



Assemblymember  
**RODNEYSE BICHOTTE**  
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader

## COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: Staten Island Parent

**MAY 8, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Lisa Derrick: [derrickl@nyassembly.gov](mailto:derrickl@nyassembly.gov)  
718-940-0428

### **Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome Impacting Childrens' Health**

*Amid Coronavirus Pandemic*

Unemployment claim rate makes history; Child Victims Act extended; Test and Trace Corps; White House staff test positive; And More!

**NYS Confirmed: 330,407**  
**NYS Deaths: 21,045**  
**NYC Confirmed: 181,783**  
**Brooklyn Confirmed: 48,998**

**NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO**

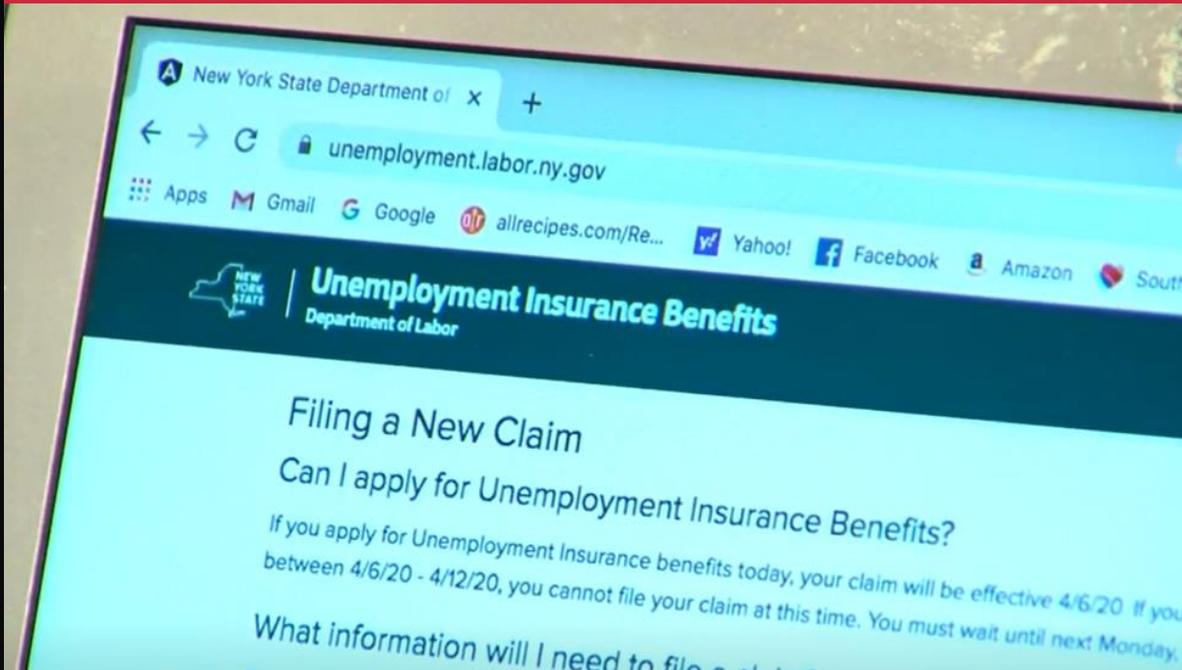


Photo Credit: WRGB

- Governor Cuomo announced that a new investigation is under way regarding potential COVID-19 related **cases in children**. Cases reported have increased to a total of **73** in New York, up from 15. Symptoms can be compared to Kawasaki disease and toxic shock-like syndrome. The Department of Health issued an advisory of what's called the "**Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome**," and now **requires** healthcare providers to **immediately report** all related cases. The Department of Health and

Mental Hygiene released a [health advisory](#) detailing current findings.

- **Unemployment claims** have increased from 2.8% last month to **20%** this month, exceeding the rate of unemployment since the **Great Depression**. While challenges exist in the speed of processing claims, **\$6.8 billion has been paid to 1.6 million people in the last 7 weeks**. In comparison, the year of 2019, a total of \$2.1 billion in claims were paid. For information click, [here](#).
- Governor Cuomo will consider payment to COVID-19 related unemployed individuals who did not qualify for benefits due to length of work, if the federal government funds the state to do so. Currently, the federal government has a program to address individuals falling in that category, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).
- Governor Cuomo announced that he will immediately address the disproportionate number of COVID-19 cases in Black and Latino communities. **20 of the 21 zip codes** with the highest hospitalization cases are populated by a majority of Blacks and Latinos.
- For more information, click [here](#).

**NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO**

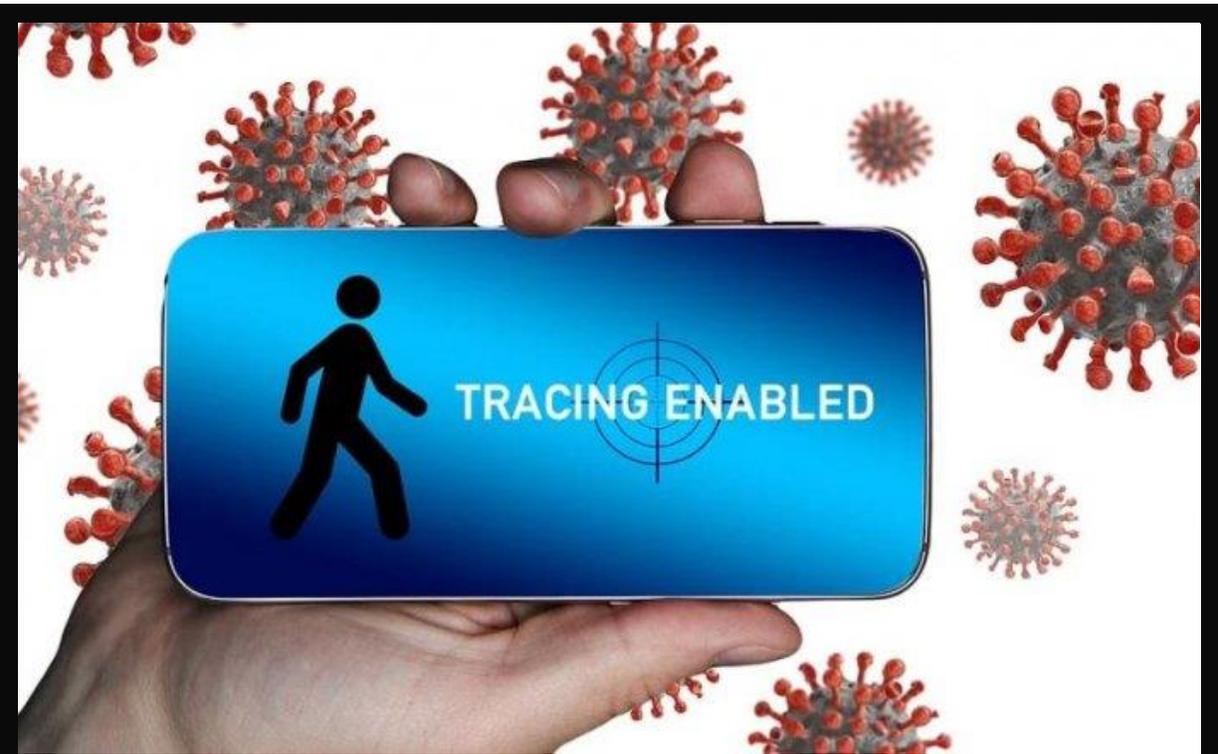


Photo Credit: Pixabay

- Mayor de Blasio announced the launch of **Test and Trace Corps** to suppress the spread of COVID-19. A dedicated group of professionals who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in healthcare will make up this group whose goal is to be swift in executing contact tracing.
  - Staffing of **1,000 by May**, and 2,500 by June
  - Testing **20,000 test per day by May 25**; and 50,000 test per day
  - **300+** public and private community sites
  - Hiring has begun with over **7,000** applications submitted.
- Isolation for individuals requiring quarantine will be offered **housing with support** such as social services, wrap around services and clinical services (food, medical care, laundry, etc) .

- **1,200 hotels** to start will be made available in June.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Photo Credit: Hamlet Hub

- It was reported this week that two members in the White House have tested positive with COVID-19:

- Thursday, President Trump's personal valet
- Friday, Vice President Pence's Press Secretary
- In light of recent findings, new procedures have been put in place within the White House which include:
  - President Trump will increase testing for himself from once per week to once per day;
  - Staff in the White House residence are now required to wear masks; and
  - Increase sanitation in the West Wing
- Contact tracing is being conducted for staff.
- For more information, click [here](#).

## CHILD VICTIMS ACT



Photo Credit: ABC7 New York

The **Child Victims Act** was signed into law by Governor Cuomo in 2019, providing a path for victims of child sex abuse to seek justice. For cases where a statute of limitations had been met, victims were given a one-year window to go back

and file a claim. This window was set to expire on August 14, 2020

Due to a current shut down of the court systems because of COVID-19, the **expiration date has been extended to January 14, 2021.**

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte, a victim of child sex abuse was a supporter of this legislation and welcomes the extension of time under the circumstances.

### **Video: Governor Cuomo - Child Victims Act Extension**



**TRANSPORTATION**



Photo Credit: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg / Getty Images

- **Amtrak:** Effective Monday, May 11th Amtrak will require passengers to wear face coverings when in the station and on trains and buses. They are booking 50% of cars' capacity to allow passengers to maintain social distancing. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Uber:** Starting last week, Uber has distributed hand sanitizers to Uber drivers, and continuing into next week they will begin distributing face covering. Passengers are also to wear face coverings when in vehicles. Uber Ride-Share has been suspended until further notice. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Lyft:** Many drivers for Lyft have received hand sanitizers and face coverings to use and wear when transporting passengers or picking up/dropping off deliveries. Lyft

Ride-Share has also been suspended until further notice.  
For more information, click [here](#).

- **NYC TLC:** Effective April 17th NYC TLC required drivers and passengers to wear face coverings. For more information, click [here](#).

**TELE-CONFERENCE CALL**



*Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte  
& Senator James Sanders Jr.*



*hosts an*



**M/WBE  
& Small Business  
Informational Conference Call**



**Monday, May 11, 2020 • 1 PM – 3 PM**

[Facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/](https://www.facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/)

To RSVP Email: [events.bichotte@gmail.com](mailto:events.bichotte@gmail.com)

**Invited Guests**



**J. Phillip Thompson**  
Deputy Mayor  
Strategic Policy Initiatives



**Gregg Bishop**  
Commissioner  
NYC Small Business Services



**Jonnel Doris**  
Senior Director  
Mayor's Office of M/WBEs



**Brian Gurski**  
Vice President & Managing  
Director, TruFund



**R. Nadine Fontaine**  
First Asst. Counsel to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Office of the Governor of New York State



**Randy Peers**  
President & CEO  
Brooklyn Chamber  
of Commerce



**Michael M. Clay**  
Senior Director of Opportunity  
Programs Group & Resource  
Acquisition Unit, DASNY



**Suzanne Veira**  
Chief Diversity Officer  
SCA



**Cheryl McKissack Daniel**  
President & CEO  
McKissack & McKissack



**Michael J. Garner**  
Chief Diversity Officer  
MTA



**Magalie D. Austin, Esq.**  
Chief Diversity &  
Industry Relations Officer  
DDC

*Join our call to hear state legislators and experts talk about the state of Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) and Small Businesses in order to provide resources at the federal, state, and city level on procurement practices, business inclusion, & recovery.*

The recording of the call will be posted on the following website: [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/rodneise-bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/rodneise-bichotte).

For more business information from New York City Small Business Services go to <https://sbsconnect.nyc.gov/>, from Small Business Administration go to <https://www.sba.gov/category/business-groups/minority-owned>.

For any questions related to COVID-19, call the New York State Department of Health's Novel Coronavirus 24-hour hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or text COVID to 692-692 for New York City's daily updates. Call 311 for non-emergency assistance.

For more information about this or any state or local issue, contact Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte's office: 1312 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210 • 718-940-0428, Email: [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov), [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte)

**Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte**  
and  
**Senator James Sanders Jr.**  
hosts an

**MWBE & Small Business  
Informational Conference Call**

**MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020  
1:00PM - 3:00PM**

**[Facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/](https://www.facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/)**

**Presenters:**

J. Phillip Thompson, *Office of the Mayor*  
Gregg Bishop, *SBS*  
Jonnel Doris, *Office of the Mayor*  
Brian Gurski, *TruFund*  
R. Nadine Fontaine, *Office of Governor*  
Randy Peers, *Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce*  
Michael M. Clay, *DASNY*  
Suzanne Veira, *SCA*  
Cheryl McKissack Daniel, *MicKissack & McKissack*  
Michael J. Garner, *MTA*  
Magalie D. Austin, *DDC*

**RSVP**

**COVID-19 TESTING IN FLATBUSH**



Assemblymember  
**Rodneyse Bichotte**  
*42nd Assembly District*



# **FLATBUSH AVENUE WALK-IN COVID-19 TESTING SITE**

*This testing site is **by appointment only**.*

You **must** contact the  
**NYS Department of Health**  
at **1-888-364-3065** to  
schedule an appointment.

**Brookdale Family Care Center**

1095 Flatbush Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11226

For more information about this or any community concern,  
contact Assemblymember Bichotte's district office

718-940-0428 | [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov) | [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte)

We have a **drive through** and **walk-in** COVID-19 testing site in the **42nd Assembly District** . **You must make an appointment before visiting the center or you will be turned away.** To make an appointment you **must** contact the NYS Department of Health at **888-364-3065**.

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Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte  
*42nd Assembly District*



## **Sears Parking Lot**

2307 Beverley Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11226

**Testing site is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

For appointment call 888-364-3065

*If you experience symptoms or have been exposed  
to someone with the virus, call your doctor*



For information on this, or any other matter, please call Assemblymember Bichotte's district office at  
718-940-0428 | [bichotter@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bichotter@nyassembly.gov) | [www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte](http://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte)

**THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS**



*Always there when we need them.*

***Thank you***

***first responders!***

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **First Responders** for urgently answering when called on in an emergency.

**AVOID SCAMS**

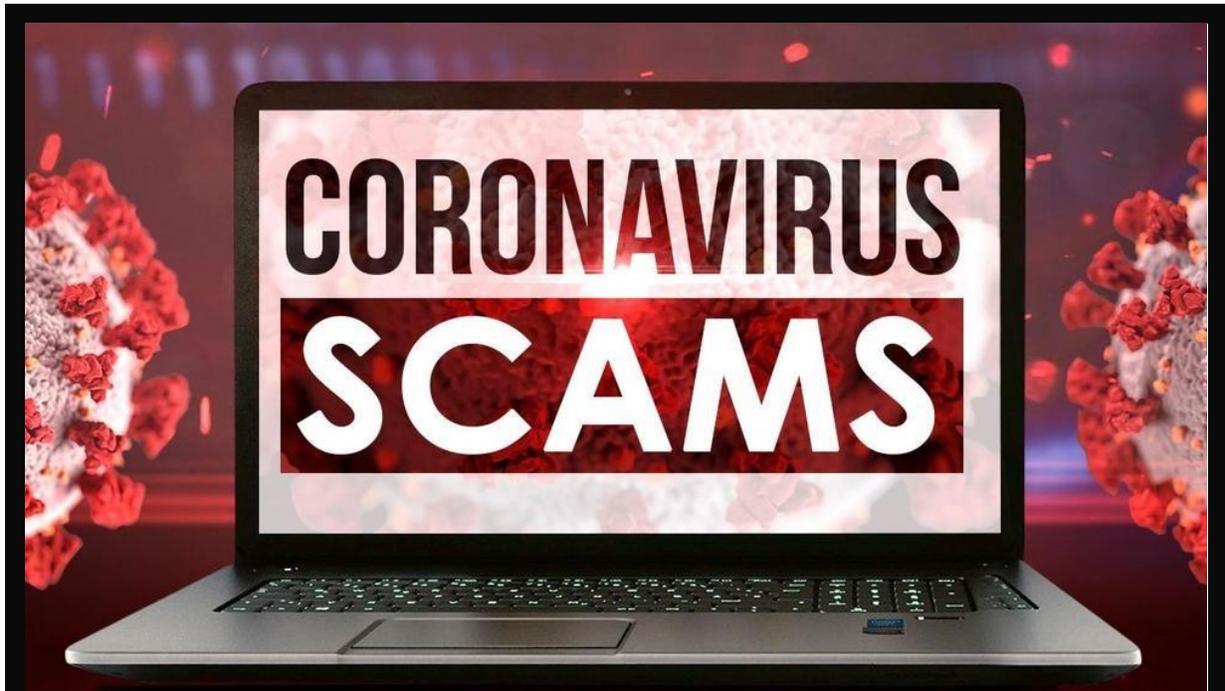


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID-19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dcwp](https://www.nyc.gov/dcwp). You can also file a complaint to the Attorney General's office by filling out a [complaint form](#).
- **NYS Price Gouging Hotline**: 800-697-1220.
- CDC staff will **NOT** go door-to-door. If you experience this, call 911.

**SERVICES AND RESOURCES**



Photo Credit: Ansi.org

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on New York City's workforce, the City of New York has developed a list of resources for those who may be unemployed due to COVID-19 or are seeking additional assistance. The list below will be updated frequently.

It has information on the following categories:

- **Employment Resources**
- **Food Assistance**
- **Health & Medical Assistance**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Rent Arrears and Public Assistance**
- **Emotional Support & Spiritual Care**
- **Other Assistance**

Visit this [website](#) for resources.

**NYS Department of Health Hotline** for people who want to be assessed and get appointment for test ([888-364-3065](tel:888-364-3065) ). NYC residents should call ([844-692-4692](tel:844-692-4692) ).

**Volunteer to Support**

**Others:** [https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare\\_workers](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare_workers).

**Free Internet Services:**

Charter is offering free spectrum broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to household with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have Spectrum broadband subscription. To enroll, **call [844-488-8395](tel:844-488-8395)** . Until further notice, all Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots are now open to everyone on the "xfinitywifi" SSID. For more information visit [here](#).

**IMMIGRATION**

- If you or a loved one is in need of free Immigration assistance, please call **CUNY Citizenship Now** at 646-664-9400 or text at 929-334-3784, Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Visit their [website](#) for more information.
- **Open Society Foundation** has established the **Immigrant Emergency Relief Program** which is a \$20 million fund that will provide 20,000 undocumented immigrants with a one-time monetary emergency relief.
  - \$400/individual
  - \$800/couple or single parent with children
  - \$1,000/family with multiple adults and children
  - for more information, click [here](#).

## **SMALL BUSINESS**

- The Federal Government is offering programs to support small businesses:
  - **Paycheck Protection Program** a loan that will be forgiven if employees are retained on payroll for a period of time. For more information, click [here](#).
  - **Economic Injury Disaster Loan** is a low interest loan to cover expense beyond payroll costs. For more information, click [here](#).
- New York City Small Business Services has a host of other services for small businesses including grant and loan opportunities. For more information, click [here](#).

**In-District Businesses open/closed:** Provided by **Flatbush Avenue BID and Church Avenue BID:** Visit Flatbush Avenue Business Directory [here](#) and Church Avenue Business directory [here](#). **Businesses open/closed:** Provided by **Flatbush Development Corporation:** Visit Flatbush Business Corridor Directory [here](#). Includes businesses located in:

- Cortelyou Road (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Coney Island Avenue (Cortelyou Road - Foster Ave)
- Newkirk Plaza
- Newkirk Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Foster Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Ditmas Park

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19**



# What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

**If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.**

## Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

## Separate yourself from other people in your home

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

## Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

## Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

## Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, immediately clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

## Clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

## Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

## Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., shortness of breath or difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>.

## Discontinuing home isolation

Patients confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments. Current information on COVID-19 is limited; home precautions are conservative and based on general recommendations for other diseases, like Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

**STAY INFORMED**

**STAY INFORMED**

about  
**coronavirus**



**Health officials** are working tirelessly to protect public health and contain this virus. And, as your representative in Albany, I am working to ensure that our state is putting the health and safety of our families first.

Remember **COVID-19** can affect any community and we must stand by one another during this time, not alienate, threaten or discriminate against others.

For questions you can also reach out to the New York State's novel coronavirus hotline at **1-888-364-3065** . For continuous updates, you can visit the following websites:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

*The CDC also now has the option for you to sign up for weekly updates on COVID-19.*

New Yorkers Can Sign Up for Email Updates [Here](#) and Ask Questions About COVID-19 [Here](#)

New Yorkers Can Find More Information About the New COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Law [Here](#)

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Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the **Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBES)** , and serves on the following committees: **Housing, Government Operations, Education , Banks, Health, and Higher Education** . She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on **Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force.**

As a current Assemblymember, District Leader, and Chair of Brooklyn Democratic Party, Rodneyse Bichotte has been an outspoken advocate on issues concerning **immigration, education, economic development, unemployment, education reform, health care access, senior citizen centers, affordable housing, school safety, women's and LGBTQ rights** , as well as other issues affecting the quality of life in the community.

Learn more about  
Rodneyse Bichotte by visiting her websites:  
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>  
and [www.rodneysebichotte.net](http://www.rodneysebichotte.net)

STAY CONNECTED

