



Dear Neighbor,

As our city and nation continue responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to reach out again with some additional updates.

I recently held another telephone townhall on COVID-19. We heard from a range of public health officials and other experts providing advice on resources available to New Yorkers.

If you missed this event, but would like to listen in, [the archived audio is online here](#).

Below are some additional resources available to you. You should remember that I am regularly updating my website with new information as it becomes available. Check back [there](#) for additional information.

Small Business and Interim Legislation Update

On April 23, Congress passed legislation providing additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan initiative.

On April 27, the Small Business Administration reopened the Paycheck Protection Program for applications. New York City small businesses who need help navigating the process should reach out to a local Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for help. [A list of SBDCs serving New York's 7th Congressional District are on my coronavirus webpage here.](#)

In the latest PPP legislation, I was proud to help secure \$60 billion to be set aside specifically for small, community-oriented lenders.

By bringing into the program smaller lenders such as Consumer Development Financial Institutions, Minority Depository Institutions, microloan intermediaries and others, we can ensure more truly small businesses are able to access this assistance.

Beyond replenishing PPP, in this legislation we also provided \$50 billion for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, which will support \$350 billion in lending. Another \$10 billion will go to grants for small businesses.

You may [read my floor statement as prepared for delivery on the bill here.](#)

Video of my remarks is [online here.](#)

This interim bill is just another step in a long road to recovery. Already, work is underway on the next round of legislation. More will need to be done for our small businesses, for working families, seniors, other vulnerable populations and health care providers.

In addition, we will need to secure funds to help states and localities hardest by COVID-19 cover their budget shortfalls. Without federal assistance, many states will have difficulty paying firefighters, teachers, nurses and other public employees. These priorities are top of mind for me as we move to the next phase of legislation.

Transportation Update

Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio have announced they are suspending subway service between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. while trains and stations are disinfected. Bus service will continue operating 24/7.

Between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., essential workers will be able to use Essential Connector service. Essential Connector riders will be limited to two trips per night on for-hire-vehicles and must show proof of essential travel with appropriate credentials. Riders who do not have a smartphone will be able to request a ride through a dedicated number. Wheelchair-accessible vehicles will also be available.

[Read more on the changes here.](#)

COVID-19 Testing Update

Widespread availability of testing will be vital to ending this pandemic and reopening our economy, not just in New York City, but everywhere.

NYC Health + Hospitals will offer COVID-19 testing on a walk-in basis, with a priority for those over the age of 65 with pre-existing conditions that put them at risk for serious illness. You can [read more on testing at those locations and find a location here](#).

Other testing sites in our district:

A new testing site, operated by the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, is located at the former NYU Langone Augustana Center at 5434 Second Avenue.

The City is running a community testing site at Jonathan Williams Houses in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

In addition, Somos recently opened the first trilingual antibody testing site in Sunset Park. The facility is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 AM-3 PM.

Appointments can be made by calling 1-833-SOMOSNY. This walk-through testing site is part of the commitment by SOMOS to reach members of the Latino and Chinese communities who have historically been isolated by language, income, and social status.

The facility is located at 757 60th Street, Brooklyn, NY.

Please note this facility is only for antibody tests (to determine if an individual previously had COVID-19) and is by appointment only.

Help for Nursing Homes

Our nursing homes have been among the hardest hit facilities in the pandemic. Not only do they already house the most vulnerable, but many of these locations are suffering from severe staffing shortages as workers themselves become sick. They have also encountered their own challenges securing adequate Personal Protective Equipment.

I recently led a bipartisan group of 24 Members of Congress in writing to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [asking that additional funds](#) from the CARES Act be allocated to nursing homes.

You may [read that letter online here](#).

As a society, we have a responsibility to care for the most vulnerable. So many New Yorkers' parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles reside in these facilities and we must be certain there are resources in place to protect them during this terrible pandemic.

Puerto Rico Update

Many New Yorkers share a profound bond with Puerto Rico. COVID-19 has been especially challenging for the

Island, which was already suffering before the pandemic from recent earthquakes, previous hurricanes and decades of economic neglect.

I recently led several of my colleagues in writing to the House Leadership outlining priorities that should be included in future stimulus legislation to help address Puerto Rico's needs and help our fellow U.S. citizens there recover. Among other requests, we called for: expanding the Child Tax and Earned Income Tax Credits to reduce poverty in Puerto Rico; additional nutritional aid for the Island; and fixes to Puerto Rico's Medicaid reimbursement.

You can [read that letter online here](#).

It's now been just over six weeks since Governor Cuomo first signed the "New York on Pause" Executive Order. All of our lives have changed extraordinarily, in ways big and small.

Despite the tragedy around us and the economic hardship felt by so many, I remain hopeful. In this tough time, there are glimmers of New York's resiliency, everywhere. I see it in the eyes of healthcare workers when I visit local health care facilities to deliver donated Personal Protective Equipment. I see it in the small acts of kindness New Yorkers display daily, lending a helping hand to neighbors, friends and perfect strangers. I've been

reminded of it when New Yorkers cheer out their windows at night in support of those on the front lines of this fight.

We have a long road ahead of us, but together we'll get through this.

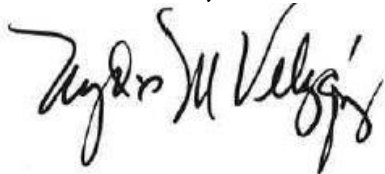
Please know you may always contact my office for assistance [using this form](#). Submissions there are checked daily.

If you don't already, be sure to sign up for my e-newsletter by clicking [here](#).

You should also [follow me on Twitter here](#) for further updates.

I'll be back in touch again soon.

Until then, be safe,



Nydia

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