

Photo Credit: Joe Raedle/Getty Images

July 30, 2020

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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> Senate Stalls on Relief Plan But New York Comes Through

# Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

New Yorkers are Eligible for Up to Twenty Additional Weeks of Unemployment; Mask Distribution Happening Saturday; and More!

> NYS Confirmed: 414,370 NYS Deaths: 25,145 NYC Confirmed: 224,863

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Photo Credit: Shutterstock

- **Governor Cuomo** announced that the **Department of Motor Vehicles** will now allow driving schools to start distance learning pre-licensing courses. Read more <u>here.</u>
- The U.S. Open for Golf for 2020 will take place at the Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck on September 17 20 without fans. Read more <u>here.</u>
- After conducting **835** compliance checks last night, the State Liquor Authority and New York State Police Task Force issued **41** additional violations to bars and restaurants for violating state social distancing requirements today.
- The governor announced that **Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.** meet the metrics to qualify for the travel advisory. Individuals who have traveled to New York from those areas, all of which have significant community spread, must quarantine for **14** days.
  - Residents of **New Jersey** will be exempt from the quarantine should cases spike in the neighboring state because it would not be feasible to uphold due to the proximity and accessibility of the state to New York.

# **NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO**



Photo Credit: Office of the Mayor

- Today, **Mayor de Blasio** announced that New Yorkers are eligible for up to **20** additional weeks of **unemployment benefits**. Read more <u>here</u>.
- The mayor signed an Executive Order to strengthen Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (M/WBEs).
  - Furthermore, the mayor announced a series of new programs with the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity "to connect Black and Latinx entrepreneurs to business opportunities, government contract matching, access to pro bono business consultants and mentorship networks."
  - The project also will provide an opportunity for "non-certified businesses to learn how to do business with the City."
- The mayor announced that he will be <u>extending expiring</u> <u>parking permits</u> issued to nurses and other medical professionals until the end of the year. Read more <u>here.</u>
- The mayor announced that NYC's training and jobs programs connected over **37,000** people to virtual job resources.
  - There are over **500** employers with the City who are working to recruit people for over **9,800** jobs.
  - Small Business Services is actively recruiting for job training in the following industries:
    - Home Health Aid
    - Commercial Driving
    - Building Operation

- Cable Installation
- For more information visit <u>here</u>.

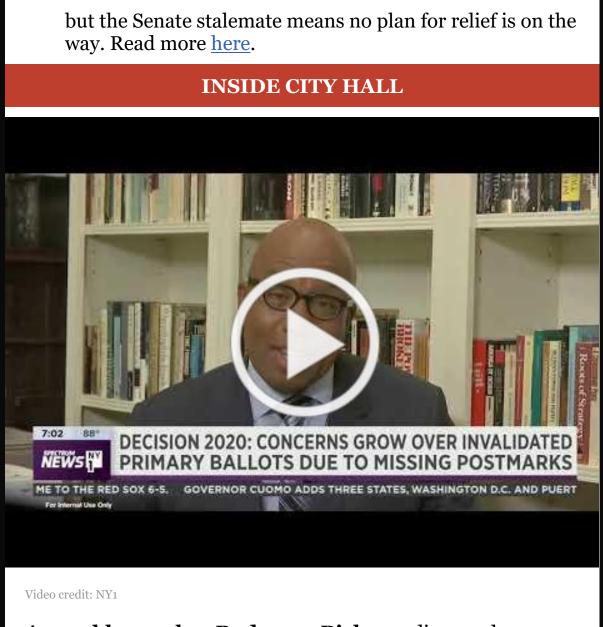
• The mayor announced that **Con Edison** is requesting individuals to conserve energy today in the following neighborhoods to prevent outages:

- Bay Ridge
- Fort Hamilton
- South Park Slope
- Greenwood
- Sunset Park



Photo Credit: Alex Brandon/AP

- Today, the president suggested a **postponement** of the November **general election**. This morning via Twitter, he sited concerns over voter fraud and mail-in ballots. Later in the day, he suggested that the election could be "fixed and "rigged".
  - Ultimately, the President cannot make this decision without an approval from congress. Read more <u>here.</u>
- John Hopkins University reported that the coronavirus death toll in the United States has now crossed **150,000** people.
- Drivers for Uber and Lyft can now collect unemployment benefits after a federal judge ruled in their favor during a hearing this week. Read more <u>here</u>.
- Millions across the country remain on the verge of losing a **\$600** weekly federal unemployment benefit amidst the pandemic. Federal unemployment benefits expire Friday



**Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte** discussed absentee ballots and the upcoming election with NY1 reporter **Emily Ngo** today.

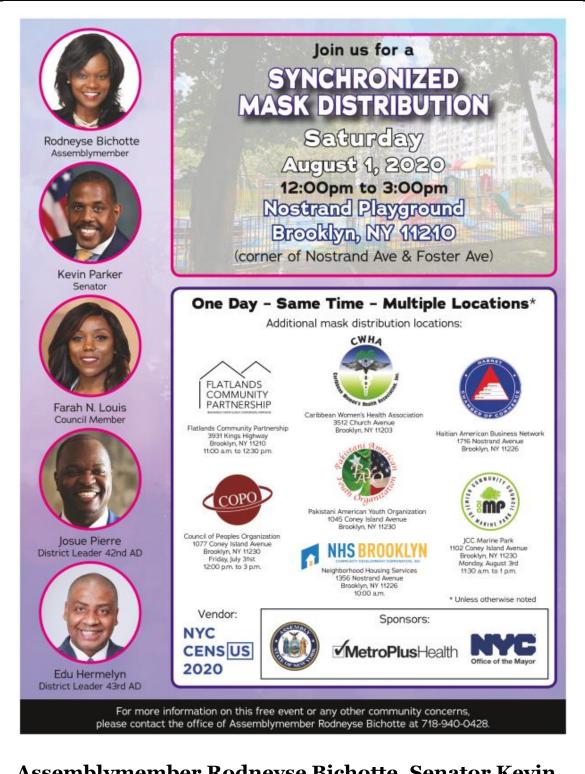
# **COVID-19 INFECTION IN CHILDREN**



Photo credit: Mario Tama/NYT

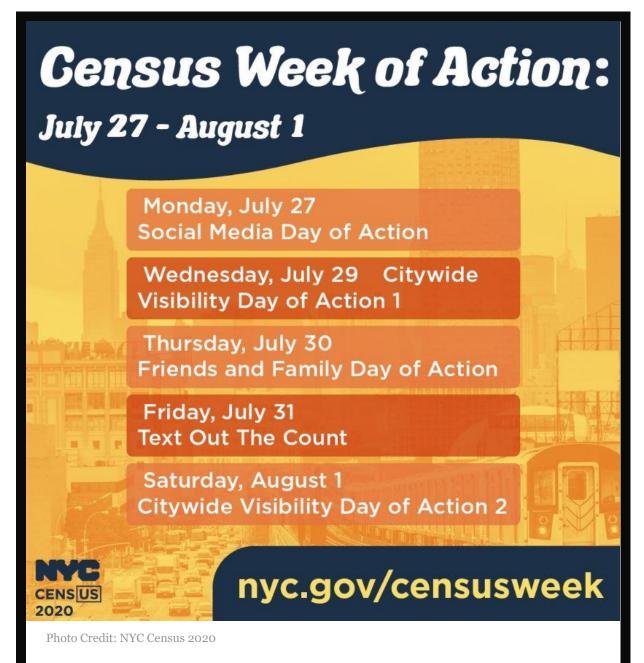
- The New York Times reports that **children may carry coronavirus at high levels**.
  - According to a <u>study</u> infected children have at least as much of the virus in their noses and throats as infected adults. Children younger than age **5** may host up to **100 times** as much of the virus in the upper respiratory tract.

SYNCHRONIZED MASK DISTRIBUTION



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte, Senator Kevin Parker, Council Member Farah N. Louis and District Leaders Josue Pierre and Edu Hermelyn will host a Synchronized Mask Distribution on Saturday, August 1st from 12 p.m. - 3p.m. at the Nostrand Avenue playground. We will also have mask distributions at additional locations in partnership with a number of community based organizations. Please see the above flyer for more details.

**CENSUS WEEK OF ACTION** 



- **NYC Census 2020** is hosting a census week of action through Saturday, **August 1st**. Currently the New York census response rate is **58.4%** compared to the national rate of **62.8%**. The Brooklyn response rate is **51.4%**.
- You can help make sure our community gets the funding we need for health care, hospitals, schools, and so much more by completing and encouraging other people to complete the census. Volunteer or take action to ensure all New Yorkers are counted, by visiting <u>here</u>.
- If you still haven't completed the census, you can fill it out online <u>here</u> or call 1-844-330-2020.

**CITY & STATE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EQUITY** 

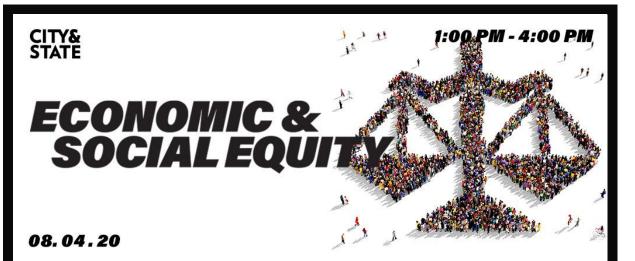


Photo Credit: City and State

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte will be a panelist on City and State's Economic and Social Equity virtual event on Tuesday, August 4th from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The panel will be titled Striving for Parity in New York. Assemblymember Bichotte will be joined by fellow panelists, Kyana Beckles , President & CEO, Leverage Assessments; Jonnel Doris , Commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services; Suzanne Veira , Chief Diversity Officer, New York City School Construction Authority; and Magalie Austin , Senior Advisor and Director, Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises.

To RSVP, visit here.



The **Local Initiatives Support Corporation** is providing business grants to small business in need. The **deadline** to apply is **Monday, August 3rd at 11:59 p.m** . To apply visit <u>here.</u>

### **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UPDATE**



Under current Federal law and US DOL guidelines, this is the last benefit week for \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, or FPUC, payments in New York. That means when your unemployed constituents submit their weekly certification between Sunday 7/26 and Saturday 8/1, they will be certifying for their final week of FPUC. This may change if Congress takes action to extend Americans' unemployment benefits. The Department of Labor will provide updates on any changes through direct emails to your unemployed constituents, through the Department website, **labor.ny.gov**, and through the DOL social media accounts on Twitter (@NYSLabor), Facebook (facebook.com/nyslabor) and Instagram (@nyslabor).

Help us keep our phone lines clear so that New Yorkers who need help with their specific claims can reach us. Please encourage people who have questions about FPUC extensions to visit our website **labor.ny.gov** or follow us on social media for the latest information.

### IN ADDITION, PLEASE NOTE TWO RECENT BENEFIT EXTENSIONS:

- 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.
- 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.

In order for your constituents to continue receiving their UI or PUA benefits, they must continue to certify every week. They do not need to re-apply or contact the NYS DOL, unless they are specifically told to do so. New Yorkers can certify online at 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 about Extended Benefits, they can visit the PEUC and EB FAQs at https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/extended-benefits-faq.pdf.

Photo Credit: Department of Labor

To learn more about extended Unemployment Insurance benefits, visit <u>here.</u>

MTA



Photo Credit: MTA

The **MTA** announced that it started adding <u>dispensers of free</u> <u>surgical masks inside buses</u> to further protect customers while on board. The agency has already installed dispensers on **100** buses and plans to install **400** more by the end of August.

### SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides checks to seniors to buy local produce at farmers markets from July 1 to Nov. 30.

Checks are provided on a first-come, first-served basis for low-income New Yorkers over 60.

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



# Opportunity Youth Paid Internship Program 2020 Register Today!

# Program starts September 8th, 2020

In person and remote opportunities available.

Who Is Eligible:

Priority is given to young adults between the ages of 16 & 24

- Must be unemployed and not in school at the time of enrollment.
- Determined to work and gain new job skills for 14 weeks

### **How To Apply:**

Complete an application at the Youth Opportunity Center at 456 Nostrand Av, Brooklyn, NY 11216 from 10 am- 5pm

Bring a picture ID, Social Security Card, Birth Certificate and proof of address.





For more information, contact us at (718) 636-7596 ext 222 or email at info@bsdcorp.org. Check out our website at BSDCorp.org

Department of Youth & Commun Development

For more information call (718) 636-7596 ext 222 or email <u>here.</u>

# **IN THE COMMUNITY**

Assemblymember Bichotte's staff distributing masks to constituents during Summer Subway Office Hours!



Church Ave Station (Q/B line)



Church Ave Station (Q/B line)





Cortelyou Rd Station (Q line)



Cortelyou Rd Station (Q line)

# WEARING MASKS PROPERLY



Don't wear Under Nose



**Don't** wear at **Tip of Nose** 



Don't wear Above Chin



Don't wear Under Chin



Don't wear Loosely



Do wear from Top of Nose to under Chin with a snug fit

Ilistration credit: Eleni Kalorkoti; New York Times article

The CDC provides guidance to have all individuals wear cloth face covering when in public where social distancing guidelines are challenging to maintain. In order for the face coverings to be effective, they have to be worn properly. Above are illustrations provided in a <u>New York Times</u> article on the **do's and don'ts** to wearing a cloth face covering . For more information from the CDC click <u>here</u>.





MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME IN CHILDREN (MIS-C)

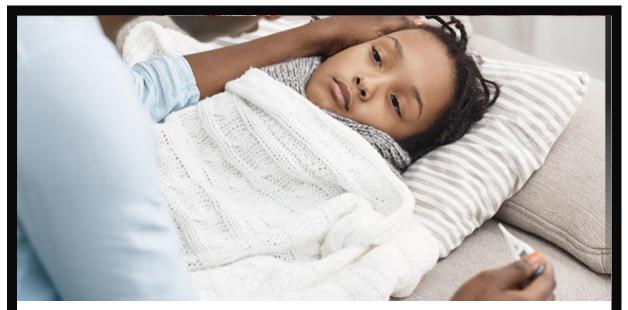
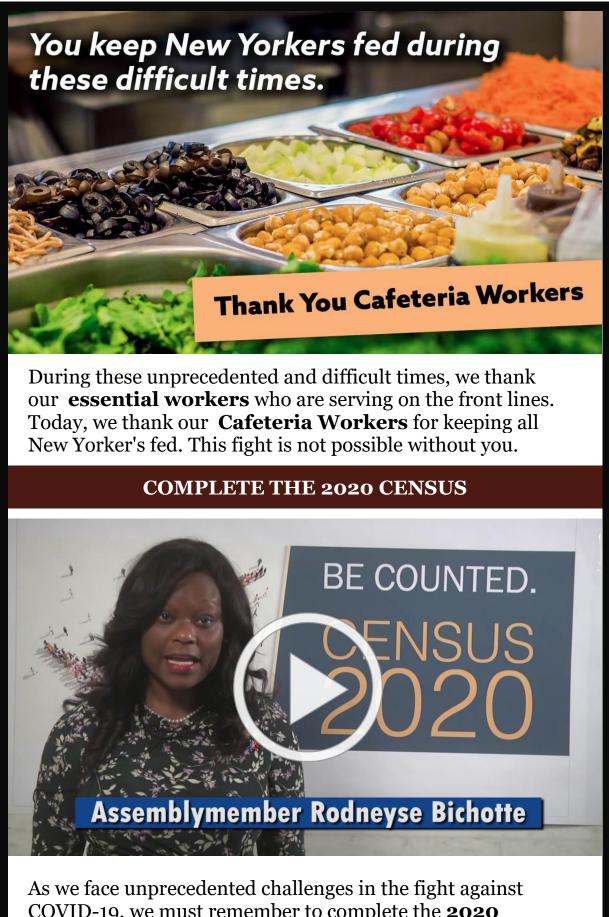


Photo Credit: Norton Children's

Governor Cuomo announced that a new investigation is underway regarding potential COVID-19 related **cases in children**. Symptoms can be compared to Kawasaki disease and toxic shock-like syndrome. The Department of Health issued an advisory of what's called the Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, or MIS-C, and now **requires** health care providers to **immediately report** all related cases. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene released a <u>health advisory</u> detailing current findings.

- New Yorkers should **seek immediate** care if a child has:
  - Prolonged fever (more than five days)
  - Difficulty feeding (infants) or is too sick to drink fluids
  - Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
  - Change in skin color becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
  - Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
  - Racing heart or chest pain
  - Decreased amount of frequency in urine
  - Lethargy, irritability or confusion

# THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS



COVID-19, we must remember to complete the 2020<u>**Census</u>**. The census asks just 10 simple questions that can be answered in just a few minutes online by visiting <u>here</u> or by calling <u>844-330-2020</u>.</u>

# **AVOID SCAMS**



Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID-19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or <u>NYC.gov/dcwp</u>. You can also file a complaint to the Attorney General's office by filling out a <u>complaint form</u>.
- 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 <u>website</u> for resources.

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

# **Volunteer to Support**

**Others:** <u>https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/c</u> ovid-19-relief.page#healthcare\_workers.

### **Free Internet Services:**

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

# **FreshDirect meals:**

**Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams** in partnership with **FreshDirect** is providing free food packages. Each box contains the following:

- Rice, 2 bags, 160z
- Pasta, 2 boxes, 16oz
- Canned beans, 2 cans, 10-16oz
- Canned Meat/Fish, 2 cans, 3 to 5 oz
- Canned Vegetable, 2 cans, 8 to 15 oz
- Raisins / Dry Fruit, 4 boxes, 2 oz per box
- Cereal/Oatmeal, 1 Box, 10 to 20 oz
- Milk / Milk Substitute, 1 container, 32 oz
- Corn, 2 ears
- 2 Potatoes
- 1 Onion
- 1 Carrot
- Orange / Apple, 2 in total

The packages will arrive by FreshDirect vehicles to locations listed <u>here</u>. If you have any questions, call (718) 802-3700.

**Adult Education**: Access to free adult education programs are accessible starting July 6th to August 14th. Register by calling 917-612-7831 or emailing <u>here</u>.

# Don't Go Hungry!



# Hello neighbors!

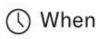
Help is on the way as the **Brooklyn Museum** launches a partnership with **The Campaign Against Hunger** to offer food distribution starting on **Monday, June 1, 3–5 pm**.

To ensure we have the right amount of food, sign-up by emailing is required: <u>healthymeals@brooklynmuseum.org</u>

The Campaign Against Hunger (TCAH) is one of the most trusted nonprofits working to end hunger and build health in our local communities. As we witness the vastly disproportionate economic and social impacts of COVID-19 on already-struggling New Yorkers, we know many of our neighbors are in need of emergency food for their families. Learn more at https://www.tcahnyc.org. 合 Where

Brooklyn Museum Biergarten (in the parking lot behind the Museum) 200 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn, NY 11238

Brooklyn Museun



Weekly starting Monday, June 1, 3–5 pm

### Spread the word!

healthymeals@brooklynmuseum.org
healthymeals@brooklynmuseum.org

### **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 <u>website</u> 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 <u>here</u>.

### **SMALL BUSINESS**

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

**In-District Businesses open/closed** provided by **Flatbush Avenue BID and Church Avenue BID:** Visit Flatbush Avenue Business Directory <u>here</u> and Church Avenue Business directory <u>here</u>. Businesses open/closed list provided by **Flatbush Development Corporation**: Visit Flatbush Business Corridor Directory <u>here</u>. 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

### **COVID** 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.

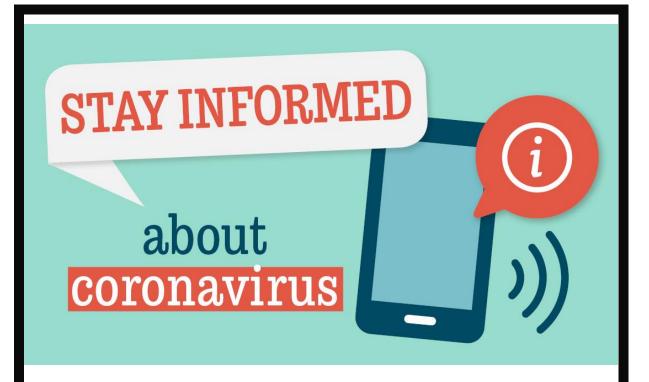
Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. <u>https://www.cdc.gov/</u>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

### 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

### **STAY INFORMED**



**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:

- <u>Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</u>
- <u>World Health Organization (WHO)</u>

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 <u>Here</u> and Ask

Questions About COVID-19 <u>Here</u>

New Yorkers Can Find More Information About the New COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Law <u>Here</u>

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: <u>http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte</u> and <u>www.rodneysebichotte.net</u>



