



December 17, 2021

Greetings --

As you are probably aware, the Omicron variant is causing a surge in COVID cases across New York and it is expected to only get worse. According to Dr. Dave Chokshi, the city's health commissioner the seven-day average of new daily cases has tripled in the past month, the city's test positivity rate is now above 5 percent, and the belief is that this is attributable primarily to the spread of Omicron.

Yesterday, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a six-step plan to combat the winter surge that includes: expanding testing sites, distributing a million free masks and home tests, increasing enforcement of mask and vaccine mandates, and encouraging more New Yorkers to get booster shots. [To find a convenient walk-in test site near you click here.](#) In addition, Gov. Hochul announced her administration would soon create a portal through which residents could request that coronavirus tests be sent to their homes.

I join Governor Hochul and Mayor de Blasio in urging all New Yorkers to get vaccinated, get a booster, wear a mask when you are inside in a public place and get tested. Right now only 1.5 million New Yorkers, or about 22 percent of adults, have gotten a booster or additional dose. This is our best defense against serious illness. To find a vaccine location near you [click here](#).

New Yorkers endured a very tough period in the early months of COVID, but we responded with responsible behavior, diligence and consideration for our fellow citizens. It looks like we have another tough stretch ahead, but if we [follow the recommendations](#) of our best medical professionals, we will once again rise to the challenge.

Tour with Incoming NYC Schools Chancellor David Banks

Earlier this week I coordinated a tour of The Windward School in Manhattan with David Banks, the incoming Chancellor of NYC Schools.

The Windward School is an independent day school for children with [dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities](#). Windward remediates a student's dyslexia and language based learning disability through an evidence-based, sequential, multi-sensory direct instruction phonics approach in preparation for a successful return to a mainstream school environment. The tour included classroom observations, a detailed presentation on Windward's Language Arts

approach and curriculum and the foundations of effective dyslexia screening and intervention programs. I know first-hand the profound impact that Windward's approach and curriculum had on my life. As a person with dyslexia, who had the benefit of being diagnosed at a young age, I was incredibly fortunate to get the help that I required to become a fluid and fluent reader. I would not have been able to succeed in high school, college, or law school without Windward's evidence-based, structured, multi-sensory sequential phonics-based curriculum.

I am grateful to incoming Chancellor Banks for engaging with me on literacy and dyslexia and for his deeply held commitment to making sure that all of our school children have the curriculum and interventions that they need to flourish as readers.



I will be working in Albany this session to pass my bill, [\(A.2185/S.441\)](#), in the New York State legislature to establish an expert dyslexia task force to develop guidelines for the appropriate screening of students for dyslexia and related disorders, provide guidelines regarding the appropriate interventions and classroom support for students deemed at risk, and to develop a program of study for teachers to better help students with dyslexia.

NY Build Public Renewables Letter

Yesterday [I sent a letter](#) to Governor Hochul with the support of 54 other members of the legislature calling on her to include my bill, [A.1466A \(NY Build Public Renewables Act\)](#) in her

upcoming Executive Budget. The NYBPRA would allow the New York Power Authority (NYPA), to own, operate, and generate renewable energy, and by putting it in her budget, Governor Hochul has a chance to turbocharge New York's renewable energy generation.

Without NYBPRA, New York is unlikely to meet its goal of producing 70% of its energy via renewable resources by 2030. Governor Hochul has a unique opportunity to use NYPA's strong bond rating to create desperately needed renewable energy projects. Projects that will create good jobs and be revenue neutral. Our planet can't wait any longer for this sound policy.

[Read yesterday's City & State exclusive on my letter to the Governor here.](#)

Special Leaf Collection This Weekend!

The New York City Department of Sanitation has scheduled leaf collection for city residents. **Set out leaves curbside in paper lawn and leaf bags or unlined bins after 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 18, 2021 for collection beginning Sunday, December 19. Do not use plastic bags.** And residents participating in the "brown bin" curbside composting collection program already receive leaf collection service, as yard waste is an accepted item. Those residents may place their leaves in their brown bins, in paper leaf bags, or in unlined rigid containers, at the curb for pick-up according to their curbside composting collection schedule. Do not use plastic bags. The collected leaves will be turned into compost and added to soil to nourish street trees, soil and parks. [Click here for more information.](#)

Mulch Fest and DSNY Curb Collection

NYC Parks is excited to announce Mulchfest 2022! Drop offs to recycle holiday trees start **December 26 through January 9** at select locations around the Borough, including 3 locations around Prospect Park as well as Washington Park in Park Slope. [Full list here.](#)

Chipping weekend is **January 8-9** at select sites, including Prospect Park, where participants can also get free mulch.

Weather permitting, the NYC Department of Sanitation will be conducting curbside collections for mulching and recycling of Christmas trees from **Thursday, January 6 through Saturday, January 15, 2022.** For more information, please visit [DSNY's Curbside Collections website.](#)

If you have any further questions or concerns, please call my office at 718-788-7221, or email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov.

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season,

Bobby

P.S. I'm looking for your ideas as we head into the 2022 legislative year. [Please fill out the survey on my website here](#) to share your views.

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