts, etc., getting tested once every 2-3 months is recommended.
 - If you are a health care worker/first responder, live/work in a group residential setting, are an essential worker with frequent direct contact with others, or work outside the home and interact in person with others, you should get tested once a month.

- If you tested positive, and your symptoms were resolved, you should not get tested again for 90 days unless you have new symptoms.
- NYC is expanding its Covid-19 rapid testing in Queens and on Staten Island in light of the recent spike. The rapid tests, which can be analyzed for traces of the coronavirus quickly, will be accompanied by on-site contact tracing. See: [Transcript](#) (Nov. 17)
- Get tested website from New York City provides updated information about all forms of testing and locations: [Testing Page](#)
- Health + Hospital testing locations can be found by following this link: [H & H](#).
- All State University of New York (SUNY) schools will transition to remote learning after the Thanksgiving holiday — a precautionary measure taken to mitigate the potential spread of Covid-19. In-person spring-semester classes are scheduled to resume on February 1, with no spring break. All returning students will be tested and must complete a seven-day precautionary quarantine prior to their arrival on campus. Surveillance testing will continue throughout the semester, among other protocols. See: [Press Release October 27](#) and [Press Release Nov. 8](#)
- SUNY will require on-campus students to test negative for COVID-19 before leaving for Thanksgiving break. That means SUNY's 64 colleges and universities [will test](#) about 140,000 people over a 10-day period leading up to Thanksgiving break. Per the policy, colleges in the SUNY system should schedule tests as close as possible to students' departure date. (October 27)
- The State of New York announced the launch of COVID Alert NY – the official Exposure Notification App, which uses Bluetooth technology to notify users of their proximity to other cellphones with the app that have been tied to a positive coronavirus test. The free app is ADA compliant and available in 6 languages.
To learn more about COVID Alert NY, visit ny.gov/covidalerts.

- NYC and New York State have expanded coronavirus testing criteria to include all New Yorkers.
 - Any New Yorker can go to any of the State's [750+ testing sites](#) and get a test at no cost.

- **The City will now have the capacity to test up to 50,000 New Yorkers per day**, building on the city's commitment to test, trace, and treat all positive cases of COVID-19. The City will also now activate the next stage of its hyper-local response in the Rockaways and Sunset Park. The first two-week pilot initiative, launched in the Tremont, Bronx neighborhood, tested over 7,400 New Yorkers. All 200 positive cases received immediate, on-site counseling, allowing them to immediately safely separate and receive assistance through supportive services, such as food and financial counseling (July 23)
- The City will open four new testing sites with the urgent care partner Medrite. The following sites will launch Monday, July 27th, with operating hours between 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM.
 - [Manhattan](#)
 - [330 West 42nd Street](#)
 - 919 2nd Avenue
 - [77 Dyckman Street](#)
 - [Brooklyn](#)
 - 504 Myrtle Avenue

- **New City Testing Partnerships (July 13)**
 - **Ramon Velez Health Center** (Currently Open)
 - 754 E. 151st Street, Bronx
 - Monday - Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
 - Appointment required
 - **Clay Avenue Health Center 1** (Currently Open)
 - 776 Clay Avenue, Bronx
 - Monday - Friday 9:00AM-4:00 PM
 - Appointment required
 - **Casa Maria Health Center** (Currently Open)

- 324 E. 149th Street, Bronx
- Monday - Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
- Appointment required
- **Claremont Health Center** (Currently Open)
 - 262 E. 174th Street, Bronx
 - Monday - Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
 - Appointment required
- **Thomas and Marie White Health Center** (Currently Open)
 - 116-30 Sutphin Boulevard, Queens
 - Monday - Friday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
 - Appointment required
- **Hope Gardens** (Opens tomorrow, July 14th)
 - 120 Menahan Street, Brooklyn
 - Monday - Friday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
 - Appointment required
- The City will also operate additional testing sites through Union Community Health Centers:
 - **Union Community Health Center:** (Currently Open)
 - 260 East 188th Street, Bronx
 - Monday - Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 - Rapid Care hours: Monday-Friday 3:00 PM -9:00 PM. Saturday-Sunday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM
 - Appointment required
 - **Grand Concourse**
 - 2021 Grand Concourse, Bronx
 - Monday - Friday 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM
 - Appointment required
- The following sites will open through a partnership with the Institute for Family Health:
 - **Stevenson Family Health Center** (PCR Testing Only; Opens August 3rd)
 - 731 White Plains Road, Bronx
- Governor Cuomo announced the state is opening 14 new temporary testing sites at churches located in communities particularly impacted by COVID-19, in partnership with Northwell Health and SOMOS Community Care. (June 8)

- Tracing will be included with coronavirus testing.
- The goal is to have 5,000-10,000 tracers.
- Individuals who test positive for coronavirus will receive a call from a tracer 24 - 36 hours after being tested. The Mayor urges everyone to answer the call.
- New York City will launch **mobile testing** to come out to the community.
 - An additional 10 trucks will be available in July providing 80 test per truck per day.
- For more information on testing, [visit here](#).
- Upcoming Antibody testing:
 - Antibody testing will be offered on an appointment-only basis [from Monday, June 29 to Friday, July 24](#). Tests are free for all City residents over the age of 18, and available at the below sites [Monday- Friday](#) from 12:00 PM-8:00 PM or [Saturday through Sunday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM](#). Appointments can be made on [this site](#) or by calling [1-888-279-0967](#):

Brooklyn
Brooklyn P.S. 12
[430 Howard Avenue](#)

Queens
Queens High School of Teaching
[74-20 Commonwealth Blvd](#)

Manhattan
Gregorio Luperon High School for Science and Mathematics
[501 West 165th Street](#)

Bronx
James Monroe HS Campus Annex
[1551 East 172nd Street](#)

Staten Island
Former St. John Villa High School
[57 Cleveland Place](#)

- Free, walk-in antibody testing is now available at H+H Gotham Community Health Centers across the city. Additional information, including hours of operation, can be found [here](#).

Brooklyn
Cumberland, [100 North Portland Avenue](#)
[Ida G. Israel, 2925 W 19th Street](#)
[Jonathan Williams Houses, 333 Roebling Street](#)
[East New York, 2094 Pitkin Avenue](#)

Queens
Woodside, [50-53 Newtown Road](#)

Manhattan
Gouverneur, [227 Madison Street](#)
Dyckman, [175 Nagle Avenue](#)
Sydenham, [264 W 118 Street](#)

Bronx
Belvis, [545 East 142nd Street](#)
[Morrisania, 1225 Gerard Avenue](#)

Staten Island
[165 Vanderbilt Avenue](#)

- **Tracing and Isolating in NYC**
 - **Information on the Test & Trace Corps, including program metrics, is available [here](#).**
 - New Yorkers with positive results are now receiving calls. Anyone safely separated at home will be offered meal delivery, medication and essential services through a Resource Navigator. Anyone unable to safely isolate at home will be offered a [free](#) hotel room. Contact mapping, case monitoring and outreach to contacts all began yesterday.
 - If you test positive You will be called within 24 hours by a Tracer. The call will last 30-45 minutes and you will be asked about your symptoms, your recent close contacts and how to reach them, and your tracer will give you instructions on how to safely separate for up to 14 days.
 - If you *can* safely separate at home, you'll get a same-day call from a Resource Navigator offering services including meals and medication. If you *cannot* safely isolate at home, you'll receive a same-day call providing you with a free hotel room, and instructions on how to separate there.
 - If you are named as a contact, a tracer will call you to ask about your symptoms, offer instructions on how and where to get tested immediately, and give

instructions about how to safely separate for 14 days, either at home or at a free hotel. You will then receive daily follow-up to ensure you get tested.

- **Housing**

- On August 3, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an extension of the nationwide residential eviction pause in areas experiencing substantial and high levels of community transmission levels of SARS-CoV-2, which is aligned with the mask order. The moratorium order, that expires on October 3, 2021, allows additional time for rent relief to reach renters and to further increase vaccination rates. See: [Press Release](#) ; [Signed Order](#)
Note that the order does not supersede greater protections offered by a state or locality.
- **The Governor announced on July 26, 2021, that the State is streamlining the rent relief program application process.** The new process immediately relaxes documentation standards for both tenants and landlords and implements a streamlined process for submission of arrears documentation for multi-tenant landlords effective July 27. [Learn more](#) about the rental assistance program.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Thursday , June 24, 2021 announced a one-month extension to its nationwide pause on evictions that was executed in response to the pandemic. The moratorium that was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2021 is now extended through July 31, 2021 and this is intended to be the final extension of the moratorium. See: [Order webpage](#)
- On Tuesday, May 4, 2021, the governor signed into law an extension of the moratorium on evictions for people who can demonstrate a pandemic-related financial hardship. The bill also extends protections against foreclosure for certain owners. The protections are retroactive to Saturday, the first of May, when the earlier moratorium in place was set to expire. The new law extends the ban to Aug. 31. [Press Release](#)
- On December 28,2020, the Governor [signed](#) the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act, which extends the moratorium on COVID-

related residential evictions until May 1, while also providing foreclosure protections to homeowners and small landlords.

- Tenants must submit a hardship declaration, or a document explaining the source of the hardship, to prevent evictions.
 - Landlords can evict tenants that are creating safety or health hazards for other tenants, and those tenants who do not submit hardship declarations.
 - Homeowners and small landlords who own 10 or fewer residential dwellings can file hardship declarations with their mortgage lender, other foreclosing party or a court that would prevent a foreclosure.
 - The Act prevents local governments from engaging in a tax lien sale or a tax foreclosure until at least May 1, 2021. Payments due to the locality are still due.
- The Gov. announced an extension and expansion of the State **rent relief program**, administered by Housing and Community Renewal (HCR). The applications will be accepted from Friday, Dec. 18 through Monday, Feb. 1, 2021. See: <https://hcr.ny.gov/rrp> for application and information.
- ***Previous Applicants for COVID Rent Relief will not have to reapply to be reconsidered.*** HCR will re-evaluate all applications that were denied according to the new criteria and issue revised determination letters to applicants.
 - **The COVID Rent Relief Extension Program** will provide eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household's landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance. The COVID Rent Relief Extension Program is not first come, first served. Applications will be accepted throughout the application period. HCR will prioritize eligible households with "greatest economic and social need."
 - **Tenants will have to meet all of the following criteria:**

- Must be a renter and have a primary residence in New York State;
 - Applicants must have lost income during the period of April 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020;
 - Before March 7, 2020, household income must have been at or below **80% of the Area Median Income**, adjusted for household size; and
 - Households must be “rent burdened” during the months they are applying for assistance between April 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020.
 - For help, applicants can contact HCR’s COVID Rent Relief Extension Program Call Center for assistance at 1-833-499-0318 or covidrentrelief@hcr.ny.gov. Call Center representatives are available Monday through Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm.
- On August 27, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) extended its eviction and foreclosure moratorium for FHA-insured homeowners through the end of 2020. HUD will also begin considering factors associated with eviction risk when allocating nearly \$2 billion in CARES Act funding and is reminding current grant recipients that they can use various funds to assist renters at risk of eviction. To assist vulnerable Americans, **HUD allocated \$472 million in CARES Act funding to help ensure that low-income residents have a safe place to live during the coronavirus.** See: [Press Release](#)
 - **The moratorium for residential evictions in New York State has been extended to the end of the year.** See: [Press Release](#)
 - **The state’s chief administrative judge issued a memo on Wednesday, August 12 extending the ban on marshals serving residential evictions until October 1,** following an executive order issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo last week that extended it until September 4. Although no tenant can be physically forced out of their residence before October 1st, the new guidance from Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks allows for residential eviction

proceedings prior to March 17th to proceed, provided another hearing is held before a judge to exhaust all options before an eviction is carried out. Eviction cases filed after March 17th are still suspended, according to Marks's memo. The new guidance requires judges to "address a range of subjects related to the case and COVID-19 concerns" before a warrant can be sent to city marshals for enforcement, the memo reads.



Rev_Ev_8_12.pdf

- Mayor de Blasio launched the city's first-ever online [portal](#), created through the Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants (MOPT), the Mayor's Public Engagement Unit (PEU), and the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT), to help renters navigate free public and private resources to avoid eviction and stabilize their housing situations. The free portal is accessible to all residential tenants.
 - Tenants will respond to a series of questions about their unique circumstances and be directed to the most relevant resources, such as help navigating an illegal lockout or eviction. The portal also has up-to-date information on the general status of evictions in New York City Housing Court. Tenants who do not have access to the internet can call 311 and ask for the "Tenant Helpline," which was launched in partnership with 311 and HRA's Office of Civil Justice (OCJ) in April of this year, where they will be connected to a PEU Tenant Support Specialist to receive free, individualized assistance. See: [Press Release](#) (August 10)
- **The following is the Office of Rent Administration's Borough and District Rent Offices new procedural guidance for office visits:**
 - Service will be provided to visitors to the office **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. If you cannot come alone, please minimize the number of guests accompanying you.

- Appointments must be scheduled at least one day in advance, and no more than two weeks in advance.
- To schedule an appointment or to receive assistance over the phone, please contact:
 - Lower Manhattan: 212-480-6238
 - Upper Manhattan: 212-961-8930
 - Westchester: 914-948-4434
 - Queens: 718-482-4041
 - Brooklyn: 718-722-4778
 - Bronx: 718-430-0880
- All visitors will be required to wear face masks. Information will be provided at our service window. Visitors with an illness or fever are being directed to seek service over the phone or by email.
- Visitors are required to bring: proof of identity and proof of tenancy or ownership, any orders, notices or documents they want to review and discuss.
- Maximum length of time for an appointment is 30 minutes. Visitors who arrive after their 30-minute allotted time frame will need to reschedule. Please arrive early, as extra time will be needed to clear building security and elevator passenger limits.
 - For details on the new Procedures for Office Visits and related guidance please see: [Notice](#)
- Renters who have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic can apply for rental assistance from \$100 million in federal funds, set aside by the state, in the form of a one-time rental subsidy paid directly to landlords, [the Times Union reports](#). Tenants are not required to repay this assistance. The program is administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) and access to program applications will be available [here](#), starting July 16. HCR will prioritize households with greatest economic and social need, accounting for income, rent burden, percent of income lost and risk of homelessness. See: [Press Release](#)

- **The deadline to apply for the COVID Rent Relief Program has been extended to [August 6th](#). The following is a list of resources available to you for help with the application process:**
- The website – www.hcr.ny.gov/RRP – provides the application, FAQs and other documents in six different languages to ensure New Yorkers with limited English proficiency have proper access to the application and program tools.
- HCR has created a dedicated call center to provide residents, including those with limited English proficiency, with help [Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.](#) until 7 p.m. Call the COVID Rent Relief Program Call Center at [1-833-499-0318](tel:1-833-499-0318) or email at covidrentrelief@hcr.ny.gov
- There is also a list of community-based organizations in each region of the State who are available to assist non-English-speaking residents with their application. The New York State [Office for New Americans](#) can also help.
- Residents may also authorize a caseworker, attorney or other personal representative to apply for the COVID Rent Relief Program on their behalf. The Authorized Representative Release Form is available and can be downloaded from the Rent Relief Program website <https://hcr.ny.gov/RRP#application>
- The Mayor along with the Racial Inclusion & Equity Taskforce announced a new program to increase housing security to tenants across the City who may be facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting immediately, the Citywide Landlord-Tenant Mediation Project will serve hundreds of New Yorkers each month by addressing rent-related issues in a mediation setting, outside of the housing court system, with a focus on hardest hit communities.

- Through this project, non-profit Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) will assist tenants and small landlords in finding solutions to rental issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to resolve cases before they reach litigation and avoid the long-term effects of an eviction proceeding which can lead to displacement for vulnerable tenants and limit future housing options. The Mediation Project will handle cases in a setting where both parties feel safe, and priority will be given to tenants and small landlords who do not have legal representation. See: [Press Release](#) (July 21)

- **Education/Child Care**
 - The [opt-in period for in-person learning will reopen](#) for all students from Wednesday (3/24) through Wednesday, 4/7/21 . To opt in, select “Blended Learning” in the [Learning Preferences Survey](#) or call 311. Students in 3K, pre-K, and elementary grades (including in District 75) who opt in will return to the classroom in April. Return dates for newly opted-in middle and high schoolers have not yet been announced. The City is reopening the opt-in period following new CDC guidelines that say [students can be spaced three feet apart](#), instead of six, meaning classrooms can now fit more students.
 - Parents can access free courses, events and activities through the NYC Dept. of Education’s new [Parent University](#).
 - Free Grab & Go meals are available at 259 schools-- see [this map of sites](#). Students and their families can pick up meals during the school day, and the general public is welcome from 3 - 5 pm. (Nov 2020)
 - **DOE has released a resource document for children and families**, which includes strategies for talking to one’s child about COVID-19, resources for coping with stress and anxiety, at-home strategies to promote social-emotional wellness, and more. [Click here](#) to access the guide.
 - **The January 2021 Regents exams are canceled.** Due to COVID-19 concerns, the New York State Education Department decided to [cancel](#) the

- examinations across the state to ensure the safety of both students and educators. The Education Department will also ask the Board of Regents to adopt emergency regulations and apply specific exemptions to not negatively impact students. A decision on the June and August exams has not been made. (Nov. 5)
- Parents of NYC Public School **students will have only one chance to choose the option of Blended Learning** for the remainder of the school year.
 - Parents will have a window [from November 2 - November 15](#) to switch their kids from purely online classes to Blended Learning. This is a change from previous plans to allow parents to opt-in on a quarterly basis.
 - Registration for blended learning will happen online [here](#).
 - To learn more click [here](#).
 - Mayor de Blasio announced that **school COVID-19 testing data** will be made available to parents and communities who want to know the status of schools throughout all **5** boroughs. Data will be made available on the DOE's website, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). A complete daily COVID case map will be made available also, click [here](#) to access.
 - The New York City DOE's [Daily COVID Case Map](#) shows closed public school classrooms and entire school buildings due to COVID cases.
 - Gov. Cuomo announced on September 8 a new executive order that will require local school districts, laboratories and health departments to collect COVID testing data from children and report to the state Department of Health, which is creating a new “report card” to monitor the spread of the coronavirus in public schools. As schools reopen and districts, local health departments, and labs begin reporting this data to the NYS Dept. of Health, the COVID-19 Report Card will be live at: <https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/>.
 - **New York City schools will not fully reopen on Monday as planned, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on Sept. 17, that only pre-kindergarten, early education classes for 3-year-olds, and special**

education classes will open in person on Monday, Sept. 21. Elementary schools and K-8 schools will now open on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Middle and high schools will open on Thursday, Oct. 1. See: [Press Release](#)

- Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on September 14 the launch of a COVID Response Situation Room for city schools that will field reports of positive cases from school administrators, get individuals isolated as needed and coordinate contact tracing. See: [Press Release](#)
- Mayor de Blasio announced on Sept. 14 that an additional **2,000 educators** will be deployed to schools immediately. This list will comprise of redeployed central staff, long-term substitutes, and temporary staff.
- On September 8, Mayor de Blasio and the **Department of Education** announced plans for in-person students who will be using **school buses** to attend classes.
 - Buses will operate at **25% capacity**;
 - **Face masks** will be required;
 - Students will be seated next to the window in every other row;
 - Only **siblings** will be allowed to sit together; and
 - Buses will be disinfected every day. To learn more, visit [here](#).
- On September 8 Mayor de Blasio announced a new program called **Learning Bridges**, which is designed to help working class parents with children in **Pre-K to 8th grade** go back to work. The program will accept **30,000** students. For more information click [here](#).
 - **For any parent wishing to switch their child to fully remote learning, NYC Department of Education has created a means to do so online by clicking [here](#).**
 - Parents can also view the **reopening update** from DOE **Chancellor Carranza** by clicking [here](#).
- The Dept. of Education released the [2020-2021 school year calendar](#), which lists fully remote days, closures and parent-teacher conferences.

- NYC school families can join The New School's [InsideSchools+](#) to help navigate the school system and this year's challenges. The website offers discussion forums and classes, such as "[How to Support Online Learning at Home](#)," which is free and open for enrollment now.
- As in-person school instruction resumes, GetFoodNYC Grab and Go meal locations will continue Monday - Friday at 200 schools in high-need areas starting Sept. 21. To view locations later this month, see the [GetFoodNYC map](#). Some will be dedicated kosher sites, and others will serve halal options.
 - Students learning in-person at a public school will receive both breakfast and lunch in school, and students at Learning Bridges locations will also receive breakfast and lunch on site.
 - Families of students learning remotely can pick up free Grab and Go meals from any of the 200 schools, 9 am - 12 pm. Adults can pick up meals from 3 - 5pm.
- On September 7, 2020, SUNY posted a real Time COVID-19 Case tracker dashboard to monitor, respond to, track testing and quarantine and isolation space availability across the University's 64 campuses to contain the virus. See: [Press Release, SUNY Case Tracker](#)
- New York State will allow "low-risk" school sports like tennis, soccer, cross country, field hockey and swimming to start up again on Sept. 21, Governor Cuomo announced on Monday, August 24. See: [Press Release](#)
- **The Mayor announced the NYC teachers will report to schools on Sept. 8 and virtual learning will begin on Sept. 16, with in-person instruction starting for some on Sept. 21** under the plan, which will also require the city to test [a percentage](#) of students, teachers and staff in each public school each month for the coronavirus.
- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced at a press conference on August 25 that city inspectors will examine the ventilation systems in every classroom within the week as part of city efforts to reopen schools in mid-September. "School ventilation action teams" deployed by the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority will lead the effort to ensure that fresh air limits the spread of the coronavirus in classrooms this fall. See: [Press Release](#)

- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced new plans Monday, August 25 to allow public schools to hold classes in outdoor areas as criticism mounts over their upcoming reopening. Individual schools will have to apply by Aug. 28 to the city Department of Education for approval of any plans to hold classes in parks, schoolyards or other outdoor spaces. Schools in areas hardest-hit by COVID-19 with no outdoor space will receive priority for the program. The neighborhoods are:
 - **Brooklyn:** Bed Stuy; Brighton Beach; Brownsville; Bushwick; Canarsie; East Flatbush; East New York and Starrett City; Sunset Park
 - **Bronx:** East Tremont; Highbridge; Longwood and Hunts Point; Morris Heights; Morrisania and Crotona; Mott Haven and Melrose; Soundview and Soundview Bruckner; Van Cortlandt Park and Jerome Park
 - **Manhattan:** Central Harlem; East Harlem; Hamilton Heights and Morningside Heights; Lower East Side and Chinatown; Washington Heights and Inwood
 - **Queens:** Briarwood; Corona; Jamaica; Queensbridge; Rockaway and Far Rockaway Staten Island: Stapleton-St. George See: [Press Release](#)
- **DOE Back to School Guidance and Information Sessions.** Recently, the DOE issued plans for a blended learning model. Blended learning means students will be taught on-site in school for part of the week, and will attend school remotely on the other days of the week. Any family can also choose all-remote learning, for any reason. **The DOE will be hosting virtual citywide Information sessions for students and families from 6:30-8:00 PM on the following dates:**
 - Wednesday, August 12, 2020
 - Thursday, August 27, 2020
 - [For more information on back to school guidance and to register for the information sessions, please click here!](#)
- The Health +Hospitals Corporation will work with the Department of Education to ensure that every school will have a **certified nurse** this upcoming school year. See: [Press Release](#)
- The mayor announced that schools will be sanitized using **electrolyte** cleaning daily. This method will allow custodial staff to clean classrooms in two minutes or

less. **DOE Chancellor Richard Carranza** announced that every classroom will have hand sanitizer and disinfectant available. Students will also be required to wear face coverings. Face coverings will be provided to students who do not have one.

- The mayor announced that students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. Read more [here](#). (August 13)
- **The mayor and Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza announced health and safety protocols**, including guidance for testing and tracing, for schools for the start of the 2020-21 school year. These plans were submitted to the state for review to meet the Governor’s deadline. The protocols will apply to all school communities and will help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - **In preparation for the start of school, the DOE is purchasing large orders of hygiene supplies on behalf of schools.** These supplies include, but are not limited, to, facial coverings for students, teachers, and staff; disinfectant; hand sanitizer; and electrostatic sprayers. School leadership and facilities staff in every school are reviewing school space and making necessary repairs and adjustments to ensure safe conditions for in-person student learning this fall.
 - **All staff members will be asked to take a COVID-19 test in the days before the first day of school.** School staff will have priority access for free testing at [34 city-run testing locations](#), with tests provided with expedited results. This testing is also available for families citywide.
 - **When school buildings reopen, all schools will be required to institute precautions to prevent, identify, and address the spread of COVID-19.** Daily precautions include:
 - An isolation room for students with symptoms with a dedicated staff member or health professional,
 - Physical distancing and required facial coverings,
 - Cleaning throughout the day and nightly disinfecting, and
 - Clear communication with families and school community.

- **If a student or teacher is feeling sick, they are required to stay home and, if their symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, are asked to get tested.** If a student begins experiencing symptoms in school, they will be isolated and monitored by a dedicated staff member until they are picked up by their parents or guardians. Staff members who become symptomatic at school are asked to immediately leave the building.

- **Whether symptoms begin at home or in school, there will be a clear flow of information to facilitate fast action and prevent spread.** A positive case can be reported to a school by a staff member, a parent, or a student. A positive confirmed case will trigger an investigation by the NYC Test + Trace Corps and DOHMH to determine close contacts within the school. Schools will communicate to all families and students within school any time a case is laboratory confirmed.

- **The DOE is working in concert with DOHMH and the NYC Test + Trace Corps to identify, isolate, and prevent spread of COVID-19.** In the event that there is a laboratory- confirmed case in a school, all students and teachers in that class are assumed close contacts and will be instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days since their last exposure to that case. Additionally, DOHMH and NYC Test + Trace Corps will begin an investigation into the risk of exposure to the school community and work with the DOE to issue clear guidance and decisions for next steps based on the outcome.
 - **For the potential investigative conclusions outlined below,** all decisions to quarantine classrooms or close schools will depend on the facts of each investigation.

<u>Conclusion of Investigation</u>	<u>During Investigation</u>	<u>Post Investigation</u>

1 confirmed case	Close Classroom, transition to remote learning	Classroom remains closed for 14 days; students and staff in close contact with positive case self- quarantine for 14 days.
At least 2 cases linked together in school, <u>same</u> classroom	Close Classroom, transition to remote learning	Classroom remains closed for 14 days; students and staff in close contact with positive cases self- quarantine for 14 days
At least 2 cases linked together in school, <u>different</u> classrooms	Close school building, transition to remote learning	Classrooms of each case remain closed and quarantined, additional school members are quarantined based on where the exposure was in the school (e.g., the locker room)
At least 2 cases linked together by circumstances outside of school (i.e., acquired infection by different setting and source)	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens post investigation, classrooms remain closed for 14 days
At least 2 cases not linked but exposure confirmed for each outside of school setting	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens post investigation, classrooms remain closed for 14 days
Link unable to be determined	Close school building, transition to remote	Close school for 14 days

learning

- **Whenever a student is isolating or quarantining at home**, the expectation is that they continue engaging with learning remotely if they are feeling well enough. If a school is closed, the school will communicate by [6 P.M.](#) on the night before about the status of opening the next morning, based on the status of the investigation. A school building will not reopen without confirmation from public health experts that it is safe.
- The City will continue to closely monitor health conditions, and if community transmission begins to rise across the boroughs, a decision may be made to close all schools and switch to full-time remote learning. New coronavirus cases will have to remain under 3% for New York City schools to physically open in September — and stay under that threshold for the school system to continue operating throughout the year, Mayor de Blasio said Friday. The guideline is stricter than the 5% threshold recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Gov. Cuomo as necessary for reopening schools, a move the Mayor attributed in part to how densely packed the city is and the trauma its residents have felt. See: [Press Release](#)
- New York City's Board of Health approved a plan to reopen 3,000 child care centers citywide starting July 13. See: [Press Release](#)
- **The Mayor with the education Chancellor announced preliminary reopening plans for schools for fall 2020.** The plans provide for staggered schedules, a mix of in-person and remote learning. Families will also have the option to do online learning full time if they don't feel safe returning to school in person. The DOE will host a series of Family & Student Information Sessions to answer any questions or concerns that families may have. The first session will be held on July 16, and additional sessions will be announced in the coming weeks. Schedules will be distributed in August. For more information, see: [Press Release](#).

- The NYC Department of Education launched a process allowing parents to [opt out of in-person instruction](#) this fall in favor of remote learning. Families can opt-out [at this website](#) or by calling 311. Parents' decisions could have an enormous effect on schools, which will allow most students to return to school buildings for one to three days each week.
- Governor Cuomo announced initial plans and data-driven guidance that will determine when k-12 secular and non-secular schools can reopen in the fall, and when schools might close again if infections surge. School districts must submit their reopening plans to the state by the end of the month, and the state will make its final decisions during the first week of August. Schools in a region can reopen if that region is in Phase IV of reopening and if its daily infection rate remains below 5 percent or lower using a 14-day average. New York State, the Reimagine Education Advisory Council and the Department of Health released finalized guidance and guiding principles for reopening schools, which are available [here](#). The DOH and Governor's Reimagine Council are working closely with the Department of Education as it releases education guidance. Schools will have to factor in social distancing, screening of anyone entering and demonstrate tracing capabilities, among other conditions in order to reopen. Face coverings will also be required anytime social distancing is not permitted and strongly encouraged all other times, except during meals and short breaks. In each of the 10 state's regions, if the infection rate exceeds 9% on a seven-day average, then schools would have to close for in-person classes.
- **Libraries**
 - As of July 6, The New York Public Library has reopened all available branch locations across the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island (except those undergoing renovations or being used by the City for vaccination). The library is offering nearly full service, including general library use and seating, unlimited browsing, laptop and computer access, and more. In-person programs and classes will also resume at some locations in over the coming months. Check out: <https://www.nypl.org/locations/directory>
 - The Brooklyn Public Library system is also expanding services as of July 6, 2021. See: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/coronavirus>

- The mayor announced expanded services at public libraries starting May 10, 2021 with additional services by mid-July. The city's three public library systems -The New York Public Library (NYPL), Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), and Queens Public Library (QPL) -are now expanding service to include limited browsing and computer use.

BPL and NYPL are offering by-appointment computer use, and QPL is taking walk-ins. All patrons in all systems must follow safety protocols, including wearing masks, social distancing, and respecting time limits and other restrictions to ensure that as many patrons as possible can utilize services. Read more [here](#). [Mayor's Announcement](#)

- As the New York Public Library moves into phase 2 of its reopening , starting Monday (11/9), researchers can make [in-person appointments at research libraries](#) and [borrow materials from research collections](#).
- The city's library systems [will reopen](#) a limited number of branches [on July 13](#) for “grab and go” service, where patrons can pick up books they order in advance. NYPL, Brooklyn, and Queens library systems are looking to reopen physical locations in July on a limited basis. Working with partners in government and safety experts, and putting the health and safety of patrons and staff first. The New York Public Library is planning to:
 - To start, the first two branches will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 11 am – 6 pm; Wednesday from 12 – 7 pm; and Friday and Saturday: 11 am – 5 pm.
 - [The Epiphany Library](#) (228 E 23rd St.),
 - [George Bruce Library](#) (518 W 125th St.), and
 - [Stavros Niarchos Foundation Libraries](#) (the old Mid-Manhattan Library, 455 Fifth Ave. at 40th St., M-F 10 am – 6 pm, Sat. 11 am – 6 pm).
 - Patrons may start placing holds via the [online catalog](#) starting Monday, July 6 in advance of the reopening, or via phone starting July 13; upon arrival, they will be able to access a small area of each branch to pick up and return reserved materials while wearing masks and observing proper social distancing. (Research libraries, including the Fifth Avenue flagship,

will remain closed; but researchers will soon be able to request scans of materials.)

○ **Queens Public Library (QPL)**

- [Queens Public Library](#) is beginning to open with limited “to-go” service and book returns six days a week, which started on Monday, July 13th, 2020. Individuals can request materials to pick up online, through the QPL app, or by phone. For more information including related to the hours and locations of the grab-and-go sites, click [here](#).

○ **Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)**

- Lobby Service is now open at seven [Brooklyn Public Library](#) locations. Through Lobby Service, patrons can pick up holds in one of those seven branch lobbies and return books to bins in the lobbies. For more information and to find out the hours and locations of the grab-and-go sites, click [here](#).
- Learn about grab-and-go branches in The Bronx and Staten Island at the [NYPL’s Coronavirus page](#). (The [Queens](#) and [Brooklyn](#) libraries are also starting grab-and-go services at limited branches on July 13.)
- The staff and public will be required to wear face coverings, and maintain appropriate physical distance; the libraries will also employ special cleaning protocols to lower the risk of COVID-19
- After an evaluation, additional branches will be added, and when safe, the system will open more branches for increased on-site use (computer use and browsing, for example)
- At research centers (where most materials cannot be checked out), the system will focus on expanded and enhanced digital delivery of on-site materials until they can welcome the public into the physical venue space
- Continue to [check for updates](#) on website

STATEWIDE INFORMATION

- With new regulations issued, the NYS Department of Labor has changed the way partial unemployment benefits are determined for those who are working part-time. Partial unemployment insurance (UI) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits will now be based on the number of hours a claimant works in a week instead of the number of days you work.
 - This change will go into effect for work completed during the benefit week of Monday, January 18, 2021 to Sunday, January 24, 2021 – and all benefit weeks going forward. The first time a claimant will certify under this new system will be on or after Sunday, January 24, 2021.
 - Under the new approach, you can work up to 30 hours in a week and still receive some unemployment benefits *if* you earn \$504 or less in gross pay. Instead of having your benefits reduced by 25% for each day you performed part-time work, reductions will be based on hours worked.
 - **NYS DOL's certification system will still ask for the number of days you worked – you should use this chart to convert the hours you worked into the number of “days” to report.**

Hours Worked per Week	Number of Days to Report to UI	% Reduction in UI
0 - 4	0 Days	0
5 - 10	1 Day	25%
11 - 20	2 Days	50%
21 - 30	3 Days	75%
31+	4 Days	100%

- For more information and FAQs, go to on.ny.gov/partialui.
- **UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE: Unemployed New Yorkers will begin receiving extended and expanded federal unemployment benefits**

early 2021. Starting the week of January 3rd, unemployed New Yorkers will [receive](#) an additional \$300 payment through the extended Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs. New Yorkers currently receiving benefits are not required to call the Department of Labor to receive these extended benefits—they should continue to certify for unemployment benefits in their usual manner and will automatically receive extended benefits.

- For those whose unemployment benefit year has ended, you should reapply online. Details of how New York will implement these extensions follows:
- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance** - New Yorkers can now receive up to 57 weeks of PUA benefits, with the program extended from the week ending January 3, 2021 through March 14, 2021. New Yorkers currently receiving PUA should continue to certify as usual and will continue to receive their benefits. According to the federal government, additional eligibility documentation will be required beginning January 31, 2021. The New York State Department of Labor will directly contact claimants who need to provide additional documentation.
- **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation** - New Yorkers can now receive up to 24 weeks of PEUC (up from the 13 weeks originally authorized in the spring of 2020) with the program extended through March 14, 2021. New Yorkers who have exhausted the 26 weeks of state unemployment insurance should continue to certify as normal and will automatically receive up to 24 weeks of PEUC. Individuals who previously exhausted the original 13 weeks of PEUC and transitioned to the Extended Benefits program will begin receiving extended PEUC benefits after they exhaust their EB benefits. The New York State Department of Labor will automatically handle these program transfers.

- **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation** - New Yorkers' FPUC benefits will resume the week ending January 3, 2021 and will last for eleven weeks. During that time, all New Yorkers who are receiving unemployment benefits — including traditional state UI, Shared Work Benefits, PEUC, EB, or PUA — will receive an additional \$300 payment per week. According to federal guidelines, FPUC benefits will not be retroactive, and can only be provided starting the week ending January 3, 2021.

- The state Office of Court Administration has suspended all new jury trials and grand juries in the state to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks wrote in a memo to judges. Pending trials and grand juries will continue until conclusion. See: [Memo](#) (Nov. 13, 2020)
- **New York announced a new protocol allowing out-of-state travelers to "test out" of the State's mandatory 14-day quarantine.** [Starting Wednesday, November 4th](#), travelers must be tested within three days prior to arriving in New York, quarantine for at least three days upon arrival, and get tested on the fourth day of arrival. If travelers receive a negative test on the fourth day of their quarantine, they can exit quarantine. [Read more](#) about the State's travel policy. See October 31 [Press Release](#) [Nov 4 Press Release](#)
- Governor Cuomo signed an **executive order** which exempts people who receive unemployment benefits from having to report part-time income received from the New York State Board of Elections or local board of election. Income must not exceed **\$504**. Read more [here](#).
- Unemployment Update: The New York State Department of Labor announced that the second and final round of Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) payments will be distributed over several days. Depending on your eligibility, you may receive one, two, or three payments of \$300 during the week of September 22. Payments are for the benefit weeks ending August 23, Aug. 30 and September 6. See: [Press Release](#)

- **If you have been told you are pre-qualified for LWA benefits, the DOL will release your payments on the following days *(please note that payments should appear in your DOL payment history on the date below – as with all benefit payments, it will then take 1-2 days for the money to reach your bank account)*:**
 - Tues. 9/22: \$300 payment for the benefit week ending Aug. 23
 - Wed. 9/23: \$300 payment for the benefit week ending Aug. 30
 - Thurs. 9/24: \$300 payment for the benefit week ending Sept. 6

- **If you were informed that you must submit an additional certification to receive LWA benefits, your payments will be released as follows *(please note that payments should appear in your DOL payment history on the date below – as with all benefit payments, it will then take 1-2 days for the money to reach your bank account)*:**
 - If you submit your certification via DocuSign or by calling 833-491-0632 before Tuesday, September 22 at 5 pm: DOL will release all LWA payments you are eligible for – up to three payments of \$300 – on Thursday, September 24.
 - If you submit your certification after 5 pm on Tues., Sept. 22: DOL will release all LWA benefits you are eligible for on a rolling basis starting Friday, Sept. 25.

- Under federal guidelines, benefits are only available to individuals who are unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you received a pre-qualification email and/or text, you do not need to take any additional action to receive these funds. If you received a DocuSign email or did not receive a pre-qualification email and/or text message, you must submit a certification to receive these funds. To certify, sign and submit the

DocuSign form sent to you via email or call the DOL's automated phone system at 833-491-0632.

- At the present time, the federal government has only made funding available for a total of six weeks – representing the benefit weeks ending August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and September 6. **Eligible New Yorkers will receive \$300 for each of those weeks that they were unemployed and received unemployment benefits.** If the federal government makes funding available for additional weeks, we will notify you.
- The NYS Department of Labor announced that those unemployed due to the pandemic may begin receiving an additional \$300/week in federal unemployment benefits-- for just three weeks-- from the NYS Dept. of Labor's UI and PUA program (under the Lost Wages Assistance Program as established by the Trump Administration). The payments are retroactive to 8/2, 8/9 and 8/16 and will be sent in three individual weekly payments of \$300. (NY State has applied for an additional three weeks of payments beyond those retroactive to 8/16, but it's unclear if the federal government will approve the application.)
 - Some applicants will automatically receive the extra \$900 total and those who must certify with the NYS Dept. of Labor to receive the payments. Both groups should have received an email last Friday (9/11) from the NYS Dept. of Labor about their status-- whether they must take action or if no action is needed
- [New York Hire Now: Immediate Hiring Opportunities](#): Search immediate job openings throughout New York State.
- The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and regional airports will now require out-of-state visitors or returning New Yorkers at airports to provide contact information (via forms distributed by airlines) upon arrival at airports as part of a new effort to enforce the state's 14-day quarantine of people coming from states with high levels of infections. A forthcoming executive order will outline a hearing process that would determine whether people who refuse to

provide such information could be placed into a mandatory quarantine – in addition to facing a \$2,000 fine. See: [Press Release](#)

- As part of the enforcement operation, enforcement teams will be stationed at airports statewide to meet arriving aircrafts at gates and greet disembarking passengers to request proof of completion of the State Department of Health traveler form, which is being distributed to passengers by airlines prior to, and upon boarding or disembarking flights to New York State. A new [electronic version of the DOH traveler form](#) is now also available, making it easier and more efficient for travelers to complete the form.
- State DOH has also issued an [emergency health order](#) mandating that all out-of-state travelers from designated states complete the DOH traveler form upon entering New York. Travelers who leave the airport without completing the form will be subject to a \$2,000 fine and may be brought to a hearing and ordered to complete mandatory quarantine. Airlines have all pledged to help make passengers aware of the new requirement using pre-flight emails, pre-flight announcements, in-flight announcements and other methods. Additionally, travelers coming to New York from designated states through other means of transport, including trains and cars, must fill out the DOH traveler form online.
- Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on Wednesday August 5 that the City will establish COVID-19 traveler registration checkpoints at key entry points into New York City to ensure compliance with New York State quarantine requirements and further the containment of COVID-19. The new checkpoints at bridges and tunnels will stop cars and seek to enforce quarantine orders imposed by New York State, which require people coming from 34 states and Puerto Rico to self-isolate for up to 14 days to avoid spreading Covid-19. The city Sheriff's Office, in association with other law enforcement agencies, will oversee the checkpoints and stop a random sampling of cars entering the city, reminding drivers of the quarantine order and requiring them to complete a registration form if they're coming from a high-risk state. People violating the quarantine – which applies to both residents of the high-risk states and New Yorkers returning from visits – can be subject to fines up to \$10,000. Individuals who refuse to fill out the New

York State Department of Health [travel form](#) are subject to a \$2,000 fine. See: [Press Release](#)

- **This has been replaced by a new policy.** (See above and press release: [Press Release](#))

Governor Cuomo along with Govs. Phil Murphy of New Jersey and Ned Lamont of Connecticut announced that all [travelers from states that meet specific health metrics must immediately enter a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in any of the three states](#). In NYS, the order will take the form of a travel advisory and took effect on June 25. It will apply to states with infection rates that exceed 10 people per 100,000 on a seven-day rolling average, or if 10 percent of the total population tests positive on a seven-day rolling average.

- For the Week of October 27, **California has been added to New York's Travel Advisory.** Individuals traveling to New York from California must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in NY. Massachusetts meets the criteria for the travel advisory but due to the region's interconnectedness, quarantine is not practically viable. As such, New York highly discourages non-essential travel between Massachusetts and New York to the extent practical. See more info [here](#).
- For the week of October 20, 43 states are on New York State's travel advisory list. Arizona and Maryland were added onto the list. And non-essential travel between New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania is discouraged given the rising infection rate. See: [Press Release](#)
- For the week of October 13, Ohio, Michigan and Virginia were added to New York State's travel advisory list. See: [Press Release](#)
- For the week of October 6, the State of New Mexico was added to New York State's travel advisory list. See: [Press Release](#)
- For the week of Sept 29, Governor Cuomo announced that Colorado has been added to New York State's COVID-19 travel advisory. Arizona and Virginia have been removed. See: [Press Release](#)
- For the week of Sept. 22, five states have been added to the list of places from where travelers arriving in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut

are supposed to quarantine, according to updates released by the governor's office on Tuesday. Arizona, Minnesota, Nevada, Rhode Island and Wyoming have been added to the tri-state list, which now includes 33 states, Puerto Rico and Guam. No states were removed this week. See: [Press Release](#)

- For the week of Sept. 15, the tri-state travel advisory includes 30 states and territories. California, the country's most populous state, Maryland, Ohio, Nevada, Hawaii, Minnesota and the Northern Mariana Islands have been removed from the quarantine list. Puerto Rico was re-added after being removed last week. See: [Press Release](#)
- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced on September 8 that four additional states—Delaware, Maryland, Ohio and West Virginia—meet the metrics to qualify for New York State's COVID-19 travel advisory. Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands have been removed.
- On September 1, Alaska and Montana were added back on the travel advisory list given the test rate positivity.
- On August 25, 5 states were removed from the travel advisory/quarantine list: Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Maryland and Montana; Guam was added [Press Release](#)
- Alaska and Delaware were placed back on a list of states that require a mandatory 14-day quarantine for travelers entering New York.(August 18) [Press Release](#)
- Travelers from Hawaii, South Dakota and the U.S. Virgin Islands were added to the state quarantine list, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Tuesday. The overall number of states and U.S. territories subject to the quarantine has gone down with the removal of Rhode Island, Ohio, New Mexico and Alaska from what is now a 31-state and two-territory list. [Washington state was also removed](#) from the quarantine list. (August 11)
- Travelers from 34 states will need to self-quarantine for two weeks upon arriving in New York, New Jersey or Connecticut after Rhode Island was added to the tri-state list on Tuesday and Delaware was removed by the Governor. Washington, D.C., was also removed from the quarantine

advisory on Tuesday after being added last week. Puerto Rico was added last week and remains subject to the order. The list of affected states and jurisdictions is updated weekly. (Aug. 4) See: [Press Release](#)

- **Governor Cuomo on Tuesday, July 28 added Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota** were to the ever-growing list as Covid-19 infection rates continue to spike in much of the country, bringing the total number of affected states to 34. Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico were also included.
- Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday, July 21 added 10 states and removed one from a list that requires travelers from those states to quarantine for 14 days after arriving in New York. The 10 states added to the list are **Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Virginia and Washington. The list now includes 31 states, after Minnesota was removed: Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.** See [Press Release \(July 21\)](#)
- On Wednesday, June 25, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo added **Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington, Utah and Texas**, to the quarantine list. Anyone found out of compliance will be subject to a judicial order and a mandatory quarantine, Cuomo said. Fines can range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 depending on whether it is the first offense and if harm is caused. The advisory not only applies to out-of-state residents. Any New Yorker who leaves to visit those states would be subject to quarantine upon their return. The tri-state initiative will use uniform parameters and messaging on highways, airports, websites and social media across the three states. The three states will also ask hotels to communicate the 14-

day quarantine to guests who have traveled from one of the impacted states. See: [Press Release \(June 25\)](#)

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that eight additional states meet the metrics to qualify for the travel advisory requiring individuals who have traveled to New York from those states, all of which have significant community spread, to quarantine for 14 days. **The newly-added states are: California, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada and Tennessee.** The quarantine applies to any person arriving from a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average or a state with a 10% or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average. (June 30)
- New York State added three additional states to the travel advisory: **Delaware, Kansas and Oklahoma** (July 7) See: [Press Release](#)
- On Tuesday, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have added another four states to the list of places from which incoming visitors must quarantine for two weeks when they arrive in the tri-state region. The newly-added states are Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio and Wisconsin. Delaware has been removed. See: [Press Release](#) (July 14)
- **Governor Cuomo** announced that the metrics of success in the state's fight against COVID-19 will change. Now, state officials will report on the **percentage of people who test positive** for the coronavirus.
 - Currently, about **1%** of people are testing positive for the coronavirus across the state.
 - You can view the new state dashboard [here](#).
- **State Metrics for Reopening by the region:** [Guide for Reopening New York](#) and [NYForwardGuide](#)
 - **NYS Reopening Tracker - Regions and Counties:** [Tracker Spreadsheet](#)
 - **New State early warning dashboard** that aggregates the state's expansive data collection efforts for New Yorkers, government officials and experts to monitor and review how the virus is being contained on an ongoing basis has been posted. It tracks new infections and their severity, hospital capacity by region, and other

metrics. The early warning system dashboard was developed in consultation with internationally-known experts who have been advising New York State. The early warning dashboard can be found [here](#).

- The State has released a [New York Forward Business Reopening Web Tool](#), which helps small businesses determine if they have met the criteria for reopening.
- Employers must read their relevant industry guidance, [complete this affirmation form](#) to indicate compliance with guidelines, and [develop a safety plan](#) to be posted where employees can see it at the place of business.
- **Chief Judge Janet DiFiore Delivers OPENING Message on COVID-19 and the New York State Courts:** [Opening Message](#) and for a transcript of the Chief Judge's message, please follow this link: www.nycourts.gov
 - In-person hearings for people with desk appearance tickets will resume across New York City [on Sept. 8](#) along with bench trials in Manhattan and Queens Housing Court – and [on Sept. 15](#), bench trials will resume in Bronx Housing Court, [the Daily News reports](#).
- The governor announced that air conditioning filters with a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) rating capable of filtering COVID-19 particles or similar air exchange measures will be mandatory for large mall reopening. A COVID-19 particle is approximately 0.125 microns in diameter. Filters with a high MERV, such as High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters, have been shown to help reduce the presence of COVID-19 in air filtration systems. (June 29)
 - **Regions in New York in phase four of reopening:** Central New York, the Finger Lakes, the Mohawk Valley, the North Country, Western New York, Capital District, the Southern Tier, Mid-Hudson, Long Island and New York City (with additional restrictions)
 - **Phase 4 Guidance:** [Here](#) (Higher education, Professional sports without fans, Arts and entertainment—low risk, Film and TV production)
 - Will Permit Social Gatherings of 50 People and Indoor Religious Gatherings at 33 Percent Capacity

- The Governor approved the reopening of indoor shopping malls outside New York City starting Friday, July 10 provided the establishments have installed new air filters that remove coronavirus particles from the air.
 - New York City reached phase 4 of reopening with some modifications to further restrict risk for community spread. Malls and museums will not reopen out of abundance of caution. No additional indoor activity will open due to concerns about spread of the virus. See: [AP News](#)
 - New York Forward guidance for **malls in New York City** has been posted on the New York City - Phase 4 website, which can be accessed at [here](#).
 - New York Forward guidance for personal **care** has been amended to permit services that require a customer to remove their face covering. The updated detailed guidance can be found at [here](#).
-
- **New York State Forward guidance for phase three** can be found [here](#)
 - **Phase 3 Guidance:** [NYS Food Service Guidance Phase 3](#)
 - **Phase 3 Guidance:** Personal Care [NYS Personal Care/Salons Guidance Phase 3](#)
 - Gatherings of 25 people or less will be permitted in phase 3 reopening: [Gatherings](#)
 - **New York State Forward guidance for phase two** reopening can be found [here](#)
-
- **Health Care Institutions/Nursing Homes**
 - New, revised nursing home visitation guidance was announced on March 25, 2021, to align with guidelines recently released by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The guidance, which takes effect immediately, permits visitation at all times and for all residents with limited exceptions for unvaccinated residents in areas of high community spread and lower resident vaccination rates, residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, or those in isolation or quarantine. Facilities must continue to adhere to critical infection control practices. See: [Here](#)
 - **New state regulations on nursing home visitations will go into effect Friday, February 26.** These [full guidelines](#) depend on a county's

COVID risk level, and continue to depend on the nursing home facility being free of COVID-19 cases for 14 days. For counties with COVID-19 positivity rates between 5-10 percent (on a 7-day rolling average), visitor testing is required and visitors must have a negative test before entry. For counties with COVID-19 positivity rates below 5 percent, visitor testing is strongly encouraged and rapid tests may be utilized. Alternatively, visitors may provide proof of a completed COVID-19 vaccination no less than 14 days from the date of the visit. Visitation will not be permitted if the county's COVID-19 positivity rate is greater than 10 percent.

Compassionate care visits are always permitted.

- New York nursing homes that have gone 14 days without a coronavirus case can reopen for limited visitation, the state Department of Health announced, down from a 28-day threshold. Visitors are required to present a verified negative test result within the last seven days and nursing homes are required to adhere to other guidelines. See: [Press Release](#)
- New York state health officials on September 9 updated visitation rules for pediatric nursing homes and adult care facilities. The new guidance allows for visitors at adult care facilities if they have been COVID-19 free for 14 days, reduced from 28 days. The revised guidance for pediatric nursing homes and adult care facilities still place limitations on the number and age of guests for patients and the facilities must have adequate staffing and screening protocols for staff and visitors. The updated guidance does not affect adult nursing homes.
- **The New York State Department of Financial Services has issued new guidance to New York health insurers to ensure that patients are not charged personal protective equipment fees by healthcare providers that participate in their insurer's network.** DFS has received consumer complaints about healthcare providers, particularly dental providers, improperly charging their patients fees for PPE or other charges related to increased costs due to

COVID-19, which fees are being passed to their insurers and go beyond the insured patient's applicable cost-sharing. See: [Press Release](#) and [Circular Letter to Insurance Industry](#) (August 5)

- **The New York State Department of Financial Services has issued new guidance to New York health insurers to ensure that patients are not charged personal protective equipment fees by healthcare providers that participate in their insurer's network.** DFS has received consumer complaints about healthcare providers, particularly dental providers, improperly charging their patients fees for PPE or other charges related to increased costs due to COVID-19, which fees are being passed to their insurers and go beyond the insured patient's applicable cost-sharing. See: [Press Release](#) and [Circular Letter to Insurance Industry](#) (August 5)
- The State Department of Financial Services has extended its emergency regulation requiring NY health insurers to waive out-of-pocket costs, including cost-sharing, deductibles, copays and coinsurance, for in-network mental health services for New York's frontline essential workers until November 27. See: [Governor Transcript](#) (Sept. 30)
- The state will begin allowing hospital visitations, but the visitors must wear masks, limit their time in the hospital and be subject to having their temperature taken as they enter. Visitations will be at the discretion of the hospital. Visitations to nursing homes remain suspended.
- **State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker announced nursing homes and long term care facilities in New York will be allowed to resume limited visitations** for facilities that have been without COVID-19 for at least 28 days, a threshold [set](#) by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Residents in these facilities will be allowed two visitors at a time, and the visitors must undergo temperature checks, wear face coverings and socially distance during the visit. At least one of the two visitors must be at least 18 years of age or older. For each facility, only 10 percent of the residents can be allowed visitors at any time; for example, in a 100-bed facility no more

than 10 residents can have visitors per day in order to maintain proper social distancing and ensure safe compliance. Nursing Homes accepting visitors will be required to send their visitation plan to NYSDOH and affirmatively attest that they are following the guidance outlined [here](#)

- **The Health Commissioner also announced the resumption of on-site visitation for the state’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman program**, which provides additional support to residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, effective July 15, 2020. Ombudsman staff must utilize appropriate PPE for the duration of the visit, and must be screened as if they were a staff person of such nursing home, including having to present a verified negative test result to the nursing home within the past week. See: [Press Release](#)
 - **The Department of Health will adjust the visitation policy as appropriate** based on facts and data following this initial phase to ensure the health and safety of residents, staff and visitors. View State DOH [guidance](#) for resumption of limited visitation at [nursing homes](#), [adult care facilities](#) and [pediatric skilled nursing facilities](#).

- **Reopening of Establishments**

- **Scheduled**

- Movie theaters outside New York City and not within a COVID cluster zone can resume showings Oct. 23 at 25 percent capacity, with a maximum of 50 people per screen, according to the governor. See: [Press Release](#)
 - Ski resorts can reopen in New York beginning November 6, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on October 18. The resorts must operate at 50-percent capacity. Face masks will be required at all times except when eating and drinking. Ski lessons are limited to no more than 10 people. Gondolas and lifts will be limited to people in the same party. Capacity on mountains must be reduced by 25 percent during peak times. See: [Press Release](#)

- **Indoor malls in New York City** are permitted to reopen starting September 9 with a 50 percent occupancy limit. All malls that choose to reopen will be subject to strict safety protocols, including strict enforcement of face coverings, social distancing, additional staff to control occupancy, traffic flow and seating to avoid crowding and enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols. Malls must also have enhanced air filtration, ventilation and purification standards in place in order to open. See: [Press Release](#)
- Gov. Cuomo announced on Sept. 3 that **casinos and video lottery terminal facilities** will be allowed to reopen starting September 9 with a 25 percent occupancy limit. All venues that choose to reopen will be subject to strict safety protocols, including strict enforcement of face coverings except when eating or drinking, social distancing, additional staff to control occupancy, traffic flow and seating to avoid crowding, and enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols. Casinos must also have enhanced air filtration, ventilation and purification standards in place in order to open. See: [Press Release](#)
- **Summer day camps** and child care may open statewide on June 29. See: [State Guidance](#) on how they should operate
- New York will allow **libraries** to open for curbside service in Phase 1 of a region's reopening and allow limited in-person pickup in Phases 2/3. Libraries [received guidance in recent days](#) on how they can proceed with providing services to residents in their communities as regions reopen
- Governor Cuomo announced that **places of worship** will be permitted to reopen with 25% occupancy during Phase Two, accelerating plans to reopen.
 - Service goers will still have to maintain social distance.
 - The Governor announced that low-risk youth sports, with two spectators for each child, can resume starting July 6 in phase three of the opening process [Press Release](#)

- All group homes certified by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities can begin visitations on Friday, June 19 as long as they notify the state and follow state guidelines. (June 16)

- **Approved to reopen**
 - Lower-risk school sports (e.g. Tennis, Golf) are able to start on **September 21** statewide but teams won't be able to practice or play outside of their region until **October 19**. See: [Press Release](#) and [Public Health Guidance](#)
 - **Bowling alleys throughout New York will be allowed to reopen starting Monday, August 17 with strict safety protocols.** Bowling alleys will be able to operate at a 50 percent occupancy, and face coverings and social distancing will be required at all times. Every other lane must be closed and patrons need to stay with the party at their assigned lane. Additionally, thorough cleaning and disinfection of shared or rented equipment between each use will be required. Read more [here](#).
 - Gyms and fitness centers in New York can open on Aug. 24, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on August 17. Facilities will be allowed to operate at 33 percent capacity and all occupants must be wearing masks during their workouts. The buildings must be equipped with MERV 13 filters for ventilation. Gyms must have a sign-in form to assist with contact-tracing efforts. See: [Press Release](#)
 - Local elected officials may choose to delay the reopening of gyms and fitness centers until September 2 to, in part, provide time for required local health department inspections, and may also choose to delay the reopening of indoor fitness classes until a date beyond September 2.
 - In New York City, the Mayor will determine whether gyms and fitness centers should postpone reopening. Outside of New York City, the county's chief executive - county executive, administrator,

manager, or chair of the local elected legislative body - will determine whether gym reopening needs to be postponed.

- Dental Offices
- Veterinary Offices with limitations
- Landscaping and Gardening, Drive-In Theaters
- The Governor announced that outdoor, socially distanced [graduation ceremonies](#) will be allowed starting on June 26, the governor announced Sunday. No more than 150 people can take part in each ceremony, however – a condition that suggests that all but the smallest schools will have to break up their festivities into multiple gatherings. See: [Press Release \(June 7\)](#)
- The Governor approved the reopening of indoor shopping malls outside New York City starting Friday, July 10 provided the establishments have installed new air filters that remove coronavirus particles from the air.
- Governors Island is reopening starting July 8 with [early access ferry tickets are available for reservation](#). Seniors, young people (under 12), NYCHA residents and IDNYC cardholders ride free, instead of paying \$3. Socially-distanced ferries will start running again next Wednesday (7/15) at 10 am, and Manhattan ferries will run daily from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street.
- DMV Licensed Driving Schools are permitted to conduct distance-learning pre-license courses [Press Release](#) (July 29)

- **Financial/Food Assistance**
 - Following a [New York State policy change](#), thousands of SUNY, CUNY, technical education, and community college students enrolled in specific career and technical education programs are now eligible to apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). As of October 16, 2020, students who attend an institution of higher education at least half-time and are enrolled in qualifying career and technical education programs of study can now apply for SNAP. For more information from CUNY [click here](#).

- Gov. Cuomo announced the "Find Services" [web application](#), a new portal, developed through a public-private partnership with Google.org, to help struggling New Yorkers locate benefits to assist them during their time of need. See: [Press Release](#) (Nov 16)
- Free Grab & Go meals are available at 259 schools-- see [this map of sites](#). Students and their families can pick up meals during the school day, and the general public is welcome from 3 - 5 pm. (Nov 2020)
- **Hunter College NYC Food Policy Center** has created the [COVID-19 NYC Neighborhood Food Resource Guide](#). This guide includes all food-related efforts to keep New Yorkers from going hungry. The list is categorized by both Council District and ZIP code, making it easy to sort through and access resources that are already in your community. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Replacement of Food Purchased with SNAP Benefits Due to Power Outages - Extension:** In response to a request by the city and state, the US Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has granted an extension of the time period for submitting a request for replacement of food purchased with SNAP benefits that cannot be used because of the recent power outages. The 10-day time period from the date of outage has been extended as follows:
 - Reporting loss of food has been extended through the close of business on September 4, 2020.
 - Supporting documentation of the loss can be submitted through September 14, 2020. Proof of loss of food can be submitting using a form [LDSS-2291 or a signed affidavit of loss. Any signed submission attesting to the loss will be accepted.](#)
- **The Governor announced that more than \$2.3 million has been awarded to support 61 businesses and residential landlords with COVID-19 related costs and expenses through the New York Forward Loan Fund.** Fifty-four of these loans were provided to minority- and women-owned businesses. Applications are still being accepted and businesses from

qualifying industries, including agriculture, construction, food services, retail, education services, manufacturing and transportation, are encouraged to apply. Applications are available [here](#). See: [Press Release](#)

- **Workplace information/Jobs/Training**

- New York City is creating **10,000** jobs by July 2021 to eradicate graffiti, beautify parks and maintain open streets. The city will post **1,000** jobs in April. The first **500** jobs are now posted [here](#).
- **The moratorium on commercial evictions is extended to May 1, 2021**. The Gov. signed an Executive Order extending the moratorium on commercial evictions to May 1, 2021. This measure extends protections already in place for commercial tenants and mortgagors in recognition of the financial toll the pandemic has taken on business owners, including retail establishments and restaurants.
- Winter is coming! [Apply now](#) to earn up to \$22.50 an hour removing snow and ice as a [snow laborer](#) with the Dept. of Sanitation. You must be 18 or older and eligible to work in the U.S.
- To assist unemployed and underemployed New Yorkers, Gov. Cuomo announced free access to nearly 4,000 Online Courses Certificate Programs on Coursera with a focus on high-growth and in-demand sectors like advanced manufacturing, technology, and health care, among others. See: [Press Release](#) New Yorkers can request a free account on the New York State Department of Labor [website](#). The full course catalog can be viewed [here](#).
- The governor signed an executive order to extend the state's moratorium on COVID-related **commercial evictions** and **mortgage foreclosure** until January 31, 2021.
- The governor issued an executive order allowing commercial buildings to conduct temperature checks on people entering. Read the order [here](#).
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has released [a new set of guidelines](#) for how the risk of coronavirus can be mitigated in the workplace. Temperature checks for employees, plastic shields between desks and wearing face coverings at all times are among the recommendations. The CDC also recommends employees drive to work by themselves.

- **Child Care**

- Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that \$65 million in federal CARES Act funding is available for child care providers statewide through the New York Forward Child Care Expansion Incentive program. The funding available includes:
 - \$20 million to assist childcare program with reopening and expansion of capacity by providing materials to support a more socially distant model, and for supplies and activities associated with reopening and expansion. This may include partitions, short term rental of space, etc.
 - \$45 million in childcare Reopening and Expansion Incentive funds to pay for 50% of the cost of a newly opened classroom (maximum grant amount of \$6,000) as an incentive to open the classroom. The temporary funds will phase out over the second and third months as more parents bring their children back into childcare.
 - To be eligible for reopening funds, child care programs must have either been closed as of June 15 and have a plan to reopen within two weeks of applying or currently operating below their licensed capacity and would like to expand. The grants will be pro-rated as programs reach capacity. Programs must submit a detailed plan for use of funds and must remain open at least through the end of the year.
 - The maximum awards for the \$20 million in Reopening and Restructuring Incentives depend on the size of the program and range from \$300 to \$1,600 one-time grants. Child care programs may apply to OCFS through July 15.

- **Retail**

- New York City announced on October 28 the launch of the new Open Storefronts program — modeled on the city's popular outdoor dining initiative — which will allow 40,000 businesses to set up open air operations. De Blasio signed an executive order Wednesday to create the program, which will start Friday and go at least through Dec. 31. Shops can

use outdoor space after filling out an [online application](#). The city is hoping the outdoor stores will boost business during the holiday season, which many shops rely on for 70 percent of their sales. See: [Press Release](#) Businesses will be able to display merchandise, complete transactions, and provide areas for customers to line up, as long as the business meets eligibility criteria identified by the City, which will be made available at nyc.gov/openstorefronts.

- **Restaurants**

- **Indoor dining in New York City will increase to 50 percent** on March 19, Gov. Cuomo announced on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. Restaurants in the City have been able to operate at 35 percent capacity since late February. Restaurants are allowed to operate at 50 percent in the rest of the state, though that figure will increase to 75 percent next week. See: [Press Release](#)
- **The Governor announced indoor dining in New York City will be allowed to resume beginning September 30th** with a 25 percent occupancy limit. All restaurants that choose to reopen will be subject to strict safety protocols, including temperature checks, contact information for tracing, face coverings when patrons are not seated, spaced seating and other protocols. Bar service will not be permitted, and restaurants will close at midnight. Guidelines will be reassessed based on the data by November 1. If the infection rate does not increase, restaurants may be permitted to increase to 50 percent capacity; the State will monitor any positivity increase on an ongoing basis and potentially reassess if necessary. Business guidance for indoor dining in New York City is available [here](#).
- **The City of New York will provide a team of 400 enforcement personnel to work with the State Police Task Force** to ensure compliance. Restaurants must publicly post their 25 percent indoor dining capacity and the phone number and text number to report violations. Patrons

who observe violations can report issues by calling 833-208-4160, or by texting 'VIOLATION' to 855-904-5036.

- The State Liquor Authority will be able to immediately suspend a liquor license if businesses do not enforce social distancing rules and be subject to an "immediate shutdown order."
- Bars and restaurants will also be responsible for the areas outside their establishments, such as on the sidewalks.
- **Governor Cuomo amended an Executive Order (EO) to provide updated guidance for food and beverage establishments effective immediately.** Under this EO, businesses selling or serving alcohol to be consumed at the business or elsewhere must ensure that everyone within 100 feet of their business is:
 - In compliance with open-container, social-distancing, and face-covering rules; and
 - Following all existing rules, regulations, and laws.
 - Businesses that cannot follow these guidelines must stop selling alcohol until they can. Patrons can also be fined for breaking open container or social distancing rules.
 - Violations could result in having a license suspended or revoked, with fines up to \$10,000 per violation. See: [Executive Order](#)
 - **The State Liquor authority continues to suspend licenses of establishments in violation of public health regulations.** See: [Press Release](#) (July 29) and additional activity [Press Release](#) (August 3)
 - Governor Cuomo announced that bars and restaurants across the state will no longer provide walk-up bar service or serve alcohol to people who aren't purchasing food. [AP News](#) (July 16). The governor announced a new "three strikes" policy that will require bars and restaurants to close after

they receive three citations for failing to follow rules, including mask-wearing and keeping people 6 feet (2 meters) apart. See: [Press Release](#)

Recreation/Fairs/Sports

- **New York State Fair in Syracuse at the end of the summer will [reopen](#) at full capacity.** Most popular buildings at the Fairgrounds will be open, adhering to health guidelines. The State Fair will be an 18-day-long event featuring New York's best food and drink, rides and games, entertainment, and agricultural education.
- **Starting June 11, Citi Field will expand vaccinated seating capacity** to 90 percent of the stadium for Mets home games. [Excelsior Pass](#) is accepted at Citi Field as proof of vaccination.
- **The Saratoga Race Course will reopen to fans on July 15, 2021.** In conjunction with the New York Racing Association, the governor announced that Saratoga Race Course will reopen to fans at near full capacity when the 2021 summer meet begins on July 15. In addition, all fans who show proof of vaccination through [Excelsior Pass](#), or alternate forms of proof, will receive free grandstand general admission on opening day.
- **County fairs and local festivals can be held this summer so long as local governments approve and consider COVID-19 health guidelines.** County fairs and local festivals must ensure that the total number of attendees is limited so that six feet of distance can be maintained between individuals who are not members of the same party, unless all attendees present proof of full vaccination status. Fairs and festivals may require masks for all attendees, and per CDC guidance masks are required for unvaccinated attendees in certain settings, and indoors where vaccination status is unknown. See: [Press Release](#)
- New York State released updated health and safety guidance for child care, overnight camps and day camps on May 19, 2021. Facilities and programs must collect COVID-19 vaccination status and documentation for all staff and children, and implement mandatory daily health screening practices of their staff and visitors including daily temperature checks. Facilities and programs are required to notify the state and

local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by a staff member or child at their site. See: [Press Release](#) and [guidance](#)

- The governor announced that New York City will once again host its marathon on Nov. 7 marathon with reduced capacity-- 33,000 runners, or about two-thirds capacity. Masks and other public health protocols will likely be required. Registration opens June 8, 2021. See: [Press Release](#) Details can be found [here](#)
- On May 17, 2021, the governor announced the resumption of the Tribeca Film Festival which will be held around the city at various outdoor venues. The closing night will be held at Radio City Music Hall at 100% capacity. It will mark the first in-person film festival to take place in North American since the pandemic began. The music hall will be open **only for vaccinated individuals** and the audience will not have to wear masks. See: [Press Release](#) For more information on Tribeca, please visit www.tribecafilm.com.
- Governor Cuomo announced on May 12, 2021, that beaches and pools will open for Memorial Day with 6 ft social distancing with the possibility of 100% capacity by July 4. See: [Press Release](#)
- On May 15, offices, gyms, and casinos and gaming facilities will expand capacity. Gyms and fitness centers outside of New York City will increase from 33 percent to 50 percent capacity. Casinos and gaming facilities will increase from 25 percent to 50 percent. Offices will increase from 50 percent to 75 percent capacity. See: [Press Release](#)
- On May 19, spectator capacity at large-scale outdoor event venues will increase. These venues, including professional and collegiate sports and live performing arts and entertainment, will increase from 20 to 33 percent beginning May 19. This increase will coincide with the previously announced increase in large-scale indoor event venue capacity. Social distancing, masks, health screenings and all other State health and safety protocols remain in effect. See: [Press Release](#)

- Governor Cuomo announced the 2021 Reimagined New York State Fair on April 26, 2021. The fair will be held at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse from August 20 to September 6. The event will feature New York's best food and drink, live music and entertainment, Midway rides, and agriculture education and awareness in four different, concurrent festivals that will take place exclusively in the outdoor areas of the fairgrounds. Read more [here](#).
- Spectators will be permitted to attend horse and auto races at 20 percent capacity beginning Thursday, April 22. Spectators will be subjected to the State's strict guidance, which is currently in effect for other professional sports competitions with fans. Attendees must show proof of a recent negative test or completed vaccination series prior to entry and are subjected to the State's health and safety protocols on face coverings, social distancing and health screening. See: [Press Release](#)
- Beginning April 2, collegiate sports can bring a limited number of fans back to their arenas. All attendees must present proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test result or completed COVID-19 immunization prior to entry. Colleges and universities hosting spectators for sporting events at large-scale venues must notify and coordinate with their respective health department, aligning with the state guidance for professional sports competitions with spectators. State guidelines can be found [here](#)
- The Governor announced that On April 1, **the New York Mets and New York Yankees** can resume playing with spectators in the stadiums. Professional sports in large outdoor stadiums that hold 10,000 people or more will be allowed to reopen at 20 percent capacity. Attendees must show proof of a recent negative test or completed vaccination series prior to entry and are subject to strict state guidance on face coverings, social distancing and health screenings. Vaccination efforts at both Yankee Stadium and Citi Field will still continue during the MLB season.(March 18, 2021) See: [Press Release](#)
- **Smaller, regional sports venues can also reopen beginning April 1.** These are venues that hold 1,500 people indoors or 2,500 people outdoors and initial capacity will be limited to 10 percent indoors and 20 percent outdoors. Attendees must show proof of a recent negative test or completed vaccination

series prior to entry and are subject to strict state guidance on face coverings, social distancing and health screenings. (March 18, 2021)

- **Large outdoor performing arts venues, including stadiums, that hold more than 2,500 people can reopen at 20 percent capacity beginning April 1, according to the governor.** Venue capacity for concerts and other performing arts events will continue to increase as the public health situation improves with more New Yorkers receiving vaccinations and fewer COVID-19 cases in the community. Attendees must show proof of a recent negative test or completed vaccination series prior to entry and are subject to strict state guidance on face coverings, social distancing and health screenings.
- **The Governor announced on March 3, 2021, that arts and entertainment venues can reopen at 33 percent capacity beginning April 2.** Venues Will Be Able to Host Up to 100 people indoors and up to 200 people outdoors and with testing, up to 150 guests indoors and up to 500 people outdoors. Venues must adhere to social distancing practices and face coverings will be required. See: [Press Release](#)
- **Indoor fitness classes can resume at 33% capacity** starting Monday (3/22), the Governor announced
- **Movie theaters in New York City, along with any other areas of the state where they have been closed, are permitted to reopen March 5** at 25 percent capacity, with no more than 50 people per screen at a time. Other safety protocols, including assigned seating and social distancing, will be in place. Billiard/Pool Halls are also permitted to re-open with limitations. See [Reopening Announcement](#)
- **Stadiums and events arenas in New York State can reopen with limited spectators (10% capacity) beginning February 23, 2021.** Following the success of the Buffalo Bills testing program, sports and entertainment events in major stadiums with a capacity of 10,000 or more will be allowed to [reopen](#) with limited attendance and under guidance from the State Department of Health. Venues and events must follow State requirements for testing, screening, mandatory face coverings, socially distancing and more. Venues will be required to collect personal information for the purposes of

contact tracing. Under these new reopening guidelines, the Barclays Center will open when the Brooklyn Nets host the Sacramento Kings.

- **If college sports resume in the fall, no fans will be allowed.** Just like with professional sports, [college athletics](#) can resume but no fans or spectators will be permitted at stadiums.
- The Governor issued an [Executive Order](#) allowing low-risk, outdoor recreational activities and businesses providing such activities to open in regions that have met the public health and safety metrics required for phase one. (June 2)
 - Includes tennis, golf and driving ranges (not miniature/mini golf) with food and retail services subject to the restrictions that are currently in effect within the region, and non-motorized boat use and rentals, such as row boats, kayaks, and canoes.
- Governor Cuomo announced that decisions on the reopening of public pools and playgrounds would be at the discretion of local governments. (June 11)
- State outdoor pools across New York opened for swimming starting on the July 4 weekend under the standard operating schedule of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. See: [Guidance](#)
 - Visitors will be asked to sign-in with contact information to enable potential contact tracing measures.
 - Pool capacity will be limited to 50 percent to help maintain 6-feet of distance in the water between swimmers who are not members of the same household or family unit.
 - Lounge chairs, benches and picnic tables will be kept 10-feet apart from others.
 - Face coverings or masks must be worn at all times in interior building spaces, including partially enclosed or covered outdoor areas; and at times outside (except in the pool) if social distancing cannot or is unlikely to be maintained.
 - No group gatherings of 10 people or more will be allowed.
 - A listing of State parks with swimming pools can be found on the [here](#)

- **According to the NYS Department of Health, concessions are permitted to reopen with restrictions at state ocean and lakefront beaches beginning Sunday, July 12th.** This includes concessions at popular destinations such as Jones Beach, Robert Moses, Sunken Meadow, and Lake Welch in Harriman State Park. We made this decision based on facts and science, and in recognition that these concessions are largely outdoors and are similar to other businesses we have allowed to open with precautions as part of NY Forward. As always, New Yorkers and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear face masks as appropriate, and local governments will be actively monitoring to ensure compliance.
- The Governor announced that low-risk youth sports, with two spectators for each child, can resume starting July 6 in regions in the phase three of the opening process [Press Release](#) (June 13)
 - Please see [more detailed guidance](#) which applies to non-professional, non-collegiate sports conducted by gyms/fitness centers and training facilities.
- **The U.S. Open** will be held in Queens without fans from August 31st to September 13th. The USTA will take extraordinary precautions to protect players and staff, including robust testing, additional cleaning, extra locker room space and dedicated housing and transportation
- The **2020 MTV Video Music Awards** to Be Held with Limited to No Audience at Barclays Center in Brooklyn on Sunday, August 30.
- **The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks)** marked the start of summer by launching a **new, user-friendly mobile app** for smart devices to provide visitors and prospective visitors useful information about the destinations and activities at the state's parks and historic sites. Users can learn more about destinations with rotating curated content, and will enjoy quick access to park information, including directions, hours, amenities, fees and rates, trail maps, helpful know-before-you-go details, and the ability to receive important updates and alerts. Visitors can link directly to online camping reservations and easily access select State Parks' social media channels.

- To download the no-cost mobile app for iOS and Android devices, visit: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.ny.its.nysparks> or <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ny-state-parks-explorer/id1496803341>
- **The Governor announced that the U.S. Open Championship will be held at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck** from September 14th to September 20th without fans and spectators. The USGA will put protocols in place to protect players and staff, including rigorous protocols for testing, cleaning, use of face coverings and social distancing. (July 29)

FEDERAL INFORMATION

- The Internal Revenue Service, on behalf of the Treasury Department, is working quickly to deliver the third round of Economic Impact Payments authorized by Congress in the American Rescue Plan Act in March 2021. Here are [answers](#) to some common questions about this set of stimulus payments, which differ in some ways from the first two sets of stimulus payments in 2020, referred to as EIP1 and EIP2.
- Where can I get more information? For more information about Economic Impact Payments, visit [IRS.gov/eip](https://www.irs.gov/eip). Check the payment status at [IRS.gov/getmypayment](https://www.irs.gov/getmypayment). For other COVID-19-related tax relief, visit [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).
- **The IRS has begun depositing the second round of direct stimulus payments.** Taxpayers can check the status of their stimulus payments with the IRS's **Get My Payment** tool [here](#). (January 7, 2021)
 - The **Better Business Bureau** noted that people receiving the payments "should beware of calls or text messages seeking personal information that could leave their accounts vulnerable." Read more [here](#).
- The CDC [recommended](#) the "**universal use of face masks**" to fight COVID, **further supporting New York's mask policies**. The agency stressed the need for people to wear masks in all non-household indoor settings. As a reminder, New York State law requires everyone over age 2 who can medically tolerate a face covering to wear one when in public if unable to maintain at least six feet of distance from others. It's also an excellent practice in private settings outside of your own household.

- **The CDC announced on December 2, 2020 options to reduce quarantine for people who may have been exposed to COVID-19.** Quarantine is intended to reduce the risk that infected persons might unknowingly transmit infection to others. It also ensures that persons who become symptomatic or are otherwise diagnosed during quarantine can be rapidly brought to care and evaluated. However, a 14-day quarantine can impose personal burdens that may affect physical and mental health as well as cause economic hardship that may reduce compliance. Based on local circumstances and resources, CDC finds the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable to the recommended 14 days.
 - Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
 - With this strategy, residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be about 1% with an upper limit of about 10%.
 - *When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available*, quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (e.g., in anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.
 - With this strategy, the residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be about 5% with an upper limit of about 12%.
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released several new resources to help prevent the spread of and treat COVID-19:**
 - The CDC issued a scientific bulletin highlighting the importance of masks for personal protection and source control. See: [Masking Bulletin](#) (Nov. 10).
 - The CDC [released a report](#) on characteristics associated with adults remembering to wash hands in multiple situations before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report noted that less than 75 percent of survey respondents remember to wash their hands after sneezing or coughing, before

- eating in a restaurant, and before eating at home. Men, young adults, and white adults are the least likely populations to remember to wash their hands.
- The CDC [**released a report**](#) on community mitigation measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19. In particular, the report examined actions taken by Arizona. When the state implemented and enforced measures such as mask wearing, case numbers stabilized and decreased.
 - The CDC [**has identified**](#) several cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) in adults. MIS-C is a rare but severe complication of COVID-19, and more commonly reported in children and adolescents than adults.
 - The CDC [**updated its guidance**](#) on people with certain underlying medical conditions who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19. This list now includes those who have obesity, are overweight, or smoke or have a history of smoking.
 - The CDC [**noted that there is evidence**](#) that under certain conditions, people with COVID-19 may infect others who are more than six feet away. These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation, especially if the infected person was breathing heavily (e.g., singing or exercising).
 - The CDC [**issued an update**](#) for people with asthma, including recommendations to reduce a chance of an asthma attack while using a disinfectant to prevent COVID-19.
 - The CDC [**updated its guidance**](#) on limiting workplace violence associated with COVID-19. The resource is intended for employers and employees in retail, services, and other customer-based businesses. It offers strategies to limit violence toward workers that may occur when businesses put into place policies and practices to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 among employees and customers.
 - The CDC and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [**announced**](#) that payments are available to health care providers for counseling patients at the time of COVID-19 testing about the importance of self-isolation after they are tested and prior to the onset of symptoms.

- Individuals with HIV may have questions or concerns regarding their risk of serious illness from COVID-19. The CDC answers some of those questions [here](#).
- Long-standing systemic health and social inequities have placed many individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Learn about some of the factors contributing to risk and what can be done [here](#).
- The CDC has several guidance and planning documents available for people with disabilities [here](#).
- If you are considering traveling to another country, you can review the CDC's travel health notices [here](#).
- If you have or think you might have COVID-19, the CDC has information on [when it is safe to be around others](#). In particular, the CDC recommends limiting contact with other people until:
 - 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and
 - 24 hours have passed with no fever and without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - COVID-19 symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).
- If you are [returning to work](#), the CDC provides a list of factors to consider in preparation, including whether there are ways in which you can minimize the number of people with whom you interact.
- If you are considering [using transportation](#), including public transit, rideshares and taxis, micro-mobility devices, and personal vehicles, the CDC has recommendations to reduce the risk of COVID-19.
- The CDC updated its [guidance on traveling during the COVID-19 PHE](#). If you are thinking about traveling, the CDC recommends that you consider factors such as whether
 - COVID-19 is spreading at your destination;
 - You or someone you live with might be more likely to get very ill from COVID-19; and
 - Your destination has requirements or restrictions for travelers.

- If you are considering traveling abroad, you can find information on health threats in destinations around the world through the CDC's [Travel Health Notices \(THNs\)](#). The CDC also has [an interactive world map](#) containing the agency's COVID-19 travel recommendations by country.
- The CDC also has information about [returning from international travel](#), including what to do if you participated in activities that are considered higher risk.

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**
 - Beginning October 1, 2020, American hospitals can [purchase](#) remdesivir directly from the drug's distributor. Remdesivir is an antiviral drug currently authorized for emergency use by healthcare providers to treat hospitalized adult and pediatric patients with suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19.
 - The administration announced the [national distribution plan](#) for the BinaxNOW Ag Card rapid test to assist governors' efforts to continue to safely reopen their states. BinaxNOW may be offered to K-12 teachers and students, higher education, critical infrastructure, first responders, and others. The BinaxNOW rapid test produces COVID-19 test results within 15 minutes.
 - HHS and the Department of Defense (DoD) [announced](#) agreements with Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline to support advanced development, including clinical trials and large-scale manufacturing, of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 investigational adjuvanted vaccine. By funding the manufacturing effort, the federal government will own the doses that result from the demonstration project. The adjuvanted vaccine doses could be used in clinical trials or, if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorizes use, as outlined in agency [guidance](#), the doses would be distributed as part of a COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

- HHS [released](#) a series of public service announcements (PSAs) and announced over \$8 million in digital, radio, and out-of-home advertisements to support a broader effort imploring Americans to donate their plasma and help save lives. The PSA campaign seeks to dramatically increase donations of convalescent plasma by the end of August.
- HHS, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [announced](#) the formation of the COVID-19 Insights Partnership, an initiative to coordinate and share health data as well as research and expertise regarding COVID-19. The COVID-19 Insights Partnership creates a framework for HHS and the VA to utilize DOE's world-leading high-performance computing and artificial intelligence resources to conduct COVID-19 research and analyze health data that would otherwise not be possible.
- HHS also released a [new report](#) showing a significant increase in utilization trends of telehealth services for primary care delivery in Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicare in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Providers in both rural and urban counties saw increases in telehealth adoption and utilization; however, providers in rural counties saw a smaller growth in telehealth visits as a proportion of all primary care visits in March and April, with a decrease again in May. By contrast, providers in urban counties saw greater telehealth use in March and April and smaller declines in May.
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**
 - On October 22, 2020, the FDA [approved the first antiviral drug \(remdesivir\)](#) for use in adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older for the treatment of COVID-19 requiring hospitalization. The drug was originally approved under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) on May 1, 2020.
 - The FDA regulates hand sanitizer as an over-the-counter drug available without a prescription. The agency has discovered serious safety concerns with some hand sanitizers during recent testing, including:

- Contamination with potentially toxic types of alcohol
 - Not enough active ingredient (ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol)
 - Labels with false, misleading, or unproven claims
- Some hand sanitizers have been recalled and there are more than 150 hand sanitizers the FDA recommends you stop using right away. Before you buy hand sanitizer or use hand sanitizer you have at home, the FDA recommends checking our do-not-use list at www.fda.gov/handsanitizerlist.
 - The FDA has issued an [emergency use authorization](#) for the first antigen test where results can be read directly from the testing card, a similar design to some pregnancy tests. This simple design is fast and efficient for healthcare providers and patients and does not need the use of an analyzer.
 - The FDA [issued a letter](#) to health care providers and facilities alerting them of the potential that passive protective barriers (those without negative pressure) pose an increased health risk to patients and providers when treating patients who are known or suspected to have COVID-19.
 - FDA issued an emergency use authorization for investigational convalescent plasma for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients. Based on scientific evidence available, the FDA concluded, as outlined in its [decision memorandum](#), this product may be effective in treating COVID-19 and that the known and potential benefits of the product outweigh the known and potential risks of the product.
 - The FDA updated its “[Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease](#)” webpage by adding information on what U.S. exporters of FDA-regulated food products need to consider related to COVID-19. The FDA states that, at this time, there is no evidence of transmission of the COVID-19 virus through food or food packaging, and the FDA does not anticipate that foods will need to be recalled or withdrawn from the market because of COVID-19.
 - The FDA also posted [frequently asked questions](#) for patients and consumers about antibody (serology) testing during the COVID-19 PHE. It

explains what antibodies are, that the test cannot be used to diagnose COVID-19, that a positive result means that a person likely recently or previously had COVID-19, and that a positive result does not necessarily mean that someone is immune to COVID-19, among other information.

- The FDA issued a warning letter to [Eskbiochem S.A. de C.V.](#) regarding the distribution of products labeled as manufactured at its facilities with undeclared methanol, misleading claims (e.g., incorrectly stating that the FDA approved the products), and improper manufacturing practices.
- 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](#).

- **US Small Business Administration**

- On October 8, 2020, the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#), in consultation with the [Treasury Department](#), released a simpler loan forgiveness application for [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) loans of \$50,000 or less. This action streamlines the PPP forgiveness process to provide financial and administrative relief to America's smallest businesses while also ensuring sound stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Instructions for completing the simpler loan forgiveness application ([here](#)) Interim Final Rule on the simpler forgiveness process for loans of \$50,000 or less ([here](#))

- **CMS**

- On October 15, 2020, CMS [announced](#) new actions to pay for expedited COVID-19 test results. Starting January 1, 2021, Medicare will pay \$100 only to laboratories that complete high throughput COVID-19 diagnostic tests within two calendar days of the specimen being collected. Also, effective January 1, 2021, Medicare will pay a rate of \$75 for laboratories that take longer than two days to complete these tests. CMS is working to ensure that

- patients who test positive for the virus are alerted quickly so they can self-isolate and receive medical treatment.
- CMS [expanded](#) the list of telehealth services that Medicare Fee-For-Service will pay for during the COVID-19 PHE. CMS is also providing additional support to state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their efforts to expand access to telehealth.

Employment and Volunteer Opportunities

- Jobs are available to accompany vaccinated older adults on the Upper East Side and Upper West Side to vital appointments through social service agency [Search and Care](#). Escorts must be vaccinated, available on weekdays, and able to assist clients into/out of a vehicle. To learn more, email strashun@searchandcare.org.
- The U.S. Postal Service is hiring mail carriers, drivers, sales associates, and sorting clerks. Apply [here](#).
- Find a coat drive drop-off location through [this New York Cares map](#).
- NYU Langone Health Center is recruiting adults age 18+ to participate in a COVID-19 vaccine trial, especially those who are more likely to be exposed and vulnerable, including people with underlying medical conditions, seniors, those who could be exposed in their workplace (including elder-care facility residents or workers, and jail or prison workers) and Black, Latinx and Native American adults. Sign up at NYU Langone's online registry at is.gd/nyucovidvaccinetrial. For more information about COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials in general, visit coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org
- Blood Donation
 - The mayor's office is hosting a "Give Blood NYC" sweepstakes as an incentive to increase blood donors. Read more [here](#). (Dec 2020)
 - **New York Blood Center Issued Urgent Call For Healthy Donors As Blood Supply Drops To Dangerously Low Levels:** [Call for Donation](#)

- New York State is working with blood banks to ensure safe social distancing protocols are being followed. Learn how and where you can donate at ny.gov/donateblood
- New Yorkers who have recovered from COVID-19 and had a positive test BEFORE March 7 should visit www.mountsinai.org to help save another New Yorker by donating plasma.
- The New York Blood Center is accepting donors by appointment. Use their website's location-search-and-scheduling tool on website: <https://nybloodcenter.org/>.
- [The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan is recruiting virtual tutors](#) for one or more 40-minute sessions each week (at various times each day) with students performing below grade level in grades K-12; tutors can be 14 or older and are vetted by the Dept. of Education.
- [New York Cares](#) is seeking volunteers in many capacities, on-the-ground service, or virtual opportunities. Please see more than [250 projects currently in need of volunteer support](#).
- The nonprofit West Side Federation for Senior & Supportive Housing has launched a drive for everything from volunteer support, to potential vendor connections, to donated foodstuffs, activity books, and technology. [Click here](#) to learn more and lend a hand.
- The Hunter College NYC Food Policy Center is recruiting volunteer callers to help update their [59 Coronavirus NYC Neighborhood Food Resource Guides](#). These guides are essential to helping keep communities informed on everything from soup kitchens to farmers markets to available resources for families depending on the SNAP and WIC programs. If you are interested in volunteering, please email info@nycfoodpolicy.org with the subject line: “Volunteer for Food Resource Guides.”
- Sign up as a volunteer for the Friendly Visiting Program at 212-244-6469. Please [click here](#) and complete the DFTA Volunteer Interest Form
- [In It Together NYC](#) is a city-wide volunteer initiative that connects healthy, eligible New Yorkers who seek to assist food pantries at risk of closing.

- iMentor, a nonprofit matching high school student to college-educated mentors, is seeking new mentors to work with students starting this fall (many of whom will need all the help they can get to recover academically from this pause). Interested applicants can [learn more](#) and [apply here](#), or email sjoseph@imentor.org with questions.
- [SAGE](#) has a volunteer [program](#) that connects volunteers with LGBTQ+ seniors to help combat social isolation.
- [Volunteer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), no prior art history background required. Email volunteers@metmuseum.org to learn more.

Recreation& Events in NYC

- Broadway has extended [mask and vaccination requirements](#) through the end of February. Thirty shows are now running and more than a million people have returned to theaters since reopening, according to the Broadway League. Theaters are operating at [77% to 85% capacity](#).
- New York City will require full vaccination for New Year's Eve revelers at the Times Square celebration. People going to Times Square, including children ages 5 and up, will have to show proof of full vaccination at security checkpoints. See: [Media Transcript](#)
- Nassau Coliseum will have a fully vaccinated fan section for the New York Islanders playoff games which are anticipated to start on May 19. To end the Islanders' last season at the Coliseum, 50 percent of the Coliseum will be used as a fully vaccinated fan section with attendees spaced approximately 3 feet apart—an unoccupied seat between each party—in assigned, seated sections that are designated solely for fully vaccinated individuals. See: [Press Release](#)
- The Mayor announced the opening of pools and beaches starting Memorial Day weekend 2021. See: [Announcement](#)
- Mayor de Blasio announced that indoor pools are permitted to open at 33 percent capacity starting Sept. 30 allowing opportunities for residents to exercise. To learn more click [here](#).
- Several museums and recreational sites are offering free or discounted admission to school children and caretakers before school begins: [announcement](#)

- Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on August 28 that NYC Parks can resume permitting its athletic fields across the city for outdoor youth sports. Supportive of children’s physical and mental health, lower and moderate-risk youth play on permitted fields will resume Tuesday, September 15. Permitted sports will include baseball, softball and soccer. Indoor sports, including swimming, will not be permitted. Leagues must enforce public health guidelines, including wearing of masks and limitations on spectators. See: [Press Release](#)
- The Mayor announced that 8 public pools are open starting July 23 with additional pools opening in the future. The pools open: Mullaly in The Bronx; Liberty and Fisher in Queens; Sunset and Kosciusko in Brooklyn; Wagner in Manhattan; and Tottenville and Lyons on Staten Island.
- The Mayor indicated that playgrounds have opened in phase II.
- To keep kids cool this summer, The City is expanding it's **Cool It! program** by restaurants activating 250 new cooling elements and proactively adding spray caps to 320 fire hydrants. In addition, the City is installing air conditioners for low-income seniors, with over 18,000 units already installed. To see if you're eligible to receive a free air conditioner, click [here](#).
- Mayor de Blasio announced that select Open Streets will become “[Cool Streets](#),” -in neighborhoods vulnerable to heat-related health risks-- with spray caps on fire hydrants, water fountains, and trees for shade cover. [Find your nearest sprinkler hydrant, fountain, or tree-friendly street here](#); Manhattan will have four Cool Streets:
 - East 101st Street, from Park to Third Ave.
 - West 117th Street, from Morningside to Fifth Ave.
 - West 138th Street, from Lenox Ave. to Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard
 - Edgecombe Avenue, from St. Nicholas Place to West 145th St.
- **NYC cancelled large street festivals, fairs and parades at least through September prioritizing city space for public use, social distancing and outdoor dining.**
- The mayor announced an expansion of the outdoor dining program: [Press Release](#) and announced that outdoor dining on city streets will be back next summer, even if the coronavirus is under control. [The Open Restaurants](#)

program will be back on June 1, 2021, or maybe even sooner if the weather cooperates. The program will run this year through at least Halloween, and the mayor claimed it has saved 80,000 jobs by allowing restaurants that might have been closed during the pandemic to keep serving diners outdoors.

- Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that day camps that depend on city parks will be allowed to operate this summer.
- The Mayor announced that public beaches for swimming will open July 1. Lifeguards will be on duty daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Swimming is unsafe and strictly prohibited at all other times. See: [Press Release](#)
- **The High Line in New York City will reopen July 16th.** The elevated park will open with reduced capacity and free time-entry reservations.
- **The city’s zoos and aquariums plan to open on July 24** at limited capacity, assuming New York City is in phase four by then. Proper safety protocols will be implemented. Reopening guidelines and the list of facilities set to open can be found [here](#).
- The Mayor added another 23 miles to New York City’s nation-leading Open Streets program, bringing the citywide total to 67 miles – two-thirds of the way to the 100-mile goal laid out in late April. The new Open Streets, which are located primarily in neighborhoods hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis, include nine miles of temporary protected bike lanes. The Open Streets hours will be from 8am - 8pm. You can find the list of Open Streets [here](#).
 - The nine new miles of bike corridors, like the first nine miles of temporary lanes announced in May, will be phased in throughout the summer using markings, barrels, signage, and other barriers, to implement both permanent and temporary projects along with critical connectors from already-established protected lanes. During the rollout of these bike lanes, DOT will also be implementing new Green Wave signal timing in various corridors.

Protected Bike Lanes				
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--

Neighborhood	Boro	Street	From	To	Mileage
Central Queens/Central Park	QN	Broadway/Northern Blvd	34th Ave	Queensboro Plaza	3.60
	MN	61/62 Sts	Queensboro Br	5th Ave	1.30
Lower MN/SOHO	MN	Center/Lafayette	Brooklyn Br	Spring St	1.41
Midtown Core	MN	6th/7th Ave	59th St	34th St/47th St	1.78
Central Park/Midtown	MN	5th Ave	120th St	110th St	1.00

Local Partner Management						
Partner	Boro	Street	From	To	Mileage	Notes
JCCRP	QN	Reads Ln	Empire Ave	Jarvis Ave	0.52	8a-8p Sat Only
JCCRP	QN	Beach 12th St	Central Ave	Dinmore Ave	0.25	8a-8p Sat Only
Times Square Alliance	MN	46th Street	8th Ave	9th Ave	0.16	4p-8p all days
Brooklyn Greenway Initiative	BK	West St	Quay St	Greenpoint Ave	0.24	8a-8p weekend only
Downtown Bk Partnership	BK	Willoughby St	Lawrence St	Flatbush Ext	0.18	10a-6p all days, extension of existing open street
Uptown Grand	MN	101st St	Park Ave	3rd Ave	0.17	12p-8p all days

Central						
Hudson Sq BID	MN	King St	Hudson St	Greenwich St	0.08	11a-3p all days
Hudson Sq BID	MN	Little 6th Ave	Spring St	Broome St	0.08	11a-3p all days
Hudson Sq BID	MN	Dominick St	Varick St	Little 6th Ave	0.05	11a-3p all days
Central Astoria LDC	QN	Newtown Ave	30th Ave	31st St	0.15	10a-8p Fri, Sat, Sun Only
		32nd St	30th Ave	Newtown Ave		
Red Hook Business Alliance	BK	Reed St	Conover St	Van Brunt St	0.08	12p-8p Fri, Sat, Sun Only
Connectemos	MN	Audubon Ave	183rd St	193rd St	0.59	
Flatiron Partnership	MN	29th St	Broadway	Madison Ave	0.19	
Thai Community USA	QN	37th Ave	75th St	80th St	0.24	10a-4p Sunday Only
LES Enfants de Boheme	MN	Jefferson St	E Broadway	Madison St	0.09	10a-9p Th,F,S,Sun
Marcus Meets Malcolm	MN	120th St	Lenox Ave	Mt Morris Park W	0.08	

Local Precinct					
Neighborhood	Boro	Street	From	To	Mileage
Brownsville	BK	Blake Ave	Rockaway Ave	Powell St	0.34
Brownsville	BK	Livonia Ave	Mother Gaston Blvd	Powell St	0.15
Bushwick	BK	Humboldt St	Moore St	Flushing Ave	0.19

	BK	Moore St	Humboldt St	Bushwick Ave	0.11
Harlem	MN	129th St	Adam Clayton Powell Blvd	Frederick Douglass Blvd	0.15
Claremont	BX	Washington Ave	171st St	169th St	0.34
Castle Hill	BX	Randall Ave	Olmstead Ave	Havemeyer Ave	0.62
Morris Heights	BX	Nelson Ave	Featherbed Ln	Macombs Rd	0.25
East Bronx	BX	Holland Ave	Boston Rd	S Oak Dr	0.61
Longwood	BX	Louis Nine Blvd	Intervale Ave	Southern Blvd	0.13
Kingsbridge	BX	Tibbett Ave	238th St	232nd St	0.37
Morrisiana	BX	Trinity Ave	E 166 St	E 161 St	0.37
Crotona	BX	Crotona Pkwy	Bronx Park S	180th St	0.14
Laconia	BX	Yates Ave	Burke Ave	Adee Ave	0.11
Concourse	BX	McClellan St	River Ave	Cromwell Ave	0.16
		Cromwell Ave	McClellan St	Jerome Ave	
Sheepshead Bay	BK	Bragg St	Ave V	Ave Y	0.46
Midwood	BK	Ave K	15th	17th	0.10
Crown Heights	BK	Schenectady Ave	Eastern Pkwy	Empire Blvd	0.33
East New York	BK	Stanley Ave	Vermont Ave	Van Sicken Ave	0.40
		Stanley Ave	Scheneck Ave	Ashford St	
New Lots	BK	Blake Ave	Miller St	Hindsdale St	0.50
Prospect Heights	BK	Carlton Ave	Dean St	Bergen St	0.05
Woodside	QN	60th St	Queens Blvd	43rd Ave	0.07
Chelsea	MN	25th St	8th Ave	9th Ave	0.17
Hell's Kitchen	MN	44th St	9th Ave	10th Ave	0.16
Ozone Park	QN	77th Street	Atlantic Ave	101st St	0.29
Far Rockaway	QN	Rockaway Fwy	Ocean Crest Blvd	Regina Ave	0.27

Boerum Hill	BK	Pacific St	Smith St	Nevins St	0.38
Boerum Hill	BK	Wyckoff St	Nevins St	3rd Ave	0.11
Brooklyn Heights	BK	Montague St	Hicks St	Pierrepont Pl	0.08
Ridgewood	QN	Onderdonk Ave	Starr St	DeKalb Ave	0.20
Stapleton	SI	Water St	Bay St	Front St	0.08

Celebrations, Programs & Events

- On July 22, 2021, the mayor announced the **[Homecoming Concerts](#) during the week of August 16-20**. The events will be across the City. To sign up for email updates on NYC Homecoming Week events and tickets, go to nyc.gov/HomecomingWeek. Note the concerts will be open only to those who have received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose. See: [Press Release](#):
- Mayor de Blasio extended [Executive Order 148](#), which sets limitations on event permits [through December 31, 2020](#). The Executive Order restricts the types of outdoor events permitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Police Department, and the Street Activity Permit Office in order to minimize crowding, facilitate COVID testing and treatment sites, and to allow for use of streets and parks for recreation, learning and dining. Currently, there are over 475 outdoor learning sites in city parks and streets, in addition to 10,200 Open Restaurants and 79 miles of Open Streets. Safe, creative arrangements will be made for community celebrations, performances, and activations to continue in the city. Planned events include alternate celebrations for signature events, including the [Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade](#) and [New Year's Eve in Times Square](#), in addition to a spooky walk through the West Village for Halloween, and ceremonial motorcycle procession for Veteran's Day, among other virtual and socially distanced in-person activities.
- **The CDC has released new guidelines and an interactive map to help families prepare for Halloween.** To help families prepare, the

CDC [issued](#) new guidance and a color-coded map to help families plan safe activities.

- **The 2020 New Year's Eve ball drop in Times Square will be [held](#) virtually.** The owner of One Times Square has designed the famous Times Square space virtually and built a broadcast app so that everyone, regardless of where they are, can enjoy the iconic ball drop safely. In previous years, as many as one million people have gathered in the Times Square area to celebrate the new year.
- [Growing Up NYC](#) has compiled a [list](#) of free or low-cost summer programs for students. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, some summer programs will be held virtually. Individuals can find information regarding virtual programs through Growing Up NYC's website.
- [Generation NYC](#) has created a [fun at home guide](#) for teens and young adults. Activities include art workshops, virtual science fairs, and more.
- Registration is now open for the [Harlem Summer Arts Experience](#) virtual summer camp for kids ages 5-18. For a complete list of classes, and to register, click [here](#).
- **New York Public Library Summer Reading Program**
The [New York Public Library](#) has launched its Summer Reading Program. For more information and to see all the Summer Reading Program has to offer, click [here](#).
- **Queens Public Library Summer Reading Program**
[Queens Public Library](#) is offering a virtual Summer Reading Program. Children can earn badges, play games, and track their progress through the Queens Public Library [website](#).
- **Brooklyn Public Library Summer Reading Program**
[Brooklyn Public Library](#) is once again offering a summer reading program. Families can access virtual programming, including story times, games, arts and crafts, and performances. For more information on their summer reading program, click [here](#).
- Although [El Museo del Barrio](#) is temporarily closed, you are invited to explore their website to learn about Latino art and culture through online resources.

Click [here](#) to access upcoming exhibitions and past exhibitions offered by El Museo del Barrio.

- [The Jewish Museum](#) is offering mobile tours, programs, and an online collection spanning 4,000 years of history.
- The [Bryant Park Yoga Series](#) goes virtual every Tuesday and Wednesday on [Instagram](#), where you can practice with your favorite yoga instructors. Click [here](#) to join the Instagram class at or just before 10:00 AM, and tap or click the profile picture (circle on top left corner) to view the live video. You can watch live videos on the Instagram app or on Instagram.com.
- [The Bronx Council on the Arts](#) is presenting their virtual exhibit, entitled [Confidence in the Future](#). This exhibit highlights paintings, sculptures, and installations by eight young artists of color.
- **The SOOP (Seat-Of-Our-Pants) Theatre Company** has re-imagined its summer program. All classes will be online and hosted via zoom. Students will sing, dance, and imagine costumes and sets, and use some artistic skills to develop a backdrop for their character straight from their home using materials they already have. Each age level will record their singing (with a grownup for help) on a very easy to navigate website. All acting and scene work will be recorded during class time and put together for a final presentation you can keep for years to come. What a great time to use the imagination and create something fun! Click [here](#) to see the summer workshops, and to register.
- **NYC & Co. in conjunction with city agencies** offers an opportunity to explore the best of the City virtually, by rounding up online resources from museums, galleries, comedy clubs, theaters, and other venues in one, easy-to-click location. Click [here](#) for hundreds of ways to connect with your favorite NYC attractions from across the five boroughs-or discover new ones-from home.
- New York State offers many opportunities for travelers with accessibility needs. Hundreds of attractions across the state offer accessibility features, with some even providing specialty programming like sensory-friendly museum days and adaptive skiing and snowboarding. A new [I Love NY hub](#) has all the details.

- **This year, the Great New York State Fair will be held virtually.** The in-person fair has been canceled this year due to COVID, but the State Fair is hosting a whole slate of virtual events so New Yorkers can still experience the Fair safely. For example, the annual [Butter Sculpture](#)—an 800-pound sculpture carved out of butter—will be unveiled on September 1st.
- The mayor announced that the **West Indian Day Parade** is cancelled this year and will be held virtually.

ⁱ The Information, which is not intended to be exhaustive, is culled from multiple publicly available sources.