



October 15, 2021

## RELIEF RESOURCES AND SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

- [Financial Assistance and Coaching](#)
  - [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.
  - New York City will be extending free tax assistance to help families claim their new federal child tax credit. As an investment in the long-term recovery from the pandemic, the federal American Rescue Plan made changes to the Child Tax Credit so families get half of the fully refundable credit—worth up to \$3,600 per child—as monthly payments in 2021 and the other half as a part of their refund in

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<sup>1</sup> Compiled from multiple public sources

2022. Most families will automatically receive the advance payments, but 250,000+ New York City families with more than 400,000 children need to sign up with the IRS to receive the Credit. The Advance Child Tax Credits payments began on July 15, 2021 and most New Yorkers will receive their payments automatically. However, New Yorkers who have not submitted information to the IRS need to either file their taxes or enter their information with the IRS' [Child Tax Credit Non-Filer Sign-Up Tool](#) For more information about the [Advance Child Tax Credit](#) including access to Multilingual [flyer](#) and [poster](#)—and NYC Free Tax Prep, visit [nyc.gov/TaxPrep](https://nyc.gov/TaxPrep) or call 311. For help opening a bank account, budgeting, reducing debt, strengthening their credit score, or more can make an appointment for free, one-on-one financial counseling in person or by phone with one of the City's Financial Empowerment Centers. To make an appointment, visit [nyc.gov/TalkMoney](https://nyc.gov/TalkMoney) or call 311.

- Gov. Cuomo signed legislation on May 13, 2021, protecting New Yorkers' COVID-19 stimulus payments, tax refunds, rebates, and tax credits to support individuals and children from being garnished by debt collectors. Retroactive payments are protected. The bill provides a carve-out for claims brought by individuals who have an interest in the relief payments for child and spousal support and to collect payments in situations involving fraud. 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](#)
- FEMA announced it will [reimburse funeral costs](#) for those lost to COVID since January 20, 2020. The agency launched a hotline, [\(844\) 684-6333](tel:8446846333), to apply for up to **\$9,000** in assistance per burial. This [FAQ](#) explains what documents to prepare. The NYC Health Department has issued the following guidance to provide assistance with navigating this process, including how to request a change to a death certificate:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/businesses/covid-19-burial-assistance-death-certificate-request-process.pdf>

- The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS), an independent organization within the IRS, says that millions have not received some or all of the amounts Congress authorized. And the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm, estimates that some 465,000 relief payments in April and May did not include the \$500 for qualifying children. Some parents have reported that they received their \$1,200 but did not get the extra \$500 for each child, or they received money for one child but not for another.
  - The IRS has now reopened the registration period, [until Sept. 30](#), to claim those \$500 payments to one category of taxpayers-- those who do not normally file returns: Social Security retirement, survivor, disability or Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, or Supplemental Security Income or Veterans Affairs benefit recipients who have qualifying children and did not file a return in 2018 or 2019 OR otherwise did not supply information via the nonfilers tool on the IRS website at [irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here](https://irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here).
  - If you don't submit the information by [Sept. 30](#), you may claim the \$500 as a tax credit next year by filing a 2020 federal income tax return according to the IRS.
  - If you DID use the non-filer tool and claimed a qualifying child but did not receive a \$500 EIP payment, you can call the TAS at [877-777-4778](tel:877-777-4778). Learn more at [the TAS website](#).
  - If you have questions, you can call the IRS's EIP assistance phone line at 1-800-919-9835 or visit the IRS EIP page [here](#) for more information.
- The New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) has reached an agreement with New York's credit reporting industry to help New York consumers facing hardship caused by COVID-19 to avoid unjustified negative impacts on consumers' credit reports. DFS also urges New York State-regulated financial institutions to furnish credit information in ways that minimizes negative impacts on consumers.
  - Credit reporting agencies will:
    - Provide one free credit report each month through November 2020;

- Inform financial institutions of procedures that allow institutions to report missed or delinquent payments in ways that minimize the impact on consumers' credit histories and credit scores;
  - Apprise financial institutions of their credit reporting obligations under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provides relief for consumers; and
  - Communicate with financial institutions about credit reporting that may not comply with the requirements of the CARES Act. See: [DFS Website](#)
- **The NYC Mayor 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 \(PDF\)](#). (June 11)
- If you are facing financial hardship due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, you can request debt collection agencies to stop contacting you about your existing debt. Download Cease Debt Collection Communication Letter: Instructions and Template: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/DCA-Template-Cease-Debt-Collection-Communication-Letter-for-Consumers.pdf>
- [Child Care Scholarships](#): Governor Cuomo recently announced that New York State will provide child care scholarships to all essential workers starting Monday, April 20.
  - Child care costs will be covered with \$30 million in federal CARES Act funding to essential staff whose income is less than 300 percent of the [federal poverty level](#) – or \$78,600 for a family of four – and will be paid up to market rate for each region statewide.
  - Essential workers can use the funding to pay for their existing care arrangement. [Essential workers](#) include first responders such as health care providers, pharmaceutical staff, law enforcement, firefighters, food delivery workers, grocery store employees and others who are needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services will administer the program. See [CARES Child Care Scholarship Parent Application](#)
- If an essential worker needs child care, they can contact their [local child care resource and referral agency \(CCRR\)](#) to find openings.
- Child Care Providers:
  - New York State will also direct federal CARES funding for the purchase of supplies for child care providers statewide who remain open, including masks, gloves, diapers, baby wipes, baby formula and food. CCRRs will receive grants totaling approximately \$600 per provider. Providers looking for supplies should contact their CCRR.
  - [Provider Information Profile to Participate in the Program](#)
- [COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund](#) established by The United Way to help with bills, food and rent. Call 1-866-211-9966 and provide your ZIP code.
- For money management and financial tips, you may contact Community Service Society Financial Coaching Corps at [cdavis@cssny.org](mailto:cdavis@cssny.org).
- The City of New York developed a [list of resources for those who may be unemployed due to COVID-19](#) or are seeking additional support. [ACCESSNYC](#) is the city-run portal for NYC residents to determine their eligibility for more than 30 economic programs, benefits and resources.
- Check out free and confidential targeted financial counseling for people with disabilities via [EmpoweredNYC](#)
- The [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has implemented programs to provide financial relief to veterans. For more information, please click [here](#).
- Legal Services NYC has opened a hotline to help New Yorkers apply for public benefits like SNAP and Medicaid, as well as manage rent and utilities arrears. Call (917) 661-4500 for a free, confidential assessment.
- New York Life is partnering with Cigna to create a \$100 million *Brave of Heart Fund* to provide financial and emotional support to the families of health care workers and volunteers nationwide who lose their lives to COVID-19. More information here: [www.braveofheartfund.com](http://www.braveofheartfund.com). Applications will be accepted starting in May.

- [PenFed](#) has a listing of emergency resources that service members and veterans can access during this difficult time. Click [here](#) for more information.
  - The East Flatbush Community Partnership is launching the East Flatbush Community Aid initiative. This initiative offers cash assistance which will be in the form of gift cards. A family can receive up to two gift cards, worth \$75 each. Gift cards can only be used to pay for utility bills. To access a request form click [here](#). Completed forms must be emailed to [reide@jccany.org](mailto:reide@jccany.org). Forms must be accompanied by the utility bill(s) to be paid.
  - Broadway theaters are offering **refunds and exchanges** for all canceled shows through **Labor Day**. According to the Broadway League, they are working with the "theatrical unions, government officials, and health experts to determine the safest ways to restart our industry."
  - **The New York City Office of Cultural Affairs** has a listing of financial resources and other forms of assistance available for cultural institutions and artists: [Here](#)
  - **The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment** has resources for cultural institutions, artists and freelance workers, among other services and programming [Here](#)
  - **The New York State Council on the Arts** features information recovery and relief information as well as information about reopening: [Here](#)
- [Food Assistance](#)
  - On October 12, 2021, Governor Hochul announced that all New Yorkers enrolled in the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** will receive the maximum allowable level of food benefits for October; which also includes those who already received their maximum level of benefits. See: [Press Release](#)
  - Free "grab and go" breakfast and lunch in this year's "Summer Meals" program will be available to all New Yorkers at upwards of 400 sites this summer beginning Monday (6/28) on weekdays from 9 am - 1 pm. Vegetarian meals will be available at all locations, and kosher and halal meals will be served. More details are available [here](#).  
See Manhattan Boro Pres map of the NYC Dept. of Education's list of locations [here](#).

- Families of public school students will receive \$820-\$1,320 per child in [pandemic EBT](#) to cover the cost of feeding their children during remote learning days. P-EBT will arrive on existing EBT cards or in the mail, and families will receive two rounds of payment. See what groceries are P-EBT eligible [here](#)
- **An estimated \$2.2 billion in federal food assistance will go to children in New York State who were unable to access free school meals due to the pandemic.** Effective the week of June 14, 2021, food benefits will be [being issued](#) to children enrolled to receive free school meals but had their in-person school attendance reduced due to the pandemic.
- The New York Public Library is adding [Grab & Go service to 50 locations](#) (10 in Manhattan). Reserve items [online](#) or by phone (917-275-6975), and you'll receive an email when your items are ready for contactless pick-up at your designated branch, open 11 am - 6 pm. (Sept. 3) The new Manhattan branches are:
  - [125th Street Library](#), 224 E. 125th St.
  - [96th Street Library](#), 112 E. 96th St.
  - [Chatham Square Library](#), 33 E. Broadway
  - [Columbus Library](#), 742 10th Ave.
  - [Harlem Library](#), 9 W. 124th St.
  - [Kips Bay Library](#), 446 3rd Ave.
  - [Morningside Heights Library](#), 2900 Broadway
  - [Muhlenberg Library](#), 209 W. 23rd St.
  - [Mulberry Street Library](#), 10 Jersey St.
  - [Webster Library](#), 1465 York Ave.
  - **Mayor de Blasio** announced the city will partner with **Mercato**, a grocery store delivery business, to increase the amount of home delivery grocery service available in the hardest-hit communities. (Aug 17) [Press Release](#)
- **NYC public school families will soon receive \$420 per child on a Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) card.** The amount

is equivalent to the budget for school breakfasts and lunches since the start of the pandemic. If families already have EBT, the amount will be added to their existing accounts; if not, they will be sent a card in the mail (look for the envelope!). Many students rely on those meals, obviously, and the economic impact of that spending at local grocery stores and farmers markets is vital. Community Food Advocates has prepared these [informative resources in multiple languages](#). ( July 23)

- Many stores have created special shopping hours for older adults and those who are immunocompromised. For more information about what stores are offering these hours, click [here](#).
- New York City has prepared a map to help New Yorkers [find their nearest food pantry or community kitchen](#).  
View an [Interactive food bank map](#) to locate soup kitchens, food pantries, senior centers, or SNAP enrollment sites.
- [NYC DOE's "Find a free meal location near you"](#) feature is available on the NYC Department of Education (DOE) website for New Yorkers to search for the nearest meal hub. You can learn the location of the nearest meal hub by also texting FOOD or COMIDA to 877-877.
- **[Meal Hubs at schools will continue operating on a summer schedule: weekdays from 7:30 am - 1:30 pm starting Monday \(6/29\)](#)**. A full list of sites will be available [here](#)
- The nonprofit group Community Food Advocates has prepared [a map of all 400+ Food Hubs](#) in the five boroughs for meal pickups. Any New Yorker can pick up three free to-go meals Monday-Friday at any of 400+ Meal Hubs across the city. No ID is required and vegetarian and halal options are available at all meal hubs.
- New York State was recently approved to disperse the Coronavirus Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, or P-EBT. [The sweeping program](#) will automatically send families the equivalent of about \$5.70 per day to make up for meals that each student would have been eligible for while in school. This adds up to about \$420 per child—retroactive from the time the buildings were closed in mid-March to the end of the academic year in June. Across the state, [the program will bring in more than \\$880 million in federal funds](#). Charter and parochial students should also benefit, as long as their school

- participates in the federal school lunch program. For more details, visit the New York State Supplemental Emergency Allotment (EA) of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits [website](#). The process:
- If you are on SNAP and cash assistance: You should have received an additional \$193 deposited to your EBT card on May 19. The remainder, \$227, will be deposited on June 16.
  - If you are on Medicaid only: You will receive the full \$420 amount per child during the last two weeks in June.
  - If you are not on any assistance or benefits program: you will be mailed a \$420 EBT card this summer from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.
- New York City is making available Kosher meals at [10 kosher meal sites](#)
    - Three kosher meals per day will be available at [10 sites in Brooklyn and Queens](#), according to the city Department of Education.
      - Two sites — P.S. 132 The Conselyea School and P.S. 257 John F. Hylan in Williamsburg — are opening on Tuesday.
      - The rest of the sites — P.S. 197 The Ocean School and P.S. 253 in Far Rockaway, P.S. 154 Queens and P.S. 215 in Flushing/Kew Gardens, P.S. 289 George V. Brower and I.S. 2 in Crown Heights, P.S. 192 The Magnet School For Math and Science in Boro Park and P.S. 197 The Kings Highway Academy in Midwood — are opening on Thursday, April 23.
      - The DOE has added two additional sites serving Kosher meals, now available at 12 sites:
        - Boro Park: PS 160 ([5105 Fort Hamilton Parkway](#))
        - Staten Island: PS 54 ([1060 Willowbrook Rd](#))
  - [GetFoodNYC Food Delivery](#)
    - The City has created the GetFoodNYC food delivery program to provide food for COVID-19 vulnerable and food-insecure New Yorkers not currently served through existing food delivery programs.
    - Participants in the GetFoodNYC program can opt for automatic deliveries for up to 30 days (as opposed to needing to renew every 48 hours) via 311 or [the online portal](#).

- Seniors seeking meal delivery should make the [GetFoodNYC website](#) their first stop, or call 311 and reach out to their local senior center.
- [Food delivery for highly vulnerable residents](#) (nyc.gov/getfood)
- The State is allocating \$25 million to food banks across the state through the Nourish New York Initiative. The initiative is moving New York's surplus agricultural products to the populations who need them most through New York's network of food banks. \$11 million will be distributed to the New York City region.
  - More than 10,000 households on Long Island have received Nourish New York products. Additionally, six new Nourish New York distributions are scheduled for Long Island at the end of May. First announced by the Governor on April 27th, the Nourish New York Initiative provides relief by purchasing food and products from Upstate farms and directs them to the populations who need them most through New York's network of food banks.
- The Hunter College Food Policy Center of CUNY has created a series of [Coronavirus NYC Neighborhood Food Resource Guides](#). Each edition includes listings of food pantries, soup kitchens, farmers' markets, grocery stores, meal distribution sites for children and seniors, and resources for immigrants and undocumented individuals.
- [Community Voices Heard \(CVH\)](#) has developed a [COVID 19 Resource Map](#) that has a listing of Food Pantries covering Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island that is updated periodically and available as a spreadsheet. Click [here](#) for more information.
- [GrowNYC's 50 open-air Greenmarkets and Farmstands](#) are open and observing social distancing and other best practices during the outbreak:
  - Click [here](#) for daily updates on market schedule changes.
  - Safety precautions have been implemented:
    - Markets may limit the number of shoppers in the market to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Keep visits short to ensure everyone gets the opportunity to shop.
    - Peak times are in the morning, consider visiting in the afternoon.

- Plan your meals for a week and come prepared with a list to expedite shopping.
  - Limit groups to 1-2 people if possible.
  - Wear face mask.
  - Adhere to chalk/tape guidance on the ground designating 6-foot spaces to maintain a healthy distance.
  - Some vendors are offering pre-order, home delivery, and shipping. A directory can be found [here](#).
- The Department of Probation, Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Nutrition Kitchens, in partnership with the Food Bank of NYC and the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) have opened kitchens -- one in each borough -- to distribute free food, available to any New Yorker who has needs. More information [here](#).
- The City is assisting New Yorkers by delivering meals to those who cannot access food themselves. Visit [nyc.gov/assets/dsny](http://nyc.gov/assets/dsny) or call [311](#).
- Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams in partnership with FreshDirect is providing free food packages this week. (May11) The packages will arrive by FreshDirect vehicles to locations listed [here](#). If you have any questions, call [\(718\) 802-3700](tel:(718)802-3700).
- [Free Groceries at Kingsbridge Armory](#) – In the Bronx, the Kingsbridge Armory is serving as an emergency food packaging and delivery hub. Residents who need food assistance can register [here](#) and TLC-licensed drivers can sign up to [work here](#).
- [New York Common Pantry](#) -- one of the city's largest food pantries and soup kitchens -- welcomes new clients for intake at their 8 E. 109th St. site from 10 am - 4 pm, Monday - Saturday. Food distribution hours are between 10 am - 2 pm, Wednesday - Saturday. Hot lunches are provided from 2:30 - 3:30 pm, Monday- Friday. "Brown Bag" distribution is 4 - 5 pm on weekends. A seniors-only (age 60+) food distribution program operates on Mondays from 10 am - 2 pm. Email [NYCPServices@nycommonpantry.org](mailto:NYCPServices@nycommonpantry.org) or call 917-720-9700 for help.
- The Brooklyn Museum will be operating as a Food Distribution site starting on Monday, June 1 at 3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m. To ensure that they have food access, sign up by emailing [here](#).

- Masbia has created a [COVID-19 response page](#). During this pandemic, Masbia Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries remain open. Their hours are from Sunday - Thursday 2 P.M. - 7 P.M. No ID is required to receive food. Additionally, families can pick up raw grocery food every seven days from their food pantry and individuals can receive seven frozen, ready to eat dinners, every seven days through their Soup Kitchen. Please find their locations below:
  - **Masbia of Queens:** 105-47 64th Road, Forest Hills, NY 11375
  - **Masbia of Flatbush:** 1372 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230
  - **Masbia of Boro Park:** 5402 New Utrecht Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219
- Catholic Charities Helpline continues to operate [from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday](#) through Friday. New Yorkers in need of services or referrals, including emergency food, should use this number for assistance: [1\(888\) 744-7900](tel:18887447900).
- [Red Rabbit](#) has created Emergency Grab and Go Distribution Centers. With locations in Manhattan, The Bronx, and Brooklyn, individuals can pick up meals most mornings. For a list of their locations and hours, click [here](#).
- [St. John's Bread & Life](#) is continuing to operate their food pantry and serve breakfast and lunch to go. Their services are available Monday-Thursday. Pantry bags will be available from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. In order to receive pantry bags, individuals and families must register. To register, you must bring proof of address, photo IDs for all adults in the household, and identification for all minors in the household. For more information, click [here](#).  
Breakfast and lunch will be served in a combined grab and go style from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. No registration is needed for grab and go meals. The organization is located at 795 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11221.
- [CHiPS Soup Kitchen](#) will be offering food every day from 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. at their offices on 200 4th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11217. If you have any questions, you can call CHiPS at (718) 237-2962.
- The [World Central Kitchen](#) (WCK) is working to distribute individually packaged, fresh meals in various communities that need support.

- SNAP Benefits: [Click here](#) to apply for SNAP benefits online, or download the [ACCESS HRA mobile app](#).
  - The NYC Department of Social Services (DSS) has been granted a federal waiver allowing the issuance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to individuals without an interview, if the applicant meets the following criteria:
  - Both the applicant's identity has been verified; and all other mandatory information and verification has been provided and is valid including:
    - Identity
    - Social Security number (as required by federal law)
    - Residency
    - Gross non-exempt income (earned and unearned)
    - Disability
    - Immigrant status (required by federal law)
  - If criteria is not met, an interview will be required. To apply for SNAP, visit [here](#).
  - Due to this pandemic, New York State Office for Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA) will automatically issue an Emergency supplemental SNAP benefit to households not already receiving the maximum benefit. For more information, click [here](#).
  - The **United States Department of Agriculture** approved the **NYC Department of Social Service's** request for a **six-month** extension of the re-certification period for clients whose **SNAP** benefits will expire [on July 31](#).
  - \$200 million in emergency food assistance will be made available for more than 700,000 low-income households enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Those enrolled in SNAP and not yet receiving the maximum benefit will receive an additional payment to reach the maximum amount in March and April. The supplemental benefits will be issued in April and delivered directly to recipients' existing Electronic Benefit Transfer accounts. In New York City, the emergency benefits will be issued starting April 14 and the issuance completed by April 25.

- The State has granted the City HRA's re-certification waiver request. As a result, clients who need to recertify for SNAP/Food Stamps or Cash Assistance are not required to do so during this pandemic. Clients will receive a letter in the mail when it is time to recertify.
  - Recipients of SNAP are permitted to purchase fresh produce and groceries online at participating stores (Amazon, Shoprite, Walmart) using your SNAP or food stamps benefits card. [Click here](#) to learn more.
  - The nonprofit [expensify.org](https://www.expensify.org) will reimburse SNAP participants \$50 after they use their EBT card for approved purchases and submit a receipt. The money is directly deposited into the participant's bank account. Visit [Expensify.org/hunger](https://www.expensify.org/hunger) for more information.
  - [Nutritionists for COVID-19 Care](#) is a group of nutrition clinicians who are NYS-certified Registered Dietitian-Nutritionists. They are experienced in caring for people with appetite dysfunction and in using foods to modulate GI issues. This group is working with individuals who are acutely but not critically ill with COVID-19 and helping them learn to cope with nutritional-related issues.
  - The ASPCA Pet Food Distribution Center in New York City
    - Provides dog and cat owners free access to food and supplies, including kitty litter.
    - To adhere to social distancing guidelines, food and supplies will be available by appointment only.
    - Pet owners should call the ASPCA Helpline at (800) 738-9437 for an appointment.
    - Distribution is subject to eligibility and availability.
    - Open to residents of New York City only; no same-day appointments; one-hour window for pick-up.
    - Please do not come early and call if you're running late; bring a photo ID and be prepared to carry supplies! (PL DON'T bring pets!)
- **The Mayor and First Lady Chirlane McCray announced on August 3 an expansion of the Food For Heroes program to deliver more than**

**71,000 meals to staff at local non-profit nursing homes and Department of Sanitation (DSNY) garages in all five boroughs.**

Managed by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, Food For Heroes launched in April to support New Yorkers working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. In its first month, 75,000 meals were served to staff members at Elmhurst Hospital. In May, the program expanded to deliver lunches to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner staff at temporary disaster field sites, as well as hotels housing out-of-state medical personnel and healthcare workers who were self-isolating away from vulnerable family members at home. By September, Food For Heroes will have provided 169,400 meals to New Yorkers.

- The first week in August, Food For Heroes began deliveries to 75 new locations across the city as part of the expansion, serving non-profit nursing home employees and sanitation workers who have been vital to the daily functioning of New York City despite the challenges and increased risks presented by the pandemic.
- The deliveries--consisting of pre-made, individually packaged lunches--will be made twice a week to each location for three weeks and are made possible with the help of half-a-dozen businesses and organizations across the city who are using their facilities and staff.
- Non-profit Frontline Foods, with the help of World Central Kitchen, is donating several rounds of meals throughout Staten Island and working with local restaurants to deliver meals in the Bronx; innovative salad company Chopt Creative Salad Co. is donating salads to workers at a non-profit nursing home in Manhattan; Promobile Kitchen is preparing and delivering the meals, in addition to providing logistical support for deliveries in three boroughs; non-profit Food1st Foundation is working with local restaurants to provide meals; and Mendy's and Fresko are providing Kosher meals for several locations.
- Food For Heroes is a program of the Mayor's Fund COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, which has raised more than \$55 million for vulnerable New Yorkers impacted by the pandemic including: healthcare workers and essential staff; local small businesses; displaced hourly workers, including immigrant workers; and families, youth, and other vulnerable New Yorkers. Visit [nyc.gov/fund](https://nyc.gov/fund) to learn more.

- Food Safety information
  - [Cornell's Institute for Food Safety's website](#) has a listing of FAQ's asked of Cornell's food scientists, and science-based answers that may be helpful in responding to consumer questions regarding food safety during this time.
  - ["Food Safety and Coronavirus: A Comprehensive Guide"](#) (Serious Eats)
- Health Information
  - **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. (Sept. 17)**
  - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released several resources to help prevent the spread of and treat COVID-19:
    - Tips on what you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others are available [here](#), and tips on assessing risk factors can be found [here](#).
    - Find the CDC's guidance on how to trace and monitor contacts of infected people [here](#).
    - The CDC updated its recommendations on travel in the U.S. Read the most recent recommendations [here](#).
    - The CDC is studying the effects of COVID-19 on the health of racial and ethnic minority groups. Read more [here](#).
    - Information on pregnancy and breastfeeding is available [here](#).
    - Information about COVID-19 and water transmission is available [here](#).
- The CDC has released several new resources to help prevent the spread of and treat COVID-19 (June 29):
  - The CDC released updated tracking data on [race and ethnicity](#) and on [pregnant women](#).
  - The CDC explained that the risk of getting COVID-19 from food, treated drinking water, or food packaging is very low. Read more about COVID-19 transmission and food [here](#).

- As election season approaches, the CDC released an interim guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at [election polling locations](#).
- Suggestions for youth and summer camps are available [here](#), and FAQs for youth sports programs are available [here](#).
- Interested in learning more about antibody tests that check for past infections? Read more [here](#).
- Animal lovers can find new resources as well. The CDC released considerations for [animal activities](#) at a fair, show, or other event, as well as guidance for [pet stores, pet distributors, and pet breeding facilities](#).
  - Two cats in New York had [confirmed cases](#) of COVID-19. General information about pets can be found [here](#), and if you suspect your pet may have the virus, check CDC's guidance [here](#).
- 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.
- Call the NYS COVID-19 hotline at 1-888-364-3065 for information and answers on COVID-19. Assistance is available in more than 100 languages.
  - The New York State Department of Health provides [public health information and guidance here](#), and has implemented a Novel Coronavirus Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.
  - The City has established a **Phone-A-Clinician hotline** for those with COVID-19 related medical concerns to receive free tele-medicine consultations. Call (844) NYC-4NYC for more information.
- Testing
  - Walk-in availability for COVID-19 and antibody testing has been added to these Manhattan [NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health sites](#):

- Dyckman, 175 Nagle Ave., M-Sa 9 am - 3:30 pm, Su 9 am - 1 pm
  - Gouverneur, 227 Madison St., M-F 9 am - 4 pm, Sa-Su 9 am - 2 pm
  - Sydenham, 264 W. 118th St., M-Sa 9 am - 3:30 pm, Su 9 am - 1 pm (June 27)
- Mayor de Blasio Expands Testing Sites Citywide and Opens Mobile Units [Press Release](#)
  - **Diagnostic and Antibody Testing:** NYC Health + Hospitals will now offer free COVID-19 antibody tests at its 11 acute care facilities and select Gotham Health sites.
    - The City will also open new testing sites through partnership with CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort), the emergency relief nonprofit organization co-founded by Sean Penn and Ann Lee, and SOMOS. Tests are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM–4:00 PM on a walk-in basis. Registering for an appointment is encouraged [here](#). CORE is also operating mobile testing units:
      - Manhattan: Vladeck Houses, 356 Madison Street, New York Thursday-Friday, July 2-3, 12PM–4PM
      - Queens: Ravenswood Houses, Circle at the rear of 35-36 21st Street (across from Trade Faire), Queens Monday-Tuesday, July 6-7, 9AM–1PM
    - In a partnership with SOMOS, the City will open 20 additional testing sites in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens.
      - Venues will provide both diagnostic and antibody tests. The sites will operate out of pediatric clinics to encourage families to get tested together. Clinics will operate from 9AM–1PM, Monday- Friday, with some clinics offering weekend hours. Appointments can be made by calling 1-833-SOMOS-NY. Find a site [here](#).
    - The city expanded free antibody testing to 16 sites in all five boroughs (June 30)
      - Five of the sites are run through BioReference Laboratories, [the city hospitals' contracted lab](#). The other 11 sites are part

of the city's 32 NYC Health + Hospitals-run federally qualified health centers, according to Health + Hospitals.

- **If you have participated in a recent protest, you are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19. The following locations in Manhattan and the Bronx have been prioritized for protesters. You can also find a site closest to you here.**
  - **Manhattan Sites Prioritizing Protesters:**
    - Harlem ACPNY**  
**215 West 125th St.**  
**Appointments: 866-394-2660**
    - **Upper East Side ACPNY**  
**215 East 95th St.**  
**Appointments: 866-394-2660**
    - **Bronx Sites Prioritizing Protesters:**
      - Hunts Point ACPNY**  
**932 Southern Boulevard**  
**Appointments: 866-394-2660**
      - **SOMOS, Iglesias De Dios Pentecostal**  
**1241 White Plains Road**  
**Appointments: 833-766-6769**
      - **SOMOS, Casa de la Fe**  
**1819 Randall Avenue**  
**Appointments: 833-766-6769**
  - **New York State is opening diagnostic testing to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status. (July 1)**
  - **New York City has expanded free diagnostic testing for all city residents, regardless of immigration status. All New Yorkers should receive COVID-19 diagnostic testing whether or not they have symptoms or are at increased risk. (June 3)**  
See [announcement](#)
- New York City launched **mobile testing** in communities. Find a testing site [here](#). An additional **10 trucks** will be available in **July** providing 80 test per truck per day.

- The State, in partnership with Sean Penn and CORE, has established 11 testing sites in communities particularly impacted by COVID-19. [CORE](#) (Community Organized Relief Effort) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and strengthening communities affected by or vulnerable to crisis. The state is continuing to focus efforts on reducing the infection rate of COVID-19 in these New York City hotspot neighborhoods that have been impacted the most by the virus. (June 9)
- There are now more than 800 COVID-19 testing sites across the state. More information on where and how to get tested for COVID-19 is available at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov>.
- **Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that COVID-19 testing will now be expanded to all those who have attended protests. (June 4)**
  - Fifteen new testing sites in New York City will be devoted to serving people who have attended recent protests. The goal is to have testing capacity boosted to 35,000 people per day to gauge just how much the coronavirus has spread as people gather in their greatest numbers since early March. (June 8)
  - Diagnostic tests for the virus have become significantly less invasive. Testing may involve using a nasal swab, oral swab or obtaining a saliva sample.
- New Yorkers wishing to get tested should visit [nyc.gov/CovidTest](https://nyc.gov/CovidTest) or call 311 to find the sites nearest them.
  - The State has posted [an online map tool](#) to help find your nearest COVID-19 testing center, which includes the public City- and State-run testing sites as well as urgent care centers. The state has also partnered with Google Maps to display testing site results. New Yorkers can search "COVID testing near me" on Google Maps to easily find the nearest testing sites.
  - **Additional Testing Sites:** New York State will open 10 additional testing sites—one for each zip code—in COVID hotspots in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens. (May 30)
    - Six testing sites will be in the Bronx, three will be in Brooklyn and one will be in Queens.

- To address these continued high infection rates in low-income and minority communities, New York state is strengthening its partnership with Ready Responders to expand testing from eight to 40 public housing developments across New York City. The state is also partnering with SOMOS to establish 28 additional testing sites at churches and community-based providers in predominately minority communities, for a total of 72 faith-based testing sites in the state in partnership with Northwell Health and SOMOS. A location search tool from Northwell Health can [be found here](#), and one from CityMD can [be found here](#).
  - The state will also work to stop community spread in these neighborhoods by increasing PPE availability, providing hand sanitizer, enforcing social distancing and expanding public health and education in these communities. (May 20)
- New York State Guidelines for testing have expanded and open to all New Yorkers. See: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing>
- The state is partnering with CVS to bring diagnostic tests to pharmacy locations across the state and now has the capacity at both in-state and out-of-state labs to perform roughly 90,000 tests daily. CVS Pharmacies will open 36 drive-thru testing sites throughout New York. Starting on Friday, May 22nd, New Yorkers can find their nearest CVS drive-thru site locations in Nassau County, Suffolk County, Staten Island, or Inwood.
- The Governor announced the launch of a new pilot program with 52 independent pharmacies to conduct 7,000 tests per week. New York State now has more than 750 testing sites across the state.
- The state and city are partnering with AdvantageCare Physicians to establish 16 new testing sites at downstate medical centers, with three sites in Manhattan and one in the Bronx, bringing its total testing locations to more than 760 testing sites in the State. Visit [coronavirus.health.ny.gov](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov) to find a testing site near you. Appointments are encouraged but not required, please call 866-749-2660.
- The City will make voluntary, weekly COVID-19 testing available for up to nearly 31,000 non-profit human service provider staff starting June 1. Up to 4,000 tests per day will be available. Starting June 1, non-profit staff will be able to access testing at any city-affiliated testing site, and starting

June 15, up to 15 mobile teams will bring testing sites to non-profit worksites once a week. In July, the City will provide test kits and PPE for providers to administer tests on-site. (June 1)

- Mayor de Blasio announced that NYC is expanding its testing capacity and is adding 12 new testing sites at NYC Health + Hospitals. (May 12)
  - 2 testing sites will be added the week of [May 18th](#) in Midwood, Brooklyn and Washington Heights, Manhattan and 10 testing sites will be added the week of [May 25th](#). Visit [here](#), to find a community testing site near you.
- NYC has forged a partnership with City MD to expand testing across the city. The city is currently processing about 20,000 tests per day from 123 facilities. Diagnostic PCR tests will be offered in conjunction with a doctor visit at CityMD locations citywide. Regardless of insurance coverage, there is no out of pocket cost to patients for the test, and the costs of any uninsured New Yorker will be covered free of charge. Tests are offered 7 days per week with no appointment necessary. Click [here](#) to find your closest location.
  - Those who have been exposed to a positive case or work in a congregate residential setting are also eligible for testing regardless of symptoms.
- NYC is increasing [antibody testing](#) for another 140,000 New Yorkers starting the Week of May 11 in partnership with BioReference labs. The first survey of 70,000 will start next week and run through late May, and the antibody test survey will be repeated in June. Testing will be by appointment, with priority for local communities. A dedicated hotline will be launched Friday, May 8. The City is starting with 1,000 tests at 5 initial antibody sites:
  - Brooklyn: 127 Pennsylvania Avenue
  - Bronx: 4006 Third Avenue, Bathgate
  - Manhattan: 21 Old Broadway
  - Queens: 34-09 Queens Boulevard
  - Staten Island: St. John's Villa

- To make an appointment, please visit [nyc.gov/antibodysurvey](https://nyc.gov/antibodysurvey) or call 888-279-0967. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, noon to 8pm. Saturday & Sunday: 8am to noon.
- First responders and healthcare personnel are eligible to receive [antibody testing through a partnership with CDC](#). Testing has already started for OCME staff, and others who are eligible can sign up at [FirstSeroSurveyNYC.com](https://FirstSeroSurveyNYC.com) (May 19)
- Starting the week of May 26, New York City will be offering free, on-site diagnostic coronavirus tests at all 169 nursing homes across the five boroughs. Staff who test positive are required to stay out of work for 14 days and the City will also surge staffing at nursing homes and implement outbreak response teams with health and social work professionals to monitor infection control, PPE management, and resident and staff testing.
- The State is changing the testing mandate that all nursing homes test residents and staff twice a week. That testing standard will now only apply to New York City or regions that are in phase one. See: [Executive order](#) Facilities in the rest of the state will now be required to conduct testing once a week. (June 10)
- New York State launched a comprehensive coronavirus testing data tracker for the public. The website, [www.ny.gov/covid-19tracker](https://www.ny.gov/covid-19tracker), which will be updated daily with the latest data, presents visualizations of statewide and county-level testing and results. The public can also access the testing data by going to Open NY at [data.ny.gov](https://data.ny.gov), New York State's open data portal, which offers machine readable datasets in downloadable standard formats that can be sorted, searched, analyzed and applied.
- The NYC Health Department has an updated [COVID-19 data page](#) detailing demographic information about how the outbreak is affecting New York City. The data reveals the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on communities of color. The release of this data site accompanies an online resource that shows New York City's response to COVID-19 by zip code. The maps include information on testing, supplies, telehealth, food, education, outreach and support.

- **Tracing in NYC**

- 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.

- Health Insurance Matters

- **On April 7, 2021, 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 as the State continues to implement its vaccine administration plan and get every New Yorker vaccinated.
- 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 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)

#### NYS Insurance Marketplace

- **Open enrollment for the NY State of Health will remain open through the end of the year 2021.** The NY State of Health provides seamless access to affordable coverage. Uninsured New Yorkers can go to the web [to enroll](#) today.
- The Open Enrollment 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, 2021.** 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](#).
  - The special enrollment period for health insurance will remain open through December 31, 2020. See: [Press Release](#)

- Consumers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health online at [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov), by phone at 855-355-5777, and working with [enrollment assistors](#).
  - If you are without health insurance, you can apply [here](#).
- [GetCoveredNYC](#)
  - Through May 15, health insurance enrollment is open for uninsured New Yorker City residents as part of a Special Enrollment Period. Click [here](#) to enroll or call 311 for free enrollment assistance. You may also text CoveredNYC (SeguroNYC in Spanish) to 877877 to be connected to a GetCoveredNYC Specialist.
  - For help enrolling in health insurance, you may contact Community Service Society Navigator Network at 888-614-5401 or [enroll@cssny.org](mailto:enroll@cssny.org).
  - For help in understanding and using your existing health insurance, you are invited to contact Community Service Society Community Health Advocates at 888-614-5401 or [cha@cssny.org](mailto:cha@cssny.org)
  - The [Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program \(MCCAP\)](#) of the Community Service Society can provide guidance about health insurance, accessing low-cost healthcare, applying for hospital financial assistance, resolving medical billing issues, and appealing coverage denials. Call the MCCAP helpline Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM at (888) 614-5400. All services are free.
  - As directed by Governor Cuomo, all New York insurers will [waive cost-sharing for a COVID-19 testing](#) including Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Essential Plan, and Qualified Health Plans. The [directive regarding access and cost sharing for COVID-19 testing and treatment is available here](#).
  - The NYS Department of Financial Services has issued [a circular letter on COVID-19 for health insurers](#).
  - Immigrants may receive COVID-19 health care WITHOUT [having to answer questions about their immigration status or lack of insurance coverage](#)-- and the care will NOT be used in a “public charge” test (even if those services are funded by Medicaid). If you feel ill, use telehealth services or call ahead first wherever you get your health care. (Gov. Cuomo required insurance companies to waive co-pays for telehealth visits.) For

more info, call the NYS COVID-19 hotline at 1-888-364-3065. Assistance is available in more than 100 languages.

- Medicaid:
  - All active cases within New York City are extended. No Medicaid case within New York City will be closed for failure to renew/recertify or provide documentation. If your case is closed for failure to renew or provide documentation and you had Medicaid coverage on or after March 18, 2020, your case will be reopened and all coverage will be restored. Renewals of Medicaid will be extended for 12 months. Click [here](#) for more information.
  - Former SSI recipients and any discontinued Temporary Assistance or Medicaid cases that require a separate Medicaid eligibility determination will have their coverage extended with no renewal or redeterminations required.
  - During the COVID-19 pandemic, the following individuals are eligible to submit a Medicaid application via fax to (917) 639-0732:
  - New York City residents over the age of 65.
    - Those living with a disability or blindness.
    - Those in receipt of Medicare and are not a parent or caretaker relative of minor children.
    - Young adults under the age of 26 who were formerly in foster care.
- Care
  - Human Services Council: [COVID-19 Resources for Human Services Providers](#)
  - New York City: [Confidential 24/7 Hotline NYCWell](#)
  - New York State has ordered nursing homes to alert relatives within 24 hours if a resident of the nursing home tests positive for COVID-19 or there is a COVID-19-related death.
  - [New hotel isolation program for people unable to isolate and have COVID/symptoms](#)
    - For those who have COVID-19 but can't safely isolate at home, NYC is expanding free hotel access to help stop the spread. Contact your doctor or call 844-NYC-4NYC to self-enroll. (May 27)

- Anyone who cannot isolate at home without exposing their family to infection – [including anyone who does not have their own bathroom](#) – will be eligible for a hotel room.
- The city currently has 1,200 hotel rooms lined up for isolation, and expects to expand the number to 3,000 over the summer.
- Community health care providers are referring clients in need of a place to isolate to a hotel isolation program.
- Clients must be COVID positive or symptomatic and unable to isolate where they live. These are individuals who do not require medical care and can isolate with basic services including onsite medical and social services, meals, laundry, phone, internet, daily check-in calls by medical staff, and transportation to and from the hotel as needed.
- Joining the program are the Morris Heights Health Center with physical locations in Melrose, Mott Haven, Highbridge, Morris Heights, Longwood, North Baychester, Co-op City, and Jerome Park; Hudson River Health Care serving the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island; and Damian Family Health center serving the Bronx and Queens.
  - You can learn more about this program at [nyc.gov/covid19hotel](https://nyc.gov/covid19hotel).
- New York is bringing on 200 workers to assist people who are riding out Covid-19 at home. They will be hired by 15 community-based organizations contracted by the city including the City University of New York, BronxWorks, the Chinese-American Planning Council, RiseBoroNYC, Met Council, Sunnyside Community Services, Catholic Charities of New York, SCO Family of Services, Consortium for Worker Education, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, Make the Road New York, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, SoBRO, and Urban Upbound. (May 27)
- The American Lung Association is regularly updating its website with information about the coronavirus pandemic on [lung.org/covid19](https://lung.org/covid19).
- The American Diabetes Association is providing support and guidance to those impacted by diabetes, who are at higher risk of getting sick from COVID-19. You can access helpful resources, understand your risk, know

your legal rights, and connect with community

at [diabetes.org/coronavirus](https://diabetes.org/coronavirus).

- If you are struggling to pay for insulin, the ADA has resources – visit [InsulinHelp.org](https://InsulinHelp.org).
- [click here](#) or call their Center for Information at 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383).
- [COVID-19 and HIV](#)
  - The [NYS Department of Health](#) and the [NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene](#) offer [information](#) regarding COVID-19 and how it might impact those living with HIV.
- *SHAREing & CAREing*: Virtual support groups for Cancer patients and survivors. Visit [the website](#) for upcoming event listings or contact Merryll Reichbach at [merryllr@shareing-careing.org](mailto:merryllr@shareing-careing.org) for assistance.
- Maternity information (June 17):
  - **The Governor and the New York State Covid-19 Maternity Task Force**, Chaired by Secretary Melissa DeRosa, announced the Governor has directed the State Department of Health to allow midwife-led birthing centers in New York for the first time. This directive to diversify birthing site options and support patient choice was one of six key [recommendations](#) of the COVID-19 Maternity Task Force launched in April at the direction of Governor Cuomo. The Governor's directive will provide expecting mothers more labor and delivery options. **DOH is now accepting Certificate of Need applications for midwifery birth centers** pursuant to Public Health Law Article 28.
  - Under a streamlined process, the New York State Department of Health approved two new temporary birthing centers, **Brooklyn Birthing Center in Brooklyn, NY and Refuah Health Center in Valhalla, NY** consistent with the COVID 19 Maternity Task Force recommendation. See: [Press Release](#)
- Masks/Face Coverings
  - **Governor Cuomo signed legislation (S.8415/A.10446-A)** repealing criminalization of wearing a mask in public. The Governor previously issued an Executive Order requiring that

New Yorkers wear face coverings while in public to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and this new law will remove any legal conflicts with the outdated provision banning the wearing of masks in public and the Governor's Executive Order. (June 13)

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued an Executive Order authorizing business to deny entry to individuals who do not wear masks or face-coverings. (May 28) See: [Order](#)
- NYS is distributing more than 1million additional cloth masks to vulnerable communities in New York City. New York State has already distributed 8 million masks across the City, including to NYCHA developments, food banks, churches and homeless shelters. (May 28)
- New York City is making available 5 million non-medical paper masks and 2.5 million cloth masks. The masks will be given out in parks, at NYCHA developments, affordable housing buildings, food distribution sites and at the Staten Island ferry.
- New York City is now distributing face coverings, [DOE Grab & Go](#) meals sites, and more. For more information about face coverings, click [here](#).
- See [nyc.gov/facecoverings](https://nyc.gov/facecoverings) for schedule and locations. An updated map listing locations and dates for face mask distributions in parks can [be found here](#).
- For those concerned about leaving their homes (e.g. older, immunocompromised and/or disabled New Yorkers) you can request to have masks shipped to you [using this form](#) from the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.
- How to make a non-medical coronavirus face mask – no sewing required: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/apr/06/how-to-make-no-sew-face-mask-coronavirus>
- How To Make A Safety Mask From A T-Shirt: <https://diyjoy.com/diy-safety-mask/>

- To support social distancing, pharmacies are offering [free home delivery](#) to New Yorkers.
- Hospital Information
  - 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 to nursing homes remain suspended. (June 16)
  - The [NYS Department of Health](#) has published updates on hospitalization.
  - [NYC Health + Hospitals](#) has changed its visitor policy due to COVID-19. Click [here](#) to find the most up-to-date information (April 15).
  - Discharged patients: H + H has launched an at-home COVID-19 text message-based symptom monitoring platform for discharged Emergency Department (ED) patients. This text platform is meant for individuals who have been discharged from the ED, are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, and do not require admission to the hospital. Once signed up, patients will receive text messages every 12 to 24 hours to assess their symptoms. If you report escalating symptoms, you will receive a follow-up call from a care team member and admitted to the hospital, if necessary. Currently, the platform is available in English and Spanish, with plans to include 14 more languages.
  - New York Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) COVID Hotline [646-697-4000](tel:646-697-4000) created to answer questions about COVID-19. This hotline is available as a public service to provide information only and not to diagnose, treat, or render a medical opinion. The Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions document is available on the NYP Coronavirus website: <https://www.nyp.org/coronavirus-information>
  - [New York-Presbyterian's Health Matters](#) provides information on how to protect your health and wellbeing during the coronavirus outbreak:
    - For information on depression, [click here](#).
    - For information on the complications vaping can cause to those with COVID-19, [click here](#).
    - For information on how to cope with staying at home, [click here](#).
    - For an explanation of why social distancing works to stop the spread of coronavirus, [click here](#).

- Northwell Health / Lenox Hill Hospital's weekly update can be [read here](#).
- [Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center](#)
  - The Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center continues to provide services Monday through Saturday. All young people, aged 10 - 22, can access free comprehensive health services. For more information, please visit their [website](#) or call 212-423-3000.
- Sexual Health
  - NYC Sexual Health Clinics Hotline is providing telemedicine services for STIs, including HIV. Call 347-396-7959 to talk to a health care provider about your sexual health-- open Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:30pm.
  - The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene continues to offer emergency services at the Chelsea Sexual Health Clinic (303 Ninth Avenue), Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 3:30pm. This clinic sees patients who:
    - Need HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
    - Need emergency contraception (Plan B)
    - Were contacted by clinic staff for urgent follow-up
  - The DOHMH Jamaica Sexual Health Clinic ([90-37 Parsons Boulevard in Downtown Jamaica](#)) will be reopening for limited services [on June 29](#). Operating hours will be [Monday to Friday, 8:30AM – noon, 1PM – 3PM](#).
  - All other Sexual Health Clinics are closed until further notice.
  - Visit [the clinic's website](#) for up-to-date information on services.
  - [Planned Parenthood of Greater New York](#) (PPGNY) is offering virtual appointments where individuals can video-conference and talk with clinicians. PPGNY offers a range of sexual and reproductive health care services. Additionally, PPGNY's centers remain open in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens for essential abortion care, IUD implants and removals, and STI testing and treatment. You can view all of PPGNY's services or book an appointment [online](#) or by calling 1-800-230-PLAN.
- Mental Health & Safety
  - **Under the direction of the governor, the NYS Office of Mental Health is providing a first-in-the-nation program to help New Yorkers affected by the pandemic.** The program, called Coping Circles, consists of free six-week support group sessions, facilitated by volunteer licensed mental health professionals, that are available to all New Yorkers

ages 18 and up. Most Circles are open to the general public but if there is demand, Specialized Circles will be available for healthcare workers and first responders, survivors of COVID-19 infections, those who have experienced job loss due to COVID-19, and those who have experienced loss of a loved one to COVID-19. New Yorkers interested in participating in a Coping Circle can learn more [here](#). (August 10)

- New York State is directing all insurers to waive any cost sharing, co-pay and deductibles for frontline workers seeking mental health services during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- New York State is partnering with the Kate Spade New York Foundation and Crisis Text Line to provide a 24/7 emotional support hotline for workers on the front line of this crisis. Eligible health care workers can reach the service by texting NYFRONTLINE to 741-741, while all New Yorkers can call +1 (844) 863-9314 to reach the State’s emotional support hotline.
- The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) has produced a flyer on coping with stress during the COVID-19 outbreak. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The New York State’s emotional support line is staffed by volunteers who can provide free and confidential counseling. Call: 1-844-863-9314. More information can be found on their [website](#).
- ThriveNYC has compiled an [App Library](#) featuring apps and online tools to help you manage your health and emotional wellbeing.
- Support for veterans and caregivers can access from home: [thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us/mental\\_health\\_support\\_while\\_home](https://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us/mental_health_support_while_home)
- [NYC Well](#) is available 24/7 to provide a range of free mental health support for all New Yorkers, regardless of insurance coverage or immigration status. Call: 1-888-NYC-Well (692-9355); Text: “Well” to 65173 or visit on the web: [nyc.gov/nycwell](https://nyc.gov/nycwell)
  - NYC Well’s website offers a number of [wellbeing and emotional support applications \(apps\) that can help you cope](#).
  - DOHMH website on emotional wellbeing and coping with resources in multiple languages:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-mental-health.page>
- [For the Frontlines](#) is an organization for health care professionals and essential workers. The organization is offering free crisis counseling during

this pandemic. Text 'FRONTLINE' to '741741' for support in dealing with anxiety, stress, fear, isolation, or other difficult emotions you are experiencing during COVID-19.

- The [NYC COVID Worker Care Network](#) is a mutual aid network of more than 2000 mental health workers, spiritual care providers, circle-keepers, and community builders supporting frontline COVID workers during this evolving crisis. Any person working to support the fight against COVID-19 in New York is eligible to receive support - sign-up through their website by clicking [here](#). Follow the network on [Facebook](#) for updates, or reach out to [info@nyccovidcare.org](mailto:info@nyccovidcare.org) with any questions. If you are an employee of an H+H facility, talk to your administrator about mental health resources offered by Health + Hospitals.
- [The American Red Cross's](#) Mental Health Assistance
  - Families:
    - The American Red Cross has launched a virtual Family Assistance Center to connect families to crisis counselors who will provide emotional and spiritual support, as well as information and referrals to help them navigate the challenging process they might be facing as a result of their loved one's death.
    - Families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 are asked to complete an online intake form, and a Family Assistance Center volunteer will contact them:  
[www.redcross.org/NYSCOVIDFamilySupport](http://www.redcross.org/NYSCOVIDFamilySupport)
  - Healthcare workers:
    - The American Red Cross has produced [Recognizing and Managing Stress for Health Care Workers in a Public Health Emergency](#), a webinar to help healthcare workers with stress and trauma.
- The Wellness Council of America has created a COVID-19 Wellness Toolkit. Here, employers and employees can find resources and information on how to handle stress during this pandemic. As well, they host live expert discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on work. <https://www.welcoa.org/covid/>
- [NAMI NYC Mental Health Resources](#)

- Help line continues as a source of information and support. You can call them from 10 AM to 6 PM at (212) 684-3264 or email [helpline@naminyc.org](mailto:helpline@naminyc.org).
- [Comunilife](#) is continuing to provide services through their [Life Is Precious](#) initiative. Through this program, Latina girls who are having difficulties coping with life at home or school can take part in individual and group counseling, academic support, and more.
  - [BIGVISION](#), an organization offering support to young adults (ages 18-35) who are currently in recovery from drug and alcohol use and living sober lives, is offering free virtual social events. Click [here](#) for more information.
  - [NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports \(OASAS\)](#)
    - OASAS is working to support New Yorkers currently seeking addiction support. See [flyer](#), which contains information for individuals looking for help.
    - To find a recovery or open access center, please click [here](#).
    - You can also call New York State's Hopeline to help find resources and support at 1-877-846-7369 or by texting 467369.
  - [DOHMH](#) is partnering with select CVS and Walgreens pharmacies to give out free naloxone kits to any individuals who request one. To find out where you can receive a free kit and for a list of Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs, click [here](#).
  - Individuals who have problems with addiction can seek help through online meetings provided by [SMART Recovery](#) and [Alcoholics Anonymous](#). Both organizations are offering mutual support meetings that are free and open to anyone seeking to abstain from addictive behavior.
  - The [Harm Reduction Coalition](#) has created a [Guidance for People Who Use Drugs](#). Individuals can find resources about how they can prevent the spread of COVID-19, what to do if they get sick, and information about Harm Reduction Providers during this crisis. Additionally, information is available in multiple languages.
  - The [Child Mind Institute](#) has created a [Grief Guide](#) for parents with tips and information about what to say, look out for, and how to help your children. Topics are broken down into a range of ages and experiences.

- Tips for dealing with Coronavirus anxiety:<https://www.psychology.org/resources/expert-tips-coronavirus-anxiety/>.
- For assistance with long-term care or behavioral health services through a managed care plan, you may contact Community Service Society Independent Consumer Advocacy Network at 888-614-8000 or [ican@cssny.org](mailto:ican@cssny.org).
- New York City is connecting older New Yorkers who are feeling isolated with volunteers to talk with over the phone. Call 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469) for the friendly visiting program.
- New York State is partnering with meditation app Headspace to provide free mindfulness, meditation and mental health resources to all New Yorkers. For more information visit [headspace.com/ny](https://www.headspace.com/ny).
- The [New York Peace Institute](#) is offering online mediation services free of charge for families and workplaces struggling to manage conflict during the pandemic. [Access their onboarding form here.](#)
- [Service Program for Older People](#)
  - Program is offering behavioral health care for older adults via approved tele-health connection during the COVID-19 outbreak:
    - Psychotherapeutic and psychiatric services for adults age 55 and older;
    - Rehabilitation support for adults with serious mental illness (age 55 and older);
    - Peer-led bereavement support groups for adults of all ages for a modest fee.
    - For more information, call 212-787-7120 x514 or visit [spop.org](https://www.spop.org).
- Mental Health Supportive Resources for Elderly New Yorkers
  - For those who are feeling isolated, NYC is connecting older New Yorkers with friendly volunteers to talk with over the phone. Call 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469) and ask about the Friendly Visiting Program.
- Mental Health Resource Pages
  - [Anxiety and Depression Association of America \(ADAA\)](#)
  - [American Psychological Association](#)

- [Grief Support Online](#) is offering free COVID-19 [Video Group Meetings](#) in English and Spanish for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. You must be 21 or older to participate.
- Victim Services
  - Domestic Violence
    - Governor Cuomo announced the immediate modernization of the state's domestic violence hotline with a new text program and confidential online service to aid victims of abuse and provide potential lifesaving ways to obtain help.
      - New Yorkers in need of assistance can text 844-997-2121 or go to the New Confidential Online Site to Reach a Professional on [www.opdv.ny.gov](http://www.opdv.ny.gov).
    - In partnership with Sanctuary for Families, NYC is launching a new program to provide funding for immediate safety, economic, and housing needs currently exacerbated by the pandemic. The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV), Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City's COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, and Sanctuary for Families will work with a network of service providers to distribute "micro-grants" directly to survivors based on need. See "[NYC HOPE](#)" resources directory and the [Resources for Survivors During COVID-19](#).
    - ***Her Justice*** Legal Help Line for domestic violence survivors: Call [1-718-562-8181](tel:1-718-562-8181) on Thursdays [from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.](#) to speak with a legal representative.
    - For immediate safety planning for victims of domestic violence, shelter assistance, mental health support, and other resources, call NYC's 24-hour hotline: 1-800-621-4673.  
[@NYCagainstabuse](#) [@SafeHorizon](#)
    - **Korean American Family Services Center:** Counselors and trained volunteers can provide you with crisis counseling, safety planning, assistance with finding a shelter and referrals to KAFSC programs or other organizations.

Assistance is available in English and Korean: (718) 460-3800.

- **Women for Afghan Women:** If you are reporting domestic violence case, or any other urgent matter, please call or text:(929) 225-6804.
- **Shalom Task Force:** Individuals in need of assistance can call Shalom Task Force's free and confidential hotline, where they are providing information. You can call (718) 337-3700 at the following times **(1)** Monday and Wednesday: 9:00 AM-8:00 PM **(2)** Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 AM-10:00 PM **(3)** Friday and Sunday: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.
- **Sanctuary for Families:** The provider has released Safety Plan guides in six languages: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#), and [German](#). A detailed guide on filing for an order of protection during COVID-19 can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) for more information and resources from Sanctuary for Families. Individuals can also call Sanctuary for Families legal hotline at (212) 349-6009 (ext. 246) Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- Find important information about how the [Family Justice Centers are continuing to support survivors](#), and [find other critical resources for survivors during the COVID-19 emergency](#).
  - The Family Justice Center in Manhattan is closed
  - Victims and survivors can reach them at each of their MFJC staff virtually over the phone from Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. by calling its main line: 212-602-2800
  - They are providing case management, advocacy, criminal legal support, counseling and civil legal consultation to survivors via phone and video conference.
  - Contact information for other Family Justice Centers:

- NYC Family Justice Center, Queens:  
718-575-4545
- NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn: 718-250-5113
- NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx: 718-508-1220
- NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island: 718-697-4300
- See this website [NYC Survivor Resources](#) for current resources provided by victim service organizations. The guide is broken down by borough and includes information on victim service organizations, including therapeutic services, hospitals providing forensic exams and on legal resources, crisis intervention, and more.
- The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault has created a resources list that includes: resources for survivors, for practitioners, what hospitals are doing with regards to forensic exams and legal/court options. The Alliance is also providing emotional support to health care workers who are first responders in partner hospitals. See more details on the Alliance website at: [COVID-19 Updates](#)
  - [New York State Resource Guide for Caregivers during COVID-19](#)
  - *Hetrick-Martin Institute*: Remote [programming](#) and online [resources](#) for LGBTQ+ youth.
  - Long Term Care Community Coalition: [Nursing Home Provider Info](#).

## **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.

- **New York 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, 2021. [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](#)
- **The application for rental assistance opened on June 1, 2021.** The State will provide \$3.5 billion in assistance for renters and small businesses experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications for the program [will be accepted](#) as of June 1 for eligible New Yorkers who are behind on their rent and have suffered financial hardship due to COVID-19. The New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program will offer aid with up to 12 months of past-due rent, three months of prospective rental assistance and 12 months of utility arrears payments to eligible New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status.
- Governor Cuomo announced on May 25, that \$3.5 billion in assistance for renters and small businesses experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be issued. The rental assistance program makes up to \$2.7 billion in emergency rental assistance available for struggling New Yorkers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications for the program will be accepted starting June 1 for eligible New Yorkers who are behind on their rent and have suffered financial hardship due to COVID-19. Administered by the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program will provide aid for up to 12 months of past-due rent, 3 months of prospective rental assistance and 12 months of utility arrears payments to eligible New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status. The program is expected to serve between 170,000 and 200,000 households.

- During the first 30 days, the program will prioritize the unemployed, those with income at or below 50 percent of area median income and other vulnerable populations. After the first 30 days, applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as funds remain available. For more information, applicants and landlords should visit [otda.ny.gov/erap](https://otda.ny.gov/erap).
  - Once approved, eligible households will receive up to 12 months of past due rent. Those eligible could also receive up to 3 months of additional rental assistance, if the household spends 30 percent or more of its gross monthly income on rent. The program also will provide up to 12 months of utility arrears for eligible applicants.
  - ERAP will also provide tenant protections. In order to receive assistance, the landlord must agree to waive any late fees due on past-due rent; and not increase the tenant's monthly rent or evict them for one year, except in limited circumstances.
- 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 March 29, 2021, the CDC extended the residential eviction moratorium through June 30, 2021. See: [Statement and Order](#)
  - 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.
  - Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Thursday, August 6 extended New York state's eviction moratorium another 30 days amid the coronavirus pandemic. [The executive order signed by Cuomo](#), which is being reviewed by the Office of Court Administration, extends the ban on evictions until Sept. 4.
  - 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 for the State Dept. of Homes and Community Renewal's new [COVID Rent Relief Program](#) is **Thursday (7/30)**. Tenants who meet the prerequisites can benefit from a one-time rental subsidy paid directly to landlords. Households must:
  - have income below 80% of the county's adjusted median income AND
  - be paying more than 30% of that gross income in rent AND
  - have had reduced income in the four months of April, May, June or July 2020 (compared to March).

Those criteria applied to New York County (ie Manhattan) means a maximum of \$63,700 income for a single-person's household paying over \$1,592 in monthly rent; or \$90,950 max for a four-person household paying \$2,273 a month; view other household sizes' [income caps here](#).

- The Governor signed into law several measures aimed at assisting tenants and homeowners in need. (June 17)
  - [S.8419/ A.10522](#): This legislation enacts the "Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020" to establish an interim residential rent relief program for low-income tenants. The program will issue a subsidy from the federal stimulus funds to cover tenants who were paying more than 30% of their income in rent, lost income between April 1 and July 31 of this year, and make less than 80% of an area's median income.
  - [S.8243-C / A.10351-B](#): This bill requires New York State regulated banking institutions to grant 180 days of mortgage forbearance, with the option for an additional 180 days, on a residential mortgage on their primary residence to any mortgagor who can demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - **UPDATE: Gov. Cuomo signed a bill [S. 8192-B/ A. 10290-B](#) into law late Tuesday that will EXTEND protections for renters who face financial hardship due to the coronavirus crisis.** The measure, known

- as the “Tenant Safe Harbor Act,” builds upon the eviction moratorium Cuomo ESTABLISHED THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER (see below). The measure applies to any unpaid rent accrued between March 7 and the yet-to-be-determined date when the state lifts all COVID-related restrictions on nonessential gatherings and businesses. The new law prohibits courts from evicting residential tenants for nonpayment of rent if they experienced financial hardship because of the outbreak. Landlords can seek a money judgment from tenants, but not evict them. (June 30)
- On May 7, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order (EO) 202.28, which allows residential tenants to use their security deposits to pay rent, bans late fees for residential rent accruing during the crisis, and starting on June 21, prohibits commercial and residential eviction or foreclosure based on nonpayment due to COVID-19 financial hardship for 60 days.
    - The new order is not an extension of the existing blanket eviction and foreclosure moratorium and could allow other foreclosures and evictions to move forward on June 21.
    - The Executive Order requires a financial hardship due to COVID-19, but it does not provide a definition or test for determining whether there is a hardship.
  - [FAQs About NYS Eviction Moratorium](#) (nysenate.gov)
  - The [Right to Counsel NYC Coalition](#) has created an eviction [Moratorium FAQ](#) in multiple languages.
  - Your landlord cannot evict you, kick you out, or ask you to leave your apartment for having COVID-19 or being under home-quarantine.
  - Being under isolation or quarantine in a hospital or other facility does not change your tenancy – your apartment remains your primary residence.
  - You are still required to pay rent during quarantine or any time in a medical facility, as is the case for any illness.
  - [Tenants' Rights for Tenants with COVID-19 or Under Home-Quarantine](#)
  - [Housing Assistance in New York City During COVID-19 Crisis](#)
    - [Mayor’s Office to Protect Tenants \(MOPT\)](#)
    - Section 8 residents: [HPD will be suspending any subsidy termination actions until further notice](#)

- City rental assistance (City FHEPS) is automatically renewed for New Yorkers receiving it.
- [Department of Social Services \(DSS\) information and to request rental assistance.](#)
- [Apply for Cash Assistance from Human Resources Administration](#)
  - [ACCESS HRA Mobile App](#)
- Participants experiencing a rent hardship due to a decrease in income may contact HPD via DTRAI@hpd.nyc.gov or by fax at 212-863-5299.
- [NYCHA information:](#)
  - Resources (updated April 23):
  - *Testing:* In addition to the five community-based testing sites already established, the City will be adding six new sites in the coming days. NYCHA residents will be given priority at these locations. Three of the sites will be at NYCHA locations:
  - Health +Hospitals community testing sites opening Friday:
    - Cumberland Health Center - Crown Heights, Brooklyn
    - Belvis Health Center - Mott Haven, Bronx
    - Gouverneur Health Center - Lower East Side, Manhattan
  - NYCHA testing sites opening next week:
    - Jonathan Williams Houses - Williamsburg, Brooklyn
    - Woodside Houses - Woodside, Queens
    - St. Nicholas Houses - Harlem, Manhattan
  - Supplies: The City is providing face coverings and gloves to all NYCHA residents and hand sanitizer to NYCHA seniors.
  - Food: As part of the larger GetFood program, the City will enroll all NYCHA senior buildings in a food delivery program.
  - Wellness: The City will make live calls to every NYCHA senior and vulnerable resident to check on their health and see if they need anything, including food, toiletries, and other supplies.
  - Addressing Isolation: In partnership with T-Mobile, the City will give free tablets with internet capability to 10,000 NYCHA seniors to combat isolation, starting in Brownsville, East New York, Mott Haven, Red Hook, Bushwick, and Coney Island.

- NYCHA is suspending all termination actions while the City is under a state of emergency, but at a minimum, 60 days.
- If you are a NYCHA resident with a recent loss of income and your household meets certain conditions, you may qualify for a rent reduction. Households that have experienced a complete income loss may qualify for the Zero Income Policy.
- Residents can self-certify without submitting any documents and will be given a credit as soon as the request is submitted and reviewed by NYCHA (Residents do not have to wait as they did in the past). Call (718) 707-7771 or learn more [here](#).
- As a households experiencing a loss of income, visit the [NYCHA Self-Service Portal](#) to apply.
- ['The NYCHA Journal'](#) includes information about NYCHA's response to COVID-19, including steps NYCHA has taken to help alleviate financial hardships that tenants may face during this emergency.
- For New Yorkers requiring quarantine or isolation, [H+H is offering free hotel rooms](#) (for up to 14 days) if there is a need to isolate. Examples of individuals who may benefit from a hotel stay:
  - Individuals who are confirmed COVID-19
  - Individuals who are symptomatic and suspected COVID-19
  - Individuals who have been COVID-19 tested and are awaiting results
  - Individuals who have been directed by a provider to seek quarantine/isolation
  - Individuals who live with others that meet any of the above criteria (e.g. living with someone who is COVID-19 and require quarantine/isolation to avoid exposure)
  - New Yorkers can access this service regardless of their immigration status. Community Referrals: Call 844-NYC-4NYC (844-692-4692) and press "0"
- Tenants & Neighbors
  - Holding daily counseling and referral sessions for NYC tenants during the COVID-19 pandemic starting: Monday, March 30, 2020 at 11AM.
  - To discuss your housing questions, please call: 929-436-2866; Participant ID: 616-636-6635

- Questions can be directed by calling 212-608-4320 ext.314 or contacting: [wmercado@tandn.org](mailto:wmercado@tandn.org)
- [Coalition for the Homeless](#)
  - The Coalition for the Homeless has created a special crisis hotline for individuals who are in immediate need of shelter or to address other critical needs. Call 212-776-2177 for more information.
- [Covenant House](#)
  - Covenant House continues to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, offering housing and supportive services to youth who are experiencing homelessness. Please visit their website or call 212-613-0300 for information.
  - Federal Housing Administration on May 14, announced an extension of its **foreclosure and eviction moratorium** [through June 30, 2020](#), for homeowners with FHA-insured Single Family mortgages, while also supporting new FHA-insured mortgage originations through an extension of **temporary policy flexibilities** for lenders and appraisers. More from HUD Secretary Ben Carson on actions taken to safeguard the American renter and homeowner against impacts of coronavirus [here](#).

## WORKPLACE SUPPORT

- [Federal Stimulus](#)
  - **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](#).
  - Receipt of Stimulus: If you received your Economic Impact Payment/stimulus check (EIP) as a card, call 1-800-240-8100 to activate.
    - During activation, you will be asked to input your Card Number, last 6-digits of your social security number and the 3-digit security code from the back of your Card.
    - You could be asked to further validate your identity by providing, at minimum, your name and address or answer identity verification questions.

- In some instances, the first name of one payee is linked to the last name of a second payee on the Card. For mismatched names, the payee with the first name on the first line must activate the Card and/or validate identity to continue activation.
- You will also be asked to create a 4-digit PIN required for ATM transactions and automated assistance and to hear your balance.
- For your Account security, do not use personal information as your PIN.
- For Cards with more than one name, only the primary Cardholder (listed first on the Card) may activate the Card.
- [More information available here](#)
- [When will you get your federal stimulus check?](#) Here's a breakdown of when some might expect their federal stimulus payment from the CARES Act.
  - The IRS has [a new, online portal for economic impact payments](#). This portal will allow taxpayers to find out the status of their payment. If a payment hasn't been issued, individuals can provide banking information for direct deposit.
  - The IRS plans to mail a letter about the economic impact payment to the taxpayer's last known address within 15 days after the payment is made. The letter will provide information on how the payment was made and how to report any failure to receive the payment. If a taxpayer is unsure they're receiving a legitimate letter, the IRS urges taxpayers to visit [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) first to protect against scam artists.
  - The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance launched an [Economic Impact Payment Information: what you need to know webpage](#). The Department will also conduct direct outreach to taxpayers who may not automatically receive the payment they're owed. The Department is also partnering with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, NYS Division of Veterans' Services, the Department of Labor, and local community organizations to raise awareness.
  - NYC Human Resource Administration's website has been updated to include information on [Federal Stimulus Payments: Economic Impact Payments](#).
  - State Attorney General Letitia James issued a directive prohibiting New York banks, creditors and debt collectors from garnishing stimulus payments from the CARES Act during the coronavirus crisis, and protecting the payment

under NYS consumer law. Entities would face [“swift legal action”](#) from her office.

○ Employment

- [New York Hire Now: Immediate Hiring Opportunities](#): Search immediate job openings throughout New York State.
  - Job 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](mailto:strashun@searchandcare.org).
    - The U.S. Postal Service is hiring mail carriers, drivers, sales associates, and sorting clerks. Apply [here](#).
    - The New York City Test and Trace Corps will work to suppress the virus in the city by testing New Yorkers for infection, tracing cases and contacts, and providing support and care for those who test positive. The Corps will bring on 2,500 public health employees by June to investigate, trace, and manage case data. The Corps is preparing for 20,000 tests per day and more than 30 community testing sites in the next weeks as New York City continues to increase sites.
      - The City is partnering with Salesforce to launch a call center and case management system to support test and tracing efforts.
      - NYC is preparing 1,200 hotel rooms for those who cannot self-isolate at home, with the food, medical care, and laundry services they'll need.
      - NYC will utilize the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19/Contact Tracing Training, sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies, for all applicants being considered. The Corps will deploy Salesforce on June 1st.
      - Apply to join the Test and Trace Corps at [nyc.gov/traceteam](https://nyc.gov/traceteam).
    - The State is also recruiting employees and supervisors for contract tracing interview people who are positive, identify others who may have been exposed, and follow-up with those people in turn to be tested. Learn

- more [here for the State](#) ([contact tracers](#), [team supervisors](#), and [community support specialists](#)). Employees will receive training.
- On April 17, the City announced that 311 is hiring more staff to help meet the demands of the COVID-19 crisis. To find information about this and other job opportunities with the City, please click [here](#).
  - NYS Department of Labor is hiring hundreds of New Yorkers to help process unemployment claims. Visit [here](#).
    - NYC Health and Hospitals is hiring 500 non-clinical staff. No medical background is required and hiring is expected to expand. Please visit [nyc.gov/getwork](https://nyc.gov/getwork) for more information and to apply.
    - NYCHA is hiring temporary workers to assist with maintenance at a rate of \$15/hour. For more info and to apply, NYCHA residents can contact their local NYCHA Property Management Office.
    - The City of New York is hiring licensed TLC drivers to deliver food to New Yorkers in need during the COVID-19 crisis. For more info, [click here](#).
    - University Settlement is looking for part-time temporary deliverers to help feed older adults. This position pays \$27 an hour, up to 17 hours per week. [Visit their website](#) to learn about qualifications and to submit resume.
    - The City's Workforce1 Career Center launched a [virtual center](#) to help New Yorkers prepare for and connect to jobs across New York City. Current employment opportunities include Stop & Shop, Fresh Direct, and PBM Guardian Industry Services, among others.
    - The NYC Fund for Public Health is now hiring people with health backgrounds to do COVID-19 contact tracing. Learn more at <https://fphnyc.org/about/careers/> under "COVID-19 Jobs."
    - [Still Hiring](#): A platform connecting job seekers with employers who are still hiring amid the pandemic.
  - Employment coaching:
    - [The HOPE Program](#) is providing comprehensive training, job and career support to job seekers during COVID-19. Although programs are being administered remotely, the HOPE Program provides

informational sessions every Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 PM.  
Click [here](#) for the meeting link.

- [\*Henry Street Settlement\*](#): Henry Street Settlement moved their Workforce Development Center programming online to continue providing the tools and resources New Yorkers need for a successful job search. Learn more about job training and employment coaching and opportunities [HERE](#), and reach out to Director of Employment Services Lisa Tomanelli with any questions at [ltomanelli@henrystreet.org](mailto:ltomanelli@henrystreet.org).
- [\*Lower East Side Employment Network\*](#) supports and trains job seekers to become active participants in local economies. Reach out to [info@leemploy.org](mailto:info@leemploy.org).
- Queens Public Library (QPL) is offering virtual resume assistance through their 'Job & Business Academy.' Assistance is available Monday through Friday, on a first-come first-served basis. Email your resume or questions to [jobsearchhelp@queenslibrary.org](mailto:jobsearchhelp@queenslibrary.org) (note: there is a 48-hour turnaround time). Click [here](#) for more information.
- Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is offering patrons resume and career help via email through their Business and Career Center. If you have questions about your resume, cover letter, resources that could help you in your job search or other job search-related questions, please email [resumehelp@bklynlibrary.org](mailto:resumehelp@bklynlibrary.org). Click [here](#) for more information.
- The New York Public Library (NYPL) is offering resources to job seekers. Resources include a Job Search Central, Pro Bono Career Coaching, and Career Workshops. Additional resources are available for small businesses. Click [here](#) for more information.

○ General Information

- [U.S. Department of Labor](#)
  - [U.S. Department of Labor resources for workers and employers](#)
  - [U.S. DOL: COVID-19 and the American Workplace](#)
- [NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection \(DCWP\)](#)
  - [Update about Workplace Laws](#)
  - [Workers' Bill of Rights Booklet](#)
  - [Paid Safe and Sick Leave](#)

- [Living Wage](#)
- [Minimum Wage](#)
- [Commuter Benefits](#)
- [Temporary Schedule Change](#)
- [Fast Food & Retail Workers](#)
- [Paid Care Workers](#)
- [Freelance Workers](#)
- [Grocery Workers](#)
- [Building Service Workers](#)
- [New York State DOL: Complaints Related to COVID-19 Regulations](#)
  - You may file a complaint for any of the following reasons:
    - You qualify for COVID-19 paid sick leave and your employer refuses to pay it.
    - You are being directed to work at a non-essential business.
    - Your employer has failed to pay your earned sick pay or paid time off.
    - Your employer has failed to pay your earned wages or pay for all of the hours you worked.
    - Your employer has threatened or fired you for reasons related to COVID-19.
    - Your employer is forcing you to work when you are sick.
    - You know about a business that is non-essential and is operating.
- [Leave Assistance](#)
  - **Starting January 1, 2021, New Yorkers can begin using sick leave benefits under the state's Paid Sick Leave law.** This law establishes expanded paid sick leave for workers at medium and large businesses and paid or unpaid leave for those at small businesses, depending on the employer's net income. New Yorkers can use guaranteed sick leave to recover from an illness themselves, care for a sick family member and more. Learn about Paid Sick Leave [here](#).
    - The new measure expands paid family leave from 10 to 12 weeks, allowing families to take extended time off to care for a newborn, a

family member with a serious health condition such as COVID-19, or take care of other loved ones when another family member is on active military service. Under the new measure, employees can receive two-thirds of their weekly pay up to a maximum of \$971.61 a week.

- NYS Paid Family Leave provides eligible employees with paid time off to care for a family member with a serious health condition, assist with a newborn or assist loved ones when a military family member is deployed abroad. The policy also provides job protection, continued health insurance and protection from discrimination or retaliation.

- Paid Family Leave eligibility was recently expanded by the state to include employees who have dependent children in isolation or quarantine due to the novel coronavirus. Benefits were increased to equal 100% of an employee's weekly wages, capped at \$2,884.62 per week for those affected by the coronavirus outbreak. Employers and the employer's insurance carrier should have the required forms to take leave, which must be submitted to the insurance carrier.

Employees can find out if they're eligible, as well as the required forms to download through the state's Paid Family Leave website. Contact by phone: 844-337-6303 or visit the website

at <https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov>

- New York State provides a Paid Sick Leave (PSL) insurance for eligible employees who have been ordered to be quarantined by order of an authorized agency. The benefit will depend upon the size of employer.
  - Provides up to 60% of your pay, up to a maximum weekly benefit of \$840.70.
  - After receiving your full PFL benefit, you will receive disability benefits to match your full wages up to a maximum weekly disability benefit of \$2,043.92, for a total of \$2,884.62 per week.
  - There is no waiting period for either benefit.
  - For more information visit [here](#).
  - COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave

Application: <https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/if-you-are-quarantined-yourself>

- The New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot issued a [Commissioner's Order](#) (PDF) detailing the process for New Yorkers who missed work because they tested positive for COVID-19 or were sick with COVID-19 to claim paid sick leave. New Yorkers can check if they are qualified to claim paid sick leave and obtain the documentation they need by calling the Health Department at [855-491-2667](tel:855-491-2667) or 311.
- NYS Temporary Disability Insurance: Employers are required to provide employees with disability benefits for an off-the-job injury or illness to replace lost wages. While there is usually a seven-day waiting period for benefits, NYS has waived it for employees affected by the novel coronavirus outbreak. Benefits tend to cover 50% of an employee's wages, but were increased to equal 100% of an employee's weekly wages, capped at \$2,884.62 per week, for those affected by coronavirus. Employees can find the forms to file a claim and where to file through the New York State Workers Compensation Board. Contact by Phone: 877-632-4996 or website: [www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/Workers/Workers.jsp](http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/Workers/Workers.jsp)
- If you are having trouble paying rent or paying rent on time due to quarantine or being hospitalized for COVID-19, or a family member being sick, here is important information:
  - If you work in New York City for more than 80 hours per calendar year, and your employer has five or more employees, under the law, you earn five days (40 hours) of paid leave that you can use if you have a health condition or to care for a family member with a health condition. If your employer has less than five employees, you earn five days (40 hours) of unpaid leave. For more information and the types of workers covered, visit the [NYC Department of Consumer Affairs](#).
- Unemployment (UI)
- 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/partial](https://on.ny.gov/partial)
- December 28, 2020 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 Governor signed legislation (S.8275-A/A.10348) suspending the forfeiture of unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 state of emergency**, aligning with the Executive Order issued by the Governor on May 14, 2020. Over 44 million Americans across the United States have applied for unemployment insurance during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this number is expected to grow as the pandemic continues. Individuals who have had forfeit penalties levied against them from past claims are currently unable to collect their unemployment benefits. This new law will allow those individuals to collect these

critical benefits in their time of greatest need even if forfeit penalties have been enacted against them. (June 13)

- **Update Sept. 18:** 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 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 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.
  
- Update-Sept. 11: 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 act or if no action is needed
  
- [New York State Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#) Updated Benefit information below: (July 30)

- **Traditional Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits are now extended for up to 59 weeks: Traditional UI lasts for 26 weeks in New York, and has been extended by both the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, which adds 13 weeks, and the Extended Benefits (EB) program, which adds an additional 20 weeks.**
  
- **To be eligible for PEUC, you must first exhaust 26 weeks of regular UI benefits and continue to be unemployed.**
  
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits are now extended for up to 46 weeks: Under Federal law, those receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) are not eligible for PEUC or EB, but are now eligible for up to 46 weeks of benefits in New York – up from the original 39 weeks.
  
- **To be eligible for Extended Benefits, you must first exhaust all 26 weeks of traditional unemployment insurance benefits and all 13 weeks of Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits (a total of 39 weeks of benefits) and continue to be unemployed. Alternatively, if your benefit year for regular unemployment insurance expired after July 1, 2019 and you received the 13 weeks of PEUC benefits, you may be eligible for EB. In addition, you must meet the following basic eligibility requirements:**
  - You are not eligible for regular or extended compensation under any other state or federal law.
  - You meet basic state eligibility requirements such as being ready, willing and able to work and are searching for work.If you are currently employed, you cannot quit your job to claim Extended Benefits – doing so will result in disqualification

- DOL will send letters to those who may be eligible for EB. If you do not receive a letter, you may check your eligibility online at [www.labor.ny.gov/signin](http://www.labor.ny.gov/signin) or at 888-581-1220.
- **Please note that in order to continue receiving your unemployment benefits, you must continue to certify each week. You do not need to re-apply or contact DOL unless you are specifically told to do so. You can certify online at [labor.ny.gov/signin](http://labor.ny.gov/signin) or on the phone by calling 1-888-581-5812 (for UI) or 1-833-324-0366 (for PUA).**
- **To learn more important information about Extended Benefits**, visit the PEUC and EB FAQs at <https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/extended-benefits-faq.pdf>. You can also visit [labor.ny.gov](http://labor.ny.gov), as well as check DOL's social media accounts on Twitter (@NYSLabor), Facebook ([facebook.com/nyslabor](https://www.facebook.com/nyslabor)) and Instagram (@nyslabor) for updates.
- **IMPORTANT:** the DOL launched a [new application](#) for New Yorkers to apply for traditional Unemployment Insurance OR the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).
- This one-stop-shop for unemployment benefits will connect New Yorkers with the benefits faster, without requiring a call to the department.
- Prior to this effort, New Yorkers were required to apply for regular Unemployment Insurance and be rejected before applying for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. With this new application, which aligns with updated federal policy, New Yorkers will be able to simply fill out one form to get the appropriate benefits.
- Go to for more information: [labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm](http://labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm).
- NYS waived the 7-day waiting period for unemployment benefits for individuals who are out of work due to closure or quarantine.

- You may file your claim any day of the week (Monday-Sunday) from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM (Eastern Time). (April 15)
  - The DOL will contact New Yorkers who have already filed partial claims under the old unemployment insurance system.
  - The new application contains fewer questions and applicants are no longer required to call DOL. If information is needed or missing, a representative will call within 72 hours.
  - If you receive a private or restricted call from a DOL representative, verify that the individual is a staff member from the DOL by asking them to confirm their identity and provide the date you filed your application and what type of claim you filed. This is to protect your privacy and avoid the potential of a scam.
  - To access the new portal directly, click [here](#).
  - The State Dept. of Labor announced claims are extended by 13 additional weeks, from 26 to 39 weeks. Claims will be back-dated to the date the filer became unemployed. New York is among the first states to include the additional \$600 in unemployment payments, as provided by the federal CARES Act which was recently signed into law. **Additional \$600 a week until 7/31/2020. These payments began on 4/5/2020.**
  - State unemployment benefits are being loaded on debit cards issued by KeyBank and First Niagara. The cards, once received, can be activated by calling KeyBank Customer Service at (866) 295-2955. The only KeyBank ATM in NYC is at 11 East 22nd Street (just east of Broadway) but no-fee withdrawals can also be made at any Allpoint ATM-- [see locations here](#). [Learn more](#). (May 19)
  - The State Department of Labor created this [chart](#) to guide individuals seeking unemployment benefits after passage of the federal CARES Act. More information can be found at: <https://labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.pdf> and <https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/cares-act.shtm>.
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

- The new federal CARES Act provides enhanced Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and PUA for New Yorkers. See: [labor.ny.gov/ui/cares-act.shtm](https://labor.ny.gov/ui/cares-act.shtm).
- The new unemployment benefits available to those who are not typically eligible for unemployment insurance as a result of federal law, include:
  - Self-employed/1099 workers
  - Part time workers
  - Those who were not working for an extended period of time.
  - Independent contractors
  - New Yorkers who worked for an app-based company (i.e. "gig workers")
  - Those diagnosed with COVID-19 or who have COVID-19 symptoms and are seeking a diagnosis
  - Those living with a household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19
  - Those providing care for a family or household member diagnosed with COVID-19
  - A primary caregiver for a child unable to attend school or another facility due to COVID-19
  - Those unable to reach their place of employment due to an imposed quarantine or because they have been advised by a medical provider to self-quarantine due to COVID-19
  - Those scheduled to commence new employment that cannot reach their workplace as a direct result of COVID-19
  - Those who became a major breadwinner because the head of their household died from COVID-19
  - Those who quit their job as a direct result of COVID-19
  - Those whose place of employment closed as a direct result of COVID-19
  - Those with insufficient work history and affected by COVID-19
  - New Yorkers otherwise not qualified for regular or extended UI benefits and affected by COVID-19

- Once approved, unemployment recipients should start certifying when their applications switch from “pending” to “payable.” Those people will have received an email from the labor department and a letter.
- The week runs from Monday to Sunday. Filers must submit certification during a “claim window.” That starts on the last day of the week (Sunday) through the following Saturday.
- To certify, sign in to an account on the [labor department’s website](#). Click the “unemployment services” button. Then click “claim weekly benefits.”
- There are two numbers to certify by phone.
  - 1-888-581-5812 for traditional unemployment insurance.
  - 1-833-324-0366 for pandemic unemployment insurance.
- The certification confirms the person was unemployed for all or part of the past week and is willing and able to work.
- During the pandemic, the department advises people who cannot work because of the emergency and the shutdown orders to answer that they were ready, willing and able to work if they otherwise could have worked.
- DOL also announced that it will suspend the application of forfeit penalties during the COVID-19 pandemic. Forfeit penalties are applied to individuals who DOL believes may have previously collected unemployment benefits using false or misleading statements. If an individual were to seek unemployment benefits again within a two-year period, forfeit penalties would be counted against their benefits, deducting 25% of their weekly benefits for each penalty assessed. As a result, many New Yorkers who had lost their job because of COVID-19 were having their unemployment benefits significantly reduced or taken away altogether. Thus, for the remainder of the state of emergency, the application of forfeit days will be suspended, and New Yorkers will be able to receive the full benefits to which they are entitled, including back pay.
- ["What Workers Need to Know"](#) guide created by the Community Service Society (CSS) contains latest information on:

- Unemployment Insurance Benefits
  - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
  - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation
  - Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave and more
- NYCHA Kiosk Access to Unemployment Insurance Services
  - NYCHA kiosks are making it easy for residents to apply for unemployment benefits. The link to the Department of Labor has been added to the main menu of the kiosk, located on the right hand side, under the tab titled Unemployment Benefits.
- General Information for NYC <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/get-help/individuals.page>
- The nonprofit news site The City [has released a guide to navigating unemployment](#) benefits, explaining eligibility for federal aid, tips for part time and freelance workers, as well as guidance on how to obtain state unemployment benefits.
- Organizations Assisting Workers and Businesses
  - The Restaurant Workers' Community Foundation
    - This advocacy nonprofit created by and for restaurant workers has compiled [information and links to resources](#) that will help restaurants and workers deal with the COVID-19 Emergency.
  - COVID-19 and Freelance Artists
    - An [aggregated list](#) of resources, opportunities, and financial relief options available to artists of all disciplines.
  - NYC Hospitality Alliance
    - The NYC Hospitality Alliance has compiled [a list of resources and relief efforts for operators and employees in the hospitality industry.](#)
  - Paul, Weiss Coronavirus Relief Center
    - [Paul, Weiss](#) created an online portal featuring federal, state, local and non-profit relief programs for businesses, employees and other individuals hit hard by the pandemic
    - More than 600 relief programs can be accessed on this portal, which will be updated.
    - The site is searchable by jurisdiction, contains explanations of eligibility requirements, provides guidance on accessing benefits, and

includes direct links and contact information for the appropriate agency or organization.

- Workplace Protections

- Employers are prohibited from firing, suspending, or retaliating against a worker for raising or reporting concerns about safety or health hazards. To learn more about filing a complaint with the federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), [click here](#).
- New York State Dept. of Labor's complaint form: [here](#)

- Taxes

- The New York City [Department of Consumer Affairs](#) (DCA) is offering [NYC Free Virtual Tax Prep](#) to reflect the new tax filing deadline on July 15, 2020. This service is available for families earning \$64,000 (or less) in 2019 and single filers earning \$45,000 (or less). Click [here](#) for a list of providers, including a [checklist of documents needed](#) before filing your taxes.
- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has a webpage dedicated to COVID-19 Tax Relief. [Click here](#) for more information regarding the economic impact payment.
- The State and federal tax filing deadline of April 15, 2020 has been postponed to July 15, 2020. [More information here](#). See Governor's order: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20212-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>
- Due to the COVID19 crisis, all NYC free tax prep providers have suspended services in NYC. In-person services will resume at a later date, please visit [www.nyc.gov/taxprep](http://www.nyc.gov/taxprep) for updates.
  - In the meantime, filers can file online. Prepare and file your federal income tax return for free using tax preparation and filing software through [IRS Free File](#).
- Taxpayers can defer federal income tax payments to July 15 without penalties and interest
- Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief. Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline, can request a

filing extension by filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

- Small Business

- **Applications for the COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grant**

**Program are now open (June 10, 2021).** Business owners who experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic [can apply](#) for grants of up to \$50,000. Grants will be awarded to small and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations.

- **On May 25, 2021, Gov. Cuomo announced the launch of the small business recovery grant program providing up to \$800 million in funding for small businesses to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic.** Applications for the program will be accepted starting June 10 for small and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. Flexible grants up to \$50,000 will be made available to eligible small businesses and can be used for operating expenses, including payroll, rent or mortgage payments, taxes, utilities, personal protective equipment, or other business expenses incurred during the pandemic. Over 330,000 small and micro businesses are potentially eligible for this program, including 57 percent of the State's certified MWBEs. **The NYS Empire State Development (ESD) has created a website - [NYSBusinessRecovery.ny.gov](https://www.nysbusinessrecovery.ny.gov) - to highlight the various resources available to support small businesses seeking pandemic relief. The website will be updated regularly.**

- On March 9, 2021, the **COVID-19 Emergency Protect Our Small Businesses Act of 2021** was signed into law by the governor. Under the law, eviction and foreclosure protections for small businesses are established. The protections will initially apply to small businesses with fewer than 50 employees which demonstrate a financial hardship, as well as small businesses with 10 or less units. See: [Press Release](#).

- **The U.S. Small Business Administration's [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) reopened on Monday, January 11.** SBA is currently offering:
  - [First Draw PPP Loans](#) for first time program participants, and
  - [Second Draw PPP Loans](#) for certain businesses who have previously received a PPP loan.
  
- To promote access for smaller lenders and their customers, SBA is currently only accepting loan applications from participating community financial institutions (CFIs). To connect New York City's small business owners to federal relief funds, the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has launched Fair Share NYC, offering **free webinars, technical assistance and access to lenders to help businesses interested in applying for PPP loans**. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/PPP](http://nyc.gov/PPP) or call 888-SBS-4NYC.
  
- **Governor Cuomo announced the launch of the New York Forward Small Business Lease Assistance Partnership.** Recognizing the economic impact of COVID-19, this program will provide small businesses and their landlords with informational resources and pro bono assistance to help both parties reach mutually-beneficial lease workout agreements. This service is available to all New York State small businesses and landlords, and participation is voluntary. Over the next year, the partnership has the capacity to serve thousands of small businesses statewide. (Dec 10, 2020) [Press Release](#)
  - Under this program, Empire State Development is partnering with the New York State Bar Association and Start Small Think Big, a New York-based non-profit organization dedicated to supporting small, under-resourced entrepreneurs with high-quality professional services.
  - The [Small Business Lease Assistance Partnership website](#) includes information on the lease renegotiation process and details the different types of lease workouts available to help small businesses cope with the financial impacts of COVID-19. Those interested in pro bono assistance to initiate a lease renegotiation are encouraged to review and complete the partnership's [intake form](#). After completing the form, each small business will receive an email detailing an estimated timeline for

placement with a volunteer attorney. Once matched, the volunteer attorney will email the applicant to schedule an appointment.

- Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Jonnel Doris of the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) announced the launch of a new **\$35 million** initiative to provide support for businesses in low-to-moderate income (LMI) communities hit by the pandemic. ( Nov. 25, 2020) Read more [here](#).
  - This initiative, in partnership with New York City Economic Development Corporation and Pursuit BDC, will help through the **NYC LMI Storefront Loan, Interest Rate Reduction Grant, and the Strategic Impact COVID-19 Commercial District Support Grant**.
  - For the NYC LMI Storefront Loan, businesses must:
    - be a storefront within an [LMI zip code](#),
    - been in operation before or since January 1, 2018,
    - and have at least 2 employees but at most 99 employees.
    - Apply [here](#).
  - For the Interest Rate Reduction Grant, businesses:
    - must have an existing loan with select Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI),
    - and must contact their CDFI to check their eligibility or look at the list of CDFI [here](#).
  - For the Strategic Impact COVID-19 Commercial District Support Grant:
    - businesses or organizations must serve one or more of the 39 LMI neighborhoods and communities of color throughout the five boroughs.
    - Apply [here](#).
- On October 8, 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](#))

- Citizens Committee has launched **Neighborhood Business Grants** to assist New York City's small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to the impact of COVID-19. Grants between **\$5,000 - \$10,000** will be issued to maintain payroll and operations. Businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, and women will be prioritized. To learn more and apply click [here](#). (August. 11)
  
- [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA)'s CARES Act business programs
  - The federal Stimulus 3.5 replenished \$310 billion in additional funding. NYC Small Business Owners can apply for the Federal Payment Protection Program at [SBA.gov](#). (April 29)
  - [Small Business Debt Relief](#): SBA will automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of current 7(a), 504, and microloans for a period of 6 months; the SBA will also pay the principal, interest, and fees of new 7(a), 504, and microloans issued prior to September 27, 2020.
  - [Economic Injury Disaster Loans \(EIDL\) and Loan Advance](#) provides a low-interest, fixed rate loan up to \$2 million, which can be used to pay immediate expenses during an emergency (payroll, bills/accounts payable, fixed debts) and an advance of up to \$10,000 awarded within 3 days of application.
  - [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) provides loans to small businesses with 500 or fewer employees, sole proprietors, self-employed persons, and independent contractors to help cover fixed operating costs for an 8-week period of time, portions of which may be forgiven if the company maintains its payroll. Tech support is available from [Small Business Centers here](#).
    - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation [opened applications](#) for their \$5,000 Save Small Business grants for businesses (employing 3-20 people) that have been harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The U.S. Small Business Administration and Department of the Treasury released [the Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Application](#) to help small businesses seek forgiveness at the end of the eight week period following the receipt of the loan. See [more](#)

[information here](#) from the Pace Small Business Development Center, or make an appointment at [sbdc@pace.edu](mailto:sbdc@pace.edu). (May 18)

- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#): If you are a small business owner, view the [Small Business Coronavirus Guide](#).
- Empire State Development
  - [Empire State Development](#) has created an [FAQ page for businesses](#). The resource provides general guidance related to COVID-19, and information for businesses regarding state regulations.
  - If you have a question, but could not find an answer on the FAQ page, you can submit a question to Empire State Development [here](#).
  - Additional information regarding Empire State Development's response to COVID-19, please click [here](#).
- The Governor announced the launch of the \$100 million New York Forward Loan Fund to provide flexible and affordable loans to help small businesses, focusing on minority and women owned small businesses, that did not receive federal COVID-19 assistance. The state will take a targeted approach for distributing these loans, focusing on businesses with 20 or fewer employees and less than \$3 million in gross revenues. Businesses interested in receiving a loan should visit [esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans](http://esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans).
- The City Bar Justice Center launched [a pro bono, remote legal clinic](#) to help small businesses understand and access relief options available under the federal government's COVID-19 stimulus package and other opportunities available through federal, state and local programs. Visit [here](#) to schedule a free 45-minute appointment.
- Open For Business has provided [a list of tech companies that are offering free services to small businesses](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic, from help with working remotely and other solutions.
- Greenwich Village Chamber of Commerce (GVCC)
  - The [GVCC](#) is a membership based non-profit organization serving small and large businesses in Greenwich Village, Chelsea, SoHo, Union Square, NoHo, Flatiron, and the East Village.
  - During the COVID-19 crisis, the chamber is working to make sure the community has the latest information.
  - Click [here](#) for links and more information.

- [Flatbush Development Corporation](#) (FDC) has COVID-19 Directory for Flatbush and Ditmas Park in a spreadsheet format that provides updated status of business operations of the Cortelyou Road Merchants Association, Newkirk Plaza Merchants Association in Brooklyn. Additionally, businesses along Coney Island Avenue, Foster Avenue, Ditmas Park and local support groups are mentioned. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation Resources
  - [Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation](#) has industrial employer updates and resources that small businesses can use. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Central Astoria Local Development Corporation
  - [Central Astoria Local Development Corporation](#) has updated information in its news section with a listing of restaurants that are open in Astoria, Queens, COVID-19 grants, relief for affected workers, FAQs on face covering and information for businesses needing help, click [here](#).
- Greater Jamaica Development Corporation Resources
  - [Greater Jamaica Development Corporation](#) has information for small businesses during COVID-19, click [here](#).
- Downtown Alliance's Small Business Rental Assistance Grant program
  - The Downtown Alliance is launching a Small Business Rental Assistance Grant program, awarding \$800,000 in cash grants to small businesses in Lower Manhattan. Applications are available starting Friday (5/1) at 9 am, on a first-come, first-served basis, until May 15 or until full funding has been allocated. [Learn more here](#).
- [Salesforce](#) is partnering with [Ureeka](#) to offer eligible small businesses an opportunity to receive a \$10,000 grant. Click [here](#) for eligibility and how to continue with an application.
- Facebook has launched a Small Business Grants Program to help businesses affected by COVID-19. Facebook is offering cash grants and ad credits. Click [here](#) to read more about the program eligibility and how to apply.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

- [Discrimination](#)

- The [NYS Division of Human Rights](#) has [informational flyers](#) on discrimination related to COVID-19.
  - If you have experienced discrimination or harassment, or witness an incident due to race, national origin, or other identities, call 311 or [file a complaint online](#) with the [NYC Commission on Human Rights](#).
  - You may contact the [New York State Hate Crimes Task Force](#) if you have been involved in a hate crime by calling (888) 392-3644.
- Immigration
  - [New York City COVID-19 Immigrant Emergency Relief Program with Open Society Foundations](#)
    - Fund will go to 20,000 immigrant workers with direct, one-time emergency relief in the following amounts:
      - \$400/individual
      - \$800 for couple or single parent with children
      - \$1,000 for family with multiple adults and children
      - And/or where identified increased additional supports.
  - For DACA Recipients: To receive help in renewing your application call ActionNYC at 1-800-354-0365
  - Visit the [Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs COVID-19 page](#) for information about access to testing, treatment and other services.
  - [The New York Immigrant Coalition](#) (NYIC)
    - Has compiled information for immigrants who are concerned about COVID-19 and how it might impact their immigration case.
    - New Yorkers looking for up-to-date information about how COVID-19 affects NYC residents can find comprehensive information, including information on health, education, immigration, legal and social services, and other resources [here](#). Information is available in additional languages.
    - NYIC has also created a [#NYunited Fund](#) to help ensure the health and safety of New York's 4 million immigrants.
  - [Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC Resource Guide](#)
  - [The New York State Youth Leadership Council](#)

- [\(NYSYLC\) Resource Guide: this link](#) offers a comprehensive list of resources in NYC around COVID-19 supports, including information regarding funds, housing, mutual aid, mental health, and more.
- CUNY Citizenship Now! continues to provide legal services remotely until further notice. Applications are limited to green card renewals, citizenship, DACA and TPS. All other applications will resume when they reopen to the public. For general questions, call 646-664-9400.
- Effective March 18th, [Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#) announced that during the coronavirus epidemic, it will delay making arrests, except for individuals considered “public safety risk.”
  - If you or a loved one believes they have been subject to an ICE raid or enforcement activity, you can call 212-725-6422 to report the incident. Know-Your-Rights flyers in 15 languages are available from the Immigrant Defense Project [here](#).
- Resources for Undocumented Workers in NY During the Coronavirus Crisis:
  - For updates on worker’s rights during COVID-19, see [Make the Road NY](#) has a [FAQ & Resources Guide](#).
  - NYSYLC has created a fund for undocumented youth and families in the wake of coronavirus crisis. If you wish to apply for this fund, please email [info@nysylc.org](mailto:info@nysylc.org) for more information.
  - RAISE NYC’s Undocu Workers Fund will support undocumented workers in the service industry who will not be able to apply for unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 health crisis. The fund will be distributed to undocumented workers at restaurants in Manhattan & Brooklyn. Email [undocuworkersfund@gmail.com](mailto:undocuworkersfund@gmail.com) for more information.
  - [Betancourt Macias Family Scholarship Foundation](#) – If you are undocumented or have family members who are undocumented and have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, click on [this link to fill out the request form](#).
  - ROC United has listed [national and city/state resources](#) available to restaurant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The [Coronavirus Care Fund](#) was established by the National Domestic Workers Alliance to provide emergency assistance for home care

workers, nannies and house cleaners to support them in staying safe and staying home to slow the spread of the coronavirus and to care for themselves and their families.

- Nueva Yorkinos has compiled a list of resources available during this crisis.
- National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) have created a [National Domestic Workers Alliance Emergency Fund](#). At this time, the Coronavirus Care Fund application is open to domestic workers who have participated in NDWA activities, NDWA chapters, affiliate organizations, circles and current Alia users.
- [Restaurant Worker Community Fund](#) has funding available for restaurant workers in need of assistance. You can apply for financial assistance on their website.
- [\\$150 Undocu Workers Fund](#):
  - Eligibility:
    - Be undocumented;
    - Work in the food service industry in Manhattan or Brooklyn;
    - Have been unable to work at this time due to corona-related mandates;
    - Have a Venmo account/have access to a Venmo account through someone that you trust (family or employer);
    - Fund will be distributed via Venmo. All transactions will be private to not disclose the personal information of recipients. The goal is to release funds on Fridays either weekly or bi-weekly depending on fundraising efforts.
    - Email [undocuworkersfund@gmail.com](mailto:undocuworkersfund@gmail.com) to apply. More information [here](#)
- Immigration Courts (until 4/13): NYC non-detained Immigration Courts (Broadway and Federal Plaza) are CLOSED until further notice. Buffalo non-detained hearings are cancelled. Courts at Varick Street and Elizabeth, NJ are closed until further notice.
  - USCIS: All appointments are cancelled (includes fingerprints and asylum interviews).
  - ICE: Contact local offices to find out if you need to appear for check-in.

- ICE has cancelled all visitation for those in ICE detention.
- Federal Courts: Citizenship Oath Ceremonies cancelled.
- More comprehensive information can be found at [nyic.org](http://nyic.org) and [here](#).

## EDUCATION

### ○ NYS Financial Aid

- New York State Financial Aid: The NYS Higher Education Services Corporation has authorized COVID-19 impacted students who are adversely affected by the crisis to be held faultless or harmless for the term and has created a portal with additional information, which can be accessed here: COVID-19 Updates & FAQs for Students, Parents, Borrowers, and Lenders <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/coronavirus> TAP, Excelsior Aid and other topics are covered.

### ○ Federal Aid:

- Visit [StudentAid.gov/coronavirus](http://StudentAid.gov/coronavirus) for details. For more information on the efforts the U.S. Department of Education is taking to address the COVID-19 national emergency, visit [ed.gov/coronavirus](http://ed.gov/coronavirus).

### ○ Student Veterans

- Student Veterans will continue to receive their GI Bill benefits under S. 3503, which the President signed into law on March 21. See: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/bill-announcement-89/?fbclid=IwAR10-7jVA3zKy3Ql2zy348RL7jrosRsA57HXYoO7jLSLxcTH9YPPgCRSpJU>.
  - The law enables the VA to continue providing the same level of education benefits to students who are now taking courses online due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
  - The law also gives the VA temporary authority to continue GI Bill payments uninterrupted in the event of national emergencies. This allows for continued payment of benefits even if the program has changed from resident training to online training.
  - The GI Bill students will also continue receiving the same monthly housing allowance (MHA) payments they received for resident training until December 21, or until the school resumes in-person classes.
  - Students receiving GI Bill benefits are not required to take any action. Benefits will continue automatically.

- The VA will work closely with schools to ensure accurately certified enrollments and timely processing. Updates will be provided to students via direct email and social media.
  - [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) and the GI Bill](#) (updated April 8)
  - The Veterans Administration (VA) is partnering with [LinkedIn's Military and Veterans Program](#) to provide a one-year upgrade for veterans, veteran caregivers and Fry Scholars to LinkedIn Premium at no charge, including free access to LinkedIn's online library of more than 12,000 learning courses.
- Debt/Loans
  - New York State:
    - State Attorney General renewed suspension of debt collection  
[Press Release April 2021](#)  
State Attorney General renewed suspension of debt collection through March 2021 [Press Release March 2021](#)  
[Press Release Feb. 2021](#)
    - State Attorney General James announced that the state is extending the moratorium on the collection of medical and student debt owed and referred to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for collection, in response to the financial challenges and consequences resulting from the spread of 2019 novel coronavirus, or COVID-19 through January 31, 2021. (After this period, the OAG will reassess the needs of state residents for another possible extension.) The temporary policy has also automatically suspended the accrual of interest and the collection of fees on all outstanding state medical and student debt referred to the OAG for collection, so New Yorkers are not penalized for taking advantage of this program. See: [Press Release](#)
    - Additionally, the OAG will accept applications for suspension of all other types of debt owed to the State of New York and referred to the OAG for collection.
    - The Office of the New York State Attorney General will accept applications for suspension of all other types of debt owed to the State of New York and referred to the OAG for collection. For more information, click [HERE](#). COVID-19 Application for Suspension of

Debt Collection Activity: <https://ag.ny.gov/covid-19-debt-suspension-application>

- [Forbearance Update](#)

- The Biden administration extended pandemic relief for student debt through Jan. 31, 2022, the Department of Education [announced](#) on Friday. The Department said that the final extension of the pause, which was set to expire on September 30, will allow borrowers to plan for the resumption of payments and collections, and reduce the risk of delinquency and defaults after restart.
- 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.
  - U.S. Department of Education extended loan forbearance through January 31, 2021: [Press Release](#)
  - Detailed information may be found at [StudentAid.gov/coronavirus](https://StudentAid.gov/coronavirus) and through [U.S. Department of Education Press Releases](#).
  - All loans owned by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) will have interest waived, including Direct Loans, as well as Federal Perkins

Loans and Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans held by the Department.

- Interest will not accrue on federally held student loans, beginning on March 13, 2020 until September 30, 2020.
  - The Department of Education will [halt \\$1.8 billion in collection actions and wage garnishments](#) to provide additional assistance to borrowers.
  - A list of private collection agencies contracted by the Department is available [here](#).
  - Autopay is canceled or suspended during this period and your credit will not be hurt. You may contact your loan servicer to opt out and continue to pay or to receive a refund for any autopayments made between March 13 and September 30. See <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/Student-Loan-Debt-Tips-DuringCOVID19.page>
  - For guidance on student loans, you may contact the Community Service Society Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program at 888-614-5004 or [edcap@cssny.org](mailto:edcap@cssny.org).
  - [NPR: "What The CARES Act Means For Your Student Loans"](#) (April 27)
- Lower Education Information
    - New York State will shut down in-person instruction in public and private schools located in coronavirus hot spots in Brooklyn and Queens starting Tuesday, October 6. The closures will take place in the following zip codes:
      - Borough Park (11219)
      - Gravesend/Homecrest (11223)
      - Midwood (11230)
      - Bensonhurst/Mapleton (11204)
      - Flatlands/Midwood (11210)
      - Edgemere/Far Rockaway (11691)
      - Gerritsen Beach/Homecrest/Sheepshead Bay (11229)
      - Kew Gardens Hills/Pomonok (11367)
      - Key Gardens (11415)

These city neighborhoods have all registered a positive test rate of over 3% for the last seven days. See: [NYStateofPolitics](#)

- **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](#)

- NYC public school families will soon receive \$420 per child on a Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) card. The amount is equivalent to the budget for school breakfasts and lunches since the start of the pandemic. If families already have EBT, the amount will be added to their existing accounts; if not, they will be sent a card in the mail (look for the envelope!). Many students rely on those meals, obviously, and the economic impact of that spending at local grocery stores and farmers markets is vital. Community Food Advocates has prepared these [informative resources in multiple languages](#).
- Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that schools would be authorized to provide face-to-face special education to students during the summer. (June 5)
- Remote summer school in NYC began on July 6th. Over the next few weeks, students will use iLearnNYC, which has 13 language options for translation. Click [here](#) for more information about summer school for all students (elementary, middle and high school). To access iLearnNYC through TeachHub:

- Go to [TeachHub](#).
- Sign in with your [DOE account credentials](#).
- Click on the dark blue 'iLearnNYC' icon.
- If you need technology support, you may contact the iLearnNYC helpdesk by calling 1-888-995-9866, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM-8:00 PM or Saturday through Sunday from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. You may also email [iLearnNYCsupport@d2L.com](mailto:iLearnNYCsupport@d2L.com).

- Summer
  - students in grades 3–8 who are not promoted in June will be required to attend summer school. They will participate in six weeks of remote instruction from Monday, July 13 – Tuesday, August 18, 2020.
  - Some students in grades 3–8 who are promoted in June may also be recommended by their teacher for additional academic support over the summer. They will participate in six weeks of remote instruction from Monday, July 13 – Tuesday, August 18, 2020.
    - Your school will notify you in June if your child is required or recommended to participate in summer learning programs.
  - Students in grades 9 – 12 who receive a grade of Course in Progress, or who need to retake a course they have failed in a prior term, will participate in remote instruction for the course(s) in which they need to earn credit. Remote instruction will run from Monday, July 13 – Friday, August 21, 2020.
  - Your school will notify you in June if your child is required or recommended to participate in summer learning programs.
  - Students in Individualized Education Programs with 12-month Individualized Education Program (IEP) will participate in remote summer programming from Wednesday, July 1 – Thursday, August 13, 2020. All students who are receiving or are eligible to receive these services will be contacted by their school shortly.
- The [Department of Education](#) (DOE) will be offering eBooks and audiobooks to assist students with summer reading. Click [here](#) for more information, including detailed instructions on how to access these resources.
  - The DOE announced that they will be providing in-person services to students with IEPs over the summer. The DOE will provide speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, in addition to translation services. Email [specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov) with any questions or concerns.
  - Parents can still request an iPad for any student who does not have one from the NYC Department of Education (DOE) by completing a Remote Learning

Device Request form [here](#). You must complete a separate form for each child. The DOE will also begin to provide free iPads to those students who receive special education and related services in nonpublic schools. You can apply for an iPad [here](#). When filling out the form, you can locate your students ID number on their IESP.

○ **Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs)**

- The City is operating Regional Enrichment Centers across the city, which serve the children of essential workers, including children of medical workers, first responders, transit workers, restaurant/food/takeout and delivery workers and residential and commercial building staff. Families can sign up on the [schools.nyc.gov](https://schools.nyc.gov) website.
- RECs are open and operate from 7:30am to 6:00pm (Monday-Friday), and will ensure that students have access to remote learning as well as various art, music, and other activities.
- If your child is a New York City resident and you would like to enroll in one of these centers, please complete this form <https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/5518161/REC-Enrollment-Form>.
- Please complete a form for each child you are seeking to enroll. You will receive an email confirming your child's center assignment.

○ **Family Resource Centers** are offering free parent-to-parents support, advocacy, and mental health resources. To access these resources, you can call one of the below numbers.

- **Manhattan North:** 212-410-1820
- **Manhattan South:** 212-964-5253
- **Bronx North:** 718-220-0456
- **Bronx South:** 718-220-3868
- **Queens West:** 718-651-1960
- **Queens East:** 347-644-5711
- **Brooklyn North:** 877-425-8133
- **Brooklyn South:** 347-394-5186
- **Staten Island:** 718-698-5307

- [Advocates for Children of New York](#) has created a COVID-19 resources page where they are posting educational updates and information for parents and guardians. Additionally, their education helpline is open and continuing to assist families during this crisis. You can speak with an educational specialist every Monday-Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM at (866) 427-6033.
- Literacy
  - All New York City, Brooklyn, and Queens Public Libraries are temporarily closed to the public. Limited service will resume when the City is in Phase 2.
  - [Queens Public Library \(QPL\)](#)
    - QPL has created a [QPLatHome: Our Digital Resources guide](#) for students, parents, and everyone interested! Check out an eBook, stream videos, [Facebook Live storytimes](#) and more!
    - Virtual Homework Help is available for children (ages 6-12) through QPL via [Brainfuse HelpNow](#).
    - Live online tutoring is available in multiple subjects, including math, science, reading/writing, social studies and more.
  - [Brooklyn Public Library \(BPL\)](#)
    - BPL has compiled [remote resources](#) for cardholders in response to COVID-19.
    - Additional resources are available for children and teens.
  - [New York Public Library](#)
    - The NYPL has expanded its online offerings to those with library cards (which can also be obtained online). Learn more from their latest online [newsletter](#).
    - Parents of pre-K to 3rd graders who miss story time at their local branch check out Bookflix, which offers read-alouds to learn about science, music, history, and more (also available in Spanish)
    - Adults might be interested in access to Ancestry.com, JSTOR's academic research database, and the New York Times archives.
    - The New York Public Library is providing afterschool free homework and tutorial assistance for NYC public school students: <https://newyork.cbslocal.com/tag/new-york-public-library/>
  - [Audible.com](#), the audiobook company, has opened its children's book library, in six languages, to the non-subscriber public.

- [TIME for Kids will be launching a free digital library](#) for students, families and teachers around the world, including a complete collection of all 2020 editions of TIME for Kids and Your \$, a financial literacy magazine for children. Each week, this digital library will be updated with four grade-specific editions, including K-1, 2, 3-4, and 5-6.
- NYC opened a free new digital platform to provide fun activities to New York City's teens and young adults while they are home. To access this service visit [here](#) or text "Fun" to 97743 to receive updates.

## **BILINGUAL AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT MATERIAL**

- Suicide hotline
  - The [Trevor Project](#) has a toll-free confidential suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth. Trained counselors are available through this national hotline 24/7. To reach the hotline, please call 1-866-488-7386.
- Resources for Food Assistance
  - Spanish <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/contact/services/COVID-19FoodAssistance.shtml>
  - 中文 <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/contact/services/COVID-19FoodAssistance.shtml>
- Transgender and Non-Binary New Yorkers
  - Resources for transgender and non-binary people who live in the State of New York: [https://transgenderlegal.org/media/uploads/doc\\_802.pdf](https://transgenderlegal.org/media/uploads/doc_802.pdf). [Click here for Spanish.](#)
  - The [National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network](#) has created a [directory](#) where individuals can be connected to Queer, Trans, and People of Color Mental Health Therapists all across the country. The Featured Practitioners within New York City can be found [here](#).
  - [Oasis Latino LGBTs Wellness Center](#)'s staff are operating remotely during COVID-19. Clients can chat with staff on their website or via [Facebook](#).
  - The NYC Unity Project surveyed hundreds of LGBTQ program and service providers across New York City to develop a resource page, which includes up-to-date information on LGBTQ resources still available during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [HERE](#) for resources for the LGBTQ+ community.

- [The LGBT Center](#)'s Information and Referral Team is continuing to offer virtual front desk services, where they can answer questions relating to food, health insurance, housing, and more.

You can reach the center by phone (212-620-7310) or via [online chat](#) Monday - Saturday from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. and on Sunday from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. The LGBT Center is also continuing to provide one-on-one remote mental health counseling sessions, virtual recovery groups, youth support groups, and more. Information on all of the LGBT Center's virtual programs can be found [here](#).

- [The National Center for Transgender Equity](#) has created a COVID-19 guide for transgender individuals. This guide contains important resources, help creating a plan of action, and ways to donate to emergency funds for LGBTQ individuals.
- New Yorkers With Disabilities
  - [NYLPI](#) has created a [list](#) of resources and information for people with disabilities. They provide information relating to food, service animals, and home health care workers.
  - [The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities](#) has created a COVID-19 [resource guide](#). Individuals can find information on topics ranging from community habilitation, interim care planning, and general FAQs.
  - New Yorkers can reach out on Twitter to [@NYCDisabilities](#), 311 or visit <http://nyc.gov/disability> for more information. New Yorkers with hearing impairments can also connect via video phone at 646-396-5830.
- General
  - Make the Road New York created a page dedicated to compiling resources, updates, and rights as they pertain to COVID-19. The information is available in both English and Spanish [here](#).
  - The New York Immigration Coalition created a community resources page in English, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Korean, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, and Russian [here](#).
  - [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) and the GI Bill](#) (updated April 8)
  - The [Right to Counsel NYC Coalition](#) has created an Eviction [Moratorium FAQ](#) in multiple languages regarding the moratorium on evictions in NYS.
  - [SAGE-Pride Center of Staten Island](#) is continuing to provide services remotely in the wake of COVID-19. Counseling groups are running on schedule. Youth

and senior programming remain the same and HIV testing signups are now available online. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- [GOSO](#), an organization that works to empower young men and help them avoid involvement in the criminal legal system by providing them with educational support, employment opportunities, and financial independence, has created a [COVID-19 Resource Page](#). Through this page, individuals can access public health information, housing resources, and mental health guidance.
- [The Center for Community Alternatives](#) is continuing to provide support to young people, 16 to 24 years old, released from Rikers Island and from the Horizon and Crossroads Centers. CCA continues to connect these youth with credible messengers and mentors who can provide coaching, referrals and support. CCA is also still providing OASAS licensed treatment services and sentence mitigation assistance to defense counsel advocating for their clients' early release. For assistance, call (718) 858-9658 ext. 401 or email [ccany@communityalternatives.org](mailto:ccany@communityalternatives.org). You will receive a response within 24 hours.
- The [Muslim Community Network](#) has launched a hotline to access resources and information related to COVID-19. This is targeted for those who don't have internet access or cannot obtain information. The hotline is staffed by volunteers who speak eight different languages: Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, French, Soninke, Malinke, Farsi and Arabic. For assistance, please call (888) 409-0036 or complete an [online form](#).

### **BEWARE OF SCAMS**

- The Department of Justice issued a [statement](#) warning of a new scam. Cards and flyers proclaiming the holder is exempt according to the Americans with Disabilities Act from wearing face masks are fraudulent and not officially endorsed by U.S. government, after [reports](#) of people using the fake cards to flout mandated face coverings emerged on social media. (June 25)
- The NYPD is alerting all of a new scam targeting business owners. If you receive a phone call, email, or text message instructing you to purchase a prepaid merchant gift/debit card, cryptocurrency, or money order to pay any of the following, just hang up – it's a scam!
  - Law enforcement for bail

- IRS for owed taxes
- Utility company to avoid service interruption
- Immigration officials to avoid deportation/arrest
- Social Security officials for fraudulent activity/warrant/arrest involving your Social Security number
- Ransom
- Hospital for emergency treatment of a loved one
- For more information and quick tips, follow the NYPD Crime Prevention Division on Twitter using handle [@nypdcpd](https://twitter.com/nypdcpd)
- [FBI Warning of COVID-19 Schemes](#): The FBI has issued warnings about scammers using the COVID-19 pandemic to try to steal money and personal information.
  - Watch out for emails claiming to be from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention or CDC and avoid clicking on links from senders you do not know.
  - Watch for phishing emails that ask to verify personal information in order to receive a stimulus check. The federal government will not be contacting you via email. Phishing emails may also be related to airline refunds, charitable contributions, fake testing kits or coronavirus vaccines.
  - Be wary of any products being sold to prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19, including counterfeit sanitizing products and personal protective equipment like gloves and masks. Counterfeit products can be reported to the FBI Internet Crimes Complaint Center: <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>
  - Remember: do not provide any personal information such as passwords, date of birth, social security numbers, etc. in response to emails or robocalls. Verify web addresses and check for mistakes within the addresses, such as a government entity emailing from a “.com” address instead of “.gov”
  - If you suspect something is a scam, ask if you can call the caller back. Remember, no legitimate business or government entity would complain about being asked to provide contact information.
- COVID-19 Consumer Warnings and Safety Tips: As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues, the Federal Communications Commission alerts us about phone scammers. For more information, visit: [fcc.gov/covid-scams](https://fcc.gov/covid-scams)
- Report price gouging to 311 or [NYC.gov/dcwp](https://nyc.gov/dcwp). You can also file a complaint with the Office of the New York State Attorney General by filling out a complaint form [here](#).

- The Brooklyn District Attorney Office is cautioning individuals not to provide personal information over the phone regarding the stimulus check to avoid fraud and prevent victimization. For information [visit here](#).
- The Manhattan District Attorney has launched [a hotline for reporting scams](#) related to COVID-19. If you have been the victim of such a scam, or know someone who has, email [fraudcomplaints@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:fraudcomplaints@dany.nyc.gov), call (212) 335-8900, or message (347) 463-2198 on WhatsApp.
- Guidance on Coronavirus Resources from the NYS AG's Office:  
<https://ag.ny.gov/coronavirus>
  - New York Attorney General Letitia James [ordered](#) AllerAir Industries, Airpura Industries, and Sylvane Inc., companies that sell air purifiers, to immediately cease and desist marketing their products as tools that can prevent the spread and contraction of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
  - The companies have been misrepresenting to consumers that COVID-19 is primarily an airborne disease and that its air purifiers can effectively prevent people from contracting the virus by removing the virus particles from the air. Studies from countless health organizations worldwide have determined that the primary transmission of the virus is through respiratory droplets, not air transmission, making these claims deeply misleading to consumers.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

- Opportunities
  - Blood Donation
    - **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](https://ny.gov/donateblood)
    - New Yorkers who have recovered from COVID-19 and had a positive test BEFORE March 7 should visit [www.mountsinai.org](http://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/>.

- [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](mailto:info@nycfoodpolicy.org) with the subject line: “Volunteer for Food Resource Guides.”
- The CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute is seeking volunteer researchers to support its COVID-19 Food Availability Survey. The next time you're shopping for groceries in stores or online, please help their data collection on food availability by filling out [this brief form](#). [Visit their site](#) for more information.
- Local Samaritans have organized ‘MetroCard Swap for NYC’s Essential Workers.’ Click [here](#) for more information. Once a MetroCard becomes available, the administrator will email you a donor’s contact information. If you are interested in donating a MetroCard, you may also fill out the above form and indicate you are donating a MetroCard.
- 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 students 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@immentor.org](mailto:sjoseph@immentor.org) with questions.
- [SAGE](#) has a volunteer [program](#) that connects volunteers with LGBTQ+ seniors to help combat social isolation.

## UTILITIES

- 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/>.
- Governor Cuomo signed legislation ([S.1453-B/A. 6255-A](#)) on May 11, 2021, extending a moratorium that prevents utility companies from disconnecting utilities to residential households and small businesses that are struggling with their bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The moratorium is extended for a period of 180 days after the COVID-19 state of emergency is lifted or 180 days after December 31, 2021, whichever is earlier. Utility companies must offer these customers a deferred payment agreement without fees or penalties on any past-due balance. This legislation will expand to cable and broadband internet service providers and additionally make the moratorium protections available to certain small businesses (with 25 or fewer employees). See: [Press Release](#)
- **The New York State Public Service Commission: PSC Approves Plan to Help Con Edison's Low-Income Customers Emergency Summer 2020 Cooling Bill Relief Program Provides Bill Credits to Low-Income Bill Discount Program Customers in NYC and Westchester County:** [Press Release \(June 11\)](#)
- Electricity and Gas
  - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): If you experience a loss of income, this federally-funded program can help with your utility bills. [Click here for more information.](#)



- Spectrum will not disconnect service or assess late fees to customer accounts for 60 days (March 13).
  - Spectrum has extended their free 60-day internet connection offer for educator and student households through to June 30. Learn more [here](#).
  - If a customer currently has a past due account, the consumer is encouraged to inform customer service that they are experiencing hardship due to Coronavirus and they will automatically receive a 60-day grace period extension on their account.
  - For new subscribers, the company has expanded its existing Spectrum Internet Assist program which provides low-cost Broadband Internet and Wi-Fi for eligible low-income households, to include 60-days of complimentary internet service\*\* (with no installation cost) for new households with K-12 or college students. The offer was further expanded to also include educators. Call (844) 488-8395.
  - \*\*Please note customers who do not wish to continue service after the end of complimentary period must cancel their service or it will continue at cost.
- [AT&T](#)
    - AT&T is promoting customer support for 60 days.
    - Not terminate the service of any wireless, home phone or broadband residential or small business customer because of their inability to pay their bill due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
    - Waive any late payment fees that any wireless, home phone or broadband residential or small business customer may incur because of economic hardship related to the coronavirus pandemic.
    - Waive domestic wireless plan overage charges for data, voice or text for residential or small business wireless customers incurred because of economic hardship related to the coronavirus pandemic.
    - Keep our public Wi-Fi hotspots open for any American who needs them.
  - [Verizon](#)
    - Through June 30, Verizon is waiving late fees and not terminating service for those consumers and small businesses who are unable to pay due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

- Customers who have already signed up for these commitments under the Keep Americans Connected Pledge are automatically covered under the extension, and other customers may sign up through June 30.
- Customers who sign up for these commitments will also be automatically enrolled in a deferred bill program to make it easier to get back on track paying off balances after June. The deferred bill program will be implemented in different ways for service and device payments:
  - For unpaid service charges, Verizon will defer past due balances so that customers will repay the unpaid balance in 6 equal installments over 6 months starting at the end of June or the beginning of July, depending on the customer's billing cycle.
  - For device payment installments, Verizon will defer any unpaid device payment installments to the end of a device payment agreement and provide the customer with a new device payment schedule.
- Verizon is automatically adding an additional 15GB of 4G LTE data to consumer and small business shared data plans, hotspots, and jetpacks to be used from May 1 through May 31. There is no action needed as this data will automatically be added to consumer and small business accounts.
- Verizon is offering free international calling to countries identified by the Center for Disease Control as level 3 impacted by the coronavirus effective March 18 through the end of April. This is available to wireless postpaid consumer and small/medium business customers, and landline home phone customers. Unlimited calling will be included for mobile and landline calls, with the exception of Iran, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia provided 300 minutes of free calls per month. Effective 3/19, wireless prepaid customers will also receive a total of 300 additional minutes to call level 3 countries.

## **LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

- New Yorkers in legal need can contact [Volunteers of Legal Service](#) (VOLS) for support through their projects:

- Small businesses/VOLS Microenterprise Project: (347) 521- 5704
  - Seniors/VOLS Elderly Project: (347) 521-5704
  - Older Veterans/VOLS Veterans Initiative: (347)- 521-5725
  - Immigrant Youth/VOLS Immigration Project: (347) - 521 – 5722
  - Main VOLS Office:(212)-966-4400
  - Click [here](#) for more information.
- [LIFT](#) transitioned to remote service delivery starting Friday, March 13, 2020. Even though LIFT’s court-based services are closed, they can still support needs through their helpline. The helpline is available Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM and 2:00 PM-5:00 PM. at (212) 343-1122. Through the helpline, you can speak with a LIFT attorney or staff member, be connected to their programs, and get answers to questions relating to family law and family court.
  - For help correcting rap sheets, contact Community Service Society Next Door Project at 212-614-5441 or [cjesse@cssny.org](mailto:cjesse@cssny.org).
  - The [Asian American Bar Association of New York](#) is re-launching their remote pro-bono legal clinic, for those who need legal advice can call their hotline at 929-251-3022 or email their information to [probono@aabany.org](mailto:probono@aabany.org). AABANY provides Chinese-English translation.
  - [Brooklyn Defender Services](#) staff are continuing to manage intake, arraignments and emergencies during COVID-19. If you have issues or questions about ACS, education, housing, immigration, employment, benefits, criminal matters or general legal issues you may reach their remote Community Office hotline by calling (646) 971-2722 or email [communityoffice@bds.org](mailto:communityoffice@bds.org).
  - In order to release additional people from jail during the COVID crisis and in response to the state bail law which outlines the use of electronic monitoring as one of the non-monetary release conditions that may be used to ensure return to Court, NYC is beginning an electronic monitoring program on Monday, May 25, 2020 for the pre-trial population.
    - People's locations will be tracked only when there is notice that they have violated the conditions of the monitor, and data will ultimately be anonymized with data privacy protections put in place.
    - The Sheriff will monitor and is working to expand to 150 defendants by summer.

- Per bail statute, electronic monitors can only be used for felony charges, or a misdemeanor charge and a conviction within the past 5 years on a felony - the intention is to target people who otherwise would be in jail and allow them to remain in the community.
- During the COVID crisis, the mandate for electronic monitoring will be home detention, with time allowed for exercise and purchase of supplies and allowance for approved activities such as access to health care or employment.
- The monitors will be available at both arraignment and for people currently at Rikers, and the DA's and defenders will be part of the process for determination of use.
- Additionally, an electronic monitoring program for city-sentenced individuals is under development to allow a subsection of people who otherwise would be in jail to be released safely to the community. This program would be overseen by the Department of Probation and is also set to launch shortly, with more details to follow.
- For all programs, re-entry, case management and other supportive services will be made available.
- Courts
  - New York State Unified Court System Updates
    - Electronic Document Delivery System (EDDS): Launched on May 4, 2020, the UCS makes available a system of secure document transmission by court users to judges, clerks of court, and other UCS offices around the State. This system, known as the Electronic Document Delivery System (EDDS), may also be used for filing of documents in pending cases in any courts. EDDS may be used by attorneys, unrepresented persons, and other court users. For more information on this system, view the EDDS Notice and the EDDS FAQs.
      - EDDS should NOT be used for the filing of emergency applications. For information on filing such applications please contact the court directly.

- (If you do not have a lawyer, you may visit the CourtHelp website or the DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Forms page for helpful information about the legal process and legal documents.)
  - Send a Document with EDDS
  - More information:
    - <https://iappscontent.courts.state.ny.us/NYSCEF/live/edds/eddsNotice.pdf>
  - Additional New York State Unified Court System Updates:
    - <https://www.nycourts.gov/>
- NYC Criminal Court
  - NYC Criminal Court remains open for Essential Court Operations-- Arraignments and Emergency Applications
  - All non-essential matters have been adjourned. If you have a Desk Appearance Ticket, C-Summons, or another pending matter you will be notified of your new court date
  - If you have any questions, you may call: NYC Criminal Court Call Center–646-386-4900
- NYC Family Court
  - [Beginning March 26, 2020, NYC Family Court will have virtual operations only.](#)
  - [March 22, 2020 Administrative Order](#): Suspension of non-essential filings. The Court has determined that the following essential Family Court proceedings are exempt from this order:
    - Child protection intake cases involving removal applications
    - Newly filed juvenile delinquency intake cases involving remand placement applications, or modification thereof
    - Emergency family offense petitions/temporary orders of protection
    - Orders to show cause
    - Stipulations on submission
- NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)
  - OATH’s physical offices will remain closed until at least July 1, 2020.
  - Hearings.

- All hearings before the OATH Hearings Division will be conducted by telephone, except that a party may request an in-person hearing by emailing [livehearings@oath.nyc.gov](mailto:livehearings@oath.nyc.gov) and indicating the reason why it is not possible to participate by telephone. If a request for an in-person hearing is granted, the OATH Hearings Division will coordinate with the parties on scheduling.
- The City's Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) announced that as of **July 1**, they will once again be penalizing those who do not respond to summonses from City agencies.
- Summonses can be answered via mail, email, online, or over the phone-- how to do so is detailed in the summons. If you are unable to respond remotely, you may request an in-person hearing by emailing [livehearings@oath.nyc.gov](mailto:livehearings@oath.nyc.gov).
- To learn more about your rights and the hearing process, call the OATH Help Center at (212) 436-0845 or email [manhelpcenter@oath.nyc.gov](mailto:manhelpcenter@oath.nyc.gov). If you're a small business, OATH also offers dedicated assistance at [smallbizhelp@oath.nyc.gov](mailto:smallbizhelp@oath.nyc.gov).
- Trials
  - All conferences and trials before the OATH Trials Division will be conducted by telephone or video conference call, except that a party may request an in-person appearance by emailing [OATHCalUnit@OATH.nyc.gov](mailto:OATHCalUnit@OATH.nyc.gov) or calling (347) 820-4954. A conference or trial may be conducted in-person if the assigned Administrative Law Judge determines that there is a compelling need for an in-person proceeding and the proceeding can be conducted while providing sufficient social distancing and other public health protections to comply with state and local government public health guidelines.
  - The OATH Trials Division will in its discretion accommodate requests to adjourn where a party demonstrates good cause for not being able to proceed on the scheduled date either in-person or remotely.

## CITY AND STATE SERVICES

- Text 'COVID' to 692-692 to receive updates on the latest developments with coronavirus in New York City. For updates in Spanish, text 'COVIDESP' to 692-692.
- For updates from NY State, text 'NEW YORK' to 81336. You may also sign up for updates through the State's [website](#).
- Department of Taxation and Finance FAQ:
  - <https://www.tax.ny.gov/press/alerts/nys-tax-response-to-covid-19.htm>
  - Check the status of a NYS tax refund online:  
<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/file/refund.htm>
- City Agencies
  - Mayor de Blasio announced a plan to deepen the investment in communities by strengthening the public healthcare system.
  - The mayor's **Task Force on Racial Equity and Inclusion** strongly advised they make tangible impacts to provide people with more healthcare, and implement by speeding up all plan now to reach that goal.
  - A new [initiative](#) was announced to build **3** new **Centers of Excellence** which will provide community clinics in hard-hit communities of color; prepare for future spikes; prevent hospitalization; and help people recover outside of the hospital.
  - New Centers of Excellence are currently under constructions and will open **September 2020**:
    - **Elmhurst, Queens** - [71-17 Roosevelt Avenue](#)
    - **Tremont, Bronx** - [1920 Webster Avenue](#)
    - **Bushwick/Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn** - 815 Broadway
  - The City Human Resources Administration has released the application for [the Cooling Assistance benefit](#), which helps eligible households buy and install an air conditioner or fan up to a cost of \$800.
  - While parks are open, playgrounds are still closed. Courts for group sports, such as basketball, handball, tennis, bocce and volleyball are also closed until further notice. Click [here](#) for a full list of service changes from NYC Parks.
  - Click link to visit the City's new COVID-19 website at [nyc.gov/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/coronavirus)
  - NYC's [Office of Emergency Management](#) (OEM) has created a [platform for New Yorker's to stay informed](#) during this pandemic. Please continue to check as this website is updated.

- A complete list of all City agency service updates, including from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), Department of Sanitation (DSNY) and more can be found [here](#).
- 311 information
  - New York City will provide additional support for the 311 call centers with its [311 Action Plan](#) (May 5)
    - 285 new call-takers trained
    - 4 new call centers developed
    - Help from NYPD and FDNY leadership to strategize important calls
    - Express Lanes created for COVID-19 and food calls
    - Reduced wait time (dropped by 75%)
  - The City 311 phone line has a new ability to receive photos of social distancing complaints. You can submit photos by texting 311-692 or through the 311 app.
  - To prioritize COVID-19 related calls, the mayor requested non-COVID-19 inquiries be placed on the 311 app or website or to call 311 after 7pm.
    - The City is hiring 120 additional call center staff.
- The City activated the Unified Victim Identification System (UVIS) where individuals can file a report of friends or loved ones missing due to COVID-19.
  - Filing can be done at [nyc.gov/CovidMissing](https://nyc.gov/CovidMissing) or by calling 212-NEW YORK (212-639-9675) or 311.
  - Reports will only be for individuals who are missing and not known to be in specific hospitals.
  - For more information click [here](#).
- NYC Human Resource Administration's website has been updated to include information on [Federal Stimulus Payments: Economic Impact Payments](#).
- The NYC Independent Budget Office has created a ["COVID-19 Spending Tracker"](#) that will be updated regularly with information about citywide, agency, and type of expenditure.
- The [NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection](#) is offering free one-on-one financial counseling through the NYC Financial Empowerment Center. Through this service, you can receive help and advice on how to

- manage bills and student loans, save for essentials, and create a budget. To make an appointment, click [here](#).
- NYC's Department of Buildings has created a [COVID-19 response page](#) where individuals can find more information on what is considered essential vs. non-essential construction during this pandemic and an update on the current changes to their services.
  - [Animal Care Centers of NYC](#) opened a new hotline for NYC pet owners impacted by COVID-19 and in need of assistance; the hotline is available at (877) 204-8821, 7 days a week, from 8 am- 8 pm.
  - Marriage information:
    - The Office of the City Clerk has released [Project Cupid](#), a tool for getting your marriage license online in a few simple steps.
  - **The New York City Office of Cultural Affairs** has a listing of financial resources and other forms of assistance available for cultural institutions and artists: [Here](#)
  - **The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment** has resources for cultural institutions, artists and freelance workers, among other services and programming [Here](#)
  - **The New York State Council on the Arts** features information recovery and relief information as well as information about reopening: [Here](#)
  - **Human Services Council:** [COVID-19 Resources for Human Services Providers](#)
- State Matters
    - The Governor announced that beginning Thursday, May 21, religious gatherings of no more than 10 people will be allowed statewide where strict social distancing measures are enforced and all participants wear masks. Additionally, drive-in and parking lot services will also be allowed beginning Thursday. (May 20)
    - Governor Cuomo announced that the state will extend the window for victims to file otherwise time-barred cases under the Child Victims Act for an additional five months until January 14, 2021.
    - Guidance on Coronavirus Resources from the Office of the NYS Attorney General can be found here <https://ag.ny.gov/coronavirus>.

- Governor Cuomo [issued an executive order](#) mandating that the State Board of Elections automatically mail all registered voters postage-paid applications for an absentee ballot for the June 23, primary. Click [here](#) to visit the Board of Elections website, which will provide more updates.
  - The Governor canceled all Special Elections scheduled for June 23rd. Instead, voters will vote in the primary on June 23rd and the elected positions (e.g. Queens Borough President) will be filled during the General Election in November. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order to delay school board elections and budget votes statewide [until June 9, 2020](#). The budget votes and elections will be done by mail and qualified voters will be sent an absentee ballot with return postage paid. "The Executive Order also delays local special district and village elections [until September 15, 2020](#)." For more information [visit here](#).
- New York State residents can receive their marriage licenses digitally and clerks and others are permitted to perform ceremonies via video conference following an executive order from Governor Cuomo
  - Official order can be found [here](#).
- Governor Cuomo also announced a new contest asking New Yorkers to create and share a video explaining why people should wear a mask in public. The winning video will be used as a Public Service Announcement. Videos should be less than 30 seconds long, should show a mask properly worn over the mouth and nose and must be submitted by May 30th. Interested New Yorkers can learn more at [WearAMask.ny.gov](#).
- "Nourish New York" is a new state initiative that will help to address two problems at once: excess agricultural products at New York farms and food insecurity. To date, food and products have been purchased from more than 2,100 Upstate farms and nearly 50 food banks, soup kitchens and food pantries have been supported.

## **BURIAL**

- The Gov. extended a measure signed in May providing death benefits to the families of frontline workers who lost their lives fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in New York for an additional 30 days. (Dec.30, 2020) **See:** [Transcript](#)

- Legislation ensuring line-of-duty death benefits be paid out for public employees who die of COVID-19 passed the Legislature the week of May 29. [The bills](#), sponsored by Assemblyman Peter Abbate and state Sen. Andrew Gounardes, establish a presumption that a worker contracted the virus while on the job, and applies to all public employees who reported for work on or after March 1, and for whom coronavirus contributed to or caused their deaths.
- Click [here](#) for an FAQ page on guidance for funerals and burials. This website provides guidance about services, religious traditions, and how to apply for a death certificate during COVID-19.
- The [NYC Human Resources Administration \(HRA\)](#) is offering burial assistance to meet funeral and burial expenses. New York City residents may be eligible to receive up to \$1700 in financial assistance for the burial allowance with a cap on burial costs of \$3400. The timeframe for when you can apply has been extended to 120 days from the date of the individual's death. Applications that were received on or after March 12, 2020 will be considered for the increased burial assistance allowance, regardless of immigration status. You can call the NYC HRA Office of Burial Services at (929) 252-7731. **[Learn more. See the application here \(PDF\).](#)**
- As questions and concerns arise about funerals and burials in NYC during COVID-19, visit the [Help Now website for guidance](#).
- Funeral & Burial Guidance in Other Languages: [繁體中文](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Español](#)
- [The American Red Cross](#) has created a [Funeral Support Form](#) where individuals who are dealing with a family member's death due to COVID-19 can find support. After filling out this form, The American Red Cross will connect you with crisis counselors and spiritual providers who can assist in supporting your needs.
- TheCity.nyc is preparing [a public memorial project](#) for those lost to COVID-19. If someone you know who lived in New York City passed from the virus-- be it a friend, relative, coworker, or neighbor—you are invite to share information about them [on this online form](#). Under 5% of the New Yorkers who have passed from the virus have been remembered in an obituary or death notice.

## TRANSPORTATION

- 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.
- **Motor Vehicles Reopening.** Executive Order 202.43, issued on June 18th, also authorized the DMV to hold in-person transactions in regions that have entered Phase Three, so long as such appointments are by appointment only.
- NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has announced that **beginning Monday, June 1**, state-run DMV offices in the counties of Albany, Onondaga, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, Westchester and the five boroughs of New York City will begin to process vehicle registrations and other transactions by mail, and beginning June 4, will accept transactions through secure drop boxes located at each office. County Clerks that operate DMV offices in the remaining 51 counties of the state are advised to follow the State DMV's timeline and guidance for reopening. For specific information about services offered by county-operated offices visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/dmv/dmv-office-locations>.
- **Commercial Driver License (CDL) road tests will begin to resume in all regions that are in at least phase 1 of reopening.** All road tests will be conducted with strict safety requirements in place; DMV road test examiners will wear gloves, face shields and have hand sanitizer, and customers must wear masks and will be screened prior to beginning the test. Customers whose road tests were canceled because of COVID-19 will be given priority for rescheduling, and DMV staff will begin outreach to those customers on June 1. Reservations for other CDL customers will be available in the days following at: <https://dmv.ny.gov/schedule-road-test>. Road tests and reservations for Class D (passenger vehicles) will not be available at this time.
- **As regions enter phase 3 of reopening, DMV will offer limited in-person transactions in state-run DMV offices by reservation only**, prioritizing critical services, and will resume road tests for all drivers at that time. Until then, there will be no in-person transactions in any DMV office and reservations will only become available as regions enter phase 3. Further guidance will be provided at the appropriate time.
  - Extensions

- All licenses and non-driver IDs that have an expiration date of March 1, 2020 or later will be extended.
- Vehicle registrations expiring between March 1, 2020 and May 15, 2020 have been temporarily extended.
  - You are required to contact NYS DMV to renew your registration if your vehicle registration expires during this time.
  - All inspections that expire March 31, 2020 or later have been extended until further notice.
- There are more than 6,000 providers enrolled in the DMV's [Vision Registry](#) and approved to administer the vision test. Following the test, these providers enter the results online, saving the customer time when they visit the DMV website to renew their license. A vision test from a Vision Registry provider is valid for one year.
- Customers who have not had their vision checked by a Vision Registry provider can have their doctor or another medical professional complete a [Vision Test Report](#), which the customer can use to complete the renewal process online.
- For those seeking to [renew their driver's license online](#), the DMV is accepting eye tests from any doctor or optometrist's office that is open, [not just those normally approved](#), and the results should be submitted to the DMV directly. [Learn more](#).
- New Yorkers cannot upgrade to a REAL ID or Enhanced Driver License (EDL) without visiting a DMV office. Customers can renew their current license or non-driver ID online now and upgrade to a REAL ID or an EDL in a DMV office later. Also due to COVID-19, the federal REAL ID enforcement deadline has been extended one year until October 1, 2021.
- **Road Tests:** For the safety of everyone at road test sites, all customers and accompanying drivers must wear face coverings and maintain 6 feet from other customers and staff whenever possible. Face coverings include cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandanna), surgical masks, N-95 respirators, or face shields. Customers will also need to disinfect the passenger side of the vehicle with disinfectant wipes upon arrival.

- Customers taking a road test will have their temperature taken and be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and any known contacts with positive COVID-19 patients prior to beginning the test. Road tests will be rescheduled if a customer has a fever (temperature of 100 degrees or higher), is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or has had recent, close contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19. Customers should not report for their road test if they have been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for the COVID-19 by any doctor, hospital, or health agency; or have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19; or have flu-like symptoms or [symptoms of the coronavirus](#).
- **Metropolitan Transport Authority (MTA)**
  - The city's subway and bus system is [planning to return](#) to full service on June 8 – though ridership will be limited to essential workers. (June 4)
  - The subway system as a whole will be closed for enhanced cleaning from 1 - 5 am, starting Wednesday, May 6 until further notice.
    - Alternative travel options, including shuttle buses and free rideshares for essential workers, will be available during the closures.
    - Information on the Essential Connector program for essential workers travelling during the nightly subway shutdown from 1am-5am can be [found here](#).
    - Essential workers are eligible for one free trip in a for-hire vehicle per night if they meet the below requirement.
      - A bus trip would take more than 1 hour and 20 minutes
      - A bus trip requires more than two transfers
      - The walk to or from a bus stop is more than 1/2 mile (10 minutes of walking)
      - For more information and to register, click [here](#).
  - The MTA has released emergency regulations that are reflected in their [Code of Conduct](#). The new regulations include:
    - No one is permitted to stay in a station for more than an hour.

- During a time when a public health emergency is declared by the State, no one can remain on a train or on the platform after an announcement is made that the train is being taken out of service.
    - Wheeled carts greater than 30 inches in length or width are banned. This includes shopping and grocery carts.
  - The MTA will be taking steps to increase service and safety for Long Island Rail Road customers as Long Island moves towards phase two of reopening. The MTA is cleaning and disinfecting trains and buses daily, and the LIRR is planning to add more cars to trains to help with social distancing. The Governor also reminded New Yorkers that wearing a mask or face covering is mandatory when riding on public transportation systems.
  - To review the MTA's cleaning, please refer to their [cleaning procedures](#) website for work being done in trains, stations, buses and Access-A-Ride. The website highlights when and where the MTA is cleaning and provides guidance for those who need to travel.
- Citibike
  - The Citi Bike Critical Workforce Membership Program has been extended
    - Healthcare providers, transit employees, first responders (NYPD, FDNY, EMS), critical City workforce, and those working at direct food-support non-profit organizations can obtain a free Citi Bike **full-year annual membership** by signing up through their employers.
      - Employers should email [HeroBikes@Lyft.com](mailto:HeroBikes@Lyft.com) to obtain enrollment information for staff at no cost.
      - The deadline to apply has been extended to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
      - There is no cost for employers to enroll.
      - Individuals working in these fields who recently purchased a membership or have upcoming membership renewals can also access a free membership.
- The Mayor and City Council Speaker announced and implemented the opening of streets to pedestrians and cyclists. The streets, spanning over seven miles and reaching all five boroughs, are part of the Open Streets initiative designed to provide greater social distancing among New Yorkers.
  - The City is accepting suggestions for locations and partners for the NYC Open Streets program through a new online form [here](#).

- Applying does not guarantee acceptance; please submit multiple applications if you are proposing to pedestrianize more than one corridor in your community.
  - Please email [openstreets@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:openstreets@dot.nyc.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.
- **Staten Island Ferry Service:** The Staten Island ferry, which had its service reduced, will begin running every 20 minutes at rush hour and 30 minutes off peak and weekends. Markers will be in place to demonstrate six feet of social distancing. Face coverings and hand sanitizer will be distributed.
- The City's **Taxi and Limousine Commission** (TLC) launched its Driver Resource Center offering drivers services including legal services, financial counseling, health and mental health referrals, and support with applying for public benefits. (May 12)
- Starting Saturday, May 2, 2020, the Roosevelt Island Tramway will be closed from 1:00 AM until 6:00 AM for disinfecting. These early morning closures will continue each day until further notice.
- New York City is opening 40 miles of streets to allow for greater social distancing during the COVID-19 crisis. Please [click here](#) for locations.
- The **NYC Department of Transportation** (DOT) has created an application process for NYC's Open Streets program. Organizations interested in hosting an open street may apply [here](#). Note: Submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance into NYC Open Streets program.
- **Airports & AirTrain**
  - Terminal access at John F. Kennedy, Newark Liberty and LaGuardia airports is restricted to ticketed passengers, airport employees, and those who otherwise demonstrate a need to enter the facility for airport business.
  - TSA has implemented changes to the security screening process in an effort to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. More information is available [here](#).
- **Midtown Bus Terminal and George Washington Bridge Bus Station:**
  - Terminal access at the midtown Port Authority Bus Terminal is restricted between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. to ticketed passengers, terminal and station employees, and those who otherwise demonstrate a need to enter the facility. During that time, the South Wing is closed, and all departures operate from the North Wing.

- The George Washington Bridge Bus Station is closed overnight from 1 a.m.- 5 a.m.
- **PATH**
  - The 9th Street and 23rd Street stations are closed overnight from midnight to 5 a.m. Nearby PATH stations at Christopher Street, 14th Street and 33rd Street remain open 24 hours a day unless otherwise noted.
  - For additional information on PATH service and train schedules, visit [www.panynj.gov/StayOnTrack](http://www.panynj.gov/StayOnTrack) or download the PATH mobile app, [RidePath](#).

**NEW YORK FORWARD/REOPENING GUIDANCE (Please refer to new resource tab on webpage for additional information)**

**EVENTS**

- **NYPL Virtual Career Fair, [June 25, 2020 12:00- 2:00PM](#):** Workforce 1 Centers from the five boroughs of New York City and the Business Center (SIBL) Career Services are excited to invite you to a Virtual Career Fair. Space is limited, so please RSVP in advance by filling out this form <https://forms.gle/3fRNQsXgxofmPvds5>.  
\*\*\* Two days before the event NYPL will send the registration link, so please make sure to provide correct email address.
- On June 25, at 8 pm, the New York Classical Theatre is hosting a free online reading of “King Lear” as performed up until the 1840’s. [RSVP here](#).
- **[On June 30th](#), the City will host a citywide graduation celebration.** The graduation will feature student spotlights, musical performances, and special guest speakers—including award-winning artist, and former NYC Public School student and teacher, Lin-Manuel Miranda. The graduation celebration will air live on PIX11’s TV channel, website, and social media channels [at 7:00 PM on June 30th](#). It will also be livestreamed on the DOE’s and City’s social media channels, as well as at <https://www.nycclassof2020.com/>
  - You’ll find over 50 different official and partner events offered during this year. Click through the event listing below for an in-depth look at each unique event: <https://www.nycpride.org/events/>
  - Online events: <https://www.cnet.com/news/pride-month-celebrate-the-lgbtq-community-at-these-online-events/>

- Guide to virtual events in June:

<https://thenextweb.com/insights/2020/06/08/pride-2020-your-guide-to-virtual-events-in-june/>

- **Summer Programs & Events**

- [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](#).
- **The Center** will be hosting a virtual Garden Party on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 6:00 PM. The event is free and The Center will send regular updates with a curated food and a cocktail/mocktail menu and a suggested playlist. For more information and to register, click [help](#).
- 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.
- This summer, [SummerStage Anywhere](#) will be presenting exclusive digital performances every weekend. You can watch these performances from anywhere: [Juneteenth Day of Dance](#) on June 19th, pop artist [MAX](#) on June 24th, and global star [Angélique Kidjo](#) June 26th.
- 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.
- [Grow NYC](#) is hosting an online class aimed at teaching individuals how to transform their food scraps and plant cuttings into new living plants. The class is being offered on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 from 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. For more information and to register, click [here](#).
- [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 grownup 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.](#) 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.

- **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](#)
  - 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](#). To see if you're eligible to receive a free air conditioner, click [here](#).
- Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer is partnering with the New York Public Library's Summer Reading Program to offer free books for young people of all ages (from toddlers to high schoolers) starting this Wednesday (7/8) for five days at two different NYCHA sites each day. Books will come in a free tote bag and include a summer reading guide, stickers, and a reading tracker. [See the full schedule on website](#) and here below:

***Wednesday, July 8, 2020:***

- Taft Houses, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. 1730 Madison Ave @ 114th St.
- Washington Houses, 12 noon – 1 pm. 1955 Second Ave. (betw. 100th – 101st Sts.), TA Room

***Thursday, July 9, 2020:***

- Polo Towers/Rangel Houses, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. 159-15 Harlem River Drive
- Harlem River Houses, 12 noon – 1 pm. 291 West 151 Street (between McCombs and 8th Ave), TA Room

***Friday, July 10, 2020:***

- Vladeck Houses, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. 356 Madison St.
- Jacob Riis Cornerstone, 12 noon – 1 pm. 80 Avenue D

***Monday, July 13, 2020:***

- Grant Houses, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. 1295 Amsterdam Avenue (@ 123rd Street), TA Room
- St. Nicholas Houses, 12 noon – 1 pm. 225 W. 129 St. (between Adam Clayton Powell and Frederick Douglass Blvds.)

***Tuesday, July 14, 2020:***

- Dyckman Houses, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. 3782 10th Ave. (Children's Arts and Science Cornerstone)
  - Frederick Samuel Community Center, 12 noon – 1 pm. 669 Lenox Ave.
- 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](#)

- **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Summer Bridge 2020**

Starting July 9th, the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) will be accepting applications for a new virtual career exploration and project-based work learning program for youth during the summer of 2020. Launched as an alternative to the traditional summer youth employment program, the SYEP Summer Bridge 2020 program will provide stipends to participants in two age tracks: up to \$700 for youth aged 14 and 15 and up to \$1,000 for youth aged 16 to 24. The application deadline is July 15, 2020. Please refer to DYCD's website for more information

at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page>.