

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



Dear Neighbor,

I'm encouraged by [some of the data](#) released by the state earlier this week that shows the growth rate of coronavirus cases in NYC may be slowing but make no mistake: we all must observe social distancing precautions until further notice, especially to protect the health of the most vulnerable in our city and state. Today the Governor reported April 6th was the single largest day in terms of fatalities with 731 people lost, bringing the total number of deaths to 5,489. New York remains the most heavily impacted state in the nation with 138,836 confirmed cases.

Staying home and wearing face coverings when we're outside for necessities is the only way we can reduce the stress on our overburdened healthcare system and slow the spread.

The state has just extended its PAUSE provisions for another two weeks until April 29th, when the Governor will make a reassessment. Below you will find resources that may be useful as we continue to cope with this ongoing public health crisis.

See you around the district,

Harvey

In This Newsletter:

1. Upcoming Events
 1. LES Girls Club Virtual Film Festival
 2. CUNY student town hall on COVID 19 **Tonight**
 3. Brooklyn Women's Business Center SBA Webinar on How to Apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan **Tuesday April 14th 12pm**
 2. Update on PAUSE
 3. Regents Exams Suspended for Students
 4. Small Business Support
 5. Letter to CUNY and SUNY
 6. HCR Issues Coronavirus Guidances
 7. 13 Week Extension of Unemployment Insurance
 8. Dog Runs Closed
 9. Resources
-

Upcoming Events

CUNY Student Town Hall on COVID 19 Tonight

[Click here](#) to register to join me on Tuesday, April 7th at 8pm to talk about issues CUNY is facing during COVID-19. We will be talking about the available resources and support that may be available to you during this time. Don't miss it.

LES Girls Club Virtual Film Festival

The Lower Eastside Girls Club's Annual Tough Broads Film Festival Goes Virtual! Tune in for weekly themed programs of short films created by the Girls Club, along with favorite picks made outside the Club. [Subscribe on YouTube](#).

[Click here](#) or the flyer above to register to join me on Tuesday, April 7th at 8pm to talk about issues CUNY is facing during COVID-19. We will be talking about the available resources and support that may be available to you during this time. Don't miss it.

Brooklyn Women's Business Center SBA Webinar on How to Apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan

Location: Online link will be sent to participants 24-hours before event

April 14th 12:00-1:00 - [Register Here](#)

This free seminar is designed to provide information to business owners about the SBA economic injury disaster loan (EIDL) for businesses and private non-profit organizations impacted by COVID-19.

1. Learn more about the SBA EIDL and how to apply online process
2. In the second session you will receive any updated information, Q&A and Follow-up

Please email wbc@bocnet.org regarding any questions

Update on PAUSE

On Monday April 6th, Governor Cuomo announced all NYS on Pause functions will be extended for an additional two weeks. The Governor also directed schools and nonessential businesses to stay closed for an additional two weeks through April 29th. The state will re-evaluate after this additional two-week period.

Governor Cuomo also announced the state is increasing the maximum fine for violations of the state's social distancing protocol from \$500 to \$1,000 to help address the lack of adherence to social distancing protocols.

Regents Suspended for Students

Weeks ago, I [wrote a letter](#) signed by my Assembly colleagues to the Board of Regents, calling for the suspension of state tests for our high school students. I am pleased to report that the Board of Regents [heeded our call](#), recognizing that the disruptions caused by this outbreak were too great to continue with the tests as scheduled.

Small Business Support

If you're a small business owner with questions about how to access city, state, or federal aid, please reach out to my office at [212-979-9696](tel:212-979-9696) and leave a message. You can also email help.district74@gmail.com and someone from my office will get back to you as soon as possible with guidance.

Letter to CUNY and SUNY

I was joined by many of my Assembly colleagues in calling on the CUNY and SUNY chancellors to increase outreach to students who need to make use of on-campus food pantries, bolstering mental health resources, and creating more flexible academic policies that account for the stresses and logistical challenges many students now have as they work towards completing their semesters during a global infectious disease outbreak. Read our letter [here](#).

HCR Issues Coronavirus Guidance

In response to the Governor's directive to take every effort to keep New Yorkers safe and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, the following is a link to Advisory Opinion 2020-1.1 [“Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Guidance”](#) being directed with respect to processing and other procedures affecting the Office of Rent Administration (ORA) and Tenant Protection Unit (TPU) of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) under The Rent Stabilization Law, The Emergency Tenant Protection Act, and the New York State and City Rent Control Laws.

13 Week Extension of Unemployment Insurance

Under the new CARES Act responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, New York will be allowed to provide up to 13 additional weeks of federally funded extended benefits to people who exhaust their regular state benefits.

The State Dept. of Labor is working to improve response times (and their infrastructure) for [unemployment insurance](#), and has hired 300 more operators, expanded service from six to seven days a week, and Google has been hired to enhance intake capability. Meanwhile, in an effort to manage the influx, applicants are now asked to call based on the first letter of their last names, as follows:

- Monday, names starting with A - F.
- Tuesday, names beginning G - N.
- Wednesday, last names with initials O - Z.

If you miss your day, you can also file on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Any claim filed will be back-dated to the date the filer became unemployed, NOT the date of filing. If you are eligible, you will be paid for all benefits due. If you are instructed to call to complete your claim, the ONLY valid number is [1-888-209-8124](tel:1-888-209-8124).

Dog Runs Closed

Much to the dismay of my dog Homer, dog runs are closed until further notice. We understand that this is an important part of meeting social distancing requirements. Parks remain open to dogs and pet owners to get fresh air and exercise; however, dogs must be kept on a leash according to park rules, and dog owners must keep social distance. Read more [here](#).

Resources

- Northstar Community Fund has compiled a long list of mutual aid opportunities which you can view [here](#).
 - Here's a [list](#) of Neighborhood restaurants, food & spirits that are open for delivery and/or pickup and catering compiled by Murray Hill NYC.
 - The state is partnering with Headspace, a global leader in mindfulness and meditation, to offer free meditation and mindfulness content for all New Yorkers as a mental health resource for residents coping with the unprecedented public health crisis. New Yorkers can access a collection of science-backed, evidence-based guided meditations, along with at-home mindful workouts, sleep and kids content to help address rising stress and anxiety at www.headspace.com/ny.
 - WNET/WLIW is providing free at-home learning resources for grades pre K-12:
 - PBS Resources for Families: <https://www.wnet.org/education/blog/at-home-learning-resources-for-families/>
 - PBS Resources for Educators: <https://www.wnet.org/education/blog/at-home-learning-resources-for-educators/>
 - WLIW21 is continuing to air educational programming from 6:30 am to 4 pm with instructional content for grades K-12, including math and science, aligned to the New York state curriculum. Check out the [April 6 - 11 schedule for WLIW21](#).
 - Educational programming for grades 6-12 continues from noon - 5pm next week on WLIW WORLD. Find next week's schedule here: [WLIW WORLD April 6 - 11](#).
 - [THIRTEEN](#) will continue its regular schedule of PBS Kids programming for preK-2nd grade from 6am until 4pm. And, as always, our [KIDS THIRTEEN](#) channel airs kids programming 24/7!
 - We have created a sheet full of education resources in coordination with CEC1 and the offices of Council Member Carlina Rivera, and Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou. You can find that [here](#).
-

In the News

[Advocates urge de Blasio, Cuomo to put homeless in unused hotels](#) - My San Antonio

From April 4th

Dear Neighbor,

I am deeply disappointed that the Governor pushed a disturbing provision into this budget which should have only been about revenue and the COVID 19 crisis. One of the worst parts of the budget, which I voted against, was the roll back on ending cash bail which puts New Yorkers awaiting trial in prisons during the greatest public health challenge our state has faced in over 100 years. These changes will result in thousands of New Yorkers being incarcerated, which in turn will result in more people in prisons

contracting COVID-19, including incarcerated people, workers and their families. This roll back includes numerous misdemeanor offenses. It's unconscionable. You can read the full explanation of my votes below.

Harvey